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Women, Peace and Security

YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE:

Include us, don't patronise us

Youth offer recommendations for UNSCR 1325

HIV AND AIDS:

**Reinterpreting Violence from the Perspective
of Women Living with HIV**



World YWCA

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Editorial



Susan Brennan
World YWCA President

We are called to be peace makers. But peace is not passivity and peace making requires strength, courage and persistence. In the home, in the marketplace, in the village and in the world, women's safety demands our urgent attention. The statistics are grim: one in three women worldwide will be a victim of violence in her lifetime. YWCAs across the world are responding by providing shelter, protesting against war, supporting women in conflict areas and urging women's participation in democracy and conflict resolution. This issue of Common Concern explores a key tool in our advocacy for a world free from violence: the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security.

In 2007, at the initiative of the YWCA of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), the World YWCA Council resolved to promote this resolution, mandating our movement to educate ourselves and others

about women's right to participate in building the peace.

Pacific peace-advocate, Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, reminds us in the feature article that security for women is not just about living without war, but requires us to be safe in private and in public. The YWCA of DRC explains in the Leading Change section that women must have access to decision-making to ensure their needs are met during and after conflict. Our General Secretary contributes to Take Action: women must realise that power is never given; even where there are quotas one must assert, affirm, negotiate, position and present oneself as a leader.

The stories in this issue illustrate how YWCAs are building leaders committed to creating a safe world, working with former female soldiers in Liberia, participating in peace protests in Colombia, supporting women in conflict zones in Georgia and the Middle East, providing a safe place in Zimbabwe—every day, YWCAs are helping women live lives free from violence.

Building on this commitment, the chosen theme for the 2011 World YWCA Council is 'Women Creating a Safe World'. To be held in Zurich, Switzerland from July 10-16, 2011, the Council theme speaks to the very core of our World YWCA vision—a fully inclusive world where justice, peace, health, human dignity, freedom and care for the environment are promoted through women's leadership.

Arundhati Roy¹ wrote: "I am not advocating tolerance, or acceptance. There has been more than enough of that. I'm advocating a war of noisy beauty, of voices raised, of stories told, of songs sung loudly in the streets."

The YWCA is a powerful chorus of women leading change—with our words, our actions, our service and our vision, we make a mighty song for peace. ■

¹ Arundhati Roy, from India, is a young female activist and author of 'The God of Small Things'.

YWCA's Around the World

Peace with Justice has always been an important priority for the World YWCA. For over one and a half centuries, the YWCA movement has been sensitive to the particular situation women and young women face during conflict and war. In this section, we highlight YWCAs working in countries that have survived conflicts the world has forgotten...

WOMEN IN GEORGIA STILL IN NEED

The conflict that broke out in South Ossetia between Russia and Georgia on August 8, 2008 left a population of nearly 160,000 internally displaced, many of whom were women and children. The YWCA of Georgia mobilised to collect money and essential items for women and children that were then distributed through kindergartens and schools in the capital Tbilisi.

Although the conflict is over, the consequences remain. "Instability, social problems and fear of future conflict are the main concerns of Georgian women," says Eka Avaliani, President of the YWCA of Georgia. "Many women live without any income as their husbands, brothers and fathers were murdered during the conflict. There were no support services for women when the country was engaged in war and humanitarian access to affected areas has been limited."

The World YWCA urged women to be part of the peace negotiations as recommended in the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. UNSCR 1325 calls for women's full participation in conflict resolution and the YWCA of Georgia continues to call for women to be heard. "Peace is important for all women around the world and Georgian women are not exempt in this," says Avaliani, "Georgian women should have the chance to choose a future for their state, families, children and themselves in a peaceful atmosphere."

WOMEN IN COLOMBIA WANT PEACE

The world celebrated when Ingrid Betancourt and 14 other hostages held in the Colombian jungle for up to ten years were rescued and freed in July 2008. The YWCA of Colombia marched through the streets of Bogotá to commemorate the liberation of the hostages and call for peace in their country.

Since the 1940s Colombians have lived with civil conflict motivated by differing ideologies of conservative and liberal politics. "This provoked the creation of guerilla and paramilitary groups who promised they would seek equality and social justice, which has never been achieved," says Judith Melo Barrera, President of the YWCA of Colombia. "Women are the most affected by this conflict, which is reflected amongst the displaced population. Many become widows because of the war. Women have to take on the paternal role in families and this is why we ask for peace in Colombia."

The YWCA of Colombia has participated in all of the peace marches promoted by Colombian civil society. "We consider it our civic duty. Women in our association want our efforts of promoting women's rights to be visible to the community and working with different community sectors for peace compliments the objectives of the YWCA," says Barrera.



Members of the YWCA of Colombia participate in a peaceful protest on the streets of Bogotá. 2008



Participants at a joint youth conference on peace building hosted by YWCAs of Japan and Korea.

YOUTH HOLD KEY TO PEACE IN JAPAN

The YWCA of Japan is a defender of peace. As the only country to experience the devastation of two atomic bombs, the association is committed to peace education throughout Japan and the world.

The YWCA of Japan Peace Education Fund supports national peace programmes that involve cooperation and participation from YWCA's international networks. "The fund was launched to promote peace building with the vision of the world as one community and to spread the peace message to youth through various programmes," says Dr. Mayako Ishii, President of the YWCA of Japan.

Through the fund, a number of initiatives evolved including a 'Pilgrimage to Hiroshima' that involved over 80 youth from YWCA of China, Korea, Palestine and many international students. Participants shared and developed ideas for building world peace. "The YWCA of Japan involves youth for a more powerful peace movement worldwide." Other initiatives include youth conferences, internships, and volunteer opportunities.

Women are at the heart of YWCA of Japan's peace programmes. "Women are still marginalised in many societies and Japan is no exception. Unless women are at the decision-making table, women continue to be at risk of facing violations of human rights. That is why peace is the very first priority of YWCA of Japan."

FROM THE ARCHIVES

When the United States of America entered World War I, the YWCA USA joined the United War Work Campaign to raise and distribute funds to aid war relief efforts. As the only women's organisation in the Campaign, the YWCA's charge was to meet the special needs of women and girls affected by the war. The YWCA raised money, recruited war workers and run Industrial War Service Centres or 'blue triangle' houses. The centres provided a safe space for working women and served around 3,000 women during the war.

Ref: YWCA of the U.S.A. Records, Sophia Smith Collection, Smith College, Northampton, Mass. Journal of Women's History, Vol 19 No.2, pg 97. 2007

Feature

WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY

Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed unanimously on October 31, 2000. Resolution (S/RES/1325) is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

When it comes to gender, traditional notions of security and conflict reflect only a narrow reality for women. Human insecurities including lack of social, political, economic and environmental security prevent women from attaining gender equality and empowerment. When there is a lack of security—women and girls bear the brunt of the crisis. The impact of conflict, war, poverty and even economic crisis on women is often disproportionate.

So, on October 31, 2000, when the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security it was regarded as groundbreaking, not only in content but as proof of the achievements that are possible when NGOs, the UN system and member states work together.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) puts the spotlight on three critical areas when it comes to gender equality in the context of conflict, peace and security: Participation, Prevention and Protection. These 3Ps clearly address the constant under-representation of women in formal peace processes, how women can contribute to

preventing war and conflict and the specific needs of women and girls during conflict.

PARTICIPATION

When women face violence in the home and community they often do not have the energy to fully participate in peace building at the national, provincial or even the local committee level.

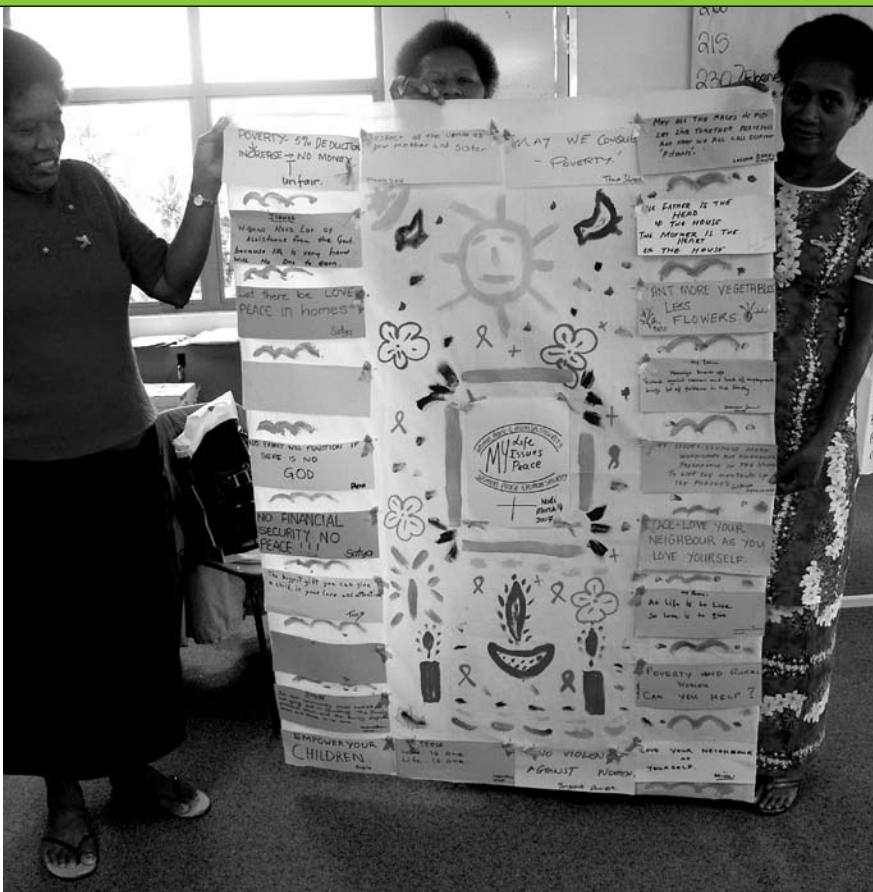
Since the feminization of poverty becomes even more pronounced in post conflict economies, potential female leaders may be put off participating in the transformative processes of reconstruction and rebuilding communities as they cater to basic needs of their families.

Ultimately, the full and equal participation of women during the peace building processes starts with intervention, funding and technical support for women that allows them to both participate and meet their basic survival needs. But to bridge the participation gap, women must

be involved in political process before conflict breaks out.

Too often women's opinion on peace and security are not heard because they are excluded from the process or their contributions and opinions are devalued. To overcome these obstacles, women's participation must be deliberately sought, perhaps through a quota system, targeted consultations, the establishment or strengthening of Women's Ministries or Departments and the appointment of female judges, police and law reform authorities.

Women's formal political participation in decision-making at the vital stage of peace building demands more than having women as observers in decision-making fora and it constitutes more than a few women candidates standing for elections. Gender justice and equality principles should be enshrined in constitutional and legal reforms, multi-party systems and election processes. Once women are participating in public life, they should be included in decision-making about issues beyond gender; they should also be included in discussions about security and resource allocation.



Participants at a workshop on women peace and human security display a poster they created on the theme My Life, My Issues, My Peace. Nadi, Fiji.

PREVENTION

For women, more guns does not mean more security. Through women's eyes, there is a broader notion of security – one that is defined in human, rather than in military terms.

Women who are most affected by guns often have the best ideas about how to remove them from the community. After all, can women really experiencing peace when arms are still present in society?

The masculinity of militarisation and the need to promote 'soft power' as an alternative to current style of decision-making must be taken into account. Advocates of UNSCR 1325 have to recognise the need to be vigilant and proactive about influencing the regional human security agenda, especially at national level. It is time that governments harmonise UNSCR 1325 with national, state and local legislation.

YWCA's and the women's movement must together reaffirm that militarisation does not bring peace or security—not to our world or our nations, not to our communities and not into our homes. We have to find alternatives. The consequences of women's exclusion and marginalisation pose a significant threat to sustainable human security. In order to prevent war and conflict, we need women's perspective for peace at all times.

PROTECTION

When war, conflict or unrest do occur, UNSCR 1325 calls on member states to respect international law regarding the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians. Women and girls are often targets for sexual violence and abuse during conflict.

In order to adequately protect women and girls, governments should ensure gender sensitivity training of security sector personnel and utilise tools such as gender-based early-warning indicators.

It is critical that government troop and police engage gender experts and expertise to be included in all levels and aspects of peace operations, including in technical surveys, the design of concepts of operation, training, staffing and programmes. In addition, protection must be extended to female officers and police.

Community police initiatives can also be enhanced through regular engagement with women's groups, and the recruitment of women with expertise and life experience in community policing programmes.

GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

Eight years on, despite the consistent call for UN member states to develop clear strategies and action plans "with goals and timetables on the integration of gender perspectives in humanitarian operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction", there remain gaps in the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

As such, the UN Secretary-General's October 13, 2004 report on the Resolution requests member states to develop National Action Plans (NAP).

The National Action Plan process identifies gaps in knowledge, provides opportunities for information sharing and training and generates commitment and ownership.

The result is a coordinated governmental approach that has the full support of civil society actors. Effective collaboration between Departments of Foreign Affairs with the women's machinery as well as military and police in the development and implementation of NAPs is a clear demonstration that governments are taking gender equality commitments seriously.

UNSCR 1325 is not an impractical wish list, but a range of recommendations which can assist UN member states make good on gender equality commitments based on women's experiences and realities

NAPs assist governments in establishing a comprehensive and coordinated approach, raise the awareness of analytical and operational personnel, enhance the ownership and accountability of all staff to the government's commitment and support efforts at monitoring and evaluation.

ADVOCACY

And so when it comes to it, women's participation, the protection of women and girls and incorporating UNSCR 1325 in peacekeeping and peace support operations still have a long way to go.

The global women's movement, in particular international networks such as the World YWCA and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security provide an important opportunity for women of the global south, in particular, to link their

aspirations and visions for peace and inform the deliberations and work of the UN Security Council. Such transnational collaboration can, for example, assist UN member states to deliver their final and tested National Action Plan to the 10th anniversary session of the Human Rights Council in October 2010.

Transnational collaboration is also important to assist in mobilising the necessary financial and technical resources to assist women advance their visions for peace into the policy arena.

UNSCR 1325 is not an impractical wish list, but a range of recommendations which can assist UN member states make good on gender equality commitments based on women's experiences and realities not only during the conflicts, but also in the contest of conflict prevention. By enabling and contribution to National Action Plans, making the linkages with

the implementation of CEDAW, the Beijing Platform for Action as well as the Millennium Development Goals, women can partner to ensure a world with peace and security for all.

By Sharon Bhagwan Rolls – Coordinator, femLINKPACIFIC (www.femlinkpacific.org.fj)

Sharon is the founding member of femLINKPACIFIC: Media Initiatives for Women. She has been a member of the YWCA of Fiji since 1986, which has been the inspiration of her work as a media practitioner and communicator as well as in her faith journey.



For more on UNSCR 1325 visit:
www.peacewomen.org
www.iwtc.org
www.femlinkpacific.org.fj/

Security through a woman's eyes

ECELINI WELEILAKEBA 64, FIJI



Actively involved with the YWCA of Fiji since the 1960s, Ecelini was the only Fiji delegate to the 2003 World YWCA

Council in Brisbane and led the Fiji delegation to the 2007 World Council in Nairobi. She has served as Treasurer, Vice President and Interim President of YCWA of Fiji.

What does it mean to live with conflict/war?

Living with coups in Fiji, means living with uncertainty making it difficult to make plans and commit funds to plans. It also means one has to be more careful of what one says and to whom and there are new challenges to test our communications skills.

What indigenous process/practice can bring peace or prevent conflict?

There are traditional practices and processes of communication that are mainly non-confrontational. In Fiji an

example is the practice of *veisiko* or visit, similar to an appointment through which discussions can take place in an enabling environment.

How can women contribute to peace building?

Women can contribute by focusing on building the capacity of their families and communities and continuing to be actively engaged in promoting dialogue and keeping communication lines open within their communities. It is important, though difficult, to continue with club activities. After the 2000 coup in Fiji, in the spirit

of veisiko, a group of women leaders visited the Commander of the Military at the military camp to discuss with him their grievances concerning the coup—it was a peaceful visit demonstrating how women can communicate peacefully.

What do you want to see your government do differently?

I would like to see the government demonstrate the political will to listen seriously to the voice of women and youth, respectfully acknowledge the role of women and youth and value their skills and talent in the process of nation building.

KORPU YARKPA 30, LIBERIA

For nearly 14 years, Liberia was engaged in several civil wars. More than 200,000 people were killed during the conflict. Korpu, barely 11 years old when the war started, was among the over 30,000 women and girls who took arms during the civil wars. She is now a seamstress and beneficiary of the YWCA of Liberia female combatants rehabilitation programme.

What does it mean to live with conflict/war?

I come from Bong County, Liberia. My life before the war was at least better because my parents were taking care of my schooling and my wellbeing. During the war, my first role as a female combatant was to prepare food for combatants on the front-line and then eventually I took arms and became a real female combatant.

What motivated you to become a combatant?

The most vivid memory I have of the war was how I lost my oldest brother who kept our home in order. He was beheaded right before my eyes and this is why I became a combatant... to protect my mother. My mother was

really affected by the war, she lost her oldest son who was not a soldier or combatant and she had to leave her home to find a place to live. On her returned, her house was burnt down. She had nothing left.

How did being a combatant affect your life?

My ten years as a combatant was all wasted time. I ended up in a position where I learning nothing. On a day-to-day basis I had to answer to the calls of all General Commanders in any way they needed me. My ordeal came to an end when I realised that my peers were improving their lives and becoming better citizens and I was not.

How has your life changed since the end of the war?

I have been fully rehabilitation into my community through the YWCA of Liberia programme. I have participated in the skills training and learnt tailoring.

What do you want to see your government do differently?

What should have been done to improve the peace building process in Liberia was to allow all female combatants to go through rehabilitation centers so as to recover psychologically from the effects of armed conflict. Today, I see my country Liberia as a good country, since the war, things have improved and everyone now knows that war is not an answer to any problem.

ARDA AGHAZARIAN 28, PALESTINE



For most young people, a life under occupation is unimaginable. For the young people of Palestine, it is a daily reality. Arda,

World YWCA Board member and YWCA of Palestine member for over seven years shares her experience.

How long have you lived with armed conflict?

Since and before I was born. My parents also grew up in an environment of conflict, as did my grandparents before them. It will probably last for a while...

How does this affect you as a young woman?

One of the big effects of a conflict environment is that there is no momentum. There's always the fear that something might happen and ruin all plans; that fear isn't coming from nowhere. It's difficult to plan ahead or move forward in such an environment, as things are always changing one way or another and influencing one's life.

Are there any positive outcomes of growing with conflict?

It forces individuals to deal with reality. There is unfortunately not much choice around it, but conflict enhances one's survival instincts, levels of coping as well as not taking so much for granted.

What one thing would you like to change to improve your situation?

Not letting actions and reactions based on racism pass before my eyes without acting.

How do you think young women can best contribute to the cause of peace?

In their knowledge, persistence and raising awareness regarding the right to live in peace and justice despite all the craziness and troubles around.

Simplified version of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security prepared by the International Women's Tribune Centre

- 1** Increase the number of women at decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions involved in preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts.
- 2** Increase participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes.
- 3** Provide women candidates from a regular-updated, centralised roster for appointment as special representatives and envoys to facilitate the appointment of more women in these positions.
- 4** Expand the numbers and roles of women in UN field operations, such as military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.
- 5** Ensure that a gender component is included in field peacekeeping operations.
- 6** Provide training guidelines and materials on (1) the protection, rights, and needs of women, (2) the importance of involving women in peacekeeping and peace-building measures, and (3) HIV/AIDS awareness in national training programs for military police, civilian police and civilian peacekeeping personnel.
- 7** Increase voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training.
- 8** Adopt a gender perspective when negotiating and implementing peace agreements in areas like:
 - » Special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.
 - » Support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution and involve women in all of the peace agreement implementation mechanisms.
 - » Ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly relating to the constitution, electoral system, the police and judiciary.
- 9** Respect international law regarding the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, during armed conflicts.
- 10** Take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse and violence in situations of armed conflict.
- 11** Put an end to impunity and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and exclude these crimes from amnesty provisions.
- 12** Respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements and, in their design, take into account the particular needs of women and girls.
- 13** Consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and take into account the needs of their dependants.
- 14** Give consideration to the potential impact of UN Charter Article 41 on the civilian population, keeping in mind appropriate humanitarian exemptions and the special needs of women.
- 15** Ensure the Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultations with local and international women's groups.
- 16** Conduct a study on (1) the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, (2) the role of women in peace-building and (3) the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolutions. Submit the results to the Security Council and make the study available to all UN Member states.
- 17** Report progress to the Security Council on gender main-streaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls.

Take Action

Keeping UNSCR 1325 alive:

Ensuring women's full participation in peace-building and conflict resolution

Key actions must accompany the existence of international instruments like UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW in order to bring meaning to their spirit.

When crisis breaks out, one can write the story of unfolding events before they happen. The story involves mostly men fighting for power and authority, with very few women within the leadership structures. The early warning signs are riddled with similar facts: national budgets start to focus on security sector like police and army and less on education and health, civic space of engagement is confined and civil society organisations, especially those addressing human rights and democracy, are threatened or forced to close down.

Once the crisis happens, the story is the same. Women and children are the main victims—displaced, fleeing. The pictures break our hearts. Sexual and gender based violence becomes the norm. She was gang raped. They were armed.

Finally, when the political peace negotiations begin, it is mostly men at the table mediated by other men, with little or no space for other voices. Everybody is speaking on behalf of the people, yet nobody is consulting with the people and especially not with women and youth. Some token women find their way to the negotiating

table; under pressure, they struggle to smuggle some commitments on gender quota and social issues. Women celebrate from outside.

It is the above reality that ushered in strong advocacy that saw the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 pass in 2000. For organisations like the YWCA, this heralded a new era of affirming the leadership role of women. Women's leadership, wisdom and insights—very much needed to

contribute to conflict prevention and management—found expression and a mandate. Women's knowledge, experience and expertise could now be valued and affirmed with the hope that women would no longer struggle to have a seat at the negotiating table; women and men would share the responsibility for rebuilding their communities, their nation and their future.

Even in peace-keeping, the resolution affirms the importance of protecting women's rights, their involvement and effective participation. Six years later, the issue of gender-based violence in situation of war became so acute with rape being used as a weapon of war. In response the UN Security Council passed a resolution—1820—to simply address this crucial issue of human rights violation. A complimentary instrument to 1325, it was rushed through adoption, and many women are yet to know of its existence.

Key actions must accompany the existence of international instruments like UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW in order to bring meaning to their spirit. First, political leadership must affirm women as citizens by demonstrating real

1 in 5 members of parliament worldwide is a woman. Quotas make a difference in increasing this proportion. At the current rate of increase, it will take close to **20** years for developed countries and up to 40 years for all other countries for women to constitute 40% of parliamentary representation.

political will backed-up with knowledge, skills and gender perspectives that bring a qualitative contribution to conflict prevention, negotiations and peace building.

Secondly, it is also clear that women must accept that power is never given—even where there is a quota system, one has to assert, affirm, negotiate, position and present oneself as a leader. Therefore, growing and nurturing the leadership of women lies at the heart of implementing these resolutions. Thirdly, it is about resources. Implementing these resolution demands financial resources, time, skills and expertise. Investments in women and girls in peace building means a conscious approach for resource prioritisation by the various actors and communities.

Lastly, the human rights of women and men must be affirmed. Acknowledging the life long yearning for humanity to live a life with dignity, in safety and with security, with the necessary freedoms and the accompanying responsibilities, is crucial in ensuring international instruments on peace and justice are effectively implemented.

The YWCA as a movement, founded on Christian basis, continues to affirm the mystery of creation, the uniqueness of being and the complimentary of life forms. Our nations lose direction when the spirit within is suppressed and not nurtured, egos become the being, power to dominate creates strife and conflict. We must continue to reach deep within for the spirit of sharing, respect and giving.



**By Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda,
World YWCA General Secretary**

www.worldywca.org

Case studies: Post-election crisis in Kenya and Zimbabwe

In 2008, Kenya and Zimbabwe held general elections that ended in violence and instability. The YWCA movement responded with compassion and a sense of urgency. This extract, from a report by H el ene Yinda, Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East, on the World YWCA's response to post-election conflict in Kenya and Zimbabwe identifies the actions taken immediately following the elections.



STRUGGLE FOR SURVIVAL IN ZIMBABWE

In Zimbabwe, political violence characterised the March 2008 general elections and the ensuing June run-off election. The context in Zimbabwe was exacerbated by the dire economic situation and lack of political space in Zimbabwe before the elections as well as the targeted international sanctions imposed on the country for several years.

In response to the post-election crisis, which lasted six months,

international aid and interventions were restricted in the country. Nevertheless, the World YWCA began working with the YWCA of Zimbabwe even before the elections giving special support in response to the economic crisis. The YWCA of Zimbabwe received an invitation to officially observe the election and the World YWCA encouraged the YWCA of Zimbabwe to integrate advocacy into their services work. Nearly 100 YWCA members were trained and involved in the observation. Anxious for the safety of their members, the YWCA of Zimbabwe communicated

their fears and insecure situation they were operating in with the World YWCA.

As the elections drew close, the World YWCA received frequent updates from the YWCA of Zimbabwe and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. Updates were detailed and informative, even providing statistics at various stages of the election process. This important information helped provide a basic understanding of the situation of woman and girls in the country from which the World YWCA could help to support strategic planning.

The World YWCA invited two Zimbabweans to Geneva, a YWCA member from the rural area and a young woman from the Girl Child Network, to share their experience at a World YWCA parallel event during the United Nations Human Rights Council. Their individual experiences presented to the UN and the Ecumenical community in Geneva helped elaborate the difficult experiences of women and girls throughout Zimbabwe.

WOMEN AND GIRLS DISPLACED IN KENYA

Kenyans were not prepared for the magnitude of the post-election violence that took place in January and February 2008. Prior to the elections, the YWCA of Kenya had already experienced working with general elections; they had facilitated trainings on women and civic education. World YWCA General Secretary, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda was visiting Kenya during the general elections. When violence broke out, she was able to work with the YWCA of Kenya to assess how they could join with the women's movement to contribute to peace building in the post-election crisis.

As Regional Director for Africa and the Middle East, I then made a mission trip to Kenya in January and joined the YWCA of Kenya in carrying out a Rapid Needs Assessment in partnership with the Kenya Red Cross Society to determine needs of women



Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary speaks with Raila Odinga, current Kenyan Prime Minister, then presidential rival, during the Living Letters solidarity visit at which the YWCA brought the voice of women to political leaders. February 2008 (c) Juan Michel / WCC

and children in camps for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), including YWCA premises serving as shelter. Understanding what women were going through in their homes, communities and especially in the camps for internally displaced people, helped us assess the specific needs of women.

As a movement, the YWCA did not expect that the crisis would become so deeply entrenched. As the violence continued and the situation worsened, Gumbonzvanda and Geeske Zanen, World YWCA Board member, made a subsequent visit with the World Council of Churches Living Letters Solidarity team. Equipped with the stories and demands from women and youth, Gumbonzvanda, Zanen and Mwajuma Abok, National General Secretary of the YWCA of Kenya, were able to bring women's voice to the mediation table.

THE ADVOCACY CONTINUES

The World YWCA also included YWCA members from Kenya and Zimbabwe in its delegation to the African Union Pre-Summit meeting in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt in June 2008. These members brought the women's

experiences in Kenya and Zimbabwe to the regional policy-making level.

In both the case for Kenya and Zimbabwe, the World YWCA acted as a catalyst and a facilitator, guided by the 2007 World YWCA Council Resolution on CEDAW and UNSCR 1325. It was evident however that having a resolution is one thing, and building the necessary strategy and plan for emergency response demands a high level of commitment, resources and skills. The lessons learnt and experience can feed into interventions in other regions as they arise.



**By Hélène Yinda, Regional
Director for Africa and the
Middle East**

Young Women on the Move

INCLUDE US, DON'T PATRONISE US **Youth offer recommendations for UNSCR 1325**

Lotaya Smith, YWCA of Barbados young Board Member and Police Constable of the Royal Barbados Police Force, delivered the final recommendations from the youth delegates. In this piece, Lotaya reflects on her experience in Liberia and the importance of young women's leadership in peace building.

The International Colloquium provided an opportunity for young women and men from around the world to share ideas and make recommendations for peace and security in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. To ensure that young women understand their rights and can fully participate in peace building, the youth called for UNSCR 1325 to be translated into more languages noting that versions appropriate for illiterate groups must be developed.

Our recommendations for peace and security emphasised that police and justice services must respond to the experiences of young women during and after armed conflict.

An increasing number of young women serve in military and police forces, indeed UNSCR 1325 calls for more women to serve in these institutions. Yet sexual harassment

and violence are prevalent. A 2004 study of United States veterans from Vietnam and all US wars since found that 71 percent of women surveyed said they were sexually assaulted or raped while in the military¹. With no legal recourse, girls and young women within non-governmental military organisations face even more difficulties. Often used as 'wives', they face double stigma once the conflict is over: as former soldiers and as women. The UN admits that the phenomenon of girl soldiers is globally under-reported and overlooked. It is therefore vital for young women to be consulted during evidence gathering for gender responsive police and justice systems.

In relation to women's leadership, we recommended investment starts in young women's leadership through training, mentoring, sports programmes and creating safe spaces. We also felt it was crucial to provide positive gender socialisation for men and boys for shared responsibilities in decision-making and caregiving. Young women's leadership is essential to economic empowerment, peace and security, education, climate justice, women's empowerment and gender equality.

¹ Benedict, Helen. The private war of women soldiers. Salon.com published 03.07.2007



Lotaya Smith (l) YWCA of Barbados, Rachael Clapson (c) YWCA England and Wales and Ambar Aleman (r) YWCA Canada during the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in Monrovia, Liberia. March 2009.

The Colloquium was truly a success. The forums were informative and productive and created the opportunity for women of all social strata in Liberian society and the world to share experiences, views and ideas on how to tackle urgent women's issues. The themes discussed at the Colloquium were interrelated: issues that built on global human rights linked with development obligations and commitments.

The Colloquium profiled strong women leaders from around the world and highlighted that women's leadership is in good hands. Personally, the Colloquium helped me break out of my shell by interacting with inspirational, dynamic and charismatic young women.

I applaud the World YWCA and the Colloquium co-conveners for keeping the issues of young women on the agenda and showcasing the vision and leadership of young women to the world.

I was honoured to participate at the Colloquium because I have truly been enriched and enlightened by the few days I spent with the dynamic women of the world and will always cherish the experience.

The youth recommendations conclude with a passionate call to women leaders, which I restate here: "Young women invite you to protect us, but not smother us. Weep with us,

but do not pity us. Educate us, but do not judge us. Include us, do not patronise us. Give us space to make our own mistakes. Listen to us. Trust us. Respect us. Invest in us. Whatever you say here, act on it. Whatever promises you make, deliver on them. Lead by example today: create space for young women's voices; mentor a young woman; greet and talk with young people around you. Remember when you were young. As women, let us empower and encourage each other."

Over 70 young women and men from around the world attended the youth forum co-hosted by the World YWCA during the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security in Liberia held from March 7 - 8.

Leading Change

Journey to lasting peace: When conflict inspires women to find solutions

How the YWCA of DRC championed UNSCR 1325

At the World YWCA Council 2007, the YWCA of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) introduced a motion to adopt a resolution that would mandate the YWCA movement to educate its members on UNSCR 1325, promote it within the community and lobby their government to implement its recommendations. In this section, we learn what inspired the YWCA of DRC to advocate for women, peace and security.

The Rwandan genocide broke out in 1994, resulting in more than 1 million casualties in only a few weeks. To date, the aftermath has left Rwanda and its neighbouring countries (the Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Uganda and Tanzania) unstable with thousands of displaced people, and violence, including gang rapes, common. Estimates indicate a death toll of 3 million over the last decade.

The YWCA of DRC was created in this context in 2001, with a vision of contributing to peace and development in the country through women's leadership. The first concern of the association was to increase women's representation at all levels of decision-making starting with their participation in the country's general election process. With the support of partner organisations, the YWCA of DRC initiated a programme to mobilise

and educate women and girls on the principles of democracy, before and after the election process.

The implementation of the programme revealed two major facts: illiteracy, harmful traditional beliefs, poverty and economic dependence are some of the numerous barriers preventing women from accessing leadership positions and women and girls need to be protected during general elections.

The YWCA of DRC invited the World YWCA to act as an international observer of the elections and participate in implementing the mobilisation programme to educate women and girls on democracy. But the World YWCA did not have an official position—in the form of a World YWCA Council resolution—on UNSCR 1325 and therefore could not initiate such a mission for the elections.

The YWCA of DRC realised that it would be relevant for the World YWCA

to adopt a resolution on UNSCR 1325 as a tool to advocate for women's full participation at all levels of decision-making thus enabling them to find solutions for their own safety. The assessment of this work encouraged the YWCA of DRC to initiate a new plan of action that centred on advocating for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

After building awareness and lobbying for support with YWCAs in Africa, the YWCA of DRC submitted a resolution to the World YWCA Council that addressed the process of conflict resolution and building lasting peace according to UNSCR 1325. The resolution was adopted unanimously at the World Council in Nairobi, Kenya in July 2007.

The World YWCA has since started using UNSCR 1325 in its advocacy. In December 2008, following an initiative of the YWCA of DRC and in partnership with the YWCA of Goma,



Participants at YWCA of DRC workshop on principles of democracy review media's impact on elections.

the World YWCA launched a Call to Action for peace in Goma (Eastern Congo) and in the Great Lakes region (Democratic Republic of Congo, Burundi, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania and Kenya). This Call to Action calls for the cessation of hostilities and urges the strict implementation of the Nairobi Pact on Security, Stability and Development¹ and UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security.

Today, UNSCR 1325 is needed more than ever in the DRC situation. YWCAs around the world should work together in promoting this tool to influence policies that would ensure safety and security for women and girls, not only in DRC but around the world.

¹ In December 2006, the Heads of State and Government from the Great Lakes region convened in Nairobi to sign a Pact on Security, Stability and Development. The Pact includes protocols and programmes of action and is divided into four thematic areas: Peace and Security, Democracy and Good Governance, Economic Development and Regional Integration and Humanitarian and Social Issues

World YWCA Council 2007 resolution: Implementation of UNSCR 1325

The World YWCA promotes the participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace processes in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. YWCAs are encouraged to provide civic education programmes for women and girls' involvement in peace building and reconciliation as well as the promotion of women's equitable participation in democracy and monitoring of electoral processes.

HIV and AIDS

Reinterpreting Violence from the Perspective of Women Living with HIV

Several studies show that violence can be a cause and consequence of the HIV transmission in women.¹

This dual relationship between the two problems establishes a continuum in which political, economic, cultural, and community factors as well as social relations interact, thus we must permanently revisit the forms in which these links are expressed.

The women's movement has managed to make visible the different forms of violence achieving important advances in its definition and measurement. Currently, the majority of the countries of Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) have laws, programs, care and research networks that will serve as the basis for its progressive eradication. However, the specificities of the different groups of women should be considered when establishing these strategies because violence against women (VAW) is not a static problem and, in addition, it acquires nuances differentiated according to given circumstances and contexts. In this regard, the experiences of women

living with HIV/AIDS (WLHA) can contribute new elements for its analysis and approach in the policies and programs. The majority of WLHA have experienced some form of violence: physical, emotional, economic, and psychological; and once they receive an HIV-positive diagnosis all these forms of violence become accentuated or they live those which they had not experienced before.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND HIV

Sexual relations with a partner may be the space through which women acquire HIV and at the same time where violence is exerted after the HIV-positive diagnosis.

HIV TRANSMISSION BY THE PARTNER – INTENTIONALLY OR BY NEGLIGENCE

Although in many countries the legal framework on HIV/AIDS establishes that people aware of their [HIV] status must report it to their partner, WLHA report in a repetitive manner that their spouses/partners knew that they lived with HIV and never informed them, engaging in unprotected sexual relations. [Most]

women in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) report that they became cognizant of their [HIV] status through pre- and post-natal health care services or when their children died as a consequence of diseases associated with HIV. Their partners deny having been the first to be infected and publicly accuse the women of having brought HIV to the family and of having infected them and the children. The social stigma attached to this accusation discredits the women within the family and the community which in turn leads to other experiences of violence in the life of WLHA.

On the other hand, many women believe that our partners can only acquire HIV with another woman or a sex worker, not knowing about the possibility that our partner may be having sexual relations with other men.

EPISODES OF PHYSICAL AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE ON THE PART OF THE PARTNER FOLLOWING A POSITIVE DIAGNOSIS

WLHA face the risk of physical and sexual violence on the part of our partner once we report our [HIV] status. In the United States of America,

¹ Luciano, Diny. Exploring the Intersections between HIV and Violence against Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Development Connections. Washington, D.C., 2007



Violence can reduce a woman's options for negotiating condom use with her partner; in abusive relationships, speaking about safe sex can put a woman at risk.

4 out of 20 studies report that women in the study experienced violence as a consequence of reporting the results of the HIV test, on average 8%, between 3.2% and 24%; and some authors indicate that women with a history of physical or sexual violence are more probable to suffer violence as a result of reporting their [HIV] condition.² In LAC we frequently hear that the partner usually humiliates them, accusing them of infidelity, telling them that they are no longer good for anything, and that they do not love them. Others report that they abuse them sexually as a way of punishment. The violence faced by WLHA with our partners is not exclusive to heterosexual relations and can take similar expressions in same-sex couples.

INABILITY TO NEGOTIATE SAFE SEX

Violence also reduces our options for negotiating condom use with our partner because in relations marked by violence, speaking about safe sex puts us at risk of suffering further assaults, and even losing our

lives. The lack of power exposes us to infection and to re-infection: "Not having learned to negotiate the use of condom, we are exposed to re-infections." Violence also reduces our capacity to perceive the risk or else when we do, we are unable to protect ourselves against re-infection, the contraction of other STIs as well as unwanted pregnancies.

Violence in the relationship is one of the main obstacles to the development of women because it disturbs our lives; it diminishes self-reliance and affects our self-esteem. Furthermore, it limits participation in public life, restricts choices, and imposes restrictions on information and services, while constituting an abuse of our rights.

Similar to women who do not live with the virus, WLHA do not seek help because we feel shame or lack of confidence; or we face more violence if we do. We consider violence in the relationship as something private, believing that we do not have any alternative; we focus on the children or hope that the partner will change.

By Nizarindandi Picasso. Picasso holds a degree in Languages and Literature of Hispanic Languages. Current Manager of the Office of Women and HIV of the Initiative of Health Policies, Mexico City. Member of the International Community of Women Living with HIV (ICW/Mexico).

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Extract from: 'The Multiple Faces of the Intersections between HIV and Violence Against Women' 2008

Published by: Development Connections, UNIFEM, Pan American Health Organization, Inter-American Commission of Women and the Latin American and Caribbean Women's Health Network

² WHO. 2003. Gender Dimensions of HIV Disclosure to Sexual Partners: Rates Barriers and Outcomes. Geneva.

Briefing

From the World YWCA

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: WORLD YWCA CALLS FOR END TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The World YWCA partnered with ecumenical organisations to host a tray lunch at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva to discuss violence against women in the context of faith, young women's leadership and HIV and AIDS in commemoration of International Women's Day, March 8.

World YWCA Communications Assistant Sarah Davies spoke on the role youth leadership plays in eliminating violence against women and girls stating, "Young people are key to changing age old attitudes and behaviours that have reinforced violence against women and girls is acceptable."

World YWCA Deputy General Secretary Natalie Fisher-Spalton also participated in a panel on 'Safe School Environment for the Girl Child Through a Human Rights Education Perspective' at the Tenth Session of the UN Human Rights Council. "We all know education is key to all forms of development. Education is freedom. Yet violence is a major barrier to education for millions of girls across the globe. The prevalence of violence against girls affects both their human right to education and their rights in education," said Fisher Spalton.



Natalie Fisher-Spalton, World YWCA Deputy General Secretary, addresses participants during the International Women's Colloquium, Liberia, March 2009

The World YWCA released a statement for International Women's Day that called on governments, international organisations and civil society to:

1. Prevent violence, ensure safety and security for women and girls
2. Invest in women and girls
3. Redefine gender stereotypes
4. Understand intersectionality of HIV and violence against women

CSW: WORLD YWCA OFFERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CAREGIVING IN THE CONTEXT OF HIV AND AIDS

World YWCA delegation led by World YWCA President Susan Brennan participated at the fifty-third session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York from March 2-14. The theme for the session was 'The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS'.

The World YWCA submitted a joint statement to the commission identifying five key areas UN member states must consider in order to effectively address HIV and AIDS and the impact caregiving has on women. The delegation advocated for these areas to be addressed and most of the issues around investing in women caregivers and financing health system were reflected in the final outcome document.

One of the objectives for World YWCA's participation at CSW was to lift the voice of grassroots women. Jacqueline Mukamusana, General Secretary of the YWCA of Rwanda, spoke on a UNIFEM sponsored panel on caregiving and HIV and AIDS alongside government ministers and field experts. "The tendency to rely on women for care greatly reduces their access to opportunities for education and decent work," Mukamusana explained as she elaborated on how YWCA of Rwanda empowers women and girls in the community.

In partnerships with YWCA Canada, the World YWCA hosted a well-attended side event on preventing violence against women and also convened the first youth organisations caucus in partnership with the World



Guests at the YWCA of Jordan candlelight vigil held in response to YWCA of Palestine's call for solidarity during the three-week war in Gaza. January 2009

Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). In addition, the YWCA of Nigeria held a successful event on the girl-child and caregiving.

The delegation of over 20 women and young women included World YWCA Board members Lady Comfort Ani and Jessica Notwell, World YWCA staff including General Secretary Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, Communications Director Kaburo Kobia and Asia Pacific Programme Director Juli Dugdale. Ar Ram Lee (YWCA of Korea) and Margaret Nakakande (YWCA of Uganda) served as short term interns for the event. The delegation included representatives from YWCAs of Australia, Canada, Finland, USA and World YWCA volunteers based in New York.

INTERNATIONAL COLLOQUIUM ON WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT, LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

A World YWCA delegation of women and young women participated in a leadership colloquium co-convened by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland in Liberia from March 7 – 9.

The Colloquium brought together 400 Liberian nationals and 400 international participants including female leaders and heads of states. The Colloquium explored UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security that calls on governments to ensure women are protected from the worst abuses in times of conflict and to empower women to play a vital role in helping their countries prevent, end and recover from conflict.

The World YWCA co-hosted a youth pre-forum on March 6 that engaged over 70 young people in supporting and embracing women's empowerment, leadership development and contributions to international peace and security. Lotaya Smith (YWCA of Barbados) presented the final recommendations from the youth event at the opening ceremony.

The delegation included Susan Brennan, Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA Staff Natalie Fisher Spalton and H el ene Yinda, Florence Kanindeh (YWCA of Sierra Leone), Lotaya Smith (YWCA of Barbados), Rachael Clapson (YWCA England and Wales), Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen (YWCA of Finland), Roseline Toweh (YWCA of Liberia) and Ambar Aleman (YWCA Canada).

WORLD YWCA CALLS FOR PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN AFTER GAZA WAR

The World YWCA and the YWCA of Palestine called on member association to hold candlelight vigils on January 8 in commemoration of hundreds of lives lost during the three-week war in Gaza and to call for peace in the Middle East. Israel launched a military operation against Hamas-ruled Gaza strip on December 27, 2008 in retaliation to rocket fire by Hamas. The World YWCA, the YWCA of Palestine along with YWCAs in Fiji, Peru, Lebanon, Jordan, Japan, Brazil, Nepal, Guyana, Costa Rica, Denmark and Norway held vigils.

The World YWCA condemned the force and impact of Israel's attack on Gaza and urged the United Nations to enforce UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, which

calls on member states to involve women at all levels of peace-building and conflict resolution.

"Addressing sexual and other forms of violence against women is crucial," said Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary, "Women often bear the brunt of conflict. Gender-responsive humanitarian actions must take into account the special needs of women and children."

WORLD YWCA AND FDC KEEP WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ON AFRICAN UNION AGENDA

A day of mourning, fasting and praying in solidarity with women and children in Zimbabwe on March 8 was just one of the outcomes from a Zimbabwe consultation held during the 13th Pre-Summit Consultative Meeting on Gender Mainstreaming in the African Union (AU) in Addis Ababa. The consultation was hosted by World YWCA and the Foundation for Community Development (FDC).

"The presentation on Zimbabwe with FDC led by Graça Machel moved all participants to practical actions in solidarity with women, girls and children in Zimbabwe," said Dr Hélène Yinda, World YWCA Programme Director for Africa and the Middle East. Along with Yinda, participants from YWCAs of the Democratic Republic of Congo, Zimbabwe, Angola and Ethiopia were also present.

WOMEN HOLD KEY TO PEACE, GLOBAL WOMEN LEADERS SAY

World YWCA General Secretary Nyaradzayi Gumbonzvanda and Mary Robinson, Realizing Rights head and former UN High Commissioner of Human Rights were amongst a delegation of high profile women leaders calling for Sudanese women to be part of peace negotiations in conflict-ridden Darfur.

"A new Sudan, a Sudan without war, needs women as leaders and as full and equal citizens," said Gumbonzvanda on return from the Second Sudanese Women's Forum on Darfur held in Addis Ababa from January 4-8.

Gumbonzvanda said the Forum had a number of key achievements that included the adoption of principles of a constitution and a leadership to take the Sudanese Women's Forum on Darfur forward and a commitment by the African Union to appoint a gender advisor in support of gender mainstreaming in peace mediations.

In March, Robinson and Gumbonzvanda travelled to eastern Congo and Rwanda on a fact-finding mission for Oxfam to meet survivors of sexual violence. They also met with Rwandan president Paul Kagame and Congolese president Joseph Kabila with whom they raised concerns

about security, displacement of civilians, and the levels of violence against women.

DUGDALE VISITS YWCA OF PAPUA NEW GUINEA

World YWCA Programme Director for Asia and Pacific Juli Dugdale visited YWCA of Papua New Guinea (PNG) in early January and described the work of the YWCA as 'mind-blowing'.

The YWCA of PNG is a leader in HIV and AIDS education and reaches over 60 villages throughout the country. The National AIDS Council of PNG has recently funded five local YWCAs and one new project site to employ youth coordinators to implement HIV and AIDS priorities outlined in PNG's HIV and AIDS strategic plan. The focus will be on reducing stigma and discrimination and promoting safe sexual practices.

Violence against women and young women's leadership are priority areas for the YWCA of PNG. "The YWCA of PNG has been a trailblazer in promoting women's rights in PNG and deserve the continual recognition for their work by government, UN agencies, NGOs and faith-based sectors," said Dugdale.



Juli Dugdale, World YWCA Programme Director for Asia and the Pacific, poses with members of the YWCA of Papua New Guinea. January 2009

People

New General Secretary:

Alexandra Guerin - YWCA of Haiti
Mireille Makram Michel - YWCA of Egypt
Chilufya Silwale - YWCA of Zambia

New President:

Nathalie Brunet - YWCA of Haiti
Abla Nasir - YWCA of Palestine
Minkie Bokole - YWCA of Botswana

WELCOME

The World YWCA welcomes **Kristin Roaldseth Moyer** from Norway as the new Programme Director for Europe. Moyer has spent most of her professional life working with faith based humanitarian organisations. She notably worked 10 years with Norwegian Church Aid where she held various positions including Director for Europe and Regional Representative for Central America.

Paola Salwan joins the World YWCA as the new Programme Assistant for Europe, Africa and the Middle East. Salwan, of Lebanese descent, holds a Master's Degree in International Humanitarian Law and is passionate about women's issues.

World YWCA welcomes new interns for 2009

In February 2009, the World YWCA welcomed two new interns, **Moo Moo Hsoe** who was Assistant Programme Secretary at the YWCA of Myanmar, and **Andrea Núñez Argote** who was Board Secretary at the YWCA of Naucalpan, Mexico.

The two young women will take part in a one-year programme that will expose them to leadership and skills training opportunities and will participate in United Nations and NGO events. The 2009 internship will have a strong emphasis on advocacy, communications and young women's leadership.



Kristin Roaldseth Moyer



Paola Salwan



Moo Moo Hsoe and Andrea Núñez Argote

Supporters

Yvonne Albon (**Great Britain**)
Silvanna Ayaipoma de Mattos (**Peru**)
Jane Bennett (**Switzerland**)
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Hedy Berthoud (**Switzerland**)
Susan Brennan (**Australia**)
Ngoc Xuan Chau-Nguyen (**Switzerland**)
in memory of my parents
Marguerite Chauvet (**Switzerland**)
Heather Crosby (**Australia**)
in memory of Athena Athanassiou
Kathleen Edwards (**Australia**)
in memory of Mary Box
Natalie Fisher Spalton (**Switzerland**)

Jo Rita Gann (**USA**)
Mona Khauli (**Lebanon**)
Suad Katul (**Lebanon**)
Kaburo Kobia (**Switzerland**)
Antoinette Leenhardt (**Switzerland**)
Mary Ann Lundy (**USA**)
Carole O. Markus (**USA**)
Rev. Betty Matthews (**Australia**)
in memory of Mary Box
Joyce Henderson Mims (**USA**)
Judith Myrick (**USA**)
Juliet C. Orzal (**USA**)
Beatrice Peyron (**France**)

Odette Pollien (**Switzerland**)
Tricia Szirom (**Australia**)
Ruud van Hoogevest (**Netherlands**)
Martha Wilson (**USA**) in Honor of
Janet Edwards
World YWCA Board (**Switzerland**)
YWCA of Aotearoa/New Zealand
YWCA of Peru - Lima (**Peru**)

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July 10 - 16, 2011



**WOMEN CREATING
A SAFE WORLD**

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About the World YWCA Council 2011 logo

Red stands for Switzerland. The red brings out the freshness and dynamics of the logo. On the other hand, red also symbolises vulnerability and strength and is thereby inline with the slogan. The logo consists of three elements: the circle stands for the world, the triangle for the YWCA, the small white circle for individual women. The triangle creates a safe space for women.