



International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

E-Newsletter – September 2008

Current UN-INSTRAW work/activities

International Forum on Gender-based Violence and Human Security

The International Forum on Gender-based Violence and Human Security entitled “[*Crafting Human Security in an Insecure World*](#)” was held at the University of San Diego, California, with the objective of exchanging experiences and addressing the global problem of the lack of access to security during and after conflicts by the most vulnerable populations, amongst which are women and children. The Forum was co-convened by the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice (IPJ), the Global Justice Center, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and UN-INSTRAW. Experts and human rights advocates gathered with security actors such as peacekeepers, police, armed forces, paramilitary groups, prison personnel and border guards to enhance their awareness on the subject of gender-based violence. This provided them with information about successful strategies for overcoming cycles of conflict and exploitation through gender-inclusive peacebuilding, providing protection to civilians, and enforcing justice in all stages of conflict situations.

Read more:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/es/media-center/notas-de-prensa/international-forum-on-gender-based-violence-and-human-sec.html>

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International Day of Peace: Gender Equality Key to Effective Peacekeeping

On the International Day of Peace, September 21st 2008, the UN System turned its attention to the role of peacekeepers in promoting and strengthening human rights. Adding its voice to a calling for an end to war and conflict throughout the world, UN-INSTRAW emphasizes the crucial role that gender equality plays in making peacekeeping more effective, sustainable and just. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Resolution 1820 on Acts of Violence against Civilians in Conflict Zones, underscore the importance of including the gender perspective in peacekeeping operations. These resolutions also emphasize the importance of training Member States on protecting and involving women in peace-building measures; and implementing training activities for UN personnel assigned to peacekeeping missions in order to help them recognize the different forms of violence in conflict situations. UN-INSTRAW has also emphasized on the aspect of gender training for peacekeepers in UN missions in its working paper on [Gender Training for Peacekeepers: A preliminary overview of United Nations peace support operations](#). UN-INSTRAW offers a global overview of UN peacekeeping missions and peacekeeping training centers, tools and materials in its website page on [Gender Training for Peacekeepers](#).

Read more:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/es/media-center/notas-de-prensa/gender-equality-key-to-effective-peaceke.html>

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Gender Training Community of Practice

UN-INSTRAW is developing a Community of Practice (CoP) on Gender Training with the objective of promoting dialogue and analysis of the current state of gender training and identifying recommendations to improve its impact and sustainability. Practitioners will share their knowledge and expertise thus contributing to strengthen gender training and mainstreaming. The UN-INSTRAW CoP consists of several components for tracking and analyzing experience on this issue, producing consolidated resources, providing examples and templates for key documents relevant to successful gender training and a who's who of CoP participants. For more information on this initiative, terms of reference and application form for participants, please visit:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/media-center/e-news/gender-training-community-of-practice-4.html>

New Virtual Discussion on Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development

From 8 September to 3 October 2008, UN-INSTRAW hosted a Virtual Discussion on "Gender, Migration, Remittances and Development: Towards a Participatory Research Framework". The discussion gathered more than 90 experts, academics and researchers from over 20 countries to discuss international migration and development from a gender perspective. Women represent almost half of all world migrants and play a crucial role as providers for their households and are influential economic actors, contributing to making remittances the largest source of foreign currency for many underdeveloped countries. The virtual discussion hosted by UN-INSTRAW has the objective of encouraging the debate around the important contribution of women to development.

Read more:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/en/media-center/e-news/new-virtual-discussion-on-gender-migration-remittances-and-develo-4.html>

The Contribution of Migrant Women to National Development

Women's participation in migratory flows and contribution to development was one of the main topics of the International Conference on Gender, Migration and Development: Seizing Opportunities, Upholding Rights (September 25-26, Manila). The conference aimed to identify the positive aspects of migration, mitigating the negative effects and promoting greater gender equality in both sending and receiving countries. According to Diana Lopez Castañeda, UN-INSTRAW Researcher on gender, migration and development, "It is important to build a better understanding of how factors such as the feminization of migration, gender inequalities in access to productive resources, sexual division of labour, gender roles, etc. affect and determine the relationship between migration and development. Remittances have provided a critical point of analysis of this relationship, as they are sent, received and managed by women." Among other objectives of the conference was to exchange knowledge and best practices, to integrate a gender perspective and rights-based approach to policies and services related to migration and to contribute to placing gender issues at the centre of the 2nd Global Forum on Migration and Development, to be held in Manila later this year.

Read more:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/es/media-center/notas-de-prensa/the-contribution-of-migrant-women-to-national-develo.html>

Bolivia: Women Politicians from 8 Latin American Countries Participate in Pathway to Learning

UN-INSTRAW and the Regional Association PROCASUR organized a “Pathway to Learning” in Bolivia on 12-15 September 2008. Women mayors, councilwomen, and representatives of gender mechanisms from Colombia, Dominican Republic, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia participated in this collective training event. Among the objectives of this event was to exchange knowledge and ideas, analyze the situation of women in local governments and promote public policies with a gender perspective in municipal administration. Participants also had the opportunity to learn about the experiences of women mayors that have conducted outstanding work and who have succeeded in making the gender perspective a reality within and beyond their municipalities. This initiative falls under the framework of the third phase of the project “Strengthening governance, gender and the political participation of women at the local level”, carried out by UN-INSTRAW (financed by AECID). As part of this project, several studies have been conducted that have made evident the need to develop capacity-building programmes based on the experiences of women and from a participatory perspective.

Read more:

<http://www.un-instraw.org/es/media-center/notas-de-prensa/bolivia-mujeres-municipalistas-de-8-paises-latinoamericanos-participan-en-una-ruta-de-aprendi.html>

Women and Information on the Fight against Corruption

UN-INSTRAW participated at the III Interamerican Forum of Women against Corruption that was held from 29 September to 1 October 2008 at the Faculty of Law, University of Buenos Aires, Argentina. Some of the issues debated at this forum focused on women’s access and utilization of Information Communication Technologies (ICTs), their incidence in political decision-making processes and the measures adopted by governments to inform women about their rights. The increased utilization of ICTs by Latin American women is contributing to lessening the digital divide. The digital divide has negative consequences, as the lack of access to information and technology has put women at a disadvantage. The representative of UN-INSTRAW pointed out among other issues that “A greater utilization of ICTs by women will enable them to participate in advocacy networks. Women would have access to new employment opportunities, to interactive initiatives of learning, to electronic commercial activities and would be able to receive quality information that is not available in other traditional media. Also, since the production and dissemination of public information, such as political decisions, is still scarcely available to the general public, ICTs could act as a more transparent and democratic information tool that would permit greater participation.” Other issues debated during the forum were the impact of corruption on women’s human rights, gender violence, access to justice and the labour market, political participation, and the inclusion of women in issues related to the environment..

Read more: <http://www.un-instraw.org/en/media-center/press-releases/mujeres-e-informacion-en-la-lucha-contra-la-corrupcion.html>

Global Gender News

European Union Calls for Less Gender Stereotyping in Advertising

On 3 September 2008, Members of the European Parliament (MEP) voted overwhelmingly in support of a report about the effects of marketing on gender equality and gender stereotyping. The report was approved with 504 votes in favor, 110 against and 22 abstentions. The report, which is non-legally binding, will assist in drafting new EU legislation. It calls on the media to set better examples in relation to a gender

perspective, and recommends the use of more realistic images when portraying female bodies. At the policy level, it calls on EU countries to monitor how gender is portrayed in advertising and encourages EU institutions to monitor the progress of existing laws on sex discrimination.

Learn more about the [EU Parliament and the Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality](#)

Gender Inequality Negatively Affects Aid and Development

During a three-day meeting on 3-6 September in Accra, Ghana, the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the European Commission (EC) more than 1000 representatives from governments and aid agencies met to discuss the need for donors and governments to address the issue of gender inequality in order to achieve goals of poverty reduction. The meeting focused on evaluating the progress made since the signing of the Paris Declaration of Aid Effectiveness, an international declaration on aid reform. Donors and governments were encouraged to include gender proponents in all areas of development, such as planning, budgeting and monitoring. They stressed that the inclusion of gender in national development renders aid more effective. UNIFEM points out that over a billion women in the world are living in poverty, thus the importance of gender equality and the inclusion of women in development.

Read more: <http://www.gendermatters.eu/>

New European 50/50 Campaign Launch to Promote Democracy and to Increase the Presence of Women at the Top of European Politics

The European Women's Lobby 50/50 Campaign "No Modern European Democracy without Gender Equality" was launched on 16 September 2008 and will run until June 2009. The European wide campaign aims to increase the presence of women at the highest level of European politics and to encourage women and voters in general to cast their votes in the next European elections. The Campaign is personally endorsed by almost 200 well known personalities across Europe such as European Commission President and Vice President José Manuel Barroso and Margot Wallström, Prime minister of Belgium Yves Leterme, President of the Slovenian Republic Danilo Türk, former Irish President Mary Robinson, Nobel Price winner Orhan Pamuk, and the former President of the European Parliament Simone Veil.

The campaign website: <http://www.5050democracy.eu/> offers different tools in which to be involved and influence political parties and decision-makers in view of the European elections in 2009.

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About UN-INSTRAW

UN-INSTRAW is an Institute devoted to applied research, training and knowledge management in partnership with governments, the United Nations Agencies, civil society and academia to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment.

Website: www.un-instraw.org