



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWEIT
نساء من أجل السلام عبر العالم
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
MUJERES DE PAZ EN EL MUNDO
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
ピースウーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち
全球和平妇女



Newsletter 1/2013

TOPIC Preventing Violence

Dear Readers,

Around the world, women and girls are still largely affected by different forms of violence, trafficking and political persecution.

This newsletter with its new design contains information on various aspects of our work and activities around this important topic and presents regional strategies for combating violence against women. In concrete terms, these are the PWAG projects such as the “Women Survivor Learning Forum” in Indonesia as well as the activities in Latin America and the Caribbean. We feature in this issue one of our PeaceWomen, Itsmania Pineda Platero from Honduras. As a human rights activist and journalist she urges politicians and government officials to take action against the violence in her country and to stop the prevalent impunity.

The short, encouraging review of “One Billion Rising” describes the impressive and creative global solidarity shown by women and men around the world to end violence against women.

MEIKE SAHLING, PWAG DIRECTOR

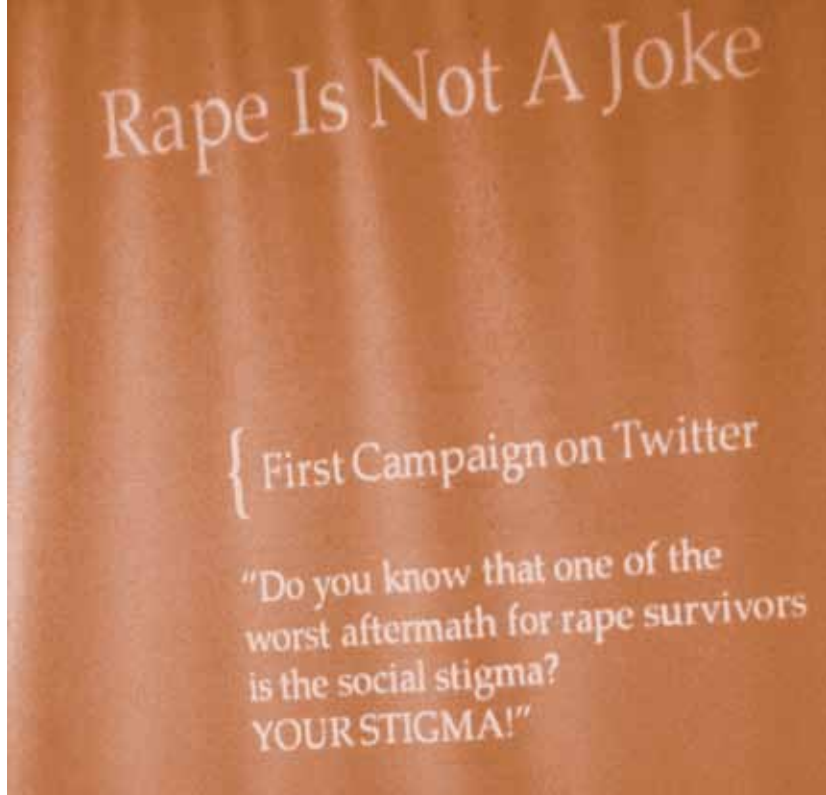
Fighting Violence against Women across the Regions

One of the major obstacles to achieving a culture of peace and ensuring gender equality is a problem that still plagues societies everywhere: Violence against women (VAW). Across regions, women face physical and sexual violence in their homes and during conflicts, they bear the brunt of exploitation and are forcibly trafficked. The violence has many faces. The PWAG regional projects aim not only to conduct country-specific activities, but also to foster a cross-regional learning and exchange of experiences in tackling this global issue.

Indonesia

Despite national and regional regulations in Indonesia since the country’s transition to democracy over a decade ago, VAW is an alarming reality in big cities such as Jakarta, but also on the many islands affected by violent conflict. Indonesia is also a source and transit country for thousands of women used for commercial sex and forced labour. “There were almost 114’000 cases of domestic violence reported to the National Commission on Women in 2011. However, so many more cases of violence go unreported”, recalls Indonesia’s Regional Coordinator Olin Monteiro. The Women Survivor Learning Forum, created in 2011-2012 by the local PWAG office, is a concrete effort to address the problem together with women survivors of violence and local government. The women gather documentation of national and international activities that can be used as lessons-learned for Indonesian women survivors. The international solidarity network, including women in Latin America and the Caribbean, play an important role in this project.

> SEE NEXT PAGE



from the
“Women Survivor
Learning Forum”

CONTINUED >

Latin America and the Caribbean

VAW remains a common phenomenon across Latin America and the Caribbean region with crimes against women such as trafficking, rape and femicide often going unpunished. “Improving national legislation and concrete national action plans for the implementation of international conventions such as UNSCR 1325 are crucial for the protection of women’s rights”, says Regional Coordinator María Julia

Moreyra. Access to legal services for women should also be ensured. The specific needs of women facing violence in areas of present-day conflict such as in Colombia, or women coming to terms with voicing violence of the past such as in Uruguay, as well as those increasingly vulnerable in displaced camps following the natural disasters in Haiti, are also addressed by the project in Latin America.

According to United Nations statistics, one out of four women in Brazil has experienced some form of violence, often very close to home by a relative or partner. Brazil also reports high murder rates among women and with its size and numerous borders, trafficking in women and girls also take on continental proportions. Since 2012, PWAG aims to campaign against societal violence working on perceptions of unequal relations between men and women as well as policy makers using a popular education methodology. The Coordinator Vera Vieira includes: “We hope to be able to extend the use of this methodology to all aspects of violence, including trafficking in women”.

Ending violence against women begins by promoting a more peaceful society. Women of PWAG are taking steps towards helping to create this environment by trying to raise awareness among women themselves, support survivors, inform society and lobby government so that this global problem is brought into the foreground and back onto the agenda of decision makers and societies across these regions.



Valentina Sagala,
facilitator of the “Women
Survivor Learning Forum”



Itsmania Pineda Platero

PeaceWoman

Itsmania Pineda Platero, Honduras

Itsmania Pineda Platero is a Honduran journalist and human rights defender. During a recent PWAG visit to Honduras, Itsmania explained how she started her engagement as an activist in the 1990s in the capital Tegucigalpa and talked about the increasing human rights violations in her country, a crisis that is affecting especially the security of women.

In the course of her professional life during the past twenty years, Itsmania's role has varied from journalist to artist, from street social worker to writer and to local expert on gangs and organized crime. Today, she brings together all of her "lives", as she calls them, in her engagement as a journalist reporting on the injustices in her country and in the region.

Itsmania started out as a human rights defender in the 1990s. Her organization "Xibalbá Arte y Cultura" initiated a project with young people on the streets, helping them to better integrate into society through art and dance. Itsmania soon became a spokesperson for young people at risk and took a role as an adviser on gang issues for governmental institutions and civil society organizations. "During that period, being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize was like a shield, a protection for me", Itsmania says. In 2011, the organization Xibalbá had to be closed because of the severe persecution of its employees.

In Honduras, the homicide rate has increased dramatically during the past years. According to the

National Commission for Human Rights (Comisión Nacional de los Derechos Humanos CONADEH), seventeen persons were killed every day in 2011. Major causes of this violence, the Commission states, are drug trafficking, organized crime and politically motivated violence following the military coup in 2009.

The increasing violence in the region has affected especially the security of women. Globally, Honduras has one of the highest rates of femicides - murdering of women because of their gender - with 473 murders during the past year (CONADEH). "The lack of justice in this country is a serious problem", Itsmania says. Altogether, 90% of all cases are left without conviction. Yet, even when victims denounce their perpetrators, there is hardly any follow-up of the cases of violence. "Honduras does not have enough programs for the protection of women. The government is not doing anything against the culture of impunity around violence against women", Itsmania states.

Itsmania is one of the numerous women human rights defenders whose lives are at risk today in Honduras. "The most important thing is to stay visible. We have to inform the international community about the human rights violations in our country".

One Billion Rising

Dance to end violence against women

On 14 February 2013 millions of people all over the world demonstrated to end violence against women and girls. More than 13,000 organisations in over two hundred countries took part in the "One Billion Rising" campaign. The message was unmistakable – violence against women and girls must finally stop! Every third woman experiences physical or psychological violence at least once in her life.

This amounts to one billion or, in other words, one thousand million. According to a UN study the probability of women between the ages of 15 and 44 being raped or subjected to domestic violence is higher than their chances of getting cancer or malaria, being involved in a traffic accident or affected by war. This was reason enough for PWAG to become involved in "One Billion Rising". The International Secretariat not only took part in the flash mob at Waisenhausplatz in Bern, but also initiated the Facebook platform for the campaign in Switzerland at the beginning of January. New events were added every day. The international PWAG network was involved in activities across regions in India, Sri Lanka, Brazil, Indonesia and Germany. It remains to be seen what will happen next year, as one thing is clear to all – the campaign will continue! And next time maybe even more people will rise up in protest against violence against women.



“I believe women are the ones who will revolutionize the world.”

MARIA BERENICE DIAS, BRAZIL

News

“One Billion Rising”
in Bern

Solidarity

Support PeaceWomen Across the Globe with a donation or with the purchase of a “peace share”.

Thank You!

Bank Account Information
Berner Kantonalbank
FriedensFrauen Weltweit
Account-No 16 248.434.2.85
Swift: KBBE CH 22
IBAN: CH79 0079 0016 2484 3428 5

Topics and Network

24 April 2013, Madrid

Workshop: **“Economic Solidarity and Nutritional Sovereignty”** at the “8th World Congress on Zero Emissions” from 22 to 27 April. Ute Scheub, PWAG Regional Coordinator, is responsible for the workshop and various women from our network such as Kin Chi Lau from Hong Kong and Nuria Costa from Mexico will also be attending.

2 to 14 June 2013, Parkhotel in Oberhofen

PeaceWoman **Emma Leslie** from Australia is one of the trainers at this year’s “Peace Mediation Course 2013” organised by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs every year since 2008.

Team in Bern

PeaceWomen Across the Globe would like to thank **Susanne Gfeller** for her valuable contributions during her internship at the International Secretariat from July to December 2012, and is looking forward to working with **Claudia Blaser**, who started her internship in Communication and Administration in January.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe wishes **Maaret Jokela**, who will be leaving the secretariat at the end of March, all the very best for her professional future. Maaret joined PeaceWomen Across the Globe as an intern in 2011 and worked as a Communication Manager from 2012 to 2013.

PeaceWomen Across the Globe is looking forward to working with **Lisa Salza**, who will be starting in the secretariat as the new Communication Manager in July 2013. Lisa has worked previously at Peace Brigades International and Inter-team.

Events

1 April 2013, 7 p.m. at the MAXIM Theater in Zurich

The “Plataforma por la Democracia en México desde Suiza” would like to invite you to a **German-Spanish reading on femicide in Mexico**. Texts about Ciudad Juárez, one of the most dangerous cities in the world, will be interpreted. The texts deal with life and death in a border town, with power and violence, silence and pain, but also with resistance, belief and hope.

Information: plataforma.demexico@gmail.com

17 May 2013 at 7.30 p.m. in the Käfigturm, Bern

Stella Sabiiti, PeaceWoman from Uganda, will be reporting on her work in her presentation “Recruiting Combatants in Africa’s Fight for Peace”.

18 May 2013 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Bern

Workshop with Stella Sabiti: “How to be a Peace Negotiator”

Venue to be announced. Seating is limited – please register at the PWAG secretariat.

Announcement

26–31 August 2013, Switzerland

Meeting of the PWAG International Board in Switzerland. We would like to invite you to get to know our board members from India, Hong Kong, Togo, Fiji, United States and Switzerland. We also welcome inquiries and propositions for lectures or presentations.

Please contact us at: +41 (0)31 312 02 40 or info@1000peacewomen.org.

Contact

PeaceWomen Across the Globe
International Secretariat
Maulbeerstrasse 14
3011 Bern
Switzerland

Tel +41 31 312 02 40
Fax +41 31 312 01 39
info@1000peacewomen.org
www.1000peacewomen.org

EDITORS

Maaret Jokela, Shazia Islamshah,
Meike Sahling, Claudia Blaser

TRANSLATION Linda Bestwalter

LAYOUT Christine Blau

The newsletter is published three times a year in German and in English. The printed version is sent to 1000 subscribers and the electronic version to 3000 subscribers.

Subscribe to our newsletter at
www.1000peacewomen.org/eng/aktuell_newsletter.php



Visit us on **Facebook** at

**PeaceWomen
Across the Globe**