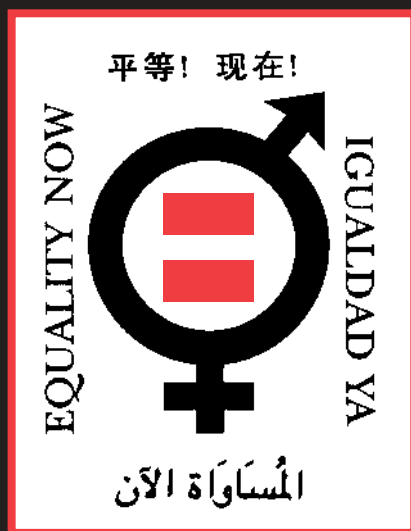


EQUALITY NOW



1996–1997
REPORT



EQUALITY NOW

EQUALITY NOW was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with national human rights groups and individual activists, Equality Now documents human rights violations against women and adds an international action

component to support their efforts to advance women's rights and to defend individual women who are suffering abuse. By distributing information through its Women's Action Network to concerned groups and individuals around the world, along with recommended actions for publicizing and protesting human rights violations, Equality Now is building an international force, capable of a rapid and concerted response to crisis situations and committed to voicing a worldwide call for justice and equality for women. Equality Now's action techniques have proven effective in addressing issues which have historically been considered outside the scope of the traditional international human rights movement, such as rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and equal access to economic opportunity and political participation.

Egalité Maintenant a été fondée en 1992 afin de travailler pour la protection et la promotion des droits humains de la femme dans le monde entier. Travaillant avec des associations nationales pour les droits humains et avec des activistes individuels, Egalité Maintenant documente les violations des droits humains de la femme et ajoute un élément d'action internationale—pour soutenir les efforts de ces associations et activistes pour avancer les droits de la femme, et pour défendre des femmes individuelles maltraitées. Egalité Maintenant aborde des questions qui ont traditionnellement été considérées comme dépassant la portée du mouvement international pour les droits humains; questions comme la violence familiale, les droits de reproduction, la traite des femmes, la mutilation génitale féminine, et l'égalité de perspectives économiques et de participation politique.

Igualdad Ya fue fundada en 1992 con el propósito de luchar por los derechos humanos de todas las mujeres del mundo. En colaboración con organizaciones de derechos humanos locales y de activistas que trabajan por su cuenta, Igualdad Ya se dedica a documentar las violaciones que se cometen en contra de los derechos de la mujer, además de dar una dimensión internacional tanto a los esfuerzos que se hacen para que la lucha por los derechos de la mujer progrese como para defender a las mujeres que sufren abusos a nivel individual. Igualdad Ya se dedica a asuntos que históricamente han sido descuidados por el movimiento de derechos humanos, tal y como lo son la violencia doméstica, el derecho a la reproducción, el tráfico de mujeres, la mutilación genital femenina y el derecho de participar en condiciones iguales en la economía y en la política.

تأسست المساواة الآن في عام 1992 لتعمل في مجال حقوق الإنسان للمرأة. تعمل المساواة الآن مع المنظمات العالمية لحقوق الإنسان والناشطين من الأكراد لتوثيق انتهاك حقوق المرأة، وتصنيف إلى تلك العمل بعدا عالميا وذلك بدعم الجهود لدفع حقوق المرأة للأمام، والتفصيح عن النساء المتضررات من انتهاك حقوقهن. تشير المساواة الآن القضايا التي نجاهلها حركة حقوق الإنسان مثل المتاجرة بالنساء، ختان البنات والفرص المتساوية في النواحي الاقتصادية والسياسية.

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THE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Jana Chrzova, a member of the Czech Helsinki Committee who interned in the office of Equality Now during the summer of 1996.

THE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK is the core of Equality Now's work. As of year-end 1997, the Network consists of almost three thousand groups and individuals in more than one hundred countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information and strategy on their own concerns back through

the Network. All Women's Actions are issued in English, Spanish, French and Arabic to promote equal access to information and to facilitate grassroots participation. Equality Now has undertaken the following thirteen Women's Actions to date:

- Reproductive Rights in Poland
- Gender-Based Political Asylum in Canada: The Case of Nada
- Rape and Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Trafficking of Women to Japan: The Death of Maricris Sioson
- UNICEF Funding for Efforts to Stop Female Genital Mutilation
- Rape in South Africa: The Durban Train Station
- Domestic Violence and Judicial Bias in the United States
- The Medicalization of Female Genital Mutilation in Egypt
- Gender-Based Political Asylum in the United States: The Case of Fauziya Kassindja
- Abortion Imprisonment in Nepal: The Case of Lok Maya Adhikari
- Consideration of Women in the Election of the United Nations Secretary-General
- Sex Tourism from the United States: Big Apple Oriental Tours
- Censorship of the Campaign Against Female Genital Mutilation in The Gambia.

A la fin de 1997, le Réseau consiste en près de 3000 membres, y compris des associations et des individus venant de cent pays autour du monde, qui répondent aux appels au nom de femmes individuelles, qui participent aux campagnes plus générales relatives aux femmes, et qui transmettent au moyen du Réseau des renseignements sur les problèmes afférents aux femmes dans leurs propres pays et sur des stratégies d'action et résultantes. Egalité Maintenant a lancé des Actions Femmes sur les droits de reproduction, l'asile politique pour des raisons liées au sexe féminin, le viol comme arme de guerre et de génocide, la violence familiale, la traite des femmes, et la mutilation génitale féminine.

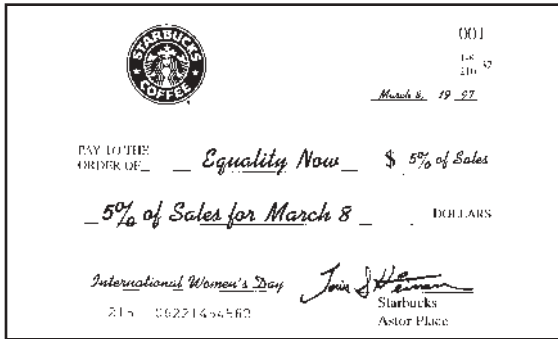
A fines del año 1997, la Red consiste en casi tres mil grupos e individuos de 100 países que actúan en respuesta a los llamados que se hacen para que se interceda a favor de la mujer a nivel individual, que participan en campañas sobre asuntos de la mujer en general y que comunican a la Red información y estrategias sobre asuntos que se presenten en sus países. Igualdad Ya ha lanzado varias Acciones Mujeres acerca del derecho a la reproducción, el asilo político en base al género, la violación de mujeres como arma de guerra y genocidio, la violencia doméstica, el tráfico de mujeres y la mutilación genital femenina.

بنهاية عام 1997 بلغت عضوية الشبكة ما يقارب ثلاث ألف عضو من منظمات وأفراد ينتمون إلى 100 قُطرًا في جميع أنحاء العالم. يقوم هؤلاء الأعضاء باتخاذ الإجراءات المناسبة بصدد التذات التي تصدر نيابة عن بعض النساء كما يشتركون في الحملات الخاصة بحقوق النساء عموماً ويقومون بتوصيل المعلومات عن هموم واستراتيجيات العمل في بلادهم من خلال الشبكة. أصدرت المساواة الآن نداءً لتسليح المسماة مواقف المرأة حول حقوق التناسل، حق اللجوء السياسي على أساس التقسيم الاجتماعي (جنس)، الاعتصاب كسلاح في الحرب والإبادة العرقية، العنف الأسري، الاتجار بالنساء وخفاض البنات.

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THE MEMBERSHIP IN ACTION



Equality Now intern Stephanie Morgan mobilized Starbucks Astor Place in New York, her employer, to celebrate International Women's Day by donating 5% of sales on March 8, 1997 to Equality Now and by making Equality Now information available to its coffee drinkers throughout the day.

we had another fight,
i was wrong, he was right
he said he hit me
'cause he cared, i wanted to leave
but didn't dare.

i went to a place to be alone.
only hearing the echo of my painful moans.
as the reality of it hit me.
a change in him would never be.

why is life so unfair.
why must my lip tear
from every slap of his hand
i realize he is not a man.

all i want is peace, but
his power will never cease.
this violence has to stop,
the increasing numbers have to drop.

if you feel his slap every day.
remember it doesn't have to be this way.
stop the violence in our lands.
put the power in your hands.

one last thing,
to end the pain.
protect those victims of violence,
put a stop to the silence.

**Erin Winter, Age 16,
San Diego, California**

IN THE WORDS OF OUR MEMBERS...

United States: I'm a seventh grader. I don't think it's fair if a girl got raped that she has to go to jail for it and I think something needs to be done about it.

Brazil: Let us sensitize the entire world to see if we can end the suffering of millions of women that have experienced FGM.

Sweden: We are just two ordinary people, but my wife and I really hope that through an organisation like yours, we may have at least some influence so that no longer the lives of thousands, maybe millions of women will be destroyed.

Sri Lanka: The SAARC Federation of University Women is entirely in agreement with the views of Equality Now on the human rights issue and is happy to team up with you to further the cause of human rights, justice and equality.

United States: As a member of Equality Now and a grandmother of twelve, with five granddaughters, and as a member of outraged womanhood, I beg you to do everything in your power to bring an end to this unconscionable denial of justice and freedom to the courageous Fauziya Kassindja.

Australia: We have been raped enough! How can you rape and torture the one who has given you life? It is the ultimate sacrilege and disrespect. . . . I know that things cannot all of a sudden be changed, not in my lifetime, but I feel the first and most important step is acknowledgement, to the women, to the family and to the world.

Surita Sandosham and Waris Dirie reading the thousands of letters received from concerned readers following publication of an interview in Marie Claire magazine with Waris on female genital mutilation.



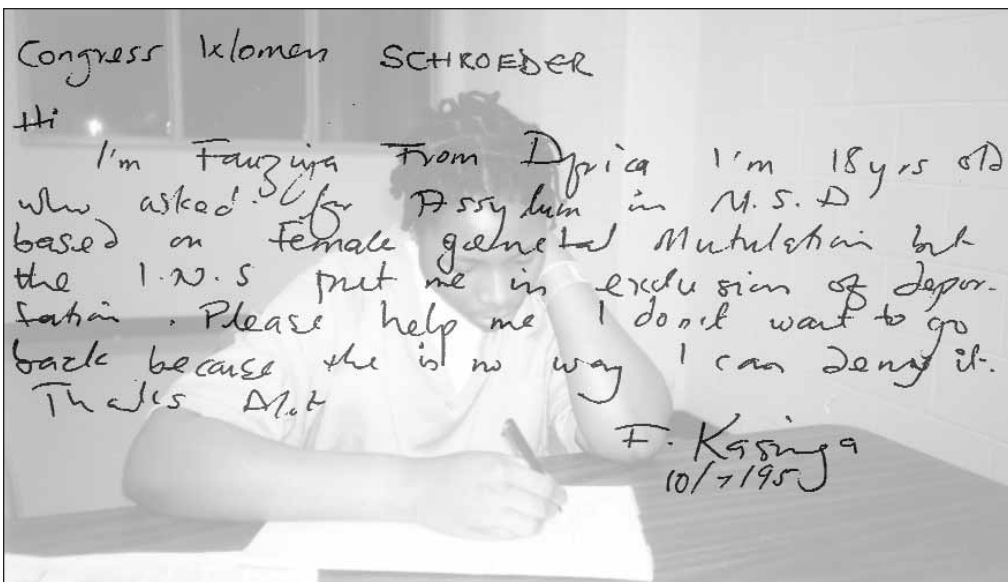
THE CASE OF FAUZIYA KASSINDJA

GENDER-BASED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN THE UNITED STATES



KIMBERLY BUTLER

Fauziya following release, December 1996, at Equality Now Human Rights Day reception (above). Fauziya in prison, October 1995, writing a letter of appeal during a visit from Equality Now President Jessica Neuwirth (below).



IN APRIL 1996, Equality Now issued a Women's Action protesting the detention of Fauziya Kassindja by the United States Government and its denial of her claim for political asylum based on fear of a forced polygamous marriage and the infliction of female genital mutilation (FGM), also known as female circumcision. Fauziya Kassindja was seventeen years old when she fled her home country of Togo. Fauziya's father had protected her from these practices but upon his death, her mother was banished by his relatives who assumed control over Fauziya, prohibited her from continuing her education and made arrangements for her involuntary marriage and circumcision. On her wedding day Fauziya managed to escape and found her way to the United States where she requested political asylum upon arrival at Newark International Airport on 17 December 1994. She was immediately detained. On 25 August 1995, Judge Donald V. Ferlise denied Fauziya Kassindja's claim for political asylum stating that even if he believed her story, which he did not, the record did "not reveal any past or future or present persecution." Despite the harsh conditions of her detention, a petition for Fauziya's release pending appeal of this decision was denied. After months of unsuccessful negotiation with and direct outreach to high-level government officials seeking the release of Fauziya Kassindja, Equality Now issued its Women's Action, which generated a flood of letters from around the world and a media outcry on behalf of Fauziya Kassindja. A few weeks later, Fauziya Kassindja was

In light of...the applicant's young age, and her lack of any known criminal record, it is not apparent how the resolution of such important issues was facilitated by the applicant's long-term detention.

BIA Appeals Chairman Paul W. Schmidt

released on parole, and on 13 June 1996, she was granted political asylum by the Board of Immigration Appeals. This decision established a precedent, binding on all U.S. immigration judges, that FGM constitutes a form of persecution which merits political asylum under United States refugee law.



LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Kenya: FIDA is greatly concerned about the circumstances of Fauziya Kassindja, who is detained at New County Prison in Pennsylvania and suffering from severe depression. We note with great consternation that Judge Ferlise denied Ms. Kassindja's application for political asylum.

JULIE KOINANGE
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

Mali: As Africans we know the dangers FGM is causing to girls physically, emotionally and psychologically. Many are losing their lives because of FGM. We are fully aware that as a citizen of a country which is claiming the leadership of good democracy and respect for human rights, you will not send Fauziya Kassindja to the loss of her life by refusing her asylum in the USA. The 20,000 members of our organisation strongly urge you to reconsider your former position.

FATOUmata SIRE DIAKITE, ASSOCIATION POUR LE PROGRES ET LA DEFENSE DES DROITS DES FEMMES MALIENNES

France: May we remind you that FGM has been internationally condemned by Several Conventions and Conferences in which your country took a great and positive part?

ANTOINETTE FOUQUE
ALLIANCE DES FEMMES POUR LA DEMOCRATIE

United States: The U.S. government would clearly protect an American girl or woman if threatened against their will with these invasive procedures here in the United States . . . FGM imposed on girls and women in Africa is no less degrading to them as it would be to you or us.

MYRNA RAEDER AND EVA HERZER
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN LAWYERS

Peru: On behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights, we thank you for your decision [to grant asylum] in the case of Fauziya Kassindja. The decision taken is one of great importance for the advancement of women.

SUSANA CHIAROTTI, CLADEM

DEAR ATTORNEY GENERAL RENO: We urge you to review...and hope you ensure the release of Ms. Kassindja . . . We hope you take appropriate action to address the policy issues raised by this case so that INS judges are briefed on the devastating practice of FGM and the circumstances that would justify a claim for political asylum.

PATRICIA SCHROEDER

CARRIE MEEK

GARY ACKERMAN

HENRY A. WAXMAN

GEORGE E. BROWN

VICTOR FRAZER

NYDIA VELAZQUEZ

JAMES TRAFICANT

SIDNEY YATES

MAXINE WATERS

JAMES L. OBERSTAR

MARTY MEEHAN

GERALD KLECZKA

SHEILA JACKSON-LEE

GEORGE MILLER

SAM GEJDENSON

NITA LOWEY

MATTHEW MARTINEZ

DONALD M. PAYNE

EARL HILLIARD

HARRY JOHNSTON

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

PETER DeFAZIO

JERROLD NADLER

NEIL ABERCROMBIE

NANCY PELOSI

MEMBERS OF CONGRESS

En avril 1996, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes, demandant que le gouvernement des Etats-Unis libère Fauziya Kassindja et lui accorde l'asile politique, en raison de ce qu'elle craint un mariage forcé avec un polygame, et craint également qu'on ne lui fasse subir la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF). Fauziya s'est enfuie du Togo à l'âge de 17 ans, après la mort de son père et l'exclusion de la tribu de sa mère par la famille de son père, qui s'est arrogée l'autorité sur elle. Quand elle est arrivée aux Etats-Unis, on l'a arrêtée et lui a refusé au début l'asile politique. On l'a libérée après seize mois, et en seconde instance, sa demande d'asile politique a été accordée, ce qui a fait jurisprudence, en créant le précédent aux Etats-Unis que la MGF constitue une forme de persécution.

En abril de 1996, Igualdad Ya lanzó una Acción Mujeres en la que pedía al gobierno de Estados Unidos que pusiera en libertad a Fauziya Kassindja y que se le otorgara asilo político en base al miedo que ésta sentía de ser forzada a participar en un matrimonio polígamo y de que se le sometiera a la mutilación genital femenina (MGF). Fauziya huyó de Togo cuando tenía 17 años, después de la muerte de su padre y de que su madre fuera desterrada por los familiares paternos de Fauziya, quienes tenían la patria potestad de la muchacha. Cuando Fauziya llegó a Estados Unidos, fue arrestada y más adelante se le negó asilo político. Dieciséis meses después de su arresto, Fauziya fue puesta en libertad y, al poco tiempo, recibió asilo político, gracias a que la corte ante la que se había apelado su caso fallara en su favor, estableciendo un precedente legal en Estados Unidos de que la MGF constituye un tipo de persecución.

في أبريل 1996، صدر عن المساواة الآن منشور مواقف المرأة مطالبا الحكومة الأمريكية بالإفراج عن فوزية كاسنجا ومنحها حق اللجوء السياسي تحت بند الخوف من إجبارها من الزواج من رجل متعدد الزوجات و إجراء عملية تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة عندها. فرت فوزية من موطنها توجو عندما كانت في السابعة عشرة من عمرها بعد وفاة والدها واستبعاد أفراد أبنائها لوالدتها من البلاد. اعتقدت أهل أبنائها بعد ذلك أن بإمكانهم السيطرة على شؤون حياتها الخاصة. تم اعتقال فوزية منذ قدومها إلى الولايات المتحدة وتم سجنها رفض طلبها بمنحها حق اللجوء السياسي. قضت فوزية ما يقارب مئة عشر شهرا في السجن قبل إطلاق سراحها. بعد الاستئناف أصدرت لجنة استئنافات الهجرة قرار يمنح بموجب فوزية كاسنجا حق اللجوء السياسي. بهذا الحكم تم إرساء سابقة قضائية، تعتبر ملزمة لكل قضاة الهجرة بمنح الحكم على أن ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة هي أحد أنواع الاضطهاد.

SOMMAIRE RESUMEN
ملخص

THE CASE OF LOK MAYA ADHIKARI

ABORTION IMPRISONMENT IN NEPAL

IN JUNE 1996, Equality Now issued a Women's Action highlighting the case of Lok Maya Adhikari, a farmer from Bhadrapur, Nepal, who was imprisoned for one year on the charge of abortion. Married at the age of 15 and widowed at the age of 32, Lok Maya Adhikari was left with five children, the youngest of whom was six years old at the time of her arrest. According to Lok Maya's statement in court, she became pregnant by a friend of the family, Bhim Prashad Poudel, who advised her to get an abortion and took her to a traditional birth attendant. The birth attendant gave her an herbal root for insertion, which after some pain induced an abortion. Two days later, on 27 June 1995, Lok Maya Adhikari was arrested.



Unable to post bail, she was held in detention, and on 31 March 1996 she was sentenced to one year of imprisonment. In December 1995, Bhim Prashad Poudel, the man alleged to be responsible for the pregnancy, was also arrested. He denied responsibility for both the pregnancy and the abortion and was found not guilty and released.

Researched in consultation with the Forum for Women, Law and Development in Nepal, the Women's Action also focuses on efforts underway to reform the law on abortion. In Nepal, there are no exceptions to the legal prohibition on abortion, even in cases of rape, or even if the life of the mother is at risk. A draft resolution to amend the law on



abortion was introduced in March 1994. The amendment proposed was to legalize abortion in the first trimester of pregnancy, with the husband's consent or, in the case of an unmarried woman, with parental consent. Where the pregnancy resulted from rape or incest, abortion would be permissible in the first and second trimesters, with no spousal or parental consent required in the first trimester. At any time during the pregnancy, with the recommendation of an authorized medical practitioner, abortion would be permissible if the life of the mother were at

risk, if her physical or mental health were at risk, or if the fetus were deformed. Parliamentary consideration of this amendment was impeded by several political crises followed by changes in government. On 31 July 1997, Bill No. 11 was introduced, addressing a number of issues relating to women's rights, including property inheritance, child marriage, polygamy, rape, and the proposed amendment to the abortion law, excluding the provisions relating to unmarried women. As of year-

**Lok Maya Adhikari (above).
Jessica Neuwirth and Namrata
Sharma, a women's rights
activist in Nepal, at a rally for
women's rights in Nepalganj,
February 1997 (below).**

En juin 1996, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes, sur la législation anti-avortement au Népal, et y a mis en lumière le cas de Lok Maya Adhikari, veuve et mère de cinq, qu'on a condamnée à un an de prison sous l'inculpation de s'être faite avorter. Au Népal, tout acte d'avortement est interdit sans exception, même dans les cas de viol, ou dans les cas où la vie de la mère est menacée. Lok Maya Adhikari a été libérée après avoir purgé sa peine en entier. Egalité Maintenant continue de soutenir les efforts que fait le Forum pour les Femmes, le Droit, et le Développement au Népal, pour réformer la loi. En juillet 1997, on a déposé un projet de loi afférent à un nombre de questions relatives aux droits de la femme, y compris l'héritage de propriété, le mariage précoce, la polygamie, le viol et la loi sur l'avortement; ce projet de loi est en instance à présent au Parlement.

En junio de 1996, Igualdad Ya lanzó una Acción Mujeres acerca de las leyes que restringen el aborto en Nepal y dio a conocer el caso de Lok Maya Adhikari, una viuda, madre de cinco hijos, que fue encarcelada por un año después de que se le declarara culpable de haberse hecho un aborto. El aborto está prohibido en Nepal sin ninguna excepción, aun en los casos de violación sexual o en los que peligran la vida de la madre. Lok Maya Adhikari fue puesta en libertad después de haber cumplido la condena por completo. Igualdad Ya continúa apoyando al Foro de Mujeres, Derecho y Desarrollo de Nepal en sus esfuerzos para que se enmiende la ley del aborto. En julio de 1997 un proyecto de ley fue presentado ante el Parlamento acerca de varios asuntos relacionados con los derechos de la mujer, incluyendo la herencia de propiedades, las nupcias de niñas, la poligamia, las violaciones sexuales y la enmienda a la ley del aborto. Este proyecto de ley todavía espera a que el Parlamento tome una decisión.

في يونيو 1996، صدر عن المساواة الآن منشور مواقف المرأة الذي ندد بالعقوبات الصارمة للإجهاض في نيبال ملغياً التصور على قضية لوك مايا إديكاري. تم سجن لوك - وهي أرملة وأم لخمسة أطفال - لمدة عام كامل بتهمة الإجهاض الذي يتم معاقبته في نيبال بالسجن. يمنع قانونياً إجراء عملية الإجهاض في نيبال - دون استثناء حتى في حالة الحمل الناتج عن الاغتصاب أو عند تعرض حياة الأم الحامل للخطر. أخرج عن لوك بعد قضاءها فترة الحبس كاملة. يتواصل الدعم من قبل المساواة الآن لجهود منتدى المرأة والقانون والتنمية في نيبال حول تعديل قانون الإجهاض. وبهذا الصدد، تم تقديم مشروع قانون في يوليو 1997، يتعلق بعدة مسائل خاصة بحقوق المرأة كالحق في الميراث وزواج الأطفال وتعدد الزوجات، والاغتصاب وقانون الإجهاض الذي مازال معلقاً لدى البرلمان النيبالي.

end 1997, the bill was still pending. Lok Maya Adhikari was released after serving her one-year sentence in full.

Equality Now continues to call for amendment of the abortion law in Nepal. Officials in Nepal have received letters from Women's Action Network members all over the world including CLADEM, an organization working for the human rights of Latin American and Caribbean women, Women Living Under Muslim Laws and the Advice Desk for Abused Women in South Africa. In the United States, Columbia University School of Public Health and Center for Population and Family Health officials also have expressed their concern over the consequences to Nepali women of the restrictive law in Nepal.

**International Women's Day
march in Kathmandu, March
1997.**



UNITED NATIONS

CONSIDERATION OF WOMEN CANDIDATES IN THE ELECTION OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL



Ayesha Mahomed, South African member of the Women's Action Network drafting a petition for the campaign while Mrs. Hajera Seedat looks on.

IN AUGUST 1996, Equality Now issued a Women's Action requesting the Security Council of the United Nations to elect a qualified woman to the post of Secretary-General. Following up on the specific commitment made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women to develop "mechanisms to nominate women candidates for appointment to senior posts in the United Nations," Equality Now's Action highlighted the election of a new Secretary-General, the highest post in the United Nations, as a unique opportunity to honor this commitment. The Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, noted that "the United Nations is continuing to deny itself the benefits of women's leadership by their underrepresentation at decision-making levels within the Secretariat" and that "without the active participation of women and the incorporation of women's perspective at all levels of decision-making, the goals of equality, development and peace cannot be achieved."

Equality Now's Women's Action received widespread international media attention, and several United Nations missions represented on the Security Council responded to the letters they received from Women's Action Network members. Despite the clear language of the Platform for Action, none of these responses acknowledged the responsibility undertaken at the Beijing conference to develop a formal mechanism for the nomination of women to senior-level UN posts. For example, although he noted that "as a signatory of the Global Platform for Action, we support the agreements reached in Beijing," the Political Counsellor of the United Kingdom wrote, "our policy is that appointments to positions within international bodies—such as the UN—should be made on the basis of candidates' abilities and qualifications, irrespective of gender." In



En août 1996, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes, demandant que le Conseil de Sécurité des Nations unies élise une femme qualifiée Secrétaire générale. Cette Action Femmes, donnant suite à l'engagement explicite pris à la Quatrième Conférence mondiale sur les femmes, de proposer la candidature des femmes aux postes supérieurs des Nations unies, a suscité un intérêt médiatique international très répandu. En décembre 1996, M. Kofi Annan a été élu Secrétaire général. Mme. Louise Fréchette a été subséquemment nommée la première Vice-Secrétaire générale. Egalité Maintenant continue de suivre de près les nominations aux niveaux décisionnels des Nations unies, et d'attirer l'attention de femmes qualifiées autour du monde sur les postes à pourvoir.

En agosto de 1996, Igualdad Ya lanzó una Acción Mujeres en que se pedía al Consejo de Seguridad de las Naciones Unidas que eligiera a una mujer calificada para el cargo de Secretaria General. Al igual que el compromiso acordado en la Cuarta Conferencia Mundial de la Mujer de las Naciones Unidas de nombrar a mujeres a la candidatura de puestos de importancia en las Naciones Unidas, la Acción Mujeres recibió mucha atención por parte de los medios de comunicación internacionales. En diciembre de 1996, el Sr. Kofi Annan fue elegido Secretario General y la Sra. Louise Fréchette poco tiempo después fue nombrada la primera Vicesecretaria General. Igualdad Ya continúa monitoreando el nombramiento de mujeres a puestos de importancia en las Naciones Unidas y continúa informando a mujeres calificadas de todo el mundo acerca de las plazas vacantes que hay en esa organizacion.

في أغسطس 1996، صدر منشور موافق المرأة الذي طالب مجلس الأمن للأمم المتحدة بتعيين امرأة مؤهلة بمنصب الأمين العام. جاء المنشور متابعاً لتأثيره الذي تم التمهيد له في المؤتمر العالمي الرابع المعنى بالمرأة، الخاص بتعيين النساء بالمناصب العليا للأمم المتحدة. حظي هذا المنشور باهتمام دولي من قبل وسائل الإعلام. في ديسمبر 1996، تم تعيين السيد كوفي عنان في منصب الأمين العام ولحق ذلك تعيين السيدة نوبيس فريشيت بمنصب نائبة الأمين العام. وما زالت النساء الآن ترافق عن كثب التعيينات التي تتم بمناصب اتخاذ القرار وتعمل على إعلام الكوادر المؤهلة من النساء حول العالم بالمناصب الشاغرة في هذه المستويات.

SOMMAIRE RESUMEN

ملخص



Gro Harlem Brundtland
Prime Minister,
Norway



Frene Ginwala
Speaker of
Parliament,
South Africa



Sadako Ogata
High
Commissioner
for Refugees,
United Nations

December 1996, Mr. Kofi Annan, a long-time United Nations staff member, was elected to serve as Secretary-General of the United Nations.

Ms. Louise Fréchette was subsequently appointed as the first Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations.

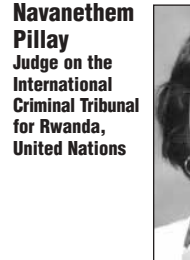
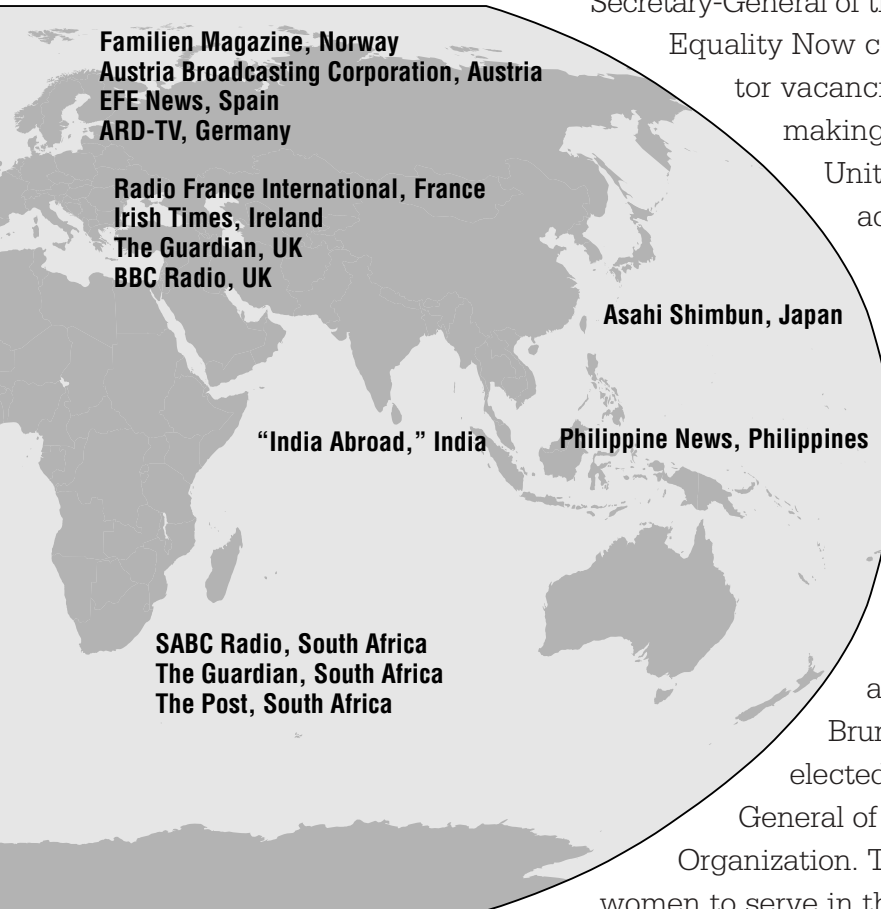
Equality Now continues to monitor vacancies at decision-making levels in the

United Nations and advocates the appointment of qualified women to these posts.

Mary Robinson has recently been appointed the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

and Gro Harlem Brundtland has been elected as Director-General of the World Health Organization. They are the first

women to serve in these posts.



Navanethem Pillay
Judge on the
International
Criminal Tribunal
for Rwanda,
United Nations



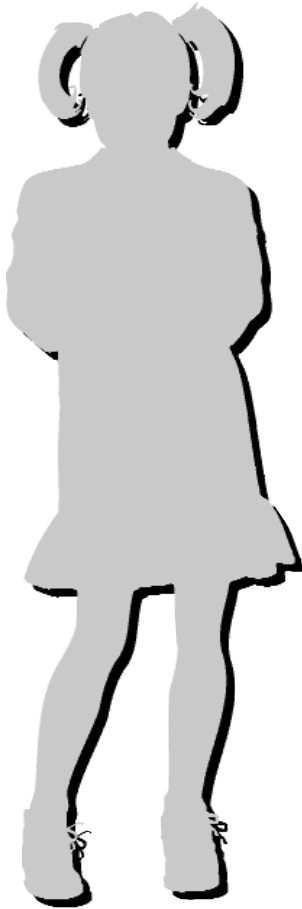
Mary Robinson
President,
Ireland



Leticia Shahani
President of the
Senate,
Philippines

SEX TOURISM

"REAL SEX WITH REAL GIRLS, ALL FOR REAL CHEAP"



IN DECEMBER 1996, Equality Now issued a Women's Action protesting sex tourism and highlighting Big Apple Oriental Tours, a sex tourism agency based in New York and owned by Norman Barabash. Big Apple Oriental Tours recruits sex tourists through publications such as *Soldier of Fortune* and *Asia File*, a newsletter claiming to be the "most up-to-date inside information on sex travel." These sex tourists are met at the airport by a Big Apple Oriental Tours representative in the Philippines, who accompanies them to numerous bars in Angeles City and helps them negotiate prostitution transactions. Noting that promotion of prostitution is a crime under New York law, Equality Now is calling on the District Attorney of Queens, the county of New York in which

In its March/April 1997 issue, *Ms. Magazine* featured the Equality Now campaign against sex tourism and Big Apple Oriental Tours. In May 1997, Norman Barabash wrote to *Ms. Magazine* demanding a retraction and apology for the article and stating that on or about June 16, 1997, he would be filing suit against Equality Now, which he called his "chief accuser." *Ms. Magazine* attorneys responded in June 1997, affirming that "whether one examines the dictionary or the criminal law definition of 'promoting' prostitution, your sales literature makes it abundantly clear that one of the purposes of Big Apple Tours is to enable your customers to purchase the services of prostitutes." No lawsuit was filed.

Norman Barabash resides, to investigate and prosecute him for this offense. Following the letters and publicity generated by the Women's Action, the District Attorney commenced an inter-agency investigation

En décembre 1996, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes protestant contre le tourisme sexuel, et mettant en lumière Big Apple Oriental Tours, une agence de tourisme sexuel basée à New York. Suite aux lettres et à la publicité générées par cette Action Femmes, qui a demandé l'engagement de poursuites judiciaires selon la loi new-yorkaise contre le propriétaire de l'agence pour la promotion de la prostitution, le procureur général a ouvert une enquête. L'enquête a été fermée et puis rouverte, après une réunion entre des représentants d'Egalité Maintenant et l'équipe d'investigation. L'enquête continue. Fin 1997, entre-temps, et directement à cause de cette Action Femmes, le gouvernement des Philippines a interdit l'entrée du pays aux représentants de Big Apple Oriental Tours.

En diciembre de 1996, Igualdad Ya lanzó una Acción Mujeres para protestar en contra del turismo sexual e hizo resaltar el caso de la compañía Big Apple Oriental Tours, una agencia de turismo sexual ubicada en Nueva York. Las cartas y la publicidad que resultaron de los esfuerzos realizados por Igualdad Ya, en que se pedía que se juzgara al dueño de esa compañía de acuerdo a la ley de Nueva York que prohíbe el fomento de la prostitución, hicieron que el Fiscal General iniciara una investigación del asunto. Pero la investigación cesó, y no fue sino hasta que representantes de Igualdad Ya se reunieron con los investigadores que fue iniciada de nuevo. Actualmente la investigación continúa. A la vez, y como resultado directo de la Acción Mujeres, el gobierno de Filipinas prohibió a fines de 1997 que los empleados del Big Apple Oriental Tours entraran al país.

في ديسمبر 1996، صدر منشور مواقف المرأة الذي ندد بالرحلات السياحية الجنسية مسانداً لضوء على شركة بيك أبل أوريينتال تورز، وهي وكالة سياحة جنسية، يقع مقرها في نيويورك. نادى المنشور بمحاكمة ملكة الشركة الذي يعمل في نيغاد حسب قانون ولاية نيويورك. أُنذرت الرسائل والحملة الإعلامية التي عقيبت المنشور التي قيام النائب العام بالتحقيق في الأمر ثم قفل ملف التحقيق. أُجتمعت بعدها ممثلي من المساواة الآن ولجنة التحقيق لإعانة فتح ملف التحقيق مرة أخرى. وما زال التحقيق مستمراً. ومن جهة أخرى، منعت الحكومة الفلبينية العاملين في شركة بيك أبل أوريينتال من الدخول إلى الفلبين كرد فعل مباشر لمنشور مواقف المرأة.

SOMMAIRE RESUMEN
ملخص



Ken Franzblau, Equality Now's researcher on sex tourism, speaking at a Human Rights Day event, December 1997.

including assistance from the Federal Bureau of Investigations and the United States Customs Service. In September 1997, Equality Now learned that the investigation had been closed. In December 1997, following a meeting between Equality Now representatives and

I found myself dancing at a club at the age of 11. . . . I have had different kinds of customers, foreigners and Filipinos. I tried suicide but it didn't work so I turned to drugs. I want to die before my next birthday.

Poppy, a child prostitute
(from *The Child and the Tourist* by Ron O'Grady)

members of the inter-agency investigation team, the investigation was reopened, based on the evidence presented by Equality Now. Equality Now is working with this team and continues to call for the prosecution of Norman Barabash.

Meanwhile, as a direct

result of the Women's Action, in late 1997 the Philippines Government barred the operators of Big Apple Oriental Tours from entering the country.

Trafficking in girls and women is an international multi-billion dollar industry. In both the Philippines and Thailand, primary sex tourism destinations, prostitution is illegal. Some countries from which sex tourism originates, including Australia, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden and the United States, have passed legislation which criminalizes sex tourism, but such laws apply only to travel for the purpose of engaging in sex with minors. In the United States, the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 makes travel with intent to engage in any sexual act with a juvenile punishable by up to ten years' imprisonment. To date there have been no prosecutions under this law.



INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE

HOLDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATORS ACCOUNTABLE

The very nature of rape as a war crime presupposes circumstances of war which make consent a non-issue.

From Equality Now's letter to Judge Antonio Cassese, President of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia

EQUALITY NOW has been in an ongoing dialogue with the staff of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunals in an effort to ensure the inclusion of crimes of sexual violence in the investigation and prosecution of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia and in Rwanda. Before the establishment of these Tribunals, Equality Now assisted the Commission established by the United Nations to investigate war crimes in the former Yugoslavia, by recruiting volunteer women attorneys to take testimony relating to rape and other crimes of sexual violence. Following the establishment of the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), Equality Now wrote to the President and the Chief Prosecutor regarding the rules of evidence relating to rape, and particularly the defense of consent. "Although consent must be a legitimate defense to a charge of rape in an ordinary social context," Equality Now said, "it cannot be considered a legitimate defense to the war crime of rape. The very nature of rape as a war crime presupposes circumstances of war which make consent a non-issue. . . . In effect, the element of consent is subsumed in the element of war. To separate and extricate the issue of consent serves no legitimate purpose and will only cause additional harm to those victims of rape who testify."

In February 1997, and again in March 1997, Equality Now wrote to the Chief Prosecutor to express concern with regard to the non-prosecution of rape by the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), noting that the widespread incidence of rape during the genocide in Rwanda had been extensively documented by human rights organizations, independent filmmakers, and the media. In June 1997, following spontaneous testimony concerning rape from two witnesses in the Akayesu trial, the indictment in that case was amended to add charges of sexual violence.

Egalité Maintenant dialogue régulièrement avec le personnel des tribunaux criminels internationaux des Nations unies, dans le but d'assurer l'inclusion de la violence sexuelle dans l'investigation des crimes de guerre en ancienne Yougoslavie et au Ruanda, et dans les poursuites judiciaires résultantes. Egalité Maintenant travaille aussi comme membre de la Coalition des ONGs pour une Cour pénale internationale, soulevant des problèmes relatifs à la femme, comme l'importance de comprendre dans la juridiction de la Cour les crimes relatifs aux femmes comme la traite des femmes, et l'importance d'assurer la balance des hommes et des femmes dans la composition de la Cour.

Igualdad Ya ha tenido un diálogo continuo con los dos Tribunales Penales Internacionales de las Naciones Unidas con el propósito de procurar que se incluya la violencia sexual en la investigación y condena de crímenes de guerra cometidos en la antigua Yugoslavia y en Ruanda. Como integrante de la Coalición de las ONG por la creación de una Corte Penal Internacional, Igualdad Ya también ha luchado para que esta nueva corte se ocupe de asuntos relacionados con la mujer. Entre esos asuntos están que la corte se ocupe de crímenes cometidos en contra de mujeres en su jurisdicción, como lo es el tráfico de mujeres, y que haya un balance basado en el género en la composición de la Corte.

عملت المساواة الآن على خلق حوار مع موظفي المحاكم الجنائية الدولية للأمم المتحدة ضمن الجهود المبذولة لإضافة العنف الجنسي ضمن التفتيشات والمحاكمات المتعلقة بجرائم النزاع المسلح التي ارتكبت في رواندا وبوغسلافيا سابقا. تعمل المساواة الآن كأحد أعضاء اتحاد المنظمات غير الحكومية للمحكمة الجنائية الدولية، على رفع المواضيع التي تهم المرأة، على سبيل المثال إبراح الجرائم التي تمس شؤون المرأة كالاتجار في النساء في دائرة المحكمة وتحفيق المساواة بين الجنسين ضمن القرارات المكونة للمحكمة.

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JULY/AUGUST 1996

EQUALITY NOW CALLS FOR “PROPORTIONATE GENDER REPRESENTATION” OF ICC JUDGES

An International Criminal Court has the potential to become a uniquely effective institution for addressing, and deterring, human rights violations. Equality Now strongly supports efforts to establish an International Criminal Court, and in this process hopes the following improvements can be made in the draft statute:

- I. Gender representation should be included as a consideration when the States parties nominate and elect judges for the Court.
- II. Human trafficking is a form of slavery and should be included as one of the "exceptionally serious crimes of international concerns."
- III. The Prosecutor should have the independence to investigate and prosecute, on his or her own initiative, all crimes which fall under the jurisdiction of the Court.

JANUARY 1997

EQUALITY NOW CALLS ON WOMEN’S MOVEMENT TO SUPPORT THE ICC

Formal discussion leading to the creation of an International Criminal Court (ICC) is well underway at the United Nations and among non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in the human rights community. It is important that this new Court reflect the interests and concerns of the broadest constituency possible, and in particular, the perspective of women, which in the past has been absent too often from the process.

What the ICC will look like and how well it will function could well depend largely on the discussions that are taking place now. Equality Now has been a member of the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court since its inception. Consistently, Equality Now has raised issues of concern to women, such as the importance of including international crimes that primarily affect women (e.g., human trafficking) in the jurisdiction of the Court, and the importance of ensuring gender balance in the composition of the Court. The organization has at times been a lone voice on issues of concern to women, while other constituencies are actively represented by numerous organizations in the Coalition.

Equality Now wants to ensure that the voices and concerns of women are incorporated into these important preliminary stages of the United Nations process. An International Criminal Court will provide access to justice for all those who are suffering, regardless of the country in which they live. It is an extraordinary concept which could have a tremendous impact on the protection of human rights around the world. For this reason, we urge women’s rights organizations to join Equality Now in the NGO Coalition for an International Criminal Court.

THE GAMBIA

CENSORSHIP OF THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)

IN JULY 1997, Equality Now issued a Women's Action concerning a policy introduced in The Gambia which prohibited the use of state-owned radio and television media to campaign against FGM. The policy, announced by the Director of Broadcasting Services of Gambia Telecommunications (GAMTEL), stated that "the broadcast by Radio Gambia or Gambia Television of any programmes which either seemingly oppose female genital mutilation or tend to portray medical hazard about the practice is forbidden, with immediate effect. So also are news items written from the point of view of combating the practice." Working with the Gambian Committee Against Harmful Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP), Equality Now through its Women's Action Network



The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices wishes to express its appreciation to Equality Now and all its affiliates for their support and active involvement . . . We hope that this collaboration will continue towards the empowerment of the girl-child.

Mary Small, Programme Coordinator, GAMCOTRAP

campaigning effectively for the reversal of this policy directive, which greatly impeded the efforts of GAMCOTRAP and other organizations working in The Gambia to stop FGM. In December 1997, GAMCOTRAP informed Equality Now that the policy had been reversed and stated their belief that the Women's Action Network campaign had "contributed immensely" to this outcome.

En juillet 1997, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes concernant une politique nouvelle en Gambie, qui a interdit l'utilisation de la radio et de la télévision étatiques pour faire campagne contre la mutilation génitale féminine. Egalité Maintenant, travaillant conjointement avec la Commission de la Gambie sur les pratiques traditionnelles (GAMCOTRAP), a mené une campagne pour renverser cette politique, qui a réussie. En décembre 1997, GAMCOTRAP a informé Egalité Maintenant que la politique a été renversée, et a déclaré que la campagne du Réseau d'Action Femmes a "contribué énormément" à ce résultat.

En julio de 1997, Igualdad Ya lanzó una Acción Mujeres acerca de una nueva directiva del gobierno de Gambia que prohibía el uso de los medios de comunicación estatales, como la radio y la televisión, para hacer campañas en contra de la mutilación genital femenina. En colaboración con el Comité de Prácticas Tradicionales de Gambia (GAMCOTRAP), Igualdad Ya logró que se abandonara tal política. En diciembre de 1997, GAMCOTRAP informó a Igualdad Ya que el gobierno de Gambia había abandonado la política de censura y que creían que la campaña de la Red Acción Mujeres había "contribuido inmensamente" en ese respecto.

في يوليو 1997، صدر منشور مواقف المرأة الذي يتعلق بالسياسة الجديدة التي انتهجتها الغامبيا التي تمنع استخدام وسائل الإعلام الحكومية (التلفزيون والأداعة) لثب برامج الحملة ضد ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة. قامت المساواة الآن بالتعاون مع لجنة الغامبيا ضد الممارسات الضارة (قامكوتراپ) بالقيام بحملة فعالة لتقويض هذه السياسة. في ديسمبر 1997، أعلنت قامكوتراپ المساواة الآن عن نقض حكومة الغامبيا للسياسة الجديدة وأعلنوا إيمانهم بدور حملة شبكة مواقف المرأة التي كانت مساهمة عظيمة للتوصل إلى هذه النتيجة.

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UPDATE

BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: WANTED FOR MASS RAPE AND MURDER

SINCE FEBRUARY 1993, Equality Now has issued three Updates to its Women's Action on Bosnia-Herzegovina, calling for the arrest and prosecution of Radovan Karadzic. On 25 May 1993, the United Nations Security Council established an International Criminal Tribunal for the prosecution of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. On 25 July 1995, Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs and commander of the Bosnian Serb army, respectively, were indicted by this Tribunal for crimes against humanity committed during the genocidal campaign of "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslavia. In accordance with its rules, the Tribunal confirmed the indictments of Karadzic and Mladic in July 1996, following a hearing in which a number of witnesses testified. In its decision, the Tribunal certified the failure of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and the Republika Srpska to cooperate with the Tribunal. Although parties to the Dayton Peace Agreement of 1995 agreed to turn over indicted war criminals to the International Criminal Tribunal, NATO forces in the former Yugoslavia have been reluctant to take any action for fear of retaliation. On 10 July 1997, for the first time NATO forces arrested a suspect indicted by the Tribunal. By the end of 1997, however, both Karadzic and Mladic were still at large.



IN DECEMBER 1993, Equality Now issued a Women's Action concerning the death of Maricris Sioson, a 22-year-old Filipina dancer who went to



Maricris Sioson

work in Japan and several months later died there on 14 September 1991. When her body was returned to the Philippines for burial, signs of beatings and stab wounds indicated that Maricris Sioson had been killed, although Japanese doctors had listed hepatitis as the cause of her death. An autopsy confirmed that Maricris died of traumatic head injuries and documented two stab wounds, one in the thigh indicating that a double-edged blade had been

twisted upward, downward and diagonally in the flesh, and one in the genital area indicating that a blade had been inserted vertically. Equality Now continues to call for an investigation into the death of Maricris Sioson and the prosecution of those responsible.

UPDATE

TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN TO JAPAN: THE DEATH OF MARICRIS SIOSON

Updates continue with translation on next page

Suite de la rubrique mises à jour en traduction à la page suivante.

En la próxima página continúan las actualizaciones y sus traducciones.

يتواصل التعقيب على الأحداث مع نص الترجملة في الصفحة التالية

UPDATE

SOUTH AFRICA: RAPE AT THE DURBAN TRAIN STATION



Regina Nyanda, Umgeni Road,
Durban

IN MAY 1994, in conjunction with the Durban-based Advice Desk for Abused Women, Equality Now issued a Women's Action on rape in South Africa, focusing on the plight of the women who live on the pavement of Umgeni Road outside the Durban train station. Although the police station is only a few blocks away, the police were not patrolling the stretch of pavement on which the women live, leaving the women vulnerable to local thugs who robbed, attacked and raped them with impunity. These women would often see their rapists again, raping other women. They wanted police protection, and Equality Now's Women's Action added an international voice to their call for help. The Action called on the South African government to provide a regular police patrol on Umgeni Road. The campaign of public pressure, including meetings between the Advice Desk for Abused Women and the Durban police, resulted in more visible policing and a significant reduction in violence against the pavement women. The woman featured in Equality Now's Action, Regina Nyanda, a woman who had lived on the pavement of Umgeni Road for more than twenty years, received free medical care for her epilepsy as a result of intervention by the Advice Desk for Abused Women, and in August 1995 she traveled home on a free train ticket arranged by Social Welfare Services to rejoin her family in Soweto.

UPDATE

UNITED STATES: DOMESTIC VIOLENCE— THE PEACOCK CASE



IN DECEMBER 1994, Equality Now issued a Women's Action on gender-related judicial bias, as illustrated by the Peacock case in the state of Maryland. In this case, Baltimore County Circuit Court Judge Robert E. Cahill imposed an extremely light sentence on the defendant, Kenneth Peacock, who had killed his wife after finding her in bed with another man. In his sentencing decision, the judge commented, "I seriously wonder how many married men . . . would have the strength to walk away . . . without inflicting some corporal punishment, whatever that punishment might be. I shudder to think what I would do." Equality Now's Women's Action Network called on judicial authorities in Maryland to demonstrate Maryland's commitment to equal protection of the law for women. On the basis of his comments, Judge Cahill was charged with failing to act during the sentencing hearing in a manner that promoted public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary. In February 1996, the Maryland Commission on Judicial Disabilities held a public hearing on these charges, and in May 1996 the Commission dismissed the complaint against Judge Cahill, finding that the judge's comments should be read in the context of his entire sentencing statement and that the evidence did not reach the clear and convincing standard required for a sanction. Two women on the Commission dissented from the decision, finding that "Judge Cahill's statements created an atmosphere where members of the public might reasonably conclude that cases involving spousal violence would not be heard in a fair and impartial manner by Judge Cahill."

UPDATE

EGYPT: THE BANNING OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION (FGM)



“Circumcision is a wound that cannot be erased by time.”
Poster, Campaign Against Genital Mutilation, Egyptian Organization for Human Rights.

IN MARCH 1995, Equality Now issued a Women’s Action opposing efforts to medicalize FGM in Egypt. Despite a commitment to ban FGM, which he made at the United Nations Conference on Population and Development held in Cairo in September 1994, the Egyptian Minister of Health issued a directive one month later designating certain hospitals to perform FGM for a fee the equivalent of US\$3. Members of Equality Now’s Women’s Action Network appealed to the Minister from countries around the world. The Minister of Health responded individually to these letters, and in October 1995 he revoked the directive he had issued and instructed hospitals not to perform FGM. The scope of this ban was extended by his successor to private hospitals in July 1996, but the ban was challenged in court by a group of plaintiffs including several doctors and Islamist leaders who advocate the practice of FGM. The court struck down the Minister’s ban on FGM, asserting in its decision the right of doctors to perform FGM. Equality Now issued a Women’s Action Update in July 1997, calling on the Egyptian Medical Syndicate to clarify publicly and to all doctors in Egypt that professional ethics prohibit the performance of FGM. The Egyptian Minister of Health appealed the court decision and in December 1997, the highest court upheld the ban on FGM, noting that FGM is not sanctioned by Islam and that the practice is subject to the provisions of the Penal Code.

Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne pour l’arrestation de Radovan Karadzic et Ratko Mladic et pour l’engagement des poursuites judiciaires contre eux, pour des crimes contre l’humanité perpétrés pendant la campagne génocide de “purification ethnique” en ancienne Yougoslavie. Egalité Maintenant continue aussi à faire campagne pour l’arrestation et pour l’engagement des poursuites en justice des responsables de la mort de Maricris Sioson, une danseuse philippine de 22 ans qui est allée travailler au Japon en tant qu’artiste, et qui a été tuée quelques mois plus tard. Egalité Maintenant a terminé sa campagne au nom des femmes habitant aux environs de la gare de Durban en Afrique du Sud, ayant appris que la police font à présent la patrouille dans le quartier afin de protéger les femmes de viol et d’autre violence. Egalité Maintenant termina aussi sa campagne sur le préjugé judiciaire, après que le juge Cahill fut inculpé, quoiqu’ensuite disculpé, des commentaires qu’il a faits lors d’un procès pour violence familiale, par lesquels il s’est révélé bien disposé à l’égard du défendeur. Egalité Maintenant a aussi terminé sa campagne contre la médicalisation de la MGF en Egypte, en réponse à la décision du tribunal suprême confirmant l’interdiction de la MGF par le ministre de la Santé.

Igualdad Ya continúa su campaña para que se arreste y se juzgue debidamente a Radovan Karadzic y a Ratko Mladic por los crímenes en contra de la humanidad que cometieron durante su genocida campaña de “depuración étnica” en la antigua Yugoslavia. Igualdad Ya también continúa su campaña para que se investigue y se juzgue a aquellos que son responsables de la muerte de Maricris Sioson, una bailarina filipina de 22 años de edad que fue a trabajar a Japón de artista y que fue asesinada varios meses después. Igualdad Ya concluyó su campaña a favor de las mujeres de la estación de trenes de Durban en Suráfrica una vez que se enteró de que la policía ahora vigila el lugar para proteger a las mujeres en contra de violaciones sexuales y otros actos de violencia. Igualdad Ya también concluyó su campaña en contra del prejuicio judicial en los Estados Unidos una vez que una comisión judicial acusara y después exonerara al Juez Cahill por haber hecho comentarios a favor del acusado en un caso de violencia doméstica. Igualdad Ya también concluyó su campaña en oposición a que en Egipto se trate la MGF como un asunto médico, ya que la Corte Suprema de ese país falló a favor de la prohibición del Ministro de Salubridad en contra de la MGF.

ما زالت المساواة الآن مستمرة في الحملات التالية: الحملة التي تنادي بمحاكمة رانوفان كرادزيتك و راتكو ملاديتك على الجرائم التي ارتكبوها ضد الإنسانية خلال حملات القتل من أجل الإبادة العرقية في يوغسلافيا سابقا. كما تستمر الحملة التي تطالب بالتحري و محاكمة من تثبتت إدانتهم في حادث وفاة مارسريز سيوسون. مارسريز هي راقصة فيلبينية تركت موطنها لتعمل في اليابان في أحد دور التهو ثم قتلت عقب عدة شهور من قدومها الى اليابان. ومن ناحية أخرى اختتمت المساواة الآن الحملات التالية: الحملة التي أقيمت بالإثابة عن النساء في محطة دوربان للقطارات بجنوب أفريقيا حيث ورد الى علمنا أن الشرطة قد نظمت دوريات في المنطقة لحماية النساء هنالك من الاغصاب وأشكال العنف الأخرى. كما اختتمت المساواة الآن الحملة المتعلقة بالجنوح القضائي بالولايات المتحدة حيث تمت مساعلة القاضي كاهل من قبل لجنة قضائية حول التعليقات التي صدرت منه متعاطفا مع المدعى عليه في قضية العنف الأسري، ثم أعفى عنه. واختتمت الحملة المصرية التي نددت بإجازة إجراء ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة في المؤسسات الطبية، عقب إصدار المحكمة العليا قرارا بويود قرار وزير الصحة المصري بمنع إجراء الممارسة في المؤسسات الطبية خاصة ومصر عامة.

AWAKEN

A VOICE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FEMALE GENITAL CUTTING



Asma Abdel Halim, the founding editor of AWAKEN.

IN 1997, Equality Now launched a new publication, AWAKEN, to support organizations and individual activists working to stop female genital mutilation (FGM), a practice known by African communities as female circumcision. AWAKEN is a forum for information and discussion to promote a better understanding and a more effective strategy for the eradication of FGM. In each issue of AWAKEN there is a feature piece highlighting activism, news from around the world relating to FGM and a listing of resources which includes information on organizations, conferences, and

publications relating to the issue, as well as funders who might be potential sources of financial support. Each issue also includes a Man Power column, to promote a dialogue among men on the eradication of the practice. AWAKEN is published in English, Arabic and French to promote its accessibility to grassroots groups and individuals in communities where FGM is practiced, and it is distributed free of charge to these groups and individuals. The following are some excerpts from the first three issues of AWAKEN published in 1997:

AWAKEN will not judge the material that appears on its pages by which term is being used by those who contribute to it. The real issue is how all of us, despite the different terminology, are going to strategize for the long awaited eradication of the tradition.

FROM THE EDITOR (ASMA ABDEL HALIM), VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, JUNE 1997.

I was intrigued to realize that sexuality is an important source of power among the genders and control and manipulation of it accompanies change in power. It struck me

En 1997, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une nouvelle publication, L'EVEIL, pour soutenir les organisations et les activistes individuels qui travaillent à supprimer la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF). L'EVEIL représente un forum pour les informations et la discussion, pour encourager à la fois une meilleure compréhension de la MGF, et une stratégie plus efficace pour y mettre fin. Chaque numéro comprend un article de fond, des nouvelles sur la MGF venant du monde entier, une liste de ressources, et une rubrique qui encourage un dialogue entre les hommes au sujet de la suppression de la MGF. On a fourni ci-dessus des extraits, en anglais, des trois premiers numéros de L'EVEIL, qui est publié en anglais, en arabe, et en français.

En 1997 Igualdad Ya empezó la publicación de AWAKEN con el propósito de dar apoyo tanto a organizaciones como a activistas que trabajan por su cuenta en la lucha por darle un alto a la práctica de la mutilación genital femenina (MGF). AWAKEN es un foro de información y debates que promueve un mejor entendimiento de la práctica de la MGF y la creación de una estrategia más efectiva en la lucha por su erradicación. Cada número de AWAKEN incluye un artículo principal, noticias sobre la práctica de la MGF en todo el mundo, una lista de fuentes y una columna en que se promueve el diálogo entre los hombres acerca de la erradicación de la MGF. Al principio de la presente publicación se han incluido fragmentos de los tres primeros números de AWAKEN, revista publicada en inglés, árabe y francés.

أصدرت المساواة الآن نشرة يقظة، للعمل على دعم المنظمات والأفراد الناشطين على القضاء على ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة. يقظة هي منتدى للباحث ومصدر للمعلومات من أجل فهم أفضل وإستراتيجية أوقع للقضاء على الممارسة. تحتوي أعداد يقظة على مقال رئيسي يتبع ذلك أخبار من أنحاء العالم وصفحة خاصة بالمراجع ومساحة مخصصة لتسمية حوار بناء بين الرجال للقضاء على ممارسة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة.

SOMMAIRE
RESUMEN

ملخص

that the apparent injustice, deprivation, constraints and lack of power in the lives of many women is likely achieved by controlling and dismembering their sexual integrity by culturally sanctioned female circumcision.

DR. MOHAMED BADAWI, JOHNS HOPKINS UNIVERSITY, MAN POWER, VOL. 1, ISSUE 1, JUNE 1997

On August 17th, 1996, Daphne Pratt of Freetown was going to visit friends when she was lured into an unfinished house at Congo Cross and told that her friends were there. Daphne said, "Upon entering the building I was viciously attacked by some women, grabbed by the throat, swept off my feet and laid on the ground while a group of women were singing loudly and dancing and telling me that I was now in the Bundo Bush and will be initiated today. . . ." Daphne was abandoned in a pool of blood, but she struggled out of the building to the street half naked. When she went to the police she said, "I was told it was not a police affair, I should go to the tribal court. I was abandoned at the counter bleeding profusely. . . . I have been forced to leave my former house and seek refuge elsewhere. I am living a life totally in fear."

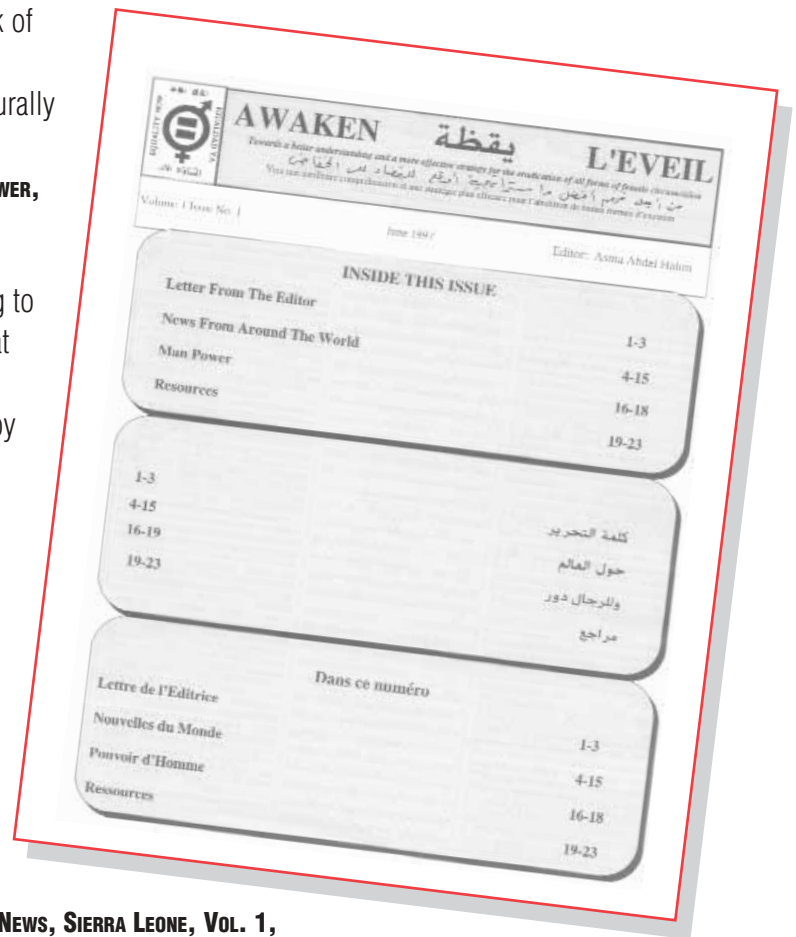
FROM A PERSONAL STATEMENT BY DAPHNE PRATT, REPRINTED IN NEWS, SIERRA LEONE, VOL. 1, ISSUE 2, SEPTEMBER 1997

What is important is not to view FGM in simplistic terms as a battle between the sexes in Africa but rather as a health issue and a developmental problem which affects society as a whole. It is very important in our attempt to tackle this practice to get men to be involved in the campaign.

DR. EBRAHIM SAMBA, WHO REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA, MAN POWER, VOL. 1, ISSUE 2, SEPTEMBER 1997.

In the United States there are now thousands of girls who were born or naturalized American citizens and are attending American junior high schools or high schools, but are faced with the crippling reality of their infibulation. Polemic and rhetoric are of no use to these girls. What they urgently need is a network of resources to which they can turn.

HERMINE FUERST-GARCIA, AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVE OF CAMS (COMMISSION POUR L'ABOLITION DES MUTILATIONS SEXUELLES), LETTERS, VOL. 1, ISSUE 3, DECEMBER 1997.



An examination of the practice of genital mutilation should not be isolated from other traditional practices, harmful or beneficial, and should be seen as part and parcel of all practices that subjugate and oppress women around the globe.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

GETTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS ON THE AGENDA

Were it not for the information we obtain from non-governmental organisations—especially that coming from Equality Now—the Committee's work would be reduced to a mere diplomatic exercise.

Francisco José Aguilar Urbina
Chairman
Human Rights Committee
26 July 1996

SINCE MARCH 1995, Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the United Nations Human Rights Committee. The Human Rights Committee was established by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, a treaty for the protection of human rights which has been signed and ratified by more than 130 countries. Under the Covenant, signatory governments are required to report on a regular basis to the Human Rights Committee on their compliance with the provisions of the Covenant. Many of these provisions encompass the human rights of women, including the fundamental right to equality under the law and equal protection of the law. Working with women's rights groups in countries up for review by the Committee, during the 1996 and 1997 sessions, Equality Now raised concerns relating to violence against women, legally sanctioned discrimination, and reproductive rights in conjunction with the Committee's consideration of reports from Guatemala, Zambia, Afghanistan, Peru, Brazil, Lebanon, Colombia, India, Senegal, Lithuania and the Sudan. Equality Now is the only women's rights group regularly participating in the work of the Human Rights Committee.

From Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee

on Peru: "The Committee notes with concern that the law still contains a provision exempting a rapist from punishment if he marries his victim and another which classifies rape as a privately prosecutable offense. The Committee is also concerned that abortion gives rise to a criminal penalty even if a woman is pregnant as a result of rape and that clandestine abortions are the main cause of maternal mortality. These provisions not only mean that women are subject to inhumane treatment but are possibly incompatible with articles 3, 6, and 7 of the Covenant . . . Peru must ensure that laws relating to rape, sexual abuse and violence against women provide women with effective protection. The necessary measures must be taken to ensure that women do not risk their life because of the existence of restrictive legal provisions on abortion." (57th Session, July 1996)

on Colombia: "The Committee expresses its concern over the situation of women who, despite some improvements, continue to be the subject of *de jure* and *de facto* discrimination, in all spheres of economic, social and public life. It notes in this regard that violence against women remains a major risk to their right to life which needs to be more effectively addressed. It is also concerned over the high mortality rate of women resulting from clandestine abortions." (59th Session, March 1997)

on Lebanon: "The Committee notes that both legal and *de facto* discrimination continue to be a matter of concern. It refers in this context to articles 487 to 489 of the Criminal Code which impose harsher sentences for conviction of adultery on women than on men,

Depuis mars 1995, Egalité Maintenant travaille à attirer l'attention du Comité des droits de l'homme des Nations unies, constitué par le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, sur les violations des droits humains de la femme. Travaillant avec des associations pour les droits de la femme dans les pays que le Comité va étudier, Egalité Maintenant a soulevé pendant des séances qui ont eu lieu en 1996 et 1997, des questions relatives à la violence contre les femmes, à la discrimination sanctionnée par la loi, et aux droits de reproduction. Sont présentés des extraits des observations finales sur ces questions de la part du Comité des droits de l'homme. Egalité Maintenant est la seule association pour les droits de la femme qui participe au travail du Comité.

A partir de marzo de 1995, Igualdad Ya empezó la lucha para que el Comité de Derechos Humanos de las Naciones Unidas, establecido por el Pacto Internacional de Derechos Civiles y Políticos, dé la atención debida a las violaciones de los derechos humanos de la mujer en los países que el Comité está investigando. En las reuniones del Comité realizadas en 1996 y 1997, Igualdad Ya trajo a colación asuntos relacionados a la violencia en contra de la mujer, la discriminación sancionada por la ley y los derechos a la reproducción. A continuación aparecen fragmentos de algunas observaciones finales que el Comité hizo en relación con esos asuntos. Igualdad Ya es la única organización de derechos humanos que trabaja regularmente con el Comité.

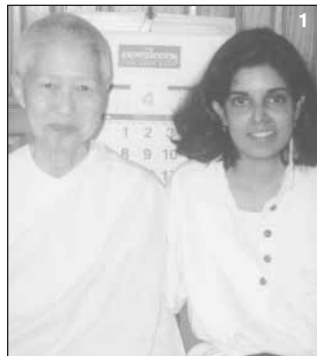
في مارس 1995، حرصت المساواة الآن على لفت انتباه لجنة حقوق الإنسان للأمم المتحدة إلى الانتهاكات التي ترتكب ضد حقوق المرأة. تأسست اللجنة بواسطة العهد الدولي للحقوق المدنية والسياسية. كما حرصت المساواة الآن بالتعاون مع المنظمات النسائية التي تعمل في مجال حقوق المرأة في البلدان موضوع البحث من قبل اللجنة، إلى رفع الشئون الخاصة بالعنف ضد المرأة والتمييز الجنسي والحقوق الإنجابية للمداونة خلال الجلسات التي انعقدت في 1996 و 1997. سوف يتم عرض مقتطفات من مباحثات الجلسة الختامية لاحقاً. المساواة الآن هي منظمة واحدة من منظمات حقوق المرأة الأخرى التي تشارك مع منظمة في أعمالها.

to nationality laws and the laws which may restrict the right to leave the country for spouses in the absence of the consent of their husband . . . The Committee considers that these provisions, and others referred to in the report, are incompatible with articles 3 and 23 of the Covenant.” (59th Session, March 1997)

on India: “While acknowledging measures taken to outlaw child marriages (Child Marriages Restraint Act), the practice of dowry and dowry-related violence (Dowry Prohibition Act and the Penal Code) and sati—self-immolation of widows—(Commission of Sati [Prevention] Act), the Committee remains gravely concerned that legislative measures are not sufficient and that measures designed to change the attitudes which allow such practices should be taken. The Committee is also concerned that giving male children preferred treatment persists, and deplores that practices such as foeticide and infanticide of females continue. The Committee further notes that rape in marriage is not an offence and that rape committed by a husband separated from his wife incurs a lesser penalty than for other rapists. The Government must take further measures to overcome these problems and to protect women from all discriminatory practices, including violence.” (60th Session, July 1997)

on Sudan: “The Committee expresses concern over official enforcement of strict dress requirements for women in public places, under the guise of public order and morality; and over inhuman punishment imposed for breaches of such requirements . . . The Committee is deeply concerned about the practice of female genital mutilation in the Sudan, particularly because it is practiced on female minors, who may suffer the consequences throughout their lives. This practice violates articles 7 and 24 of the Covenant. The State party should forbid, as a matter of law, this practice making it a discrete criminal offence. Social and educational campaigns should be pursued to eliminate this practice.” (61st Session, November 1997)

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JULIA SMITH

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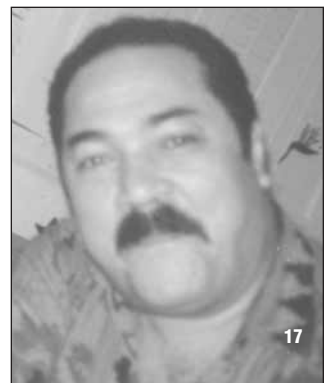


JULIA SMITH

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JULIA SMITH

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MARVINE YEUNG

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JULIA SMITH

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STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	1997 AS OF DECEMBER 31	1996 AS OF DECEMBER 31
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$149,536	\$109,944
Petty cash	499	499
Grants receivable	42,300	110,613
Prepaid expenses	15,547	1,003
Equipment	30,741	13,797
Other assets	6,785	945
Total assets	<u>\$245,408</u>	<u>\$236,801</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 11,878	\$ 6,529
Net Assets		
Unrestricted*	191,230	119,659
Temporarily restricted	42,300	110,613
Total net assets	<u>233,530</u>	<u>230,272</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$245,408</u>	<u>\$236,801</u>

*Including \$75,000 set aside by the Board of Directors to establish an Africa Regional Office.

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	1997	1996
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
REVENUES AND OTHER SUPPORT		
Contributions	\$246,804	\$225,211
Donated services	33,000	36,550
Sundry income	4,339	2,711
	<u>284,143</u>	<u>264,472</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	178,980	89,443
Total revenues and other support	<u>463,123</u>	<u>353,915</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services		
Women's Action Network	161,104	197,606
FGM Project	109,605	35,028
UN Human Rights Committee	31,919	34,119
Supporting services		
Management and General	51,740	36,064
Fundraising	37,184	26,046
Total expenses	<u>391,552</u>	<u>328,863</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>71,571</u>	<u>25,052</u>
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Contributions	110,667	185,056
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>(178,980)</u>	<u>(89,443)</u>
Increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>(68,313)</u>	<u>95,613</u>
Change in net assets	3,258	120,665
Net assets: January 1	230,272	109,607
Net assets: December 31	<u>\$233,530</u>	<u>\$230,272</u>

Copies of the complete, audited reports may be obtained from Equality Now or from the State of New York, Department of Law, Office of Charities Registration, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12223.

FOUNDATION SUPPORT 1996–1997

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- The Bydale Foundation
- The Dreitzer Foundation
- Echoing Green
- The European Human Rights Foundation
- The Ford Foundation
- The Joyce Mertz-Gilmore Foundation
- The John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- The Moriah Fund
- The Ms. Foundation for Education and Communication
- The New York Friends Group
- NOVIB
- The Ruben & Elisabeth Rausing Trust
- The Reebok Human Rights Foundation
- Laurance S. Rockefeller
- The Spingold Foundation
- The Streisand Foundation
- The Ruth Turner Fund

Photos, pages 22 and 23: **1.** MaeChee Khunying Kanitha Wichiencharoen, Surita Sandosham. **2.** Stephanie Mermin. **3.** A. Leon Higginbotham Jr., Navanethem Pillay. **4.** Marj Byler. **5.** Bonnie Greenfield, Jana Chrzova, Heather Paley, Diana Perry Elby. **6.** Surita Sandosham, Suad Yusuf. **7.** Sapana Pradhan-Malla. **8.** Lul Ahmed, Jessica Neuwirth. **9.** Anshu Padayachee, Yvonne Chaka Chaka, Jessica Neuwirth. **10.** Hanny Lightfoot-Klein. **11.** Adrienne Gombos. **12.** Robin Morgan, Carol Gilligan, Marie Wilson. **13.** Amanda Sullivan. **14.** Joan Sullivan. **15.** Susan Allee, Taina Bien-Aimé, Asma Abdel Halim, Amanda Sullivan, Faiza Jama Mohamed, Maurine Rothschild, Gloria Steinem (top row); Ken Franzblau, Marcia Ann Gillespie, Jessica Neuwirth (bottom row). **16.** Asha Samad. **17.** Mohammed Moneib. **18.** Jacqueline Johnson. **19.** Liz Young, Jacqui Hunt. **20.** Deborah Taylor Ashford, Ken Franzblau. **21.** Madelyn Guerra.

Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home

Después de todo, dónde comienzan los derechos humanos universales? En los lugares pequeños, cercanos a nuestra casa

Et d'ailleurs, où commence le respect des droits universels? Dans des lieux familiers, proches du foyer. . . .

أين تبدأ حقوق الإنسان العالمية؟ إنها تبدأ في تلك الأماكن الصغيرة بالقرب من المساكن

ELEANOR ROOSEVELT