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Dear Colleagues,

Yet another International Women’s Day is here. We thought you would find it interesting to see how it is commemorated in some parts of the world and by some IOM Missions and have included a special column on this. We hope and trust that all Missions will commemorate this day through innovative and appropriate events. As for HQs, the WGGI will run a slide show on migrant women throughout IOM’s history and programmes.

Has it ever occurred to you that there should be an International Men’s Day? The immediate reply could be that every day is men’s day and that women are particularly commemorated because they have not yet reached equality. Although this is true in a lot of fields, in the interest of true gender analysis we think it would be fair that a special day be set aside for men as well. By not doing this, it may just feed the fires of insecurity and subjectivity.

Let this not detract, however, from the importance of the original intention of devoting a special day to women – there are still millions today who are fighting for their very lives and basic human rights. And this day is dedicated to them.

The Working Group on Gender Issues

Bread and Roses

As we go marching marching in the beauty of the day
 A million darkened kitchens, a thousand mill lots gray
 Are touched with all the radiance that a sudden sun discloses
 For the people hear us singing: bread & roses, bread & roses!
 As we go marching, marching, we battle too for men
 For they are women's children & we mother them again
 (For men can ne'er be free til our slavery's at an end)
 Our lives shall not be sweated from birth until life closes
 Hearts starve as well as bodies, give us bread but give us roses
 As we go marching, marching, unnumbered women dead
 Go crying thru our singing their ancient call for bread
 Small art & love & beauty their drudging spirits knew
 Yes it is bread we fight for, but we fight for roses too
 As we go marching, marching, we bring the greater days
 The rising of the women means the rising of the race
 No more the drudge & idler, ten that toil where one reposes
 But a sharing of life's glories - bread & roses, bread & roses!

James Oppenheim, 1910s,
inspired by a slogan used by protesting women textile workers:
bread symbolizing economic security and roses a better quality of life.

IWD AROUND THE WORLD

IOM Dili Timor Leste:

Preparations are underway to organize a public gathering with music, speeches and movies. The Consultative Working Group for Gender Issues here in Dili supports this initiative. (GFP Monique van Hoof)

IOM Hanoi:

We are participating in a 'Gender Competition' that will identify the best local practices for gender equality organized by the UN Gender Focal Point Group. Governmental and non-governmental organizations, community groups and individuals have been invited to submit an information paper describing any of their ongoing projects contributing to gender equality or women's empowerment. The entries were received by 20 January and now the winners are being selected (1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes plus special recognition). The award ceremony will be held on 7th March as an annual event to mark IWD. Unfortunately there was no entry on migration-related projects, but a few do cover trafficking victims. IOM will follow up when the winners are announced. (GFP Maki Ohashi)

IOM Ankara:

The Middle East Technical University Women Studies Center will organize a one-week programme for the IWD. IOM was invited to give a presentation on **traf-**

ficking in women on 3 March 2003. I gave a presentation on behalf of IOM. (GFP Eltom Mersoy)

MRF Lima:

CLADEM PERU (Cttee for Latin America and the Caribbean for the Defence of Women's Rights), is celebrating March 8 with the XVI Festival CANTO A LA VIDA.

Different institutions, organizations, and women's NGOs will organize several stands at the National Museum of Lima which will be open to the public and some folklore groups and a rock band will perform.

IOM will participate with its own stand on the Information Campaign on Trafficking of Persons and Irregular Migration. Material will be handed out to the public as well as visuals. It is expected that 5.000 people will attend this event (GFP Manfred Ritter).

NEWS FROM HEAD-QUARTERS

GFP Loretta Iuri summarised:

Women and Nature

Globalisation is interpreted as a synonym of so-called 'free' market economics to which there seems to be no alternative. This concept concerns the expansion of capital to every aspect of human society.

But the freedom of the 'free' market applies to capital investment and free movement of goods and services, and

not to the right of movement of people from the South to the North.

From the author's* ecofeminist point of view, the rights in a globalised system means the right to livelihood for people and other species. This is not about work and money or development, it is the right to share the beauty of the planet. In fact, 'development' which is supposed to bring equality seems to be just an illusion.

The author states that globalisation is not an equal or free system, it creates further division between races, classes and gender. It appears that the dominant groups in the global economy are 'male, white and privileged'. Globalisation is defined by two features: the elimination of independent means of livelihood in favour of the waged economy and the role of money as a means of accumulation. Both of these have a negative impact on women.

The globalised economy has facilitated men's right to social space and time while women are more close to home and family responsibilities. 'Working' women still have to nurse the ill and look after the children.

Through her research in gender inequalities, the author informs that the main question is time. For a long time women have done the most time-absorbing work, while men have taken part in social activities such as monument-building, trade and war. Women have been too taken by their responsibilities in the home to have an equal parti-

icipation in the development of social and public structures.

The aim of globalisation is not an economic system to provide for global households, it is a sophisticated 'game' with short-term opportunities for everyone to join in. When the builders of this system are questioned or blamed, they respond that as individuals they have no power, which is true. That is the nature of a power system. Change is possible if we understand the organizing principles of the power game that is going on.

*Mellor, M. «Feminism and Ecology», Polity Press, 1997 in *Resurgence*, 216, January/February, 2003.

NEWS FROM THE FIELD

AFRICA AND THE MIDDLE EAST

IOM Damascus

GFP Shaza Kandakji reports:

Women and Education Conference

Sponsored by First Lady Asmaa Al-Asad, the Syrian Arab Republic hosted the Women and Education Conference that coincided with Arab Women's Day, launched February 1st, 2001. The Conference was marked by the participation of the First Ladies of Lebanon, Jordan, Bahrain, Egypt and Sudan, as well as by groups and

delegations concerned with women, education and gender-related issues.

The Conference took place on 2 and 3 February in the Palace of Conferences in Damascus. It consisted of a series of lectures and symposiums that focused on the situation of women in the different sectors of society; the relation between women, education and development; and the role of education in empowering women to reach decision making positions.

With the participation of 50 experts from different Arab countries, two days of Round Table activities went hand in hand with the conference. The Round Table meetings focused on the following issues:

- The new concept of education and the difference between it and child rearing,
- The present challenges faced by the Arab person,
- How to preserve acquired values while keeping pace with on-going progress,
- The role of the Arab woman in consolidating the Arab character.

The First Lady and her guests also inaugurated a number of exhibitions that accompanied the Conference. These exhibitions were:

- *The Syrian Experience in the Field of Education:* This exhibition shed light upon the reality of Syria's

experience in the education field and women reaching decision-making positions.

- *Female Fingerprints:* Presenting some of the productive activities of Syrian women, especially those related to the household, this exhibition demonstrated that Syrian women are actively participating in developing their household as the main cell to their country's progress.

- *Folk Proverbs:* This exhibition recomposed some folk proverbs tackling women's education and their role in society in a cheerful way. It also showed the role folk proverbs play in affecting people's thinking.

- *Woman in the eyes of our Nation:* This was demonstrated through Children's drawings, youth's drawings, artists' drawings, sculptures and photography.

THE AMERICAS

IOM Santo Domingo

GFP Mireille Smit:

In response to the large number of women who have been trafficked from the Dominican Republic to Argentina, IOM Santo Domingo has initiated a reintegration assistance programme for 50 women who have been returned to their home country through the assistance of IOM Buenos Aires. It is estimated that there are at least 6,000 Dominican women

living in Argentina, after being lured there under false pretences of a good paying job in either restaurant or domestic work. Upon their arrival, most women find themselves forced to work within the sex trade in order to pay off mounting debts incurred from their journey.

Most of these women are recruited within poor neighbourhoods of Santo Domingo, as well as poor rural areas within the interior of the country. Usually the recruiter is an older woman from the neighbourhood. Generally speaking, most are dark-skinned girls with little or no educational background, and few employment opportunities within their communities.

Working in conjunction with the State Secretariat for Women and national NGOs, IOM Santo Domingo is currently in the process of visiting returnees and conducting informal interviews. The purposes of these visits are:

- To establish and maintain contact with these women in order to assess their immediate needs (psychological, physical, vocational training etc.);
- To distribute information material on trafficking, that may be helpful to these women as well as to women they know who may be considering leaving the Dominican Republic for job prospects;

- To inform them about a newly created reception centre for returned trafficking survivors, and other women who have migrated under exploitative conditions;
- To establish a database for follow-up purposes.

Since the recent induction of this reintegration project, six women have been interviewed and three have received aid in the form of psychological counselling, medical attention, and enrolment in both primary and computer classes.

In addition, the IOM office in Santo Domingo, in collaboration with the Public Ministry, the State Secretariat for Women and the Inter-institutional Committee for the Protection of Migrant Women (CIPROM), held two seminars on February 24th and 25th. The purpose of these seminars was to review the main aspects of an effective counter-trafficking legislation and to discuss recommendations for a national law project.

Among the participants, there were the Attorney General and members of his staff, representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the State Secretariat for Women, the Youth State Secretariat, the Tourism State Secretariat and the National Police, migration authorities and the Armed Forces.

Since IOM's counter-trafficking programmes in the Dominican Republic began in October 2001, the office has carried out activities to inform and increase awareness amongst potential victims, public institutions as well as civil society. It has carried out training for NGOs, two studies on the scope and dimensions of trafficking and is sponsoring a graduate course on migration and trafficking. This year, the focus will be on preparation of legislation, training for the judiciary and the police, and an information campaign.

ASIA

IOM Hong Kong

GFP Gloria KO reports:

Gender Issues in China and its Special Administrative Region Hong Kong

In contemporary China, gender equality is emphasized and well recognized by the Central Government of the People's Republic of China. But a recent national survey carried out by the All-China Women's Federation found that women are still in a 'passive and disadvantageous' position in the workplace. According to the survey, the employment rate of women aged between 18 and 49 has decreased by more than 16 percent compared to 1990. For working women in the cities, the average income is about 70 percent that of men. Twenty per cent of the men have had promotion opportunities in the past three years,

while of their female counterparts only 16 per cent did. The Federation also discovered that fewer women have been protected by proper unemployment and retirement pensions, which will prompt the federation to suggest that the National People's Congress write 'safeguarding equality in employment' into the Law on the Protection of Women's Rights and Interests. According to the spokeswoman from the Federation, 'Discrimination against women has become the most severe employment problem in China, ranging from higher recruitment requirements for women to scarce promotion opportunities and humiliating workplace abuse.' *The China Daily*, 16. December, 2002.

With the gender emphasis of China, it is to be noted that the new Politburo of 24 members includes only one woman.

While in Hong Kong, the South China Morning Post reported on 23 December 2002 that the Women's Commission finds that the Government emphasises lifelong education, but up to 1.2 million women have education levels of Form three or below. Most continuing education programmes were suited to the schedules and training needs of men. With this in mind, the commission has created a programme enabling women to learn at their own pace from home. The result of this programme is not yet known.

It is also interesting to note, the statistics from the Hong Kong Population Census of 2001 show:

No schooling
 Female 12.6%
 Male 4.6%

Secondary and above
 Female 67.4%
 Male 75 %

With jobs
 Female 51.6%
 Male 71.9%

Median monthly income:
 Female \$ 8,900
 Male \$12,000

Workers who earn less than \$5,000
 Female 80%
 Male 20%

Most common occupations:
 Female : community, social and personal services (37%) and clerks (26.6%)
 Male: wholesale, retail and import/export, restaurants & hotels (23.5%), financing, insurance, real estate and business services (17%)

Welfare recipients:
 Female 206,791 Male: 190,677

I found that the above report confirms that, while both the Governments of China and Hong Kong put emphasis on gender awareness, it is clear that there is a lot to do to narrow the gap between the two genders. The Governments should put more resources into training and in policy

making to increase the gender awareness of its people.

IOM Dili Timor Leste:

GFP Monique Van Hoof reports:

Last week, two training sessions, one in English and the other in Bahasa Indonesia and Tetum, were organized on the topic "HIV/AIDS awareness training". A UN doctor from the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General facilitated the training. Some 15 staff members, local and international attended this briefing.



Participant of HIV/AIDS Awareness Training

In the session in Bahasa Indonesia, most of the participants were drivers. The group of drivers was really a very important group because of the nature of their job. Some of them stayed away from home for long periods of time. About 60 people attended this session. One of IOM's staff members translated the information into the local language. The training facilitator was impressed by the way his colleague transmitted the message and asked for his assistance in six other (UN) local staff briefings.

SOUTHWEST ASIA

MRF Islamabad:

GFP Asma Shafi reports:

On 20 February 2003, IOM and the Ministry of Interior, organized a Seminar on Human Trafficking and Smuggling. This was the first time that the issue was openly discussed by the Government of Pakistan. For IOM, the event was a follow-up activity to the formation of an ordinance specific to trafficking in October of 2002. The idea was to determine, for the GOP and other stakeholders, the next steps to be taken following the ordinance, while placing the issue as a priority on the national agenda. The participation of high-level Government officials, Ambassadors of various countries, international organizations, and civil society organizations ensured the success of this venture. One of the actions the GOP has taken, based on instructions from the Minister of Interior, is the formation of an Inter-Ministerial Committee.

While focusing on the issue at hand, IOM presentations repeatedly pointed out the relevance of Gender and Health in trafficking. It was highlighted that all IOM Counter trafficking activities were in line with the Organization's gender policy, and that trafficking in human beings relied heavily on certain elements such as: vulnerability of victims, coercion, abusive exploitation, and sexual violence.



"Wildfire exercise"

The sessions also included an exercise where people had to stand in a circle (eyes closed) and one -unknown to others- 'infected' person had to scratch the palm of the hand of five persons at random. They, in turn, had to scratch others. The rest of the group members had to simply shake hands. If one received a hand-shake, one was to continue to handshake. If scratched, then one stopped giving handshakes and scratched the next person. This exercise was called the "wildfire exercise". It explained how fast and easy HIV could be transmitted without knowing or seeing it. Everybody seemed really engaged in and fascinated by the training. You just had to observe the attentive looks on the faces of the audience.



Participants of HIV/AIDS Awareness Training



Seminar on Human Trafficking

Participants were divided into two groups as follows:

- Group 1 – Criminalization, Prosecution and Prevention of Trafficking
- Group 2 – Protection and care of Victims of Trafficking

The discussions that ensued led to the following recommendations: in the matter of Criminalization, it was recognized that organized networks of traffickers and petty criminal groups based in countries of origin, transit and destination were mainly responsible for illegal migration. The majority of illegal trafficking took place through inter border movements organized by criminals through difficult terrains of long borders which were hard to monitor. Tampering of documents was increasing as a cause of illegal movement under legal cover. The main criminals in the entire process of trafficking were organized, whereas the trafficked individuals, whether women children or youth, are trapped for economic reasons linked to poverty. Economic and sexual exploitation of trafficked women, children and youth and movement through hazardous channels of transportation were viewed as serious crimes and offenses under

international law. The group recommended that prosecution and punishment of the offenders be effectively implemented.

Regarding prosecution, it was agreed that in Pakistan, the Prevention and Control of Human Trafficking Ordinance 2002, was an important step forward alongside the constitutional and other legal instruments. The group recommended the institutionalization of mechanisms to formulate a strategy for combating actual trafficking in light of national laws. The need for raising awareness of related laws across the board and at different levels of the law enforcement agencies and the judicial fora concerned was also recognized, in addition to arranging focused courses/ workshops within and outside Pakistan for capacity building. Formulation of laws in accordance with international conventions and the provision of speedy justice through measures like special courts handling cases of human trafficking were proposed. Law enforcement agencies also needed to be sensitized on trafficking processes and issues.

Regarding prevention, the group recommended the need for FIA to focus on the menace of trafficking with new vigor and take effective counter measures. Law enforcement agencies needed to be given additional equipment and training to reinforce their strengths and capacities, including training within and

outside the country on modern techniques. The root causes of the problems should be determined, research undertaken and documentation gathered to increase general knowledge and understanding of trafficking and smuggling. A database of returning migrants should be introduced as a sound basis for policy measures. Since a closed door policy leads to illegal movements, the avenues of legal employment abroad as per existing requirements of manpower needed to be kept open. Since trafficking was a transnational crime, a strong international coordination and cooperation needed to be institutionalized to effectively combat the menace of human trafficking.



Seminar team

Regarding protection and care of victims of trafficking, the Group recommended the arrangement of bilateral agreements between Pakistan and other countries for providing relief to the victims abroad and that special funds be allocated to Embassies for solving the problems of Pakistani nationals held in foreign countries. A mechanism for assistance and reintegration of victims should be implemented in coordination between the Ministry of La-

bour, Ministry of Women's Development and law enforcement agencies. A national plan of action should be prepared as mentioned by the Secretary of the Ministry of Women's Development, including a budget provision for the implementation of the 2002 ordinance. Communication and exchange of information between government agencies and NGOs needed to be institutionalized. Referral mechanisms between Government agencies, specialized institutions and NGOs for services should be implemented and include dialogue and coordination. Mass awareness programme at the grass roots level had to be developed and implemented, including the decentralization of seminars and training at the provincial level. Medical and psychological help should be provided to victims. Programmes under poverty alleviation for economic development should include components for assistance to victims of trafficking.

EUROPE

IOM Ankara:

GFP Eltom Mersoy writes:

Gender Equality in Turkey

Turkey is a Muslim country situated between western and eastern countries. The population is approximately 65 million, 60% of whom are children below 14 and women aged between 15 and 49.

Turkey was reported to rank 45th out of 130 countries in

gender equality and development, based on gender in the CEDOW 97 report. The Directorate of Women's Status and Problems, NGOs, and academics with the support of the international organizations made efforts and in the last few years, some measures have been taken to change the situation. An important example is that the Turkish Civil Laws have been amended. Women now can share property and have other rights in the civil laws.

Gender equality shows the difference between urban and rural, as well as developed and less developed areas. As Turkey is a bridge between East and West, you can see both the reflection of eastern and western cultures.

The educational level based on gender is higher in developed areas compared with the less developed areas. In rural areas, girls work instead of going to school, while most boys are chosen to have an education. There is also a decrease in the male ratio after 8 years of obligatory education.

The ratio of women's participation in productive power is high in rural areas (48%)*. Unemployment is also less than in urban areas but social coverage is poor. Most women work without any social guarantee. 89 per cent of the women in the agricultural sector are unpaid family workers. In the cities, there is less productive power, less and more unemployment than compared with rural areas.

Most of the non-educated women have marginal jobs in the cities. When the educational level is increased, the ratio to attain productive power is much higher in the urban areas but qualified women are still represented in a low ratio at the high management level compared to men.

There is also no equality in political participation. For example, 18 out of 395 members of Parliament were women in 1935. And only 24 women were elected among the 550 members of the Parliament in 2002 elections.

Women face violence and because of economic reasons and pressure from family and society, most women have to live with their husbands in this condition. NGOs in Turkey have been working against violence in recent years. There is a hotline and there are some guest houses to accept these women.

Young women, especially in rural areas, are still not free to choose their spouses. We still see honour killing especially in the less developed areas.

I believe that the mentality should be changed in order to have equality. Very young girls are given duties and boys are served by their mothers and sisters. We have to give the same treatment to our children to reach more equality in the coming generations. Education is the key. Most of the NGOs were established in 1990s and I believe that their voice will

get more momentum in the near future.

**All statistical data are drawn from the CEDAW 97 report.*

GENDER QUIZ

The answer to last issue's question of who said: **I can honestly say that I was never affected by the question of the success of an undertaking. If I felt it was the right thing to do, I was for it regardless of the possible outcome?**

Golda Meir

This issue's question is: **"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."**

WEBSITE ADDRESSES

Office of the UN Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/>

Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality:
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge>

UPCOMING EVENTS

3-14 March - New York, USA
Title: Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) – 47th Session
Host/sponsor: UNHQ/DAW

Website:

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/47sess.htm>

9-14 March - Bangkok, Thailand

Title: Workshop on Women, Gender and Development in Southeast Asia

Sponsor: Women's Action and resource Initiative (WARI)

Details: The workshop is geared towards persons active in the field of gender and development enabling them to better apply analytical tools and strategies to ensure that gender equity and equality are prioritized on project and programme agendas.

Website:

<http://www.geocities.com/wari9/course> 2003.htm

10-15 March Porto, Portugal

Title: European Week for the Conciliation of work, family and social life.

Sponsor: Byweb – sponsored by the EQUAL programme

Details: The European Week will provide an open space for reflection and debate on the following themes: Inter-generationality, Education for equal opportunities, management of time and social equipment, management of physical spaces in the conciliation between

work/family, time and labour contract flexibility, Men's rights on the conciliation work/family being crucial.

Website:

<http://www.byweb.pt/viver>

14-16 April Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

Title: Expert Group meeting on new strategies for Gender Training and Capacity Building

Sponsor: INSTRAW

Details: The objectives of the meeting are: taking stock of gender training and capacity building during the past 20 years; identifying current gaps and needs; assessing the use of ICTs for gender training and capacity building; identifying INSTRAW's role in gender training and capacity building and proposing a training strategy for INSTRAW. Invited experts will be expected to prepare background papers for the three-day meeting. The new training strategy for INSTRAW will be included in the final report of the meeting. UN agencies and other international organizations are invited to send their training specialists as observers to the meeting.

Email:

tsikoska@un-instraw.org

6-23 May - UK

Title: Gender, Health and Communicable Disease

Sponsor: Gender Health Group of the Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine

Details: the course aims to enhance the capacity of policy makers and planners to analyze and address gender inequities in health and health care in developing countries. The course has a specific focus on gender in infectious diseases such as TB. Malaria and Sexually Transmitted Infections the

implications for Health Systems Development.

Website:

<http://www.liv.ac.uk/lstm/educ/educ5.5htm>

7-9 May - Gauteng, South Africa

Title: Second South African Gender-Based Violence and Health Conference

Sponsor: South African Gender-Based Violence / Health Initiative

Details: the conference objectives are to share research findings and methodologies on gender-based violence and health, and debate key challenges of gender-based violence facing the health sector. The conference will address some critical issues such: child sexual abuse, HIV/AIDS, and violence against women, domestic violence and health issues; and gender-based violence against vulnerable groups.

Website:

<http://www.mrc.ac.za/conference/genderviolence.htm>

23-24 May Vienna, Austria

Title: Transformation, participation and gender justice: Feminist challenges in a globalized economy

Sponsor: Network Women in Development Europe (WIDE)

Details: This year's topic was chosen to raise awareness of the present complex political, economic and social dynamics, enable women to empower themselves to meet the challenges, show women's potential in finding alternatives.

Website:

http://www.eurosur.org/wide/Structure/AC_03htm

