EQUALITY NOW

AGENTS OF CHANGE

ANNUAL REPORT 2004
Former circumcisers participating in the 2004 meeting of Equality Now’s Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Female Genital Mutilation.

Agents of Change

In 2004, Equality Now convened the first international meeting of former circumcisers—nine women from six African countries who have laid down their knives and are now working to end female genital mutilation (FGM) (see page 16). The campaign against FGM has made tremendous progress over the past decade. As young girls, parents and circumcisers come to understand the life-threatening harm of FGM, as well as the possibility of reshaping cultural expectations that make the cutting seem necessary, the end of this harmful practice is now within reach. Education has increasingly led girls to resist FGM, parents to protect their daughters from it, and now circumcisers to stop cutting.

The campaign against FGM is a model of social transformation, and we commend the remarkable activists who have had the vision and courage to reach out to women who perform FGM. These former circumcisers, who have often played an influential role in the community, are now using their status to support rather than oppose efforts to end FGM, greatly accelerating the success of these efforts.

It takes courage for activists to confront circumcisers, women who are considered by many to be responsible for the harm that society has imposed on so many girls and women through the practice of FGM. It takes vision to work with them rather than against them. It also takes courage for former circumcisers to confront their past—many of them have witnessed girls die as a result of their own action. They are often ostracized for breaking with tradition. Yet the power of their transformation will help break the cycle of harm that has been passed down through generations.

Equality Now is working to harness this power of transformation, to reach out with information, education, and a call to conscience around the world. The broader our reach, with your help, the sooner we can end violence and discrimination against women.

Rinkaso Kodonto, a former Maasai circumciser from Kenya, speaks with a reporter during the 2004 meeting of Equality Now's Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM.

SOMMAIRE
En 2004, Egalité Maintenant a organisé la première réunion internationale d’anciennes exciseuses — neuf femmes de six pays africains qui ont abandonné leur métier et œuvrent aujourd’hui pour mettre fin aux mutilations génitales féminines (MGF). La campagne menée contre les MGF a permis de faire d’énormes progrès ces dix dernières années. Aujourd’hui, grâce à une meilleure information, de plus en plus de filles ne se laissent plus faire, des parents protègent leurs filles des MGF et des exciseuses renoncent à leur activité. La campagne contre les MGF est un modèle de transformation sociale, et nous saluons les activistes remarquables qui ont eu la clairvoyance et le courage d’aller parler aux exciseuses. Egalité Maintenant travaille maintenant à développer ce pouvoir de transformation pour susciter une prise de conscience dans le monde entier. Plus nous élargirons notre présence, plus vite nous parviendrons, avec votre aide, à éliminer les violences et les discriminations dont les femmes sont victimes.

RESUMEN
En 2004, Igualdad Ya convocó la primera reunión internacional de antiguas circuncidadoras, nueve mujeres de seis países africanos que han dejado los cuchillos y actualmente trabajan para poner fin a la mutilación genital femenina (MGF). La campaña contra la MGF ha realizado un tremendo avance a lo largo de la pasada década. La educación ha llevado cada vez a más niñas a oponerse a la MGF; a más padres a proteger a sus hijas contra ella y a más circuncidadoras a abandonar la práctica. La campaña contra la MGF es un modelo de transformación social y elogiamos a los destacados activistas que han tenido la idea y el valor de contactar con las mujeres que ejecutan la MGF. Igualdad Ya está trabajando para utilizar este poder de transformación, para realizar una reivindicación de la conciencia que llegue a todo el mundo. Cuanto mayor sea nuestro alcance y con su ayuda, antes podremos poner fin a la violencia y a la discriminación contra la mujer.
UNITED NATIONS: BEIJING +10

Holding Governments Accountable for Sex Discriminatory Laws

At the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995, government delegates adopted the Beijing Platform for Action in which they pledged to “revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice.” In 1999, in preparation for the fifth anniversary of the Beijing Conference and the scheduled review of the implementation of the Platform for Action, Equality Now published Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing +5 Review Process, a report highlighting a representative sampling of discriminatory laws in forty-five countries around the world and launched a campaign calling on governments to rescind these laws in accordance with the commitment made in the Beijing Platform for Action. At the June 2000 Special Session of the UN General Assembly convened to review implementation of the Platform for Action, governments pledged in the Outcome Document they adopted to review domestic legislation “with a view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005...”

At the March 2004 session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Equality Now launched its Beijing +10 campaign with an updated report, Words and Deeds: Holding Governments Accountable in the Beijing +10 Review Process, in preparation for the Beijing +10 review scheduled for the March 2005 session of the CSW. In its report, Equality Now welcomed the significant legal reforms that had been made in some of the countries highlighted in its initial report, including in The Bahamas, Costa Rica, France, Jordan, Mexico, Morocco, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Switzerland, Turkey, Venezuela and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia—Republic of Serbia. However, a large majority of the discriminatory laws cited by Equality Now in its initial report are still in force. The updated report includes these laws as well as other laws that perpetuate legal discrimination with regard to personal status, economic status, marital status and violence against women. Sixteen governments were represented at the launch of
Equality Now’s Beijing +10 campaign, where the Mexican Government presented a review of its law reform efforts, which included the amendment of the discriminatory law that had been highlighted in Equality Now’s 1999 initial report.

In 2004 Equality Now attended regional Beijing +10 preparatory conferences in Mexico City, Bangkok, Addis Ababa, and Geneva to highlight the upcoming target date of 2005 established at the Beijing +5 review for the elimination of sex discriminatory laws and to call for the creation of a CSW Special Rapporteur for the Elimination of Laws that Discriminate against Women at the Beijing +10 review. In 2004 Equality Now also filed a formal complaint with the CSW against the forty countries included in its report through a little known and rarely used communications procedure of the CSW (see LAW Project, page 20). The complaint was pending as of year-end.

Law is the most formal expression of government policy. A government that allows discriminatory laws to remain in force endorses and promotes inequality. Equality Now continues to call on all governments to repeal sex discriminatory laws as a demonstration of their commitment to implement the Beijing Platform for Action. These laws include:

- **Laws restricting women’s rights in marriage and divorce and laws requiring wife obedience.** For example, in Yemen, the law explicitly provides that wives must be available to their husbands for sex and that they cannot leave the marital home without permission (The Personal Status Act No. 20, Article 40).

- **Laws restricting the personal status of women including suffrage, the right to transfer citizenship, the right to give evidence, and the right to travel.** For example, in Pakistan, a woman’s word is worth half of a man’s as evidence in a court of law and to prove that she has been raped, she has to have at least four Muslim adult male witnesses (The Offences of Zina [Enforcement of Hudood], Ordinance, 1979, Section 8).

- **Laws restricting women’s right to property and laws restricting women’s employment rights.** For example, in Bolivia, women can only work during the day, except in the fields of nursing and domestic service (The General Labor Law, Chapter VI. The Work of Women and Minors, Article 6). In the United Kingdom, women are legally barred from service in the Royal Marines (Revised Employment Policy for Women in the Army—Effect on the Royal Marines).

- **Laws allowing rapists exemption from punishment through marriage, laws condoning marital rape and domestic violence, “honour” killings and state-sanctioned violence.** For example, in Nigeria, husbands are permitted by law to use physical violence to “chastise” their wives as long as it does not result in grievous harm (The Penal Code of Northern Nigeria, Section 55).
**LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN**

**Responses from Governments**

In the draft of the new Romanian Civil Code that was adopted by the Senate and will be sent for adoption to the Chamber of Deputies, we included, also, the provisions regarding the family matters, in such way that, after the entering into force of the new Civil Code, the Family Code in force will be abrogated. The draft of the new Civil Code was elaborated in order to harmonize the legislation in force with the new social, juridical and economical realities.

Ionel Didea  
Department of Law Drafting  
Studies and Documentation  
Ministry of Justice  
ROMANIA

The Australian Government is continuing to consider women’s employment in frontline combat positions and is currently undertaking a major body of work to review Australian Defence Force (ADF) job roles. This includes a consultancy project to examine gender neutral competency standards for all categories of employment, with a view to removing any barriers to employment...The Act now refers solely to ‘combat duties’. Since 1992, ADF policy has enabled women to serve in all units, except six job categories—infantry, armour, combat engineers, artillery, airforce defence guards and navy mine clearance divers. Currently, women work on frontline units such as ships, submarines and aircraft. Women in frontline units carry arms for use in self-defence, but not in combat. This is a complex cultural and social issue...Australia remains committed to achievement of gender equality and international agreements on women's equality.

Kerry Flanagan  
Office of the Status of Women  
Department of the Prime Minister  
and Cabinet  
AUSTRALIA

Polygamous marriages are permissible in Tanzania but subject to fulfillment of conditions laid down in section 11 of the law of marriage. This provision requires that before conversion to polygamy, husband and wife must make a declaration that each of their own free will, consent to the conversion...Therefore women are given an option whether to enter into such kind of a union or not...The government respects the right to freedom of religion. Therefore any attempt to prohibit polygamous marriages will be a violation of people’s rights. We do believe with time, people will decide on their own to abandon polygamous marriages after weighing the pros and cons of this rite.

Joyce C.N. Karanabo  
Permanent Mission of the  
United Republic of Tanzania to the  
United Nations  
TANZANIA

I would like to assure you that Haiti’s authorities are committed to Gender Equality. In fact, it will be recalled that the Minister for the Condition of Women of Haiti stated in her intervention at the 3rd Committee of the United Nations on October 14th 2004: “There has been a concerted effort to promote the fundamental rights of women and gender mainstreaming in an attempt to enhance women’s role in society. The Ministry of the Condition of Women is presently amending or repealing the articles in the Haitian penal code that discriminate against...
women. These amendments will be submitted to the approval of the Parliament which unfortunately is not functional.” As general elections will be held in Haiti in 2005 and a new government will be installed in 2006, it is hoped this matter will be taken up by the new Parliament once it is operational.

Léo Méores
Chargé d’Affaires
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Haiti to the United Nations
HAITI

As the lead government agency mandated to ensure the implementation of the commitments to the Beijing Platform for Action and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), we are aware of the limitations and gaps of existing laws whose impact to women is discriminatory…We believe that it is very important to immediately enact a separate and distinct legal measure that would respond to the multifaceted concerns related to prostitution…This would start with the decriminalization of prostituted persons. The desired effect of such legal reform is that women and children should no longer be arrested or fined like criminals (ESCAP, 1991: 57). “Decriminalization of prostituted persons should go hand in hand with the apprehension and prosecution of agents, recruiters, traffickers, pimps, procurers, establishment owners, customers and others who derive sexual gratification, financial gain and advancement or any other benefits from the prostitution of others (PPGD, 1995 Chapter 18 p. 312).”

Myrna T. Yao
Chairperson
National Commission on the Role of Filipino Women
Office of the President
THE PHILIPPINES

The former articles 558 and 599 which exempted perpetrators of abduction and rape from criminal responsibility upon marriage are now deleted and amended under new article 590 to be punishable whether or not the victim consents for marriage…The new penal code will come into force once the president of the republic affixes his signature and it is published in the official gazette. The president’s power in this regard is just a constitutional formality. We hope, therefore, the law will come into force in the coming few months.

Abdurahim Ahmed
Assistant Attorney General
ETHIOPIA

We have given our report on Hudood Ordinances and have recommended to the Government of Pakistan for the repeal of the said laws as they are discriminatory and not even in accordance with the Islamic injunctions…The National Commission on the Status of Women has been created as a watch body to review all government policies, rules, regulations, laws and recommend any changes by repeal/amendment and new legislation if found discriminatory or adversely affecting women’s status.

Justice Majida Razvi
National Commission on the Status of Women
PAKISTAN

En materia de régimen patrimonial del matrimonio, existe un Proyecto de Ley que modifica el Código Civil y otras leyes complementarias y establece un nuevo régimen patrimonial que sustituye a la sociedad conyugal, otorgando a la mujer y al marido iguales derechos y obligaciones…La tramitación de este proyecto ha sido lenta, ya que la moción fue ingresada en octubre de 1995, permaneciendo en primer trámite constitucional en la Cámara de Diputados y en su análisis en la Comisión de Familia. En la actualidad se ha logrado reactivar su tramitación, siendo aprobado en general por dicha Cámara e iniciando su análisis en la Comisión de Constitución, Legislación y Justicia.

Maria de la Luz Silva Donoso
Jefa, Departamento de Relaciones Internacionales y Cooperación
Servicio Nacional de la Mujer
CHILE

Following your letter of 6 August 2004 relating to article 74 of the Civil Status Registration of Cameroon, I wish to inform you that a new Family Code is under preparation and will soon come into force, thus abrogating the 1981 instrument. Cameroon remains attached to ensuring equality among all its citizens, irrespective of sex.

Edgar Alain Mebe Ngo’o
Director of The Civil Cabinet
CAMEROON
In July 2004, Equality Now launched a campaign calling for the enactment of a law against FGM in Mali. Women’s Action 25.1 highlights the case of Fanta Camara, who was subjected to FGM at the age of five. In the course of the mutilation her urethra was damaged, as a consequence of which she became incontinent. According to Fanta’s doctor, her growth has been retarded by repeated infections of her genitals. She is now 12 years old, but does not look her age. She has had to drop out of school because her fellow pupils could not bear the smell of her incontinence. The same community that required her, in accordance with tradition, to undergo the process now shuns her.

Fanta’s case is not an isolated one in Mali. FGM is practiced in all parts of Mali with a prevalence rate of 94% according to the country’s second Demographic and Health Survey of 1996. The practice is performed not only by traditional circumcisers but also by midwives and retired medical personnel on girls below the age of 10 years with some as young as three months old. There is no law in Mali prohibiting FGM. Non-governmental organizations, including the Malian Association for Monitoring and Orientation on Traditional Practices (AMSOPT) and the Association for the Advancement and the Defense of the Rights of Women (APDF), have been carrying out awareness-raising campaigns on the dangers of FGM. They believe that a national law against FGM must be enacted urgently in order to ensure that the life and health of thousands of women and girls are protected from the harmful effects of FGM. Both organizations are grantees of Equality Now’s Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM (see page 16).

Although APDF and AMSOPT have long been campaigning for the criminalization of FGM, efforts for passage of a law against FGM have been unsuccessful to date, despite the fact that Article 1 of Mali’s Constitution provides for the right of all citizens to integrity of person and protection from cruelty and inhumane and degrading treatment. In 2002 the former president of Mali, Alpha Oumar Konaré, tabled a bill to criminalize FGM without success. APDF and AMSOPT believe such a law would now have a greater chance of passing as awareness levels in the country about the dangers of FGM are higher. In addition to criminalizing FGM with deterrent penalties, the proposed law would provide for education and outreach to relevant communities on the dangers of FGM. Equality Now’s campaign highlights the damaging health consequences of FGM, as illustrated by the suffering of Fanta Camara, and calls on the government of Mali to pass a law against FGM as a matter of urgent priority.

Fanta Camara

“I came to realize that the harms of FGM were not the result of evil spirits, but were a consequence of the procedure itself.”

Mariam Bagayoko, former circumciser, Mali
LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Mali has the obligation under international law to eradicate FGM and to end discrimination against women and girls. I beg you and urge you with all my heart to support the passage of a law against FGM, so that it will be completely abolished in your country.

Mariano Guim
Barcelona, SPAIN

The Suglo N-Nya Biahegu Women’s Association wish to urge you to support the introduction and passage of a law against FGM as a matter of urgency... We are aware that Mali has an obligation under international law, as well as its own constitution to eradicate FGM and to end discrimination against women and girls. We therefore encourage you to do everything in your capacity to make this a reality. We want to urge you to take measures and support efforts to educate practicing communities on the harmful effects of FGM.

Sulemana Comfort
Community Co-Coordinator
Suglo N-Nya Biahegu Association
Tamale, GHANA

Please do your job and pass legislation against FGM. You are required to protect your citizens and eradicate FGM under international law and your own Constitution.

Rosemary Sullivan
Pigeon Hill, Quebec, CANADA

I am writing to you on behalf of the National Association of Women Lawyers (NAWL), the oldest association of women lawyers and judges in the United States... NAWL strongly supports the call of Malian women for a national law which would criminalize the practice of FGM... While some communities in Mali have already ceased to use this practice, there is strong need for a national law because many communities in Mali still mutilate women and because FGM practitioners from countries that have criminalized FGM (such as Burkina Faso, Senegal, and Guinea-Conakry) use Mali as a safe haven in which to mutilate women from their own countries... FGM is a practice which harms the health of countless children and which discriminates against women... We therefore strongly urge you to support the introduction and passage of a national law to criminalize FGM and to take all measures necessary to educate the public about the harmful nature of this practice.

Eva Herzer
Chair, International Law Committee
National Association of Women Lawyers
Chicago, Illinois USA

As the representative of an international NGO that provides social service to women and girls, I am writing to express my profound concern about the practice of female genital mutilation occurring in Mali. I urge you, as a matter of urgent priority, to support the introduction and passage of a law against FGM in Mali. Mali is obligated under international law, as well as its own Constitution, to eradicate FGM and to end discrimination against women and girls. By enacting a law against FGM, you will promote and protect the health and rights of women and girls in Mali, while serving as an example to other countries around the world.

Clare Nolan
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
New York, NY USA

RESUMEN

En julio de 2004, Igualdad Ya lanzó una campaña para reivindicar la promulgación de una ley contra la MGF en Mali. La Acción Mujeres pone de relieve el caso de Fanta Camara, que fue sometida a la MGF a la edad de cinco años. Durante el transcurso de su mutilación le dañaron la uretra, lo que le provocó incontinencia urinaria y reiteradas infecciones que retrasaron su crecimiento. La MGF se practica en Mali de forma generalizada, con una tasa de prevalencia del 94%. Las organizaciones no gubernamentales creen que debe aprobarse una ley nacional contra la MGF para proteger la vida y la salud de miles de mujeres y niñas contra sus daños efectos. La campaña de Igualdad Ya insta al gobierno de Mali a que apruebe una ley contra la MGF como tema urgente prioritario.

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As the representative of an international NGO that provides social service to women and girls, I am writing to express my profound concern about the practice of female genital mutilation occurring in Mali. I urge you, as a matter of urgent priority, to support the introduction and passage of a law against FGM in Mali. Mali is obligated under international law, as well as its own Constitution, to eradicate FGM and to end discrimination against women and girls. By enacting a law against FGM, you will promote and protect the health and rights of women and girls in Mali, while serving as an example to other countries around the world.

Clare Nolan
Sisters of the Good Shepherd
New York, NY USA
Big Apple Oriental Tour Operators
Indicted for Promoting Prostitution

On 27 February 2004, following a year-long investigation by the New York State Attorney General, Norman Barabash and Douglas Allen—the owner/operators of Big Apple Oriental Tours—were indicted by a grand jury for promoting prostitution, in violation of Section 230.25 of the Penal Law of the State of New York. This indictment is the culmination of a seven-year campaign by Equality Now to stop the activities of Big Apple Oriental Tours, an agency in New York operating sex tours to the Philippines and Thailand. The criminal indictment follows an unprecedented civil case against Big Apple Oriental Tours initiated by New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, leading to a temporary restraining order against Big Apple Oriental Tours in July 2003, which severely restricted the company from organizing or advertising any future tours and effectively disabled their website.

On 30 July 2004, however, Judge Gerald V. Hayes dismissed the indictment against Big Apple Oriental Tours, comparing the promotion of sex tourism in Thailand with the promotion of golf in Ireland, castles in England, or bullfights in Spain as tourist activities, without distinguishing prostitution as a criminal offense, unlike golf or bullfights. Moreover, despite the evidence recounted by the judge himself, that the tour guides were included in the Big Apple Oriental Tours package and that they were paid by Big Apple Oriental Tours, he concluded that there was no competent evidence that the defendants “had any direct connection at all to any such [prostitution] business or enterprise.” His decision is currently on appeal.

In 1996, Equality Now launched its Women’s Action campaign calling for the
prosecution of Big Apple Oriental Tours, which advertised at the time a twelve-day trip to the Philippines for $2,195, which included transportation, airfare, hotel room and the ability of the sex tourist to “select your companion upon arrival in Angeles City.” Big Apple further advertised, “you are not obligated to remain with the same companion. You may select a different companion at any time during your stay.” Despite a prolonged letter-writing campaign, direct dialogue and public pressure, the Queens District Attorney failed to bring charges against the owner/operators of Big Apple Oriental Tours. In 2000, Equality Now held a press conference in which Congressional Representative Carolyn Maloney, together with Gloria Steinem, called publicly on the District Attorney to shut down Big Apple Oriental Tours. Subsequently, Equality Now, with support from Gloria Steinem and the New York Women’s Agenda—an umbrella federation of women’s organizations in New York of which Equality Now is a member—approached New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, who launched his own investigation, which led to the civil injunction in 2003 and the criminal charges brought in 2004 against Norman Barabash and Douglas Allen of Big Apple Oriental Tours.

Sex tourism is a form of exploitation that preys on sex inequality and contributes to the demand for trafficking of women. It is a human rights violation. Big Apple Oriental Tours is not the only operator of sex tours in the U.S., and holding its operators criminally accountable will be an important step in recognition of the need to take action to stop the illegal activities of sex tour companies and address the severe impact they have in promoting violence and discrimination against women around the world.

Equality Now will continue to campaign for the prosecution of Big Apple Oriental Tours and other sex tour operators who profit from the commercial sexual exploitation of women.

Legislation Passed in Hawaii to End Sex Tourism

In March 2004, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign supporting the passage of legislation criminalizing the activities of sex tour operators in the state of Hawaii. Equality Now called on Hawaii State legislators to support the legislation, noting that sex tourism is a human rights violation and contributes to the trafficking of women and girls. Equality Now also supported passage of the Act by giving written and oral testimony delivered by local group Girl Fest/Safe Zone Foundation at both Hawaii State Senate and House Committee hearings.

On 19 May 2004, in an unprecedented move to combat sex tourism, the Hawaii State legislature passed HB 2020, which the Lt. Governor signed into law as Act 82. The Act makes it a felony offense, with a sentence of up to five years in prison, to sell or offer to sell travel services for the purpose of engaging in prostitution, and it authorizes suspension or revocation of a travel agency registration for engaging in these acts. Hawaii is the first state to specifically criminalize the activities of sex tour operators.
Equality Now issued a Women’s Action Update in May 2004 to inform Women’s Action Network members of the campaign’s success and also to commend the Hawaii state legislature for protecting the rights of women by passing the new law, which recognizes the link between sex tourism and trafficking. It states that:

*Prostitution and related activities, which are inherently harmful and dehumanizing, contribute to the trafficking in persons, as does sex tourism. The low status of women in many parts of the world has led to a burgeoning of the trafficking industry. Discouraging sex tourism, which is an estimated $1,000,000,000-per-year business worldwide, is key to reducing the demand for sex trafficking…The purpose of this Act is to promote and protect the human rights of women and girls exploited by sex tourists…In so doing, the legislature forcefully declares Hawaii’s unequivocal opposition to any form of sex tourism, whether it is child sex tourism or sex tourism involving adults.*

Equality Now’s ongoing campaign against sex tourism, and one sex tour operation in Hawaii in particular, inspired the introduction and passage of the new legislation. Video Travel, a sex tour company based in Honolulu, Hawaii, owned by Melvin Hamaguchi, was until very recently operating under license from the Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Every May and November, Mr. Hamaguchi led sex tourists on his Ultimate Asian Sex Tour to Thailand, which he described as “The Sex Capital of The World!!” For upwards of $2,395 per trip, Mr. Hamaguchi promised to “personally be your guide throughout your stay in Thailand” and provided his customers direct access to women in prostitution. Mr. Hamaguchi’s activities constituted promotion of prostitution in violation of Hawaii penal law.

In August 2002, Equality Now filed a complaint with the Regulated Industries Complaints Office (RICO) of the State of Hawaii Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, requesting that Mr. Hamaguchi’s travel agency license be revoked on the basis that he was an “unfit person” to hold a license or be registered as a travel agent. No action was taken, but in April 2004 Mr. Hamaguchi agreed to the voluntary revocation of his license on other grounds, thereby forfeiting his ability to operate legally as a travel agent in Hawaii.

Equality Now hopes the passage of Act 82 in Hawaii will inspire state legislation nationwide explicitly mandating the prosecution of sex tour operators.
Many of these children will end their enforced "careers" in death, either when they are in their twenties and "too old," or when they contract AIDS and are murdered or discarded with no medical care by their pimps or madams...Where men will not constrain themselves, the law needs to do so, to prevent international child abuse of those whose cries are unheard, because unseen.

Sue Liang
Honolulu, Hawaii USA

We express our deepest sorrow in connection with the sex tour operated by persons like Melvin Hamaguchi which encourage prostitution...We appreciate the Hawaii State Legislature for considering legislation which would specifically make the promotion of travel for the purpose of prostitution a felony and grounds for denial or revocation of a travel agent's license...The legislation forcefully declares Hawaii's unequivocal opposition to any form of sex tourism, protecting women as well as girls from the harm of prostitution.

Emdadul Haque
Secretary
Murshidabad Samaj Kalyan Samity
Panchantnala, INDIA

I am a Filipino woman who wishes to express interest and support the State of Hawaii's proposed legislation prohibiting sex tourism. I believe that such legislative proposal is critical to addressing the abuses and discrimination being experienced by women all over the world. Asian countries have been the target destinations of sex tourism operators, with Hawaii said to be becoming a hub of these operators. A case in point is that of the Honolulu-based Video Travel owned by Mr. Melvin Hamaguchi...People who engage in this sleazy business do not only insult the honor and dignity of their fellow citizens, they are criminals who prey on the social economic vulnerabilities of women and girls, most of them from the impoverished Asian countries...Please act on the passage of this legislative proposal with urgency and compassion. Thank you.

Irene Daguno
Manila, THE PHILIPPINES

Sex tourism contributes to the trafficking of women and girls and in many cases is a form of sexual slavery. While legal provisions already exist in Hawaii to enable prosecution of sex tour operators like Mr. Hamaguchi, this legislation will make it easier to commence both civil and criminal actions to shut down sex tour operator activity in Hawaii and could serve as a model for future state and federal sex tour legislation. Passage of this proposed legislation would represent an important advance in promoting human rights for women and girls.

Donna Grant
Rochester, NY USA

I feel sickened and disgusted by the way some men portray women in their publications, websites and activities like "sex tours." I am so thankful that there are groups like Equality Now wanting to bring people that promote these tours down. I wrote a song called "women aren't meat" that is available in my mp3 website.

Miguel Rivero
Los Angeles, CA USA

"I wanted to thank you and your organization for your support, particularly in providing testimony, for legislation that resulted in the passage of Act B2. I have received email messages and letters from throughout the world expressing gratitude for Act B2. It’s gratifying to know that in some small way we have taken action to stop the victimization of women.”

Marilyn Lee
State Representative, Hawaii

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

SOMMAIRE

En mars 2004, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une campagne appelant les législateurs de l’Etat de Hawaï à promouvoir une loi réprimant les activités des voyagistes de Hawaï qui proposent des séjours de tourisme sexuel et reconnaissant le tourisme sexuel comme une violation des droits humains contribuant à la traite des femmes et des fillettes. Le projet de loi a été présenté suite aux efforts menés par Egalité Maintenant pour mettre fin aux activités de Video Travel, un opérateur de tourisme sexuel basé à Honolulu. Le 19 mai 2004, le Parlement de Hawaï a voté une loi qui fait de la vente de voyages aux fins de prostitution un crime grave (felony), passible d’une peine d’emprisonnement pouvant aller jusqu’à cinq ans, et qui autorise la suspension ou la révocation de la licence d’un voyagiste. Hawaï est le premier Etat à interdire les activités des opérateurs de tourisme sexuel.

RESUMEN

En marzo de 2004, Igualdad Ya lanzó una campaña solicitando a los legisladores del estado de Hawaí que apoyen a una legislación que criminalice las actividades de los turoperadores sexuales en ese estado y reconozca el turismo sexual como una violación de los derechos humanos que contribuye al tráfico de mujeres y niñas. Igualdad Ya inspiró a la introducción de dicha legislación con sus esfuerzos para poner fin a las actividades de Video Travel, una empresa de turismo sexual con sede en Honolulu. El 19 de mayo de 2004, el poder legislativo del estado de Hawaí aprobó una ley que convierte la venta de servicios de viaje con el fin de contratar servicios de prostitución en un delito grave para el que pueden dictarse sentencias de hasta cinco años de prisión y autoriza la suspensión o revocación de la licencia de una agencia de viajes. Hawaí es el primer estado que criminaliza específicamente las actividades de los turoperadores sexuales.

ملخص

في مارس 2004، نشرت معارضة المساواة الأولية "إيجاد الطرق المحفزة للإبادة الجنسية في هاواي" وتعريتها بأنها استمر في الت внеافة حول حقوق الإنسان بمشروع التشريع الذي يانح بوجود الجنساء في هاواي، ويعرض الرواح المريرة من الحياة التجارية والفنية، وعندما تأتي إيجاد هذه التراث ثالوث الجنساء ولفتة قوة تلقى على الأغلبية في هاواي، الذي يشمل محاولة من خلال إ стоим للبطاقة الموهوبة إلى هاواي، في 19 مايو/أيار 2004، أصدرت الهيئة التنفيذية لولاية هاواي قرارًا يقضي بجزاءات التراث وغيرها من عواقب الممارسة الجنسية غير القانونية. بالإضافة إلى ذلك، فإن هذه السياقات التي تساهم في التراث الاجتماعي، يرغب في إيجاد حلول من أجل الممارسات التي تساهم في التراث الاجتماعي، من خلال الاستمتاع بالتراث الاجتماعي، يرغب في إيجاد حلول من أجل الممارسات التي تساهم في التراث الاجتماعي، من خلال الاستمتاع بالتراث الاجتماعي.
**WOMEN’S ACTION UPDATES**

**Ethiopia: Abduction and Rape**

In March 2002, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign against abduction and rape in Ethiopia, highlighting and calling for justice in the case of Woineshet Zebene Negash, a young woman who was abducted, raped and forced into marriage by her abductor. In July 2003, the perpetrator, Aberew Jemma Negussie, was sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment without parole for her abduction and rape, and his four accomplices were each sentenced to 8 years’ imprisonment without parole. However, in December 2003, a High Court reversed the decision of the lower court on appeal and released the five perpetrators from prison. Woineshet did not know of the appeal hearing, nor was she given the opportunity to be present. Prosecutor Mr. Asrat Tolcha, who was present, advocated that the guilty verdict be reversed.

The Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association is pursuing a further appeal in the case on Woineshet’s behalf, although the defendants have been set free. In November 2004, Equality Now issued a Women’s Action Update calling on the authorities to allow the appeal and ensure that the rule of law is appropriately applied. A hearing on the appeal was scheduled for 5 January 2005.

In some regions of Ethiopia, abduction is an old cultural practice used to take a girl as a wife by force. Typically, the girl is abducted by a group of young men. She is then raped by the man who wants to marry her, and the family often then consents to the marriage because a girl who has lost her virginity would be socially unacceptable for marriage to another man. Once married, the man is exempt from punishment for the crimes of abduction and rape. In July 2004, the Ethiopian Parliament adopted a new Penal Code that removes this marital exemption. The new Code will come into force once the final text has been signed into law by the President. Equality Now will continue its campaign until justice is secured in Woineshet’s case and the men who were convicted for violating her are held accountable.

**Uganda: Exclusion of Women from Land Ownership—The “Lost Clause”**

On 18 March 2004, Ugandan President Museveni signed the Land (Amendment) Act into law, giving spouses security of occupancy on family land and the right to reasonably withhold consent on a sale or other transaction that would affect their rights to the family land. In Uganda, women make up 80% of the agricultural labor force, but only 7% of all women own land. In August 2000, Equality Now launched a campaign calling for an amendment to the Ugandan Land Act 1998 that would provide for co-ownership of land between spouses. A similar provision had previously been passed by Parliament but was left out of the final 1998 Act as a consequence of technical revisions. Equality Now’s campaign highlighted the case of Mariam Namayanja Kabeere, who was divorced by her husband and who was under threat of eviction from her home of 38 years. The Uganda Land Alliance, Uganda Women Network and other local women’s groups, together with Equality Now and members of its Women’s Action Network,
I know that you believe strongly in basic human rights, including the rights of women. I was therefore very surprised and disturbed to hear that Chief Justice Shinwari and other members of your country’s Supreme Court have repeatedly undermined the legal rights of Afghan women... I respectfully urge you to remove Chief Justice Shinwari from office, along with any other justices and judges who have shown such contempt for women’s rights.

David Perry
Carlisle, PA, USA

Response from the Government

As you might be aware, Afghanistan has taken several important steps in restoring gender equality: the new Constitution of Afghanistan offers equal rights to women; the Constitution also mandates that twenty-five percent of the lower House consist of women; in March, 2003, Afghanistan ratified the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); most recently, President Karzai appointed a nine-member electoral commission, which is comprised of three women. Noting the above achievement and realizing the existing challenges, the government of Afghanistan is fully committed to continue its reform in most of its crucial sectors, including the judicial branch.

Said Tayeb Jawad
Afghan Ambassador to the United States

Afghanistan: Access to Justice for Women

T
hree years since the formal end of the war and the removal of the Taliban from power, the situation in Afghanistan continues to threaten the safety, security, and human rights of Afghan citizens, particularly Afghan women. In December 2004, Equality Now issued a Women’s Action Update calling for the removal of Fazul Hadi Shinwari, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, for his demonstrated lack of commitment to the right to sex equality. Justice Shinwari has made several attempts to ban women from singing and dancing in public and has stated that a woman cannot travel for more than three days without a mahram (a husband or a male relative). He has also stated that adulterers should be stoned to death. During the campaign for the presidential elections in October 2004, Mr. Shinwari attempted to have a candidate removed from the ballot for suggesting that women and men should have equal rights in marriage and divorce. Equality Now’s campaign calls on Afghan President Hamid Karzai to ensure the appointment of judges who will uphold all the provisions of Afghanistan’s Constitution, including its provision on equality between men and women.

LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

The Struggle for Women’s Suffrage in Kuwait

In January 2001 Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling on the Government of Kuwait to grant women the right to vote and stand for election. Kuwait was the one remaining country in the world where only men have the right to vote. The last legislative proposal put to a vote on the issue of women’s suffrage, in 1999, was defeated by a narrow margin of 32-30. In October 2003, the Kuwaiti government presented a bill to Parliament that would allow women to vote in municipal elections only. As of year end, this bill was pending. Equality Now continues to campaign for the equal right of women to vote in all elections and stand for election to public office in Kuwait.

Enforcement of the Law Against Female Genital Mutilation in Tanzania

Female genital mutilation (FGM) is prohibited by law in Tanzania, but the law is not effectively enforced and the practice openly continues. In June 2001 Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling on the Tanzanian government to take more effective steps to end the practice of FGM through education as well as enforcement of the law. The action highlights the case of three sisters, aged 13 and 14 at the time, who ran away from their father in a desperate effort to save themselves from the practice of FGM. Rather than protect the girls, the police turned the girls over to their father, who had them circumcised the next day and married within a month, one as a third wife. The Women’s Action campaign calls on the authorities to hold circumcisers accountable for breaking the law and to investigate and bring appropriate disciplinary action against the policemen involved in this incident. In May 2004, Equality Now convened a meeting of

Tanzanian Police Commissioner Laurean Tibasana, Coordinator of Women Wake-Up Fatma Towif, and Equality Now Africa Regional Director Faiza Jama Mohamed.
national NGOs in Tanzania to discuss the government’s failure to enforce the 1998 law against FGM and strategize on efforts to end FGM. Recognition emerged from the meeting of the value of collective action and the strength in working collaboratively, and the Tanzanian NGO activists formed a national coalition to intensify the campaign against FGM and to call collectively on the government to play a greater role in the eradication of FGM. Equality Now continues to call for enforcement of the law against FGM in Tanzania.

The Role of the U.S. Military in the Growth of the Commercial Sex Industry

In June 2003, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling on the United States government to institute and strictly enforce a zero-tolerance policy prohibiting the commercial sexual exploitation of women by U.S. military forces around the world, highlighting the situation in South Korea. In 2002, Fox Television broadcast an undercover investigative report documenting the participation of U.S. military forces stationed in South Korea in the commercial sex industry. The report highlighted the role of U.S. military “Courtesy Patrol” officers stationed in bars near the base to ensure safe access of troops to local brothels. These officers acknowledged on hidden camera that most of the women in these brothels were trafficked from Russia and the Philippines, that their passports had been taken from them, and that they were not free to leave.

Following an exchange of correspondence with Equality Now and its Women’s Action Network, in September 2004 the Department of Defense Joint Service Committee on Military Justice published a proposed change to the Manual for Courts-Martial, amending its interpretation of Article 134 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice to specifically prohibit solicitation of prostitution. Equality Now submitted comments in support of the proposed amendment. If adopted, it is expected to come into force in 2005. Local organizations in South Korea are actively campaigning against the commercial sex industry and addressing the needs of women in prostitution for rehabilitation and alternative income. In September 2004, new anti-prostitution legislation came into force in South Korea, more than doubling the penalties for brothel owners who confine women and force them into prostitution.

Accountability for War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia

Equality Now continues to campaign for the arrest of Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, and Ratko Mladic, commander of the Bosnian Serb army, both of whom were indicted by the ICTY in 1995 for genocide and crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual assault. ICTY Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte has increased public pressure on Serbian authorities to facilitate these arrests, and the United States Senate has also put pressure on Serbian authorities through its discussion of conditionality for financial aid to Serbia. Nevertheless, searches for Karadzic and Mladic continue to be unsuccessful. Equality Now has been campaigning for the arrest and prosecution of war criminals in the former Yugoslavia since 1993.

RESUMEN

Egalité Maintenant continue de réclamer le droit de vote pour les femmes du Koweït. Un projet de loi a été présenté au Parlement koweïtien, qui autoriserait les femmes à voter uniquement lors des élections municipales. Egalité Maintenant poursuit sa campagne pour mise en application d’une loi contre les MGF. Egalité Maintenant appelle encore et toujours le gouvernement des États-Unis à instaurer une politique interdisant l’exploitation sexuelle commerciale des femmes par le personnel militaire américain autour du monde. En septembre 2004, le ministère de la Défense a publié un projet d’amendement à sa réglementation vio lant à l’interdiction d’appel à des services de prostitution. Egalité Maintenant continue de militer pour l’arrestation de Radovan Karadzic et Ratko Mladic, tous deux inculpés en 1995 pour génocide et crimes contre l’humanité, y compris pour viol et agression sexuelle.

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Igualdad Ya sigue haciendo campaña por el sufragio femenino en Kuwait, donde se encuentra un proyecto de ley en el Parlamento que permitiría a la mujer votar únicamente en las elecciones municipales. Igualdad Ya sigue exigiendo la aplicación de la ley contra la MGF en Tanzania y convocó una reunión en mayo de 2004, facilitando la formación de una coalición de organizaciones nacionales para trabajar colectivamente para erradicar la MGF. Igualdad Ya sigue exigiendo al gobierno de Estados Unidos que instituya una política que prohíba la explotación sexual comercial de la mujer por parte de las fuerzas militares estadounidenses en todo el mundo. En septiembre de 2004, el Ministerio de Defensa publicó una propuesta de enmienda a sus regulaciones para prohibir específicamente la incitación a la prostitución. Igualdad Ya sigue haciendo campaña para que se detenga a Radovan Karadzic y Ratko Mladic, ambos procesados en 1995 por genocidio y crí menes de lesa humanidad, incluida la violación y la agresión sexual.

ملخص

توافد السماوة الآمن حاليا من أجل تمنع المرأة بحث التجول في الكويت، حيث قد شوهد تواتر قانون إلى البرلمان، لتمنع النساء حاليلا من التسجيل في الانتخابات البلدية. كما توافد السماوة الآمن على مشاريع قانون حاليلا، مثل قانون يمنع النساء من الإنتخاب للعدم في السيادة في الكويت. إقامة مقاطعة الثورة الآمن في آذار 2004، إعلانا مع الفتيان الآمن من الحملة الوطنية الخفية. إقامة مقاطعة الثورة الآمن حاليلا، من المنظمات الوطنية للعمل بشكل يحظر بناء من أجل مطالعة على والأطفال، وتوافد السماوات الآمن إلى تحركة الوان المياه المضادة إلى اعتماد سياسة أحكام الاستغلال الجنسية التقليدية من قبل النساء في توسعة النشر. في سنابير أيلول 2004، نشرت وزارة الناشئة تعديلات لكونها واحدة تجربة إيرانية، وتوافد السماوات في الكويت، وتوافد السماوات الآمن إلى القضاء على المراقبة والعمل على القضاء على المراقبة والعمل على العمل على القضاء على المراقبة والعمل على القضاء على المراقبة والعمل على العمل على القضاء على المراقبة والعمل.

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The 2004 meeting of Equality Now’s Fund for Grassroots Activism to End FGM (FGM Fund) brought together nine former circumcisers from six African countries, the first international gathering of former circumcisers. At this historic event, women from Djibouti, Gambia, Guinea-Conakry, Kenya, Mali, and Tanzania shared with each other and with the FGM Fund grantees their experiences of transformation from circumcisers into activists now working to end the harmful practice of FGM. The grassroots organizations from ten African countries who participated in the meeting stressed the need for laws against FGM in countries that still do not have such laws and the need for effective law enforcement where anti-FGM laws exist. In reviewing the progress of the campaign against FGM to date, the FGM Fund grantees noted that over the years the work of non-governmental organizations had steadily increased public awareness of the dangers of FGM, and that many more people, women and men, are now speaking out against the practice. Concern over lack of resources was expressed, and the grantees urged Equality Now to help them secure multi-year funding to facilitate more long-term strategic planning.

**Testimony from Former Circumcisers**

**Introduction by Efua Dorkenoo:** In June 2004, I had the opportunity to attend the third annual meeting of the Fund for Grassroots Activism to End Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), which was hosted by Equality Now in Nairobi, Kenya. This meeting was unique in that it added a new perspective to the FGM campaign as nine former traditional female genital excisors from six African countries joined the FGM Fund grantees to share their experiences in their journey from “laying down their knives” into becoming anti-FGM activists. The testimonies of the ex-traditional excisors confirm my beliefs that they too are victims of society.
Mariam Bagayoko, Mali (invited by AMSOPT): At twenty-five, I began assisting other traditional excisors in Bamako, the capital city of Mali. I am a descendant of a long line of circumcisers, and there is a familial obligation to join the practice. My aunt taught me how to excise. Aside from family obligations, I had my own motivations for joining the practice; the secrecy of the ritual stimulated my curiosity. At thirty, I began doing the cutting. I would cut off part of the clitoris. The girls I would cut were between seven and forty days old. The first time I heard criticism of FGM was when I had a friend visiting from France. She noticed that my daughter would scream when she urinated. When I explained that this was because she was circumcised, my friend was shocked. I had always thought that the harms of circumcision were a result of evil spirits. It was not until that moment that I thought to question the practice. Through discourse, films and consulting doctors, I came to realize that the harms of FGM were not the result of evil spirits, but were a consequence of the procedure itself. I remembered the hemorrhages, tetanus and difficulty in childbirth that I witnessed in my own daughters. After twenty-five years of performing circumcisions, I stopped. My colleagues and I stopped as a group. To compensate for our loss in income, we have started an association that makes soap and dyes clothing to earn money. We sensitize customers on the harms of FGM.

Isnino Shuriye, Kenya (invited by Womankind): I began helping my mother in circumcisions at a young age, and when she passed away I took over the job. I was a very famous person in the district as I was the most influential circumciser. I made a lot of money. Womankind used to come to my house and tried to tell me about the social and health effects of FGM. They very much wanted to convince me because they knew I was the most influential circumciser in the region. They came four times to my house and each time I chased them off of my property. Then Womankind brought fifteen clerics to my house. They have authority in our society and our religion, so I couldn’t turn them away. The clerics told me that cutting off a woman’s genitals is just as bad as cutting off any other body part, like a finger or an arm. I was supposed to pay eighty camels to each girl that I circumcised. I’ve circumcised so many girls and I knew that I couldn’t pay that amount. I asked if there was anything else I could do for God to forgive my sins and they said that I must go to each girl that I circumcised and ask for forgiveness. And if the girls were no longer alive I must ask for forgiveness from God. I have not touched a girl in two years. Women still come to my house to have their daughters circumcised but now I chase them off of my property.
DJIBOUTI
- Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes. UNFD aims to sensitize the Djibouti population, especially those living in rural areas, on the dangers of FGM. UNFD instructs trainers who then educate the rest of the community. UNFD imparts skills to ex-circumcisers and engages in literacy enhancement activities as a means of fighting FGM, noting that ignorance greatly contributes to the continuation of the practice. UNFD also works with and trains youth to reach out to their peer group with messages to end the practice.

EGYPT
- Centre for Egyptian Women’s Legal Assistance Foundation. CEWLA aims to develop and promote the concept of legal and judicial assistance for women by advocating for the elimination of all discriminatory laws against women. CEWLA also works to provide women with different skills through legal, social and literacy classes to enable them to participate more fully in society. CEWLA disseminates anti-FGM messages through the use of art and plays.

ERITREA
- National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students. The targets of NUEYS’ program are high school students in the Gash Barka region. The program aims to strengthen the capacity of anti-FGM clubs to address the problem of FGM and other harmful practices through drama and puppetry shows. The clubs are trained on the dangers of FGM, and use ongoing activities such as sports and tutorial classes to attract more members.

ETHIOPIA
- Hundee Oromo Grassroots Development Initiative. Hundee’s project aims to contribute to the national efforts to eliminate harmful traditional practices. The issue of FGM is addressed through joint workshops and community conferences where the root causes of the practice are discussed. This process culminated in the establishment of new rules under traditional law banning harmful and obsolete traditional practices including FGM.

THE GAMBIA
- The Gambia Committee on Traditional Practices. Working to create awareness on harmful traditional practices in The Gambia, GAMCOTRAP develops booklets, leaflets and stickers on FGM, as well as messages for radio broadcast and for use in interpersonal communication. Training programs are conducted to enhance the local capacity to end FGM with a focus on health workers. GAMCOTRAP also works with fathers’ clubs to advocate against FGM at the village level.

GHANA
- Ghanaian Association for Women’s Welfare. GAWW works to create awareness on harmful traditional practices and their effects on the health of women and children. GAWW also educates the public and especially women on the effects of harmful traditional practices and reports cases of FGM to the authorities so that offenders are brought to justice.

GUINEA
- Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants. Building upon its media outreach strategy, CPTAFE creates awareness on the negative effects of harmful traditional practices. CPTAFE targets the school children and youth and organizes competitions around the theme of FGM. The group also manages an FGM help line.

KENYA
- Tasaru Ntononok Initiative. TNI is 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 provides shelter and safety to girls who have escaped their families to avoid FGM. TNI integrates the concept of Alternative Rites of Passage in response to the cultural dimension of the practice of FGM where girls still undergo the training required by culture but do not get cut. TNI also worked on the passage of the Children Act 2001 that specifically prohibits FGM.

SUDAN
- Association pour le Progres et la Défense des Droits des Femmes. APDF raises awareness through community-based committees in Koulikoro, Kolokani and Diola. The committees ensure adherence to the resolutions made at sensitization forums, intended to lead to the total abandonment of FGM. The resolutions promote community involvement, advocacy initiatives for an anti-FGM law, alternative sources of income for circumcisers, and the involvement of media and religious leaders in the fight against FGM.

SOMALIA
- Galkayo Education Centre for Peace and Development. GECPD aims to strengthen women’s capacity to seek, defend and advocate for their fundamental rights, and to promote education for girls, women and the community at large for social reconstruction and the peaceful rebuilding of Somalia. GECPD held an FGM Special Program that ran for 6 months training young girls on what FGM is, how it started and its effects on women’s health. GECPD also trains women for outreach work on FGM and the effects of domestic violence, trains participants on health education and holds workshops to facilitate gender dialogue. They also hold seminars for senior women on the effects of FGM.

TANZANIA
- Network Against Female Genital Mutilation. NAFGEM continues to educate and sensitize at least 50 girls and boys in every school in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania in its aim to empower as many children as possible to say NO to FGM. NAFGEM provides space for children to express opposition to FGM and to present their ideas on FGM during demonstrations. NAFGEM encourages schools to sustain children’s interest in the campaign.
Awaken: A Voice for the Eradication of FGM

Awaken was created by Equality Now in 1997 to support organizations and individual activists working to end female genital mutilation (FGM). The publication is a forum for information and discussion to promote better understanding and a more effective strategy for the eradication of this harmful traditional practice. 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. Equality Now continually receives letters from groups working in practicing communities, in which they indicate the usefulness of Awaken and express their gratitude for the publication.

News highlighted in Awaken in 2004

Burkina Faso: The initial reports released by the National Committee to Combat the Practice of Circumcision (CNLPE), reflect that FGM is now almost non-existent in some parts of Burkina Faso. In Sangui province, the prevalence rate has fallen from 51% to just 1%. In Ziro province, the prevalence rate has fallen from 77% to 2%, and in Mohoun from 75.2% to 3.1%.

Ethiopia: Following a sensitization program, some 350 circumcisers in the Gonder region decided to stop performing [FGM]. They will be supported with loans to create other means of livelihood for themselves.

France: Acclaimed Senegalese film director Ousmane Sembene is using film as a medium to promote the eradication of FGM in the recently released “Moolade.” Sembene predicts and hopes that “Moolade” will stir debate in Africa. “I make militant films,” he said, “and this one will serve as a basis to bring men and women together to talk.” Sembene will travel by truck through the countrysides of Mali, Senegal, Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast and Guinea-Bissau to bring “Moolade” to remote village communities. The first ladies of Senegal, Burkina Faso and Mali are planning to make official presentations of the film.

Ghana: A court in Bawku East district sent Abampoaka Mbawini, a 70-year-old native of Yelogu, to jail for five years. Her crime was the genital mutilation of seven girls in Yelogu. The police reported that a tip-off that Mbawini was performing FGM took them to the house of one of the girls she had cut, a 16-year-old. Judge Jacob Boon gave her a five-year jail sentence despite her elderly age. He said the sentence should deter other perpetrators.

USA: Motivated by the circumcision of a local 2-year-old allegedly by her Ethiopian father, who has since been charged with cruelty to children, senators in the State of Georgia proposed legislation that would have made FGM a crime punishable by up to 20 years’ imprisonment. State representatives infuriated the Bill’s original sponsors, however, when they added an amendment at the last minute to ban genital piercing, which would apply only to women, and not men.

SOMMAIRE

RESUMEN
En 2004, el Fondo para el Activismo de Base para Poner Fin a la MGF concedió subvenciones a 19 organizaciones de 13 países–Djibouti, Egipto, Eritrea, Etiopía, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Conacry, Kenia, Mali, Senegal, Somália/Somaliland, Sudán y Tanzania. Los proyectos de los donantes iban de los talleres educativos para la comunidad y los programas de radio a los clubes escolares para jóvenes y los refugios para niñas que quieren huir de MGF. Awaken (Despertar) es una publicación creada en 1997 por Igualdad Ya como foro para las organizaciones y los activistas individuales que trabajan para poner fin a la MGF, brindando información y discusión para promover un mejor entendimiento y una estrategia más efectiva para la erradicación de la MGF. Contiene artículos de fondo que resaltan el activismo, noticias de alrededor del mundo relacionadas con la MGF, y un listado de recursos. En esta página, hay fragmentos de Awaken, que se publica en inglés, árabe y francés.
THE LAW PROJECT

Using Law to Promote Sex Equality

The Lawyers’ Alliance for Women (LAW) Project was established in 2001, following Equality Now’s international meeting of women lawyers, in an effort to bring together theoretical concepts and practical realities, and to strategize innovative ways of using the law to promote sex equality.

Abduction, Rape and Murder of Women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico

In 2004, the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (the CEDAW Committee) issued a report on its inquiry into the pattern of abduction, rape and murder of women in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. The CEDAW Committee undertook the inquiry based on a formal request submitted in October 2002 by Equality Now’s LAW Project and Casa Amiga, a rape crisis center in Ciudad Juárez that has been documenting and protesting this violence and the failure of the Mexican Government to address it effectively. The Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights subsequently joined as a co-petitioner in this initiative.

Over 300 women have been murdered in or near Ciudad Juárez in the past ten years. More than 300 women have disappeared and remain missing. Many of the women killed were abducted, raped, and tortured. Concern exists that although some official steps have been taken to investigate some of the murders, these investigations have not led to credible arrests, prosecutions and convictions. There have also been disturbing signs that suggest in some cases that officials may be actively obstructing efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice or may even be complicit in the commission of these crimes. There is evidence that suspects have been framed and tortured into making false confessions. The CEDAW Committee’s inquiry report raised these concerns and made a series of recommendations to the Mexican Government to address them, as well as a request for an update by year-end on the implementation of these recommendations.

In July 2004, The LAW Project presented a concept paper to the CEDAW Committee on the interpretation of Article 2 of the Convention, the undertaking by governments to “pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women.” The LAW Project urged the Committee to

““At its twenty-eighth session (January 2003)...the Committee concluded that the information provided by Equality Now and Casa Amiga was reliable and that it contained substantiated indications of grave or systematic violations of rights set forth in the Convention...At its twenty-ninth session (July 2003), after having examined all the information submitted by the Government and taking into account the supplementary information provided by Casa Amiga, Equality Now and the Mexican Commission for the Defence and Promotion of Human Rights, the Committee decided to conduct a confidential inquiry under article 8 (2) of the Optional Protocol.”

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women report on its investigation
ensure that effective implementation of this undertaking be measured by more than
the laws and policies put in place by governments, that it be measured by the actual
reality experienced by women and girls around the world.

- In November 2004, The LAW Project prepared a response to the Consultation
Paper on Prostitution circulated for comment by the Home Office of the United
Kingdom. The response urged the United Kingdom to combat prostitution as a
violation of the human rights of women by decriminalizing those engaged in prosti-
tution, while strengthening criminal laws against those who buy, pimp, and traffic
them, thereby recognizing prostitution as a form of gender-based exploitation and
addressing it as such.

- Also in 2004, in conjunction with Equality Now’s Beijing +10 campaign against
discriminatory laws (see page 2), the LAW Project filed a complaint with the United
Nations Commission on the Status of Women, pursuant to its communications
procedure, against the forty countries whose sex discriminatory laws are highlighted
in the Beijing +10 report. The complaint was pending as of year-end.

Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

In 2004, Equality Now’s Africa Regional Office spearheaded a coalition effort to push
for the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’
Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Together with Oxfam GB, FEMNET and
FAHAMU, Equality Now targeted government officials in the 30 countries that had
signed the Protocol. By year-end the coalition for ratification had grown to include
sixteen organizations.

The Protocol, adopted in July 2003 by the African Union, sets forth explicitly, for
the first time in international law, the reproductive right of women to abortion when
pregnancy results from rape or incest or when the continuation of pregnancy endangers
the health or life of the mother. In another first, the Protocol explicitly calls for the legal
prohibition of female genital mutilation. Other provisions in the Protocol include the
right not to be subjected to forced or unwanted sex, a prohibition on the abuse of
women in advertising and pornography and many other progressive provisions including
in the areas of political and eco-
nomic representation.

Fifteen countries must ratify the
Protocol for it to come into force.
At year-end 2004, seven countries—
Comoros, Libya, Lesotho, Namibia,
Nigeria, Rwanda and South Africa—
had ratified the Protocol.
EQUALITY NOW IN ACTION

Building the Movement


ART: Wall of art works donated by women artists for an Equality Now benefit organized by Marcia Yerman at the Locus Media Gallery, 8 March 2004.
DRAMA: Cast of a benefit reading for Equality Now of Frank Christopher's *Hold the Turkey, Pass the Stuffing*, a play about domestic violence, at Smoke Jazz Club, 8 August 2004.


FORUM: Gloria Steinem and Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr. at a luncheon discussion on Women, Media and the Law, hosted by Bertelsmann, Inc. on 3 December 2004.


THE ACTIVISTS OF EQUALITY NOW

Working for the Human Rights of Women

Navanetham Pillay
HONORARY CHAIR

Board of Directors
Jessica Neuwirth
PRESIDENT
Jacqui Hunt
SECRETARY
Taina Bien-Aimé
TREASURER
Susana Chiarotti
Sapana Pradhan-Malla
Meaza Ashenafi
Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas
Colette De Troy
Yukiko Tsunoda

Advisory Council
Deborah Taylor Ashford
Winnie Byanyima
Andrew Byrnes
Elizabeth Evatt
Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge
Hanny Megally
Robin Morgan
Alanis Morissette
Elizabeth Odio Benito
Indira Rana
Robert Rothschild
Joan Ruddock
Gloria Steinem
Meryl Streep
Rose Styron
Liz Young

Staff
Taina Bien-Aimé
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
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LONDON OFFICE DIRECTOR
Faiza Jama Mohamed
AFRICA REGIONAL DIRECTOR
Caroline Osero-Ageng'o
AFRICA REGIONAL PROGRAM OFFICER
Amanda Sullivan
DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK
Lakshmi Anantnarayan
MEDIA CAMPAIGN DIRECTOR
Antonia Kirkland
PROGRAM OFFICER
Maia Goodell
NANCY RUTH FELLOW
Bethany Hurley
PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR
Mary Whitmore
NEW YORK OFFICE MANAGER
Mary Ciigu
AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE MANAGER
Géraldine Cortalorda
LONDON OFFICE MANAGER
Kaoru Yoshimitsu
MANAGER OF INFORMATION SYSTEMS

The LAW Project
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CO-DIRECTOR
Jessica Neuwirth
CO-DIRECTOR
Consultants
Kenneth J. Franzblau
Bonnie Greenfield
Karolyn Irvin
KIWI PARTNERS
Shoji Masuzawa
Tsinu Tesfaye

Translators
Asma Abdel Halim
ARABIC
Elena Arengo
SPANISH
Marie-Claire Boisset-Pestourie
FRENCH/SPANISH
Hélène Robineau
FRENCH
Marlyn Tadros
ARABIC
Wafaa Wahba
ARABIC

PAGE 24
Clockwise from bottom left: Michelle Pallak; Cindy Lunsford; Maia Goodell and Lakshmi Anantnarayan at the March for Women’s Lives; Amanda Sullivan.

PAGE 25
Above, left to right: Jessica Neuwirth, Sarah Jones and Meryl Streep during the filming of a public service announcement produced by Lifetime Television for Equality Now.
Right, Members of the Equality Now Board of Directors, left to right: Taina Bien-Aimé, Jacqui Hunt, Colette De Troy, Sapana Pradhan-Malla, Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas, Jessica Neuwirth and Yukiko Tsunoda.
Below, left to right: Kaoru Yoshimitsu (seated) and Shoji Masuzawa; Jane Fonda and Robin Morgan at the Equality Now Dialogue on Women’s Rights; Bethany Hurley and Mary Whitmore.
WORLDWIDE SUPPORT

The Friends of Equality Now

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.

Asma Abdel Halim
Ayse Feride Acar
Sylvia Aguilera García
AIDOS
Margot Albert
Heidi Alexander
Susan Allee
Lisa Alter
Janette Amer
Yetnayet Andagre Ashagre
Sara Andersson
Ximena Andión Ibáñez
Jo Andrews
Deborah Taylor Ashford
Association for the Advancement and the Defense of the Rights of Malian Women
Justine Auerbach
Nina Auerbach
Sara Austin
Christopher Avery
Heleen Bakker
Mariko Barajas
Sarah Bayefsky-Anand
Steven Bennett
Barbara Bergmann
Lola Maverick Berndt
Robert & Helen Bernstein
Bertelsmann, Inc.
Nicole Bibbins
Erik Bjorkland
Pamela Bloodworth
Bob Boneberg
Emma Bonnino
Sylvia Borren
Christine Brautigam
Judith Bruce
Ariane Brunet

Martha Burk
Twiss Butler
Winnie Byanyima
Andrew Byrnes
Claudia Calvin Venero
Jennifer Cancro
Colleen Cannon
Governor-General Sylvia Cartwright
Casa Amiga
Deborah Charlemagne
Esther Chávez Cano
Ellen Chesler
Frank Christopher
Claire’s Stores
Cathy Cleghorn
Coalition Against Trafficking in Women
Steve Colman
Jane Connors
Christopher Coombe
Ivanka Corti
Joseph Costa
Linda Cotter
Grant Couch
Larry Cox
Bob Coyle
Crawath, Swaine & Moore
Barbara Crossette
Danielle Crowe
Edwidge Danticat
Ian Davies
Stephanie Davis
Davis Wright Tremaine
Donna Deitch
Lea Delaria
Jonathan Demme
Eileen de Parrie
Julie Dinnenstein

Abigail Disney
Mary Dixon
Paula Dobriansky
Efiu Dorkenoo
Nicole Dryden
Bani Dugal
Andrea Dworkin (in memoriam)
Mariam Egal
Eve Ensler
Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
Elizabeth Evatt
FAHAMU
Denise Young Farrell
Chai Feldblum
feminist.com
The Feminist Majority
FEMNET
María Yolanda Ferrer Gómez
Shelley Fischel
Sally Fisher
Nyela Flanders
Elizabeth Fleming
Wendy Flick
Julie Floch
Foley Hoag LLP
Jane Fonda
Robin Forshaw
Hannah Forster
Joanne Fowler
First Lady of Mexico Marta Sahagún de Fox
Marsha Freeman
Katarina Fried
Felice Gaer
Kim Gandy
Lucy Guss
Adrienne Germain
Girl Fest/Safe Zone Foundation
Global Fund for Women
Barbara Gold
Adrienne & Ervin Gombos
Victoria Gomez-Tenorio
Jan Goodwin
Toby Graff
Amanda Grove
Agnes Gund
Gutenberg Printing
Allert van den Hamm
Melissa Haniewicz

Robert T. Hanley
Carolyn Hannan
Richard Harden
Kristina Hare-Lyons
Gail McGeeley Harmon
Yasmeen Hassan
Ki-Mae Heussner
Salma Hayek
Brooks Hefner
Judith Helzer
Rita Henley Jensen
Ann Colin Herbst
Arrie Herman
Noeleen Heyzer
Maika Höcker
Tracey Hogan
Heleen van den Homborgh
Home Box Office (HBO)
David and Nicole Hoover
Irungu Houghton

Gloria Steinem and Justine Auerbach

Kori Wilson, Taina Bien-Aimé and Emily Sklar

Donna Hughes
Helen LaKelly Hunt
Rana Husseini
International Women’s Health Coalition
Aurora Javate de Dios
Terri Jentz
Robert Joffe
Nicola Johnston
Sarah Jones
Veronica Jordan
Paul & Adelaide Joseph
Tanya Joseph
Ashley Judd
Minister Kyung-wha Kang
Fauziya Kassindja
Mary Kavaney
# Statement of Financial Position

**2004** | **2003**
---|---
**As of 12/31** | **As of 12/31**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$929,082</td>
<td>$997,689</td>
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<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>613,370</td>
<td>411,040</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants receivable</td>
<td>714,104</td>
<td>375,151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>20,691</td>
<td>15,648</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>24,861</td>
<td>28,274</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>29,257</td>
<td>31,116</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,331,365</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,858,918</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIABILITIES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$116,375</td>
<td>$99,637</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Funds held for others</td>
<td>5,000</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total liabilities</strong></td>
<td><strong>$121,375</strong></td>
<td><strong>$99,637</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$1,413,956</td>
<td>$1,099,762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>796,034</td>
<td>659,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,209,990</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,759,281</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Total liabilities and net assets**

**$2,331,365** | **$1,858,918**

# Statement of Activities

**2004** | **2003**
---|---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Public support and revenue before net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>$1,611,777</td>
<td>$1,443,667</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>644,519</td>
<td>71,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total public support and revenue</strong></td>
<td><strong>2,256,296</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,515,322</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program services</td>
<td>1,618,526</td>
<td>1,301,676</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>193,135</td>
<td>194,649</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>130,441</td>
<td>89,663</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total supporting services</strong></td>
<td><strong>323,576</strong></td>
<td><strong>284,312</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total expenses</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,942,102</strong></td>
<td><strong>1,585,988</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase (decrease) in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>314,194</td>
<td>(70,666)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
<td>781,034</td>
<td>659,519</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(644,519)</td>
<td>(71,655)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>136,515</strong></td>
<td><strong>587,864</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total increase in temporarily restricted and unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>450,709</td>
<td>517,198</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets: January 1</td>
<td>1,759,281</td>
<td>1,242,083</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Net assets: December 31</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,209,990</strong></td>
<td><strong>$1,759,281</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Foundation and Corporate Support**

Equality Now wishes to acknowledge and thank the following foundations and corporations for their support:

- Bydale Foundation
- Claire’s Stores
- Dreitzer Foundation
- Fonda Family Foundation
- Ford Foundation (Africa)
- Global Fund for Women
- Jana Foundation
- Banky LaRocque Foundation
- Moriah Fund
- Nancy’s Very Own Foundation
- NOVIB
- Oxfam GB
- Pond Foundation
- Tides Foundation
- Ruth Turner Fund
- Working Assets
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.

ÉGALITÉ 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. Travaillant 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 ومع فرادى النشطاء، تقوم المساحة الآن بتوثيق أعمال العنف والتمييز المرتكب ضد المرأة، وتضيف إلى ذلك بعدا من العمل الدولي لمواجهة الجهود المبذولة للنهوض بالحقوق المتعلقة بالمساواة والدفاع عن فرادى النساء اللواتي يتعرضن للإيذاء. تقوم المساحة الآن من خلال شيتها للعمل النسائي بتوزيع المعلومات عن هذه الانتهاكات لحقوق الإنسان على المعنيين بها من الجماعات والأفراد حول العالم، مع التوصية بالإجراءات الواجب اتخاذها للاحتجاج عليها. وتهتم المساحة الآن بصفة عاجلة بمسائل من بينها الاغتصاب، والعنف الأسري، والحقوق الإنجابية، واللاجئون للنساء، وتشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للآثريات (حتى النساء)، والحرمان من التمتع على قدم المساحة بالفرص الاقتصادية والمشاركة السياسية.