

MID-DECADE REPORT ON THE INTERNATIONAL DECADE FOR A CULTURE OF PEACE AND NON-VIOLENCE FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD 2001-2010

**From: The International Federation of University Women (IFUW)
12 April 2005**

Introduction

The International Federation of University Women was founded in 1919 following World War I in the hope of preventing further such catastrophes. Eighty-five years later the world still faces strife on many fronts and promoting international cooperation, friendship, peace and human rights remains a top priority in fulfilling the mission of IFUW.

Our founders recognized the need for national diversity. IFUW, with members in seventy-eight countries, does not espouse the politics of any country or group of countries. We do, however, firmly believe that our energies and expertise as educated women must be directed toward the promotion of peaceful means of resolving conflict. "Women: Agents for Change" is the IFUW programme theme for the years 2004 - 2007. One of the three key areas where action is needed internationally, nationally and locally is Human security and Peace. All IFUW Affiliates are encouraged to continue their involvement for a more secure and peaceful society (see IFUW website at: <http://www.ifuw.org/programme/index.htm>).

Reports from IFUW national affiliates of progress in establishing a culture of peace and non-violence:

Reports of progress dealing with a number of issues were received from:

- (a) The Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW),
- (b) The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW),
- (c) The Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW),
- (d) The Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW),
- (e) The Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU),
- (f) The New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW),
- (g) The Nigerian Association of University Women (NAUW),
- (h) The South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG),
- (i) The University Women's Association of Singapore (UWAS), and
- (j) The Carbondale, Illinois Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW).
- (k) The Norwegian Federation of University Women

The details of actions, obstacles, areas of action, types of action, partnerships and future plans taken by each of these National Federations and Associations (NFAs) will follow at the end of this section.

In addition to these reports, in the International Federation of University Women (IFUW) publication "*IFUW in Action 2001-2004*" published in August 2004, under the chapter headed *Human Rights, Human Security and Peace* there are reports of projects undertaken by several of the National Federations and Associations (NFAs) named above in addition to the following:

- The **Moldovan Association** dealing with the rights of women held in detention and also protecting the rights of victims of violence
- The **Indian Federation of University Women (IFUWA)** dealing with sexual harassment of women in the workplace
- **L'Association Française de Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AFFDU)** seeking solutions to counter sexual and sexist violence in schools; bullying and aggressive, violent behaviour in schools
- The **Association Guinéenne des Femmes Diplômées des Universités (AGUIFEDU)**, carried out a study, financed by UNESCO, of violence in middle and high schools Conakry, Guinea.
- The **Vanuatu Association of Women Graduates (VAWG)** developed material and educated people about changes in the Magistrate's Courts and how they affect victims of domestic violence;
- The **Israel Association of University Women** has lobbied Parliament and Ministries for programmes and materials to teach children how to avoid violence; for better implementation of sexual harassment legislation and increased penalties for domestic violence.
- The **Sri Lankan Federation of University Women (SLFUW)** has been a partner in national efforts to obtain legislation on gender-based violence.

At the 28th IFUW Triennial Conference held in Perth, Western Australia in August 2004 the Interdisciplinary Seminar Programme included a **Seminar on a Culture of Peace** in which individual members of IFUW from 9 different countries* presented papers that described efforts on the part of national governments, local communities, educational institutions and private sector organizations to:

- Promote gender issues,
- Empower women,
- Eradicate discrimination and violence against women
- Foster the values of tolerance and understanding among people
- Reduce conflict
- Create a culture of peace.

The executive summaries and, in some cases, the full paper from this seminar can be read on the IFUW website www.ifuw.org

*The countries were: Cameroon, Costa Rica, Ghana, India, Israel, Nigeria, Norway, Uganda, and USA

Details of individual National and Federation and Association (NFA) Actions undertaken and submitted for this report:

(a) The Australian Federation of University Women (AFUW)

- At the 31st AFUW Triennial Conference reaffirmed their commitment to:
 - [i] Support Peace Studies in educational curricula and recommended that AFUW conduct an audit of Peace and Conflict Resolution courses offered in tertiary institutions and [ii] Urge State and Federal Ministers and Vice Chancellors to provide financial and academic support for the continuation and extension of such courses.

- The Convener of the AFUW Peace Standing Committee has been awarded a life membership of the Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies at the University of Sydney for her work and commitment to peace and social justice.
- Proposed a resolution at the 28th IFUW Triennial Conference in 2004 calling on all National Federations and Associations (NFAs) to support the UN Universal Declaration of Cultural Diversity and a Culture of Peace by advocating for programmes for primary and secondary students that countered racism and intolerance and promoted understanding and harmony within school communities and multi-cultural societies.
- During 2004 the AFUW Council wrote to the Australian Government protesting the treatment of citizens in Iraq, a matter that is still being pursued.
- Have recommended that their state associations develop activities related to conflict resolution and the promotion of peace at their general meetings. AFUW conducted Conflict Resolution workshops at the AFUW 2003 Triennial Conference using the IFUW Manual for Conflict Resolution Workshops.
- Sent a message of support for the World Conference Against Racism (2001)
- Provided support for Australian Muslim women following the events of 9/11 along with women from the UN Association of Australia, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition.
- Have followed up with actions on bullying in schools the resolution moved by AFUW on Conflict Resolution for Young Children proposed by AFUW at the 2001 IFUW Triennial Conference.
- AFUW South Australia has been working with the Women's legal Services preparing a submission on the treatment of indigenous women in prison
- Have been involved in the national enquiry into Children in Immigration Detention Centres. Although progress has been made on this issue the AFUW is following it up with "Where to from now?"
- Is focusing on education as a contribution to "Reconciliation" as a means of addressing the tensions and conflict regarding indigenous Australians. AFUW has undertaken a Research and Advocacy Project on
 - i. The support available within the school system to indigenous secondary school students;
 - ii. The extent to which indigenous studies are part of the school curriculum;
 - iii. The extent to which teacher training prepared teachers to teach indigenous studies and be aware of the special needs of indigenous students.

Also an extensive survey of financial support available to indigenous students in South Australia has been completed.

- AFUW has undertaken **national and international advocacy** expressing opposition to military resolution of conflict with the potential to increase reliance on military force as a means of ensuring security in relation to:
 - US Missile Shield programme
 - Heavy bombardment of Afghanistan following 9/11
 - Opposing the Australian government's support for the 'pre-emptive strike' against Iraq (2003) and endorsing the European Women's League's Declaration Against War.
 - Resolution on Control of Small Arms for 2004 IFUW Triennial Conference.

- Worked with the Canadian Federation of University Women to move a resolution at the 28th IFUW Conference (2004) calling on all NFAs to urge their governments to support the implementation of Resolution 1325 and has followed this up by being involved in the establishment of a website www.1325australia.org.au which highlights the work of NGOs on this Security Council resolution.
- Has undertaken **international action** regarding:
 - Gender equity in the reconstruction of East Timor;
 - A decision by the Minister of Immigration that East Timorese residing in Australia under temporary refugee protection must return to East Timor asking that this not be enforced. The government proposal was abandoned.
 - The replacement of textbooks and school materials for Fiji schools following the political crisis in Fiji in 2001.
 - The presence of women at the Negotiation Table in the reconstruction of Afghanistan.
 - Support for invited non-military peace-keeping operations in the Solomon Islands
 - Full representation of Iraqi Women in re-building post-war Iraq, citing Resolution 1325.
 - The detention, and possible beating and torture of Iranian teachers following their participation in non-violent political demonstrations.
- Has undertaken **national advocacy and actions re rights of women and girls enjoy their human rights in peace and security** by urging:
 - The ratification of outstanding protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. When the Protocol on Child Prostitution and Sexual Exploitation of Children and the ILO Convention on Child Labour and the Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict were signed letters of congratulation were sent to the relevant ministers.
 - The Australian Government to sign the Optional Protocol to CEDAW.
 - The Australian Government. to pursue and enforce the Protocol to Prevent and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children which supplements the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime. AFUW has been pleased to see a package of measures that included treating women detected as being in Australia as a result of trafficking primarily as victims rather than illegal immigrants. There is still some dissatisfaction with the level of protection offered and AFUW continues to call on the govt for more action.
 - Action and support for programmes to ensure that teen parents complete their education (Western Australia and Victoria).
 - The development of a workable definition of 'workplace bullying' to use in enacting legislation for people who are subjected to such behaviour (South Australia).
 - The Australian Government and opposition members to end mandatory detention of asylum seekers, protesting the harshness of conditions imposed on them, at the denial of education of children in detention and the harshness of the terms of 'temporary protection' visas granted to those accorded refugee status.

Identification of Obstacles preventing progress with actions undertaken by AFUW:

The current Australian Government is reluctant to take action on many areas where AFUW feels it should:

- Not signing or taking action on UN protocols
- A reluctance to surrender any portion of national sovereignty on law-making and judicial procedures
- A reluctance to be judged and lacking in international standards on human rights
- A refusal to sign CEDAW
- Its attitude to international comments on conditions for Indigenous Australians
- Its attitude to refugees
- A political exploitation of ideas of integrity of national boundaries in relation to asylum seekers
- A political exploitation of the fear of terrorism since September 2001 and attempting to justify a reduction of human rights and freedom of Australians
- A reluctance to spend 'serious money' on 'women's issues' as a residue of patriarchal attitudes. These attitudes are also seen to apply to issues of violence against women—blaming the victim of rape or domestic violence.

Identification of AFUW's First and Second Areas of Action:

1. International Peace and Security and the promotion of Conflict Resolution
2. Education for a Culture of Peace and Human Rights

Identification of AFUW Action as national or International:

[1] and [2] this has been highlighted in Section 3 under the actions taken by AFUW, and the countries named.

AFUW believes that it is necessary to continue to push the Australian govt. on the issues that they are working on to promote a culture of peace and non-violence in the second half of the decade.

AFUW Partnerships and Networks

AFUW has worked in partnership with other IFUW NFAs, namely the Canadian Federation of University Women, the New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women. In addition they have worked with the United Nations Association of Australia, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), the Victorian Immigrant and Refugee Women's Coalition, the Aloha Foundation, the Australian Volunteers Abroad programme, Rotary International.

AFUW Future plans:

The on-going work on Indigenous Education along with on-going work on the human rights of refugees.

Individual NFA Action (cont)

(b) The Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW)

- Under encouraging a **Culture of Peace** CFUW has conducted awareness initiatives advocating Firearms Control and supporting the registration of firearms, emphasising that gun control is 'violence against women' issue.
- In collaboration with the AFUW developed and submitted a resolution on Resolution 1325 for the 28th IFUW Triennial Conference (2004). This resolution has become the focus for the CFUW International Relations Sub-Committee for 2004-06
- Under **Human Rights** CFUW has focused on child poverty and homelessness using literacy as a way to alleviate these problems.
- CFUW has taken a lead NGO role in the development of "Responsibility to Protect" and was pleased when the Government of Canada made a major recommendation in the report to the UN Secretary General of the High Level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change.
- In adopting policy based on the Machel Report (1996) and the UN Security Council Resolution 1261 CFUW has urged the Government of Canada to ensure that Canadian military personnel be trained in the protection, rights and welfare of children and to provide funding for the basic education of children as a priority component of Canada's humanitarian assistance
- CFUW has also urged the Government of Canada to implement and promote international support for the Optional Protocol of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict.
- CFUW makes an annual Brief to the Government of Canada based on current and emerging CFUW policies. It has also been invited to present a Brief to the Parliamentary Committee on the Status of Women.

There were no **Obstacles** identified in this report.

The **Areas of Action** identified were:

- [1] A Culture of Peace
- [2] Human Rights, especially the Rights of the Child

The described **Actions** were all national actions within and across Canada.

Partnerships mentioned included the Canadian Coalition of Chiefs of Police, the Government of Canada, The Department of Justice, the Firearms Control Centre, the Australian Federation of University Women, the World March for Women, the Parliamentary Defence Committee.

CFUW Future Plans include on-going concern with violence against women, homelessness, the Government's commitment to CEDAW and the Optional Protocol, and the Beijing Platform for Action.

(c) The Finnish Federation of University Women (FFUW)

The FFUW has no national projects in relation to the Culture of Peace that it initiates. Nationally all efforts by Finnish women are coordinated centrally by the National Council of Women of Finland (Naisjärjestöjen Keskusliitto – Kvinnoorganisationernas

Centralforbund) Information about the work of Finnish women can be found at www.naisjarjestojenkeskusliitto.fi

(d) The Japanese Association of University Women (JAUW)

JAUW has no national projects on a Culture of Peace. Two Case studies undertaken by in one case a Branch of JAUW and in the other case a Standing Committee of JAUW were submitted.

- **Case One:** Seminars-on-demand on **Gender Equality** discussing 'ways to live together' have been carried out by the Ibaraki Branch of JAUW. Concern has been identified about suicide by middle-aged women, juvenile violent crime, domestic violence and child abuse. Seminar formats held during 2004 included:
 - A joint seminar with another group with the same goal of gender equality
 - A brainstorming session with township officers and the town's gender equality committee members
 - A session targeted at middle-aged women in an apartment complex hall
 - At a workplace with nurses
 - Side by side with a symposium on marriage
 - At a regular town hall meeting for both men and women.
- **Case Two:** Carried out by the **Education** Committee of JAUW, research is being carried out on helping Exchange students to understand Japanese culture. Activities include theatre, museum visits, kimono dressing, tea ceremony, concerts etc. The aim is to increase understanding and tolerance between both Japanese students and exchange students.

Obstacles:

In Case one it was found to be difficult to translate equality into everyday, real-life context for both men and women; also to secure all-out involvement of local administration in gender equality. It was also felt that when women's problems are put into a human rights framework they become obscured.

In Case two having a membership large enough to support the cost of the programmes was a problem because the exchange students saw them as being very popular for whom there was no cost.

Identification of Areas of Action:

- [1] Equality of Women
- [2] Understanding tolerance and solidarity

Identification of Action

Case one was a national action and Case two was an international action.

Partnerships

These were identified within Case one and there none named in Case two.

There were no **Future Plans** given.

(e) The Mexican Federation of University Women (FEMU)

FEMU **Actions** have addressed the issue of **Violence Against Children** as follows:

- By providing economic, medical, educational and psychological support for abused women and children at a Centre for Comprehensive Assistance for Abused Women, named Fortaleza, in Mexico City.
- By assisting agencies of the state government and other NGOs with the establishment of a similar house to the one above in the state of Hidalgo.
- Is seeking to establish a similar refuge in Acapulco.
- In 2004 FEMU published a book by Patricia Galeana, Coordinator of Women's Human rights in Mexico. This included a 26 page Chapter on Violations of Children's Human Rights in Mexico.
- In November 2004 Femu organized an International 2 day Seminar at Sonora University, on migration issues that included a Workshop on Children

No **Obstacles** were identified in the report.

The FEMU **Area of Action** identified in the report is **Human Rights**

The Action is national.

Although **Partnerships** with state government and NGOs are mentioned they are not named.

Future Plans include a Workshop on Infant Labour and the new Family Structure in Mexico to be held in April 2005 at the Faculty of Policy Sciences at the National University of Mexico.

(f) The New Zealand Federation of Graduate Women (NZFGW)

Both national and international actions include:

- At the National Triennial Conference 2003 resolutions were passed on: Aid to Developing Countries; Small Arms Trade in the Pacific; Support for the UN and for the UN Controlled Peace-Keeping Forces in Iraq. Government Ministers were alerted to NZFGW policy on each of these matters.
- At the 28th IFUW Triennial Conference NZFGW proposed the above resolution on Small Arms Trade in the Pacific and was supported in this by AFUW.
- At the same Conference NZFGW also proposed a resolution on the Commercial Exploitation of Children drawing NFA attention to the UN Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography; the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the UN Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict. and the ILO Convention 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour.
- NZFGW has chosen to focus its programmes in the Triennium 2004-07 on a resolution passed at the 28th IFUW Conference on *Women: Essential to Peace* together with the IFUW Programme for Action Theme of *Human Security and*

Peace with a view to researching and addressing family and domestic violence, and women's economic independence and security.

- An individual Branch of NZFGW provides: support for a School for Teenage Parents; a food and money donation to Victim Support and runs programmes that focus on cultural diversity, restorative justice, the local Safer Community Council and working in an international crisis situation.
- NZFGW maintains close links with the Pacific Graduate Women's Network (PGWNet), a regional group of IFUW, whose establishment was supported and assisted by NZFGW and AFUW. Since some of the individual island states of PGWNet have had both political unrest and climatic disasters to cope with NZFGW has provided in-kind support for them in re-building. This action reflects 'understanding, tolerance and solidarity'.
- A number of individual members of NZFGW are also very active members of the National Council of Women of New Zealand (NCWNZ), WILPF, the UN Association of New Zealand (UNANZ), and the National Consultative Committee on Disarmament and through these organizations promote and monitor the production, stockpiling and illicit export of weapons of mass destruction; nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and the manufacture and export of small arms. They also monitor closely the maintenance of New Zealand's valued nuclear free status.
- A number of individual members through their work in the Peace Foundation advocate for the inclusion of teaching of conflict resolution and peace studies in the curriculum for schools and universities.

No **Obstacles** were identified in the report.

Areas of Action identified were:

- [1] Education for a Culture of Peace
- [2] Human Rights

Identification of Action was both national in NZ and international in the Pacific region.

Partnerships and Networks include:

The Ministry of Women's Affairs, NCWNZ, UNIFEM (NZ), UNANZ, the Five-O members of Zonta, Soroptimists and Business and Professional Women, the (NZ) New Horizons for Women's Trust, the (NZ) Ministry of Social Development, the Peace Foundation.

Future Plans

include a request that each Branch present a report on the programme they have carried out on Human Security and Peace or Women: Essential for Peace at the NZFGW Triennial Conference in 2006.

(g) The Nigerian Association of University Women (NAUW)

Action undertaken:

The years 2001-2002 were years, which saw an escalation of violence in Nigeria due to ethnic and religious uprising and the introduction of Sharia Law. The University students also were involved in 'cult' clashes.

To address this NAUW organized a National Workshop on "*The Role of Women in Conflict Prevention and Resolution*". The purpose was to sensitise the public on the need for peace and sustainable growth and the role of women in achieving these goals.

The workshop was very successful because of the large attendance and the patronage provided and also because a book titled "*Nigerian Women in Peace Education and Conflict Resolution*" was published. The workshop events were also well covered by the media and the Project was recognized with second place in the 2001-04 IFUW Project Challenge Competition.

No **Obstacles** were identified

The Workshop dealt with the **Education for a Culture of Peace**.

It was a **national event** but was promoted in the IFUW international arena.

No **Partnerships** were mentioned nor any **Future Plans**.

(h) The South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG)

SAAWG's policies, programmes and activities consistently reflect IFUW's Programme for Action. They also promote the spirit of the human rights tenets expressed in the Bill of Rights entrenched in South Africa's first democratic Constitution of 1996, of the Beijing Platform for Action and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

- Projects include Johannesburg branch's confidence-building Aurora project for schoolgirls; the Cape Town branch's community sustainable development craftwork enterprise; its parenting skills seminars and mentorship projects; Johannesburg branch's essay competition, which encourages self-development and language skills among schoolgirls. All of these receive favourable feedback from parents and academics, as does SAAWG's annual public lectures by prominent women, which promote the themes of IFUW's Programme for Action and South Africa's socio-political and educational concerns.
- Financial aid given to students may also be seen as a factor in the subsequent success of their careers. For example, as a young student Mamphela Ramphele received an SAAWG bursary, rose to become Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cape Town and currently manager of the World Bank.
- SAAWG seeks to promote a peaceful and non-violent mindset through its lobbying of the South African government around issues such as trafficking in persons and denial of women's and children's rights. For example, approaches have been made on the injustice of Nigeria's sharia law in the case of Amina Lawal, on sexual trafficking in South Africa and on the unsatisfactory conditions pertaining in the country's family courts.

- SAAWG members also make the Association's voice heard at seminars of other non-governmental and civil society seminars and discussions, such as those held by the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR) and Constitution Hill.

Obstacles preventing progress:

Progress is limited to the extent that few members are actively engaged in the work of the Association. Greater progress is probably impeded by the demands of the careers and families of the younger members, particularly in the changing social order in South Africa, along with an ageing membership.

Areas of Action:

- [1] Education for a culture of peace
- [2] Equality for Women

Identification of Action:

- [1] South African
- [2] International, by extension through IFUW and its UN representation as far as SAAWG's programmes follow and promote IFUW's Programme for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).

Additional:

1) Advice we suggest might be considered:

- a) Raise awareness about the need to extend advocacy around a culture of peace and non-violence among schoolboys. For example, through such projects as SAAWG's Johannesburg Aurora project which addresses confidence-development in schoolgirls. Informal approaches to heads of boys' schools in South Africa have so far met with negative responses.
- b) Further consciousness-raising around the need to involve the world's men in the annual 16-days of Activism against Violence and Abuse international campaign, by extension advocating a 365-day worldwide campaign.

2) Partnerships or networks:

SAAWG Johannesburg conducts its Aurora project for schoolgirls in partnership with Soroptimists International and Kingsmead College for Girls. This involves confidence-building sessions among grade eight pupils from three Soweto schools. Sessions have covered issues such as "Peer pressure and Sexuality" and feedback has been gratifying.

Future Plans:

Through a project such as the above, SAAWG Johannesburg may consider promoting self-confidence among schoolboys, with the aim of promoting a culture of peace and non-violence in South Africa's rampantly violent society.

(i) The University Women's Association of Singapore (UWAS)

Although only nine years old and with a small membership UWAS has undertaken a number of initiatives.

- Published a high quality, full-colour, classically designed hardcover book of quotable quotes of truth and wisdom from selected women in Singapore and Asean titled "*Women's Inspirations*".
- Under the heading Project 2050 published a book "*Women's Future: World Future*" that includes the visions for the future from 500 women from all walks of life from 90 countries. It includes 200 full-colour pages of text and pictures depicting the rich cultures of multi-ethnicity and multi-facets of the global village. Net proceeds from the sale of the first 50,000 copies will be donated to UNIFEM.
- Has undertaken mentoring projects for women in Vietnam enabling Vietnamese women to connect with the modern world in terms of Information Technology and business skills.
- In collaboration with the Ministry of Community Development, and Youth and Sports UWAS is aiming to deliver a programme to a home for female, juvenile offenders to enable them to re-enter society and look for solutions other than violence and crime.
- Are seeking to work with a Family Centre that is working to keep children and teenagers in school and protect them from domestic violence.
- Has recycled discontinued first class and business class cutlery, crockery, glassware and blankets to charities in Singapore and countries in the region.

Obstacles identified were:

The limited pool of human resources and lack of funding.

Lack of organized information and research on facts regarding the position of those in need, especially women with regard to poverty, AIDS and domestic violence.

Areas of Action:

[1] Education for a Culture of Peace

[2] Equality for Women

Action identified as:

National in Singapore

Regional in Vietnam and Cambodia

Advice:

Promoting a culture of peace and non-violence is a continuous effort, which should be a main focus in education. It is vital to start with an education that subscribes to values that promote life long learning that fosters positive communication, creative problem solving and respect.

Partnership and Networks

Over the last five years UWAS has strengthened its local ties with the Singapore Council of Women's Organizations (SCWO). Ties have been established with the Ministry of Community Development Youth and Sports and Singapore International Federation. At a regional level UWAS has established ties with government officials in Vietnam and Cambodia as well as with UNESCO

representatives in Cambodia. Internationally the proceeds of the UWAS book support UNIFEM

Future Plans

UWAS will continue to strive for a better future and position of women and to subscribe to a global culture of peace.

UWAS has been successful in obtaining funding for one person to carry out a feasibility study on the needs of women in Cambodia.

(k) The Carbondale, Illinois Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW)

- The action taken by this branch was to host a 10 member Russian delegation during October 2004 as part of the Open world Programme sponsored by the US Congress. The aim was to promote peace and understanding between the US and Russia through a short term training programme, hospitality and cross-cultural exchange.

The project, "Women as leaders in Elections 2005" included 2 facilitators and 8 women who were leaders in their respective fields of work. The project included familiarization with the US political system, election and leadership issues and small business development.

No **Obstacles** were mentioned

Areas of Action:

[1] Democratic participation

[2] Free flow of information and knowledge

This was both a **National** and an **International Action**.

It was recognized that numerous **Partners** collaborated with the Branch but these were not identified. The Branch believes that it has established an extensive network, which can be tapped for future collaborations.

(k) The Norwegian Association of University Women planned a Seminar on Peace in the autumn of 2003. Although they had excellent speakers and financial support they were unable to proceed with it because too few participants enrolled for them to be able to proceed. The Norwegian Association believes that it is becoming increasingly difficult to interest younger women in issues of a societal nature.

This report has been compiled by Dorothy Meyer of the Status of Women Committee from reports received from 11 National Federations and Associations of IFUW.
12 April 2005.

