**COVER PHOTOS:** Women and girls featured in Equality Now Women’s Action campaigns. *Top row, left to right:* **Maricris Sioson** was a 22-year-old dancer from the Philippines trafficked to Japan and killed there in 1991. Equality Now called for investigation and prosecution of those responsible. **Fauziya Kassindja** at age 17 was denied political asylum and detained in the United States from 1994 to 1996, having fled Togo to escape female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage. Equality Now campaigned on her behalf. In June 1996, she was granted asylum. **Lok Maya Adhikari** was a Nepali widow and mother of five, sentenced in 1995 to a year in prison for having an abortion. **Bimla** was a 20-year-old Nepali woman (shown with her one-year-old daughter) who died from an illegal abortion. Equality Now called for amendment of the absolute ban on abortion. In 2002, Nepal passed a law easing the restrictions on abortion. **Abla Kotor** was enslaved in Ghana at the age of 12 as a *trokosi*, a tradition in which virgin girls are given to priests to appease the gods. Equality Now campaigned for criminalization of the practice. In 1998 it was outlawed in Ghana and Abla was later freed. **Indravani (Pamela) Ramjattan** was sentenced to death for the murder of her husband in May 1995. He had beaten and raped her repeatedly from the age of 17, when she was sent to live with him against her will. Equality Now called for clemency. In October 1999, the murder conviction was reduced to manslaughter and Pamela was released in February 2003 after serving 12 years. *Bottom row, left to right:* **Woineshet Zebene Negash** was abducted, raped and forced to sign a marriage contract at age 13 in Ethiopia. Equality Now campaigned for the prosecution of her abductors, who were convicted in July 2003. In December 2003 the conviction was overturned and they were released. In 2007, Equality Now petitioned the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights in an effort to obtain justice for Woineshet (see page 6). **Fanta Camara**, a young girl from Mali, suffered damage to her urethra when she was subjected to FGM at the age of five. Equality Now is highlighting her case in its campaign for a law against FGM in Mali and has helped her seek medical assistance (see page 14). **Dr. Shazia**, a Pakistani physician, was raped in her home in January 2005 by an intruder. When she reported the crime to the police, the government of Pakistan forced her and her husband to flee the country. Equality Now campaigned for justice in her case and for repeal of the discriminatory rape laws in Pakistan, which were partially amended in 2006 (see page 4). **Minerva Teresa Torres Albeñado** was an 18-year-old woman from Chihuahua City, Mexico who disappeared in March 2001. In June 2005, her family was informed by the authorities that remains discovered in July 2003 belonged to Minerva. Equality Now is campaigning against impunity for the murders of nearly 400 women in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua City (see page 3). **Kobra Najjar** is an Iranian woman whose husband forced her into prostitution to sustain his heroin addiction. A sympathetic “client” murdered Kobra’s husband. She has already served an eight-year sentence as an accomplice to the murder and now faces death by stoning for adultery. Equality Now is campaigning for her life (see page 2). **Malalai Joya**, an Afghan member of Parliament, is a staunch critic of warlords whose life is continuously under threat. In May 2007 she was suspended from Parliament. Equality Now is calling for her reinstatement (see page 22).
The year 2007 marks the fifteenth anniversary of Equality Now, which began with the simple idea that the mobilization of public pressure could help protect and promote the human rights of women. In the past fifteen years technology has evolved, making it possible to reach more people without delay with breaking news and a call to action. In 2007, Equality Now started issuing News Alerts to complement its Women’s Actions. News Alerts are rapid response internet-based campaigns that address crises requiring immediate intervention, such as the imminent stoning of a woman and man to death for adultery or the impending flogging of a rape victim (see pages 2–3). While governments, international organizations, the media and the general public are all more aware of human rights violations against women than they were fifteen years ago, gender-based violence and discrimination continue, harming women and girls around the world, often at the cost of their lives. A faster and stronger response will save more lives. The challenge is building a global movement that can react quickly and effectively and hold governments accountable for human rights violations against women.

L’année 2007 marque le 15ème anniversaire d’Egalité Maintenant, qui est née de l’idée simple que la mobilisation de la pression publique pouvait contribuer à protéger et promouvoir les droits humains des femmes. Au cours des quinze dernières années, la technologie a évolué, permettant de contacter plus rapidement plus de personnes pour leur communiquer des interventions récentes et les appeler à agir. En 2007, Egalité Maintenant a commencé à émettre des Alertes Infos destinées à compléter ses Actions Femmes. Les Alertes Infos sont des campagnes éclairs par Internet destinées à avoir un impact sur des crises nécessitant une intervention immédiate, telles que la lapidation imminente d’une femme et d’un homme condamnés à mort pour adulte ou la prochaine flagellation d’une victime de viol (voir, page 2). Même si les Etats, les organisations internationales, les médias et le grand public sont désormais plus au fait qu’il y a quinze ans des violations des droits humains des femmes, partout dans le monde, des femmes et des jeunes filles continuent à être victimes des violences faites aux femmes et de discriminations qui leur coûtent parfois la vie. Des interventions plus rapides et plus vigoureuses contribueront à sauver plus de vies. Le défi consiste à créer un mouvement mondial, capable de réagir rapidement et efficacement, et de demander, des comptes aux Etats en relation avec des violations des droits humains des femmes.

Igualdad Ya cumplió quince años en 2007. La organización nació con la simple idea de que la movilización de la presión pública podría contribuir a proteger y promover los derechos humanos de las mujeres. En los últimos quince años la tecnología ha evolucionado y ha permitido que lleguemos a más personas de inmediato con las últimas novedades y un llamamiento de acción. En 2007, Igualdad Ya comenzó a publicar las Alertas de Noticias para complementar sus Acciones Mujeres. Estas alertas son campañas de respuesta inmediata por Internet que abordan las crisis que requieren una intervención inmediata, como la inminente muerte por lapidación de una mujer y un hombre por adulterio o la inminente flagelación de la víctima de una violación (véase página 2). Mientras los gobiernos, las organizaciones internacionales, los medios de comunicación y el público general son ahora más conscientes de las violaciones de los derechos humanos de las mujeres que hace quince años, niñas y mujeres siguen sufriendo violencia y discriminación por razón de género en todo el mundo, pagando muchas veces con su vida. Una respuesta más rápida y más firme salvará más vidas. El reto consiste en crear un movimiento global que pueda reaccionar rápidamente y eficazmente, y pedir cuentas a los gobiernos por las violaciones de los derechos humanos de la mujer.
Iran: Stoning to Death for Adultery

Adultery is the only crime in Iran that can incur the punishment of stoning, though all sexual intercourse outside marriage is illegal and can result in flogging, or hanging for the fourth offense. In March 2007, Equality Now launched a campaign against stoning in Iran, highlighting the case of Kobra Najjar, a 44-year-old woman whose husband forced her into prostitution in order to sustain his heroin addiction. A sympathetic “client” murdered Kobra’s husband, and she was charged as an accomplice to the murder and with adultery. She has already served an eight-year sentence for the murder charge. For adultery she was sentenced to death by stoning. Her execution is pending.

Equality Now’s London Director serves on the advisory board of the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign, a coalition of women’s organizations, activists and volunteer lawyers who are working to end stoning in Iran. In June 2007, Equality Now learned through the Stop Stoning Forever Campaign of an imminent stoning to be carried out against Jafar Kiani and Mokarrameh Ebrahimi, who had spent the past 11 years in jail for adultery for having a child out of wedlock. Equality Now issued a global News Alert to mobilize media and diplomatic pressure. Immediate and intense advocacy efforts and rapid responses by Iranian groups, international organizations and individuals played a critical role over the course of 48 hours in averting the brutal executions from taking place.

Sadly, Equality Now learned that Jafar Kiani was subsequently stoned to death on 5 July 2007. Equality Now remained concerned about the safety of Ms. Ebrahimi and several other women who have been sentenced to death by stoning, including Kobra Najjar.

Equality Now continues to call on its members to write to the head of the judiciary and the President of Iran, asking for the immediate commutation of all sentences of death by stoning and the prohibition by law of all cruel, inhuman and degrading punishments.

While you may not agree with adultery, in ratifying the ICCPR Iran also agreed to Article 17, which protects the rights of adults to have consensual sex in private without the interference of government. Punishing consenting adults for activities they undertook in private is already a cruel and tyrannical act; to punish them with flogging or death by stoning is positively barbaric.

Samantha Schwarer
Durban, South Africa
I was disturbed to learn of the extent to which women and men are treated differently in the Iranian legal system, especially when it comes to issues involving adultery, fornication and rape. Please do everything in your power to ensure that equality before the law becomes reality and that excessively cruel punishments for nonviolent offenses are abolished.

Robert B. Williams III  
Arizona, USA

Saudi Arabia: Flogging of a Rape Victim

In 2006, a 19-year-old woman from Qatif, Saudi Arabia was brutally attacked and gang raped by seven men. While seeking justice in her case, the woman was herself sentenced in October 2006 to 90 lashes for being in the company of an unrelated man at the time of the attack. She appealed this decision to a higher court, and the Qatif General Court announced on 14 November 2007 that the victim’s sentence had been more than doubled to 200 lashes and six months in prison.

Following this second decision, Equality Now issued a News Alert calling on the Ministry of Justice of Saudi Arabia to revoke the sentence of lashing and imprisonment of the rape victim. Equality Now also called on the Ministry to restore the victim’s legal representation by rescinding its decision to revoke the license of her lawyer.

On 17 December 2007, Saudi Arabian Justice Minister Abdullah Al-Asheikh announced that King Abdullah had pardoned the rape victim. Media reports also indicated that the charges against the victim’s lawyer had been dropped and his license to practice law would be reinstated.

International advocacy and media pressure helped ensure that the rape victim from Qatif was not subjected to the lashing, but Equality Now remains concerned about the gender-based discrimination faced by Saudi Arabian women. Since 1999 Equality Now has highlighted the ban on women driving in Saudi Arabia as one of many sex discriminatory laws still in force around the world.

Mexico: Abduction and Murder of Women

Over the past decade, several hundred women have been murdered in or near Ciudad Juárez, a town in the state of Chihuahua at the United States border, and murders of a similar pattern have also occurred in Chihuahua City. Many were abducted and raped. Based on requests submitted by Equality Now and its Mexican partners, Casa Amiga, a rape crisis center in Juárez, and the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW Committee) undertook an investigation into the Mexican government’s failure to respond to patterns of abduction, rape and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez, concluding with a report issued in January 2005 finding “grave or systematic violations of rights set forth in the Convention.”

Following the release of the CEDAW report, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign in August 2006 highlighting the case of Minerva Teresa Torres Albeldaño, an eighteen-year-old woman from Chihuahua City who disappeared in March 2001 after leaving home to attend a job interview. It took nine days for the police to initiate a search for Minerva, as they maintained that she had run away, denying the urgent and repeated requests of her parents for intervention. Officers assigned to the case changed repeatedly and leads were not followed up in a timely way. In June 2005, four years after Minerva’s parents had declared her missing, the family was informed by the Public Prosecutor’s office that remains that had been discovered in July 2003 and held in the Office of Expert Services for two years belonged to Minerva.
The Mexican government has reported that 379 women were murdered in Ciudad Juárez between 1993 and 2005, while another several dozen were cited as missing and unaccounted for. In 2006, an estimated 58 women were murdered in Chihuahua State, and in 2007 the estimated number of murders of women was 38. The statute of limitations has already expired on some of the earliest murders, and the lack of accountability for these crimes has created a climate of impunity in Chihuahua State over the last decade that has allowed these acts of violence to continue. According to the Mexican government’s own federal Special Prosecutor’s office, 177 public servants involved in 120 cases were implicated as having acted with administrative or criminal negligence in handling investigations. This number represents over 35% of all officials involved in homicide cases from 1993 to 2005. There is no indication that any official has been prosecuted for these acts, even those suspected of criminal responsibility.

In 2007, Equality Now continued to express concern about the murders in Ciudad Juárez and Chihuahua and the lack of accountability for official misconduct in investigations, calling for the investigation and punishment of all state and law enforcement officials who have obstructed the course of justice.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

We understand the Report on the murders of women (femicides) in Central America and Mexico and the role of the European Union in fighting this phenomenon is coming up for vote next week. We respectfully request that you do all that you can to ensure the European Union plays a leading role in maintaining pressure on the Mexican government to end the impunity and secure justice for these crimes.

Equality Now London, to members of the European Parliament

It concerns me greatly that such crimes like the case of Minerva Torres go uninvestigated and the perpetrators go unpunished while your government appears to have a blind eye regarding these crimes. The entire world suffers pain and great loss everyday because of the unrealized gifts that those of the female gender in your society never get to share with the rest of us. I would like to know what is being done to correct this widespread misconduct and what is being done to bring these officials to justice.

Gregory Notth
Illinois, USA

Pakistan: Denial of Justice for Rape

In January 2005 Dr. Shazia, a Pakistani physician who worked at a hospital run by state-owned company Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL), was raped in her home by an intruder who broke in at night while she was sleeping. Despite intense pressure to keep silent by doctors at the company, Dr. Shazia reported the crime to the police. Instead of apprehending and punishing her attacker, the government of Pakistan forced Dr. Shazia and her husband Khalid to flee the country under threat of death. In March 2005, the High Court of Balochistan Quetta Tribunal of Inquiry ruled that PPL “deliberately and intentionally avoided registering the crime and blocked police investigation into it.” In August 2005, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling for an immediate and full investigation into the rape of Dr. Shazia and demanding that those responsible be brought to justice.

In July 2007, the Pakistan Senate Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Resources examined PPL’s response to the rape and assault as part of a larger investigation of the company, and according to reports the committee recommended that PPL take steps to rectify its role in impeding justice for Dr. Shazia. Equality Now continues to demand that PPL be held accountable for its involvement in the obstruction of justice in Dr. Shazia’s case, but advocacy in the case has been challenging due to the difficult political climate in Pakistan at year-end 2007.

United Nations: Advancement of Women and Women’s Rights Campaign against Discriminatory Laws

During the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, governments pledged to repeal laws that discriminate against women. In 2000 they renewed their pledge and set a target date of 2005, which came and went while laws that explicitly discriminate against women remain in force in many countries. In its campaign reports for the fifth and tenth Beijing anniversary reviews, Equality Now highlighted a representative sampling of discriminatory laws and called on governments to rescind these laws: 21 of the 53 countries highlighted to date by Equality Now have done so. To accelerate the pace of change, since 2005 Equality Now has been urging the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) to create a Special Rapporteur that would
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Justice and equality enhance the capacity of the CSW to monitor implementation of this commitment in the Beijing Platform for Action. Despite the efforts of Equality Now and its partners, the initiative did not get sufficient support from governments during the March 2006 session of the CSW and was tabled for discussion at the 51st CSW session in March 2007, where once again it did not get the support needed to move forward. Equality Now has shifted focus to call for the creation of the Special Rapporteur on laws that discriminate against women by the Human Rights Council. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has expressed support for the initiative and has commissioned a study to review the possibility of creating this mechanism. The release of the study was pending at year-end 2007.

Representation of Women in the UN

In October 2005, Equality Now launched its United Nations Secretary-General campaign, calling for consideration of women candidates in the selection of the Secretary-General. The campaign was successful in putting the issue of gender balance in the public discussion as well as highlighting qualified and capable women around the world. In his first address to the General Assembly following his election, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said that he would lead by example and specifically mentioned greater gender balance, particularly at senior levels, as one of his goals for the UN Secretariat.

Among the Secretary-General’s initial appointments announced in January 2007 were women for the posts of Deputy Secretary-General, Under-Secretary-General for Management, and the Secretary-General’s spokesperson. Women’s unequal access to positions of decision-making power around the world hinders progress toward all the United Nations’ goals, including equality, development and peace. If the Secretary-General has the vision and courage to open the doors at the highest level, long closed to women, the United Nations will benefit.

Equality Now issued an update to the Secretary-General Women’s Action in February 2007, urging the new Secretary-General to establish a revised target date for the goal of 50/50 representation in the UN Secretariat and to continue actively recruiting women for senior management posts in the UN until gender parity is achieved. The original target date was 2000.
Ethiopia: Justice for Woineshet

Equality Now continues to seek justice in the case of Woineshet Zebene Negash, who was abducted, raped and forced to sign a marriage contract at age 13. Though campaigning by Equality Now and the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA) resulted in the repeal of the law exempting rapists from punishment in the event of subsequent marriage to the victim, this legal reform has not helped Woineshet. Her rapist and abductors remain free, their conviction overturned by an appeals court. Woineshet and her father, backed by Equality Now and EWLA, appealed the case to the Cassation Court, which upheld the decision of the appeals court. With all domestic legal avenues exhausted, Equality Now, in collaboration with EWLA, has petitioned the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights on Woineshet’s behalf, in an effort to press for justice in her case and equal protection of the law in Ethiopia. Equality Now and EWLA’s petition noted the continued prevalence of the bride abduction practice in Ethiopia and highlighted reports that Woineshet’s rapist has abducted and married another girl in the village. The petition was filed in May 2007, and the Commission invited Equality Now/EWLA and the Government of Ethiopia to submit arguments on admissibility. The government opposed admissibility of the case, on the grounds that all domestic remedies had not been exhausted as a new case was being brought against the perpetrator. Equality Now has been unable to confirm this claim by the government, which would be welcome news and a direct result of the petition to the African Commission. The Commission is expected to consider the admissibility of the petition at its next session in May 2008.

Woineshet’s case has become part of Equality Now’s newly established Adolescent Girls’ Legal Defense Fund, which is supporting the petition to the Commission.

Adolescent Girls’ Legal Defense Fund

The Adolescent Girls’ Legal Defense Fund (AGLDF) has been created by Equality Now to support and publicize strategically selected legal cases addressing the most common and significant human rights abuses of adolescent girls in eastern and southern Africa.

In 2007, Equality Now completed the planning phase of the Adolescent Girls’ Legal Defense Fund with a survey to identify African women’s rights groups for collaboration on this initiative, the creation of an Advisory Board, and the identification of particular cases and human rights issues related to keeping girls safe at home, safe at school, and safe in the community.

As of December 2007, Equality Now had identified two cases for support from the Fund.

In addition to Woineshet’s case in Ethiopia, the Fund has taken on a case in Zambia involving the rape of a 13-year-old girl by her teacher. When the girl’s aunt/
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“Thank you for caring. Sometimes it seems like everything goes wrong and the world is upside down. Those are the times when you need a friend. I want to tell you how glad I am we are friends and how grateful I am that you are helping me. Thank you so much and may God bless you always.” Letter from 13-year-old rape victim in Zambia to AGLDF Youth Advisory Board chair

guardian reported the incident to the school, the teacher stated that the 13-year-old student was his “girlfriend.” Remarks made by the principal indicated that this was not the first such incident involving this teacher. The teacher was arrested but subsequently released and has not been prosecuted.

A private lawyer, acting pro bono, brought a civil action on behalf of the girl and her aunt, filing a lawsuit against the teacher, the school, and the Attorney General, as well as the Ministry of Education for its failure to protect girls in school. A decision is expected in 2008.

Advocacy around the case is being developed, with Equality Now’s focus on the failure of the Director of Public Prosecutions to prosecute the teacher, as well as efforts to support local advocacy and support systems in Zambia to address rape of girls by their schoolteachers.

AGLDF Advisory Board: Judith Bruce, Chair. Elizabeth Evatt, Jane Fonda, Marianne Gimon, Ann Graham, Claire L’Heureux-Dubé, Carolyn Makinson, Navanethem Pillay. A Youth Advisory Board, chaired by Angel Hopkinson, a high school student in New York, is in formation.

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

Equality Now and the Solidarity for African Women’s Rights (SOAWR) coalition continue to campaign for universal ratification and implementation of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. This new legal tool strengthens state obligations to take measures to protect and promote women’s rights and provides African women with a means of recourse when domestic avenues have been exhausted. Unfortunately, political indifference among African Union member states, especially in countries experiencing political conflict or undergoing elections, remains an obstacle towards universal ratification. Where countries have ratified the Protocol, there is still a lack of political will to incorporate the provisions into domestic law.

Equality Now and SOAWR have responded with intensive advocacy, starting with Ghana, which held the chair of the African Union and hosted both the 41st Session of the African Commission (May 2007) and the 9th Ordinary Summit of the African Union (July 2007). SOAWR used the occasion of Ghana’s 50th anniversary celebrations to publicize the fact that such celebrations were incomplete as long as the country’s commitment to Ghanaian women’s rights was not realized. Ghana has since ratified the Protocol, as have Tanzania and Angola, bringing the total number of ratifications at the end of 2007 to 23.

In 2008, SOAWR members will continue to explore new strategies to promote ratification and domestication of the Protocol in order to increase its positive impact on the lives of African women. Additionally, Equality Now hopes the Adolescent Girls’ Legal Defense Fund (see above) will help advance implementation of the Protocol as an important instrument in protecting and promoting the rights of African girls and as a new avenue of recourse when domestic litigation is unsuccessful.
New York State
Anti-Trafficking Legislation

In 2007, after three years of intense advocacy, Equality Now and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition succeeded in securing passage of a New York State law against trafficking—bringing us a small step closer to ending the trade in human lives.

In May 2005, after Assemblyman Jeffrey Dinowitz introduced an anti-trafficking bill into the New York State Assembly, Equality Now convened the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition, which grew to an alliance of over 80 statewide organizations, in support of the bill's passage. The Advisory Council of the Coalition was chaired by Gloria Steinem and included many prominent New Yorkers, among them Governor Mario Cuomo, Eve Ensler, Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Georgette Mosbacher, Karenna Gore Schiff, and Meryl Streep. During the 2006 legislative session, Equality Now and the Coalition engaged in a number of strategies including media outreach, the creation of an anti-trafficking billboard in Albany, and advocacy with targeted members of the Assembly and Senate. New York-based members of the Women's Action Network were also mobilized to pressure their elected officials to support the bill. Despite these efforts, however, the bill was so weakened by Assembly staff members that the Coalition felt its passage would not make a significant difference in helping victims or holding traffickers accountable. Both the Senate and Assembly
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“My pain and nightmares may never stop. But knowing that other women will be helped and they will have options, and the ones victimizing them will be punished, gives my heart peace. I’m so grateful to everyone that made this law possible and for making me feel that what happened to me matters.”

Kika Cerpa, a trafficking survivor who was part of the Coalition’s campaign

passed weak anti-trafficking bills, and as efforts to resolve the differences between the bills were unsuccessful, the 2006 legislative session ended without the adoption of an anti-trafficking law.

The setback offered the Coalition an opportunity to strategize further and to plan for the coming year based on experiences and knowledge gained during the 2006 legislative session. With key relationships established and the subject of human trafficking brought to the public’s attention, Equality Now and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition entered the 2007 legislative session with a solid foundation for working toward a comprehensive New York State anti-trafficking law.

In January 2007, Equality Now and the Coalition launched “Albany Watch,” a series of weekly rallies designed to draw attention to the lack of a New York State anti-trafficking law and to maintain pressure on the state legislature to address the deficiency. Rallies were held in downtown New York City in front of the state court house and were well attended by volunteers, Coalition members and media. A rally was also organized in Albany. In addition, Equality Now hosted an advance screening of the feature film *Trade*, about human trafficking, to which politicians and other key players in the legislative process were invited (see page 26). Equality Now and Coalition members made several trips to Albany to meet with legislative staff and with the office of the newly elected governor during the winter and spring of 2007, and held several press conferences in New York City and Albany.

On 6 June 2007, the strong anti-trafficking legislation advocated by the Coalition was signed into law in New York State. Under the new anti-trafficking legislation, sex trafficking is a Class B felony, with a sentence of up to 25 years in prison, and labor trafficking is a Class D felony, which could lead to jail time of up to 7 years. The new law provides for a range of comprehensive services for trafficking survivors such as health care, emergency housing, job training, and services related to immigration protection, among several others. The new law also increases the penalties on patronizing prostitution, which went from a B to an A misdemeanor, and clarifies the existing New York law on sex tourism.

**Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking**

In the spring of 2007, Equality Now launched the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking (Trafficking Fund). By supporting grassroots groups working to rescue and rehabilitate victims through the Trafficking Fund, Equality Now has been able to make a difference in individual lives, to better connect with anti-trafficking efforts on the front lines and to leverage limited resources for maximum impact. The Trafficking Fund supports grassroots organizations that are working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. Grantee organizations, many of which are led by survivors of sex trafficking and prostitution, work towards empowering women in prostitution by providing them with education and employment, raising awareness of their rights and offering them economic alternatives that allow them to make free choices.

Equality Now is working to promote an inter-regional exchange among these groups and to publicize their efforts through outreach to national and international press, as well as Equality Now’s own Women’s Action Network. In addition to offering small grants, Equality Now has convened grantees of the Trafficking Fund—and hopes to continue doing so—in an effort to facilitate exchange of information and collective strategic action against the global sex trafficking industry.

The first meeting of Trafficking Fund grantees took place in December 2007 in Nepal, providing a unique opportunity for the groups to share and learn from each other’s experiences and to draw strength from their newfound community. Attendees made a site visit to one of the grantee organizations, Maiti Nepal, where they met and heard from a group of rescued girls, several of whom were HIV positive as a result of their brutal experiences.
2007 Grantees of the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking

Cambodia
AFESIP is a survivor-led organization that combats sex trafficking in women and children, cares for and rehabilitates those rescued from sex slavery, provides occupational skills, and works on outreach for AIDS prevention and reintegration of survivors into the community.

Iceland
Stigamót is run by a collective of women, some of whom are survivors of different forms of sexual violence. Stigamót works with victims of incest, rape, prostitution, and trafficking. Stigamót provides information and counseling to survivors of sexual violence and raises public awareness.

India
Apne Aap is a predominantly survivor-led service provider founded in 1998. Apne Aap currently has community centers in 4 Indian cities that provide support, counseling, income-generating projects and referrals to women who have been trafficked and sold into prostitution.

Prajwala is a service provider organization. Trafficking survivors constitute 60% of its staff. Prajwala works on prevention, rescue and rehabilitation programs, including transition centers to prevent a second generation from becoming victims, counseling and income generation.

Latvia
The Resource Center for Women, “Marta” provides rehabilitation services to trafficking victims and works to put human trafficking on the social and political agenda. “Marta” has also developed a documentary and other public awareness campaigns on the issue.

Nepal
Maiti Nepal was founded to protect Nepali women and girls from crimes like domestic violence, sex trafficking, child prostitution and labor, and various other forms of exploitation. Maiti Nepal works to prevent trafficking through awareness campaigns and rescues, rehabilitates and repatriates trafficking victims.

Peru
Movimiento “El Pozo” provides social, psychological and legal counseling to trafficking survivors. It has been involved in obtaining the conviction of a pimp, in proceedings against a newspaper for publishing child pornography, and in other trafficking cases.

Philippines
Buklod Center was established in 1987 as a drop-in center for prostituted and trafficked women outside the former U.S. Subic Naval Base in Olongapo. Buklod has
TRAFFICKING

United States
GEMS is a survivor-led organization and the only one of its kind in New York that provides specialized services to young women and girls aged 12–21 who have been trafficked and subjected to prostitution.

In October and November, Equality Now engaged in very broad-based national coalition efforts with diverse organizations to negotiate for a stronger and more effective U.S. federal law against human trafficking. In December 2007, the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2007 (also known as the TVPRA) by an overwhelming majority, to amend and reauthorize the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (TVPA). Among a number of amendments, the Wilberforce Act incorporates and broadens the language of the federal Mann Act, which criminalizes anyone who transports a person across state lines for purposes of prostitution, thereby lowering the burden of proof to showing that the individual persuaded, induced or enticed a person into prostitution “in or affecting interstate commerce.” The burden of proof requiring “force, fraud, coercion” to prosecute sex trafficking cases under the TVPA is so onerous for federal prosecutors that only 110 sex trafficking cases have been prosecuted in the past seven years under the TVPA. The Mann Act is already a valuable tool used by the U.S. Department of Justice for sex trafficking cases and should

SOMMAIRE

RESUMEN
La primera reunión del Fondo para la erradicación del tráfico sexual se celebró en diciembre de 2007 en Nepal, en lo que fue una oportunidad única para que los grupos compartieran experiencias y aprendieran unos de los otros. Los asistentes al evento realizaron una visita sobre el terreno a una de las organizaciones subvencionadas, Maiti Nepal, donde conocieron a un grupo de chicas rescatadas. Muchas de ellas son seropositivas como consecuencia de sus experiencias atroces. Entre las organizaciones subvencionadas en 2007 las hay de Camboya, Estados Unidos, Filipinas, India, Islandia, Letonia, Nepal y Perú. En octubre y noviembre, Egalité Maintenant y la Coalition de l’Etat de New York contra la traite ont lancé une campagne en faveur d’une législation fédérale américaine plus rigoureuse et plus efficace contre la traite d’êtres humains. En décembre 2007, la Chambre des représentants a adopté une proposition de loi destinée à faciliter les poursuites dans les cas de traite d’êtres humains, ainsi qu’à
traFFicking

be incorporated into the TVPA to address sex trafficking networks comprehensively at all levels.

The Wilberforce Act would keep the current “force, fraud, coercion” requirements of the TVPA as an aggravated offense. The Wilberforce Act also provides greater clarity in criminalizing sex tourism in the U.S. The Department of Justice has to date refused to investigate and prosecute G&F Tours in Texas (see next column) under the Mann Act or the Travel Act.

The U.S. Senate will draft their version of the bill in 2008. Equality Now will continue advocating for strong and effective federal anti-trafficking legislation and hopes the House bill will become law in 2008.

Ending Sex Tourism

Big Apple Oriental Tours

In 1996, Equality Now launched a campaign calling for the prosecution of U.S.-based sex tourism agencies including Big Apple Oriental Tours, a company that operated sex tours to the Philippines and Thailand. In 2004 the owner/operators were indicted on criminal charges, the first case of its kind in the country. A judge dismissed the indictment in July 2004, the operators were re-indicted in 2005, and the case was then dismissed again by the same judge. His decision was appealed by the New York State Attorney General. In December 2006, the appellate division affirmed the trial court dismissal of the felony charge of promoting prostitution but reversed the trial court on the dismissal of the misdemeanor charge of advancing or profiting from prostitution. A tentative jury selection date for the trial on the misdemeanor charge was set for late November 2007, but the date was postponed due to several pending motions. The trial is expected to take place in 2008. A preliminary injunction remains in place that effectively prohibits Big Apple Oriental Tours from advertising and operating sex tours.

G&F Tours

In October 2005, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign to shut down Texas-based G&F Tours, which has been organizing sex tours to Thailand, the Philippines and Cambodia for over eighteen years. Equality Now continues to call on the U.S. Attorney General to prosecute Gunter Frentz, the owner/operator, and to clarify to all federal prosecutors that the activities of sex tourism companies fall within and constitute a violation of federal law.

Equality Now has been engaged for years in correspondence with the U.S. Department of Justice concerning the use of the federal Mann Act to prosecute sex tourism agencies. The Mann Act criminalizes an individual who knowingly transports another in interstate or foreign commerce “with intent that such individual
TRAFFICKING

engage in prostitution, or in any sexual activity for which any person can be charged with a criminal offense…” In 2006, Equality Now requested that the Justice Department clarify its position on the applicability of this law, but the response received and further correspondence have repeatedly failed to address the issue. In July 2007, U.S. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney wrote to the Office of U.S. Attorneys urging them to clarify whether G&F Tours is in violation of the Mann Act.

No charges have been filed yet against G&F, though Equality Now continues to put pressure on state and federal government officials to file charges. Meanwhile, G&F Tours continues to organize sex tours to Thailand, the Philippines and Cambodia.

Jump Off Destinations

In February 2006, Equality Now brought the case of Jump Off Destinations, a sex tour company operating in New York and offering trips to the Dominican Republic, to the attention of the Manhattan District Attorney. The District Attorney was quick to respond, and owner/operator Saeed Ahmed was arrested in May 2006 for violating the New York State law that prohibits the promotion of prostitution. In July 2007, Ahmed was found guilty of two counts of promoting prostitution in the third degree, a D Felony, for which he was sentenced to probation. Although the sentence is light, this is the first time that the New York State law prohibiting the promotion of prostitution has been used to prosecute a sex tour operator and the first conviction of its kind in the country.

In the first paragraph of his letter Mr. Battle refers to G&F Tours as a “purported” sex tour company… As we made your office and the office of the United States Attorney for the Northern District of Texas aware in previous correspondence Gunter Frentz, the operator of G&F Tours, has boasted on his web site of his “affordable, expertly guided Asian sex tours.” Testimonials from G&F sex tourists… described prostitution related activities on the tour and extolled the low cost of buying sex… Based on the evidence described above it is beyond question that Mr. Frentz is operating actual, not purported, sex tours… We believe that Equality Now has already presented evidence sufficient to establish probable cause that a federal crime has been committed and that, at a minimum, further investigation should be conducted… Both the Trafficking in Persons National Security Presidential Directive of 2003 and the Department of State’s annual Trafficking in Persons Report recognize that effective measures to combat sex trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation require a focus on and suppression of the demand side of the industry, including sex tourism… Gunter Frentz operates sex tours through G&F Tours by which violations of 18 USC 2421, 18 USC 2422 and 18 USC 1952 are regularly committed… The grounds provided in the United States Attorneys Manual to determine whether to initiate or decline prosecution all weigh overwhelmingly in favor of prosecution.

Equality Now
27 March 2007

As we have stated in our earlier correspondence with your office, sex tourism is a facet of sex trafficking, a national and international problem that leaves many victims in its wake. It is a very serious problem, and the Department is deeply committed to fighting sex tourism. However, because of legal and ethical considerations, we can neither confirm nor deny the existence of particular matters or investigations, nor can we discuss the status of any matter that may be pending in a United States Attorney’s Office, unless it becomes part of the public record.

U.S. Department of Justice
20 June 2007

You state in your letter of 20 June that the Department of Justice is not able to disclose information regarding the status of any possible pending investigations against G&F Tours. However, this should not in any way affect your ability to comment on whether the Department of Justice believes the Mann Act and the Travel Act could be used to shut down sex tour operators in general. Indeed, we understand it is common practice for the Department to issue memoranda and opinions on specific points of law. If the Department of Justice is “deeply committed to fighting sex tourism,” as you stated in your letter, then all possible legal tools to eradicate sex tourism in the U.S., such as applicability of the Mann Act and the Travel Act in this case, should be fully explored.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Further Efforts to Engage in Dialogue with the United States Department of Justice

...Considerations of law and legal ethics preclude the Department of Justice or a United States Attorney’s Office from opining as to what criminal charges, if any, may be appropriately brought against particular individuals or organizations based on assumed conduct.

U.S. Department of Justice
3 January 2007

Equality Now
6 September 2007

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Calling for a Law Against FGM in Mali

Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign in July 2004 calling for a law against female genital mutilation (FGM) in Mali, in support of grassroots organizations that have been carrying out awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers of the practice and believe that a national law against FGM must be enacted urgently to protect the health and lives of thousands of women and girls. Equality Now’s campaign highlighted the case of Fanta Camara, who suffered damage to her urethra when she was subjected to FGM at the age of five. As a consequence she became incontinent, and her growth was impeded by repeated infections. She had to drop out of school because her fellow pupils could not bear the smell of her incontinence. Although momentum was building in favor of an anti-FGM law, efforts to enact a law have stalled due to government elections, and despite being a party to several international conventions banning its practice, Mali still has no law against FGM.

In 2007, Equality Now continued to work with grassroots organizations, including FGM Fund grantee AMSOPT, to further the campaign for a law and convey its urgency to the new Malian government officials. In October 2007, a number of grassroots groups, including our Malian partners, presented to the president of the Malian National Assembly a petition with over 30,000 signatures urging the government to pass a law prohibiting FGM.

Last year, Equality Now reported that arrangements were being made for Fanta Camara to visit Paris for testing and possible medical intervention for the severe injury she suffered. With the assistance of Bonnie Pinkham, an Equality Now volunteer in Paris, and

Fanta Camara in her village in Mali, July 2007.
the generous support of an anonymous donor, Fanta went to France in February 2007, accompanied by Kadidia Aoudou Sidibe, head of AMSOPT. She spent several weeks in Paris undergoing diagnostic tests and meeting with doctors for an evaluation of her condition and assessment of treatment options. The doctors found that the extent of her injury was so severe that any surgery would require lifelong post-operative care. With aftercare a near impossibility in her village in Mali, Fanta and Kadidia returned home without pursuing surgical options. The donor who supported this medical trip to Paris is now supporting Fanta’s education in Bamako with private tutoring.

Recent reports indicate that Fanta’s health has improved and it seems that the trip to Paris may have had some palliative effects. Fanta has expressed a strong desire to get an education and work to end FGM.

**Awaken: A Voice for Activism**

*Awaken* was created by Equality Now in 1997 to serve as a forum for information and discussion to promote better understanding and a more effective strategy for the eradication of FGM. *Awaken* is published in English, Arabic and French to promote its accessibility to grassroots activists in communities where FGM is practiced, and it is distributed free of charge to groups and individuals in these communities.

**News highlighted in Awaken in 2007:**

- **Egypt:** Two months after a 12-year-old girl (Bodoor Ahmad Shaker) died while undergoing female genital mutilation in Maghagh, 13-year-old Karima Rahim Massoud died in rural Gharbiyah province. Her father sought a death certificate stating that Karima Rahim Massoud had died of natural causes, but the media reported FGM as the true cause of death. The newspaper *al-Gomhoria* said that the doctor who performed the FGM had been referred to a prosecutor and that his clinic has been closed. The father also has been referred to a prosecutor. The government’s comprehensive ban on the carrying out of FGM in hospitals, which followed the Maghagh girl’s death, requires passage by the Egyptian legislature before becoming enforceable as a law.

- **Eritrea:** The Eritrean Information Ministry declared earlier this year that effective 31 March 2007, female genital mutilation is a crime in Eritrea. The ministry described the practice as dangerous to women’s health and lives, as well as causing them “significant suffering and pain.” In addition to banning FGM, the Eritrean government will prosecute anyone who requests, incites, or promotes the practice. Individuals who provide tools for FGM or who fail to inform the authorities that the practice is taking place also will be subject to legal punishment.

- **Sierra Leone:** Still attempting to recover from more than a decade of civil war, Sierra Leone was scheduled for a run-off election in September to determine who will become the country’s President. In addition to exchanging cash or T-shirts for votes, politicians have offered parents the opportunity to have their daughters undergo female genital mutilation free of charge.

- **United Kingdom:** The Metropolitan Police began offering a reward of £20,000 in summer 2007 for information resulting in the arrest of anyone participating in female genital mutilation. The move was timed for the start of the summer holidays, when girls from African communities in the United Kingdom are most at risk of being subjected to FGM. Parents appear to favor the holidays because it allows a daughter time to recover from the procedure before beginning school again.
Female Genital Mutilation

• United Nations: The United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) urged eradication of female genital mutilation in a statement released on 6 February, the International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation. Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, executive director of UNFPA, said that some 3 million girls remain at risk of FGM each year. “The practice violates the basic rights of women and girls and seriously compromises their health, posing risks during childbirth and leaving lasting physical and psychological scars,” she stated in her call for “intensified efforts to stop the practice in all its forms.” She also called for gender equality worldwide and protection of women’s rights to sexual and reproductive health.

• Yemen: At a conference convened on 30 May 2007 to address female genital mutilation, the chairwoman of the Yemen Women’s Union, Ramziyah al-Eryani, described the fate of a 15-year-old girl sent back to her family on her wedding day after her husband discovered she had not undergone FGM. The girl’s mother took her to a midwife for the procedure. When the girl began crying, a cloth was stuffed in her mouth. She fainted after the procedure and never regained consciousness. A second girl died on her wedding day when she refused to undergo FGM, ran into the sea, and drowned. “Despite the efforts of the Yemeni government, represented in the law declaring this practice illegal, it is still practiced secretly in homes, especially in coastal areas,” Ramziyah al-Eryani explained.

Intervention against FGM in Marakwet, Kenya

Female genital mutilation commonly occurs in Kenya every December when girls are on holiday from school. In December 2007, Equality Now’s partners in Kenya started observing an unusual increase in FGM. With media and public focus on the general elections, activists believed that more parents were taking advantage of the volatile political situation to cut their daughters. Equality Now immediately issued a News Alert to members and the FGM Fund made an emergency grant to Ken Wafula of the Centre for Human Rights and Democracy to enlist the help of local government officials and village chiefs to intervene and stop impending FGM. Under threat of physical harm, courageous activists were reportedly able to rescue several hundred girls—a testament to the continued commitment and power of anti-FGM activists.
Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM

Equality Now hosted its fifth meeting of the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM Fund) on 27–28 January 2007. The meeting, which took place in Nairobi, was preceded by a one-day open meeting on FGM with the Kenyan public and interested participants of the World Social Forum, which took place the same week. Afterwards, guests were treated to a screening of the feature film Moolaadé by Ousmane Sembene, about FGM in Burkina Faso. The open session was followed by two days of meetings among FGM Fund grantees to discuss alternative rites of passage, phasing out circumcisers, institutional structures for change, communication channels (such as traditional modes, community radio), and working with religious and traditional leaders. Participants shared strategies, successes and challenges. In all, over 20 FGM Fund grantees from nearly as many countries were in attendance.

The FGM Fund was established by Equality Now in 2001 to direct financial support specifically to grassroots organizations, supporting local initiatives to raise awareness about the human rights and health implications of FGM and to work for legal protection from the practice. The FGM Fund has granted over $1.8 million to 36 groups in 19 countries since its inception in 2001.

In 2007, grantees’ projects included raising awareness in local communities about the harms of FGM through workshops and media, providing alternative income-generating activities for ex-circumcisers, sponsoring anti-FGM youth clubs, developing alternative rites of passage for girls and supporting anti-FGM legislation. For more information on grantees’ activities, see pages 20–21.
April 1992: Equality Now is founded to protect and promote the rights of women around the world. Photo, right: Board of Directors meeting (l-r): Jessica Neuwirth, Surita Sandosham, Taina Bien-Aimé, Navanethem Pillay, and Jacqueline Hunt.

June 1996: Fauziya Kassindja is granted political asylum in the U.S. in a landmark case recognizing FGM as a form of persecution under refugee law. Equality Now campaigned for Fauziya, who was imprisoned for 16 months after she fled Togo at 17 to escape forced marriage and FGM.

June 1997: Equality Now launches Awaken, a publication that circulates news and facilitates the exchange of ideas to support organizations and individual activists working to end FGM.

February 1993: Equality Now’s first mission: Board member Feryal Gharahi and Bianca Jagger go to Bosnia-Herzegovina to investigate the systematic use of rape by Serbian forces in the genocidal campaign of “ethnic cleansing.” Right: Feryal and Bianca with UN officials and refugee children.

May 1998: Equality Now convenes a delegation including the presidents of Catholics for a Free Choice, Feminist Majority, and NARAL to meet with the Nepali Embassy in Washington, DC, to advocate amendment of Nepal’s criminal ban on abortion without exception.

April 1999: Equality Now’s campaign for a law against FGM in Mali.

September 2000: Equality Now’s work is featured in an Oprah show on violence against women. People around the world respond with letters and contributions, and the Women’s Action Network of Equality Now triples in size.

January 2001: Equality Now establishes the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM in an effort to help generate financial support for frontline local efforts to stop the practice of FGM.

June 2001: Equality Now organizes an international meeting of lawyers in Nairobi, Kenya, to bring together theoretical concepts and practical realities and to strategize new and innovative ways of litigating for sex equality. Women lawyers from 23 countries attend.

November 2001: The LAW Project of Equality Now organizes a workshop with the UN Division for the Advancement of Women on the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. Lawyers from 15 countries attend the workshop, hosted by the University of Michigan Law School.

June 2002: Equality Now brings members of the Afghan Women Lawyers and Professionals Association (AWLPA) to New York, and to London in September, for an exchange with lawyers, judges and leading human rights activists.

December 2002: Equality Now organizes a U.S. media tour of young anti-FGM activists—Edna and Beatrice Kandie from Kenya (left)—who went to court to stop their father from cutting them, and an Ethiopian couple who used their wedding ceremony to publicly express opposition to FGM.

July 2003: After the first case of FGM in the U.S. is publicized in Atlanta, Georgia, Equality Now holds its FGM Fund grantee meeting there to help local African activists organize and to call for a law against FGM in Georgia. A law against FGM was passed in Georgia in May 2005.

June 2004: In Nairobi, Kenya Equality Now organizes the first meeting of former circumcisers. The circumcisers, representing six countries, share their experiences of transformation into activists now working against the practice. Right: Former circumcisers attending the meeting. Top, left to right: Mariamu Athumani, Tanzania; Isinno Shuriye, Kenya; Mariam Bagayoko, Mali. Bottom, left to right: Tiranke Koulibaly, Guinea-Conakry; Noolamala Saaya, Noolamala Saaya, Kenya; Aicha Kayad Oude, Djibouti.


January 2005: Equality Now launches its London office in conjunction with an international meeting of women in the media to strategize ways to increase media coverage of women’s issues. Left: Jordanian journalist Rana Husseini, honored for her reporting on “honor” killings.


December 2006: Equality Now convenes a meeting of women’s rights lawyers from countries that have ratified the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa, to brainstorm innovative legal strategies on implementation of the Protocol.

February 2007: Equality Now organizes a medical trip to Paris, France for Fanta Camara, who suffered extensive damage to her urethra when she was cut at the age of five. Her case is highlighted in Equality Now’s campaign for a law against FGM in Mali. Right: Fanta in Paris.

March 2007: Equality Now hosts a preview of Trade, a film on sex trafficking with Kevin Kline, and launches the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking. In September, with UNODC, Equality Now organizes the Trade premiere at the UN, introduced by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
**January 1994**: Equality Now begins a monthly column in SPIN magazine, which continues through December 1995, and which mobilizes the readers of SPIN to take action to protest human rights violations against women around the world.

**April 1999**: Equality Now convenes a coalition of U.S. women’s groups to advocate for a broad and comprehensive definition of sex trafficking both in the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act, passed in 2000, and in the UN Trafficking Protocol adopted at Palermo in 2000.


**October 2003**: At the request of Equality Now, Casa Amiga et al., the CEDAW Committee undertakes its first inquiry under the Optional Protocol, into the abduction, rape and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Left: Equality Now and Mexican partners during the inquiry.


**February 2004**: After a seven-year campaign calling for the prosecution of New York-based sex tour agency Big Apple Oriental Tours, operators Norman Barabash and Doug Allen are indicted by a grand jury for promotion of prostitution in violation of New York State law.

**May 2002**: Equality Now brings Israeli and Palestinian peace activists Terry Greenblatt and Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas to the UN Security Council to call for implementation of Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Right: Terry and Maha at CNN studios.

**May 2004**: Hawaii passes the first state law in the United States explicitly making sex tourism a crime. The legislation was prompted by an Equality Now campaign in partnership with the Hawaiian group GirlFest against Video Travel, a sex tour operator in Hawaii.

**June 2000**: At the UN Beijing +5 review Equality Now highlights the pledge made in the Platform for Action to revoke laws that discriminate against women. Through Women Can’t Wait!, performed at the UN, Sarah Jones brings to life the impact of discriminatory laws on women.

**June 2007**: Strong anti-trafficking legislation is signed into law in New York State. Equality Now and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition had been working for the law since 2005, intensifying efforts in 2007 with weekly rallies in New York City. Right: Gloria Steinem at rally.


**December 2007**: The first meeting of grantees of the Trafficking Fund is held in Kathmandu, Nepal, to provide a forum for groups to share and learn from each other’s experiences in their efforts to end sex trafficking, and to draw strength from each other in this challenging work.
Female Genital Mutilation

2007 Activities of the Grantees of The Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM

BURKINA FASO
Association Voix de Femmes translated Burkina Faso’s law against FGM into the three national languages, undertook sensitization and awareness activities on FGM and other human rights issues, and trained youth as peer educators.

CAMEROON
The Cameroon chapter of the Inter-African Committee (IAC) worked to sensitize ex-circumcisers and to train them in alternative income-generating activities. IAC also organized committees at the community level to support the campaign to end FGM.

CÔTE D’IVOIRE
Organisation pour l’Enfant, la Femme et la Famille (ONEF) undertook a baseline survey of the extent of FGM in 30 villages in the sub prefecture of Danane, despite the existence of a law in Côte d’Ivoire. The survey could also enable ONEF to develop sensitization strategies that respond to the issues raised. In the other region of intervention, ONEF also worked with ex-circumcisers, giving them an opportunity to undertake alternative income-generating activities once they abandoned FGM.

DJIBOUTI
Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (UNFD) sensitized the Djibouti population, especially those living in rural areas, on the dangers of FGM. UNFD imparted skills to ex-circumcisers and engaged in literacy enhancement activities as a means of fighting FGM. UNFD also worked with and trained youth to reach out with messages to end the practice. In addition, UNFD initiated inter-village exchange activities as a means of ensuring that the best practices were shared across the administrative divides.

EGYPT
Centre for Egyptian Women’s Legal Assistance Foundation (CEWL A) disseminated anti-FGM messages through the use of art and plays as a means of developing sustainable cadres in the fight against FGM. They also initiated an intervention to ensure that the ministerial decree banning FGM is widely disseminated and medical staff who violate the ban are held accountable.

SAWA Association for Developing Society worked with religious leaders to counteract the myth that FGM is a religious obligation. SAWA also worked to raise awareness about FGM in the general community and trained community leaders to work with them in bringing anti-FGM messages to the household level.

ERITREA
National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students (NUEYS) engaged high school students in the Gash Barka and Anseba regions in campaigns to end FGM. The program aimed to strengthen the capacity of anti-FGM clubs to address the problem of FGM and other harmful practices through drama and puppetry shows. NUEYS also undertook awareness-raising activities that led to the passage of community laws against FGM in three localities. The activities of NUEYS also played a key role in the passage of the national anti-FGM law in March 2007.

ETHIOPIA
HUNDEE Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative addressed the issue of FGM through joint workshops and community conferences where the root causes of the practice were discussed and community laws against FGM were passed. HUNDEE formed a Women’s Right Defence Committee as a means of encouraging reports on FGM as a violation of the rights of women and established linkages with law enforcement agencies at the lowest level of administrative structure to ensure the implementation of the law.

THE GAMBIA
The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices (GAMCOTRAP) trained women leaders and young people on gender and human rights with a focus on the negative effects of FGM. It also provided assertiveness training for young people to resist peer pressure and helped form girls’ clubs in order to give girls an opportunity to raise their voice in unity against FGM, early marriage and other harmful traditional practices.

GHANA
Ghanaian Association for Women’s Welfare (GAWW) worked to create awareness on harmful traditional practices and their health effects. GAWW also established and nurtured village follow-up committees consisting mainly of youth, who assisted the organization in its outreach activities and reported FGM cases for legal action. GAWW also used radio programs in the local languages as a means of passing on the anti-FGM message.

GUINEA
Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant La Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE) worked with 50 legislators and 30 law enforcement officials strategizing with them on ways to enforce the law against FGM. It also continued with public awareness campaigns through radio and supported
KENYA
Marakwet Girls and Women Project (MGWP) aimed to contribute to the elimination of FGM and early marriages in the Marakwet community. MGWP held seminars and workshops for girls on children’s rights and held anti-FGM campaigns. The organization trained women as peer educators on children’s rights. It also developed a strategy of monitoring and supporting girls who had refused to undergo the practice.

Tasaru Ntomonok Initiative (TNI) was engaged in community awareness-raising against FGM using workshops and seminars for community leaders, circumcisers, youth, and women to inform them about the dangers of FGM. TNI also provided shelter and safety to girls who have escaped their families to avoid FGM and organized alternative rites of passage. TNI continued to work closely with the Children’s Officer and local police to rescue girls who were at risk.

MALI
Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l’Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles (AMSOPHT) worked with parliamentarians and municipal leaders in Areas I and II of Bamako. AMSOPHT also engaged the media and provided them with training support to augment coverage highlighting links between FGM and human rights.

Promotion des Femmes de Sabalibougou (PROFESAB) undertook sensitization activities with the parliamentarians and municipal leaders in Areas I and II of Bamako. PROFESAB also organized a meeting to build the capacity of women leaders to address issues of FGM and to get them to approach the fight against FGM not as an isolated issue but as part of their community concerns using strategies that correspond to the needs of the community.

NIGER
Comité Nigérien sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles ayant effet sur la santé des femmes et des enfants (CONIPRAT) held meetings with local administrative and traditional leaders who, after sensitization, pledged their support to the organization’s work, and called on their communities to abandon the practice of FGM.

SIERRA LEONE
Amazonian Initiative Movement (AIM) worked to promote and protect the rights of women and girls through education, awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity-building and empowerment programs. AIM also worked for the elimination of all forms of violation of the human rights of women in order to ensure women’s equal participation in decision-making at all levels.

SOMALIA/SOMALILAND
Galkayo Education Center for Peace and Development (GECPD) carried out a number of trainings, public forums and awareness campaigns with teachers, youth, women, religious and community leaders and the general public. It collaborated with the Galkayo Medical Centre to train a nurse on integrating information about the harms of FGM with other general advice on health. It also aired a radio discussion program to sustain public interest in and discussion about FGM.

Women Inter Action Group (WIAG) engaged traditional birth attendants through awareness creation, training and group discussions. WIAG identified core groups from the community for training in advocacy against FGM, provided networking facilitation for them, and monitored their progress in spreading messages against FGM. WIAG also sensitized religious leaders on the dangers of FGM and used the media to pass on the message of these leaders following the sensitization activities.

TANZANIA
Aang Serian developed alternative rites of passage for girls and worked to raise awareness in the general community on the dangers of FGM. The project involved the entire community and targeted girls, young men, circumcisers and village elders as separate actors in the practice of FGM.

Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC) continued to serve as the coordinator of the Tanzanian anti-FGM coalition and led an advocacy initiative to ensure enforcement of the law against FGM. LHRC has also involved the media to enlarge its reach in spreading the message about the dangers of FGM.

Network Against Female Genital Mutilation (NAFGEM) worked with traditional leaders to identify 60 village representatives and trained them in community sensitization and mobilization against FGM. It also developed a training manual for use by these village mobilizers and continued working with circumcisers on alternative income-generating skills, particularly in reinforcing their status as traditional birth attendants.

The Tanzanian Coalition Against FGM focused on organizing and publicizing Zero Tolerance Day, an event that takes place every year on 6 February. The Coalition targeted policy makers to push for government commitment to end FGM and trained 2,500 police recruits on the anti-FGM law. The Coalition used sensitization and advocacy as its key strategies and engaged various line ministries (Gender, Justice, Community Development and Children’s Affairs) on addressing the shortcomings of the law against FGM with a view to strengthening this law and also as a means of monitoring the implementation and the use of the law by the government of Tanzania.

Women Wake Up (WOWAP) supported former circumcisers with alternative income-generating activities and applied traditional strategies to sensitize communities in the Dodoma region to discourage the practice of FGM. WOWAP conducted trainings on the elimination of FGM for village facilitators in the target areas and continued to monitor the implementation of anti-FGM initiatives in order to ensure sustainability. WOWAP also translated the sensitization materials and publications on FGM into local languages.

Page 20: Grantee participants in the January 2007 meeting of the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM in Nairobi, Kenya. Left to right: Kadidia Aoudou Sibélé, President of AMSOPHT (Mali); Hawa Aden Mohamed, Executive Director of GECPD (Somalia), and Zegeye Asfaw, Director of HUNDEE (Ethiopia). This page: Anti-FGM activist Efua Dorkenoo at the January 2007 meeting.
International Women’s Commission (IWC)

Women must be full partners in the resolution of conflict, as re-affirmed by UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which requires parties in a conflict to support women’s full and equal participation in peace negotiations and in post-conflict reconstruction. Yet Palestinian and Israeli women have been conspicuously absent from the decision-making processes and official negotiations of Middle East peace talks, despite their significant contributions over the years in developing alternative models of political dialogue and engaging in peace-making efforts.

The International Women’s Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace (IWC) was established in 2005 as an equal partnership of Israeli, Palestinian and international women leaders. The IWC works to promote a just and sustainable peace and to ensure women’s full participation in formal and informal Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. Equality Now’s president serves as an international member of the IWC.

In October/November 2007, supported by the Women Donors Network, Equality Now organized a tour of major American cities for an IWC delegation while the U.S. State Department continued to discuss the impending but at the time still uncertain Annapolis conference. Against this backdrop, the well-timed IWC tour promoted public discussion and support for immediate final status negotiations, and helped to bring the voices of women more powerfully into this effort by increasing the visibility of, and support for, the IWC.

IWC events were organized by Equality Now in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, DC, including a podcast presentation at Google headquarters, a public forum at the World Affairs Council, a meeting with the New York Times Editorial Board, and meetings with high-ranking UN officials—including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon—and with U.S. State Department officials and Members of Congress.

Afghanistan: Suspension of Malalai Joya from Parliament

Malalai Joya entered Afghanistan’s new Parliament in September 2005, taking her seat in the Lower House (Wolesi Jirga). A staunch critic of the warlords and defender of women’s rights, Malalai has consistently been stopped from speaking in Parliament or had speeches cut short, has survived a number of assassination attempts and is forced to reside in different places in order to stay alive.

On 21 May 2007, Malalai was suspended from Parliament for an interview she gave to a private Afghan television station in which she lamented that the Afghan Parliament was worse than a stable of animals. Malalai wrote directly to the Supreme Court to protest her suspension and the procedure used to secure it. The Afghan Constitution protects freedom of speech and gives immunity from prosecution for views expressed during the performance of parliamentary duty. She subsequently heard through a television announcement that her case would be referred to the appropriate court. However, there is still no official indication as to how or when her case will be dealt with. In the meantime, she remains suspended from Parliament, leaving her constituency without proper representation.

Equality Now issued a Women’s Action update in October 2007 calling on its members to write to Afghanistan’s President, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, Speaker of the House of the National Assembly, and
Minister of Women’s Affairs to reinstate Malalai Joya and to conduct a full investigation into the way she was excluded from representing her constituency and participating in parliamentary proceedings.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizes the critical role of women in promoting peace and security and calls for increased representation of women in decision-making. Malalai Joya was duly elected to Parliament and has been consistently and courageously speaking out for human rights, recognizing that respect for human rights is fundamental to peace and security. Her suspension undermines democracy in Afghanistan and is a violation of her rights, as well as the rights of those she represents.

JEANNE DARDÉNNE
Paris FRANCE

The Association of World Citizens is concerned to hear that Ms. Malalai Joya, an Afghan member of Parliament, has been stripped of her post on arbitrary grounds. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizes the critical role of women in the promotion of peace and security and calls for increased representation of women in decision-making bodies. We thank you in advance for bringing Afghanistan back in line with UN standards.

Bernard Henry, Press Officer
Association of World Citizens, Office to the UN
Geneva SWITZERLAND

large number of schools for girls have been forced to close after being attacked.

Ratna Chandra, Executive Director
NITYANANDA DEY, Chair, Board of Advisors
BHAGNI NIVEDITA MANCHYA (Bangladeshi NGO Network)
JESSORE, BANGLADESH

Je me sens très concernée par la situation de Malalai Joya, qui s’est vue empêchée d’exercer ses fonctions politiques. Elle doit être rétablie dans ses fonctions, car le droit à l’expression est fondamental. Malalai Joya a exprimé son avis de façon pacifique. Au contraire, ce sont d’autres gens qui l’ont menacée. C’est pourquoi j’exige qu’une enquête ait lieu sur ces agissements et sur sa suspension politique. Il est très important qu’une politique soit mise en place pour protéger le droit à l’expression dans votre pays.

Carol-Anne Nicol
Québec CANADA

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Bernard Henry, Press Officer
Association of World Citizens, Office to the UN
Geneva SWITZERLAND

large number of schools for girls have been forced to close after being attacked.
Can’t Stop the Serenity

In June 2007, “Browncoats,” fans of filmmaker Joss Whedon, organized the second annual Can’t Stop the Serenity, a worldwide screening event of Whedon’s film Serenity. Screenings were held in 46 cities and raised over $100,000 for Equality Now. We are consistently awed and inspired by the enthusiasm, generosity and commitment of the Browncoats, and we are deeply grateful for their support. In July 2007, Dark Horse Comics auctioned a private dinner with Whedon to benefit Equality Now, which raised over $60,000.

Photo below: Browncoat volunteers at the Serenity screening in Arlington, Virginia, U.S. Left to right: Gavin ap’Morrygan, Karen Ross (organizer), Claudia Wair and Gena Chattin.
Anti-Trafficking Rallies

In January 2007, Equality Now and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition launched “Albany Watch,” a series of weekly rallies designed to draw attention to the lack of a New York State anti-trafficking law and to maintain pressure on the state legislature to pass such a law. Rallies held in downtown New York City in front of the state court house were well attended by volunteers, Coalition members and media. A rally was also organized in Albany. The rallies highlighted New York as a leading entry, transit and destination point for trafficking victims and the urgent need for a law to protect women, men and children who suffer abuse and severe human rights violations at the hands of traffickers. Rally participants called for a law that creates strong penalties for traffickers and addresses those who create the demand for forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation. These and other efforts led to success, and strong anti-trafficking legislation was signed into New York State law on 6 June 2007 following a three-year campaign (see page 8 for more information on this campaign).

Photos: Top left: Gloria Steinem speaking at the first Albany Watch rally in January, surrounded by activists including Jane Manning from Equality Now and Norma Ramos from the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW), as well as Georgette Mosbacher of the Coalition’s Advisory Council and New York City Council Member John Liu. Top right: February rally in Albany with activists including Brian O’Shaughnessy from the NY State Labor-Religion Coalition, Dan Werner from the Workers Rights Law Center of New York, Sister Kathleen Pritty from Sisters of Mercy Northeast Community, and Lakshmi Anantnarayan from Equality Now. Bottom left: 12-year-old Milan Bien-Aimé speaking at an April rally with Cathy Douglass from inMotion and 15-year-old Sophie Engelstein. Bottom middle: Janice Bocchicchio from NOW-NYC at a January rally. Bottom right: Dorotea Mendoza from GABRIELA Network speaking at a May rally with Sonia Ossorio from NOW-NYC and Anya Cherneff from CATW.
**Trade**

In March 2007, Equality Now held a benefit preview screening of the film *Trade*, which tackles head-on the abuse and exploitation suffered by victims of the sex trafficking industry. After the film, on behalf of Equality Now, Meryl Streep announced the launch of the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking, created to support grassroots organizations that are working to end the commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls (see page 9). Additionally, a question and answer session was held with the audience, featuring Gloria Steinem; Rosilyn Heller, the film’s co-producer; Rachel Lloyd, Executive Director of Girls Education and Mentoring Services (GEMS); Taina Bien-Aimé and Jessica Neuwirth, Equality Now’s Executive Director and President, respectively.

At the time of the screening, Equality Now and the New York State Anti-Trafficking Coalition were in the midst of the campaign for a strong anti-trafficking law in New York State (see page 8). The film served as a powerful advocacy tool to bring home the reality of the trade in human beings. Equality Now and the Coalition also organized a private screening of *Trade* for state legislators in Albany, New York, to support advocacy efforts to secure passage of the law.

In September, in collaboration with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Equality Now organized a benefit screening for the premiere of *Trade* at the United Nations headquarters in New York City. Several high-level UN officials and prominent actors attended the event, including UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who introduced the screening, and the film’s stars Kevin Kline, Alicja Bachleda and Paulina Gaitan.

**Photos:** Left, Meryl Streep launching the Trafficking Fund. Right, panelists at the Q&A session, left to right: Taina Bien-Aimé, Rosilyn Heller, Gloria Steinem, Rachel Lloyd and Jessica Neuwirth.

**International Women’s Commission: U.S. Tour**

In October/November 2007, Equality Now organized a tour of major American cities for a delegation from the International Women’s Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace (IWC), an equal partnership of Israeli, Palestinian and international women leaders. The IWC works to promote a just and sustainable peace and to ensure women’s full participation in formal and informal Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations (see page 22). The IWC tour helped to bring the voices of women more powerfully into this effort by increasing the visibility of, and support for, the IWC. Events were organized in San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York and Washington, DC, including a podcast presentation at Google headquarters, a public forum at the World Affairs Council, a meeting with the New York Times Editorial Board, and meetings with high-ranking UN officials—including Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon—and with U.S. State Department officials and Members of Congress. **Photo:** Pictured left to right are tour participants Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas, Jacqueline Hunt and Molly Malekar.
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- Sex Tourism from the United States: Big Apple Oriental Tours
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- Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing +5 and Beijing +10 Review Processes
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- Official License for Abduction and Rape in Ethiopia
- The Role of United States Military Forces in the Growth of the Commercial Sex Industry
- Legislation to End Sex Tourism and Hold Sex Tour Operators Accountable in Hawaii, United States
- Mali: Calling for a Law Against Female Genital Mutilation
- Pakistan: The Hudood Ordinances—Denial of Justice for Rape: The Case of Dr. Shazia
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Equality Now would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement and support, which has sustained and strengthened the work of Equality Now.

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Equality Now would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement and support, which has sustained and strengthened the work of Equality Now.
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Rita Henley Jensen

Bonnie Schaefer is a philanthropist whose corporate accomplishments include a highly successful and acclaimed tenure as co-CEO and Chair of Claire's Stores with her sister, Marla Schaefer. A long-time supporter of Equality Now, Bonnie's visionary leadership extended in 2007 to helping establish the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Sex Trafficking (see page 9). She now owns and operates with her partner Jamie Schaefer the award-winning Westglow Resort and Spa nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. Her passion for justice and equality is only surpassed by her kindness and generosity.

DONOR PROFILE Bonnie Schaefer

LEGACY SOCIETY Securing the Future

Equality Now’s Legacy Society helps to ensure that our important work on behalf of women and girls everywhere will continue for as long as human rights abuses against them remain. We are pleased to recognize the following Legacy Society members. Anonymous donors are not listed.

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Jennifer Simon
Dubravka Šimonović
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
Helen Smith
Carol Smolenski
Solidarity for African Women’s Rights Coalition
Hilda Solis
Eleanor Solo
Ron Soloway
Maria Soto
Governor Eliot Spitzer
Karen Stauss
Gloria Steinem
Sarah Stephen-Smith
Jane Stern
Scott Stringer
Rose Styron
Courtney Sullivan
Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr.
Carla Sutherland
Ann Syauta
Glenda Testone
Amy Thesing
Mary Thom
Stephanie Thomas
Titcomb Foundation
Rita Tomaino
Eva Tomic
Hulan Tsedev
UNIFEM
United Jewish Appeal
United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women
United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA)

National Organization for Women
Woineshet Zebene Negash
Deena and Michael Neuwirth
Laura Neuwirth
Robert S. Neuwirth
Irene Kubota Neves
No Peace Without Justice
The Norman Foundation
Greg Noth
NOW-NYC
Elizabeth Odegar
Daniel O’Donnell
Denise O’Donnell
Ana Oliveira
Tom Ortenberg

Janice Raymond
Amy Richards
Ghaida Rishmawi
Jenny Rivera
Roadside Attractions
Carol Robles-Roman
Lynn Rollins
Raul Romeva
Wendy Roosevelt
Nina Roosevelt-Collmer
Charlie Rose
Stacey Rubin
Joan Ruddock
Senator John Sabini
Elizabeth Sackler
Zainab Salbi

Equality Now wishes to acknowledge and thank the following foundations and corporations for their support of $5,000 and more:

A. G. Foundation
Shana Alexander Charitable Foundation
The Frances & Benjamin Benenson Foundation
Bydale Foundation
Carlson Family Foundation
Comic Relief
Done the Impossible, LLC
Dreitzer Foundation
Ford Foundation (Nairobi)
Jana Foundation
Banky LaRocque Foundation
Lifetime Entertainment
Nararo Foundation
New Field Foundation
New York Community Trust
New York Women’s Foundation
NoVo Foundation
Open Society Institute/Justice Initiative
Oxfam Novib
Pond Foundation
Bonnie and Jamie Schaefer Family Foundation
Sigrid Rausing Trust
Silver Mountain Foundation for the Arts
Third Point Management Foundation
Tides Foundation
Ruth Turner Fund
Women Donors Network
Women’s Foundation of Colorado
Working Assets

The support Equality Now has received over the past 15 years from individuals, foundations and corporations has enabled Equality Now to take up a broad range of human rights violations against women in countries around the world.

REPRODUCTIVE RIGHTS • POLITICAL ASYLUM • RAPE • GENOCIDE • SEX TRAFFICKING
• FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION • DOMESTIC VIOLENCE • POLITICAL PARTICIPATION • SEX TOURISM • SLAVERY • DISCRIMINATORY LAWS • LAND OWNERSHIP • “HONOR” KILLINGS • SUFFRAGE • PEACE AND SECURITY • ABDUCTION • FORCED MARRIAGE • STONING FOR ADULTERY

AFGHANISTAN • BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA • CANADA • EGYPT • ETHIOPIA • THE GAMBIA
• GHANA • IRAN • JAPAN • JORDAN • KOSOVO • KUWAIT • MALI • MEXICO • NEPAL • PAKISTAN • POLAND • SOUTH AFRICA • TANZANIA • TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO • UGANDA • UNITED NATIONS • UNITED STATES
## Statements of Financial Position

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2007 As of 12/31</th>
<th>2006 As of 12/31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,818,965</td>
<td>$1,188,330</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>927,945</td>
<td>944,922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants receivable</td>
<td>859,958</td>
<td>547,930</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>47,528</td>
<td>28,787</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>21,345</td>
<td>18,140</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>20,638</td>
<td>25,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$3,696,379</td>
<td>$2,754,056</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$137,953</td>
<td>$92,162</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grants payable</td>
<td>314,024</td>
<td>68,444</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>14,806</td>
<td>19,060</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>466,783</td>
<td>179,666</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$1,751,144</td>
<td>$1,398,819</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>1,478,452</td>
<td>1,175,571</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>3,229,596</td>
<td>2,574,390</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$3,696,379</td>
<td>$2,754,056</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Statements of Activities

### Public Support and Revenue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$1,051,875</td>
<td>$952,754</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donors</td>
<td>1,116,878</td>
<td>356,452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>97,715</td>
<td>85,220</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, net</td>
<td>54,369</td>
<td>44,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated goods and services</td>
<td>124,107</td>
<td>154,128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>107,350</td>
<td>75,991</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>2,438</td>
<td>2,455</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public support and revenue before release of restrictions</td>
<td>2,554,732</td>
<td>1,671,468</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>791,886</td>
<td>990,268</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total public support and revenue</td>
<td>3,346,618</td>
<td>2,661,736</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2006</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Justice and Equality Program</td>
<td>440,462</td>
<td>395,405</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM Program</td>
<td>505,820</td>
<td>425,941</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM Fund Grants</td>
<td>743,578</td>
<td>447,256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking Program</td>
<td>303,425</td>
<td>283,552</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trafficking Fund Grants</td>
<td>100,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Peace and Security Program</td>
<td>243,212</td>
<td>144,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Action Network and Outreach</td>
<td>248,729</td>
<td>179,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Coordination</td>
<td>91,877</td>
<td>98,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total program services</td>
<td>2,677,103</td>
<td>1,974,825</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>137,865</td>
<td>157,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund-raising</td>
<td>179,225</td>
<td>190,261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
<td>317,190</td>
<td>347,368</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>2,994,293</td>
<td>2,322,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>352,325</td>
<td>339,543</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Copies of the complete, audited reports may be obtained from Equality Now or from the State of New York, Department of Law, Office of Charities Registration, The Capitol, Albany, NY 12223.
EQUALITY NOW was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with national women’s rights organizations and individual activists, Equality Now documents violence and discrimination against women, and adds an international action overlay to support their efforts to advance equality rights and defend individual women who are suffering abuse. Through its Women’s Action Network, Equality Now distributes information about these human rights violations to concerned groups and individuals around the world, along with recommended actions for protesting them. Issues of urgent concern to Equality Now include rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and the denial of equal access to economic opportunity and political participation.

EGALITE MAINTENANT a été fondée en 1992 afin de travailler pour la protection et la promotion des droits humains de la femme dans le monde entier. Traavaillant avec des organisations nationales qui se consacrent aux droits de la femme et avec des activistes individuels, Égalité Maintenant documente la violence et la discrimination contre les femmes, en ajoutant un élément d’action internationale pour soutenir les efforts de ces organisations et activistes pour avancer les droits égaux et pour défendre des femmes individuelles maltraitées. Au moyen du Réseau Action Femmes, Égalité Maintenant transmet des renseignements sur ces violations des droits humains aux groupes et aux individus intéressés partout dans le monde, avec des actions recommandées pour protester contre ces violations. Les problèmes urgents auxquels s’intéresse Égalité Maintenant comprennent: le viol, la violence familiale, les droits de reproduction, la traite des femmes, les mutilations génitales féminines, le manque d’accès à la parité économique, et l’accès égal à la participation politique.

IGUALDAD YA fue fundada en 1992 con el propósito de trabajar a favor de la protección y promoción de los derechos humanos de las mujeres en todo el mundo. Trabajando junto a organizaciones nacionales de derechos de mujeres y con activistas individuales, Igualdad Ya documenta casos de violencia y discriminación contra las mujeres y agrega un componente de acción internacional para apoyar sus esfuerzos para avanzar los derechos de igualdad y defender casos individuales de mujeres que sufren abusos. A través de su Red de Acción Mujeres, Igualdad Ya disemina información acerca de estas violaciones de derechos humanos entre grupos e individuos interesados en todo el mundo, junto con recomendaciones de acciones para protestar estos casos. Los temas de preocupación urgentes para Igualdad Ya incluyen la violación sexual, la violencia doméstica, los derechos reproductivos, el tráfico de mujeres, la mutilación genital femenina y la denegación del acceso igualitario a las oportunidades económicas y la participación política.

المساواة الآن منظمة تأسست في عام 1992 للعمل من أجل حماية حقوق الإنسان الخاصة بالمرأة وتعزيز هذه الحقوق في أنحاء العالم. وبالتعاون مع المنظمات الوطنية لحقوق المرأة وجمالي النشاط، تقوم المساواة الآن بتوثيق أعمال العنف والتمييز المرتبط بالمرأة، وتضيف إلى ذلك أيضا من العمل الدولي لمكافحة الاغتصاب، المجموعة المبرمجة للنهوض بالحقوق المتعلقة بالمساواة والدفاع عن حقوق النساء اللواتي تعرضن للإساءات. تقوم المساواة الآن من خلال تطبيقها للعمل النسائي بتوزيع المعلومات عن هذه الانتهاكات لحقوق الإنسان على المعنيين بها من الجماعات والأفراد حول العالم، مع التوصية بالإجراءات الواجب اتخاذها للإحتجاج عليها. وتشمل المساواة الآن عدة عناصر متعلقة بينها اغتصاب، العنف، الحقوق الإنجابية، والتمارض بالنساء، وتشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للإنسان، والحرمان من التمتع على قدم المساواة بالفرص الاقتصادية والمشاركة السياسية.