



This issue of Window on the World surveys a selection of global and regionally based civic organizations that are engaged in promoting the reproductive rights and health agenda. Readers are encouraged to explore further the vibrant and important work of committed women's groups described here briefly by visiting the website addresses that are given.

Global Networks and Institutions

ABANTU

www.abantu.org

ABANTU for Development is an international NGO looking at gender justice and sustainable development in Africa. The organization's Strategic Plan between 2001 and 2004 focuses on: Gender and Poverty, Gender and Conflict, Gender and ICTs, and Gender and Governance. The core aim is to minimize the consequences of conflict on women by contributing to gender-sensitive peacekeeping/building; to encourage the use of ICTs by women; and to enable women to influence policies from a gender perspective by contributing to the effective participation of women in governance structures and processes.

AWID (Association for Women's Rights in Development)

www.awid.org

AWID seeks to bring about policy, institutional and individual change that will improve the lives of women

and girls globally. AWID's Ninth International Forum, 'Re-inventing Globalization', held in Guadalajara, Mexico in October 2002, provided the opportunity to develop strategies, share ideas, build skills and provide support for all to advance gender equality and social justice. Although the Forum targeted a broader discussion on women and development, various workshops addressed the issue of sexual and reproductive rights and health globally with regional meetings from Latin America and North America to Central Europe and Asia. Discussions ranged from legal and safe abortion to national legislation and policies to promote and protect sexual and reproductive rights. The complexity of sexuality from different cultural, class and ethnic perspectives, and how the parameters and definitions of sexuality affect all women was looked at in relation to sexual behaviour and sexual/gender identity and expression challenging or transgressing community norms. The organization runs 'Virtual Forums' on four themes: feminist organizational development, gender equality and new technologies, women's rights and economic change, and young women and leadership.

CRR (Center for Reproductive Rights)

www.crlp.org

The Center is a non-profit legal advocacy organization dedicated to promoting and defending women's reproductive rights worldwide. In January 2003, the Center changed its name from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy to the Center

for Reproductive Rights. With the change of name, the Center wants to call attention to the goal it seeks to achieve – women's rights to reproductive health and choices – rather than the means used to secure those rights. The new name shifts the focus from technical support to the aspirations of billions of women and men around the world, who seek to determine the course of their own lives and lives of their families. The Center has protested loudly against the threats to women's reproductive rights that gained new momentum with the election of George W. Bush: a 'partial-birth abortion' ban, which poses the gravest imminent danger to a woman's right to choose abortion; the 'Abortion Non-Discrimination Act', which would shield health care entities – including hospitals, health insurance plans and health maintenance organizations – from sanction for refusing to abide by local, state or federal regulations concerning abortion services, referrals, training, coverage or payment; as well as the US\$34 million withdrawal from UNFPA by the US government. The Center has also monitored closely the impact of these concerns in countries such as Peru, Nepal and China.

DAWN (Development Alternative with Women for a New Era)

www.dawn.org.fj

DAWN pursues feminist research and analysis of the global environment, in particular on the issue of economic and gender justice, and democracy. The network offers holistic analyses from a southern feminist

perspective that is grounded in women's experience and inspired by women's collective strategies and visions. The DAWN network today covers Africa, Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The organization has been active in protecting the sexual and reproductive rights that are put at risk due to the refusal of the Bush administration to reaffirm the ICPD Programme of Action at the Fifth Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok in December 2002 by monitoring the conference negotiations and constantly raising the issue in its publications as well as in various forums/workshops. Following the Steering Committee meeting of the network in October 2002, some decisions were taken towards its future activities. These include a series of in-depth, month-long training modules to develop capacity in a new generation of feminists on whom DAWN can draw for future engagements, to be held in May and June 2003.

EngenderHealth

www.engenderhealth.org

EngenderHealth works worldwide to improve the lives of individuals by making reproductive health services safe, available, and sustainable. It provides technical assistance, training and information, with a focus on practical solutions that improve services where resources are scarce. EngenderHealth addresses family planning, maternal and child health, reproductive health care for men, post-abortion care, and the prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted infections and cervical cancer. In 2002, the organization released a new Fact Book, 'Contraceptive Sterilization: Global Issues and Trends', and a tool kit in 'Realizing Rights in Sexual and Reproductive Health Services'. Regarding capacity building, a

curriculum on adolescent reproductive health was released and innovative web-based mini-courses were launched at www.engenderhealth.org/minicourses/ focusing on topics in reproductive health, sexuality and sexual health, sexually transmitted infections, HIV and AIDS, and infection prevention.

ICRW (International Center for Research on Women)

www.icrw.org

ICRW is a non-profit organization that seeks to improve the lives of women in poverty, advance women's equality and human rights, and contribute to the broader economic and social well-being. The organization accomplishes this through policy-oriented research, capacity building and advocacy on issues affecting women's economic, health and social status in low and middle income countries. The organization's reproductive health research work has concentrated on India, analysing reproductive rights through the role of abortion in the country and its adolescent reproductive health and sexuality. At the same time, the ongoing project 'Whole Women, Whole World' examines the linkages between economic status and reproductive health. Some of the connections are: adolescent reproductive health and livelihoods, business development services for women and better reproductive health, and globalization with reproductive health and rights. Several on-line discussions are being run at ICRW's website. As of January 2003, ICRW has begun hosting a lunchtime seminar series every month to discuss Women and Development, including domestic violence, reproductive choice and rights, and gender equity and peace-building.

IPPF (International Planned Parenthood Organization)

www.ippf.org

IPPF is committed to promoting the right of women and men to decide freely the number and spacing of their children and the right to the highest possible level of sexual and reproductive health. The organization is actively involved in all issues related to sexual and reproductive rights and health. At its Fiftieth Anniversary Symposium held in November 2002 in New Delhi, world leaders in sexual and reproductive health signed the New Delhi Declaration protesting current undermining of consensus reached at ICPD in Cairo. Various documents, manuals, and on-line journals and bulletins were produced providing advocacy guide for sexual and reproductive rights and health, counseling for STD/HIV prevention in sexual and reproductive health settings, as well as information, discussion and advice about sexual well-being, choices and rights. Two intensive training courses will be held during 2003 for health professionals in the field of family planning, sexual and reproductive health 'Implementing Sexual and Reproductive Health Programmes' (July 2003) and 'Young People: Implementing a Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Approach' (September 2003).

RHO (Reproductive Health Outlook)

www.rho.org

The RHO website provides up-to-date summaries of research findings, programme experience, and clinical guidelines related to key reproductive health topics, as well as analyses of policy and programme implications. The website is designed to help reproductive health programme managers and decision-makers working in

developing countries and low-resource settings link with quality on-line resources and collaborate with colleagues around the world. Specific reproductive health topics of the RHO are: Adolescent Reproductive Health, Cervical Cancer Prevention, Contraceptive Methods, Family Planning Programme Issues, Gender and Sexual Health, HIV/AIDS, Infertility, Men and Reproductive Health, Older Women, Refugee Reproductive Health, Reproductive Tract Infections, and Safe Motherhood. These topics are updated regularly in addition to news, courses, conferences, on-line journals, etc. on reproductive health.

WCRP (World Conference on Religion and Peace) Women's Programme

www.wcrp.org/RforP/WOMEN_MAIN.html

The WCRP Women's Programme was founded in 1998 in response to the enormous desires of religious women around the world to collaborate on shared concerns for peace. However, advancing women's concerns has been a major part of WCRP's mission and the programme therefore also focuses on issues such as development, peace education and human rights. A seminar 'Reinterpreting Religious Texts from a Gender-Perspective: Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, Christian and Islamic Stories' was held in New York in November 2002 to discuss the common misperceptions and interpretations of religious text and doctrine regarding the role of women in the society and to work out alternative women-friendly interpretations. Some other seminars and publications addressed the issue of religion, women and HIV/AIDS in Africa and religious women in conflict areas.

WHP (Women's Health Project)

www.wits.ac.za/whp/index.htm
WHP is a NGO located at the School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. It works towards creating gender equity so that women are able to make decisions about their health and lives by doing research and advocacy, providing consultancy and training, and disseminating information. The main areas of work of the organization are reproductive rights and health, sexual rights, transforming the health system, tobacco control and gender. In January 2002, WHP launched the Initiative for Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Health Reforms. This is an international initiative that brings together researchers and activists from Africa, Latin America and Asia to strengthen an understanding of the role of health sector reform in facilitating or undermining efforts to achieve sexual and reproductive rights.

Regional Networks and Organizations

AIDOS (Italian Association for Women in Development)

www.dirittiumani.donne.aidos.it
AIDOS works towards women's empowerment working with women's organizations and NGOs in the South, enabling them to respond to women's needs and to manage their interventions autonomously. AIDOS focuses on: a) support for micro-enterprises run by women; b) women's reproductive health and rights through a holistic approach, from adolescence to menopause; c) capacity building of women's institutions and organizations; and d) documentation, information and communication service centres. Under the EC/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative (RHI), AIDOS co-

ordinated production of the RHI training manual and the organization of a trainers workshop. The manual, which is directed at programme officers of international and local NGOs and government officers who work in the area of Reproductive Health, is expected to be used as a prototype for the production of training manuals in the various countries which are part of RHI.

AMANITARE (African Partnership for Sexual Health and Rights of Women and Girls)

www.amanitare.org

The organization's goal is to build an influential social movement to institutionalize the recognition of African women's and girls' sexual and reproductive health rights as fundamental to their civil and human rights. The 'Reaching out to the New Generation' Action Group of AMANITARE organized a workshop in early 2002 to promote the participation of young girls, boys and adolescents in education and health care programmes that aim to address their needs. AMANITARE has been working to institute an African Women's Health and Rights Day on 4 February each year.

AMANITARE was responsible for organizing the first conference dedicated to African Women's Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Johannesburg in February 2003. The conference aimed to raise awareness of the connection between the economic crisis and women's sexual and reproductive health and rights and to mobilize pan-African public opinion.

ARROW (Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women)

www.arrow.org.my

The ARROW Women and Health Programme aims to re-orient health,

population and reproductive health policies and programmes to include a gender and woman-centred perspective. ARROW's recent work in the programme as part of the 'Johannesburg Initiative' is to build capacity amongst individuals and organizations engaged in advocacy for improving abortion access, legal status and quality of services. The project analyses the current laws and policies affecting women's reproductive health and rights to ensure that women's concerns are reflected in future legal and policy efforts.

CHETNA (Centre for Health Education, Training and Nutrition Awareness)

www.chetnaindia.org

CHETNA seeks to empower disadvantaged and marginalized women, adolescents and children to gain control over the health of their own, their families and their communities. Over the past two decades since its foundation, the activities have broadened in the field of nutrition, health, education and development from a 'rights' perspective. In 2002, the second and third phase of Women and Health (WAH) project worked with women health co-ordinators and supervisors to ensure that all aspects of women's health are integrated in the primary health care system. The training modules stress on perspective building, needs assessment, capacity building in terms of technical training, effects of violence on physical as well as mental health and adolescent health. As a co-chair of the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood in India, during 2001–2002, CHETNA initiated and coordinated a campaign to make home births safe in seven districts with a low rate of safe delivery. Together with the National Commission of Women and UNFPA-India, CHETNA has

implemented a project to develop a educational kit highlighting the link between health and violence against women and to motivate NGOs to address the issue in their on-going programmes.

Instituto PROMUNDO

www.promundo.org.br

Instituto PROMUNDO is committed to improving the lives of children, adolescents and their families by disseminating its materials among practitioners working in the area and providing technical assistance to organizations that replicate its initiatives. In the field of sexual and reproductive right and health, PROMUNDO works with young men to promote health and gender equity. It believes that there is also a need to include adolescent men in order to improve the health of both young women and young men themselves. This has resulted in the International Conference and Workshop 'Young Men as Allies in the Promotion of Health and Gender Equity' held in Rio de Janeiro in August 2002, and a series of manuals on working with young men from the perspective of sexual and reproductive rights and health.

ISIS Women's International Cross-cultural Exchange (ISIS-WICCE)

www.isis.or.ug

ISIS-WICCE aims to promote the self-determination of women, through the exchange of skills and experiences, the documentation of women's lives, information sharing and networking. One of the current programmes is to support women in the Great Lakes region to become active participants in the peace process in the region. The ISIS-WICCE bi-annual newsletter, *The Women's Peace Monitor*, focuses on women's human rights issues with

specific emphasis on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

The Key Centre for Women Health in Society

www.kcwh.unimelb.edu.au/index.html

The Key Centre is one of five centres worldwide designated to provide training on gender and reproductive health as part of the WHO initiative Operationalizing Cairo and Beijing, and in this context provides short training courses for middle- and senior-level managers in government institutions, inter-governmental and non-governmental agencies, in addition to its graduate diploma and masters level training in women's health. In 2002 the Centre offered short training courses on Gender and Reproductive Health and Violence against Women. In 2003, short training courses will be held on Adolescent Health Programme Planning; Health Promotion, Planning and Evaluation; and Psychological Practice in Women's Health.

Shirkat Gah Women's Resource Centre

sgah@sgah.lhr-com.net

Shirkat Gah's focus is on law and status, and women and sustainable development (including reproductive rights) with the aim to protect women's rights and development. Recent advocacy work has been on the 'honour killing' of women in Pakistan as a part of its larger investigation of this widespread practice using 'immoral sexual conduct' as an excuse to kill women – whether they are wives, sisters, daughters or female cousins. Two recent publications have emerged from this work: *Don't Let Them Get Away with Murder* (2002) offers information on laws and criminal procedures against the practice and analysis of some case studies, and *Imagined Citizenship: Women, State and Politics in Pakistan*

(2002) aims to identify measures for refining and altering processes to meet women's political participation in Pakistan.

SIECUS (The Sexuality Information and Education Council of the US)

www.siecus.org

SIECUS is dedicated to affirming that sexuality is a natural and healthy part of life. The Council develops, collects, and disseminates information, promotes comprehensive education, and advocates the right of individuals to make responsible sexual choices. In November 2002, the Council launched a new print advertisement campaign as part of its on-going effort to provide parents and guardians with resources to talk with their kids about sexuality. One month earlier, SIECUS launched its parent-child communication initiative, *Families Are Talking*, to help parents and guardians address these tough issues. Also focusing on this topic, a new publication was released: *Innovative Approaches to Increase Parent-Child Communication About Sexuality: Their Impact and Examples from the Field*.

WOREC (Women's Rehabilitation Centre)

www.worecnepal.org

WOREC seeks to empower and mobilize community-based social organizations to bring about positive change

in the human rights status of both women and children as well as in the livelihood of grassroots people from the perspective of social justice. The major focuses of the WOREC are advocacy against trafficking, basic human rights, women's reproductive and sexual rights, rights of and access to agricultural inputs of farming communities, and other productive natural resources. WOREC has established Women's Health Resource and Counselling Centres and Women's Health Networks in various districts. These centres and networks act as nodal points in different areas to provide information, education, counseling related to women's health. The Participatory Adolescent Health Education initiative offers training and counseling on adolescent girls' health problems and works to change traditional attitudes and practices in Nepal. The community-based HIV/AIDS prevention programme aims to integrate STDs/AIDS-related issues into school education and community-based health programmes. The programme's education and training activities target students at high schools, migrant workers in carpet factories in Katmandu, and rural communities in certain districts.

WRC (White Ribbon Campaign)

www.whiteribbon.ca

The WRC is the largest effort in the world of men working to end men's

violence against women. It is an educational organization to encourage reflection and discussion that leads to personal and collective action among men to get involved in helping to end violence against women. It encourages men to do educational work in schools, workplaces and communities, to support local women's groups, and to raise money for the international educational efforts of the WRC. Groups in many countries organize activities to support this international campaign. For example, in Canada, the 5th Annual North by Northeast (NXNE) White Ribbon Concert and Annual Ivory DadWalk were held in 2002 to raise funds and convey the WRC's message to get men and boys involved in ending men's violence against women. Both events featured the participation of some of Canada's biggest celebrities. And several projects were funded in partnership with the Canadian Women's Foundation (CWF): the 'Violence is not Love' symposium, aimed at educating teenagers about dating violence and healthy relationship issues; Students Against Violence Education Prevention, developing and establishing a community school violence prevention partnership; and Voice Youth Truth, an internet site providing access to a forum of self-directed learning and creative expression regarding violence and abuse for women and young people at risk.