



CSW53 Session -- 2009

Compliments to the panelists: Susan Dayton, President of Worldwide Organization of Women, Karin Kausch, IBPW, Dr. Shirley Randell, Vice President of IFUW, representative of ILO in lieu of Gemma Adabba and Catherine Moore, moderator, Coordinator of IFUW Representatives to the United Nations – New York.

Title of Parallel Event:

## **EQUAL SHARING OF FAMILY RESPONSIBILITIES INCLUDING CAREGIVING**

Consider this summary, in the words of the rapporteurs, to be a “Takeaway/Gift” Report to our esteemed IFUW colleague, Conchita Poncini, who was not able to attend CSW53 – the first time she was not present in a dozen years (or more). Conchita, the Workshop that you designed ended with three self selected small group conversations related to 1) ideas presented that they valued and would “take away” with them, and 2) the “Gift” or “pearls of wisdom” that you choose to share. Please find, verbatim, reports from each group. Additionally, please find partial list of names and email addresses of attendees.

### **REPORT -- GROUP I**

1. Take away discriminatory laws (that impact the lives of) women
2. Family empowerment
3. Include women in decision-making in policies
4. Get involved in law making process
5. Create awareness of value of unpaid work

### **REPORT -- GROUP II**

Suggestions:

1. More sensitive(ness) and drawing out women at the grassroots would help them rediscover themselves and empower them
2. Mental health problems related to HIV/AIDS clients and their families

### **REPORT – GROUP III**

“Takeaway” :

GOOD, BETTER, BEST – Women are often perfectionists. It is okay to do good but aim, (to) gradually climb; (we) do not have to do it all in one day or all at once

- You must be empowered to change
- You must own an idea to be effective
- Western culture shouldn't always think we can fix it
- Working in partnership
  - Going to read the book: The Tipping Point
- LANGUAGE IMPACTS – Care Givers – usually thought it was
  - women as soon as money (is) associated
  - Change “maternity” leave to “paternity” leave (Paternal Leave)
  - Disability Leave – in USA for maternity
- Commitment is very necessary. Get together to communicate ideas
- Sharing in the family – 5 males – having duties – generational changes

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**International Federation of University Women**

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- Men want to help – we often make them not feel needed

“Gift”

- Life experiences – sharing by each of us
- Fathers – (generational change) prior generations didn't help, they do now
- Rwandan woman said her husband helps but when his father comes to visit, said he wouldn't help because he had to save face
- One woman said her father would have liked to help but his wife said, “It is women's work.”

Written by CATHERINE MOORE, MODERATOR

4 April 2009

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