



Quarterly magazine of the World YWCA
Revista trimestral de la YWCA Mundial
Magazine trimestriel de la YWCA Mondiale



World YWCA

common concern

December 2007 Issue 136

Exploring Challenges Women Face When They Migrate
HIV-Positive Migrant Women: Interview
Promoting Multicultural Integration



common concern | contents

Editorial p3 | Around the Globe p4 | Feature: Crossing Borders p6 | Take Action p10 | Young Women on the Move p12
 Leading Change p14 | Global Update: HIV & AIDS p16 | International Aids Conference 2008 p18 | In Brief p20
 People p22 | Supporters p23

President: Susan Brennan **General Secretary:** Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda **Editor:** Kaburo Kobia **Co-ordinator:** Sylvie Jacquat **Distribution Manager:** Fiona Wilkie.
 Annual subscription Swiss Francs 20 or US \$18. Articles may be freely reproduced with acknowledgement to World YWCA Common Concern ISSN 1025-4099.
 All artwork, images and photography is protected by copyright and may not be reproduced without permission. ©2008 World YWCA

Common Concern is published quarterly by the World Young Women's Christian Association,
 16 Ancienne Route, CH-1218, Grand Saconnex, Geneva, Switzerland. Website: www.worldywca.org
 Tel: (+41) 22 929 6040 Fax: (+41) 22 929 6044 E-mail: worldoffice@worldywca.org



World YWCA

One of the effects of globalisation, poverty and insecurity has been the movement of people and the creation of a global village. In this issue of Common Concern we explore the complex reality of migration in terms of women's rights and gender discrimination, and consider approaches to empowering migrant women. It is a paradox that the idea of a global village is often equated with equal access to opportunities, resources and respect for the dignity of individuals, yet at the same time, migrants, particularly women, continue to face problems with restricted migration laws, lack of opportunities for decent work and social barriers to full integration. Countries are increasingly protecting their resources and their borders while at the same time demanding a share of the global opportunities!

It is in recognition of the above that the World YWCA Council adopted a resolution on women migrant workers that calls on the movement to raise awareness on the challenges women migrant workers face and the increasing incidences of trafficking in women, particularly in Asia.

It is evident that collaborative partnership are key to addressing the root causes of migration and identifying its positive and negative impacts. In finding solutions, we must advocate for government policies and practices to include national and local women's organisations in design and implementation, we must also enlist the support of faith based and youth organisations. The World YWCA calls for greater targeting of resources, especially finances, skills and information towards women's empowerment and gender equality – an important aspect in addressing issues pertaining to migrant women. Financing women's agenda is the theme of this year's Commission on the Status of Women, and must be promoted if challenges facing women are to be effectively addressed.

It is equally important for us to showcase some of the practical approaches and responses the YWCA movement is putting in place as part of the woman-to-woman solidarity. The World YWCA continues to rise to such challenges with its trade-mark approach of providing a safe and secure temporary shelter, accompanied by skills building, social integration, and solidarity. The article shared by the YWCA of Korea amplifies this approach.

The YWCA movement derives its strength from telling the stories of individual women. This Common Concern features stories of young women from diverse communities who have faced various challenges as migrants, displaced women as a result of war and violence, or experienced barriers in accessing HIV treatment.

“Migrant women need to be released from labels that embody discrimination and exclusion.”

“Immigrating should not take away who one is in the first place — a woman, mother, daughter, and friend,” Helen shares in her story about migrating to Europe. Mainstreaming gender in labour, education and immigration laws and policies will allow women migrants to enjoy the full potentials emigrating offers – the opportunities, experience and adventure – without fear of violence, exploitation or discrimination.

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda

General Secretary
World YWCA



EDITORIAL



AROUND THE GLOBE



The YWCA of Albania received the top prize of Euro 3000 for their project entitled 'Improving human rights conditions of one of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in Albania-Roma through a modern approach'.

YWCA OF ALBANIA WINS PRESTIGIOUS SCHOOLS AND CIVIL SOCIETY AWARD

On October 16, the YWCA of Albania received the Schools and Civil Society Award from the Council of Europe and European Commission for their work in promoting intercultural dialogue and understanding of Roma culture. The YWCA of Albania received the top prize of Euro 3000 for their project entitled 'Improving human rights conditions of one of the most vulnerable and marginalised communities in Albania-Roma through a modern approach'. The project is part of the joint Council of Europe and European Commission awareness raising campaign 'DOSTA! Go Beyond prejudice, discover the Roma' launched in April 2007 in five European countries: Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbi and the former Republic of Yugoslavia Macedonia.

The YWCA of Albania project aims to raise public awareness on the Roma – an ethnic minority in Europe sometimes known as 'gypsies'. Despite a rich culture and long history in Europe, the Roma have historically faced discrimination and marginalisation across the continent. Augmented by lack of access to employment and education, Roma women and girls are particularly vulnerable to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

Beyond awareness building, the project calls for increased diversity in schools and better access to education for Roma children. Through intercultural understanding, the association hopes to encourage unity in the community.

ALBANIA COSTA RICA NIGERIA CHINA

YWCA RESPONDS TO CHALLENGES MIGRANT WOMEN FACE

Health care for children of migrants in China

Guangzhou (also known as Canton), is one of the leading commercial and manufacturing regions in China. It is the most populous province of China; of its 110 million inhabitants, 30 million are seasonal migrants who reside in Guangdong for at least six months every year. Its large migrant population comes from neighbouring regions as well as other countries in Asia in search of work and prosperity.

Although health care in Guangzhou is free, the YWCA of Guangzhou discovered that many young migrant parents do not inoculate their children. In a bid to vaccinate children, the YWCA of Guangzhou has partnered with the District Center for Disease Prevention to build awareness of the importance of vaccination among migrant families. Through distribution of booklets and variety shows, the association has educated many parents on inoculation and government health policies. The programme has been successful with 96 percent of respondents to an evaluation of the programme rating the information received as useful. The District Center for Disease Prevention has expressed interest in extending the programme

Migrant women acquire marketable skills in Costa Rica



Large numbers of Nicaraguans migrate, mostly illegally, to Costa Rica to escape economic hardship and political unrest in their homeland. As illegal immigrants, Nicaraguans face discrimination and exploitation and lack access to education and health services. With little education, women migrants often end up in low-paid unskilled labour, continue to live in poverty and become vulnerable to sexual exploitation and abuse.

In early 2007, the YWCA of Costa Rica initiated a project called "Young Nicaraguan migrant women skills development and anti-racism". The aim of the project is to improve the economic conditions of migrants and promote their social integration. Three streams are offered in this programme: office administration, cosmetology and information technology (IT). By providing marketable skills, the YWCA of Costa Rica hopes to give participants options for dignified work, economic stability and social empowerment. The programme currently has 25 Nicaraguans, age 15-25, and five young Costa Rican women from low-income families. Incorporated into the curriculum of each stream is information on prevention of gender-based violence and tips on integrating into Costa Rican society.

Y-care

HIV-PREVENTION PROGRAMME KICKS OFF IN NIGERIA

In mid 2007, the YWCA of Nigeria received USD 3.5 million from USAID for an HIV and AIDS national project. The three-year project, 'YWCA Compassionate AIDS Response and Education' or Y-Care, began in mid-November and will support civil society and Faith Based Organisations with HIV-prevention information through programmes promoting abstinence and encouraging individuals to practice fidelity in marriage and other sexual relationships.

Nigeria has the largest HIV epidemic in Western Africa with an HIV prevalence rate among adults ages 15-49 at 3.9 percent. Youth and young adults in Nigeria are particularly vulnerable to HIV, with young women at higher risk than young men.

Y-Care will run in four States of Nigeria: Lagos, Plateau, Rivers and Anambra and is expected to strengthen the YWCA of Nigeria's response to HIV and AIDS. The YWCA of Nigeria will partner with the YWCA of Rwanda and YWCA of Guyana to expand its HIV and AIDS project and share best-practices.



FEATURE

CROSSING BORDERS:

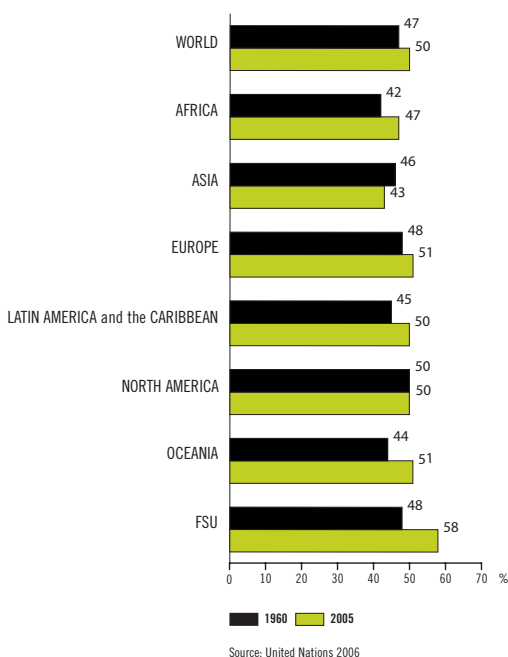
EXPLORING THE
CHALLENGES WOMEN
FACE WHEN THEY
MIGRATE



Today, women constitute almost half of global migratory flow, close to 95 million women live outside their country of origin'. While marriage and family reunification have been common reasons for female migration, since the 1970s an increasing number of women migrate for economic reasons. Few studies have been carried out to understand why women migrate and the impact their migration has on the receiving and sending countries. Yet, from the few reports available, the importance of understanding gender migration trends is necessary for policy makers and civil society.

Migration is riddled with contradictions and in responding to migrant issues in our communities we must remain aware of both the negative and positive effects of migration. Some of the dichotomies of female migration range from its role in empowering or disenfranchising women, to its impact on poverty and education. Depending on the destination, some high-skilled migrant women end up earning less than their equally educated native counterparts, yet some migrant women earn more than they could ever earn in their country of origin; some migrant women are liberated from patriarchy once they migrate, while others encounter gender-based violence and discrimination in their host country. Even as far as remittance is concerned – an area that early studies showed women migrant impact positively - the latest studies show that their remittance may not always enhance development.

PROPORTION OF WOMEN IN MIGRANT STOCKS, BY REGION 1960 & 2005



Data from the United Nations shows an increase of women migrants in almost every region of the world. In some regions, including Europe and Former Soviet Union (FSU), women make up more than half of the migrant population.

Finding a way out of poverty

Poverty thrives on both sides of the migration scale. Many women migrate to escape poverty; they find better paid jobs in their host country and send much needed funds to their families at home. Although migrant women typically earn less pay than men, they remit a greater percentage of their income to their country of origin. A UNFPA study on migrant women reveals that...

the money female migrants send home can raise families and even entire communities out of poverty.

Remittance is the most direct link between migration and development, as global migration grows, so has the remittance flows and their potential to impact on developmentⁱⁱ.

Early studies show that migrant women's remittance is allocated to daily needs such as healthcare, food and education, whereas, remittance from male migrants is spent on consumer goods, property and livestock. A recent study from the World Bank confirms that international remittance from migrant women "have a significant impact on the budget allocation for food, consumer and durable goods, housing,[and] health." On education, however, the World Bank studies in Ghana and Mexico shows that households of women migrants spend significantly less on education than otherwise similar households without female migrants. The study suggest several possibilities for this discrepancy: migrant women in low-skilled jobs intentionally or unintentionally communicate that there are low returns from schooling in the international job market, migrant women lose the ability to monitor household education investments, or migrant women leave the household with their children or once their children are beyond school-going age.

To ensure that migrant women contribute positively to their households, the status of women must improve globally. Women need to be empowered both in their country of origin and their host country to ensure the process of migration is rewarding.

The search for decent work

The rapid globalisation of information and communication technologies (ICTs) allows more women to learn about opportunities available abroad, but decent work is hard to find. False advertising, through the Internet and local and global media, lure women into forced labour. In Israel alone, an estimated 3,000 women a year, brought to the country on the false promise of jobs and a better way of life, end up in forced sex workⁱⁱ. Human trafficking is the third largest illicit trade after drugs and weapons and improved ICTs help trafficking rings expand their networks.

The impact of globalisation on international labour markets also affects migration by creating demand for certain skills, for example the demand for registered nurses in North America or domestic help in the Gulf States^v. Over 400,000 women from the Philippines are employed as domestic workers in the Gulf State and an estimated 30,000 nurses and midwives educated in sub-Saharan Africa were employed in the United Kingdom, North America and Australia in 2006^v providing much needed skills to the health sector of the receiving countries. Yet, large-scale migration of women with specific skills, while fulfilling a demand and providing great benefit, can have a negative impact on the economy of the sending countries. An exodus of nurses creates a vacuum in the health sector of the sending country.

In Zimbabwe, 34% of locally trained nurses work abroad^{vi}. With an HIV prevalence rate of 20%, Zimbabwe is one of the countries most affected by HIV and AIDS and the exodus of trained health workers has created a crisis in Zimbabwe's health sector ...

...leaving family member, often women, to fill in the gap as care givers to community members who are ill.

Addressing local unemployment is an important strategy in addressing global immigration challenges. [Read *Young Women on the Move* p. 12 for more on the links between education, employment and migration]. Governments of both receiving and sending countries must develop strategies to respond to migration by analysing the skill base of their workforce and finding ways to meet local demand for skills as well as developing partnerships with sending countries to ensure sustainable economic development for all countries involved. Governments of sending countries must in turn endeavour to improved conditions for their workforce and develop policies that support returning migrants to find meaningful work.

The majority of migrant women workers are employed in the informal work sector, usually as domestic workers or in the entertainment industry, often a cover up for sex work. Both of these sectors are not well regulated and place women workers under great risk. A Human Rights Watch report recently revealed that domestic workers in the Gulf States typically labour for 16-21 hours a day without rest or days off at extremely low wages^{viii}.

Better regulation of the informal work and entertainment sectors is essential to ensure women are liberated from abuse and violence. Governments need to develop stronger policies to curb trafficking like Sri Lanka's recent plan to adopt ICTs to locate and apprehend smugglers. Expanding worker's rights to migrant women is an important step governments can take to ensure migrant women are safe and free from violence and discrimination.

Finding solutions

The plight of migrant women workers has not gone unaddressed. The United Nations has passed resolutions on Violence Against Migrant Women Workers that among other policy and legal suggestions, calls on governments of sending and receiving countries to:

"put in place penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and, to the extent possible, to provide, and to encourage non-governmental organisations to provide, victims of violence with the full range of immediate assistance and protection, such as counselling, legal and consular assistance, temporary shelter and other measures that will allow them to be present during the judicial process, as well as to establish reintegration and rehabilitation schemes for returning women migrant workers to their countries of origin"

In addition to involving civil society in improving the lives of migrant women, governments have been encouraged through various advocacy campaigns to extend labour laws to domestic workers, and reform immigration laws so that workers are not tied to employers for their legal status.

Migrant women face serious risks at each stage of the migration process. Governments must develop strong policies that protect women at each stage - as they make their decision to migrate, travel and settle into their host country. Returning migrants also need support in finding work and reintegrating into their community.

ⁱUNFPA

ⁱⁱOIM

ⁱⁱⁱBBC Israel's fight against sex trafficking

^{iv}State of Philippine Population Report 4

^vMireille Kingma: Nurses on the Move: A Global Overview, 2007

^{vi}WHO Fact sheet N°301, Migration of health workers, Avril 2006

^{vii}BBC - Sri Lanka abuse 'rampant' in Gulf

UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENTS THAT PROTECT THE RIGHTS OF MIGRANT WOMEN

- > International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of all Migrant Workers and their Families
- > Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime
- > UN General Assembly Resolution 58/143 on Violence Against Women Migrant Workers
- > Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Violence Against Women (CEDAW)



TYPES OF MIGRATION

Migrants fall into numerous categories and a woman can shift from one type of migrant to another during her transit, her stay or return from the host country. Some of the common terms for migrants are:

SETTLERS: people who intend to live permanently in their new country.

CONTRACT WORKERS: people admitted to other countries on the understanding that they will stay only for a specific period: the length of their contract. Some are seasonal workers. Others will be on longer-term contracts, of a year or more.

PROFESSIONALS: These include employees of transnational corporations who are moved around from one country to another. These tend to involve fairly small numbers, typically fewer than 1% of people employed in local affiliates are expatriates.

UNAUTHORISED WORKERS: Sometimes called undocumented or illegal immigrants. There are significant numbers in most immigration countries. Some have been smuggled in, others are overstaying their visas, or are working on tourist visas.

ASYLUM SEEKERS AND REFUGEES: Asylum seekers have left their homes to escape danger; if their claims for asylum have been accepted they are then classified as 'refugees'.



TAKE ACTION:

YOUNG WOMEN FIND INNOVATIVE
IDEAS TO RESPOND TO
CHALLENGES OF INTEGRATION
AND ASSIMILATION



Arriving to the bright lights of large cities such as Tokyo, Mumbai or Seoul with dreams of new beginnings and opportunities is an exciting time for many women migrating to Asia. What begins as a dream, however, often unfolds into a nightmare as they face discrimination and stigma.

Young women from the YWCA of Japan and the YWCA of Korea participated in the annual Japan-Korea Youth conference from November 1-4, 2007. The conference, which is hosted alternatively by Japan and Korea, was convened in Nagoya, Japan. The theme for the 2007 conference was 'Make a difference in your community by living in harmony with migrant women'.

Since 2005, young participants to the Japan-Korea Youth Conference have focused on migrant women issues in the context of globalisation. Past conferences have exposed participants to the situation of migrant women in Japan and Korea, this year, they were ready to take action and make a difference.

Through workshops participants learnt how to design a programme that effectively responds to the needs of the community, and conceptualised creative and thoughtful programmes that address the issues around migrant women. The variety of ideas presented at the end of the conference reflected the participant's understanding of migrant issues as they incorporated holistic approaches in their proposed programmes.

Highlighted below is one of the ideas presented at the end of the three-day conference.

Educate husbands of migrant women

RATIONAL: This programme concept addresses the challenges 'imported brides' face once they join their husband in his host country.

There is currently a high demand for foreign brides in Asia. A strong preference for sons in many Asian communities has caused a sex ration imbalance. A recent study¹ estimates that nearly 100 million women and girls are 'missing' in Asia due to prenatal sex selection and infanticide. The shortage of women coupled with exorbitant dowry demands has increased the popularity of foreign brides who are often recruited from poorer neighbouring countries. In some Asian countries, changing

values among young women means an increasing number of women are delaying or forgoing marriage – another factor contributing to the demand for foreign brides.

Although the marriage maybe one of opportune for both husband and wife, it is often the wife who faces discrimination, isolation and sometimes violence at the hands of her husband.

Implementation

To respond to the needs of 'imported brides', the creators of the concept suggest their programme be implemented by offering education and information for husbands of migrant women to ensure their wives integrate successfully into the community and extended family.

Some ideas for implantation include:

- > introducing role play to sensitise participants on issues migrant women face
- > developing educational programmes held at the workplace so as to easily reach men
- > advocate for immigration laws that are sensitive to the disempowerment and risks 'imported brides' face.

¹United Nations Population Fund 2006 The State of World Population 2006, p.24, box 5. New York



PARTICIPANTS AT THE JAPAN-KOREA YOUTH CONFERENCE WORKSHOP



ALICE MIRIMO KABETSI >>



YOUNG WOMEN ON THE MOVE

Young Women, Work and Migration

“The desperate search for decent work is often a result of an inadequate education system”

says Alice Mirimo Kabetsi, one of the young members of the World YWCA Board and National President of the YWCA of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Alice Kabetsi is also the Coordinator of the Youth Employment Network's consultative group YEN/DR CONGO.

Every year, millions of people around the world leave their home country in search of work; figures from the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reveal that nearly half of the 195 million international migrants around the world are women. Many of these women are driven by poverty and insecurity to look for a better job and a more stable life abroad. According to the global employment trends drawn up by the International Labour Organisation (ILO), of the 1.1 billion young people aged 15-24, 1 in 3 are looking for a job, have given up searching, or are working for two US dollars a day.

Young women looking for work are particularly at risk. Scrupulous employment agencies and human trafficking rings lure young women with deceiving information on potential jobs. In developing countries, many advertised jobs that promise decent work overseas trap young women into forced sex work and cheap labour.

Young migrant women believe they are leaving for a better world, yet for many, the host country rarely provides the expected solutions. Migrants face great obstacles in accessing employment or business opportunities.

The desperate search for decent work is often caused by an inadequate education system that does not meet the actual demand of domestic and international labour market. Young women face great difficulties even before entering the professional world as they are often left behind by the education system.

Solutions to global unemployment have been developed. In 2001, the Youth Employment Network (YEN) was created within the framework of the Millennium Declaration. World leaders and governments committed to “develop and

implement strategies that give young people everywhere a real chance to find decent and productive work.”

The ILO carries out implementation of YEN in partnership with the YEN Consultative Group, made up of youth organisations including the World YWCA. They act as advisors and encourage governments, policy makers, development partners, Non-Governmental Organisations and young people to establish national action plans in favour of youth employment.

The YEN implementation process, which all countries are encouraged to adopt, encourages meaningful participation of young people in the development of national action plans for youth employment and improvement of education and teaching quality.

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) has joined the YEN's implementation process and has carried out ground work and lobbying to encourage their government to integrate youth employment into its priorities. The process has been very successful, since May 2005 the government of DRC has been a Lead Country for the YEN. In addition, a consultative group composed of youth organisations including the YWCA of DRC and the government, the ILO and UNDP have signed an agreement on the Youth Employment Support Programme. Finally, a national employment and youth employment plan has been adopted and placed second on the government's priority programmes.

In order to effectively address the challenges of youth employment, it is necessary to improve the quality of education and to identify technical and vocational education opportunities to address the disparity of education and skills in relation to the demands of global labour market.

Extracts from ILO publication: Youth: Pathways to decent work. Promoting youth employment – Tackling the challenge. 2005

1. Most of the world's youth work in the informal economy, both in rural and urban areas. They lack adequate incomes, social protection, security and representation.
2. The costs of neglecting youth can be measured in terms of depletion of human and social capital. There is a loss of opportunities for economic growth, which increases as this cohort ages without gaining experience in the workforce. More difficult to quantify are the costs of societal instability and endemic conflict.
3. Successful early career development is correlated with long-term career prospects. It shifts young people from social dependence to self-sufficiency and helps them escape poverty and actively contribute to society.

THE BOTTOM RUNG IS NO PLACE TO BE

YWCA of England & Wales

Thousands of disadvantaged young women have the potential to achieve so much, but instead face a lifetime of poorly-paid jobs with no prospects. For them there is only one rung on the career ladder. The bottom rung.

The YWCA of England & Wales thinks this has to change. Without opportunities to develop skills and get training, the life chances of a girl from a poor background are massively reduced, as are her aspirations and plans for the future.

Through the 'More than one rung' campaign, launched in June 2007 by Michelle Dewberry, winner of BBC TV's The Apprentice (2006), the YWCA of England & Wales is giving young women from disadvantaged backgrounds the skills they need to climb off the bottom rung of the career ladder and work towards a better future. The association aims to secure political and public support for the 'More than one rung' campaign by running events in parliament, lobbying Members of Parliament and government ministers, as well as hosting several activities in the United Kingdom. The campaign has received wide political support and continues to reach young women with information and skills to successfully advocate for better pay and decent work.

Sign the campaign pledge, read news and check out the campaign video on the website: www.morethanonerung.org

THERE IS A NEED TO >>>
REASSESS THE VALUE
OF THE WORK THAT
WOMEN DO



LEADING CHANGE

At the 26th World YWCA Council in Nairobi, Kenya, the World YWCA successfully passed a resolution on migrant female workers. The resolution calls for the World YWCA and member associations to raise awareness on the impact of globalisation on Asian female migrant workers and develop outreach programmes that respond to the issues of poverty, violence and discrimination against Asian migrant women, particularly migrant workers.

YWCA OF KOREA PROMOTES MULTICULTURAL INTEGRATION AND ELEVATES STATUS OF MIGRANT WOMEN



“The issues of migrant women can never be solved under a patriarchal society”

Dr. Eung-kyung Park

In 2006, the YWCA of Korea commissioned research into the status of human rights of women in Korea, the findings revealed that migrant women were emerging as the most vulnerable minority group in Korea as they faced increased gender based violence, economic exploitation and isolation. Although the association has run services for migrant women since 2000, in response to the findings of the research, the YWCA of Korea initiated nationwide programmes to address issues of globalisation and migration. The programmes are supported by a campaign, ‘One Earth, Under One Heaven’, and aims to reduce xenophobia and encourage intercultural dialogue. There are over 100,000 migrant women in South Korea, most left their

homes to find work and earn a living that would elevate their families from poverty, while others migrate as brides to Korean husbands. Yet, owing to communication barriers, cultural prejudices and discrimination, many migrant women continue to suffer from poverty, economic exploitation and gender based violence.

Racism and discrimination limit migrant women’s integration into society. Through weekly features in the Metro, a free daily newspaper, the ‘One Earth, Under One Heaven’ campaign celebrates multiculturalism by profiling migrant women’s success stories and educating the public on practices and behaviors that alienate migrants.

Through Korean classes and workshops on Korean culture, the YWCA of Korea enables migrant women to assimilate into the society. In addition to cultural activities, the association provides skills-based courses to help migrant women improve their skills and ensure their economic independence. Koreans’ penchant for information and communication technology (ICTs) means migrants must learn to master ICTs in order to ensure their place in a crowded labour market. Computer classes for migrant women are offered in many local YWCAs in Korea. Furthermore, the YWCA of Korea encourages member associations and organisations in their communities to hire migrant women as English instructors, multi-culture education teacher, or any other role they may qualify for.

“The issues of migrant women can never be solved under a patriarchal society,” explains Dr. Eung-kyung Park, President of the YWCA of Korea. As such, the programmes responding to migrant women workers integrate skills that build self-esteem to ensure migrant women become confident and valued members of society. “Through this programme, we expect migrant women to become leaders in the Korean society,” she affirms.



MIGRANT WOMEN SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS

Nguyeuthi My Ngoc, 24, originally from Vietnam.

“My father passed away when I was young and I became responsible for my family. This is why I came to Korea. For the first time, the way people looked at me made me uncomfortable, I stood out in Korea because there were few foreigners at that time and I was so young compared with my husband. I gave birth to a baby girl; while I watched my baby grow, I decided to study Korean and I studied very hard because I thought that I have to teach Korean to my baby. I also persuaded my husband that I have to participate in the Korean society. I wanted to find a women’s organisation to help me improve myself. One of my friends who got a job through the recommendation of her local YWCA told me about the YWCA of Korea activities and programmes. The YWCA helped me be more self-confident. From now on, I would like to learn skills so that I can achieve self-improvement and find my vision as a woman and I want to be a leader in my community. I have a dream that I can do it.”

Nguyeuthi participated in a counselling programme at the YWCA of Korea.

Dina Escobar, 30, Mexico.

I was born in Mexico and moved to Korea two years ago for my job. I met my husband while I was in Korea. In 1998, after we got married, we moved back to Mexico and then we came back to Korea in 2006. For me, learning Korean language was the most difficult thing. Sometimes, there were misunderstandings and conflicts between me and my husband’s parents because of my poor Korean. I was also bored because of the difference of culture such as food and activities. One day, I received a phone call from the YWCA of Korea and they asked me to visit my local YWCA - so I visited them. I started to learn Korean, and began to understand Korean culture in new ways. Now I feel that the staff of the YWCA are like my mother because they guide me, give advice on relationships and how to resolve conflict in the family. Whenever I go to the YWCA, I meet my mothers.

Dina participates in Korean language class at the YWCA Korea.

Virginia Pascua, 39, Philippines.

“I came to Korea 10 years ago when I decided to marry a Korean guy. Comparing to days when I had just arrived, I feel like I am dreaming now. When I was having difficulties with Korean language and relationship with people, I got an invitation letter from YWCA of Korea telling me that YWCAs held Korean classes. I was really happy and joined the programme. When I got involved in YWCA programme, I got inspired to support other migrant women in the community. I discussed my vision with the YWCA staff, and they allowed me to become an intern at the YWCA of Sokcho. When migrant women have problems, I counsel them and visit them in their house. I also do interpretation for migrant women in my community.”

Virginia is an intern at a local YWCA in Korea.

Tae-Soon Kim, Korea.

“The migrant women that I have ever met are really brave. They are women of strong commitment and it makes them beautiful. They try to overcome the differences of language and culture. Whenever I see those attending classes and never missing a class, I am inspired by their passion to make a better future and to participate in their community. I always realise that what they really need is care and support. We can let them shine more by extending our understanding of multi-cultural diversity.”

Tae-Soon is the coordinator of migrant women’s programme at the YWCA of Cheongju.





GLOBAL UPDATE: INTERVIEW

HIV & AIDS

Helen is a member of the International Community of Women living with HIV(ICW). Originally from Eastern Africa, she now lives in Belgium and is currently pursuing a degree in migration studies. Through this interview for Common Concern, Helen shares her story of courage and determination as an HIV-positive migrant in Europe and offers some guidelines for programmes supporting HIV-positive migrant women

Why did you migrate to Europe?

I did not come to Belgium to stay; I had never dreamt of living outside my country. While travelling in Europe in 2001, attending several workshops related to my work in Eastern Africa, a recurring pain in my foot got worse. I visited a doctor in Belgium and he performed several tests – including an HIV test. The results showed that I was HIV-positive. The doctor was kind and helped me through the process of accepting my status and understanding my options. I considered all the odds and concluded that it was wiser to stay in Europe so as to have access to medication.

I applied for refugee status on the basis that I was HIV-positive and wished to stay on humanitarian grounds. I am the first person to seek refuge in Belgium based on health and humanitarian rights. The legal process proved gruelling and I had great hurdles to overcome. But I am glad I made the decision to stay. I would not have been able to afford medication in my country, certainly not with the salary I was receiving.

What types of challenges have you faced as a woman and an HIV-positive migrant?

As a person living with HIV, I faced double discrimination as a migrant. I found myself vulnerable to discrimination and abuse. With no job, no family and no friends, I lacked a sense of self-worth. Being a migrant took away all that I was and in my host country all people saw in me was a migrant, yet I am a mother, a daughter, a friend.

I found myself vulnerable to social and ethical abuse as I strove to prove myself. When I renewed my residence card, I had to present a medical form stating my continuing HIV-positive status before my card could be renewed. Whereas medical information is supposed to be private, in my case all the administrative workers of my commune know of my health records.

“ For years my child, who was a minor at the time, was denied access to my host country. As a migrant mother, my child was not automatically granted permission to immigrate or even visit. ”

At the time, a phone call to my son cost one euro, yet I could not afford that call for a long time. Not until I found a women's shelter that took me in and gave me a weekly allowance ?1.50 could I finally communicate with my son. My child finally joined me in June 2006.

Once you decided to stay in Belgium, how did you integrate into the community?

When I tried to make friends with nationals, I was accused of looking for marriage as a ticket to legalisation, or of being interested in their money. I am a woman very alive; I am entitled to sexuality. But the potential partners I met ran away as soon as they learned of my HIV status. Sometimes they were rude—making generalised comments that all migrants are HIV-positive. For over three years I never made real friends. Loneliness surrounded me all the time.

But my life has now improved. I learned the language of my host country, and now I am a graduate student studying for a Master of Arts in migration studies. I have since met wonderful, selfless, non-judgmental, all-embracing friends. Most of all, my host country, has given me the greatest gift by providing me with available and accessible healthcare and HIV treatment.

What suggestions do you have for programmes providing service for HIV-positive migrant women?

A programme for HIV-positive migrant women should provide for both health and social care needs. This includes both emergency and long-term HIV care as well as general reproductive health services. Education about health issues, laws and regulations is important, too.

Social care should be geared toward rebuilding self-esteem and a sense of self-worth. Education, housing, employment and legal services are important services that migrants women should know how and where to access. A comprehensive programme should contain support services for groups with special needs, including disabled women.

Helping migrant women integrate in their host country is the responsibility of both migrant and the community. Programmes responding to migrant issues should therefore also target community members with culturally appropriate workshops and information on stigma and discrimination. It is important that programmes build relationships between migrants and the community. Immigrating should not take away who one is in the first place — a woman, mother, daughter, and friend.

WORLD AIDS DAY

The theme for this year's World AIDS Day, December 1, was leadership. The World YWCA recruited thousands of people to take leadership in the response to HIV and AIDS through the Nairobi 2007 Call to Action on HIV and AIDS launched at the International Women's Summit in July. Over 3000 people have signed the pledge, committing themselves to creating a sustained change for women and girls, particularly those infected and affected by HIV and AIDS.

In a World AIDS Day statement presented at a World AIDS Day reception held in Geneva, Switzerland, the World YWCA highlighted four key areas for action outlined in the Call to Action. The statement calls for leadership to ensure that:

1. Adequate resources are available to support the capacity of women and girls to lead change on HIV and AIDS.
2. Women and girls are free from physical, sexual and psychological abuse.
3. Governments deliver on their commitments to increase access to comprehensive reproductive health services for women, including HIV-positive women.
4. Women and girls, including women living with HIV, are fully participating in decision-making at global, national and community level to bring about sustainable solutions to the HIV and AIDS.

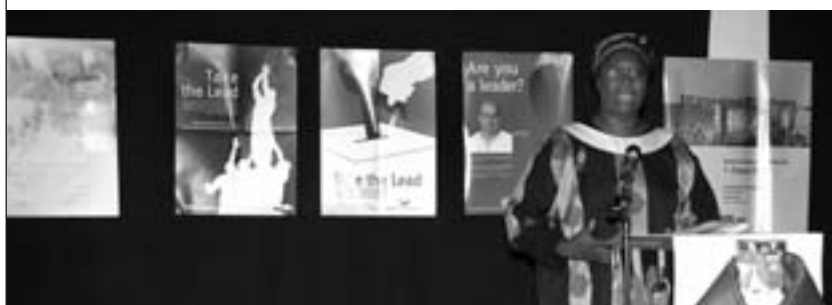
Take action online, sign the Nairobi 2007 Pledge of Action on HIV & AIDS

The Nairobi 2007 Pledge of Action on HIV and AIDS is now available online. Show your commitment to the response to HIV and AIDS by signing the Pledge and encouraging your friends and colleagues to sign. The World YWCA will be collecting signatures online to demonstrate the worldwide commitment to the suggested strategies for implementation a response to HIV and AIDS.

www.worldywca.org



NYARADZAI GUMBONZVANDA, >>
WORLD YWCA GENERAL
SECRETARY AT WORLD
AIDS DAY EVENT IN GENEVA,
SWITZERLAND





XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE

The XVII International AIDS Conference (AIDS 2008) will be held in Mexico City from August 3 to 8, 2008. Organised by the International AIDS Society, it is the largest most comprehensive HIV and AIDS conference in the world. At least 25,000 participants and 3,000 journalists are expected to participate in the conference.

The World YWCA will participate in AIDS 2008 and strongly encourages member associations and women and youth organisations to prepare for active participation at the conference. This section of Common Concern will feature useful information and tips to help you fully participate at the conference. This issue highlights special interest events preceding AIDS 2008 and awards to be presented at the conference.

THE ECUMENICAL PRE-CONFERENCE

July 31 - August 2

The Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, the churches in Mexico, and partners around the world will host a three day Ecumenical Pre-Conference in Mexico City, Mexico prior to the International AIDS Conference.

More than 500 Christians from all over the world are expected to participate in the Ecumenical Pre-Conference plenary sessions, skills building workshops and daily worship.

The theme for the 2008 Ecumenical Pre-Conference is 'Faith in Action Now!' The conference will engage participants in exploring challenges posed by the HIV and AIDS pandemic for people of faith, evaluate actions to be taken and plan strategies required to put the Gospel into action in the Christian response to HIV and AIDS.

More information: <http://www.e-alliance.ch>

2008 RED RIBBON AWARDS

The Red Ribbon Awards, presented at the International AIDS Conference, celebrates outstanding grassroots initiatives and smaller community organisations that show leadership and action in reducing the impact of HIV and AIDS. The red ribbon is a global symbol in the movement to address AIDS. The Award is a joint initiative of the UNAIDS family together with the Leadership and Community Programme Committees of AIDS 2008.

More information: <http://www.redribbonaward.org/>

MEXICO YOUTHFORCE PRE-CONFERENCE

July 31 - August 2

In order to promote and strengthen young delegates' meaningful participation at AIDS 2008, the Mexico YouthForce is coordinating a three-day pre-conference for approximately 250 young HIV and AIDS activists registered for AIDS 2008.

The pre-conference will consist of informative and skills-building workshops around HIV and AIDS issues, ranging from scientific knowledge to effective political advocacy. Participants will also gain skills in research methodology, monitoring and evaluation, media and communications, as well as updated information on prevention strategies, harm reduction, and details on treatment. Participants will learn how to advocate policymakers on issues relevant to young people and how to deliver the YouthForce's advocacy messages at the conference and beyond.

More information: <http://youthaids2008.org>

MEXICO YOUTHFORCE E-CONSULTATION

The Mexico YouthForce will hold a 3 week long e-consultation from March 3 to March 21 to develop an advocacy message and visibility strategy for AIDS 2008. Outcomes of the e-consultation will feed into visibility materials such as t-shirts, posters, stickers, and banners.

The e-consultation has the following objectives:

1. To brainstorm and develop action-oriented advocacy messages
2. To develop an advocacy strategy and materials based on decided messages

The e-consultation is hosted by TakingItGlobal (TIG) and aims to include the voices of as many young people involved in HIV and AIDS interventions as possible. Young people ages 15 – 30 are urged to participate.

More information: <http://www.youthaids2008.org>

LIVING 2008: THE POSITIVE LEADERSHIP SUMMIT – RECLAIMING THE ADVOCACY AGENDA

July 31 - August 1

A two-day pre-conference satellite will be held by and for people living with HIV (PLWH). The meeting offers an opportunity for PLWH to meet, provide mutual support, and to discuss and mobilise around key issues and agendas to follow and advocate for at AIDS 2008. It is an opportunity to prepare PLWH to effectively participate, lead, and engage in a meaningful way throughout the conference.

It is organised by GNP+, ICW, ICASO, IAS and the Mexican Network of PLWH.

More information: <http://www.living2008.org/>

AWARDS FOR YOUNG WOMEN - IAS/ICRW YOUNG WOMEN INVESTIGATOR PRIZE

The International AIDS Society and partners will present awards recognising young scientists involved in innovative HIV and AIDS research at the International AIDS Conference.

One of the award, the IAS/ICRW Young Woman investigator prize worth USD3,000, will be awarded to a young woman/women investigator/s from a low/middle income country whose abstract demonstrates excellence in research and/or practice that addresses women, girls and gender issues related to HIV and AIDS.

More information: <http://www.aids2008.org>

The World YWCA is a member of the International AIDS Society Conference Coordinating Committee representing global civil society.



AIDS 2008
XVII INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE
Mexico City, 3- 8 August



FIRM ACTION REQUIRED TO BRING PEACE TO THE MIDDLE EAST

The World YWCA, on behalf of the Members of the Geneva Non-Governmental Organisations Middle East Working Group presented a statement to the United Nations General Assembly on November 29 in commemoration of the International Day in Solidarity with the Palestinian People.

The statement urges member states of the United Nations (UN) to take firm action to bring an end to the occupation of Palestine and a fair and just solution to the conflict in accordance with the resolutions it has adopted over the years. Highlighting the effects of the 1947 UN resolution 181 that authorised the partitioning of Palestine, the statement calls on the UN to fully consider recent reports on the Middle East as it develops solutions for peace in the region.

Two days before the statement was delivered, Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli prime minister Ehud Olmert met in Annapolis, Maryland, United States, at a conference hosted by US President George W. Bush and attended by representatives of more than 40 countries and international agencies. Both parties agreed to continue negotiations with the aim of reaching an agreement by the end of 2008.

The World YWCA welcomes the commitments made at the Annapolis summit and urges member associations and civil society to continue to monitor progress towards peace and justice in the Middle East.

WORLD YWCA BOARD COMMITS TO BUILDING CAPACITY OF THE YWCA MOVEMENT TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP

The World YWCA Board met from November 19 – 23 in Geneva, Switzerland, for its first meeting since its election at the World YWCA Council held in July 2007. Susan Brennan, World YWCA President, and Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary, welcomed the Board. "We must maintain our momentum and commitment to women's leadership," Brennan reminded the Board in her opening address.

One of the far-reaching decisions taken by the Board was the approval of policies and guidelines that would govern selection and application to the Power to Change Fund. The Power to Change Fund was launched at the World Council in July after an eight-year campaign that raised over USD 10 million for a permanent fund to develop the leadership of women and girls. The Board stated resolutely that the Fund, in its administration, must deliver significant impact on the status of women and girls, particularly in their ability to develop the most effective solutions to the issues affecting their lives and communities.

The Board demonstrated their commitment to the on-going campaign that aims to raise USD 25 million for the Power to Change Fund - each member committed to raising funds from among their networks.

YWCAS IN LATIN AMERICAN ATTEND HIV AND AIDS WORKSHOP

The World YWCA held a workshop for YWCAs in Latin America from November 22-26. The workshop, entitled 'Positive Communication' prepares associations for full participation in the International AIDS Conference (IAC) to be held in Mexico from August 3-8, 2008. YWCAs of Mexico, Brazil, Honduras and Costa Rica sent representatives to the workshop facilitated by Sophie Dilmitis, World YWCA HIV and AIDS Coordinator and Sylvie Jacquat, World YWCA Communications Assistant.

Through sessions on how to profile and promote their organisation, effective networking at large conference and writing successful abstracts for the IAC, the associations learnt skills that will enable them to be visible and active at the conference.

The International AIDS Conference is the world's largest meeting on HIV and AIDS. First held 22 years ago, the conference provides critical platforms for presenting new research, sharing best practice and advancing the response to HIV and AIDS. Over 26,000 people attended the last conference held in Toronto in 2006.



IN BRIEF

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN LEADERS GLOBAL SECURITY SUMMIT

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary, participated in the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit held from November 15-17 in New York, United States. The Summit brought together women leaders from around the world including Tarja Halonen, President of Finland, Portia Simpson Miller, Prime Minister of Jamaica and Asha-Rose Migiro, Deputy Secretary General, United Nations.

The Summit, hosted by Mary Robinson former President of Ireland and Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, called for immediate action to bring peace and security for all people. In a call to action, participants to the Summit insisted that women be included at all levels of peace and security initiatives noting that in every country, women experience and too often die from gender-based violence and sexual assault, with systematic rape increasingly visible as a weapon of war.

Gumbonzvanda presented a statement initiated by the World YWCA and signed by 14 other organisations calling on participants to place HIV and AIDS as a security threat for women. The statement drew particular emphasis on the stigma and discrimination pregnant women could face should they be targeted in aggressive HIV testing campaigns.

CHILDREN FIRST: WEEK OF PRAYER

The annual joint World YWCA and YMCA Week of Prayer and World Fellowship was held from November 11-17. For over a century the two movements have issued a joint call to prayer in the second week of November as an important reminder of the spiritual vision that drives their efforts to create a better world for all people.

The World YWCA participated in a joint worship service with the YMCA on November 12 at the Ecumenical Centre in Geneva, Switzerland. The worship centred on this year's theme, Children First, and highlighted the challenges HIV-positive children face.

HISTORIC CHRISTIAN FORUM ISSUES CALL FOR DIALOGUE

Pirjo-Liisa Penttinen, General Secretary of the YWCA of Finland, represented the World YWCA at a historic gathering that brought together the broadest range of Christian churches ever gathered at a global meeting. The Global Christian Forum, held from November 6-9, near Nairobi, Kenya, brought together nearly 240 leaders from Protestant, Anglican, Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Evangelical, Pentecostal, other churches and international organisations.

The Forum, founded by the World Council of Churches in the 1990s, aims to engage Christians from different traditions in dialogue to promote understanding between the churches.

GLOBAL CONDOM PROGRAMMING LACKS FUNDING, STATE PARTICIPANTS TO UNFPA CONDOM MEETING

The World YWCA participated in a United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) meeting on Comprehensive Condom Programming in New York, United States from October 2-4. The World YWCA, representing civil society, was among a handful of inter-governmental organisations and companies invited to discuss strategies to expand access to and use of condoms to prevent unplanned pregnancies and the spread of HIV. Participants addressed challenges around condom programming including lack of funding and political will. Sophie Dilmitis, World YWCA HIV and AIDS Coordinator represented the organisation at the meeting.

Since 2005, the World YWCA has been actively promoting widespread distribution and awareness of the female condom as a central part of its response to HIV and AIDS.

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

The World YWCA participated in an ICCO and Kerk in Actie partners conference in October. ICCO is an interchurch organisation for development co-operation and one of the six Dutch co-financing organisations. Kerk in Actie (Church in Action) works in close collaboration with ICCO to end poverty and injustice around the world and have long been funding partners for the World YWCA.

Over 70 participants attended the conference from different religious traditions including Hindu, Christian, Islamic, Singh and agnostic people with various cultural contexts ranging from Europe, Caribbean, Asia, Africa and Latin America.

Hélène Yinda, World YWCA Programme Director for Africa, attended the conference and facilitated a workshop exploring key elements of integral development.



PEOPLE

FAREWELL

The World YWCA bid farewell to **Clarissa Balan** from Philippines who ended her term at the World YWCA in August 2007 after six years as Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific. She is currently the new Executive Secretary of the World Alliance of YMCAs.

Maritza Vitela returned to her native Mexico with her family in September 2007. Maritza joined the World YWCA in 2003 as administrative assistant for the Regional Directors of both the Americas and Caribbean and Asia and the Pacific. She is currently working with the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance on preparation for the International AIDS Conference to be held in Mexico in August 2008.

Dr Musimbi Kanyoro gave a fond farewell to the World YWCA at the end of August, after 10 years as its General Secretary. During her tenure, the World YWCA increased its ratio of young women leaders and successfully adopted HIV and AIDS as its priority issue. Dr Kanyoro is currently Director of Population Programme at the David and Lucile Packard Foundation in Los Altos, California. Dr Kanyoro's exemplary leadership has been recognised through the establishment of a named fund within the World YWCA's Power to Change Fund, a fund that will invest in the movement's top priority - empowering women and girls to lead social change. The 'Dr. Musimbi Kanyoro Fund' was announced at the World YWCA Council 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya.

The World YWCA will dearly miss these women who have made an exceptional contribution during their time at the World YWCA.

WELCOME

Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, World YWCA General Secretary, begun her term at the beginning of November 2007. She has over 10 years of experience with the United Nations, where she served as Regional Director for the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Eastern Africa, human rights officer with UNICEF as well as national child rights advisor in Liberia and Zimbabwe respectively. For many years, she has worked in the women's rights movement on issues of constitutionalism, inheritance, property and land rights.

A lawyer by profession, Gumbonzvanda is active within the women's rights movement and is a member of Women in Law and Development in Africa, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association, the World Conference on Religion and Peace, among other organisations.

Gumbonzvanda is widely published and enjoys writing poetry.

Sylvie Jacquat from Switzerland joined the Communications and Campaigns department in May 2007 as the Communication Assistant. Sylvie, who holds a university degree in History, Journalism and Social Communication, has worked overseas for past three years serving in the humanitarian field in Serbia, Sudan and Colombia.

IN MEMORIAM

The World YWCA expresses its deepest sympathy to family and friends of **Lettie Mandeville Russell** (1929-2007)

Prof Letty Russell, one of the world's leading feminist theologians, died in July 2007 at her home in the USA. A leader for many years in the ecumenical movement she remained active in ecumenical circles until her death. Prof Letty Russell has for many years been part of the YWCA of the USA and the World YWCA theological work. From 1995 to 1999 she led the World YWCA study of the credal basis and presented the report to World YWCA Council in Cairo, Egypt in 1999. She continued to be actively involved with the World YWCA, volunteering at the 2003 World YWCA Council in Brisbane, Australia, and had intentions to attend the Council in Nairobi, Kenya this year. Her commitment to feminist liberation theologies and the ecumenical movement will not be forgotten.

The World YWCA was saddened to hear of the death of **Janine Van Vliet (Ramakers)** on October 1, 2007. Born December 12, 1922 in Belgium. Mme Van Vliet was an active YWCA member at the local, national, regional and global level; she was the national General Secretary of the YWCA of Belgium and a national Board member. From 1971 to 1979 Mme Van Vliet served two terms of office on the World YWCA Executive Committee. Mme Van Vliet was chairperson for the World YWCA Consultation on Migration held in Switzerland in 1974. The meeting brought together 34 participants from 26 countries representing each continent to respond to a recommendation passed at the 1971 World Council that called for the World YWCA to restudy the situation of migrants and find new solutions to respond effectively.

The World YWCA sends deepest condolences to her family and friends and appreciation for her wonderful life of service to the YWCA of Belgium and the World YWCA.

NEW GENERAL SECRETARY AND PRESIDENTS

New General Secretaries:

YWCA of England and Wales - Deborah Annetts

YWCA of Mozambique - Cherinda Felicidade Naume

YWCA of Scotland - Gill Martin

New Presidents:

YWCA of Belgium - Mien de Graeve

YWCA of Brazil - Georgia Bártolo

YWCA of Egypt - Marleine Anawati

YWCA of El Salvador - Celia Lemus

YWCA of France - Myriam Randrianarijaone

YWCA of Mozambique - Ester David Fumo

YWCA of Puerto Rico - Juanita Morris

YWCA of Bahamas - Dr Celestine Williams



<< CLARISSA BALAN
& MARITZA VITELA

DR. MUSIMBI KANYORO FUND

Anita Andersson **Sweden**
 Carol Baldi **USA**
 Benefactors Counsel **USA**
 Jane Bennett **Switzerland**
 Dr. Virginia Bodden **USA**
 Charlotte Bunch **USA**
 Carol Burns **USA**
 J. Shannon Clarkson **USA**
 Ray Cole **USA**
 Mary Lee Dayton **USA**
 Claudia Diaz Gaudino **Argentina**
 Mary T. Douglas **USA**
 Jewel Graham **USA**
 Ruth Hauptert **USA**
 Joyce Whitfield Jaynes **USA**
 Joelle B. Logue **USA**
 Jean E. Lovell **Barbados**
 Mary Ann Lundy **USA**
 Cosette Menzies **Switzerland**
 Dorothea Millwood **Switzerland**
 Carolyn Mitchell **USA**
 Elizabeth Mitchell **USA**
 Mildred E. Morrison **USA**
 Nyambura Njoroge **Switzerland**
 Elizabeth Norton **Australia**
 Odette Pollien **Switzerland**
 June Quan **USA**
 Bishnu Maya Rai **Nepal**
 Draupadi Royaka **Nepal**
 Peggy Sanchez Mills **USA**
 Marie-Antoinette Santschi **Switzerland**
 Rebecca Sinha **Nepal**
 Muriel Smalheiser **USA**
 Susanne Stueckelberger **Switzerland**
 Betty Jo Swayze Anderson **USA**
 Elizabeth Takahashi **USA**
 Katrina Taylor **Barbados**
 Brigitte Vought **Switzerland**
 Monica Zetsche **Argentina**
 YWCA of Canada
 YWCA of Argentina
 YWCA of Ghana
 YWCA of Japan
 YWCA of Jordan
 YWCA of Mozambique
 YWCA of Sierra Leone
 YWCA of South Africa
 YWCA of USA
 YWCA of Virgin Islands

Marguerite L Anderson **USA**

Anita Andersson **Sweden**
 In memory of Bernard Santschi
 Maureen Bell **Canada**
 Jane Bennett **Switzerland** In honour of Murielle Joye
 Doreen Boyd **Barbados**
 Betty Britton **USA**
 Erica Brodie **Aotearoa/New Zealand**
 In memory of Jacqueline Regamey
 Elizabeth Burrell **Canada**
 Ellen K. Campbell **Canada**
 Jody and Asher, Cole Feinberg **USA**
 In honour of Joyce Feinberg
 La Ferne Cato **St. Vincent**
 Linda Cavaioli **USA**
 Heather Crosby **Australia**
 In honour of Janet Thompson
 Dorris Daniel-Parkes **USA**

Sarah Davies **Switzerland**
 Alison Deans **USA**
 Dr. Bernadine N. Denning **USA**
 Sophie Dilmitis **Switzerland**
 Harriet G. Dockstader **USA**
 In honour of Betty Jo Swayze Andersen
 Mary Sudman Donovan **USA**
 Mary T. Douglas **USA**
 Joan Durant **USA**
 Tomiko Ezoe **Japan**
 Bonnie Fatio **Switzerland**
 Joyce Feinberg **Switzerland** In honour of
 Friends and Family, in memory of Bernard
 Santschi. In honour of Elaine Carlson, Betty
 Tatham, Doris Pagelkopf, ay Philips
 Natalie Fisher Spalton **Switzerland**
 Trudy Fuselier **USA**
 Jo Rita Gann **USA** In memory of Letty Russell
 Barbara Glass **USA**
 Diana Gorham **USA**
 Iris Haberli **Uruguay**
 Katherine Harris **USA**
 Myrtle Harris **USA**
 Kylie Head **Canada**
 Elsbeth Herzog **Switzerland**
 Rebecca Hines **USA**
 Matsuko Ishikawa **Japan**
 Alexine Clement Jackson **USA**
 Mary Reardon Johnson **USA**
 Setsu Kamo **Japan**
 Musimbi Kanyoro **Switzerland** In honour of:
 • current and former World YWCA staff.
 • L. Ann Northcote, Jewel Graham, Razia
 Ismail, Claude LeJeune, Elizabeth Sharples,
 Sharon Bertinelli.
 • Cecilia Koo, Mary Lee Dayton, Betty Jo
 Anderson, Theresa Bruno, June Quan.
 • Erica Brodie, Ellen Clark Sovik, Geneviève
 Jacques, Elaine Hesse Steele.
 • Trizia Szirom, Jocelyn Murphy, Joan Meredith,
 Julie Dugdale, Elizabeth Norton, Wendy Gale,
 Annette Heathwood, Fiona Jolly, Robin Low,
 Jill Allen, Bessie Carr, Colleen Forrester, Mary
 Pat Moore, Susan Brennan, Juwita Suwito.
 Kuniyo Kawabata **Japan**
 KFUK-KFUM Central **Sweden**
 Samia Khoury **Palestine** In honour of Doris Salah
 Elizabeth L. Knowles **USA**
 Judy Kramer **USA**
 Sandra Kresch Hagler **USA**
 Audrey W. Lam **USA**
 Claude Le Jeune **Belgium**
 In honour of Elaine Carlson
 Antoinette Leenhardt **Switzerland**
 Caterina Lemp **Switzerland**
 Rev. Betty Matthews **Australia**
 Joan McMillan **Canada**
 Microsoft Giving Campaign **USA**
 Marilyn Mitton **Canada**
 Emiko Miyaki **Japan**
 Mary Pat Moore **Canada**
 Chiyoko Nagai **Japan**
 Kazuko Nakajima **Japan**
 Aila Niinikoski **Finland**
 In memory of Rita Stevenson - Lockhart
 Oak Philanthropy Ltd **Switzerland**
 Doreen Orman **Canada** In memory of Jack Orman
 Kimiko Osato **Japan**
 Susan Packard Orr **USA**
 Elizabeth Palmer **USA**
 Eun-Kyung Park **Korea**
 Connie Pelton **USA** In memory of Letty Russell

Mildred Persinger **USA**
 Kay Philips **USA**
 Odette Pollien **Switzerland**
 Magali Roussel **Switzerland**
 Marie-Antoinette Santschi **Switzerland**
 In honour of Elaine Carlson
 Mildred Savacool **USA**
 Daniela Schwiefert **Switzerland**
 Ruth Shinn **USA**
 Juliarty Soejarman-Masson **Switzerland**
 Virginia Spears-Berger **USA**
 Catherine N. Stratton **USA**
 Catherine Taelor **USA**
 Kayo Tsuji **Japan**
 Kathrin Vogler **Switzerland**
 Carolyn Whitsett **USA**
 Rita Wilczek **USA** In honour of Doris Pagelkopf
 ACF de Fortaleza **Brazil**
 ACF de Goiania **Brazil**
 ACF de Maldonado **Uruguay**
 Afton Beutler **Switzerland**
 Susan Brennan **Australia**
 Bessie Carr **Australia**
 Young Mi Cho **Korea**
 CVJF-Frauengruppe Winterthur **Switzerland**
 Margaret Davey **Australia**
 Lidia A. de Che Leon **Peru**
 Camilla Flemming **USA**
 Wilbur Fong **USA**
 Aurora U. Gonzalez **Philippines**
 Jeanette Hess **USA** In honour of Jo Uehara
 Florida Jose **Philippines**
 Hermine Laman Trip-Nuboer **Netherlands**
 Edith Maud McLeod **Great Britain**
 Suzanne Meyrat **Switzerland**
 Alice Mirimo Kabetsi **Democratic Republic of
 Congo**
 Carolina Paredes de Alvarez **Peru**
 Agnes C Robinson - Trust **USA**
 KFUK-KFUM Central **Sweden**
 Judy Kramer **USA**
 Constance A. Tate **USA**
 Oak Tree Group Ltd **USA** in honour of Jo Uehara
 Sue A Thom **USA** in honour of Jo Uehara
 Ann Q Uno **USA** In honour of Jo Uehara
 Colburn Wilbur **USA**
 World Service Council **USA**
 Frine Zaballero **Great Britain**
 Geeske Zanen **Netherlands**
 YWCA of Antwerpen **Belgium**
 YWCA of Aotearoa/New Zealand
 YWCA of Australia Honouring women leaders
 YWCA of Bangladesh
 YWCA of Belarus In honour of Svetlana Burova
 YWCA of Belize
 YWCA of Brandon **Canada**
 YWCA of Bucks County, PA **USA** Honouring
 women leaders - Marguerite Lenfest
 YWCA of Boulder County, Colorado **USA**
 In honour of Jo Ann Zender
 YWCA of Canada
 YWCA of Canberra **Australia** In honour of
 Ann Drummond, Ruth Lechte, Bess Carr,
 Jacqueline Burrige, Ann Walker, Libby Norton,
 Beryl Dame Beaurepaire, Kathleen Edwards,
 Jacqui Mason, in memory of Dr Una Porter,
 Judith Blake

YWCA of Cass Clay **USA** In honour of Kathy
 Benson and Connie Nelson
 YWCA of Clinton **USA**
 YWCA of Cleveland, OH **USA** In honour of Linda
 Abraham-Silver, Caprice Bragg, The very Reverend
 Tracy Lind, Denise Reading, Wendy Shiba
 YWCA of Corpus Christi, TX **USA**
 YWCA of Democratic Republic of Congo
 YMCA of Denmark
 YWCA of Egypt
 YWCA of Elmira and the Twin Tiers, NY **USA**
 YWCA of El Salvador
 YWCA of Ethiopia
 YWCA of Fiji
 YWCA of Great Britain In honour of Julie
 Dickson and Gill Tishler
 YWCA of Greater Heartland Regional Council **USA**
 YWCA of Greater Pittsburgh, PA **USA**
 YWCA of Honduras
 YWCA of Italy In memory of Armanda Gambelli
 Ricca, Adelina Messina Bonnet, Margherita
 Meynier Gay, Graziella Pasquet Perrin
 YWCA of Japan
 YWCA of Japan In honour of Ms Mihoko Ejiri
 YWCA of Kenya
 YWCA of Kenya In honour of Mwajuma Alice Abok
 YWCA of Korea
 YWCA of Lebanon In honour of Mona Khauli
 YWCA of Mankato **USA**
 YWCA of Marshalltown, IA **USA**
 YWCA of Minneapolis, MN **USA**
 YWCA of Netherlands In memory of Ger Klooster
 YWCA of Netherlands In honour of Anna Zanen,
 Els te Siepe and Lydia Staab-Mees
 YWCA of New Britain, CT **USA**
 YWCA of Philippines
 YWCA of Romania
 YWCA of Rwanda
 YWCA of Saint Joseph, MO **USA** In honour of
 Carol A Burns
 YWCA of San Francisco & Marin County, CA **USA**
 In honour of June Quan, in memory of Emily Lee
 Fong & Florinda Fong Huang
 YWCA of Saskatoon **Canada**
 YWCA of Sauk Valley, IL **USA**
 YWCA of Scotland In memory of Janet Thomson
 YWCA of Solomon Islands
 YWCA of South Africa
 YWCA of The Southeastern Region **USA**
 In memory of Alberta Davis, Suzsanne Durham,
 Sarah B Gambrell, Barbara Walker, Peggy
 Sanchez Mills, Ann Stallard
 YWCA of Southwest Delta Regional Council **USA**
 YWCA of Sri Lanka
 YWCA of St Thomas-Elgin **Canada**
 YWCA of St Vincent & the Grenadines
 YWCA - YMCA of Sweden
 YMCA of Switzerland In honour of Inge Zinn-Pohl
 and Isabelle de Vargas
 YWCA of Thailand
 YWCA of The Great Lakes Alliance **USA**
 YWCA of The Mid-Atlantic Region **USA**
 YWCA of Togo
 YWCA of Toledo **USA**
 YWCA of USA Honoring women leaders: J.Mims,
 K.Mehra, S.Boehmler, C.Tate, J.Graham,
 G.Putnam, A.Stallard, A.Cement Jackson,
 L.Paez, A.Peeples, G.DuBoise, S.Durham,
 M.Persinger, D.Pagelkopf, E.Palmer, J.Wolfe
 YWCA of Victoria **Australia**
 YWCA of Zimbabwe
 YWCA of Zambia In honour of Mutukwa Wina

CALENDAR *of* 2008 events



JANUARY

January 14 - February 1
40th session of
CEDAW, Geneva

January 26
World Social Forum

FEBRUARY

February 25- March 7

UN Commission Status of
Women 52nd Session,
New York

MARCH

March 7

World Day of Prayer Service

March 8

International Women's Day

March 21

International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination



APRIL

April 24

World YWCA Day



World YWCA



MAY

May 18-24

Global AIDS Week of Action

May 31

AIDS Memorial Day

JUNE

June 10-11

UN General Assembly Special
Session on HIV and AIDS (UNGASS),
New York

June 26

International Day Against Drug Abuse
and Illicit Trafficking

June 30-July 18

41st session of CEDAW, New York

JULY

July 31-August 2

Pre Conference for the
International AIDS
Conference:

Ecumenical • Youth • Living 2008

August 3-8

XVII International AIDS
Conference, Mexico City

August 12

International Youth Day



SEPTEMBER

September 21

International Day of Peace

OCTOBER

October 6-11

World Board meeting

October 13-19

YWCA Week Without Violence

October 14-21

Trade Week of Action

October 15

World Rural Women's Day

October 17

International Day for the
Eradication of Poverty



NOVEMBER

November 10-16

YWCA/YMCA Week of Prayer

November 14-17

AWID International Forum on Women's
Rights and Development, Cape Town,
South Africa

November 20

Universal Children's Day

November 25

International Day for the Elimination
of Violence against Women

November 25-December 10

16 Days of Activism to
Stop Violence against Women

November 29

International Day of Solidarity
with the Palestinian People

DECEMBER

December 1

World AIDS Day

December 5

International Volunteer Day
for Economic and Social
Development

December 10

Human Rights Day:
60th anniversary

December 18

International Migrants Day

