

2004

women's world  congress

women's world congress

PROGRAM

The WOMEN'S WORLD CONGRESS will begin on **Tuesday, June 8, 2004** at 10.30 a.m. and end on **Wednesday, June 9, 2004** at around 3.30 p.m.

OPENING CEREMONY

1. WOMEN IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM

VIP Guest Speaker

- Gender role socialization in the new millennium
- Reflections on the women's movement – where do we stand today?
- The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

General discussion

2. GENDER ISSUES IN ECONOMICS

VIP Guest Speaker

- Combining family and career – the myth of the good mother
- Women & financial inequities
- Sharing poverty but not the power: The “feminization” of poverty

General discussion

3. WOMEN FOR HEALTH – HEALTH FOR WOMEN

VIP Guest Speaker

- Female Genital Mutilation
- Gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS
- Empowering women for health

General discussion

4. GENDER IN PEACE-BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

VIP Guest Speaker

- Women in armed conflicts
- Peace and Security Policies from a gender perspective
- Gendering small arms action as a peace-building tool
- Feminist peacemaking: The UN-Resolution 1325

General discussion

5. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

VIP Guest Speaker

- The causes of violence against women
- Crimes committed in the name of honor – a major women's rights violation
- Prostitution and female trafficking
- Help for victims of human trafficking

General discussion

CLOSING REMARKS

Session 1: WOMEN IN THE THIRD MILLENNIUM



Dr. Edit Schlaffer, WOMEN WITHOUT BORDERS

Dr. Edit Schlaffer is a social scientist and has directed the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Politics and Human Relations in Vienna for over 20 years. She conducts research on the interfaces between private life, politics and society.

In 2002 she founded Women without Borders, an international undertaking for politics and civil society. Women have to speak up, plan, negotiate and be part of the government.

Recent publications:

- “*Die Politik ist ein wildes Tier – Afghanische Frauen kämpfen um ihre Zukunft*” – a report from the afghan women’s underground movement. Droemer, München, 2002.
- „*Supermacht Mann oder das Ende der Vernunft*“. This book aims to answer one simple question: the question, why human fate in the third millennium is still defined by bombs, soldiers and violence. Is war-obsessed masculinity having a revival? And where are the women in this picture?



Dr. Ursula Pasero, Gender Research Group University of Kiel

Ursula Pasero received her PhD in sociology from the University of Frankfurt a.M., Germany, and has been working at Kiel University since 1984. From 1992 to 2002 she was the scientific manager of the Interdisciplinary Research Centre on Women and Gender (ZiF), since 2002 she has been the head of the Gender Research Group at Kiel University (former ZiF). Her research interests are gender constructions in modern society and gender conflicts in organisations.

Recent publications:

- Pasero, Ursula/Priddat, Birger (eds.) 2004: *Organization and networks – the case of gender*. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag für Sozialwissenschaften (in press)
- Pasero, Ursula (ed.) 2003: *Gender – from Costs to Benefits*. Wiesbaden: Westdeutscher Verlag.

- Pasero, Ursula/Weinbach, Christine (eds.) 2003: *Women, men, gender trouble. Essays in systems theory*. Frankfurt: Suhrkamp.
- Pasero, Ursula/Gottburgsen, Anja (eds.) 2002: *How natural is gender? Gender and the construction of nature and technology*. Wiesbaden: Westdeutscher Verlag.

1. Gender role socialization in the new millennium

The strict dichotomy of two "sexes" remains a stable social pattern as long as ascribed differences are regarded as natural differences.

In the second half of the 20th century, however, this stereotypical pattern is disrupted by a diversification of ways of life which allows homosexual arrangements, living single and living without children. In the ongoing search for gender-relevant differences, biological research arrives at rather surprising results: So-called "nature" integrates certain breaks and the continuum of male/female also includes mixed forms. In any case, social differences between the sexes – this is the decisive finding – can no longer be reduced to biological differences.

In the new millennium we can expect a divided world of gender structure: on the one hand a rigid aggravation of the subordination of women and the exploitation of men by fundamentalist regimes which abolish all rights of self-determination; on the other hand wayward life styles of women and men in which gender-specific attributes can be emphasised as well as de-emphasised or mixed: *gender-hybrids*.



Dr. Gisela Notz, Friedrich Ebert Foundation

Gisela Notz, PhD. phil., born 1942 in Schweinfurt/ Main. Social Scientist/Sociologist. Study in Berlin. Doctorate at the Technical University in Berlin. Since 1979 scientific collaborator at 'Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung' in Bonn, research department Social- and Contemporary-History.

From 1985 to 1997 collaborator at the editorial office of the magazine 'beiträge zur feministischen theorie und praxis'. Lectureships at the Universities of Marburg, Essen, Hannover, Jena, at the moment University Marburg. Research projects about the humanisation of work, vocational education, social competence in professional intercourse of people, paid and unpaid work of women, compatibility of family and work, honorary social work, historical research about women. Numerous book- and magazine publications about these and other topics.

Recent publications:

- *Familien zwischen Tradition und Utopie*, Neu-Ulm 2003.
- *Löcher im Sozialen Netz. Sozialpolitik und Geschlecht*, Frankfurt/ M. 2003.
- *Frauen in der Mannschaft*, Bonn 2003.

2. Reflections on the women's movement – where do we stand today?

Women always had to fight for their rights. The fight of the (bourgeois) men for their liberty, equality and brotherliness did not include 'sisterliness'. Also within the working class, inequality between the sexes always remained as a 'side-contradiction' beside the 'main-contradiction' of capital and work.

The 'first' women's liberation was significant at the beginning of the Industrialisation. Depending on the 'wing' of the movement women demanded – with differing intensity - women's right to vote, their admission to political associations, their right to study at universities and the participation of women in all social spheres. In the end they were successful in getting a lot of their demands through.

Almost forgotten is the women's peace movement after the Second World War, which was devoted to slogans like 'Never war again' and 'Never fascism again'.

The 'new' women's liberation within the 1970s in West Germany propagated the slogan 'The private sphere is political'. The movement got various impulses from the women's liberation in the United States of America. In a lot of European countries and throughout the globalised world similar movements started to come up and fight for women's rights.



PD Dr. Michael Meuser, Essener College for Gender Research

Studies of Educational Science, Sociology and Political Science, University of Bonn; Graduation: Dr.phil.; Postdoctoral Lecture Qualification (Habilitation) in Sociology, University of Bremen – Positions as Research Associate and Assistant Lecturer at the Universities of Koblenz, Bremen and Dortmund; 2000 – 2003: Temporary Professor, Department of Sociology, University of Siegen; Since June 2003: Senior Research Associate at the Essen Collegium of Gender Studies, University of Duisburg-Essen; Lecturer at various German Universities; Visiting professorships at the Institute of Advanced Studies, Vienna, and the Department of Sociology, University of Vienna. Research Areas: Gender Studies, Qualitative Research Methods, Sociology of Knowledge, Political Sociology, Sociology of the Body.

Recent publications:

- *Hauptbegriffe qualitativer Sozialforschung*, Opladen: Leske und Budrich (UTB) 2003.
- Hrsg. with Ralf Bohnsack, Winfried Marotzki. – „*Modernized Masculinities? Continuities, Challenges and Changes in Men's Lives*“. In: S. Ervo, Th. Johansson (Eds.), *Among Men. Moulding Masculinities*, Vol. 1. Aldershot: Ashgate 2003.

3. The role of men and boys in achieving gender equality

The discussion about the position and the maybe active role of men in policies of equal opportunities is until now focussed on the "new man". But again and again it is noticed with disillusion that the „new man“ does not exist. In contrast to many other processes of social change and modernization men are not – or only at a very little rate – to find on the side of

the protagonists of the struggle for a new gender order. Instead of hoping for a type of men that probably will be proved to be a phantom, it seems to be more promising to change the focus.

The crucial question is: Are there social developments which confront men with new challenges which cannot be coped with traditional male behaviour patterns?

Such developments can be found in at least four connected dimensions:

1. In the critique of male dominance by the women's movement;
2. in the change of family structures that makes the male breadwinner model increasingly obsolete;
3. in the improved efficiency of women in the educational system, and
4. in the change of the structures of work in the course of the transformation from the industrial to the information society.

Most men experience the changes of the traditional male role, which are connected with these processes, as a "suffered emancipation" (Ulrich Beck). Nevertheless it is necessary to look for potentials and starting points for an active involvement of men in equal opportunities policies that may be created by these processes of social change.

Session 2: GENDER ISSUES IN ECONOMICS



Corinna Nienstedt, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HAMBURG

Studies in political science and modern history at the University of Hamburg; post-graduate studies at the Ecole Nationale d' Administration (ENA), Paris. Research assistant of Prof. Dr. phil. Klaus-Jürgen Müller, University of the Federal Armed Forces of Germany, Hamburg – internship at the French ministry of foreign affairs, department for German-French cooperation – member of the Chamber of Commerce Hamburg since 1989 – deputy general director of the Chamber of Commerce Hamburg and head of the start-up department (responsible for business start-ups). Since 2001, Corinna Nienstedt has been heading the division International Affairs as general director, and is also in charge of "Women and Business".



Henny Engels, National Council of German Women's Organizations

Henny Engels, born in 1949, bookseller, social worker, M.A in Political Science, Sociology and Catholic Theology. Experiences in lobbying as president of an umbrella organization of catholic youth organizations in a large German Catholic diocese 1976-1982 , as organization consultant for a large catholic women's organization; since 2001 executive director of the National Council of German Women's Organizations (Deutscher Frauenrat)

1. Combining family and career – the myth of the good mother

The myth of the good mother, which states that women by their nature will permanently and unselfishly take care of their children, is an invention of modern times.

The perpetuation of this myth, especially in Western Germany, makes it difficult for women, to reconcile employment and family life according to their wishes. Furthermore, the myth of the good mother is specifically used to regulate the employment activities of women in accordance with the specific needs of the labour market.

Because the effects of the perpetuation of this myth of the good mother are damaging to both women and men, we have to change our images of mothers as well as the economic and social conditions for the reconciliation of families and employment – for women as well as for men.



Constance C. Tornow, AWD

Constance Christine Tornow, born in 1970, studied sports/French from 1989 to 1999 (passing the first and second state examinations). In the course of her studies, she received grants for studies in France. Constance Tornow then completed a financial consultant training programme for the AWD Company. Since 2002, she has been in charge of AWD's corporate supply management.

2. Women & financial inequities

Two third of women overrate their pension entitlements, although, on average, they receive less than half of the pension of men. Measured by their expectations, almost 25% of all women must actually reckon with an average financial gap of some 520 euros per month. These are the findings of a study conducted by the Deutsches Institut für Altersvorsorge (DIA). Institutes in most other European countries arrive at similar results.

Women generally need to get by with lower pensions across Europe. Among others, the reasons for women's frequently lower pension entitlements are the low income from gainful employment and shorter insurance periods resulting from maternity breaks, half-day jobs or mini-jobs. Furthermore, women must have financial provisions for a longer period given their longer life expectancy.

In Germany, for instance, three thirds of women belonging to the 30-59 age bracket will not have sufficient income during old-age retirement to cover financial needs. This applies particularly to women who have no income source except their statutory pension insurance. Given the various forms of old-age pensions – statutory, private and occupational – only 24 percent of women with statutory insurance have generous pension schemes. 23 percent of the women rely exclusively on the statutory pension scheme: they will not be in a position to maintain their life standard during old age as they will have an average financial gap of 520 euros.

The situation is particularly precarious among housewives: only 34 percent are entitled to a statutory pension, yet only 32 percent of housewives have private provisions. Dependence on husbands is correspondingly high.



Susanne Wahl, German Development Service

Susanne Wahl was born in 1952 in Backnang, Germany. After concluding the German High-School-Diploma she went to France to study French at the Catholic University of Lyon. At Johann-Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main she acquires a Teacher's Degree for Social Sciences and Art Education and later a Masters Degree of Educational Sciences emphasizing " Education in Developing Countries". During her University Studies she obtained several scholarships which allowed her study visits in Guatemala and Brazil. Since 1982 Susanne Wahl is working for DED - Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst. She acted in several different positions and activities – social work in slums, consultancy for state secretaries, coordination of small-scale initiatives, management positions – in Brazil, Tanzania and Central America. Until the beginning of 2004 she was in charge of DED – Programme in Brazil. Presently she is working at DED-Headquarters handling the tasks gender and participation.

Susanne Wahl has two adult children.

3. The feminization of poverty

Almost 30 years after the first World Woman Conference in Mexico the mainstreaming of Gender is rather seen as insignificant as a chance for sustainable development. The attempts to achieve equal chances and possibilities for women create the so called glass-ceiling- effect, meaning that they encounter large amounts of resistance.

There is no country in the world where women have equal access to income, assets/capital, political participation and personal freedoms as do men. Even poverty is not neutral to the sexes: the majority of the 1.3 billion people living in extreme poverty are women.

The perception that poverty also encloses gender- related dimensions is the foundation of modern sustainable development politics. Due to their limited political rights women have

fewer chances than men to free themselves from the cycle of poverty. To successfully combat poverty in the long-run it is not enough to antagonise poor income. The ability of women to recognise their rights and chances must be strengthened and supported.

The GDS supports projects which help women in developing countries to achieve economic, juridical, and political equality and thus contributes strategically to the abolishment of poverty (examples).

What can be done to remove disparities between the sexes so that they no longer constrain the economic growth and development of a nation and no longer stand in the way of the reduction of poverty? (Ideas, proposals, visions)

Session 3: WOMEN FOR HEALTH – HEALTH FOR WOMEN



Manuela Rossbach, CARE

Manuela Rossbach, born in 1959 – National Director of CARE Deutschland e.V. – began as project manager with Care Germany in 1993 (projects in Africa and Asia). In 1995, she temporarily took charge of project coordination for European members of the global network Care International in Brussels and has been national director since 1998.

As ethnologist and social scientist, she was in charge of research projects on educational science and health at the Department of Educational Science of Freie Universität Berlin prior to joining CARE.



Kora Gouré Bi, German Development Service

Kora Gouré Bi, Sociologist and Head of West- and Central Africa Department of DED (Deutscher Entwicklungsdienst), has worked in the West African Region for ten years and in Germany for another ten years with different German Development Institutions from 1985 until now.

She is the coordinator of the activities of DED in behalf of the fight against “Female Genital Mutilation”, a traditional practice in large parts of Africa.

The aim of these activities is to offer support to local organisations, governmental and non-governmental, which are combating FGM. They can be strengthened by technical assistance, by access to non-formal education or to funds with the focus of empowerment of

the members and especially women, who decided that their country or region has to abandon this tradition.

In the last years more and more African women decided in many countries that they will protect their girls from this harmful practice.

1. Female Genital Mutilation

FGM is a traditional practice, applied in about 30 African countries. It means the cutting of the clitoris and parts of the vulva and in the most severe cases nearly closing the vagina, like for instance in Sudan. It is irreversible and numbers of girls and women are suffering and dying every year. About 130 Millions of girls and women are mutilated and every year about two millions of babies and girls have to be added. The practice is culturally embedded and so it is not easy to combat it in a sustainable way.

Religious motives, controlling of the female sexuality and so called medical advantages are often cited to defend this initiation rite. In the meantime the number of African women fighting against FGM is larger than several years ago, because it is widely accepted, that FGM damages fundamental human rights and has to be abandoned. DED is fighting against FGM, because it damages the rights of women and therefore he is actually engaged in Benin, Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mali, Sudan and Chad by the empowerment of local organisations, which have been founded by African women, and sends female technical advisers into these organisations or is helping them to identify funds of European NGO's.



Dr. Jörg F. Maas, German Foundation for World Population

Dr. Maas is Executive Director of the German Foundation for World Population (DSW). DSW supports programs for young people and women in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights and maintains offices in Kenya/Tanzania, Uganda, Ethiopia, Cambodia and Brussels. DSW is partner of the Population Fund of the United Nations and holds ECOSOC consultative status to the UN.

Dr. Maas is historian and philosopher of science holding degrees from the University of Bonn and Berlin. Dr. Maas was visiting fellow at Harvard University (USA) and co-ordinated the international research- and exchange programs of one of East German new states, Saxony-Anhalt. Dr. Maas was Director of the International Office of the University of Magdeburg and joined DSW in 1996. Since then, Dr. Maas developed DSW's international programs and contributed to shape DSW's portfolio in the field of sexual and reproductive health and rights including HIV/AIDS.

Dr. Maas is 44 years old and has two daughters.

2. Gender dimensions of HIV/AIDS

The percentage of HIV-infected women has increased dramatically during the last years. For biological, economical, social and cultural reasons the HIV infection rate is higher among women than men:

They have to carry the psychological and physical burden of AIDS care, and women are even more discriminated against than men when they are infected with HIV/AIDS because they are blamed for the spread of the disease.

Additionally, women suffer more often from malnutrition and are often denied access to healthcare. Because of the structural disadvantages, the empowerment of women, fixed in the Human Rights Charter, the ICPD Programme of Action and the Beijing Platform for Action, play an important role in the fight against HIV/AIDS.



Dr. Günter Klein, WHO Bonn

Dr. Günter Klein, born in 1949, directs the European Centre for Environment and Health of the World Health Organization (WHO) in Bonn. He studied marine research at the Institute of marine Research in Bremerhaven as well as biology, chemistry, physics, and environmental protection – research assistant at the Institute of Water Research of the Dortmund Energy and Water Supply Company – Director for Environment and Health at the WHO Regional Office of Europe, Copenhagen – 2001: foundation and management of WHO's new Centre for Environment and Health in Bonn.

As part of an agreement concluded between Germany and WHO in March 2001, the WHO team has been conducting a number of activities in Bonn to develop problem solutions with regard to environment and health in urban areas. With its special focus on air quality, noise annoyance and quality of living the office in Bonn supports WHO efforts to harmonise living conditions across all countries of Eastern, Western, Southern and Northern Europe.

Dr. Günter Klein is the happy father of four children.

3. Empowering women for health

In all societies, women hold competence and responsibility – for the health of their children, frequently for the entire family. And successfully so: women live six years longer than men in the EU, in CIS states even 11 – 15 years longer. The lower the general health status, the smaller the gap. Not even a quarter of the men and women become 60 years old, in Sierra Leone only 1/10.

Education (of women) and the breaking of taboos are proving to be a success: taboos prevent an appropriate handling of health hazards.

Depression, malnutrition, and AIDS are deprived of their stigma and are placed onto the public health agenda. AIDS is being brought under control and treated wherever it is not considered a delicate private matter, but a community task. The unspeakably gruesome mutilation of small girls in African cultures merits a global outcry. These customs are coming to light today and hopefully a step closer to their end.

Women are responsible for nutrition, water hygiene, sexuality, household energy use, yet they are not sufficiently equipped to do so efficiently. The fate of many mothers, both in the rich and poor countries, is poverty and powerlessness, which together are also risk factor

no.1 for disease and suffering. Health competence and adequate medical treatment for all go hand in hand. Equality is not necessarily an advantage. Did women in advanced countries, such as Scandinavia, have to buy their high measure of equality – with regard to their right to cigarette consumption – with the resulting lung cancer mortality?

Session 4:

GENDER IN PEACE BUILDING AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION



Heide Schütz, WOMEN'S NETWORK FOR PEACE

Born 1941 in Berlin. Member of the network "International Educators for Peace and Human Rights" and "International Peace Research Association".

Observer of the UN Commission on the Status of Women from 1989 until 1993 in Vienna for "International Peace Research Association", priority themes: Equality, Development and Peace. Vice speaker of the German preparatory group "Women and Peace" for the 4th World Conference on Women, participant of the NGO Forum in Huairou and observer of the 4th WCW in Beijing in 1995. 1995-2003 board member of "Helsinki Citizens' Assembly", German branch. 1996 foundation of the national "Women's Network for Peace" in Germany, chairperson since then. 1996 foundation of the Czech –German Women's Forum, German spokesperson until 2000.

Since 2003 member of the steering committee "Women's Security Council" in Germany. Also Co-author and since 2003 spokesperson of the "Initiative Pro Uncopac", an initiative to promote the institutionalisation of a "UN Commission on Peace and Crisis Prevention" as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. March 2004: participant as NGO observer of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York for "International Peace Bureau". Participation in national and international peace networking, projects and conferences.



Birgit Dederichs-Bain, German Agro Action

Birgit Dederichs-Bain is Chairwomen of the NGO-Women's Forum and its project office WOMNET, both located in Bonn. She studied languages, African History and Political Science in Cologne and Paris and has 20 years of professional experience in development policy issues. Since 1984 she works for Deutsche Welthungerhilfe / German Agro Action, Bonn (i.a as Head of the Policy Department and in recent years as Development Policy Consultant), with a focus on International poverty and gender policies, European NGO-networking, global governance issues and the integration of gender aspects in development

co-operation. Due to these specifications she has been invited regularly since 1998 as NGO-member in the German Government delegation to the annual meetings of the UN-Commission on the Status of Women in New York (as well as being part of the delegations to the 4th UN-World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995 and the UN-Population Conference in 1994). She has served for several years on the Boards of the European NGO-networks EUROSTEP and WIDE, Brussels.

Publications i.a.:

- Contributions to the annual Suhrkamp edition "*Yearbook Human Rights*"
- Contributions to the 'One World' series of the Foundation Development and Peace "*The World Conferences of the 90s: Building Sites for Global Governance*".

1. Women in armed conflicts

Wars have changed: they are increasingly waged for the sake of raw materials, drugs and power; they are no longer primarily fought between countries, but within countries; the classical battle fields are a thing of the past: today, wars happen "at home", i.e. in den city quarters, villages, apartments.

Active participants and stakeholders are no longer the same: the (target) civilian population is more directly involved than before, "fighters" are no longer simply soldiers, but rivalling rebel troops or a neighbour of a different religion or ethnic group; apparently common, binding values (e.g. international law) no longer exist; the threshold to violence is becoming extremely low; in times of war, it makes a difference whether one is a man or woman; extreme propensity to violence aggravates the situation for women.

What is this violence like, particularly when sexual violence is implemented as part of a strategy? Women develop their own strategies of survival in times of war (e.g. as combatants, forced recruits", traders, and in refugee camps).

New roles for women during the reconstruction phase and when fighting for peace; trauma coping strategies as a major contribution to conflict prevention; women initiatives for peace processes must be integrated in post-war societies; the role of relief organisations: breaking the spiral of violence.



Gitti Hentschel, Feminist Institute of the Heinrich Böll Foundation

Gitti Hentschel, communication scientist and social education worker, since 4/2000 director of the Feminist Institute of the Heinrich Böll Foundation, freelance journalist and lecturer, one of the publisher of the left weekly newspaper „Freitag“, board member of a women's refuge, co-founder of the "taz", an independent daily newspaper, and women's representative at a college of higher education. Fields of expertise are: empowerment strategies for women, gendered policy for peace and security, strategies against (sexual) violence, women in mass media and intercultural communication. Publications mainly focused on (sexual) violence.

2. Peace and Security Policies from a gender perspective

On a gendered scale, more than 40 (civil) wars and armed conflicts are presently being waged. Mostly, men are the protagonists and they are taking the decisions. Also, the conceptions of security policy, national and international, are „gender blind“. Women are largely excluded from central decision-making processes on war and peace. The importance of the gender relationships for the development and increasing of conflicts are as well ignored as the important roles of women concerning civil conflict regulations within the international and national policies are scarcely not considered.

The lecture, on the one hand, is informing about the diverse and constructive roles of women and their activities within crisis and armed conflicts. On the other side, starting from the European security strategy some aspects of a sustainable peace and security policy will be put up for a discussion, including the UN-Resolution 1325.



Dr. Renée Ernst, Bonn International Center for Conversion

Dr. Renée Ernst is head of the department for project management at the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) – a centre for disarmament, conversion and conflict management. During her 10 years abroad in Africa, Asia and Latin America, she gained hands-on experience in the field of development and technical cooperation. Currently, she is also addressing gender as a category of analysis and across-the-board topic for projects and research ventures of BICC (e.g. promotion of the gender perspective in the context of small arms propagation as well as the demobilisation and reintegration of ex-combatants).

She is also co-founder of the "Women's Security Council ". This initiative is an action group made up of women peace researchers and women from peace, human rights and development groups (34 NGOs and individuals), who have made it their task to strengthen the role of women in peace and security policy (through public expert talks, studies, etc.). The Women's Security Council sees itself as an initiative of civil society mandated with the constructive-critical policy monitoring of the federal government in the UN Security Council (2003-2005) and providing assistance if required.

3. Gendering small arms action as a peace-building tool

This presentation intends to explain why men and women are impacted differently by the small-arms issue and why the perception of women's and men's role in a society also has an effect on the propagation of small arms. What do weapons represent in a certain culture and to what extent do they link up with a concept of masculinity? And how do women support this cliché: do they want to be protected by a strong man? Do they feel threatened when there is a weapon in the house or are they willing to use part of their meagre household income to buy a weapon? Why do women in the border region between Somalia and Kenya participate in the smuggling of arms and ammunition?

Answering such questions makes clear that the gender perspective is a helpful tool, also when it comes to small arms control, since it moves the human being back to the centre of attention and gives us another perspective into the complex social web of interactions – and

thus also serves as a starting point for sustainable conflict solution mechanisms, which frequently turn out to be stronger than the conventional, often very narrow-minded conflict resolution strategies.



Jeanette Spenlen, UNIFEM

Dr. Jeannette Spenlen, project coordinator of the German UNIFEM Committee since 2002; member of the steering committee of the Women's Security Council; theologian, voluntary work for *wcrp-religions for peace*.

4. Feminist peacemaking: The UN-Resolution 1325

On October 31 of this year, UN Resolution 1325 will be celebrating its fourth birthday. This trail-blazing resolution for the first time addresses women as active participants in armed conflicts. The resolution calls for women to have greater involvement at all decision-making levels in all processes of conflict prevention, resolution and settlement of armed conflicts. In addition, peace agreements should take into account aspects of this gender perspective, i.e. women/human rights in connection with the constitution, election system, police force and the administration of justice must be protected; supporting local women peace initiatives and taking into consideration the special needs of women and girls in repatriation and resettlement programmes.

UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, endorses this resolution by commissioning studies and providing concrete support to women peace initiatives on a local level in conflict regions. To prepare for the Resolution's upcoming 4th birthday, UNIFEM has initiated a three-month e-discussion in order to prompt a broad dialogue on the Resolution. The results of this e-discussion will be presented.

Session 5: VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN



Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, 1000 WOMEN FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE 2005

Ruth-Gaby Vermot-Mangold, (Dr. in ethnology), lived a number of years in Africa doing research and expertise for the Swiss development cooperation. In Switzerland she led the «School Office 3rd World» and developed in this context teaching material for schools and

organized further-education courses for teachers. She has also conducted conferences in which the emphasis was on development policy and held lectures on questions of gender and public relations in a number of universities. She is a partner of the firm «Buero hekate» for management training, the coaching of leaders, organization development, and intercultural counselling.

Since 1995 she has been a member of the Swiss Parliament (National Council) and a member of the Council of Europe. Her political points of interest are migration and refugee policies. She deals with problems of integration, violence in local settings, and drugs. She is engaged in questions of gender equality and equal rights in general. In the Council of Europe she is speaker for refugee matters in South Caucasia. Major themes are trafficking in women and children and, above all, matters in connection with international crises and wars.

Ruth-Gaby Vermot is president of Contact-Net, an institute for drug-dependency assistance, and of the Swiss section of The Society for Threatened Peoples. She is also active in the Swiss Committee for the Protection of Children.



Irmgard von Lehsten, UNICEF

For 39 years, Irmgard von Lehsten from Hamburg has been tirelessly committed to UNICEF, the United Nations Children's Fund. In 1965, she joined the UNICEF's Hamburg workgroup, which developed to the largest in Germany under her leadership (1975-1989). In 1978, she was appointed to the German Committee for UNICEF. In the 90s, Irmgard von Lehsten began lecturing around the world. She visits UNICEF projects in all parts of the world, holds lectures and organises exhibitions on the activities of the Children's Fund.

"After experiencing war, suffering and poverty and loss, especially among the children living in devastated and antagonised Europe, I was greatly impressed by UNICEF's commitment as the first bridge of peace irrespective of race, ideology, religion, language, nation", explains the committed lady. "And this still applies to our centuries marked by bloodshed. The children need us!"

For her many years of commitment to promote peace across the globe and to facilitate a worthwhile future for all children, Irmgard von Lehsten was conferred – among other awards – the Federal Service Cross of the Federal Republic of Germany and the highest medal of honour by the Japanese Soka University.

1. Causes of violence against women

For this serious problem we have a long list of reasons that cause suffering to women and girls on our planet. In parenthesis, I would like to cite two main developments: The evolution of matriarchy from primeval times to patriarchy and then the illiteracy of women. To a large measure, these women lack the self-confidence to assert the equality in all walks of life in the context of human rights.

Traditional behaviour, which considers women to be owned by men, his worker, has developed excesses: violation of the family honour, repudiation in case no son is born, killing

of new-born girls, no say in sexual conduct, circumcision of girls, religious exclusion in most religions, impact of war with forced rape, and the like.

How does UNICEF take action? For over 50 years, children have been the focus of all projects, naturally also the mothers, the women. All the priorities of our concepts apply to them.

We believe we can only develop a worthwhile, peaceful future with literate women!



Christa Stolle, M.A., TERRE DES FEMMES

Christa Stolle, M.A., born in 1959 in Südoldenburg and at home in Tübingen since 1984. Studies in ethnology, geography and empirical cultural science in Bonn and Tübingen graduating with an MA, numerous stays abroad. From 1987 to 1990 member of the board and since 1990 federal director of TERRE DES FEMMES, 1 daughter (12 years Jahre).

Publications:

- *Trafficking in Women, Germany* (1989),
- *Never at Home* (1990),
- Numerous contributions and articles on the violation of women's rights, also about rape in marriage in the report on basic rights 1998.
- Author and editor of TERRE DES FEMMES publications,
- Most recent publication: *Resistance, a Key to Happiness, 20 Years TERRE DES FEMMES* (2001); *Women in Afghanistan, Hoping for Change* (2002); *"FASHION, POWER and WOMEN'S RIGHTS* (2003).

2. Crimes committed in the name of honor – a major women's rights violation

Samia Imran, a 28-year-old married women seeking a divorce from her violent husband was shot at her lawyers office in Lahore, Pakistan, because her family considered her action to be shaming the family's honour.

So called "honour killings" are the most radical manifestation of honour based crimes committed against women all over the world. Other forms that are frequently reported from various countries are acid attacks and forced marriages. The basis on which such crimes are committed and often even supported by the surrounding society is a traditional code of honour that turns women into repositories of the man's or family's honour. Whenever a women fails to comply with the predominant notion of moral behaviour the code holds the men responsible for the restoration of the family's honour. This can lead to her expulsion or even her death.

Women accused of bringing dishonour to their families receive only very little protection. Shelters for women are non-existent in many countries and jurisprudence is often even used as a tool of mitigation in the defence of 'honour killings'. Since November 2000 crimes of honour are being tackled at the international level as human rights issues. But despite the progress made by some individual states in combating these crimes the implementation of necessary measures is only advancing slowly.

In Germany the migration process of the last decades has made 'honour crimes' an important social problem. TERRE DES FEMMES has been the first organisation in Germany to voice the concerns of the victims and make 'honour crimes' and their prevention a subject of public debate. In recent years the women's rights organisation has repeatedly campaigned against different forms of such crimes and lobbied for more political efforts in combating these major human rights violations.



Cathrin Schauer, KARO

Cathrin Schauer is a registered nurse and a university graduate in social pedagogy

Since 1995, she has been managing projects of the cross-border social project KARO. She has been honorary director of the binational cross-border civil association "Marita P." headquartered in Cheb; Czech Republic.

Cathrin Schauer has authored a book on the prostitution of children in the German-Czech border region, which was published by Horlemann-Verlag in October 2003. The editors are ECPAT Deutschland e. V. and the German UNICEF Committee.

On 8 March 2002, Cathrin Schauer was presented the "Frauen Europas 2002" award for her commitment in cross-border social work.

3. Prostitution and female trafficking

Unscrupulous smugglers and international smuggling rings are active on a global scale, buying, luring and abducting hundreds of thousands of women and children into prostitution every year. Many of them live in poverty and difficult family situations. For criminal structures, trafficking in women and children is a business involving only small risks. The culprits are only rarely taken to task, while victims are frequently criminalized (cf. <http://www.ecpat.de/>, 25.11.03). These crimes are promoted by the economic need, particularly in developing countries and the countries of Central and Eastern Europe, ensuring enormously high profits and only relatively small risks for organised trafficking systems, brothel owners, and a number of other ventures.

Problems such as forced prostitution, trafficking in women and children, and commercial sexual exploitation of children also exist in the German-Czech regions. Women and children are recruited under false pretences, for instance to work as kitchen aids, hotel staff, etc. and sold from various regions of the Czech Republic and other Central and Eastern European countries to border regions and other European countries. In the process, they are transferred as if they were goods and are forced to live and work under slave-like conditions. The scene is characterised by violence and a tightly organised pimping system. Sex tourism fosters forced prostitution, trafficking in women and commercial sexual exploitation of children, promoting possible infection with HIV and sexually communicable diseases.

The social project KARO was initiated in April 1994 as part of the model programme "Streetwork for HIV/AIDS prevention in the cross-border region of Federal Republic Germany

– Poland and Federal Republic of Germany – Czech Republic“. Through intensive public relations, KARO social workers successfully sensitised governmental and non-governmental organisations as well as political decision-makers to participate in the struggle against sex tourism with children in the Czech Republic.

For their commitment, Ludmila Irmscher and Cathrin Schauer were conferred the award Frauen Europas – Deutschland 2002, which was presented by European Movement – Germany.



Schwester Dr. Lea Ackermann, SOLWODI

Sr. Dr. Lea Ackermann was born on the 02.02.1937 in Völklingen/Germany. She is the Managing director and chairwoman of Solwodi e.V (Solidarity with Women in Distress)

1954 vocational training and work as bank clerk at the Landesbank Saar, Saarbruecken; 1960 entry into the „White Sisters“ order and teacher training t (1963-1966)in Munich; 1966-72 first teacher, then headmistress at a teacher's college in Nyabisindu, Rwanda; 1972 – 1977 PhD at the Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich; 1977-84 educational consultant for Missio, Munich; 1985 –87 Teacher in Kenya, foundation of Solwodi/Kenya; 1988-2003 foundation of 9 Solwodi - counselling offices with affiliated women's shelters in Germany: Boppard 1988, Koblenz 1991, Mainz 1991, Duisburg 1997, Osnabrück 1999, Braunschweig 2000, Bad Kissingen 2001, Passau 2001, Augsburg 2003. Since 1984 intensive research on the problems of sex - tourism, forced marriage and forced prostitution in Germany and abroad. Founder of Solwodi as a refuge for foreign women in Germany. 1990 project manager of a research study on “Background and Extent of Trafficking in Foreign Girls and Women“ commissioned by the German Federal Ministry for Family, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth.

International recognition of her work through public prizes and awards, such as „100 Heroines – Award“, USA 1998; „Woman of Europe“ 1998; Order of the Federal Republic of Germany (Bundesverdienstkreuz)1996

4. Help for victims of human trafficking

For nearly 20 years now, the organisation SOLWODI (Solidarity with Women in Distress) has been taking care of migrant women who have become victims of domestic violence, criminal marriage agencies, forced marriage or trafficking.

Within the last few years, the emphasis of SOLWODI's work has shifted towards the counselling of victims of human trafficking. Just how extensive and time-consuming this counselling is and where the problems and difficulties lie is not common knowledge. Once the women have been given immediate, practical aid, the main focus is on psychosocial counselling and the development of long-term sustainable perspectives for the women's lives. This work is aggravated by many factors, such as the traumatising of the victims, missing or narrow legislation with regard to residence or working permits or maintenance, too mention just a few. The main attention will lie on analysing the demands on the counselling centres', their concrete, practical work and the related problem areas.

PARTNERS OF THE WOMEN'S WORLD CONGRESS



AIM GENDER is a research group for interdisciplinary men and gender studies - Cultural Studies, History and Social Sciences. The research group aims for an interdisciplinary network of German speaking academics in Men and Gender Studies, where research activities are still insular. The members - men and women - come from social, historical, and cultural academic fields (including Political Science, Literature, and Art). The projects are mainly in the areas of masculinities, male power and male bonding.

www.ruendal.de/aim/gender.html



The **Bonn International Center for Conversion** (BICC) is dedicated to promoting the processes of transfer of former military functions, structures, objects and resources to alternative civilian purposes. As an international think-tank it also provides practical support to public and private organizations, and serves as a clearinghouse, facilitating conversion processes at all levels - local, national and global. BICC's projects focus on a number of areas: management of disarmament (DD+R), reducing military expenditure, Security Sector Reform, Human Security, crisis prevention, surplus weapons and base closure.

www.bicc.de



CARE – for a world of hope, tolerance and social justice – is one of the world's largest private international relief and development organizations. Founded in 1945 in the USA to rush lifesaving assistance to survivors of World War II, CARE is today a confederation of 12 member organizations. Established in 1980, CARE Germany supports activities in over 40 countries, focusing on self-help projects and empowerment to combat famine, poverty, persecution, and discrimination. CARE - where the end of poverty begins.

www.care.de



The **German Development Service** (DED) places professionally experienced and socially committed specialists at the disposal of developing countries, supporting local organizations, self-help initiatives by counseling, financing small programs and promoting local specialists. It also promotes understanding for the situation of people in developing countries among the German public and draws attention to questions concerning the common interests and problems of the developing countries. Further, the DED coordinates and executes all measures related to the Civil Peace Service. Almost 1000 development workers are currently engaged in more than 40 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

www.ded.de



The **National Council of German Women's Organizations** (Deutscher Frauenrat) is the largest women's NGO in Germany and the umbrella organization for 57 affiliated associations with a total membership of approximately 11 million individuals. Its main objective is to lobby for equal rights and opportunities, as guaranteed in the constitution.

www.frauenrat.de



The **German Foundation for World Population** (DSW) is a private foundation, established in 1991 by two entrepreneurs from Hanover. DSW is committed towards a sustainable development of world population. Over the last ten years, DSW has grown in response to its extensive work from a small foundation based in Hanover, Germany, to an international organization with offices in Brussels, Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda. DSW has projects in developing countries especially targeted towards helping young people protect themselves against unwanted pregnancies and HIV/Aids. By doing so, DSW uses these opportunities to slow down world population growth whilst contributing towards improving the quality of life in developing countries.

www.weltbevoelkerung.de



The **German Agro Action** (GAA)/ Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (DWHH) was founded as the National Committee for the Freedom from Hunger Campaign of the Food and Agricultural

Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in 1962. Today it is one of the biggest private development organizations in Germany. Non-profit-making, non-political and non-denominational, the organisation works under the leadership of an honorary board and the patronage of the German President. In its projects, but in its public-relations work as well, in Germany and Europe, the organization promotes the cause of human rights, sustainable development, food security and the preservation of the environment. It promotes action programs and initiatives fighting hunger and promoting the rights of the poor.

www.dwhh.de



The **FEMINIST INSTITUTE** of the Heinrich Böll Foundation addresses current and future issues and topics concerned with women's policies. It brings together women from academia, politics, culture and economics for discussion and to exchange experiences. Furthermore it analyses strategies for assertion and power as well as concepts for politics and adapts innovative approaches from the international women's movement for political practice.

www.glow-boell.de



Women without Borders (WWB) consider themselves to be an advocacy, PR and lobbying organisation for women around the globe. As an international initiative for women in politics and civil society WWB offers women a forum so that their voices can be heard and their concerns can be made public. The main aim of the WWB-activities is to empower women to ensure their participation in constructing, ruling and governing the world. Thus they have to be included in decision making processes, particularly in countries in the state of transition: through global dialogue, through targeted information, through the creation of alliances and networks, through model projects in cooperation with competent partner organizations. WWB is providing a free e-mail-newsletter-service for more than 2000 addressees around the world. By organizing international meetings like the first international Women without Borders conference "Women Included!" (November 2003), that brought women from Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Israel, Kosovo, Palestine, Senegal and South Africa together in Vienna, WWB seek to find joint strategies to overcome the obstacles on the path to democracy.

www.women-without-borders.org



One of the most important insights gained at the 1995 Beijing UN World Conference on Women was that women's struggles for peace in Germany and world-wide are made more powerful and effective through networking and combining strength. Based on that realization, the NGO "**Women's network for Peace**" was founded in Germany in 1996. Its aim is to help women and women's organizations or groups who are part of the peace movement, or

interested in peace issues, to co-operate closely on both national and international levels. "Women's network for Peace" works for greater sensitivity towards gender issues in the field of war and peace.

www.frauennetzwerk-fuer-frieden.de



KARO was set up in 1994 as a state model project to prevent HIV/Aids and sexually transmitted diseases in prostitutes in the Euroregion Egrensis area. KARO is a Cross-border social project for specific target groups in the prostitution and drugs scene in the Euroregion Egrensis. The main emphasis was on street work in the various scenes where prostitution is going on.

www.karo-sozialprojekt.de



TERRE DES FEMMES

Menschenrechte für die Frau e.V.

Terre des Femmes, founded in 1981, is a human rights association dedicated to helping oppressed, persecuted or otherwise discriminated women, inspired by the realization that in many societies women and girls are subjected to unequal treatment and their human rights are completely disregarded. Terre des Femmes is dedicated to helping women and girls lead an equal and self-determined life as well as enjoy their unalienable rights.

www.terre-des-femmes.de



Solwodi was founded in Kenya by Sr. Dr. Lea Ackermann in 1985 after having seen the suffering of the local women and children who had become prostitutes due to sex-tourists. In Germany, the organisation "**Solidarity with women in Distress**" counsels and assists migrant women who have become victims of false promises and human trafficking or live here in violent relationships. Most of the women seeking advice have experienced great violence and often find themselves in psychological, social and financial distress.

www.solwodi.de



UNICEF, the **United Nations Children Fund**, is the global organization for children's rights. The UN-Convention on the Rights of the Child - which sets out the right of all children to reach their full potential - is the foundation of UNICEF's work. UNICEF operates in over 160 countries and territories to fulfil children's rights to health and nutrition; water and sanitation,

education; emergency relief and protection. The German Committee for UNICEF was founded in 1953, today it is Germany's best-known organization for children's rights and development. 8,000 volunteers in 130 groups support the work of UNICEF through fundraising, selling UNICEF greeting cards and advocating children's rights.

www.unicef.de



The **United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)** helps developing countries and countries with economies in transition in their fight against marginalization in today's globalized world. It mobilizes knowledge, skills, information and technology to promote productive employment, a competitive economy and a sound environment. Carlos Magariños, the Director-General of UNIDO, describes the Organization as a specialized United Nations agency that focuses its efforts on relieving poverty by fostering productivity growth. UNIDO was set up in 1966 and became a specialized agency of the United Nations in 1985. As part of the United Nations common system, UNIDO has responsibility for promoting industrialization throughout the developing world, in cooperation with its 171 Member States. Its headquarters are in Vienna, and it is represented in 35 developing countries. This representation and a number of specialised field offices, for investment and technology promotion and other specific aspects of its work, give UNIDO an active presence in the field.

www.unido.org



UNIFEM is the **women's fund at the United Nations**. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programs and strategies that promote women's human rights, political participation and economic security. Within the UN system, UNIFEM promotes gender equality and links women's issues and concerns to national, regional and global agendas by fostering collaboration and providing technical expertise on gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment strategies. UNIFEM was created in 1976, in response to a call from women's organizations attending the 1975 UN First World Conference on Women in Mexico City. Today, UNIFEM works in over 100 countries and has 14 Regional Program Directors and a growing network of affiliated gender advisors and specialists in Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Central and Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, Latin America and the Caribbean.

www.unifem.de



1000 Women for the Peace Nobel Prize 2005
1000 Frauen für den Friedensnobelpreis 2005
1000 FEMMES POUR LE PRIX NOBEL DE LA PAIX 2005
1000 женщинам – Нобелевская премия мира
ألف امرأة جائزة نوبل للسلام لعام ألفين وخمسة
—千婦女得諾貝爾平和獎
1000 MUJERES Y UN PREMIO NOBEL DE LA PAZ DEL 2005

All over the world millions of women are engaged in the cause of peace, often risking their lives. They rebuild their countries, care for the weak, and pave new roads to maintaining peace. It is in their name that 1000 women should receive the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. With this prestigious prize, a comprehensive documentation and with academic research, the work of women engaged in peace efforts will be spotlighted.

www.1000peacewomen.org