



APDC – The Asian and Pacific Development Centre, Gender and Development (GAD) Programme

APDC recently joined ARROW in conducting a joint policy dialogue on 'Women's Health: Monitoring and Implementation of the Global Platform for Action', held in June 1998 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The dialogue covered reproductive health and reproductive rights, including contraception, violence against women as a health issue and the need for gender-sensitive health and population policies and programmes.

The dialogue exchanged views on Violence Against Women (VAW), practical ideas for research and service delivery within a reproductive health and rights framework and clarification of sexual and reproductive health and rights concepts.

The next issue of the APDC GAD annual publication, *The Monitor*, focuses on indicators for monitoring post-Beijing activities and will have a special focus on the issue of Women and Health.

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ARROW – Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women

The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW) was established in 1993 as an Asian-Pacific non-governmental, non-profit organization. ARROW runs a Women and Health Programme

which aims to strengthen initiatives, to re-orient health, population and reproductive health policies and programmes with women's and gender perspectives. The Programme also intends to improve women NGOs' capacity to influence health, population and family planning organizations at all levels. This is achieved by ARROW through the collection, generation and dissemination of timely, relevant and action-oriented information on women's health to key organizations and individuals.

ARROW's present projects include the coordination of the Malaysian component of a seven-country ethnographic study of the International Reproductive Rights Research Action Group (IRRAG). The research documents low income women's understanding of their entitlements in marriage, childbearing and contraception. ARROW is also engaged in the review of policies and programmes affecting women's health, highlighting changes in Asia and the Pacific after the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in 1994.

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The Committee on Women, Population and the Environment (CWPE)

CWPE was formed in October 1991 by representatives from the Black Women's Health Book Collective, the Population and Development

Programme and Civil Liberties and Public Policy Programmes at Hampshire College. It has since welcomed in representatives from the national Conference of Black Lawyers, the Asian Women's Health Organization, Korean American Women in Need, the Midwest Treaty Network, Women of All Red Nations, the Political Ecology Group, the Black Women's Health Project, and a number of other organizations. From the start CWPE's mission has been to give voice to grassroots women in the US and abroad on issues of population control and the environment, offering analyses that account for the pervasive effects of war, urbanization, over-consumption, and the global poverty rather than those that focus solely on the effects of population growth.

They are especially critical of the attempts to blame environmental degradation on the 'overpopulation' of the poor and people of colour, while the main causes of damage are profit-driven economic systems, militarization, poorly planned urbanization, disproportionately high patterns of consumption among the world's economic elite and the displacement of small farmers and indigenous peoples by agribusiness, timber mining and energy interests.

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Eurostep

Eurostep was established in 1990 to coordinate the policy work of its members at the European level and to improve the quality and effectiveness of development offered by both

northern and southern NGOs. The 22 members in 15 European nations are involved in over 90 different countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

The Eurostep Gender Working Group aims to integrate a gender perspective into the European Union's development cooperation and to help member agencies make gender a central perspective to their work. The Gender Working Group focuses mainly on sensitizing EU's policies, programmes and practices. Reaching the goals of the different UN Conferences are followed up at the EU level, while member agencies follow up specifically at country level.

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The Foundation for Research and Information on Population Policy

The Foundation for Research and Information on Population Policy emerged from a women's group of the India Committee of the Netherlands, established in 1981. It produces education material about India and other southern countries for Dutch organizations, translating academic theory and analysis into material accessible to a broader public.

The foundation aims to provide information about the effects of population policy on the micro level from a women's perspective and to stimulate critical, comparative research in the field of population politics, reproduction and environment in order to influence Dutch (inter)national policy on population and to support women's organizations in the South.

In 1993 the foundation took a leading role in several activities of the Dutch NGO-platform Cairo '94

(SOVB) in view of the International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in September 1994. SOVB with CFFC (Catholics for a Free Choice) has taken the initiative to launch a petition campaign to consider the UN status of the Holy See.

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The International Division of the Rutgers Foundation

For nearly three decades the Rutgers Foundation has worked in sexual and reproductive health at a local, national and international level. The Rutgers Foundation offers a broad range of services, varying from medical and psycho-sexual services to training programmes and health promotion activities. The services and care are based on the concerns of individuals, clients and partner-organizations.

At an international level the Rutgers Foundation participates in and collaborates with various organizations, such as the IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Federation), youth and women's organizations and UN agencies. Exchange programmes in different parts of the world have been developed in partnership with local organizations.

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SIDA

The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) on

behalf of OECD/DAC's Expert Group on Gender Equality commissioned a study in 1997 to illustrate how the bilateral donor organizations are attempting to promote and mainstream a gender equality perspective in the field of sexual and reproductive rights and health. A critical concern was to find out how the agreements reached at Cairo and Beijing are being implemented.

The study identifies seven principles of good practice and illustrates each principle with selected examples of initiatives from the donor organizations and country case studies.

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Unifem

Unifem is presently running a campaign to eliminate violence against women in Africa. The campaign focuses on: domestic/family-based violence; violence against women during war and post-war conflict; bodily integrity (reproductive rights, female genital mutilation, etc.); political participation; socio-economic injustice (limited access to land and other productive resources, unequal inheritance customs, etc.); and state and community responsibility for promotion and protection of women's rights (legal literacy, re-orientation of the judiciary, policy-makers and media, citizenship rights).

The campaign will be principally conducted through media programmes (radio, TV and print), drama and interviews, publications and posters, workshops, and the production and sales of emblems and articles – all in some way highlighting the issue of violence against women.

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**Women's Health Research
Centre of the University of
the Witwatersrand,
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The WHRC was established in 1991 in anticipation of an end to apartheid in order to build women's knowledge and confidence to participate in policy advocacy and to ensure that women's voices were heard in the development of new policies. It is a non-governmental organization but is based in a university, aiming to create a synergistic interface between academia and activism.

Apart from its very valuable publications, the centre is also known for the key advocacy and strategic role it played in the development of new legislation such as the Choice on Termination of Pregnancy Act (1996) and the White Paper on Population

Policy (1998) and in the government delegations to Cairo and Beijing.

Major successes have been contributing to the inclusion of commitments to gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights and health in the Constitution and a range of legislation; implementation of transformative actions in response to its research findings; and international uptake of WHP's materials, courses and research methodologies.

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The World Bank

The Bank is playing a key role in mobilizing resources for implementation of the Cairo Programme of Action. It is funding efforts to increase educational opportunities for girls, which is one of ICPD's three main goals. For reproductive health, the Bank has committed over a billion dollars since 1994. About a third of this total was for family planning, with the remainder for other reproductive health activities (safe motherhood, HIV/AIDS, etc.).

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**Working Group on
Population, Sustainable
Development and
Reproductive Health in the
European Parliament**

Since 1991, Marie Stopes International (MSI) has provided the secretariat services to the Working Group on Population, Sustainable Development and Reproductive Health in the European Parliament. By providing a forum for discussion within the European Parliament, the Working Group, in accordance with the ICPD Programme of Action, advocates the support of gender equality, reproductive health and reproductive rights as the basis for sustainable development and balanced population growth.

With a membership representing almost 14 percent of the European Parliament (The Working Group membership currently stands at 86 members and there are 626 MEPs in the European Parliament), the Working Group has been instrumental in successfully influencing EU policy on sexual and reproductive health over the past seven years.

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