

EQUALITY NOW



ALL FOR EQUALITY

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

Cover, left to right: Mariano Fernández Valle is a lawyer from Argentina who in his role as advisor to Argentina's National Congress and as Coordinator of Public Policy in the Fundación CIPPEC has driven forward initiatives aimed at improving women's access to justice. Berhane Teklu is an anti-FGM activist from Eritrea and a member of the anti-FGM school club in Akudat, which works with the National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students to educate young people on the dangers of female genital mutilation. Joss Whedon is a screenwriter and director from the United States whose work and powerful female characters, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, challenge the negative stereotypes of women constantly presented by Hollywood.

A VISION OF EQUALITY

Men on the Front Lines

This year Equality Now highlighted some of the many men who are on the front lines of the struggle for gender equality (see page 18). Too often men are seen buying, selling, battering, raping, and killing women, and not often are men seen supporting, respecting, promoting and empowering women. These are the men who are strengthening our vision of equality, and these are the men who give us hope for the future.

Equality Now has been campaigning for justice in the case of Woineshet Zebene Negash, an Ethiopian girl who was abducted and raped at the age of 13. While many Ethiopian fathers would have agreed to the subsequent marriage proposed by her abductor/rapist, Woineshet's father—Zebene Negash—stood by his daughter, demanding that those who violated her be held accountable. Instead of facilitating her oppression, Zebene protected Woineshet from forced marriage.



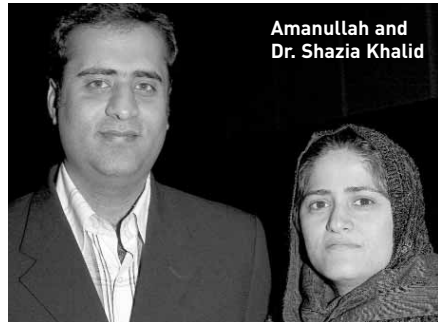
Equality Now has also been campaigning for justice in the case of Dr. Shazia, a Pakistani woman who was raped and effectively forced into exile when she went to the police seeking an investigation and prosecution of the rape. Amanullah Khalid, Shazia's husband, stood by his wife in a country where many other husbands have killed their wives to cleanse the family "honor" of a rape committed. He left the

country with her, and they are together building a new life abroad.

The media is a powerful force that can be used to highlight social progress and mobilize public pressure for political action. Nicholas Kristof used his column in the *New York Times* to publicize the plight of Mukhtar Mai, a Pakistani woman seeking justice for the gang rape she endured on the orders of her village tribal council, as punishment to her family for a sexual transgression allegedly committed by her brother. Kristof's column generated much needed financial support for the girls' school created by Mukhtar Mai. Now for the first time in her village, girls are learning to read and write. Their future is more promising thanks to this transnational solidarity.

Rather than promoting gender equality, the entertainment industry more often promotes discrimination against women, perpetuating harmful sex stereotypes. But Hollywood screenwriter Joss Whedon has used his creative talent to produce *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, a new model of girls' leadership that projects a powerful combination of strength and compassion, and creates a vision of equality that helps transform the traditional prejudices of young men and women.

These men support the efforts of Equality Now to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women. They are much needed role models for other men, and their solidarity gives hope to women around the world.



SOMMAIRE

Cette année, Egalité Maintenant a souligné le rôle des hommes à l'avant-garde de la lutte pour l'égalité des sexes. En Ethiopie, Zebene Negash a soutenu sa fille, Woineshet, enlevée et violée ; il a demandé justice pour elle et l'a protégée contre un mariage forcé. Au Pakistan, Amanullah Khalid a soutenu sa femme, le Dr Shazia, victime d'un viol dans un pays où certains maris tueraient leur épouse pour avoir été violée. Nicholas Kristof a utilisé l'espace qui lui est alloué dans le *New York Times* pour publier le cas de Mukhtar Mai, femme pakistanaise réclamant justice après avoir été victime d'un viol collectif sur l'ordre du conseil tribal de son village. Avec ses personnages féminins puissants, Joss Whedon, scénariste à Hollywood, fait évoluer les stéréotypes préjudiciables aux femmes.

RESUMEN

Este año, Igualdad Ya destacó a los hombres que luchan en primera línea por la igualdad de género. Zebene Negash, en Etiopía, apoyó a su hija Woineshet después de que ésta fuera secuestrada y violada, exigiendo justicia y protegiéndola del matrimonio forzado. Amanullah Khalid, en Pakistán, defendió a su mujer, la Dra. Shazia tras ser violada, en un país donde algunos hombres habrían matado a su esposa por haber sido violada. Nicholas Kristof aprovechó su columna en el *New York Times* para dar a conocer la difícil situación de Mukhtar Mai, una mujer pakistana que exigió justicia por la violación en grupo de la que había sido víctima por orden del consejo tribal de su pueblo. El guionista de Hollywood Joss Whedon está cambiando los estereotipos sexuales negativos a través de sus personajes femeninos muy fuertes.

ملخص

سلطت المساواة الآن الضوء هذا العام على بعض الرجال الذين كانوا في الصفوف الأمامية للنضال من أجل المساواة بين الجنسين. ففي إثيوبيا وقف زيبيني نيجاش إلى جانب ابنته، واتشيت، بعد تعرضها للاختطاف والاعتصاب، مطالبا لها بالعدالة ومقما لها الحماية من الزواج القسري. وفي باكستان وقف أمان الله خالد كذلك موازرا لزوجته، الدكتور شادية، بعد اغتصابها في بلد يقتل فيه بعض الأزواج زوجاتهم حين تتعرضن للاغتصاب. أما نيكولاس كريستوف فقد استخدم العمود الذي يكتبه بجرية النيويورك تايمز للتعريف بمحنة مختار ماي، وهي امرأة باكستانية تلمس الإنصاف من الاغتصاب الجماعي الذي عانته بناء على أوامر من المجلس القبلي بقريتها. وأما كاتب السيناريو بهولود جوس هودون، فيعمل من خلال شخصياته من الإناث القويات على تغيير الأنماط الجنسية الجامدة الضارة.

JUSTICE & EQUALITY

Mexico: Abduction and Murder of Women



Minerva Teresa Torres Albeldaño

Over the past decade, several hundred women have been abducted and murdered in or near Ciudad Juárez, a town in the state of Chihuahua at the United States border, and abductions/murders of a similar pattern have also occurred in Chihuahua City. In August 2006, Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign to protest the repeated and consistent failure of the Mexican authorities to investigate these crimes properly. Equality Now's campaign highlighted the case of Minerva Teresa Torres Albeldaño, an eighteen-year-old woman from Chihuahua City who disappeared in March 2001 after leaving home to attend a job interview. It took nine days for the police to initiate a search for Minerva, as they maintained that she had run away, denying the urgent and repeated requests of her parents for intervention. Officers assigned to the case changed repeatedly and leads were not followed up in a timely way. Finally in April 2005, four years after Minerva's parents had declared her missing, the Public Prosecutor's office asked Minerva's parents to provide DNA samples. In June 2005, they were informed that remains that had been discovered in July 2003 and held in the Office of Expert Services for two years belonged to Minerva.

According to reports issued by the Office of the Special Prosecutor, established in 2004 to resolve the homicides in Ciudad Juárez, there is evidence that 177 public servants involved in 120 cases acted either with administrative or criminal negligence in the investigations of the murders. The State Public Prosecutor's office claims that all state officials implicated by the Special Prosecutor in negligence have been removed from their positions. However, information from the Special Prosecutor documenting the alleged misconduct remains confidential and there has been no indication that any of the officials mentioned has been prosecuted, even in cases of suspected criminal responsibility.

Equality Now is urging the Chihuahua State authorities and federal officials to ensure that all cases of the murder of women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City are appropriately investigated and punished, and is calling for the prosecution of those officials responsible for the delay or obstruction of justice in these cases.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Minerva's case illustrates the repeated and consistent failure of the Mexican authorities to investigate these crimes properly. I urge you to find ways to ensure that all cases of the murder of women in Chihuahua State are appropriately investigated and punished.

Margaret Namusoke
UGANDA

I would like to remind you of the government's obligation under CEDAW to ensure equal protection of the law to women. I also would like to urge you to find ways to ensure that all cases of the murder of women in Chihuahua State are appropriately investigated and punished.

Brigitte Geske-Scholz
GERMANY

The case of Minerva Torres is a clear example of investigative misconduct and I ask you what is being done to bring to justice to those who were responsible for the delay or obstruction of justice in her case, including State Public Prosecutor Jesús José Solís Silva, who had over-

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sight responsibility at the time. I would also like to call on you to make clear by prosecuting the responsible government officials that obstruction of justice will not be tolerated.

Roula Scoutari
GREECE

I would like to urge you to find ways to ensure that all cases of murder of women in Chihuahua State are appropriately investigated and punished, in particular by prosecuting all those officials considered by the Special Prosecutor to be criminally negligent in their investigations. Thanks in anticipation. The whole world is waiting.

Bello F. Oluwakemi
NIGERIA

The Government Response:

The Mexican Government confirms its commitment to resolving each and every one of the cases that concern us, as well as reinforcing its work to prevent and eliminate these acts throughout the country. You can be sure that we are making and will make both an institutional and personal effort in attending to and following up on each of these cases that have seriously harmed Mexican society and especially Mexican women. [unofficial translation]

Dr. Alicia Pérez Duarte y Noroña
Special Prosecutor for the Attention of Crimes Related to Acts of Violence against Women in the Nation
MEXICO

Pakistan: Denial of Justice for Rape

In August 2005, Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign on the case of Dr. Shazia, a Pakistani physician who worked at a hospital run by Pakistan Petroleum Limited, a state-owned company. On 2 January 2005, Dr. Shazia was raped in her home by an intruder who broke in at night while she was sleeping. Despite intense pressure to keep silent by doctors at the company, Dr. Shazia reported the crime to the police. Instead of apprehending and punishing her attacker, the government of Pakistan pressured Dr. Shazia and her husband, Khalid, to flee the country.

In May 2006, Equality Now and the Women's Edge Coalition coordinated meetings for Dr. Shazia with US State Department officials and with US Congressional members and staff. Also in May, Dr. Shazia's husband Khalid was honored for his supportive role at a benefit event for Equality Now (see page 18).

Equality Now's international campaign urged the Pakistani government to amend or repeal the Hudood Ordinances, as called for by Pakistan's National Commission on the Status of Women. Under the Hudood Ordinances, rape was one of the offenses of *zina* requiring as proof either the confession of the perpetrator or the eyewitness testimony of four Muslim adult male witnesses.

On 1 December 2006, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf signed into law the Protection of Women (Criminal Laws) Amendment Act 2006, after it had been passed by both houses of parliament. The Act, which was passed amid extensive debate and criticism from civil society and women's activists in Pakistan, amended the Hudood Ordinances, ostensibly in order to ensure better protection for women who were victims of rape, but it did not revoke the Hudood Ordinances in their entirety.



Dr. Shazia

SOMMAIRE

En août 2006, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une campagne Action Femmes pour protester contre l'inertie des autorités mexicaines, qui ne se dément pas, en liaison avec la poursuite d'une enquête satisfaisante sur les meurtres de centaines de femmes à Ciudad Juárez et Chihuahua, au Mexique. La campagne Action Femmes a souligné le cas de Minerva Teresa Torres Albeldaño, jeune femme âgée de 18 ans, dont les restes ont été conservés par les autorités pendant deux ans avant que sa famille ne soit prévenue. La campagne appelle à l'engagement de poursuites à l'encontre des fonctionnaires et agents publics responsables de l'obstruction à la justice. Le 1^{er} décembre 2006, la loi sur la protection des femmes a été promulguée au Pakistan. Même si la nouvelle loi comporte des dispositions positives, elle n'abroge pas complètement les ordonnances Hudood, discriminatoires à l'égard des femmes.

RESUMEN

En agosto de 2006, Igualdad Ya presentó una campaña de Acción Mujeres para protestar por el continuo incumplimiento por parte de las autoridades mexicanas para llevar a cabo una investigación exhaustiva de los asesinatos de varios cientos de mujeres en Ciudad Juárez y en la ciudad de Chihuahua, en México. La Acción Mujeres destacó el caso de Minerva Teresa Torres Albeldaño, una joven de 18 años, cuyos restos fueron guardados por las autoridades durante dos años antes de notificarlo a su familia. La campaña exige el procesamiento de los funcionarios responsables de la obstrucción de la justicia. El 1 de diciembre de 2006, en Pakistán se aprobó la Ley de Protección de la Mujer. Aunque la nueva ley introduce pasos positivos, no revoca la totalidad de las discriminatorias Ordenanzas Hudood.

ملخص

وفي أغسطس/أب 2006، شنت المساواة الآن حملة للعمل النسائي للاحتجاج على استمرار تقاعس السلطات المكسيكية عن التحقيق الملائم في جرائم قتل عدة مئات من النساء في سيوداد خواريس وشيووا سيتي بالمكسيك. وسلطت نشره العمل النسائي الأضواء على حالة منيرفا تريزا توريس البيلدانيو، وهي امرأة عمرها 18 عاما احتجز المسؤولون جثتها لمدة عامين قبل إبلاغ أسرته. وتدعو الحملة إلى محاكمة الموظفين المسؤولين عن إعاقة العدالة. وفي 1 ديسمبر/كانون الأول 2006، تم التوقيع على قانون حماية المرأة وأصبح قانونا في باكستان. ورغم أن القانون الجديد يشتمل على خطوات إيجابية، فهو لا يلغي أحكام الحدود التمييزية تماما.

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The new law puts the offense of rape under the exclusive jurisdiction of the Penal Code, enabling cases to be heard only in a criminal court where standard evidentiary requirements apply. However, the new Act did not abolish the *zina* crimes of adultery and fornication, which remain in force under the Hudood Ordinances. The parallel crime of fornication has also been inserted into the Penal Code. Both provisions criminalize consensual sexual intercourse between a man and a woman not married to each other.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

It is unfortunate that nearly a decade after it acceded to CEDAW, some of the discriminatory laws and practices that existed in Pakistan when it ratified CEDAW continue to persist. The Zina Ordinance, among other things, criminalizes sex outside of marriage and requires a woman to provide the testimony of four men who witnessed the rape in order to prove that she was raped. It has been widely reported that women who are raped may be charged with adultery under the Zina Ordinance if they are unable to produce four male witnesses to the rape. The Zina Ordinance violates several provisions of CEDAW, most notably Article 15, which requires that women be equal with men under the law. Under Article 2 of CEDAW, Pakistan must take all efforts to eliminate discrimination against women and must amend or repeal discriminatory penal codes. Thank you for your attention to this significant issue.

Bettina B. Plevan, President
Association of the Bar of the City of New York
USA

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa came into force on 25 November 2005. Women's rights groups across Africa have been a strong force behind the groundbreaking Protocol, forming the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition to popularize the Protocol through public education about it, to encourage States to ratify it and to demand that, once ratified, the Protocol be applied domestically. Thanks in large part to the efforts of SOAWR, an additional five countries—two in 2005, and three in 2006—ratified the Protocol, bringing the total number of ratifying countries to 20 by the end of 2006.

In December 2006, the Nairobi office of Equality Now, which serves as the Secretariat of SOAWR, convened a meeting of leading women's rights advocates from countries across Africa in order to spearhead innovative legal strategies on how best to implement the Protocol in countries that have ratified it. The meeting also served as a venue to brainstorm test cases and other legal interventions to ensure that State Parties adhere to the standards of the Protocol. Lawyers attending the meeting came primarily from countries that had ratified the Protocol, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, The Comoros, Djibouti, The Gambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Africa, Togo, and Zambia. Also in attendance were lawyers from Ethiopia, Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda, and the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, Commissioner Angela Melo.



Above: Poster at a rally in New York City protesting the Hudood Ordinances, 18 September 2006. Below: Equality Now Executive Director Taina Bien-Aimé speaking at the rally.



Left to right: Executive Director of FIDA-Uganda Jane Musoke, Commissioner Angela Melo, Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women in Africa of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, and Equality Now President Jessica Neuwirth at a meeting of women's rights advocates to discuss implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, December 2006.

Ethiopia: Abduction and Rape

Equality Now launched a campaign in March 2002 calling on the Ethiopian Government to repeal articles of the former Ethiopian Penal Code, which provided that in the event of subsequent marriage to the victim, a perpetrator of rape and abduction was exempt from criminal responsibility. On 9 May 2005 the new Ethiopian Penal Code entered into force, removing this marital exemption for abduction and rape.

The campaign highlighted the case of Woineshet Zebene Negash, who at the age of 13 was abducted, raped and forced into marriage by Aberew Jemma Negussie in a village in southeastern Ethiopia. Negussie and his accomplices were sentenced to prison in July 2003; however, the sentence was overturned by an appeals court decision in December 2003 and the perpetrators were released. The case was appealed to the federal Cassation Court, which ruled in October 2005, finding no grounds for appeal. There are no further domestic avenues of appeal, and the abductor and his accomplices remain free with impunity.

Anecdotal information suggests abductions and rapes ceased when the outcome of Woineshet's case was uncertain, but continued when it was clear the perpetrators would go unpunished. Since all domestic remedies have been exhausted, in 2006 Equality Now began to prepare a case for submission to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, together with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, to continue efforts to secure justice in Woineshet's case and to send a clear message that the crimes of abduction and rape cannot remain unpunished.



Woineshet Zebene Negash

United Nations: Advancement of Women and Women's Rights

■ Campaign Against Discriminatory Laws

In 2006 Equality Now continued its efforts to support the appointment of a United Nations Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women, a campaign that

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À la fin de l'année 2006, vingt pays avaient ratifié le Protocole relatif aux droits de la femme en Afrique de la Charte africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples. En décembre 2006, le bureau d'Égalité Maintenant à Nairobi a réuni des activistes des droits de la femme de premier plan originaires de ces pays pour les inviter à réfléchir ensemble à des stratégies juridiques innovantes concernant la manière de mettre en œuvre le Protocole dans les meilleures conditions. En 2006, Égalité Maintenant a commencé à préparer un recours devant la Commission africaine des droits de l'homme et des peuples, dans le cadre d'un effort continu pour obtenir justice pour Woineshet Zebene Negash, jeune fille éthiopienne, qui à l'âge de 13 ans a été enlevée, violée et contrainte au mariage. En Éthiopie, tous les recours légaux à son égard ont échoué.

RESUMEN

Al finales de 2006, veinte países ratificaron el Protocolo de la Carta Africana de Derechos Humanos y de los Pueblos sobre los Derechos de la Mujer en África. En diciembre de 2006, la oficina de Nairobi de Igualdad Ya concertó una reunión de las principales abogadas de los derechos de la mujer de estos países para contemplar unas estrategias legales innovadoras para la implantación del Protocolo. En 2006, Igualdad Ya inició la preparación de un caso que se llevará ante la Comisión Africana por los Derechos Humanos y de los Pueblos en un continuo esfuerzo para garantizar la justicia en el caso de Woineshet Zebene Negash, una niña etíope que fue raptada, violada y obligada a casarse a la edad de 13 años. Los procedimientos legales dentro de Etiopía han resultado infructuosos.

ملخص

و بحلول نهاية العام 2006، كان عشرون بلدا قد صدقت على بروتوكول الميثاق الأفريقي لحقوق الإنسان والشعوب المتعلق بحقوق المرأة في أفريقيا. وفي ديسمبر/كانون الأول 2006، عقد مكتب المساواة الآن في نيروبي اجتماعا لكبار الدعاة في مجال حقوق المرأة من تلك البلدان للنظر في استراتيجيات قانونية مبتكرة عن أفضل كيفية لتنفيذ البروتوكول. وفي 2006 بدأت المساواة الآن في إعداد دعوى لرفعها أمام اللجنة الأفريقية المعنية بحقوق الإنسان والشعوب في محاولة مستمرة لتحقيق العدالة في قضية وانيشيت زيبيني نيجاش، وهي فتاة إثيوبية تعرضت في سن 13 للاختطاف ومن ثم للاغتصاب فالإرغام على الزواج. وقد فشلت سبل الانتصاف القانونية المحلية في إثيوبيا.

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IN MEMORIAM: ANGELA KING



Equality Now pays tribute to Angela E.V. King, the former Gender Advisor to the United Nations Secretary-General and a strong advocate for the rights of women worldwide. Marked by grace and style, Angela worked with quiet strength and steely determination to promote women's rights and the advancement of women, both in and outside the UN. Her personal commitment to ending violence and discrimination against women and girls was a gift to those working on the ground. She will be remembered dearly.

UNDAW

began in March 2005, when the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) convened for a ten-year review of the implementation of commitments made in 1995 in the Beijing Platform for Action, which included a pledge by governments to “revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex.” In 2000, the five-year review of the Platform for Action established a target date of 2005 for revocation of all discriminatory laws.

In 2004, Equality Now had issued its updated report on sex discriminatory laws, *Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing + 10 Review Process*, highlighting a representative sampling of discriminatory laws still in force and calling on governments to fulfill their pledge to revoke these laws by 2005.

At the CSW session in March 2005, Equality Now stressed the urgent need for a new mechanism to facilitate and accelerate implementation of the commitment made by governments to eliminate these laws by 2005. With support from a global coalition, Equality Now called on the CSW to create a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women. A resolution introduced by the Rwandan and Philippine Governments and co-sponsored by 21 countries was adopted by the CSW, calling for consideration of the advisability of the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women at the fiftieth session of the CSW in March 2006 and requesting a report from the Secretary-General.

The Secretary-General’s report, issued in December 2005, concluded that such a mechanism would have a great impact on the ability of the CSW to monitor the status of the repeal of discriminatory laws. However, a Special Rapporteur was not appointed at the 2006 session of the CSW. Instead, a resolution was passed, introduced by the Rwandan and Slovenian Governments and co-sponsored by the governments of Argentina, Burundi, Cameroon, Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Guinea, Republic of Korea and Tanzania, calling for further consideration of the establishment of a Special Rapporteur. At year-end 2006, twenty-one of the fifty-three countries highlighted in Equality Now’s reports since 1999 had amended or repealed the discriminatory laws highlighted.

■ *Representation of Women in the UN*

In November 2005, Equality Now launched a renewed campaign, first undertaken in 1996, calling for the consideration of women candidates in the 2006 election of the next United Nations Secretary-General. In the sixty years since the United Nations was founded, no woman has ever been elected to serve as Secretary-General. During the 2006 selection process, one woman—the President of Latvia—was officially nominated as a candidate for Secretary-General.

In October 2006, Ban Ki-Moon, the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, was named by the United Nations Security Council and elected by the General Assembly to serve as Secretary-General of the United Nations for a term of five years. In his first address to the General Assembly following his election, the Secretary-General designate said he would “lead by example” and specifically mentioned greater gender balance, particularly at senior levels, as one of his goals for the UN Secretariat. Soon after he was sworn in to the top post in the United Nations, Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon publicly stated that he was hoping to appoint a woman as Deputy Secretary-General.

As of 2006, the United Nations was far short of its goal of gender balance in the UN Secretariat and not making much progress towards it. A UN report issued in September 2006 noted that the representation of women at professional and higher levels had remained almost static, and that in some cases there had even been a decrease. As of June 2006, only 15.4% of the Under Secretaries-General were women, down from 16.2%

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in 2005 and 16.7% in 2004. Overall, women occupied only 37.4% of professional and higher-level posts in the UN Secretariat—the same level as the previous three years.

Women's unequal access to positions of decision-making power around the world hinders progress toward all the United Nations' goals, including equality, development and peace. If the Secretary-General has the vision and courage to open the doors for women at the highest level, long closed to them, the United Nations will benefit.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Tradicionalmente el puesto de Secretario General rota para que todas las regiones geográficas del mundo tengan su "turno". Sin embargo, las mujeres nunca han tenido su "turno" y hay muchas mujeres de todas las regiones del mundo que están sumamente preparadas y podrían desempeñar el cargo de Secretario General. El acceso desigual de la mujer a puestos de poder relacionados con la toma de decisiones en todo el mundo dificulta el progreso hacia todos los objetivos de las Naciones Unidas, los cuales incluyen la igualdad, el desarrollo y la paz.

Alejandra Capriata
ARGENTINA

The lack of progress for improving the status of women in the Secretariat is tragic. How can the UN possibly be able to bring about peace in the world when they continue to deny women equal responsibility and places of leadership in the UN? The UN will never be the great organization for freedom that it can and should be until all races and genders can participate equally.

Betty Payton
USA

As a permanent member of the Security Council, the WNC is aware that the UK will be a key player in the appointment of a new Secretary General. Recalling the commitments made in the Beijing Platform for Action, the WNC would urge the UK to seek suitably qualified women candidates and support the election of a woman to the post of Secretary General. This would be a groundbreaking and much needed boost for women all over the world.

Baroness Prosser of Battersea
Chair, Women's National Commission
UNITED KINGDOM

The Governments' Responses:

The United States will be working with other member states in the weeks ahead to ensure that a process unfolds in the UN to review the widest possible field of candidates, including a number of women who have been recommended to the Security Council for consideration. The ultimate goal of the United States is to find a Secretary-General who possesses the managerial and leadership skills to make the UN a more effective and efficient organization to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

United States Mission to the United Nations

The UK Government shares your concerns about gender balance in senior UN appointments. It is important to take steps to improve gender balance across the UN system and in all areas of life. Increased representation is not only about the advancement of women. It is also a question of legitimacy, of reflecting diversity, and of harnessing the talents and abilities of the whole population. The election of the next UN Secretary-General is due to take place at the end of 2006. The Government would like to see suitably qualified women standing for election but since candidates are self-nominated we have no influence over this.

United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations

SOMMAIRE

En 2006, Egalité Maintenant a continué à appeler à la nomination d'un Rapporteur spécial des Nations Unies sur les lois discriminatoires à l'égard des femmes. Bien qu'aucun Rapporteur spécial n'ait été nommé lors de la session 2006 de la Commission sur le statut de la femme, une résolution a été adoptée appelant à de nouvelles délibérations sur cette proposition. En 2005, Egalité Maintenant a repris sa campagne pour que soient étudiées les candidatures de femmes pour la sélection du Secrétaire général des Nations Unies. M. Ban Ki-Moon, qui a été élu Secrétaire général en octobre 2006, a déclaré publiquement qu'une place accrue pour les femmes figurait au nombre de ses objectifs, et s'est engagé à nommer une femme en qualité de Secrétaire générale adjointe.

RESUMEN

En 2006, Igualdad Ya continuó exigiendo el nombramiento de un Relator Especial de las Naciones Unidas sobre las leyes que discriminan contra la mujer. Aunque en la sesión de 2006 que celebró la Comisión de la Condición Jurídica y Social de la Mujer no se nombró a ningún Relator Especial, se aprobó una resolución solicitando más consideración de la propuesta. En 2005, Igualdad Ya renovó su campaña de llamamiento para la consideración de las mujeres candidatas en la elección del Secretario General de la ONU. El señor Ban Ki-Moon, que fue elegido Secretario General en octubre de 2006, declaró públicamente como uno de sus principales objetivos una mayor paridad de sexos y se comprometió a nombrar a una mujer a la Vicesecretaría General.

ملخص

وفي عام 2006 واصلت المساواة الآن الدعوة لتعيين مقرر خاص للأمم المتحدة معني بالقوانين التي تميز ضد المرأة. وبالرغم من عدم تعيين مقرر خاص في دورة لجنة وضع المرأة لعام 2006، فقد صدر قرار يدعو إلى إجراء مزيد من النظر في هذا الاقتراح. وفي عام 2005، جددت المساواة الآن حملتها للدعوة إلى النظر في مرشحات عند اختيار أمين عام الأمم المتحدة. وأعلن السيد بان كي-مون، الذي انتخب أميناً عاماً في أكتوبر/تشرين الأول 2006، أن تحقيق المزيد من التوازن بين الجنسين واحد من أهدافه وأعرب عن التزامه بتعيين امرأة في منصب نائب الأمين العام.

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION



Fanta Camara

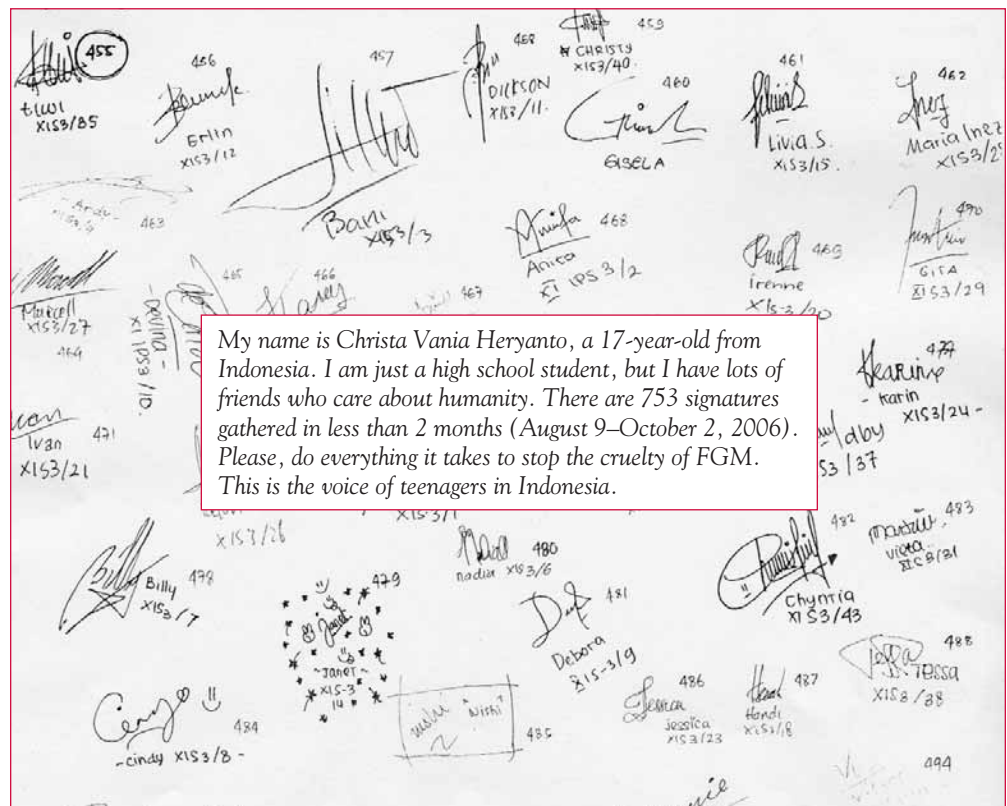
Calling for a Law Against FGM in Mali

Equality Now continues its Women's Action campaign, launched in July 2004, calling for the enactment of a law against female genital mutilation (FGM) in Mali. The Women's Action highlights the case of Fanta Camara, who was subjected to FGM at the age of five. In the course of the genital cutting her urethra was damaged, as a consequence of which she became incontinent. According to Fanta's doctor, her growth has been impeded by repeated genital infections. She has had to drop out of school because her fellow pupils could not bear the smell of her incontinence.

FGM is practiced in all parts of Mali with a prevalence rate of 94%, according to the country's second Demographic and Health Survey of 1996. Currently there is no law in Mali prohibiting FGM. Non-governmental organizations have been carrying out awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers of FGM, and believe that a national law against FGM must be enacted urgently in order to ensure that the life and health of thousands of women and girls are protected from the harmful practice.

In 2006, with the help of a private donor, Equality Now began the process of exploring possible medical intervention for Fanta to determine what procedure, if any, could correct the damage she has suffered and to enable her to undergo the necessary treatment. At year-end, arrangements were underway for a first diagnostic visit at a Paris medical facility in early 2007.

In 2005, Mali ratified the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, which explicitly obligates states to criminalize FGM. Equality Now continues to call on the government of Mali to uphold its international commitments and to pass a law against FGM as a matter of urgent priority.



United States: First FGM Prosecution

On 1 November 2006, a Georgia court found an Ethiopian man accused of subjecting his 2-year-old daughter to FGM guilty of cruelty to children and aggravated battery in the first FGM trial in the United States. Khalid Adem received a 15-year sentence, 10 years in confinement and 5 years of probation. In 2003, when news of the case first surfaced, Equality Now organized a meeting in Atlanta for African anti-FGM activists, grantees of its Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM, with local organizers in African immigrant communities in Georgia to strategize collectively for outreach to end the underground practice in the US. Subsequent to the meeting and follow-up advocacy, Georgia passed a law prohibiting FGM in 2005.

Tanzania: Enforcement of the Law Against FGM

FGM has been prohibited by law in Tanzania since 1998, but the law has not been effectively enforced. In June 2001, Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign urging the government of Tanzania to take more effective action to end the practice of FGM, through education and enforcement of the law.

In April 2006, Equality Now issued a Women's Action update to report that Tanzanian police have apparently received instructions through their commanding stations that the law against FGM should be upheld. Local NGOs report better police responsiveness, at least in cases where FGM has not yet been carried out, and believe that the message is getting out to the practicing population.

There has been significant public and government participation in the Zero Tolerance to FGM Day activities organized by the Tanzanian Coalition Against FGM on 6 February 2005 and 2006. However, there are very remote regions that remain difficult to access for the police and NGOs. It also remains difficult to get cooperation from the police when FGM has already occurred, and some police officers are still reluctant to intervene in what many regard a cultural practice. Equality Now continues to call for enforcement of the law against FGM in Tanzania.

SOMMAIRE

Egalité Maintenant continue d'exiger la promulgation d'une loi contre les mutilations génitales féminines (MGF) au Mali, en soulignant le cas de Fanta Camara, qui souffre de lésions à l'urètre depuis qu'elle a été victime de MGF, à l'âge de cinq ans. Fin 2006, Egalité Maintenant a commencé à étudier la possibilité d'un traitement médical éventuel pour Fanta. Le 1^{er} novembre 2006, un tribunal de l'état de Géorgie (USA) a condamné un homme éthiopien, accusé d'avoir soumis sa fille de deux ans aux MGF. Ce fut le premier procès du genre aux Etats-Unis. En avril 2006, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Mise à jour Action Femmes pour signaler que la police tanzanienne avait apparemment reçu, par le biais de ses instances de commandement, instruction de faire appliquer la législation en vigueur en matière de MGF.

RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya sigue exigiendo la promulgación de una ley contra la mutilación genital femenina (MGF) en Malí, destacando el caso de Fanta Camara, cuya uretra quedó dañada cuando le sometieron a la MGF a la edad de cinco años. A finales de 2006, Igualdad Ya buscó un posible tratamiento médico para Fanta. El 1 de noviembre de 2006, un tribunal de Georgia declaró culpable a un etíope acusado de someter a su hija de 2 años a la MGF en el primer juicio de MGF celebrado en Estados Unidos. En abril de 2006, Igualdad Ya publicó una actualización de Acción Mujeres para informar que la policía de Tanzania ha recibido aparentemente instrucciones mediante sus comisarías superiores que se debería aplicar la ley contra la MGF.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN



ملخص

وتواصل المساواة الآن الدعوة إلى إصدار قانون لمكافحة تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للإناث (ختان الإناث) في مالي، مع تسليط الضوء على حالة فانتا كامارا، التي عانت من أضرار بجمري البول حين أجري لها الختان في سن الخامسة. وفي أواخر عام 2006 بدأت المساواة الآن في استكشاف العلاج الطبي الممكن لفانتا. وفي 1 نوفمبر/تشرين الثاني 2006، حكمت محكمة في جورجيا بإدانة رجل إثيوبي متهم بتعريض ابنته وعمرها عامان لختان الإناث، وذلك في أول محاكمة على ختان الإناث تجري في الولايات المتحدة. وفي أبريل/نيسان 2006، أصدرت المساواة الآن ملحقاً للعمل النسائي للإفادة بأن الشرطة التanzانية قد تلقت فيما يبدو تعليمات من خلال مراكز قياداتها بضرورة احترام قانون مكافحة ختان الإناث.

The work that you have done has resulted in the timely intervention of the police to save innocent young girls from the brutal act of FGM. I would like to urge the government to continue in your efforts to end FGM through education as well as enforcement of the law. As a woman, daughter, and mother I urge you to support the women of Tanzania. You have the power to help continue this important fight and I believe it is your duty as a human being to do everything in your power to protect your female citizens.

Christine Regan-Lake
USA

I would like to sincerely congratulate you on humanitarian efforts you made to train the police on the law against FGM and the measures already taken to ensure the police carry out the law. We are urging the government to continue its efforts to end the practice of FGM.

Anwar Hadi Al Khalldy
IRAQ

FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

The Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM 2006 ACTIVITIES OF THE GRANTEES

The Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM (FGM Fund) was established by Equality Now in 2001. The FGM Fund directs financial support specifically to grassroots organizations, supporting local initiatives to raise awareness about the health and human rights implications of FGM and to work for legal protection from the practice.

BURKINA FASO

Association Voix de Femmes: Voix de Femmes undertook translation of Burkina Faso's law against FGM into the three national languages, undertook sensitization and awareness activities on FGM and other human rights issues, and trained youth as peer educators.

CAMEROON

Inter-African Committee: The Cameroon chapter of the IAC worked to sensitize ex-circumcisers and to train them in alternative income-generating activities. IAC also organized committees at the community level to support the campaign to end FGM.

DJIBOUTI

Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes: UNFD sensitized the Djibouti population, especially those living in rural areas, on the dangers of FGM. UNFD imparted skills to ex-circumcisers and engaged in literacy enhancement activities as a means of fighting FGM. UNFD also worked with and trained youth to reach out with messages to end the practice.

EGYPT

Centre for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance Foundation: CEWLA developed and promoted the concept of legal and judicial assistance for women by advocating for the elimination of all discriminatory laws against women. CEWLA disseminated anti-FGM messages through the use of art and plays.

SAWA Association for Developing Society: SAWA worked with religious leaders to counteract the myth that FGM is a religious obligation. SAWA also worked to raise awareness about FGM in the general community.

ERITREA

National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students: The targets of NUEYS' program were high school students in the Gash Barka and Anseba regions. The program aimed to strengthen the capacity of anti-FGM clubs to address the problem of FGM and other harmful practices through drama and puppetry shows.

ETHIOPIA

HUNDEE Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative: HUNDEE addressed the issue of FGM through joint workshops and community conferences where the root causes of the practice were discussed and community laws against FGM were passed.



Anti-FGM wall hanging produced by students in a tailoring class organized by the Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development in Somalia.

THE GAMBIA

The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices: Working to create awareness on harmful traditional practices, GAMCOTRAP developed booklets, leaflets and stickers on FGM, as well as messages for radio broadcast and for use in interpersonal communication. GAMCOTRAP also worked with fathers' clubs to advocate against FGM at the village level.

GHANA

Ghanaian Association for Women's Welfare: GAWW worked to create awareness on harmful traditional practices and their health effects. GAWW also established and nurtured village follow-up committees consisting mainly of youth, who assisted the organization in its outreach activities and reported FGM cases for legal action.

GUINEA

Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants: CPTAFE targeted religious leaders, judicial officers, youth, circumcisers and administrators in all regions of the coun-

try and established follow-up committees in each region. School children and youth participated in competitions organized around the theme of FGM.

KENYA

Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative: TNI was engaged in community awareness-raising against FGM using workshops and seminars for community leaders, circumcisers, youth, and women to inform them about the dangers of FGM. TNI also provided shelter and safety to girls who have escaped their families to avoid FGM and organized Alternative Rites of Passage.

Marakwet Girls and Women Project: Marakwet Girls and Women Project aimed to contribute to the elimination of FGM and early marriages in the Marakwet community. Its other objectives included sensitizing the various stakeholders on the problem of FGM and to build their capacity in fighting FGM.

MALI

Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l'Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles: AMSOPT worked with parliamentarians to consolidate efforts towards the passing of an anti-FGM law in Mali. AMSOPT continued with awareness-raising activities among circumcisers and involved them in alternative income-generating activities.

Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes: APDF raised awareness through community-based committees in the Niore du Sabel region. The committees promoted community involvement, advocacy initiatives for an anti-FGM law, alternative sources of income for circumcisers, and the involvement of media and religious leaders in the fight against FGM.

SIERRA LEONE

Amazonian Initiative Movement: AIM worked to promote and protect the rights of women and girls across Sierra Leone through education, awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity-building and empowerment programs. AIM also worked for the elimination of all forms of violations of the human rights of women in order to ensure women's equal participation in decision-making at all levels.

Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Reforms: CHRDR worked to sensitize circumcisers about the problems inherent in FGM by educating them first on general issues of human rights. CHRDR also coordinated projects targeting youth to raise awareness about FGM.

SOMALIA/SOMALILAND

Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development: GEPCPD trained young girls on FGM and its effects on women's health. GEPCPD also trained women for outreach work and health education, and held a workshop to facilitate gender dialogue. They also held a seminar for senior women on the effects of FGM.

Women Inter Action Group: WIAG engaged traditional birth attendants through awareness creation, training and group discussions. WIAG identified core groups from the community for training in advocacy against FGM, provided networking facilitation for them, and monitored their progress in spreading messages against FGM.

SUDAN

Sudan Development Association: SDA worked to create awareness about the harmful effects of FGM, and together with community-based organizations, monitored and evaluated guidelines for the eradication of FGM.

TANZANIA

Aang Serian: Aang Serian developed alternative rites of passage for girls and worked to raise awareness in the general community on the dangers of FGM.

Legal and Human Rights Centre: LHRC sensitized law enforcement officers on the provisions of the Sexual Offences Special Provision Act 1998, as well as the dangers of FGM. LHRC has also involved the media to enlarge its reach on the dangers of FGM.

Network Against Female Genital Mutilation: NAFGEM continued to educate and sensitize girls and boys in schools in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania to empower children to say "No to FGM" and held a consultation meeting with the traditional leaders of the Maasai community, which adopted a declaration condemning the practice of FGM.

Tanzanian Coalition Against FGM: The Coalition focused on organizing and publicizing Zero Tolerance Day, an event that takes place every year on 6 February. The Coalition targeted policy makers to push for government commitment to end FGM and trained 2,500 police recruits on the anti-FGM law.

Women Wake Up: WOWAP supported former circumcisers with alternative income-generating activities and applied traditional strategies to sensitize communities in the Dodoma region to discourage the practice of FGM.

Awaken: A Voice for Activism

Awaken was created by Equality Now in 1997 to serve as a forum for information and discussion to promote better understanding and a more effective strategy for the eradication of FGM. *Awaken* is published in English, Arabic and French to promote its accessibility to grassroots activists in communities where FGM is practiced, and it is distributed free of charge to groups and individuals in these communities.

News highlighted in *Awaken* in 2006:

Cameroon: Women members of the Cameroon National Assembly told fellow legislators on June 8, 2006 that female genital mutilation must be outlawed and that full enjoyment of sex is a fundamental human right. This position is stated in a private members bill brought before the assembly by its First Vice President, Rose Abunaw Makia, and all other women assembly members.

Indonesia: A senior Indonesian health ministry official said on 4 October 2006 that doctors and nurses no longer will be permitted to perform female genital mutilation. Sri Hermiyanti, director of the ministry's family health department, said that symbolic circumcision, which does not cause physical damage to the child is permitted. "Hurting, damaging, incising, cutting the clitoris are not allowed. These acts violate the reproductive rights of these girls and harm their organs," she said, adding that health workers began receiving notification of the FGM ban in April 2006.

Ireland: Pamela Izevbekhai, a banking executive, fled with her two young daughters in 2004 from their home in Nigeria to Ireland. Her asylum claim went to Ireland's High Court early in 2006. Her first daughter, Elizabeth, died in 1994 from bleeding caused by female genital mutilation. Elizabeth was subjected to the practice at the insistence of her father's family when she was 18 months old. Pamela Izevbekhai is determined that her two remaining daughters will not be forced to undergo FGM. The High Court is now reviewing the reasons for a lower court's rejection of her asylum claim.

Kenya: More than 300 girls, aged between six and 17 years, sought protection from Kenyan authorities in December 2005 after graduating from a two-week training program on female genital mutilation. Many of the girls feared that upon returning home, their communities would force them to undergo FGM. District Commissioner Joshua Chepchieng responded by warning the girls' parents against subjecting them to FGM, which is prohibited in Kenyan law. "Any chief who condones female genital mutilation in his area should consider himself sacked," Commissioner Chepchieng said.

Sudan: Sheikh Ali Hashim al Siraj began his opposition to FGM in 1985, while teaching in Sudan's Northern Rural Council of Omdurman. He heard a girl's cry from a hut: "Please, Mother, rescue me. Please." Then he heard her cry, "Please, Father, rescue me." Then the eight-year-old child, Amna, fell silent. She died while undergoing female genital mutilation. "The story of Amna was an impetus for me to dig deep in the *fiqh* [Islamic legal texts] and into the sayings of the Prophet so as to come out with a ruling on this practice," the sheikh explained. "I searched for a long time in the Islamic texts, and I have come to this conclusion: This practice has nothing to do with the Islamic religion."

SOMMAIRE

Le Fonds d'aide aux organisations de base pour mettre fin aux mutilations génitales féminines (Fonds Anti-MGF) a été mis en place par Egalité Maintenant dans le but d'apporter un soutien financier spécifiquement à des organisations de base travaillant à l'éradication de la pratique des MGF. Au nombre des projets ayant bénéficié de subventions en 2006 figurent aussi bien des ateliers communautaires que des activités alternatives génératrices de revenus à l'intention des anciennes exciseuses, en passant par des clubs de jeunes anti-MGF et des rites de passage alternatifs pour les jeunes filles. *L'Veil* a été créé par Egalité Maintenant en 1997 pour faire office de forum d'information et de discussion dans le but de promouvoir une meilleure compréhension de l'éradication des MGF, et une stratégie plus efficace à cet égard. *L'Veil* est publié en anglais, en arabe et en français pour promouvoir son accessibilité aux activistes de base.

RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya estableció el Fondo para el Activismo de Base para Poner Fin a la MGF con el objeto de dirigir el apoyo financiero a las organizaciones de base que trabajan para erradicar la práctica de la MGF. En 2006, los proyectos de los receptores de subvenciones comprendieron talleres comunitarios y actividades alternativas generadoras de ingresos para excusadoras, además de asociaciones juveniles anti-MGF y ritos alternativos de paso a la pubertad para las chicas. *Awaken (Desperstar)* fue creado por Igualdad Ya en 1997 con el objetivo de servir de foro informativo y de debate para fomentar una mejor comprensión y una estrategia más eficaz para la erradicación de la MGF. *Awaken* se publica en inglés, árabe y francés para facilitar el acceso a los activistas de base en las comunidades donde se practica la MGF.

ملخص

وقد أنشأت المساواة الآن صندوق نشطاء القاعدة الشعبية للقضاء على ختان الإناث وذلك لتقديم الدعم المالي المباشر على وجه التحديد للمنظمات الشعبية العاملة من أجل إنهاء ممارسة ختان الإناث. وفي عام 2006، تراوحت مشاريع الحاصلين على منح الصندوق ما بين عقد ورش العمل المجتمعية وإيجاد أنشطة بديلة لكسب العيش للقاتلات السابقات وإنشاء نوادي الشباب لمكافحة ختان الإناث واستحداث طقوس بلوغ بديلة للفتيات. وقد أنشأت المساواة الآن في عام 1997 نشرة *البيضة* لتكون بمثابة منتدى للمعلومات والمناقشة بغية تعزيز تفاهم أفضل واستراتيجية أكثر فعالية لاستئصال ختان الإناث. وتصدر *البيضة* باللغات الإنجليزية والعربية والفرنسية تيسيراً لوصولها إلى نشطاء القواعد الشعبية.

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

New York State Anti-Trafficking Legislation



Billboard sponsored by the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition in 2006 in Albany, NY, to highlight the urgent need for an anti-trafficking law in New York State.

In 2005 Equality Now convened the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition to advocate for the passage of strong and effective anti-trafficking legislation in the state of New York. Members of the Coalition Steering Committee include the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women, Equality Now, Girls Education and Monitoring Services (GEMS), inMotion, My Sister's Place, NOW (New York City and State Chapters), and Sanctuary for Families.

Beginning in summer 2005 and during the 2006 state legislative session, the Coalition sought the passage of an anti-trafficking bill introduced by New York State Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz.

From January to June 2006, Equality Now and the Coalition organized extensive advocacy efforts. The campaign received significant media attention, including two pieces by *New York Times* columnist Bob Herbert and an op-ed written by Equality Now President Jessica Neuwirth published in the *New York Post*. The Coalition also put up a

May 30, 2006

Statement of Support for Assembly Bill 1898-B

The undersigned organizations and individuals call for the passage of Assembly Bill 1898-b, to ensure that New York State has a strong and effective legal framework within which to combat human trafficking. The undersigned, many of whom have extensive experience in fighting the harms of trafficking and working with victims of trafficking, recognize the particular need to combat trafficking in New York, which is an entry, transit, and destination point for large numbers of trafficking victims.

The strength of this legislation lies in its comprehensive approach, covering all aspects of human trafficking. It includes provisions which 1) comprehensively define sex and labor trafficking; 2) create the possibility of effectively prosecuting those who create the demand for trafficking; 3) recognize the link between sex tourism and sex trafficking; 4) impose enhanced penalties for the trafficking of minors; and 5) seek to ameliorate the harm done to trafficking victims by providing them with information about rehabilitative and legal services, restitution, a civil cause of action for damages against their traffickers, and a defense against prosecution. These provisions are essential in creating an effective deterrent to traffickers, addressing the unique harms experienced by trafficking victims, and ensuring the prosecution of all those who perpetuate and profit from the trafficking industry.

American Association of University Women—New York City Branch
Carmelite Sisters of Charity
Center Against Domestic Violence
The Child Welfare Organizing Project
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
College Democrats of New York
Crime Victims Treatment Center, Saint Luke's-Roosevelt Hospital Center
Dominican Congregation of Our Lady of the Rosary, Sparkill, NY
Dominican Sisters of Blauvelt, NY—Social Justice Committee
Dwa Fanm
Empire Justice Center
Equality Now
Farmworker Legal Services of New York, Inc.

GEMS
Good Shepherd Services
Harlem Legal Services
Hour Children
inMotion
International Institute of Buffalo
Jews for Racial and Economic Justice
Korean American Family Service Center
Latin Women in Action, Inc.
Lawyers Committee Against Domestic Violence
LIFT (Legal Information for Families Today)
The Loretto Community
Mercy Center Bronx
My Sisters' Place
Nassau County Coalition Against Domestic Violence
National Council of Jewish Women, New York State Public Affairs
National Organization for Women—New York City

National Organization for Women—New York State
National Organization for Women—Brooklyn/Queens
New York Asian Women's Center
New York Coalition on Comfort Women Issues
New York Congregations of Religious Against Human Trafficking
New York Immigration Coalition
New York Legal Assistance Group
New York State Coalition Against Domestic Violence
New York State Coalition Against Sexual Assault
New York State Labor-Religion Coalition
New York Women's Foundation
Northern Westchester Shelter, Inc.
Putnam Northern Westchester Women's Center

Red Hook Health Initiative
The Retreat, Inc.
Sadie Nash Leadership Project
Sanctuary for Families
Sisters of Charity Halifax New York Region Against Human Trafficking
Sisters of the Good Shepherd, New York Province
Sisters of the Presentation, New York
Social Action Council, Temple Beth-El, Great Neck
Gloria Steinem
STEPS to End Family Violence
Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence, Inc.
UNANIMA International
Victim Resource Center of the Finger Lakes, Inc.
Workers' Rights Law Center of New York, Inc.
The YWCA of White Plains and Central Westchester

“Last week the Assembly and the Senate adjourned without making any genuine attempt to actually enact a law against sex trafficking. It was a big win for the pimps and the madams. The state’s effort to combat trafficking in New York could hardly have been more ineffective.”

—Bob Herbert, the *New York Times*, 6 July 2006

billboard in Albany and launched a website (www.stophumantraffickingny.org) to publicize the need for state anti-trafficking legislation.

Many Assembly members supported an anti-trafficking bill. However, key provisions of the bill were gutted by Assembly staff members of the Assembly Codes Committee. Although weak anti-trafficking bills were passed by both the Senate and the Assembly, conferencing efforts were unsuccessful and the session ended without the adoption of an anti-trafficking law. The Coalition will renew its efforts in 2007.

G&F Tours: A Call for Law Enforcement to End Sex Tourism

In 2005, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling for the prosecution of Gunter Frenz, the owner/operator of G&F Tours, a sex tourism company formerly located in Louisiana and now operating in Texas. For over seventeen years Gunter Frenz has been organizing sex tours to Thailand, the Philippines and Cambodia, providing on-site tour guides in destination countries to escort customers to bars and clubs where they can buy sex. Testimonials from G&F sex tourists posted on the company’s website describe prostitution-related activities on the tours and extol the low cost of buying sex.

Equality Now has repeatedly contacted the Department of Justice and urged officials to prosecute G&F Tours under the Mann Act. The Mann Act, a US federal law, criminalizes an individual who knowingly transports another in interstate or foreign commerce “with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense...”

The US Attorney’s Office in Texas has been inundated with letters and faxes from around the world. However, to date no action has been taken against G&F Tours by law enforcement authorities.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Efforts to Engage in Dialogue with the US Justice Department

We are writing to ask you to take urgent action to shut down the operations of G&F Tours, a sex tour company operating from Texas, and to prosecute its owner/operator Mr. Gunter Frenz. We believe Mr. Frenz could be prosecuted under the federal Mann Act, 18 USC 2421 and 18 USC 2422, which criminalizes an individual who knowingly transports another in interstate or foreign commerce “with intent that such individual engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense...”

Equality Now
17 March 2006

SOMMAIRE

En 2006, Egalité Maintenant et la New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition ont continué à plaider pour l’adoption d’une législation vigoureuse en matière de lutte contre la traite d’êtres humains dans l’état de New York. En dépit des efforts des activistes, de l’attention considérable apportée par les médias à cette question, ainsi que du soutien de nombreux membres de l’assemblée de l’état de New York, aucun projet de loi destiné à lutter contre la traite d’êtres humains n’a été adopté en 2006. La Coalition poursuivra ses efforts en 2007. En 2006, Egalité Maintenant a participé à un dialogue avec des représentants du ministère américain de la justice pour les inviter à engager des poursuites à l’encontre de G&F Tours, société de tourisme sexuel basée au Texas. A ce jour, aucune poursuite n’ont été engagées.

RESUMEN

En 2006, Igualdad Ya y la Coalición contra el Tráfico Sexual del Estado de Nueva York continuaron reclamando una ley eficaz contra el tráfico sexual en el Estado de Nueva York. Pese a los grandes esfuerzos de activismo, de una considerable atención de los medios de comunicación y del apoyo de numerosos miembros de la Asamblea del Estado de Nueva York, no se aprobó un proyecto de ley contra el tráfico sexual en 2006. La Coalición reorganizará sus esfuerzos en 2007. En 2006, Igualdad Ya se comprometió a dialogar con los funcionarios del Ministerio de Justicia estadounidense y urgirles acciones contra G&F Tours, una empresa de turismo sexual radicada en Texas. Hasta la fecha no se han tomado medidas al respecto.

ملخص

وفي 2006 واصلت المساواة الآن واتلاف مكافحة الاتجار بولاية نيويورك الدعوة لإصدار قانون قوي لمكافحة الاتجار في هذه الولاية. وبالرغم من جهود الدعوة المبذولة على نطاق واسع، ومن الاهتمام الكبير من وسائل الإعلام، ودعم كثير من أعضاء المجلس التشريعي لولاية نيويورك، لم يصدق المجلس على مشروع قانون لمكافحة الاتجار في عام 2006. وسيجدد الائتلاف جهوده في عام 2007. ودخلت المساواة الآن في حوار مع المسؤولين بوزارة العدل بالولايات المتحدة في عام 2006، وحثتهم على اتخاذ الإجراءات القضائية ضد شركة جي أند إف، وهي شركة لسياحة الجنس مقرها في تكساس. ولم يتم اتخاذ إجراء في هذا الصدد حتى الآن.

TRAFFICKING IN WOMEN

This responds to your letter to the Attorney General on behalf of Equality Now, requesting that action be taken to shut down the operations of G&F Tours of Fort Worth, Texas, and for the prosecution of its owner/operator, Mr. Gunter Frenz for engaging in the sex tourism business... Title 18, United States Code 2423(d) prohibits the facilitation, for financial gain, of travel of persons to foreign countries knowing the persons will engage in illicit sexual conduct, which includes commercial sex acts with persons under 18 years of age. Accordingly, if G&F Tours knows that its clients are traveling to foreign countries to engage in sex with prostitutes under 18 years of age, it may be in violation of this statute.

United States Department of Justice
5 June 2006

Unfortunately, your letter again fails to address the issues Equality Now has repeatedly raised over the past six years with the Department of Justice concerning G&F Tours and other sex tour companies concerning their violations of the Mann Act. Our position remains that Mr. Frenz is in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 2421 by operating his sex tours to Thailand, and not Section 2423(d) of Title 18 to which you refer in your letter... Section 2421 does not require that any party to the prostitution or other illegal sexual activity be less than 18 years of age... We would be grateful for your response and for a clarification of your view on these legal issues, as well as the interest and willingness of your office to use the Mann Act and Travel Act sections cited above to prosecute United States based sex tour companies such as G&F Tours.

Equality Now
10 August 2006

I am writing to follow-up on my letter of 10 August 2006 in response to Director Battle's letter on your behalf, which failed to address the issues Equality Now has repeatedly raised over the past six years with the Department of Justice concerning G&F Tours and other US-based sex tour companies and their violations of the Mann Act. Again, we would be grateful for clarification of your view on the applicability of sections 18 USC 2421 and 2422 of the Mann Act (not section 2423 (d), which only applies to minors).

Equality Now
3 November 2006

As of year-end 2006, no response to this letter was received.

Germany: Sex Trafficking and the World Cup

Op-ed by Jessica Neuwirth on the trafficking of women to Germany and the construction of temporary brothels for the 2006 FIFA World Cup and published by the *International Herald Tribune*, 11 April 2006.

In anticipation of the 2006 FIFA World Cup hosted by Germany, profiteers in the commercial sex industry flocked to Germany in an effort to capitalize on the celebrated sports event through the promotion of prostitution. Temporary brothels were constructed and it was estimated that 40,000 women were to be trafficked to Germany from other coun-

tries to supply the demand for commercial sex. On 12 April 2006, the Council of Europe debated the issue. The members overwhelmingly expressed their concern about the trafficking of women to the World Cup, denouncing the exploitation of women and the violation of human rights inherent in sex trafficking. The members also emphasized the need for all EU member states to sign and ratify the Convention on Action Against Trafficking in Human Beings.



Sex trafficking and prostitution • By Jessica Neuwirth

The World Cup and the johns

NEW YORK

The global sex industry has its eye on Germany, where promotion of prostitution seems to be as much a part of the preparations for the upcoming World Cup as anything to do with soccer.

Construction of temporary brothels in all forms is well underway, including "performance boxes" and "drive-ins" for the fast-food version of sex vending. The multibillion dollar enterprise that brings Indian women to Saudi Arabia, Nigerian women to Israel, Filipino women to Japan and Russian women to Germany is now bringing women from all parts of the world — an estimated 40,000 — to Germany, where profit is an estimated 40,000 — to Germany, the latest magnet

tion. Countries like Germany, where prostitution is legal, become international destinations for sex trafficking, offering retail outlets much more hospitable to traffickers than countries where prostitution is illegal. In countries where prostitution is illegal it is the peddled women, rather than those who exploit them, who bear the brunt of criminal prosecution as well as public sanction.

Men who buy women for sex have largely escaped the reach of the law and have been virtually invisible in the ideological battles over prostitution. Yet it is these countless anonymous "johns" who fuel the market forces that make sex trafficking such a lucrative industry, perpetrating systematic exploitation with impunity.

Why the reluctance to acknowledge the link between sex trafficking and their sexual exploitation fail to recognize the spectrum of coercion that draws on the force of poverty as much as the force of violence to bring women into the trade.

Those who consider prostitution to be an expression of sexual rights fail to recognize the distinction between sex and commercial sexual exploitation, positioning the discourse as if one cannot be for sex and at the same time against exploitation.

What about the right of women and girls not to be prostituted — the right to education, employment and real choices they do not currently have? It is time to shift the focus from those who are prostituted to the traffickers, pimps and johns who comprise the chain of exploitation in the commercial sex industry. The invisibility of the john is matched only by the invisibility of the harm done to the trafficked and

United States: Military Forces and the Commercial Sex Industry

In March 2006, Equality Now issued a Women's Action Update to report that US President George W. Bush had signed into law an amendment to the Manual for Courts-Martial clarifying that "patronizing a prostitute" violates Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. This new provision marks progress towards the establishment of a zero-tolerance policy with respect to solicitation of prostitution by US military personnel. A violation is punishable by dishonorable discharge, pay forfeiture, and confinement for one year.

Equality Now has been campaigning since June 2003 for the establishment and enforcement of a zero-tolerance policy on the solicitation of prostitution by US military personnel, noting the link recognized by the US Government between sex trafficking and the demand for prostitution. As a case study of what is happening around the world, Equality Now cited the participation of US military forces stationed in South Korea in the commercial sex industry, and their protection by American Courtesy Patrol Officers who knew that women in the industry had been trafficked.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Greetings from Women of Uganda Centre for Development (WUCED). We thank you for having put in place Executive Order 13387 which specifically enumerates "patronizing a prostitute" as a violation of Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. WUCED further appeals to you to strictly enforce this provision as patronizing prostitution feeds the global demand for sex trafficking. So far according to available reports the law is not being strictly enforced. We urge you and the Defense Secretary to institute a zero tolerance policy on the solicitation of prostitution by US Military forces around the world.

Tereza Kyeyune
Chairperson, WUCED
UGANDA

Big Apple Oriental Tours Faces Trial for Profiting from Prostitution

Norman Barabash and Douglas Allen, the owner/operators of New York-based sex tour company Big Apple Oriental Tours, were indicted on 14 July 2005 by a Dutchess County Grand Jury, for the second time, for promoting prostitution in violation of Article 230 of the New York Penal Law. The first criminal indictment of Norman Barabash and Douglas Allen in 2004 was the culmination of a seven-year campaign by Equality Now to stop the activities of Big Apple Oriental Tours, an agency in New York operating sex tours to the Philippines and Thailand.

Mr. Barabash and Mr. Allen were arraigned on 8 August 2005 and pled not guilty. On a motion by the defendants, the indictment was dismissed for a second time. On 26 December 2006, the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court reversed this dismissal in part, upholding the charge of advancing or profiting from prostitution. These defendants will now have to stand trial on this charge, facing up to one year in prison if convicted. The case is expected to go to trial in 2007.

SOMMAIRE

Avant la Coupe du monde 2006 de la FIFA, les profiteurs de l'industrie du sexe commercial se sont abattus sur l'Allemagne et on a estimé que quelques 40 000 femmes seraient introduites dans le pays en tant que victimes de la traite des êtres humains pour le tournoi. En mars 2006, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Mise à jour Action Femmes pour annoncer que George W. Bush, président des Etats-Unis, avait signé une loi portant réforme de la législation en vigueur, incriminant clairement la sollicitation de la prostitution par des membres des forces armées américaines. En janvier 2006, la deuxième mise en accusation de propriétaire-exploiteurs de la société de tourisme sexuel Big Apple Oriental Tours, a été rejetée. Le 26 décembre 2006, la cour d'appel a, en partie, annulé ce jugement, maintenant les inculpations de promouvoir la prostitution. L'affaire devrait être jugée en 2007.

RESUMEN

Con anterioridad a la Copa del Mundo 2006, los promotores de la industria del comercio sexual acudieron en gran número a Alemania, y se estimaba que 40.000 mujeres serían traficadas al torneo. En marzo de 2006, Igualdad Ya publicó una Actualización de Acción Mujeres para informar que el Presidente estadounidense George W. Bush ascendió a ley una enmienda que confirma el carácter ilegal de hacer uso de la prostitución por parte del personal militar estadounidense. En enero de 2006 se desestimó la segunda acusación contra el propietario y los operadores de la empresa de turismo sexual radicada en Nueva York, Big Apple Oriental Tours. El 26 de diciembre de 2006, la Tribunal de Apelación revocó parcialmente esta desestimación y mantuvo la acusación de promoción de la prostitución. Se espera que el caso se someta a juicio en 2007.

ملخص

وقبل مباريات كأس العالم التي نظمها الاتحاد الدولي لكرة القدم في عام 2006، تدفق المنتفعون من صناعة الجنس التجاري إلى ألمانيا، وجاءت التقديرات بأنه سيجري الاتجار بعدد يبلغ 40 000 امرأة أثناء المسابقة. وفي مارس/أذار 2006، أصدرت المساواة الآن ملحقاً لنشرة العمل النسائي للإفادة بأن رئيس الولايات المتحدة جورج دبليو بوش قد وقع على تعديل بإيضاح أن التعامل مع البغايا أمر غير قانوني لأفراد الولايات المتحدة العسكريين ليصبح هذا التعديل قانوناً. وفي يناير/كانون الثاني 2006، رفضت المحكمة لائحة الاتهام الثانية بحق صاحب/مديري شركة بيج أبل أورينتال تورز لسياحة الجنس ومقرها نيويورك. وفي 26 ديسمبر/كانون الأول 2006، ألغت محكمة الاستئناف هذا الرفض بصفة جزئية، وأبقت على تهمة تشجيع البغاء. ومن المنتظر أن تقدم القضية للمحاكمة في عام 2007.

INTERNATIONAL PEACE & SECURITY

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security, which formally recognized the critical role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Equality Now is working for the implementation of this resolution as a matter of urgency, in the belief that women have a much needed contribution to make to the realization of global peace and security.

Middle East: The International Women's Commission

In 2005, the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace (IWC) was formally established under the auspices of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). The IWC is a unique partnership of Israeli, Palestinian and international women leaders including parliamentary representatives, present and former ministers, political party leaders, and leaders in civil society working to promote a just and sustainable peace and to ensure women's full participation in formal and informal Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Equality Now's President serves as a member of the IWC.



The IWC was launched in Palestine and Israel in November 2005. In May 2006, Equality Now organized the United States launch of the IWC. In Washington, DC, IWC delegates met with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as well as other State Department officials and Congressional representatives including Representatives Eddie Bernice Johnson, Stephanie Tubbs Jones, Nita Lowey, and Carolyn Maloney. C-SPAN broadcast a public discussion with the delegation at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Affairs.

In July 2006, the IWC met in Athens and issued an urgent appeal to the international community to intervene in the escalating crisis in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (especially Gaza), Israel and Lebanon. In September, President Tarja Halonen of Finland and UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer convened a meeting of the IWC in New York with women heads of state and foreign ministers of Security



Top: Aida Touma-Sliman. Bottom left: Galia Golan and Zahira Kamal, all members of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace (IWC). Bottom right: Former Greek Foreign Minister George Papandreou and UNIFEM Executive Director Noeleen Heyzer at the IWC meeting in Athens, July 2006.



Delegation of the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Israeli-Palestinian Peace, at the US State Department in Washington, DC, May 2006. Left to right: Nurit Haghagh, Naila Ayesh, Rola Hamed (Abu Zied), Lama Hourani, Jacqui Hunt, Jessica Neuwirth, Amal Khreish, Colette Avital, Simone Susskind, Naomi Chazan, and Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas.

Council member countries attending the UN General Assembly. President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia was among those who attended.

Throughout the year, the IWC has continued to call for a just and sustainable Israeli-Palestinian peace and the involvement of women in peace negotiations.

Afghanistan: Access to Justice

In December 2006, Equality Now issued a Women's Action Update to report that the Afghan parliament had rejected the re-appointment of Supreme Court Chief Justice Fazul Hadi Shinwari. Since 2004, Equality Now had been calling for the replacement of Chief Justice Shinwari, whose public statements contradicted Afghanistan's constitutionally enshrined provisions of equality between women and men and prohibition of all forms of discrimination. A new Supreme Court comprising nine judges was sworn in on 5 August 2006, headed by Chief Justice Abdul Salam Azimi. New Chief Justice Azimi was recently reported to have said that "if a woman comes to court, we will protect her under the law."

The new court faces the challenge of enforcing the constitutionally protected human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan. A May 2006 report by UNIFEM describes unprecedented levels of rape, forced marriage and child marriage, honor killings, kidnappings, and domestic violence, among other crimes against women, which remain pervasive and unpunished throughout the country.

Equality Now has been campaigning for the full re-integration of Afghan women into Afghan society since 2001, when in support of and solidarity with the women of Afghanistan, it convened a coalition of international organizations to host the Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy held in Brussels on 4-5 December 2001. Equality Now continues to call for the establishment of a safe and secure environment in which the human rights of Afghan women are respected.

SOMMAIRE

En mai 2006, Egalité Maintenant a organisé le lancement aux Etats-Unis de la Commission internationale des femmes pour une paix israélo-palestinienne juste et durable (IWC). Des délégués de l'IWC ont rencontré la secrétaire d'Etat américaine, Condoleezza Rice, ainsi que divers membres du Congrès, et avec le secrétariat de la Commission des affaires étrangères du Sénat des Etats-Unis. En décembre 2006, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Mise à jour Action Femmes pour indiquer que le président de la Cour suprême afghane, M. Fazul Hadi Shinwari, avait été remplacé, par le parlement de ce pays, par M. Abdul Salam Azimi. Depuis 2004, Egalité Maintenant appelait pour le départ de M. Shinwari, dont les déclarations publiques contredisaient les dispositions afghanes en matière d'égalité des femmes et des hommes.

RESUMEN

En mayo de 2006, Igualdad Ya organizó la presentación en Estados Unidos de la Comisión Internacional de la Mujer (IWC) para una Paz Israelí-Palestina Justa y Duradera. Las delegadas de la IWC se reunieron con la Secretaria de Estado Condoleezza Rice, así como con varios miembros del Congreso, y con el personal del Comité de Relaciones Externas del Senado. En diciembre de 2006, Igualdad Ya publicó una Actualización de Acción Mujeres para informar que el Parlamento afgano había sustituido al Presidente del Tribunal Supremo, Fazul Hadi Shinwari, por Abdul Salam Azimi. Desde el año 2004, Igualdad Ya había exigido el cese de Shinwari, cuyas declaraciones públicas contradecían las disposiciones afganas de igualdad entre mujeres y hombres.

ملخص

وفي مايو/أيار 2006، نظمت المساواة الآن إنشاء فرع الولايات المتحدة للجنة الدولية للمرأة من أجل سلام عادل ودائم بين الإسرائيليين والفلسطينيين (اللجنة الدولية للمرأة). واجتمعت مندوبات اللجنة الدولية للمرأة مع وزيرة الخارجية كوندوليسا رايس ومع عدة أعضاء في الكونجرس وأعضاء لجنة العلاقات الخارجية بمجلس الشيوخ. وفي ديسمبر/كانون الأول 2006، أصدرت المساواة الآن ملحقاً للعمل النسائي للإفادة بأن البرلمان الأفغاني قد عين عبد السلام عظيمي كبيراً للقضاء بالمحكمة العليا بدلاً من فضل هادي شينواري. وكانت المساواة الآن منذ عام 2004 تدعو لعزل شينواري، الذي كانت بياناته العامة تتعارض مع أحكام دستور أفغانستان التي تنص على المساواة بين المرأة والرجل.

EQUALITY NOW IN ACTION

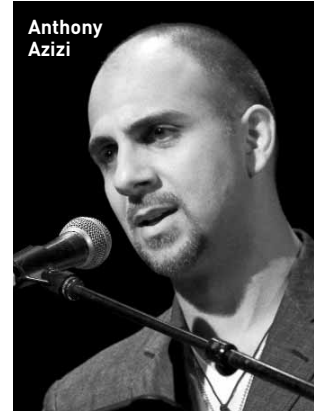
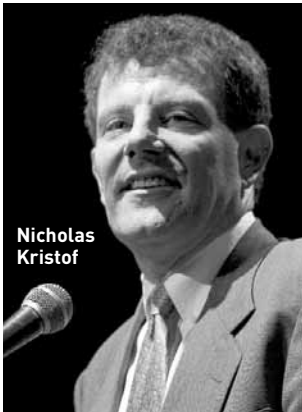
On the Road to Equality: Honoring Men on the Front Lines

In May 2006, Equality Now held a benefit event featuring award-winning jazz musicians led by world-renowned pianist Kenny Barron, as well as actors' readings of testimonies from men around the world who have fought for women's rights. Writer/director Joss Whedon, introduced by Meryl Streep, also spoke at the event as a special honoree.

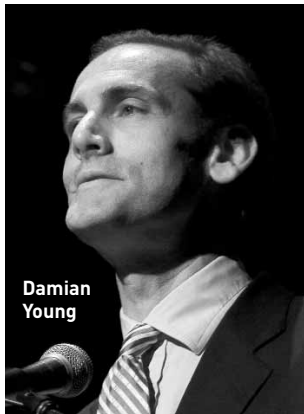
Testimony from Oscar Maynez (Mexico): I couldn't bear the injustice anymore, the lies, the cover-ups. My government was manipulating the community and doing nothing else. No one trusted the authorities anymore, especially not the mothers of those murdered girls. No justice, no peace. So I resigned. You ask me how many men are engaged in this campaign for justice? Sadly, not many. Some of us have participated in the marches and demonstrations, but mostly it's the mothers and other women who have been calling for justice. From wherever you stand, you need to keep the pressure up - for all those girls who died alone and cold in the beautiful Mexican desert. I know I will. *Read by Alfred Boe*

Testimony from Amanullah Khalid (Pakistan): Despite the attitudes against women in Pakistan, I do not feel the support I have shown my wife Shazia is unusual and I do not feel exceptional in any way. I have acted as any good husband should. I believe that every person has a sense of right and wrong. If you have knowledge that someone is being victimized and yet you turn a blind eye or do nothing to stop or prevent it, then you are complicit in the abuse. It will be no easy task to attain equality for women in Pakistan, but we must continue to hope for the best and to fight for what we know is right. I firmly believe that it is every woman's fundamental right to be free from violence. *Read by Anthony Azizi*

Testimony from Ken Franzblau (USA): People sometimes ask me: how did a nice Jewish boy wind up going undercover and posing as a potential sex tourist? It's simple: we have to do what's right and what's fair. Women



EQUALITY NOW IN ACTION



Damian Young



Anne Drummond



Catherine Russell



Francisco Mela

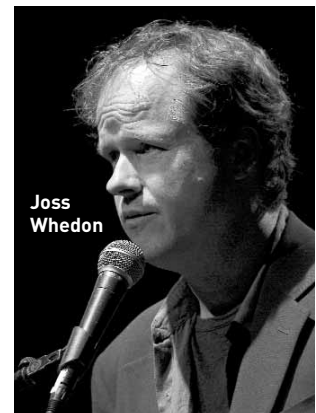
are human beings too. I usually see the glass 90% empty, but I feel positive about ending sex tourism and other forms of sexual exploitation. I don't feel like I'm a role model, I got into this by sheer dumb luck. And now, I can't walk away from an unfinished task. I just wish more men would join me. *Read by Damian Young*

Testimony from Zebene Negash (Ethiopia): I don't believe in adhering to harmful traditional practices such as abduction. I have witnessed how this has broken down the spirit of many girls whose hopes and aspirations were cut short. I did not want the same to happen to my only daughter. She has a right to choose when to marry and whom to marry. I decided to stand by Woineshet because I know it is a criminal offense to do this to girls and I was not going to allow my daughter to suffer in that way. When Woineshet's case was brought to court, incidents of abductions stopped, but when her abductor was released they started again. I don't feel that I am a role model because my daughter did not get justice. And also, other fathers who followed my suit did not succeed either. You must help us—you must put pressure on my government to prosecute abductors, very seriously. Together, we can change this terrible and inhuman practice. Only when that is done, could we as fathers be proud. Times are changing and Woineshet deserves a better life. *Read by Ty Jones*



Maria Hinojosa

Joss Whedon on Equality: Equality is not a concept. It is not something we should be striving for. It is a necessity. Equality is like gravity. We need it to stand on this earth as men and women, and the misogyny that is in every culture is not a true part of the human condition. It is life out of balance and that imbalance is sucking something out of the soul of every man and woman who is confronted with it. **We need equality...now.**



Joss Whedon

ALL PHOTOS BRIAN ACH/WIREIMAGE



Jazz artists performing at the benefit event, left to right: Francisco Mela, Kiyoshi Kitagawa, Anne Drummond, Kenny Barron, Stefon Harris, and Regina Carter.



Ty Jones

EQUALITY NOW IN ACTION

Bridge and Tunnel



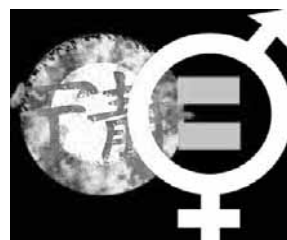
DONNA FERRATO

Benefit performance of Sarah Jones' one-woman show *Bridge & Tunnel*, 8 March 2006. Left, Jessica Neuwirth and Meryl Streep. Right, Sarah Jones after the show.

Browncoats



BARRY LEFSKY



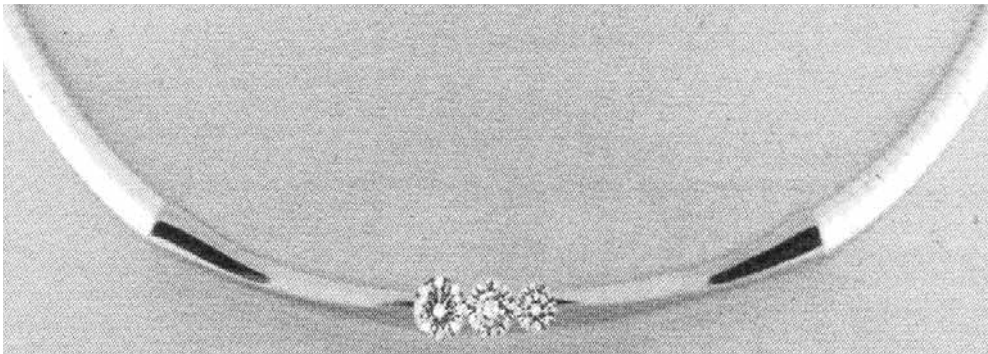
In June 2006, Browncoats, fans of film writer/director Joss Whedon, organized benefit screenings of Whedon's film *Serenity* around the world, raising \$60,000 for Equality Now. Top left: Co-organizers of the New York City screening and auction Leslie and Richard Maynard with Equality Now Deputy Director Bethany Hurley (center). Bottom: UK Browncoats Steve Manser and Naomi Brown with Equality Now London Office Director Jacqueline Hunt (center) at the London Film and Comic Convention. Top right: Elizabeth Paris and Arielle Kesweder at the San Francisco screening.

Sisters in Law



On 1 March 2006, Equality Now co-sponsored with Women Make Movies a screening of *Sisters in Law*, a film about two extraordinary women lawyers in Cameroon. Left to right: Women Make Movies Executive Director Debra Zimmerman; Vera Ngassa, the state prosecutor in *Sisters in Law*; Kim Longinotto, the film's director; Beatrice Ntuba, the judge in the film; and Taina Bien-Aimé.

Auction



On 5 December, jeweler Black, Starr & Frost announced at the Hollywood Reporter Breakfast that it would auction a diamond necklace and donate the proceeds to Equality Now, the charity Meryl Streep chose as the beneficiary of the auction. The auction is scheduled for May 2007.

The Devil Wears Prada



On 23 May 2006, Equality Now was one of three groups chosen to benefit from an auction of clothing worn in the film *Devil Wears Prada*. Left to right: Jessica Neuwirth, Meryl Streep and Taina Bien-Aimé.

SOMMAIRE

En mai 2006, Egalité Maintenant a organisé un événement de bienfaisance destiné à honorer des hommes qui se sont distingués dans la défense des droits des femmes. Des témoignages lus par des acteurs, et du jazz ont animé la soirée. En juin 2006, les *Browncoats*, des fans du réalisateur Joss Whedon, ont organisé des projections de bienfaisance du film *Serenity*, dans le monde, réunissant 60 000 USD. En mars 2006, l'auteur et actrice Sarah Jones a tenu une séance de son show de Broadway, *Bridge & Tunnel* pour le bénéfice d'Egalité Maintenant. En mars également, Egalité Maintenant a coparrainé une projection de *Sisters in Law*, film consacré à deux avocates camerounaises. En mai 2006, Egalité Maintenant a été la bénéficiaire d'une vente aux enchères de vêtements griffés provenant du film *Le diable s'habille en Prada*, avec Meryl Streep.

RESUMEN

En mayo del 2006, Igualdad Ya organizó un acto benéfico para rendir homenaje a hombres que han luchado por los derechos de la mujer. El acto incluyó lecturas testimoniales por parte de actores y el jazz. En junio de 2006, *Browncoats*, admiradores del director cinematográfico Joss Whedon, organizaron pases benéficos en todo el mundo de la película *Serenity*, con los que se recaudaron \$60.000. En marzo de 2006, la dramaturga/intérprete Sarah Jones ofreció una actuación benéfica de su espectáculo de Broadway *Bridge & Tunnel*. En el mes de marzo, Igualdad Ya copatrocinó un pase de *Sisters in Law*, una película sobre dos abogadas en Camerún. En mayo de 2006, Igualdad Ya fue una beneficiaria de una subasta de prendas de diseño de la película *El diablo viste de Prada*, que protagonizó Meryl Streep.

ملخص

وفي مايو/أيار 2006، نظمت المساواة الآن حفلا خيريا لتكريم الرجال المناصرين لحقوق المرأة. وقدمت في الحفل قراءات لممثلين تشهد بذلك وعروض لموسيقى الجاز. وفي يونيو/حزيران 2006، نظم أصحاب المعاطف البنية "براون كوتس" من المعجبين بالمخرج جوس هويدون، عرضاً خيرياً خاصة لفيلم "الصفاء" *Serenity* في أنحاء العالم، بلغت حصيلتها 60 000 دولار. وفي مارس/آذار 2006 قدمت الكاتبة/الممثلة المسرحية ساره جونز عرضاً خيرياً للجسر والنفق، وهو عرض تقدمه بمفردها على مسارح برودواي. كما اشتركت المساواة الآن في شهر آذار/مارس في رعاية عرض سينمائي لفيلم المرأة وزوجة الأخ، وهو عن محاميتين في الكاميرون. وفي مايو/أيار 2006، عقد مزاد لصالح المساواة الآن للأزياء المصنمة للفيلم *الشيطان يرتدي أزياء برادا*، الذي قامت ببطولته ميريل ستريب.

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Equality Now Board Members and UK Trustees: Back row, left to right: Sapana Pradhan-Malla, Yukiko Tsunoda, Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas, Susana Chiarotti, Colette De Troy, Jacqueline Hunt and Elizabeth Evatt. Front, left to right: Taina Bien-Aimé and Jessica Neuwirth.

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The Friends of Equality Now

Equality Now would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement and support, which has sustained and strengthened our work.

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The Equality Now Leadership Circle recognizes individuals whose support in 2006 has made a critical difference to the ability of Equality Now to respond quickly and strategically to human rights violations against women.

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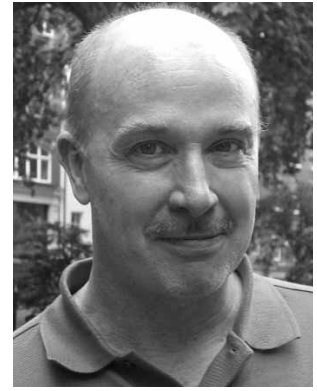
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FOUNDATION & CORPORATE SUPPORT

Equality Now wishes to acknowledge and thank the following foundations and corporations for their support of \$10,000 and more:

- Shana Alexander Charitable Foundation
- Argentarius
- Patrick and Aimee Butler Foundation
- Bydale Foundation
- Carlson Family Foundation
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- Oxfam GB
- Oxfam Novib
- Pond Foundation
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Rowland & Sylvia Schaefer Family Foundation
- Ruth Turner Fund
- Twentieth Century Fox

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK
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Statements of Financial Position

	2006 <i>As of 12/31</i>	2005 <i>As of 12/31</i>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$1,188,330	\$ 848,116
Investments	944,922	839,460
Contributions and grants receivable	547,930	397,357
Prepaid expenses	28,787	18,476
Property and equipment, net	18,140	23,517
Other assets	25,947	27,326
Total assets	<u>\$2,754,056</u>	<u>\$2,154,252</u>
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 160,606	\$ 90,233
Refundable advances		10,000
Deferred rent	19,060	3,053
Total liabilities	<u>179,666</u>	<u>103,286</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	1,398,819	1,059,276
Temporarily restricted	1,175,571	991,690
Total net assets	<u>2,574,390</u>	<u>2,050,966</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$2,754,056</u>	<u>\$2,154,252</u>

Statements of Activities

	2006	2005
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions and grants		
Foundations	\$ 952,754	\$ 471,682
Individual donors	356,452	217,367
Corporations	85,220	24,881
Special events, net	44,468	88,977
Donated goods and services	154,128	156,514
Investment income	75,991	29,465
Other income	2,455	3,467
Public support and revenue before release of restrictions	<u>1,671,468</u>	<u>992,353</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	990,268	595,896
Total public support and revenue	<u>2,661,736</u>	<u>1,588,249</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services		
Justice and Equality Program	395,405	385,652
FGM Program	425,941	414,318
FGM Fund Grants	447,256	274,187
Trafficking Program	283,552	134,895
International Peace and Security Program	144,302	78,284
Women's Action Network and Outreach	179,718	192,953
International Coordination	98,651	112,668
Total program services	<u>1,974,825</u>	<u>1,592,957</u>
Supporting services		
Management and general	157,107	151,799
Fundraising	190,261	198,173
Total supporting services	<u>347,368</u>	<u>349,972</u>
Total expenses	<u>2,322,193</u>	<u>1,942,929</u>
Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets	<u>339,543</u>	<u>(354,680)</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.



	2006	2005
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Contributions	\$1,174,149	\$ 791,552
Net assets released from restrictions	(990,268)	(595,896)
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>183,881</u>	<u>195,656</u>
Total increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted and unrestricted net assets	<u>523,424</u>	<u>(159,024)</u>
Net assets: January 1	2,050,966	2,209,990
Net assets: December 31	<u>\$2,574,390</u>	<u>\$2,050,966</u>

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 women's rights organizations and individual activists, Equality Now documents violence and discrimination against women, and adds an international action overlay-to support their efforts to advance equality rights and defend individual women who are suffering abuse. Through its Women's Action Network, Equality Now distributes information about these human rights-violations to concerned groups and individuals around the world, along with recommended actions for-protesting them. Issues of urgent concern to Equality Now include rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and the denial of equal access to economic opportunity and political participation.

EGALITE 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 organisations nationales qui se consacrent aux droits de la femme et avec des activistes individuels, Egalité Maintenant documente la violence et la discrimination contre les femmes, en ajoutant un élément d'action internationale pour soutenir les efforts de ces organisations et activistes pour avancer les droits égaux et pour défendre des femmes individuelles maltraitées. Au moyen du Réseau Action Femmes, Egalité Maintenant transmet des renseignements sur ces violations des droits humains aux groupes et aux individus intéressés partout dans le monde, avec des actions recommandées pour protester contre ces violations. Les problèmes urgents auxquels s'intéresse Egalité Maintenant comprennent: le viol, la violence familiale, les droits de reproduction, la traite des femmes, les mutilations génitales féminines, le manque d'accès à la parité économique, et l'accès égal à la participation politique.

IGUALDAD YA fue fundada en 1992 con el propósito de trabajar a favor de la protección y promoción de los derechos humanos de las mujeres en todo el mundo. Trabajando junto a organizaciones nacionales de derechos de mujeres y con activistas individuales, Igualdad Ya documenta casos de violencia y discriminación contra las mujeres y agrega un componente de acción internacional para apoyar sus esfuerzos para avanzar los derechos de igualdad y defender casos individuales de mujeres que sufren abusos. A través de su Red de Acción Mujeres, Igualdad Ya disemina información acerca de estas violaciones de derechos humanos entre grupos e individuos interesados en todo el mundo, junto con recomendaciones de acciones para protestar estos casos. Los temas de preocupación urgentes para Igualdad Ya incluyen la violación sexual, la violencia doméstica, los derechos reproductivos, el tráfico de mujeres, la mutilación genital femenina y la denegación del acceso igualitario a las oportunidades económicas y la participación política.

المساواة الآن منظمة تأسست في عام 1992 للعمل من أجل حماية حقوق الإنسان الخاصة بالمرأة وتعزيز هذه الحقوق في أنحاء العالم. وبالتعاون مع المنظمات الوطنية لحقوق المرأة ومع فرادى النشطاء، تقوم المساواة الآن بتوثيق أعمال العنف والتمييز المرتكبة ضد المرأة، وتضيف إلى ذلك بعداً من العمل الدولي لموازنة الجهود المبذولة للنهوض بالحقوق المتعلقة بالمساواة والدفاع عن فرادى النساء اللواتي يتعرضن للإيذاء. وتقوم المساواة الآن من خلال شبكتها للعمل النسائي بتوزيع المعلومات عن هذه الانتهاكات لحقوق الإنسان على المعنيين بها من الجماعات والأفراد حول العالم، مع التوصية بالإجراءات الواجب اتخاذها للاحتجاج عليها. وتهتم المساواة الآن بصفة عاجلة بمسائل من بينها الاغتصاب، والعنف الأسري، والحقوق الإنجابية، والاتجار بالنساء، وتشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للأنثى (ختان الإناث)، والحرمان من التمتع على قدم المساواة بالفرص الاقتصادية والمشاركة السياسية.

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