

Women's Rights Issues & Ideas Throughout Europe



Write – Issue 6
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■ **Council of Europe for VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**, including domestic violence, is the result of an imbalance of power in society. It is a human rights violation and a major obstacle to overcoming inequality between women and men. Despite positive developments in law, policies and practices, it still occurs in every Council of Europe member state at all levels of society. To find a way out of this situation, the **Heads of State and Government of the COE member states** decided to launch a **Campaign to Combat Violence against Women**, including Domestic Violence. The launching conference took place in *Madrid on 27 November 2006*. The Campaign aims at raising awareness that violence against W is a human rights violation. It urges member states to demonstrate political will by providing adequate resources to deliver concrete results in this field. It promotes the implementation of effective measures at national level. Campaign activities will be carried out by different bodies of the COE and by member states. www.coe.int/t/dg2/equality/DOMESTICVIOLENCECAMPAIGN/stopdomesticviolence_en.asp

■ **Norway and Sweden Support UNIFEM Urgent Actions for W's R in East Africa**

UNIFEM's interventions on W'sR and gender equality in Somalia and Uganda received a major boost this week with financial assistance from the SIDA and the Government of Norway. Key to **W'sR protection and participation is leveraging the voice of women as change agents with influence on policy and peace efforts**. Leveraging W's effective participation and contribution to real-time urgent actions for peace, recovery and healing remains at the core of activities by UNIFEM in the region. A 1,000,000 SEK grant from SIDA for Ugandan W's participation in the ongoing peace efforts in Juba comes at a time when UNIFEM has already launched a W's peace caravan and UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador Phoebe Asiyo is on a mission to Juba. In Somalia, a 1,300,000 NOK grant from Norway consolidates W's engagement with the World Bank/UN-facilitated Post-Conflict Joint Needs Assessment that has been underway over the last year. The Norwegian grant will go towards Somali W's undertaking a gender audit of the draft Recovery and Development Plan. http://www.unifem.org/news_events

■ **Vilnius chosen to host the European Institute for Gender Equality** - The EU employment and social affairs ministers decided by unanimity during the Council meeting on *1st of December* that Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, will host the Institute for Gender Equality. The EP W'sR Committee adopted its second reading report on the European Gender Institute on 11.12.2006 on the basis of the compromise agreed upon by the Council. According to this compromise, the Board of the Institute will be composed of 18 representatives of Members States on a rotation basis and 1 representative of the Commission. Unfortunately the compromise doesn't include the representatives of civil society and of social partners in the Board, they are included in the Experts Forum to be created as another body of the Gender Institute. The Institute will be allocated *52,5 million euros* for the period 2007-2013. The Institute should start working in 2007 with 15 employees, with the number of staff due to double by 2013.

■ **37th Session of CEDAW** - The Committee held its thirty-seventh session at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 15 January to 2 February 2007 to examine the reports of the following 15 states parties: Austria, Azerbaijan, Colombia, Greece, India, Kazakhstan, Maldives, Namibia, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Peru, Poland, Suriname, Vietnam and Tajikistan. The **Concluding Comments** of this session are now available at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/37sess.htm>.

✧ Updates from AAI world ✧

BRUXELLES

- The EC and the UN launched a programme to support action and advocacy to step up investments in gender equality as fundamental to the effectiveness of development assistance. The programme, “EC/UN Partnership for Gender Equality in Development and Peace,” will convene consultations in twelve focus countries to explore how the commitment by developing and donor countries to the Paris Declaration — including its strong focus on national ownership and mutual accountability — is influencing support for gender equality and women’s empowerment. http://www.unric.org/English_Section/Latest_News
- The 2007 European Year of Equal Opportunities for All seeks to make people in the EU more aware of their rights to equal treatment and to a life free of discrimination. To see all the events organised in European Countries see http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/eyeq/index.cfm?cat_id=EV

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INTERNATIONAL

- “Women Won’t Wait”- www.womenwontwait.org is an international coalition of organizations and networks committed and working for many years to promote W’s health and human rights in the struggle to comprehensively address HIV and end all forms of violence against women and girls now. WWW seeks to accelerate effective responses to the linkages of violence against all W and girls and HIV by tracking and, where necessary, calling for changes in the policies, programming and funding streams of national governments and international agencies. AAI currently serves as the coordinating secretariat for the campaign. A baseline analysis of key HIV&AIDS donors’ and agencies’ policies conducted by the campaign will be followed by reports and regular scorecards toward tracking donors’ and key agencies’ policies and practices in depth”.

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- we are holding the **SIC design meeting for W’sR** leg in **March the 26-28th, here in Johannesburg**. The countries that have indicated interest in this issue and who have planned for it are: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Cambodia, Nepal, Uganda, Kenya, Malawi, DRC, The Gambia, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Mozambique, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Haiti, Guatemala.

ITALY

- Last 23rd of February, Beatrice Costa met for the third time the **Gender Working Group** promoted in November by the Italian States General of Cooperation to Development. The group discussed how to enrich and finalise their contribution paper useful to the consultation process between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Italian civil society engaged with gender issues. Besides, each organisation and association involved has been asked to produce a position paper on W’sR with recomandations that can inform the MFA. AAI has already sent its contribution. Another meeting is scheduled by the end of March.

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UK

- **Laura Turquet @ World Social Forum in Nairobi** - *“I attended the Feminist Dialogues and the WSF, as a representative of the AA Europe Region. The FD focused on the theme, ‘Feminists Transforming Democracies: Visions and Strategies’. The other major theme that came out was fundamentalisms - political, religious, cultural and economic. The WSF was an opportunity to learn about the struggles faced by people from all corners of the world. I attended several meetings facilitated by AA and our partners about W’s land rights, which is a major focus of the new SIC on the right to food. The real strength of these events, and of the WSF in general was that they brought together women from three different continents to talk about their campaigns to bring about change. Although the contexts were different, the women also shared much in common and it was clear that they drew strength from one another. I also attended a meeting organised by Women on Farms on women farm workers in South Africa.. Aside from all the meetings I attended, the main value of the WSF for me was the opportunity to meet many AA W’sR staff. It was completely invaluable and inspiring to meet them face to face, to learn more about our W’sR priorities and to think about how we can ensure that our work in the UK supports these priorities.”*

☞ Deeply Woman: links, publications, movies...☞

@ links

- **Special Report on Poland:** *Exorcising the Past, Imperiling the Future* - By Barbara Crossette. http://www.catholicsforchoice.org/cEuropeanSupplement_Specialreportonpoland.asp
- **How did women fare in 2006?** - *A look at some of the women's rights developments of 2006.* By Kathambi Kinoti <http://www.awid.org/go.php?list=analysis&prefix=analysis&item=00359>



publications

- **The Global Gender Gap Report 2006** - The Global Gender Gap Report 2006 covers all current and candidate European Union countries, 20 from Latin America and the Caribbean, over 20 from sub-Saharan Africa and 10 from the Arab world. Together, the 115 economies cover over 90% of the world's population. The Global Gender Gap Report 2006 includes an innovative new methodology including detailed profiles of each economy that provide insight into the economic, legal and social aspects of the gender gap. <http://www.weforum.org/en/initiatives/gcp/Gender%20Gap/index.htm>
- **Taking Stock: Afghan women & girls 5 years on** – a report produced by Women Kind - <http://www.womankind.org.uk/takingstockdownloads.html>
- **Defending Our Dreams: Global Feminist Voices for a New Generation.** Edited by **Shamillah Wilson, Anasuya Sengupta and Kristy Evans.** This pioneering collection presents the original experiences, perspectives and visions of young feminists seeking to understand the current world order and shape a better future. The book brings together analyses by feminists of diverse identities on themes including W'sR and economic change, ICT, sexuality, feminist organisations and movements. It presents key issues arising out of the experiences of young W living in both North and South, the challenges confronting young feminists ... http://www.awid.org/go.php?pg=defending_dreams



events

- 30.04.2007 - 02.05.2007 Aalborg , **Denmark Masculinities – Discourses and Practices** - Ph. D. Course organised by the The Post-Graduate Research School: Welfare State and DiversityPhD-course <http://ruc.dk/isg/forskning/skoler/velfaerdsstatogforskellighed/seminarer-kurser/masculinities/>
- 20th/21st of April - Gender Conference in **Hamburg** will take place within the framework of Venro's EU-presidency-project. It will take place on with a panel discussion on 20th and a NGO-Workshop on 21st . The workshop on 21st will be realised with the participation of the Venro-Gender-Group and serves as an exchange of ideas and experiences. www.afrikas-perspektive.de

☞ Euro Womening ☞



Dr Margaret Chan, appointed Director of WHO on 9 November 2006. From the People's Republic of China, obtained her medical degree from the University of Western Ontario in Canada. She joined the Hong Kong Dept. of Health in '78: here her career in public health began. In '94, she was appointed Director of Health of HK. In her nine-year tenure as director, she launched new services to prevent the spread of disease and promote better health. She also introduced new initiatives to improve communicable disease surveillance& response and establish better local-international collaboration. She effectively managed outbreaks of avian influenza and SARS. In 2003 she joined WHO as Director of the Department for Protection of the Human Environment. Her term as Director of WHO will run through June 2012.