



## 2008 ADVOCACY ACTION REPORTS

There were reports from nine NFAs to the questions:

1. Describe the type of advocacy actions undertaken
2. How were they carried out?
3. Describe the outcomes of the action

Of particular interest were the **Projects**, which included:

- Working with other International agencies to raise environmental awareness in the **Sudan**
- Establishing a Women's Centre for school dropouts, adult literacy and classes in understanding economic development in **Rwanda** with support from the Peace Institute of Slovenia.
- Also in **Rwanda** a project to provide financial and technical support to organizations working with youth together with programmes run under UNFPA.
- In **Australia, Canada** and **New Zealand** fund raising projects mainly carried out by Branches/Clubs, e.g. hiring of academic regalia, for scholarships for schoolgirls, undergraduate and post-graduate women, indigenous and migrant women and girls.
- Running literacy classes in **Turkey** with support from the Public Education Authority and the National Education Administration.
- In **Canada**, Club projects like providing books for women in prison, for school libraries; reading to children; helping immigrants with English; assisting with science programmes in primary schools.
- A Seminar on People Trafficking to raise awareness about this in **Scotland**.
- A 'Techno Girls' programme in **Switzerland** to expose high school girls to Engineering as a profession.
- The Aurora Project in cooperation with Soroptimists in **South Africa**, to raise self-esteem of 14-year-old girls and also a National Essay Competition run by one Branch of SAAUW.

**On-going Programmes** mentioned included:

- Making awards to women prisoners undertaking education courses in **Australia** and providing special programmes like swimming and English for Muslim girls.
- In **Sudan** providing classes on FGM and HIV/Aids for female students and networking with girls following science courses in Higher Education.
- In **Turkey** classes for women about their legal rights.

There were reports of a number of **Submissions** listed by the NFAs who reported:

- **Canada** made special reference to the CFUW policy they were promoting in collaboration with Aboriginal Organizations to develop an Aboriginal Education Action Plan.
- **Canadian Clubs** are also working with Provincial Government to develop Action on Bullying.
- In **Scotland** submissions have been made to Judiciary Government system: on Children's Hearings and on the jury in modern Scottish criminal trials.
- In **Australia** AFUW works in coalition with other NGOs like the National Foundation for Australian Women and Women's Information and Referral (WIRE) and has been particularly active in writing both Submissions and Letters about matters like the Higher Education review, the economic independence of women, paid parental leave, signing the optional protocol to CEDAW, after hours and vacation care for school children, removal of AUSAID restriction on aid to population control programmes that include advice on abortion. AFUW includes copies of all of its submissions and letters on its website.
- Like Australia, **New Zealand** works in coalition with the National Council of Women in making submissions mainly on issues in education.
- **Canada** has also taken action on the need for early childhood education and has also written to government deploring the withdrawal of funding for adult literacy.

Some of the NFAs reported on **Events** in which they had been involved which drew attention to the work of the NFA such as:

- An opportunity for **Swiss** schoolgirls to meet members of SFUW and learn about their professional lives.
- A Presentation Day in **Scotland** when Post graduate students spoke about their work to members of the SFUW, seen as a great confidence-builder.
- A 'Meet the Candidates' event for local body or parliamentary elections in **New Zealand** as well as celebratory events for the award of Scholarships/ Educator of the Year.
- In **Turkey** arrange for marriages for women so that they understand their legal rights.

The Status of Women Committee thanks those NFAs who responded to this request for information and hopes that this report will encourage others to post information about their work on the IFUW website.

Dorothy Meyer  
May 2009