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. Travaillant avec des organisations nationales qui se consacrent aux droits de la femme et avec des activistes individuels, Egalité 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, Egalité 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 Egalité Maintenant comprennent: le viol, la violence familiale, les droits de reproduction, la traite des femmes, la mutilation génitale féminine, 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.
SAFEGUARDING THE FUTURE
Reason to Hope

The year 2003 was one of great success for Equality Now in achieving various campaign objectives. After seven years of sustained advocacy, the New York-based sex tourism company Big Apple Oriental Tours was finally shut down. Legislation to give women property rights was passed in Uganda, and in Ethiopia, justice was served when a man who abducted and raped a 13-year-old girl was finally convicted of these crimes together with his gang of accomplices. The Africa Regional Office of Equality Now convened a coalition of African women’s organizations, which undertook an intensive advocacy campaign for the new Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa. Adopted by the African Union in July, the Protocol recognizes a woman’s right to abortion, calls on states to prohibit the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) by law, and proscribes the abuse of women in advertising and pornography.

These important advances were the result of collective action by women and men determined to improve the lives of their children and future generations. The success of our efforts and much of our hope depends largely on the next generation. In Moshi, Tanzania, children—girls and boys—supported by Equality Now and the Tanzanian Network Against Female Genital Mutilation, marched through their villages with banners and songs calling for an end to FGM (see page 11). Across the world in Arvada, Colorado, USA, a number of boys and girls decided to take action after learning in class about FGM, acid burning, honor killing, and other forms of violence against women (see page 19). One 14-year-old boy told us that he cried thinking about these things happening to his sister or someone in his family. “I knew there had to be some way I could help,” he wrote.

These children are safeguarding the future. Through information, understanding and action, with your support they are changing the ways of the past. Equality Now works with young people around the world who inspire us with their creative ideas, their boundless energy, and their steadfast commitment to human rights. The future is in good hands.
WOMEN’S ACTIONS
United States: The Role of Military Forces in the Growth of the Commercial Sex Industry

In June 2003, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign to highlight and protest the role of United States military forces in promoting the demand for sex trafficking through support of the commercial sex industry. In a Fox Television undercover investigative report, “Courtesy Patrol” officers stationed in bars near the military base shared detailed information with a Fox journalist on the trafficking of women to South Korea to supply the demand for prostitution by U.S. military forces. “They get off the plane and the Korean nationals that work at the airport take their visa and their passport away, put them in a line on the side, and they go to auction. All these club owners buy these girls at auctions,” said one Courtesy Patrol officer. The Courtesy Patrol officer agreed when questioned by the reporter that his responsibilities included keeping all the bars safe. “That’s our job,” he said, and then advised the undercover reporter how to “barter” for the services of a prostitute.

According to the U.S. State Department, as many as four million women and children a year are lured by traffickers, often linked to organized crime, to destinations all over the world with promises of higher paying jobs, as nannies, waitresses or dancers, than they could get at home. After arriving in a foreign country, the women are forced into prostitution, often treated brutally and kept in inhuman living quarters.

The International Office for Migration estimates that at least 5,000 women since the mid-1990s, though probably many more, have been trafficked into South Korea alone to supply commercial sex services, including to the 37,000 U.S. military personnel stationed there. Many of the clubs, bars and brothels surrounding military bases cater almost exclusively to U.S. servicemen.

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. Saewoomtuh is one organization currently working for the reform of Korea’s laws on prostitution so that customers, procurers and pimps are treated as criminals while prostitutes are treated as victims eligible for a wide array of social services. The work of organizations like Saewoomtuh seeks to address the root causes of prostitution and diminish the lure of opportunities that seem to offer quick money but all too often lead to exploitation by the commercial sex industry.

Equality Now is calling on the United States Government to institute and strictly enforce a zero-tolerance policy prohibiting the solicitation of prostitution by U.S. military forces around the world.

“The military is in effect helping to line the pockets of human traffickers rather than furthering our country's commitment . . . to put an end to this abomination against humanity.”

From a letter signed by 13 Members of Congress to U.S. Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld

Street in Seoul, South Korea, lined with brothels.
My name is Christine Regan-Lake and I am a decorated veteran of Operation Desert Storm, a mother and a woman. There are over 1.4 million US active duty personnel worldwide and there is a demonstrable correlation between the station of US troops and the concurrent and dramatic growth of the commercial sex industry. As a woman who volunteered to serve my country in its time of need in Saudi Arabia during Operation Desert Storm, I am appalled that the military is not taking any significant action to stop the illegal trafficking of young women and girls to service the sexual needs of US military personnel.

Regretfully,
Christine Regan-Lake
USA

We have been appalled to learn that the US military forces participate in the commercial sex industry and trafficking of women due to the demand of US servicemen for prostitution. Such condemnable conduct gravely violates women's human rights, betrays the sacred principles of the dignity of all people, and promotes dehumanizing social relations within a given community. We urge you to institute and strictly enforce a zero tolerance policy prohibiting the solicitation of prostitution by US military forces, which perpetuates the abuse of women and encourages the commercial sex industry.

Laura Glynn
Comisión Ecuménica de Derechos Humanos
ECUADOR

On behalf of the European Women's Lobby (EWL), the largest coalition of non-governmental organizations in Europe with over 3000 associations in the 15 Member states, I am writing to express our deepest concern, begging you to intervene to firmly prohibit the solicitation of prostitution by US military forces around the world.

Lydia La Rivière-Zijdel, President
European Women's Lobby
BELGIUM

The United States of America is believed to be one of the peace setters and foremost advocating countries for proper entrenchment of laws which fight the debasement of humanity. It becomes quite disheartening to see or hear that the same military officers who are to be relied on by the people for safety are the ones engaged in the growth of the commercial sex industry, by encouraging prostitution and the trafficking of women all over the world. I want to let you know, Sir, that the world watches America keenly, and if the USA relents in the fight against the killing phenomena of prostitution and human trafficking, the rippling effects are bound to be devastating to the entire human race.

Mrs. Love Ezema
National Council of Women Societies
NIGERIA
UPDATES

Ongoing Campaigns

**Big Apple Oriental Tours Shut Down!**

In 1996, Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign calling for the prosecution of Big Apple Oriental Tours, a New York-based company operating sex tours to the Philippines and Thailand, based on clear evidence that the company was promoting prostitution contrary to New York law. After years of public protest, calling without result on Queens District Attorney Richard Brown to take legal action, in 2002 Equality Now brought the activities of Big Apple Oriental Tours to the attention of New York State Attorney General Eliot Spitzer, with support from feminist writer and activist Gloria Steinem, U.S. Congressional Representative Carolyn Maloney, and the New York Women's Agenda, a coalition of which Equality Now is a member. Attorney General Spitzer launched an official investigation, resulting in an unprecedented civil case that led to the issuance of a temporary restraining order against Big Apple Oriental Tours on July 29, 2003. This court order barred the company from promoting prostitution, which effectively disabled its website and stopped the company from organizing or advertising any future tours.

**Amendment Passed by Parliament to Secure Land Rights for Women in Uganda**

In Uganda, where women make up over 80% of the agricultural labor force, only 7% of all women own land. Equality Now has been campaigning for Ugandan women's right to land ownership through a Women's Action issued in August 2000. Equality Now's campaign generated appeals from around the world to the Ugandan Government and the Parliament, calling on them to support and ensure swift passage of the spousal co-ownership amendment to the Land Act. This amendment had been passed by the Parliament in 1998, but was subsequently and inexplicably left out of the final text of the law.

In June 2003, following an intensive effort by local women's rights groups backed by international support, an amendment to the Land Act was passed. Although it does not provide for co-ownership, the amendment would give 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. However, as of year-end the bill had not been signed by the President of Uganda and consequently has not come into force as law. Equality Now continues to work with women's groups in Uganda, urging the President to sign this law, which these groups consider to be a significant step forward in the government of Uganda's fulfillment of its obligations to protect women's rights under national and international law.

Top: Actor Hilary Swank (left) and journalist Lisa Ling (right) highlighted Equality Now's campaign against Big Apple Oriental Tours at a benefit event in September 2003 (see page 8). Opposite page: Woineshet Zebene Negash.
**Justice in Ethiopia for Woineshet Zebene Negash**

In March 2002, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, to protest the failure of the law in Ethiopia to protect women and girls from abduction and rape. Articles 558 and 599 of the Ethiopian Penal Code allow abductors and rapists to escape punishment through subsequent marriage. In its campaign, Equality Now highlighted the case of Woineshet Zebene Negash, who was 13 when she was first abducted and raped by a man named Aberew Jemma Negussie. Woineshet was subsequently rescued and Negussie was arrested. Released on bail, he abducted her again, and before Woineshet was able to escape, he forced her to sign a marriage contract, which he used subsequently to defend himself from criminal charges.

As a result in part of sustained pressure from Woineshet’s father, the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association, and the Women’s Action Network of Equality Now, on July 22, 2003, Aberew Jemma Negussie was sentenced to 10 years’ imprisonment without parole for the abduction and rape of Woineshet. His four accomplices were each sentenced to 8 years’ imprisonment without parole, making this the first case in which accomplices were also charged and convicted for abduction in Ethiopia. Equality Now continues to campaign for reform of the criminal law in Ethiopia to remove the exemption from punishment for rape and abduction through marriage.

**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 is 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. A poll of Kuwait University students in June 2001 showed that 84 percent of female students and 65 percent of male students favor women’s suffrage. Equality Now continues to campaign for the equal right of women to vote and stand for election to public office in Kuwait.

**Accountability for War Crimes in the Former Yugoslavia**

Equality Now has been campaigning for the arrest and prosecution of war criminals in the former Yugoslavia since 1993. Former Yugoslavian President Slobodan Milosevic was arrested in 2001 and is currently standing trial before the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY). 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. There were reports in 2003 of several NATO raids in search of Karadzic and Mladic, none successful. Public pressure on Serbian authorities to facilitate these arrests increased, from ICTY Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte as well as from the United States Senate, in its discussion of conditionality for financial aid to Serbia.
Enforcement of the Law Against FGM in Tanzania

In June 2001 Equality Now, in collaboration with the Legal and Human Rights Centre in Tanzania, issued Women’s Action 20.1, highlighting the case of three young sisters who ran away from their father when they learned that he was going to force them to undergo genital mutilation, which is prohibited by law in Tanzania. After they sought refuge in a church, the pastors took them to the nearest police station, as well as the local court, in an effort to seek protection on their behalf under the law. Instead of enforcing the law, the police arrested one of the pastors and returned the girls to their father, who had them circumcised the next day and married shortly thereafter. Equality Now’s campaign calls on the Tanzanian government to take more effective steps to end the practice of FGM through education, greater awareness of the law and more effective law enforcement.

Women, Peace and Security

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security, which recognized the critical role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict and stressed the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Equality Now is working for the implementation of this resolution as a matter of urgency, in the belief that women have a much needed contribution to make to the realization of global peace and security.

MIDDLE EAST

In May 2002, Equality Now organized an “Arria Formula” meeting with the UN Security Council for Israeli and Palestinian women working together for peace in the Middle East. Representing a joint coalition, The Jerusalem Link, Terry Greenblatt and Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas called for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 through the establishment of an International Women’s Commission to help find the path towards a just and lasting peace in the region. Following the meeting, Equality Now echoed and amplified this call for an International Women’s Commission, building support among countries in the European Union for the creation of a formal mechanism through which women can contribute integrally at the highest levels to Middle East conflict resolution efforts by the international community, in accordance with Resolution 1325. Equality Now
also presented this idea to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who expressed support for greater representation of women in all entities engaged in the peace process. As of year-end, The Jerusalem Link was actively considering the creation of an International Women’s Commission to facilitate the engagement of women in efforts to secure peace in the Middle East.

AFGHANISTAN  In December 2001 following the Afghan Women’s Summit for Democracy convened in Brussels by Equality Now, V-Day, the Centre for the Strategic Initiatives of Women, the European Women’s Lobby and The Feminist Majority, Equality Now organized an “Arria Formula” meeting with the U.N. Security Council for a delegation of Afghan women leaders from the Summit. The Afghan women urged the Security Council to expand the reach of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan outside the capital of Kabul, and to mandate these peacekeeping forces to disarm the warlords of Afghanistan. Equality Now and other women’s organizations subsequently continued the call for expansion of ISAF’s mandate. By the time the need for this expansion was acknowledged and addressed, following the replacement of ISAF by NATO forces in August 2003, years had been lost. Even then, the expansion only allowed international forces outside Kabul. Broadening their mandate to undertake much needed disarmament was never seriously considered. As of year-end no additional troops had been provided, and security remained inadequate in Afghanistan. Equality Now has worked to promote active engagement by Afghan women with their government and the public, supporting the work of the Afghan Women Lawyers and Professionals Association (AWLPA), an organization formed underground in Mazar-e-Sharif in 1998 during the reign of the Taliban. AWLPA has opened branch offices outside of Kabul and worked, with scant resources, to address issues of legal literacy and to mobilize interest in and concern for the protection of women’s rights.
CELEBRATING SURVIVAL AND STRENGTH
Stories of Hope, Courage, and Resistance from Women Who Escaped Commercial Sexual Exploitation

In September 2003, *Glamour* magazine sponsored an evening of music and readings to benefit Equality Now and highlight the human rights violations suffered by women in the commercial sex industry. Emceed by Sarah Jones—a playwright, poet, actor and activist—the event program included presentation of real testimony and survivors’ experiences, movingly read by actors Julia Stiles, Julianne Moore and Meryl Streep. Actors Hilary Swank and Lisa Ling, together with singer/songwriter Alanis Morissette presented Equality Now’s campaign against the sex tourism agency Big Apple Oriental Tours.

Following are excerpts of some of the event performances. These texts contain strong and graphic language, which conveys the reality of the commercial sex industry.

**LUISA**
The words of a 16-year-old Guatemalan girl who lived on the street after her father sexually abused her at the age of twelve (performed by Julia Stiles)

Hello, my name is Luisa. I am 16 years old. I am a street girl. When I was 12 years old, my father did something very bad to me. He came into my bed at night and touched me very wrong. All I could do was cry. So, one day, I left home. I was scared, but knew that I couldn’t live there anymore—with Papa wanting to touch me, and Mama calling me a liar, though I think she really knew. So I left. I was scared to leave, but I was even more scared to stay. Everything has its price. And, I’ve got mine. I don’t give away for free anymore what, what Papa took from me. If men want me, they have to pay. When I was little, I thought love would be something beautiful. I don’t know where I got that idea. I’ll tell you, sex on the street—it can keep you alive for a while, but it’s dangerous. Some days I wish I could be a little girl again, and have it all be different. Sometimes I

**“Anyone anywhere can make a difference. This includes men as well as women. We need to change culture, to change the way in which we all treat one another and to bring more respect and dignity to these relations.”**

Navanethem Pillay

**“We’re in the middle of a process of defining new roles. Equality Now means equal opportunity for everyone.”**

Alanis Morissette

wish I could go home again, and have it all be alright. So many wishes. Hey, where's my glue?

DO YOU WANT THIS JOB?
A satirical job advertisement written by WHISPER, an organization of women who have survived prostitution (performed by Julienne Moore)

Women and girls applying for this position will provide the following services: Being penetrated orally, anally, and vaginally with penises, fingers, fists, and objects, including but not limited to, bottles, brushes, dildos, guns and/or animals. Being bound and gagged, tied with ropes and/or chains, burned with cigarettes, or hung from beams or trees. Being photographed or filmed performing these acts.

Job-related activities will be performed in the following locations: in an apartment, in a hotel, in a “massage parlor,” in a car, in a doorway, in a hallway, on a street, in an executive suite, in a fraternity house, at a convention, in a bar, in a public toilet, in a public park, in an alleyway, on a military base, on a stage, on a bar, in a glass booth.

No responsibility or legal redress for the following on-the-job hazards: Nonpayment for services rendered; Sexually transmitted diseases or pregnancy; Injuries sustained through performance of services including but not limited to cuts, bruises, lacerations, internal hemorrhaging, broken bones, suffocation, mutilation, disfigurement, dismemberment, and death. Note: Accusations of rape will be treated as a breach of contract by employee. Do you want this job?

ORDEAL
The autobiography of Linda Lovelace, which brings home the reality of pornography (performed by Meryl Streep)

Some of the people who know my story wonder about my inability to get away; they wonder whether I didn’t begin to enjoy my new life. They wonder whether it is possible to go through weeks and months of incredible sexual activity and receive no sensual pleasure at all. I want to state this as clearly as I can. There was no pleasure. There was no love, no affection, no normal sex. I never had any enjoyment from any of it at all. Often I’m asked why I didn’t escape. Behind that question there’s an attitude, a presumption. I can see it in the face asking the question. The questioner always has the sure knowledge that this could never have happened to him or to her. They would have been strong enough and smart enough and resourceful enough to have gotten away. In fact, if the truth be known they would never have allowed themselves to get into this kind of predicament in the first place. I can understand why some people have such trouble accepting this as the truth. It’s impossible for people to understand real terror unless they’ve felt it, lived it, tasted it. Whatever Chuck told me to do, I did. He was constantly belittling me, humiliating me, and degrading me. The beatings were endless. I was no longer experiencing things that made me feel good or bad. I felt as though my self had been taken away from me. I was not a person anymore. I was a robot, a vegetable, a wind-up toy, a fucking-and-sucking doll. I had become someone else’s thing. If I didn’t do… whatever—I got beaten. So I simply did it. Whatever. When I was with Chuck, I was sure he had to be one of a kind. Now I know better. How can you identify a Chuck Traynor? The answer: you can’t. At first Chuck seemed normal and nice. Suddenly there was a gun in his hand and it was pointed at my head. I never thought something like that could happen to me, but now I know better. It could happen to me, and it could happen to you. This story is not unique.
In July 2003, Equality Now convened a meeting of African activists working to end the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM), to exchange ideas and to strategize collectively on how best to work for the eradication of this harmful traditional practice. The activists—from Eritrea, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Mali, Senegal, Somalia, and Tanzania—shared stories of progress in Africa, and among the themes that emerged from the meeting was the importance of laws against FGM. In recent years, the adoption of laws against FGM by African countries has accelerated dramatically. Half of the 28 African countries where FGM is practiced have laws prohibiting the practice. The meeting also underscored the need to involve men in the campaign against FGM. Of the eleven African experts who participated in the meeting, five were men, and the consensus of the meeting was that FGM is a human rights issue that needs the attention of the entire community.

Scheduled originally to take place in Nairobi, Kenya, Equality Now moved its international meeting on FGM to Atlanta, after the arrest there of Khalid Adem, who was charged in April 2003 in the first known documented case of FGM in the US. The meeting served as a catalyst for African immigrant communities in Atlanta to come together to launch a local anti-FGM initiative. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimated in 1997 that over 168,000 girls and women living in the United States either were subjected to or are at risk of being subjected to FGM in practicing immigrant African communities in the U.S.

Equality Now ended its four-day meeting at a press conference hosted by Senator Nadine Thomas to announce her intention to sponsor a law against FGM in the state of Georgia. Sixteen states in the U.S. already have such laws, and a federal law against FGM was passed in 1996. Both African and African immigrant activists highlighted the critical need for community outreach and education in conjunction with the introduction of a law against FGM.
2003 GRANTEES OF THE FUND FOR GRASSROOTS ACTIVISM TO END FGM

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.

ERITREA
National Union of Eritrean Youth and Students
The targets of NUEYS’ program are high school students in the Anseba 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 were trained on the dangers of FGM, and used 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 was addressed through joint workshops and community conferences where the root causes of the practice were 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 developed booklets, leaflets and stickers on FGM, as well as messages for radio broadcast and for use in interpersonal communication. Fathers’ clubs were created in Basse and Mbamri Kunda to encourage male participation. Training programs were conducted to enhance local capacity to end FGM.

GUINEA-CONAKRY
Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants
Utilizing local radio stations, one of CPTAFE’s main strategies is media outreach. Focusing on the popularization of the law, CPTAFE trained parliamentarians and youth on the best methods of disseminating information on the law against FGM. Committees of parliamentarians and youth developed messages about the anti-FGM law that were broadcast nationally on radio and television. CPTAFE also created a FGM helpline.

KENYA
Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
CHRD held 15 community workshops reaching an estimated 900 people on the negative effects of FGM, FGM and the law, and the participation of the community in fighting FGM. CHRD established FGM clubs in 13 primary and 6 secondary schools, with total membership reaching 846. CHRD monitors also made inroads into the community.

Safe Womanhood Organization
Through gender-based community forums for different age groups, capacity-building and skills enhancement for ex-circumcisers, and home visits, SafeWomanhood works for the elimination of all harmful traditional practices against women and girls. Their recently published booklet Trickling Tears is a collection of moving testimonies and poems on FGM.

Tasaru Ntomonok 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 conducts research and collects data on incidences of death or injuries caused by FGM in the Narok District.

MALI
Association Malienne pour le Suivi et l’Orientation des Pratiques Traditionnelles
AMSOPT uses a multifaceted approach to defend the principle of full and equitable participation of women and children in health, reproductive and sexual rights. AMSOPT has worked with 75 villages in Mali, 30 of which have abandoned FGM and passed community laws against the practice. AMSOPT trains ex-circumcisers in life skills and is working for the passage of an anti-FGM law.

Association pour le Progrès et la Défense des Droits des Femmes
APDF raises awareness through community-based committees in Koulikoro, Kolokani and Dioila. 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.

NIGERIA
Girls’ Power Initiative
GPI conducted a study in the Cross River and Edo states of Nigeria that revealed the forms of FGM and shed light on the attitude of these communities towards the practice. Educational intervention activities were well-attended with 1,000 participants receiving information on the dangers of FGM and on the anti-FGM laws in both states. Local monitoring groups were also established as a part of the project to combat FGM.

SENEGAL
TOSTAN
TOSTAN’s village empowerment program has yielded many positive results. Women are participating more in Community Management Committees, and communication within families has improved. Women are enrolling more of their girls in school and are seeking information on reproductive health. As a result of increased awareness, an additional 11 villages were near total abandonment of the practice at year-end 2003.

SOMALIA
Galayo Education Center 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. To this end GECPD has held several workshops and seminars that created space for discussions around FGM leading to public debates.

Women Inter Action Group
WIAG works to mobilize women to take part in the rehabilitation and development of Somaliland, and targeting women and girls as those most affected by FGM, engages traditional birth attendants through awareness creation, training and group discussions. WIAG identifies core groups from the community for training in advocacy against FGM, provides networking facilitation for them, and monitors their progress in spreading messages against FGM.

TANZANIA
Legal and Human Rights Centre
LHRC sensitizes law enforcement officers on the provisions of the Sexual Offences Special Provision Act 1998, as well as the dangers of FGM. LHRC brought a case against the father of three girls he forcibly mutilated, and the acquittal of the father in August 2003 brought to the fore the serious gaps in the enforcement of the law.

Network Against Female Genital Mutilation
NAFGEM campaigns against FGM in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania. “Let the Children Say it Aloud” is a youth demonstration program for school children to express their rejection of FGM. Over 1,000 children took to the streets in several successful demonstrations using songs, poems, placards and drawings to urge their parents to stop mutilating girls while calling on the government to protect them from the harmful practice.
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 2003:

Burkina Faso: The Minister for Social Welfare and Solidarity said that surveys conducted over the past three years indicated that the prevalence of FGM in Burkina Faso has declined from about 66% in 1996 to between 16 and 43% (average nationwide) today. This is attributed to the long-running campaign which resulted in a ban on FGM and punishment for those breaking the law. Volume 7, Issue 2

Ghana: A woman farmer, Fefe Dari, was sent to jail for five years after she was found guilty of infibulating three girl relatives aged 3 weeks’ to 5 years’ old. The Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) of the Regional Police Command arrested her after a tip-off for committing the act. The girls were then taken to hospital for treatment, having suffered a considerable loss of blood. Volume 7, Issue 3

Italy: New carbon dioxide laser surgery is able to some degree to reverse infibulation, the most severe form of FGM, and also remove vulvar cysts, which can appear at the site of the excised clitoral tissue. Doctors from the University of Florence in Italy treated 25 women outpatients under local anesthetic and restored a complete vulvar opening for all of them. Volume 7, Issue 1

Jordan: It was recently discovered that residents of the small town of Rahmah and surrounding villages on the Dead Sea still support the practice of sunna (the partial or total removal of the clitoris) despite the fact that FGM is not known to be carried out traditionally in Jordan. Some younger women in the community are starting to speak out against FGM, claiming its severe psychological and physiological consequences. Volume 7, Issue 3

Kenya: A pastor was reported to have rescued a girl who had already been partially cut from a circumcision ceremony in Oronkai village in Trans Mara District. He was chased by armed Maasai after he burst into the party and carried the girl off on his motorbike. Pastor Mpurukoi is hiding two girls saved from early marriage. His...
actions and those of others who had saved an additional 15 girls between the ages of 10 and 16 from early marriage were praised by Mrs Linah Kilimo, minister in the office of the Vice President, who condemned the rise in reported cases of FGM and early marriages.

Nigeria: The Federal Executive Council of Nigeria has approved a four-year action plan to eradicate FGM, which sets out both objectives and strategies for implementation. At the same time, a bill seeking to ban FGM at the federal court level appears close to being passed into law. Volume 7, Issue 2

Senegal: 606 representatives from 202 villages in Dialacoto, Netteboulou and Missirah in Tambacounda Region came out on 21 September 2003 to publicly declare an end to female genital cutting (FGC) and early marriage in their communities. Volume 7, Issue 3

Sudan: The Sudanese Medical Council on 12 March issued a decree banning the involvement of medical staff in performing any type of FGM in Sudan. Those found violating the ban will be punished following verification by the Council’s Monitoring and Complaints Committee. Punishment could include doctors losing their practicing license. Volume 7, Issue 1

Uganda: At least 10 women circumcisers from the Sabiny tribe in Kapchorwa District said they would no longer practise FGM after recognising that many women had died or suffered infertility after undergoing the rite. Announcing their decision at the eighth annual district culture day celebrations, the women appealed to the government to provide them with alternative sources of income. Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Rebecca Kadaga, stated that FGM was a violation of the rights of women and children. Volume 7, Issue 3

United States: An Ethiopian man now living in Georgia, USA has been charged with cruelty to children and aggravated battery for allegedly circumcising his toddler daughter with scissors two years ago. Reports state that the practice is conducted underground in the Atlanta area. Three women originally from Africa sought refuge recently in a women’s shelter - two to protect their daughters from FGM and one whose daughter had already been mutilated. Volume 7, Issue 2

Above: A poster from Guinea-Conakry explaining the harmful consequences of FGM, designed by FGM Fund grantee CPTAFE.

At the 47th Session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, held in March 2003, Equality Now submitted a statement noting that eleven of the forty-five countries highlighted in its report had repealed the discriminatory laws highlighted. Other countries were urged to do so before the target date of 2005 established by the Special Session of the General Assembly convened in 2000 to review implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Explicitly discriminatory laws are only a small part of the discrimination women face daily in every country in the world. Yet law is the most formal expression of government policy, and Equality Now’s updated campaign against discriminatory laws, to be launched in 2004, demonstrates that inequality, in its most overt form, has not been vanquished.

**BEIJING +10**

**Holding Governments Accountable**

“Actions to be taken by governments: Revoke any remaining laws that discriminate on the basis of sex and remove gender bias in the administration of justice.”

¶232 (d), Beijing Platform for Action, UN Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995


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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, 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 the past ten years, over 300 women have been murdered in or near Ciudad Juárez. More than 300 women have disappeared and remain missing. Many of the women killed were abducted, raped, and tortured. Equality Now is concerned that although some official steps have been taken to investigate some of the Juárez murders, these investigations have not led to arrests, prosecutions and convictions. There have also been disturbing signs that suggest in some cases that officials may be complicit in the obstruction of efforts to bring the perpetrators to justice or even in the commission of these crimes. Many activists working on the issue believe that suspects have been framed and tortured into making false confessions.

In October 2002, in collaboration with Casa Amiga, a rape crisis center in Ciudad Juárez that has been in the forefront of the campaign against the abduction and murder of women in Juárez, The LAW Project of Equality Now submitted a request to the United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to take action in light of the failure of the Mexican government to respond effectively to this pattern of violence against women in Ciudad Juárez. In June 2003, the Mexican Commission for the Defense and Promotion of Human Rights, a member organization of The Campaign “Stop Impunity: No More Murders of Women,” joined Casa Amiga and Equality Now to reiterate the need for intervention in Juárez by CEDAW.

Although inquiry proceedings of CEDAW are confidential, Equality Now learned from the Mexican Government that CEDAW transmitted these concerns, and Equality Now has been engaged in a welcome dialogue with the government to discuss steps that might be taken to address them. In September 2003, Equality Now representatives met with senior officials of the Mexican mission to the United Nations, and
subsequently with First Lady of Mexico Marta Sahagún de Fox. In the course of these meet-
ings a renewed commitment was made by federal authorities to coordinate their efforts with state and local authorities more effectively to end the disappearances and killings of women in Ciudad Juárez and to aggressively investigate and prosecute those responsible for these crimes. Yet there are continuing reports of disappearance and murder. Equality Now welcomes the initiative taken by CEDAW, and the receptiveness of the Mexican government to an open discussion. There is an urgent need for action.

The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

In January 2003, The LAW Project and the Africa Regional Office of Equality Now convened a strategy meeting of activists in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on the draft Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Judge Navanethem Pillay, then President of the UN International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, chaired the meeting. The meeting grew out of prior consultations with FEMNET, the African Center for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), and other regional and national groups that had been working toward the passage of a strong Protocol for the promotion of women’s rights.

The coalition that emerged from this meeting with a collective mark-up of the draft Protocol engaged in an intensive advocacy campaign to ensure the inclusion in the Protocol of the strongest language possible for the protection and promotion of women’s rights. Immediately prior to the Meeting of Experts and the African Union Ministerial Meeting that took place in Addis Ababa in March 2003, Equality Now’s Africa Office convened another meeting of women’s rights activists and organizations in Addis Ababa, in order to coordinate a strategic plan for advocacy and to ensure that the substantive provisions of the draft Protocol were strengthened and adopted during the course of the experts’ and ministerial meetings. These advocacy efforts had a dramatic impact on the draft Protocol, which was significantly improved during the course of the meeting.
An Equality Now delegation, with representatives from FEMNET and ACDHRS, attended the heads of state meeting in Mozambique for a final round of negotiation over the text, and on 11 July 2003, the African Union adopted the Protocol. Advancing the human rights of African women through creative, substantive and detailed language, the new Protocol covers a broad range of human rights issues. For the first time in international law, it explicitly sets forth the reproductive right of women to abortion, calls for the legal prohibition of female genital mutilation, and prohibits the abuse of women in advertising and pornography. It includes many other progressive provisions including in the areas of political and economic representation. As of year-end, 21 countries had signed the Protocol but none had yet ratified it. Fifteen ratifications are required for the Protocol to enter into force.

Among the innovative provisions in the new Protocol are:

▶ “States Parties shall take appropriate and effective measures to enact and enforce laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women including unwanted or forced sex whether the violence takes place in private or public.” Article 4.2(a)

▶ “States Parties shall prohibit and condemn all forms of harmful practices which negatively affect the human rights of women including prohibition, through legislative measures backed by sanctions, of all forms of female genital mutilation, scarification, medicalisation and para-medicalisation of female genital mutilation and all other practices in order to eradicate them.” Article 5(b)

▶ “Women have the right to a peaceful existence and the right to participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace.” Article 10.1

▶ “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to protect the reproductive rights of women by authorizing medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the foetus.” Article 14.2(c)

**African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights**

Equality Now participated in the 34th Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, held in Banjul, The Gambia, in November 2003. Africa Regional Director Faiza Jama Mohamed addressed the Commission on behalf of Equality Now, urging its members to take action to stop human rights violations against women, citing abduction/rape in Ethiopia, lack of enforcement of the anti-FGM law in Tanzania, lack of enforcement of the law criminalizing the slavery-like trokosi practice in Ghana and a number of sex discriminatory laws in force in Algeria, Sudan and Kenya. Equality Now’s presence at the Commission was a useful opportunity to engage in dialogue directly with government officials, to establish contact with the Commissioners, and to share ongoing campaigns and concerns with other national and international human rights organizations.
GETTING THE WORD OUT
Channelling Outrage Into Action

Equality Now continually seeks out new ways to reach a wider audience, and to educate and mobilize more people to take action to stop human rights violations against women.

Equality Now is deeply grateful to Women’s Action Network members who encourage others to get involved in the struggle to end these abuses. Our mission to ensure respect for the human rights of women around the world depends on public pressure from concerned citizens. Equality Now highlighted the importance of spreading the word in its Guide to Activism, which was published and distributed in 2003. The Guide to Activism provides ideas and suggestions for participating in our campaigns against human rights violations, offering tips on writing letters and petitions, organizing events, fundraising, and generating media attention. The Guide to Activism is available on Equality Now’s website (www.equalitynow.org) in English, Arabic, French and Spanish. Equality Now also provides printed copies on request of this and other publications, such as Women’s Actions, for distribution in communities and at events and gatherings. The Guide to Activism is an excellent way to get the word out. It has been so popular that other organizations have asked permission to duplicate it for their own purposes.

In 2003 Equality Now revamped and updated its website in order to facilitate better use of and easier access to the information about Equality Now and its ongoing campaigns. In addition, Equality Now has opened an online store, which is accessible from the website and features Equality Now t-shirts, caps and mugs. Equality Now hopes the new merchandise will increase its visibility, inspiring others to learn about our work, join the Women’s Action Network, and participate in the struggle to end human rights violations against women around the world. Equality Now maintains its website in four languages—English, French, Spanish and Arabic.
Students in Arvada, Colorado, USA, sent the following letters to Equality Now after their teacher, Dinah Nesbit, taught a class on human rights violations against women:

**Letters from Mrs. Nesbit's class**

My name is Richard Carr and I am 14 years old. In a summer program I learned about FGM, acid throwing and honor killings. When I saw what they were doing to those women I was devastated. All I could think about was their future and I just broke down and cried. There is no way I can express the way I felt. I knew there had to be some way I could help. I asked my teacher what I could do and she said I could email the organizations and tell them about my reactions. I have started to spread the word. I have told my parents and my grandma. Thank you for being brave and bold enough to try to make a difference in the world.—**Richard Carr**

I didn’t know how I could help out until my teacher told me I could help by e-mailing you and telling you I support you. I want you to know you have my support for stopping [female genital mutilation]. I hope someone puts a stop to this; that’s why I want to help this association to help the women around the world.—**Edgard Parra**

I just felt that I was completely useless, but your e-mail made me realize that just by knowing about the things that are happening in the world means one more person becomes aware of what is being done, and now there is one more advocate on women's side.—**Katie Harrison**
WORKING FOR THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF WOMEN
The Activists of Equality Now

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Opposite, top: Jessica Neuwirth with James and Sarah Barringer. Opposite, bottom, left to right: Safia Jama, Morissanda Kouyate, and Jacqui Hunt. This page, left, top to bottom: Ken Franzblau; Meaza Ashenafi and Faiza Mohamed; Equality Now, Gloria Steinem and Andrew Byrnes are recognized by Lifetime Television’s Times Square Project. Center, top to bottom: left to right, Hilary Swank, Alanis Morissette, Sarah Jones, Julia Stiles and Taina Bien-Aimé; left to right, Bethany Hurley, Pavani Thagirisa, Karolyn Irvin and Lisa Rabie; left to right, Ahmad, Muhammad and Kassim Tijani (the triplets of Fauziya Kassindja Tijani). Right, top to bottom: Adrienne Gombos; Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas; Tsinu Tesfaye and Antonia Kirkland.
WORLDWIDE SUPPORT
The Friends of Equality Now

Equality Now would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement and support:

Telma Abascal
Zeinab Abbas
Asma Abdel Halim
Barbara Abrams
Amina Adam
AFL-CIO
Sylvia Aguilera García
AIDOS
Ambassador Luis Alfonso de Alba
Susan Allee
Lisa Alter
Janette Amer
Ximena Andión Ibáñez
Beth Andrews

IN MEMORIAM

David Bale
Jo Andrews
Judith Arnburnster
Atlanta Women’s Foundation
Justine Auerbach
Nina Auerbach
Zabat Aved
Karen Bailey
David Bale, in memoriam
The Belle Fund
Jo Ellen Bender
Barbara Bergmann
Bernard Berkowitz
Robert & Helen Bernstein
Roger Bernstein
Bertelsmann, Inc.
Nicole Bibbins
Carole Black
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Michelle Blaustein
Pamela Bloodworth
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Sylvia Borren
Stephanie Brandt
Gretchen Braun
Christine Brautigam
Maj Britt Theorin
Hilary Broderick
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Marjorie Horne
Donna Hughes
Helen Lakelly Hunt
Ambassador Abdulmejid Hussein
Rana Hussein
International Women’s Health Coalition
Safia Jama
Nicola Johnston
Sarah Jones
Veronica Jordan

IN MEMORIAM

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Said Djinnit
Paula Dobriansky
Christine Doyle
Andrea Dworin
Mariam Egal
Chris Eijkmans
Sarita Eisenstais
Eve Ensler
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The Feminist Majority
FEMNET
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Wendy Flick
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Artie Gutenberg
Toby Graff
Wade Green
William Groll
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Cheryl Halpern
Melissa Haney
Kristina Hare-Lyons
Harrison & Shiftman
Elizabeth Harrison
Emily Harrold
Yasmeen Hassan
Brooks Hefner
Lous Henkin
Rita Henley Jensen

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Minister Kyung-wha Kang
Etta Kantor
Fauziya Kassindja
Mary Kavaney
Jennifer Keiser
Eleanor Kennelly
Kensington Publishing
Peggy Kerry
Ben Kiko
Angela King
Bobby King
Glenys Kinnoch
Samantha Knights
Anne Kooistra
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Nicholas Kristof
Viviana Krsticevic
Edna Burk Kuhn
Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan
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Latham & Watkins LLP
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Laura Lederer
Dorchen Leidholdt
Cindi Leive
John Levin & Diane Keefe
David Levita
Lifetime Television
Lisa Ling
Linklater’s
Daniel Loeb
MADRE
Josh Mailman
Idelissa Malave
Melanie Mannarino
As I sit here writing these memories, I can see clearly the faces and hear the voices of the women I met. I can feel the depth of their commitment to make their world a better one. I have had a great privilege in having spent a week with some of the best women of Africa, the culmination of all my years of trying to fill some small role in making the world more livable. They are visionaries, and from my comfortable life in the USA, it is hard to admit that I envy them their challenge.

Maurine Rothschild
The Asmara Experience: Women's Rights as Human Rights
## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

<table>
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<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th>2003</th>
<th>2002</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>As of 12/31</td>
<td>As of 12/31</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
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<td>Investments</td>
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<td>Other assets</td>
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<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$1,858,918</td>
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<th>LIABILITIES</th>
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<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
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<td>Total liabilities</td>
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<th>NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$1,099,762</td>
<td>$1,170,428</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
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<td>71,655</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>$1,759,281</td>
<td>$1,242,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$1,858,918</td>
<td>$1,331,088</td>
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## UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE</th>
<th>2003</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions and grants</td>
<td>$1,087,758</td>
<td>$1,145,283</td>
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<td>Foundations</td>
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<td>Individual donors</td>
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<td>Corporations</td>
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<td>Special events, net</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td>(1,588)</td>
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<td>Investment income</td>
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<td>Net realized and unrealized losses on investments</td>
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<td>Other income</td>
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<td>Public support and revenue before net assets</td>
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<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
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<td>Total public support and revenue</td>
<td>1,515,322</td>
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<td>Supporting services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
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<td>Total supporting services</td>
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<td>327,744</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>1,585,988</td>
<td>1,857,492</td>
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<tr>
<td>(Decrease) increase in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>(70,666)</td>
<td>255,134</td>
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<th>TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions</td>
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<td>13,600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(71,655)</td>
<td>(280,743)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>587,864</td>
<td>(267,143)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total increase (decrease) in temporarily restricted and unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>517,198</td>
<td>(12,009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets: January 1</td>
<td>1,242,083</td>
<td>1,242,083</td>
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<tr>
<td>Net assets: December 31</td>
<td>$1,759,281</td>
<td>$1,242,083</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.
FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT 2003
Equality Now wishes to acknowledge and thank the following foundations and corporations for their support:

- Bydale Foundation
- Dreitzer Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Glamour
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- Jana Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
- Moriah Fund
- NOVIB
- Payton Foundation
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Ruth Turner Fund
- Winds of Change Foundation
- Working Assets

COVER PHOTOS  Clockwise from top left: Girls in Nepal at a night literacy class; Abayenesh Adore shouts to the crowd that she is proud to be uncircumcised at a “NO FGM” gathering held in the Kedida Gamela District of Ethiopia, September 2003; Children march in an anti-FGM demonstration in the Kilimanjaro region of Tanzania, October 2003; Girl holding a sign at an anti-violence demonstration in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico; Children show their anti-FGM writings in support of the “No FGM” gathering in Kedida Gamela District, Ethiopia, September 2003. Their sign reads, “We strongly oppose the circumcision of a young girl.”