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 human 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 publicizing and protesting them. The Women's Action Network is committed to voicing a worldwide call for justice and equality for women. Issues of urgent concern to Equality Now include rape, domestic violence, reproductive rights, trafficking of women, female genital mutilation, and 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 associations nationales pour les droits humains 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 associations et activistes pour avancer les droits de la femme, 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 faire connaître au public ces violations, et pour protester contre elles. Le Réseau Action Femmes représente une force internationale d’activisme, capable d’une réponse rapide et concertée aux situations de crise et engagée à faire appel mondial pour la justice et l’égalité pour la femme. 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, l’égalité des chances économiques, 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 humanos 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 publicitar y protestar estos casos. La Red de Acción Mujeres es un ejemplo de activismo internacional capaz de dar una respuesta rápida y concertada a situaciones de crisis. La Red se compromete a dar voz a un llamado mundial a la justicia y la igualdad para las mujeres. 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 el acceso igualitario a las oportunidades económicas y la participación política.

المتساوية الآن منظمة تأسست في عام 1992 لتعمل في مجال حماية حقوق الإنسان للمرأة، في جميع أنحاء العالم. تعمل المساواة الآن مع منظمات حقوق الإنسان والأفراد في البلاد المختلفة لتوثيق حالات العنف والتمييز ضد المرأة، وتضيف لذلك العمل المحلي نشاطاً عالمياً لمواجهة الجرائم بالدفاع عن الحقوق المتساوية للفتيات والنساء اللائي يتعرضن للإيذاء. توزع المساواة الآن من خلال شبكة مواقف المرأة، توزع المعلومات عن حقق الاعتراف ككل النساء والآثرين في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتوصي بشراطتها والمطالبة عليها. تمثل شبكة مواقف المرأة جهة عالمية للتنشيط قادرة على الاستجابة السريعة والمنظمة للحالات العاجلة، وتعتقد بحقوق النساء في اجتماعات العالم من أجل الحق في المساواة للنساء. من القضايا العاجلة التي تهتم بها المساواة الآن: الاعتصام والعنف الأسري والحرب النتامسية والاندثار في النساء وتشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة والحقوق المتساوية في الفرص الاقتصادية والمشاركة السياسية.
T
he September 11th attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and
the war that has subsequently taken place highlight the urgent need for an
effective alternative to the cycle of violence that keeps repeating itself around
the world. Women are the key to finding this alternative. Taliban complicity in global
terrorism came as no surprise to anyone familiar with the Taliban’s treatment of women
from the time they came to power in 1996. Yet this clear warning of disrespect for
humanity was largely ignored until September 11.

Tragically, the treatment women endured in Afghanistan is not unique. Around the
world, every day women are beaten, raped, mutilated and killed with impunity.
Religious extremism of all kinds fans the flames of violent hatred and discrimination.

But women everywhere are fighting back and raising their voices in defense of
freedom and human rights.

In August 2001, a brave group of women—the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Associa-
tion (EWLA)—organized a peaceful public demonstration against rape, calling for
stronger laws and better law enforcement. Following the demonstration and EWLA’s
protest of government inaction in a case of domestic violence, EWLA was subjected to a
concerted government campaign to shut the organization down. Unable to continue its
life-saving activities on behalf of abused women in Ethiopia, EWLA contacted Equality
Now, which immediately mobilized a global protest. Within a few weeks, EWLA’s
ability to function was restored.

International public pressure is effective and underlines the importance of global
solidarity. Our efforts can and do make a real difference in the world. Groups like the
Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association are working around the world to promote
respect for human rights, and they represent the best hope for the future. It has long
been recognized that the empowerment of women is key to sustainable development.
The empowerment of women is also key to sustainable peace. The survival of the planet
depends on a renewed commitment to fundamental human rights, including women’s
rights. This is the best and only long-term response to terrorism.

Press conference with Afghan
women at the office of Equality
Now, December 2001. Left to right:
Sahar Saba, Eve Ensler (back),
Soraya Paikan, Jessica Neuwirth,
Meryl Streep, Shafiqa Habibi,
Adeena Niazi.
THE AFGHAN WOMEN’S SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY


To facilitate the implementation of Resolution 1325, and in support of and solidarity with the women of Afghanistan, Equality Now convened a coalition of international organizations to host the Afghan Women’s Summit for Democracy, held at the European Commission in Brussels on December 4-5, in collaboration with the Gender Adviser to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and UNIFEM. Forty Afghan women leaders from Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Australia, Europe and North America, broadly representative of the women of Afghanistan, took part in the Summit, bringing the voices of Afghan women into the international political discourse. The Brussels Proclamation adopted by the Afghan Women’s Summit outlined in detail a clear vision for the future of Afghanistan, setting forth a comprehensive articulation of fundamental human rights, together with a list of concrete demands for immediate implementation.

“The convening coalition of international organizations included V-Day, The European Women’s Lobby, the Centre for the Strategic Initiatives of Women, and The Feminist Majority. Women leaders from around the world joined the Afghan women in Brussels in solidarity, including President of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda Navanethem Pillay, who chaired the Summit, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, and Queen Noor (by video). Activists from 16 countries—Belgium, Croatia, France, India, Italy, Jordan,
Morocco, the Netherlands, Pakistan, Palestine, Somalia, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States—met in a parallel session during the Summit to formulate support strategies for the women of Afghanistan, adopting a Declaration of Solidarity. Among the commitments made in this Declaration were to undertake an advocacy campaign for reconstruction funding to be conditional on the participation of women; to declare on International Women’s Day 2002 that Afghanistan is Everywhere, joining women around the world in solidarity with the women of Afghanistan and with understanding that the conditions of violence, oppression and other forms of inequality are universal; to create an international task force of women’s rights lawyers to assist the women lawyers of Afghanistan; and to provide support to the Ministry of Women.

SOME RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE BRUSSELS PROCLAMATION

EDUCATION, MEDIA AND CULTURE
► Developing an emergency plan for re-opening schools by March 2002 for both girls and boys and reconstruction of the schools that have been damaged or destroyed;
► Provision of a comprehensive school curriculum based on international standards, including courses on conflict resolution;
► Fair salaries for all staff in education;
► Creation of structures for sheltering and educating orphans;
► Reconstruction of TV satellites and radio stations;
► Recuperation of the ancient literary works that have been dispersed around the world.

HEALTH
► Provision of critical medical equipment, medicines and vitamins;
► Rebuilding of water and sanitation systems;
► Vaccination programs;
► Re-establishment of health centers in urban and rural areas, and in schools;
► Rebuilding of medical faculties;
► Provision of family planning programs;
► Reintroduction of health insurance;
► Provision of blood banks;
► Expansion of orthopedic centers for handicapped people;
► Provision of services for HIV/AIDS patients.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE CONSTITUTION
► Making all support from the international community conditional on the rights and treatment of women;
► Central inclusion of women in the Loya Jirga (Grand Assembly) and all peace processes and matters related to reconstruction;
► Inclusion of Afghan women lawyers in the development of a new constitution based on the 1964 constitution and resulting legal frameworks;
► Ensuring that principles of non-discrimination according to gender, age, ethnicity, disability, religion, and political affiliation in all aspects of political, social, cultural, civil and economic rights are central to the new legal system;
► Critical focus on disarmament in all areas of Afghanistan and a wide demining campaign;
► Ensuring a safe and secure environment for women and girls and the protection of women from forced/under-aged marriages, sexual harassment, trafficking and all other types of abuse;
► Ensuring equal rights for women including the right to vote, equal pay and equal access to education, health care and employment.

REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED WOMEN
► Avoidance of forced repatriation of refugees as a violation of basic human rights;
► Provision of a durable resettlement solution for refugees who cannot return to Afghanistan for security reasons;
► Increase of educational, training, capacity building and income generating programs to address the special needs of refugees and internally displaced women and children;
► Provision of basic needs to internally displaced and refugee women including security and protection, health care services, education on prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, and education on birth control and family planning.

AFGHAN WOMEN’S SUMMIT POLITICAL AND MEDIA TOUR
Immediately following the Afghan Women’s Summit for Democracy, six Afghan delegates participated in a Political and Media Tour to carry the message of the Summit to key political decision-makers in the European Parliament, the United States Government and the United Nations. In Brussels, Members of the European Parliament were briefed on the outcome of the Summit. In Washington, DC the delegation met with members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hosted by Senator Barbara Boxer and Senator Sam Brownback. Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle hosted a Senate lunch with more than twenty Democratic Senators including Senator Joseph Biden, Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Senators


Bottom: Delegates of the Afghan Women’s Summit with the UN Secretary-General. Left to right: Shafiqa Habibi, Soraya Paikan, Sima Wali, Kofi Annan, Leila Enayat-Seraj, Sahar Saba.
En octobre 2001, Egalité Maintenant a publié une Action Femmes sur la crise en Afghanistan, demandant l'exécution par le Conseil de Sécurité de l'ONU de la Résolution 1325, laquelle reconnaît le rôle essentiel de la femme dans la résolution des conflits. Egalité Maintenant a aussi convoqué une coalition d'organisations internationales qui a organisé le Sommet des Femmes Afghanes pour la Démocratie, tenu à Bruxelles en décembre. Au Sommet, quarante femmes leaders afghanes, venues de pays autour du monde, ont adopté la Proclamation de Bruxelles, qui présente une vision préhensive de l'avenir de l'Afghanistan et de la restauration des droits humains. Des activistes venues de seize pays se sont également réunis, en séance parallèle, pour élaborer des stratégies de soutien pour les Afghanes, en y adoptant une Déclaration de Solidarité. Immédiatement après le Sommet des Femmes Afghanes, six déléguées ont participé à une tournée politique et médiatique, pour porter le message du Sommet.
In June 2001, Equality Now launched a Women’s Action campaign calling for the enforcement of the law in Tanzania, which prohibits female genital mutilation (FGM). Section 169A(1) of the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, passed in 1998, provides that anyone who causes a girl to undergo FGM is guilty of the offence of cruelty to children. The penalty for this offence is five to fifteen years in prison and/or a fine of up to 300,000 shillings (approximately US$300). This law is not effectively enforced, however, and the practice of FGM continues openly. In some parts of Tanzania, mass circumcisions are carried out in which thousands of girls are genitally cut on a seasonal basis, generally in December.

In its Women’s Action, Equality Now highlighted a case from the Morogoro Region, in which three girls ran away from their father in 1999, in a desperate effort to save themselves from the practice of FGM. They fled to a local church for protection, and several pastors took them to the nearest police station, in Matombo. Rather than protect the girls, the police arrested one of the pastors, Zakayo Katungu, as well as his wife, for having taken unlawful custody of minor children. Pastor Zakayo Katungu was beaten.

We, the women of the New York State Legislature, urge you to take action now to enforce your law against FGM and protect young women from this violation.

We, the women of the New York State Legislature, urge you to take action now to enforce your law against FGM and protect young women from this violation.

| Senator Velmanette Montgomery | Assemblywoman Rhoda S. Jacobs |
| Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson | Assemblywoman Elizabeth Little |
| Senator Suzi Oppenheimer | Assemblywoman Naomi C. Matusow |
| Senator Olga A. Mendez | Assemblywoman Joan L. Millman |
| Assemblywoman Nancy Calhoun | Assemblywoman Catherine T. Nolan |
| Assemblywoman Joan K. Christensen | Assemblywoman Amy R. Paulin |
| Assemblywoman Adele Cohen | Assemblywoman Diane Gordon |
| Assemblywoman Gloria Davis | Assemblywoman Earlene Hopper |
| Assemblywoman RoAnn M. Destito | Assemblywoman Susan John |
| Assemblywoman Donna Ferrara | Assemblywoman Margaret M. Markey |
| Assemblywoman Patricia L. Acampora | Assemblywoman Nettie Mayersohn |
| Senator Toby A. Stavisky | Assemblywoman Kathleen Murray |
| Assemblywoman Carmen E. Arroyo | Assemblywoman Maureen O’Connell |
| Assemblywoman Ann Margaret Carrozza | Assemblywoman Audrey I. Phelpher |
| Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark | Assemblywoman Pauline Rhodd-Cummings |
| Assemblywoman Vivian E. Cook | Assemblywoman Frances T. Sullivan |
| Assemblywoman Francine DeMonte | Assemblywoman Sandra Lee Wirth |
| Assemblywoman Patricia Edgington | Assemblywoman Dierdra K. Scozzafava |
| Assemblywoman Sandra R. Galef | Assemblywoman Helene E. Weinstein |
| Senator Nellie Santiago-Fernandez | Assemblywoman Catherine M. Young |
| Assemblywoman Deborah J. Glick | Assemblywoman Aurelia Greene |

severely in the presence of his wife and asked to confess that he had raped the girls. The girls were taken to the hospital for an examination, where it was confirmed that they had not been raped. They were then turned over by the police to their father, who had them circumcised the next day and married within a month, one as a third wife. The girls were aged 13 and 14 at the time.

In June 2001, Equality Now's Africa Regional Director Faiza Jama Mohamed and Board President Jessica Neuwirth traveled to Morogoro, together with staff from the Tanzanian Legal and Human Rights Centre, the organization that had investigated and documented the case. They met with Pastor Zakayo Katungu as well as several other witnesses to the unsuccessful efforts of the three sisters to seek the protection of the law from their father. Equality Now is calling on the Tanzanian authorities to investigate and bring appropriate disciplinary action against the policemen involved in this incident. Equality Now's campaign also calls on the government to ensure that all police nationwide are familiar with the law banning FGM and to direct that they take action to enforce the law and protect girls from its violation.

SOMMAIRE
En juin 2001, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une campagne d’Action Femmes pour demander l’application de la loi tanzanienne qui interdit la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF). La loi, qui a été votée en 1998, stipule que toute personne qui fait subir la MGF à une fille est coupable de mauvais traitements à l’enfant. Malgré cette loi, la pratique de la MGF continue au vu et au su de tous. L’Action Femmes met en lumière un cas de la région Morogoro, où trois filles se sont entuées de chez leur père en 1999 pour échapper à avoir à subir la MGF. Elles se sont réfugiées dans une église locale et un pasteur les a emmenés au poste de police le plus proche — où la police les a arrêté et battu — la police a ensuite livré les filles à leur père, qui les a fait circoncire le lendemain, et les a mariées en moins d’un mois.

RESUMEN
En junio de 2001, Igualdad Ya lanzó una campaña de Acción Mujeres, reclamando el cumplimiento de la ley en Tanzania que prohíbe la mutilación genital femenina (MGF). La ley, aprobada en 1998, estipula que cualquier persona que obligue a una niña a someterse a una MGF es culpable del delito de crueldad a menores. A pesar de la existencia de esta ley, la práctica de la MGF continúa abiertamente. La Acción Mujeres resaltó un caso de la región de Morogoro, en el cual tres niñas se escapan de su padre en 1999 para evitar sufrir una MGF. Huyeron a una iglesia local para protección, y el pastor las llevó a la comisaría más cercana. La policía arrestó y golpeó al pastor, y devolvió a las niñas a su padre, quienes la hizo circoncierta al día siguiente, y casarse al mes.

LETTERS FROM
THE CAMPAIGN

The Ukrainian Women’s Organization “Zhetem”, being a member of Equality Now, asks you to take more effective action to end the practice of FGM in Tanzania - through education as well as enforcement of the law. Continuation of FGM is an open defiance to the law. We ask you to use all your influence to help women of your country.

Valentina Balashova
President of Zhetem
UKRAINE

I would like to thank you and the government for prohibiting the inhuman practice of FGM by law. However, I gather that much needs to be done as yet on the enforcement side. I am sure your Ministry and the Government of Tanzania will leave no stone unturned in bringing the practice of FGM to a stop in the very near future.

Pratima Mudbhary
President for Women Forum NEPAL

The law enforcement agencies, especially the police, should protect girls seeking refuge from such a degrading and inhuman practice as FGM. Authorities should investigate perpetrators and bring appropriate disciplinary action against policemen involved in encouraging such practice by failing to protect vulnerable girls.

Vickie Njoku-Onyekuru
Program Director, Child Health Organization NIGERIA
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. In May 1999, the Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah, issued a decree granting women full political rights, but in November of that year the National Assembly rejected the decree by a narrow margin of 32–30. In July 2000, five members of the National Assembly again presented a bill in Parliament to amend Kuwait’s electoral law, granting women political rights. The bill has not to date been considered by Parliament. Members of the National Assembly who oppose granting women suffrage often cite religious and social reasons for their opposition. The BBC Radio’s World Service quoted Mr. Ahmad Baqer, a member of the National Assembly who opposed the bill, as saying, “the men take the responsibility for politics, and the women take the responsibility for the family.”

In February 2000, hundreds of women marched to voter registration centers and demanded to be registered as voters. They were not allowed to register and subsequently filed several lawsuits against the government, all of which were dismissed on procedural grounds. The denial of women’s political rights violates several articles of the Constitution of Kuwait including Article 6, which provides that “the system of Government in Kuwait shall be democratic,” Article 7, which provides that “justice, liberty and equality shall be the pillars of society,” Article 8, which provides for “equal opportunities for citizens,” and Article 29, which provides that “all people are equal in human dignity and public rights and duties before the law.”

Although Kuwait has ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Government made reservations to both treaties noting that the treaties are
inconsistent with Article 1 of its voting law, which denies women suffrage. In March 2000, the United Nations Human Rights Committee, which reviews implementation by governments of their obligations under the ICCPR, urged the government of Kuwait to “take all the necessary steps to ensure to women the right to vote and to be elected on equal footing with men, in accordance with articles 25 and 26 of the Covenant.”

The movement for women’s suffrage in Kuwait is gaining support. In October 2000 a public demonstration of men and women was held in front of the National Assembly at the commencement of its session, calling for amendment of the election law to give women the right to vote. In June 2001 a poll of Kuwait University students showed that 84 percent of female students and 65 percent of male students favor women’s suffrage.

We at the Preda Foundation and many thousands around the world watch with concern as the latest bill on women’s rights comes forward. It is unfortunate that your wise and enlightened decree has not changed the opinions of those opposed to the right of women to vote. Please use all your influence with the Members of Parliament to persuade them to recognize these rights and grant the freedom to women to participate in the decisions that affect their lives and the lives of their children.

James Cullen, President
Preda Foundation
THE PHILIPPINES

We at Child Health Organisation wish to express our concern about the bill denying Kuwait’s women suffrage. Your electoral laws are incompatible with international law. Please, we urge you to use your good office to respect the principle of democracy by granting women the right to vote and to stand for election.

Vickie Njoku-Onyekuru, Program Director
Child Health Organisation
NIGERIA

I was stunned to read that Kuwait is the one remaining country in the world where only men have the right to vote. The women of Kuwait would appreciate it very much if you would exercise leadership with members of the National Assembly to ensure the passage of the pending bill granting women the right to vote and to stand for elected office. You better stay involved with the members of the National Assembly, otherwise there’s no way that you’re going to change the rules.

Elizabeth Franken
THE NETHERLANDS

Letters from the Campaign

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ONGOING CAMPAIGNS

Equality Now continues to campaign on Women’s Actions until the violation highlighted is remedied. In some cases, Equality Now campaigns have remained active for many years. As the Women’s Action Network increases in size and strength, the mobilization of public pressure becomes increasingly effective.

“HONOR” KILLINGS IN JORDAN
Equality Now continues to campaign against so-called “honor” killings in Jordan—murders of women by their fathers, brothers and husbands for perceived social transgressions. In December 2001, Article 340 of the Jordanian Penal Code, a provision that exempted a man from penalty if he killed a female relative for adultery, was repealed. However, “honor” killings in Jordan continue, and Articles 97 and 98 of the Penal Code, which allow for reduction of sentence when crimes are committed in a fit of fury, are used to reduce sentences in these cases, generally within a range of three months to one year's imprisonment. Equality Now continues to protest the light sentencing of “honor” crimes and is also calling on government authorities to allow and facilitate the establishment of shelters in Jordan for girls and women seeking protection from family violence.

ACCOUNTABILITY FOR WAR CRIMES IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
In June 2001, Slobodan Milosevic, former President of the Republic of Yugoslavia, was arrested and taken to The Hague, where he is currently standing trial before the United Nations 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 July 1995 for genocide and crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual assault. Despite several reported attempts by American, British and NATO forces to arrest them during the course of the year, as of year-end 2001 Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic remained at large.

PROPERTY RIGHTS IN UGANDA
Equality Now continues, in consultation with the Ugandan Forum for Women in Democracy, to campaign for restoration of the “lost clause” amendment to the Uganda Land Act, which recognized spousal co-ownership of land. Following the adoption of the bill by the Ugandan Parliament in 1998, the amendment was left out of the final text of the law, even though it was passed by the Parliament. The amendment is important in addressing the inequalities and disadvantages women
face in land ownership in Uganda. It would offer women increased security, alleviation of economic dependence, improved access to credit, and protection of inheritance rights.

SEX TOURISM USA Equality Now continues to call for the prosecution of Big Apple Oriental Tours, a sex tourism agency based in New York organizing sex tours for men to the Philippines and Thailand. Since 1996 Equality Now has been urging Richard Brown—the District Attorney of Queens County, in which Big Apple Oriental Tours owner Norman Barabash resides—to take action. New York law prohibits the promotion of prostitution as a criminal offense. In light of the District Attorney’s continuing inaction, Equality Now is exploring other avenues of recourse and continues to work with women’s rights groups in sex tourism destination countries for prosecution of United States based sex tour operators.

THE CRIMINALIZATION OF ABORTION IN NEPAL Equality Now continues to campaign for reform of the law in Nepal, where any act of abortion is punishable by imprisonment, even in cases where the health or life of the mother is threatened, or the pregnancy is the result of rape or incest. It is estimated that twelve women die every day in Nepal as a result of pregnancy and that half of these deaths—six every day—result from abortion-related complications. Legislative efforts to amend the law on abortion have been ongoing since 1994. There were strong indications by year-end 2001 that these efforts would soon be successful.

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: A BATTERED WOMAN’S DEFENDERS Equality Now continues to call for commutation of the death sentences of Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire, two men who rescued Pamela Ramjattan from her husband Alexander Jordan, who had continually beaten, raped and threatened to shoot her. Pamela Ramjattan, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire were all sentenced to death for the killing of Alexander Jordan. In October 1999, Pamela Ramjattan’s murder conviction was overturned in light of newly considered evidence that she suffered from Battered Women’s Syndrome and her sentence reduced to five additional years on a reduced charge of manslaughter. As of year end 2001, however, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire remain on death row. Appeals on their behalf are pending in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

On 8 March 2000, International Women’s Day, hundreds of Ugandan women wearing black marched to protest denial of their land ownership rights and demand reinstatement of the “lost clause.”

SOMMAIRE
Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne contre le tourisme sexuel, en demandant l’engagement de poursuites judiciaires contre l’agence new-yorkaise Big Apple Oriental Tours, laquelle organise des voyages à but sexuel pour hommes aux Philippines et en Thaïlande. Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne pour l’abrogation de la loi du Népal qui criminalise l’avortement sans exception; il y a eu avant la fin de 2001 de forts indices que cette loi sera bientôt abrogée.

RESUMEN
Igualdad Ya continúa su campaña en contra del turismo sexual, reclamando el enjuiciamiento de Big Apple Oriental Tours, una agencia de Nueva York que organiza excursiones sexuales para hombres en Filipinas y Tailandia. Igualdad Ya continúa su campaña a favor de Denny Baptiste y Haniff Hilaire, dos hombres condenados a pena de muerte en Trinidad y Tobago por su papel en el rescate de Pamela Ramjattan, una mujer golpeada cuya condena de muerte fue revocada en 1999. Igualdad Ya también continúa su campaña por la revocación de una ley en Nepal que criminaliza el aborto sin excepciones; había fuertes indicios al final del 2001 que en poco tiempo esta ley sería revocada.

ملخص
وتواصل المسار الرئيسي للحملة ضد رفع التمييز في الادعاء عن عدم الامتثال للتشريعات في جميع أنحاء العالم. في النهاية، تم إلغاء القlausula المفقودة في القانون الذي يمنع النساء من الحصول على أراضيهم. في 8 مارس 2000، يوم المرأة الدولي، ركزت النساء العاملات في أوغندا على رفع القيود عن حقوق الارض. تأثر ذلك بمستويات متزايدة من الأمن لنساء أوغندا.
In 2001, Equality Now shifted the focus of its work with the United Nations Human Rights Committee. In the past Equality Now has regularly submitted information on countries that have reported to the Committee on their compliance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and are scheduled for review by the Committee. In 2000, the Human Rights Committee adopted new guidelines enabling it also to review countries that have failed to submit reports to the Committee as required by the Covenant, resulting in the fact that these countries have never come under the review process of the Committee. In many cases their reports are more than a decade overdue. Equality Now is supporting the implementation of these new guidelines, and after several sessions in which Equality Now engaged in a dialogue with the Committee regarding their application, the Committee agreed to take up one such country per session.

In July 2001, Justice P.N. Bhagwati, the Chair of the Human Rights Committee, wrote to Equality Now expressing the Committee’s appreciation for Equality Now’s support and offer of assistance and announcing that it had scheduled two non-reporting countries, The Gambia and Suriname, for sequential consideration during its forthcoming sessions. In October 2001, having worked in collaboration with numerous international and national organizations, Equality Now submitted a report on The Gambia, partly based on which the Committee prepared a list of questions for transmission to the Government of The Gambia. The Government is expected to appear before the Committee in July 2002.

SOME QUESTIONS PUT BY THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE TO THE GAMBIA

► The Gambian Constitution specifically exempts from the provisions on discrimination laws relating to personal law, including marriage, divorce and inheritance. What steps is the Government considering to eliminate practices and laws relating to marriage, authority in the family, divorce and inheritance that restrict women’s right to equality?

► Numerous allegations have been brought to the attention of the Committee to the effect that women are frequently discriminated against in practice. Please explain in detail the situation of women in the economic and social life of the country, in particular about the situation of women in employment, higher education, the private and public sector, and in Government.
The State party’s report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child indicates that families tend to sacrifice the education of the girl child when financial resources are inadequate to meet school fees. Please provide detailed information about policies on primary school enrolment of boys and girls and information about alleged discrimination in primary education, especially vis-à-vis the girl child.

What measures has the State party taken, or envisage taking, to reduce the high incidence of maternal mortality in the country?

What are the legal, social and other measures in place which are designed to protect women from domestic violence? To what extent do women who are subject to domestic violence have access to shelters and effective judicial redress?

Please comment on reports brought to the Committee’s attention that female genital mutilation (FGM) is prevalent throughout the State party’s territory. What legal and educational measures is the State party taking to combat the practice of FGM?

What legal regulations has the State party adopted in respect of abortion where pregnancy results from rape?

Does the State party envisage taking any measures that would abrogate the right to polygamous marriage?

The Committee is informed that forced and/or early marriages are common in the State party, and that they affect in particular the girl child. What measures, legal, educational or otherwise, has the State party taken or envisaged taking to eliminate the practice of forced or early marriage?

The Constitution of the Second Republic of The Gambia contains wide-ranging provisions on the “Protection of Fundamental Rights and Freedoms,” including the right to equality and non-discrimination. There is, however, a very wide gap between The Gambia’s international obligations, its stated policies, and reality. One of the main factors that impedes the effective protection of human rights is the dominance of customary and religious law and a range of traditional, cultural and religious beliefs that perpetuate discriminatory and harmful practices.
Awaken is a publication created by Equality Now in 1997 to support organizations and individual activists working to end female genital mutilation (FGM). Awaken 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. The following are excerpts from issues of Volume 5 of Awaken published in 2001:

**Benin** Seventy-five practitioners of FGM in Benin have publicly renounced their trade and abandoned their knives earlier this month. Benin is considering a bill banning FGM.

**Egypt** Recent studies in Egypt have found progress in the movement for the eradication of female genital mutilation. Studies showed a decline in the prevalence of the practice as well as a change in the attitudes of Egyptian women towards the practice.

**Guinea-Conakry** On 10 May 2001, 300 circumcisers gathered in the district of Matam for a ceremonial drop of their knives, renouncing FGM. The ceremony follows
similar others carried out by circumcisers in Kouroussa on 6 November 1999 and circumcisers in Kérouané on 2 June 2000.

**INDONESIA** According to reports, Christian women and men living in a small Indonesian island were forced to convert to Islam and to undergo circumcision as part of a violent religious conflict.

**KENYA** A 64-year-old female circumciser was jailed after she was convicted of manslaughter for the death of a 14-year-old girl who died after undergoing FGM on 8 August 1999 in Meru North District.

**NIGERIA** Members of the National Assembly of the Delta State in southern Nigeria passed a law banning female genital mutilation on 10 April 2001. Hundreds of women gathered in the gallery of the Assembly to witness the passing of the bill.

**SPAIN** Doctors at Spanish hospitals in areas with large populations of African immigrants from FGM-practicing communities have encountered dozens of cases of girls who return with their genitals cut after being taken on holiday to the parents’ home countries. Health and law professionals are now debating whether a special law needs to be passed.

**UGANDA** Whereas 10,000 girls underwent FGM in 1999, new figures indicate fewer than 4,000 girls were circumcised in 2000.

**UNITED KINGDOM** The Prohibition of Female Circumcision Act was passed in 1985. Despite evidence that FGM continues in this country there have been no prosecutions to date.

**YEMEN** The Yemen Ministry of Health passed a resolution in January 2001 banning operations of circumcision administered to females in health centers in some parts of the country.

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Page 14: Mothers in an anti-FGM workshop run by the Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services, Egypt. Above: Group of ex-circumcisers, Guinea-Conakry.
In 2001, Equality Now formalized the FGM Fund for Grassroots Activism, in an effort to help channel financial support to local outreach initiatives to stop the practice of female genital mutilation (FGM). Equality Now believes that supporting grassroots efforts to eradicate FGM is the key to the success of the campaign against FGM. Through the FGM Fund, five organizations received support in 2001:

EGYPT *The Coptic Evangelical Organization for Social Services (CEOSS)*. CEOSS works to end FGM through a community-based approach, involving door-to-door visits and staying in touch with each target family for a period of time until they understand the harmful nature of the practice, the fact that it is not a religious requirement, and that FGM is not necessary to ensure that their daughters will be able to marry. Target families are those with daughters between the ages of 10 to 13. In September Equality Now’s Africa Regional Director Faiza Jama Mohamed joined CEOSS for some of these discussions and was told by one mother, who had witnessed a young girl almost bleed to death, that when she learned the bleeding was the result of FGM, on that day she decided that she would never subject her daughters to the practice.

GUINEA-CONAKRY *Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE)*. CPTAFE works to change public opinion through mass media. Equality Now’s Africa Regional Director visited the Rural Radio in Labe (Middle Guinea), where three-month programs are aired and followed by local community sessions. In the villages, musicians provide entertainment with anti-FGM
songs, members of the community are invited to participate in a competition on knowledge about FGM, and they are asked to come up with actions they can take to fight FGM. CPTAFE also mobilizes religious authorities to speak out publicly against FGM, and motivates circumcisers to stop performing FGM through skills training and funding to start income generating activities using their newly acquired skills. For those who decide to abandon FGM, there are public ceremonies in which the circumcisers drop their knives.

KENYA Centre for Human Rights and Democracy (CHRD). On 13 December 2000 Edna and Beatrice Kandie, sisters aged 17 and 15 respectively, secured an historic court ruling from a magistrate in the Rift Valley Province, ordering their father not to subject them to female genital mutilation. District Magistrate Daniel Ochenja issued a permanent injunction barring Mr. Kandie from circumcising his daughters after a hearing at which they were represented by CHRD, where they had fled for protection. Through the FGM Fund Equality Now supported a subsequent speaking tour for the Kandie sisters in their province, organized by CHRD, to talk to other girls about the dangers of FGM and their legal victory, which saved them from the practice.

NIGERIA Girls’ Power Initiative (GPI). With support from the FGM Fund, GPI undertook an FGM intervention project in Cross River State and Edo State. The project began with a workshop in February, held to draw the attention of the public to the issue of FGM and to train field workers to carry out community advocacy in two rural communities in Cross River State and two in Edo State. The workshop also publicized the legislation against FGM in these two states. The field workers, in their community outreach efforts, initially encountered suspicion but found that many who started out strongly supporting the practice were able to change their minds following discussion. A video depicting the dangers of FGM, Scars of Womanhood, was shown in outreach efforts, followed by a facilitated discussion, and found to be particularly helpful in raising the issues and mobilizing communities to stop the practice.

TANZANIA Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC). The FGM Fund grant to the LHRC was related to the case in Morogoro of three sisters who unsuccessfully tried to escape FGM and were returned by the police to their father, who had them forcibly circumcised and married. LHRC documented the case and worked with Equality Now on a Women’s Action mobilizing international public pressure for more effective enforcement of the Tanzanian law against FGM (see page 6). Through the FGM Fund, LHRC obtained support for its investigation into the possibility of a private prosecution of the father of these girls, for an initiative to sensitize police officials in the Morogoro region to prevent future similar incidents, and to provide training on legal and human rights aspects of FGM for trainers working in villages in the region.

SOMMAIRE
En 2001, Égalité Maintenant a constitué le Fonds anti-MGF pour Activisme de la Base, pour aider à canaliser des fonds aux initiatives locales pour mettre fin à la pratique de la MGF. Grâce au Fonds anti-MGF, cinq organisations ont reçu du soutien en 2001: l’Organisation évangélique Coptique pour les Services sociaux (Égypte); la Cellule de Coordinación sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (Guinée-Conakry); le Centre pour les Droits de l’Homme et la Démocratie (Kenya); l’Initiative du Pouvoir des Filles (Nigeria); et le Centre pour les Droits humains et juridiques (Tanzanie).

RESUMEN
En el 2001, Igualdad Ya estableció un Fondo para el Activismo de Base contra la MGF; para ayudar a canalizar apoyo financiero a iniciativas locales de actividades de información para poner fin a la práctica de la MGF. A través del Fondo contra la MGF, cinco organizaciones recibieron apoyo en el 2001: la Organización Evangélica Cóptica para los Servicios Sociales (Egipto); la Célula de Coordinación sobre las Prácticas Tradicionales que Afectan a la Salud de las Mujeres y los Niños (Guinea-Conakry); el Centro por los Derechos Humanos y la Democracia (Kenya); Iniciativa de Poder de las Niñas (Nigeria); y el Centro Legal y de Derechos Humanos (Tanzania).

ملخص
في عام 2001، إ씩الة ماينتني تأسست “المالية الآن” دائمًا صدى الوعي التدريبي ضد الاعتداءات الجنسية القاعدية في جنوب النوم، وهي عضو في المجموعة الدولية للمكافحة ضد الاعتداءات الجنسية. بدأ المشروع في النوم في أغسطس عام 2001، حيث تم تشجيع جمعية حقوق الإنسان والديمقراطية (كينيا) لبيان القضايا، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم تقديم الدعم القانوني، وذلك عن طريق تقديم الدعم القانوني، حيث تم تنظيم حملة في النوم، والتي حصلت على تأييد من قبل المجتمع. بعد ذلك، تم تنظيم جلسات نقاش، والتي شملت النقاش حول القضايا، وتم 제공訓練 على القانون والحقوق الأنسانية في الإقليم.
On 10 February 2001, the V-Day Gathering to End Violence Against Women took place, organized by Equality Now on behalf of V-Day, a movement to end violence against women founded by playwright/activist Eve Ensler. The Gathering was held in New York at Madison Square Garden in conjunction with V-Day 2001, a gala benefit performance of Eve Ensler’s play *The Vagina Monologues*.

The Gathering to End Violence Against Women marked the culmination of the V-Day 2001 STOP-RAPE Contest, an initiative designed to promote creative ideas and public discussion on how to end rape. Equality Now convened an international team of eleven Regional Coordinators to implement the STOP-RAPE Contest. Sixty finalists from more than forty countries, chosen by the Regional Coordinators, came to the V-Day Gathering to present their ideas in a day-long session emceed by playwright/actor Sarah Jones. Three ideas were chosen as winners and received funding for implementation, together with eight finalists—one from each other region—who also received support for implementation. Among these winning ideas are anti-rape youth clubs in Kenya, the production of bread bags for bakeries in Germany with anti-rape messages, street theater on violence against women in Brazil, and a bi-weekly radio show in Mongolia on rape.

Equality Now continued its collaboration with V-Day following the Gathering, coordinating the V-Day 2002 STOP-RAPE Contest, assisting ten Regional Coordinators, all activists in their regions, in their worldwide initiative to solicit and support new and creative ideas to end rape.

RESUMEN

سوماري
THE LAWYERS’ ALLIANCE FOR WOMEN (LAW) PROJECT

In 2001, Equality Now established a new initiative, The Lawyers’ Alliance for Women (LAW) Project, an effort to support women around the world who are increasingly using the law to promote equality rights for women. The LAW Project was created following an international meeting of lawyers in Nairobi in June, organized by the Africa Regional Office of Equality Now and featuring a presentation of sex equality theory by Professor Catharine MacKinnon. The goal of the meeting, which was chaired by Judge Navanethem Pillay, President of the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, was to bring together theoretical concepts and practical realities to strategize new and innovative ways of litigating for sex equality internationally on behalf of women and girls. Lawyers from 23 countries including Brazil, Bangladesh, Cameroun, China, Ethiopia, Hungary, India, Japan, Jordan, the Philippines, Tunisia and Zimbabwe attended this meeting and participated in panels on Rape, Domestic Violence, Trafficking in Women, Reproductive Rights, Sexual Harassment and Property Rights. In addition to discussion of theory, practice,
and strategy, the meeting included a day of activism in which delegations of the lawyers visited a number of embassies to advocate the repeal of discriminatory laws.

In November 2001, The LAW Project organized a workshop, jointly with the University of Michigan Law School and in collaboration with the United Nations Division for the Advancement of Women, on the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This Protocol, which came into force in December 2000, represents a new avenue of recourse for women to claim their sex equality rights under CEDAW directly against their governments in an international forum. More than fifteen lawyers from countries that have signed or ratified the Optional Protocol including Austria, Bangladesh, Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, France, Hungary, Italy, Malawi, Mauritius, the Philippines and Senegal came to the workshop, which was designed to identify and explore possible cases that could be brought under the Optional Protocol. The cases that were discussed and developed cover a range of issues including domestic violence, rape, labor law, and citizenship law. The meeting was chaired by Justice Elizabeth Evatt, former Chair of CEDAW. Jane Connors, Chief of the Women’s Rights Unit of the UN Division for the Advancement of Women, Professor Andrew Byrnes and Professor Catharine MacKinnon served as expert resource persons for the meeting.

The LAW Project is co-directed by Catharine MacKinnon, Professor of Law at the Universities of Michigan and Chicago Law Schools, and Jessica Neuwirth, President of Equality Now. In November 2001, on behalf of The LAW Project, Jessica Neuwirth testified at a hearing of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights on violence against women, organized by the Center for Justice and International Law (CEJIL). The LAW Project is advising the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM) in its role as co-petitioner with CEJIL in the matter of MZ, a rape case from Bolivia pending before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.
Equality Now undertook a number of public outreach initiatives during the year to highlight human rights violations against women. In October/November 2001, as a follow up to the Beijing + 5 Campaign on Discriminatory Laws, the play *Women Can't Wait!,* commissioned by Equality Now and written and performed by Sarah Jones to highlight the impact of discriminatory laws on women’s lives, was brought to India and Nepal in collaboration with CREA, an Indian women’s rights organization, and The Forum for Women, Law and Development in Nepal. The three week, five city tour provided an opportunity to continue the campaign for an end to discriminatory laws as well as to increase and solidify Equality Now’s contacts in India and Nepal. In October 2001, a shorter but equally successful tour of *Women Can't Wait* went to Slovenia.

Numerous other performances took place in the United States as well. On 29 November 2001, Jessica Neuwirth testified on behalf of Equality Now before the US House Committee on International Relations on the issue of sex trafficking, welcoming the passage of the *Trafficking Victims Protection Act* the previous year and urging that the legislation be implemented to ensure the prosecution of traffickers who use the desperation of women in poverty to sustain the commercial sex industry. Also in November, Pamela Shifman undertook a speaking tour in India on behalf of Equality Now on the issue of trafficking.

Throughout the year The LAW Project of Equality Now explored various ways in which to complement the Women’s Action Network with targeted legal action, focusing particularly on the Women’s Action on FGM in...
Tanzania as well as the Women’s Action on New York-based sex tourism agency Big Apple Oriental Tours.

Equality Now also participated in numerous campaigns coordinated by other organizations, such as A Call to Accountability, a campaign on the sexual abuse of Roman Catholic nuns directed at the Vatican and organized by Catholics for a Free Choice, as well as You Are Not Alone, a campaign on behalf of Aung San Suu Kyi organized by the Free Burma Coalition. In addition, Equality Now wrote letters in support of several other organizations facing difficulties, such as Women on Waves, which had been denied a license by the Dutch government that would have enabled it to perform abortions from its boat, moored in international waters.

On 11 December, at its annual Human Rights Day reception hosted by Maurine and Robert Rothschild in New York, Equality Now noted its upcoming tenth anniversary in 2002 and announced plans to use the occasion the year to highlight human rights violations against women and to mobilize activism to end all forms of violence and discrimination against women.

FROM EQUALITY NOW’S TESTIMONY TO THE US HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS HEARING ON TRAFFICKING, 29 NOVEMBER 2001

The passage last year of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act was a significant step forward in the battle against trafficking. The legislation strengthens our capacity to ensure the prosecution of traffickers, as well as the protection of trafficking victims. It is also helping us hold governments around the world accountable for their inaction, which allows traffickers to operate with impunity. Among the Congressional findings set forth in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act is the link between poverty and sexual exploitation. While many women and girls are trafficked by force, fraud or coercion into the international sex trade, others are lured by those who prey on the desperation of their poverty. These profit takers are traffickers under the definition. It is our hope that the legislation, as it relates to sex trafficking, will be implemented in the spirit of understanding that the commercial sex industry as a whole promotes trafficking. Initiatives designed to give women and girls real alternatives, through education and employment, and other initiatives that help women in prostitution get out of the industry are a better investment in the campaign to end trafficking—an effort that is undermined by attempts to make it a safe and legal industry.
THE ACTIVISTS OF EQUALITY NOW

This page, left column, top to bottom: Robin Morgan; Mary Ciugu; Mary Whitmore; Ann Syauta and Keith Gauger. Center column, top to bottom: Amanda Sullivan and Adrienne Gombos; Jacqui Hunt and Taina Bien-Aimé; Tsina Tesfaye and Bethany Hurley. Right column, top to bottom: Faiza Jama Mohamed; Jessica Neuwirth. Right page, top to bottom: Gloria Steinem; Taina Bien-Aimé; Equality Now Board Members, left to right: Jacqui Hunt, Susana Chiarotti, Jessica Neuwirth, Asma Khader, Meaza Ashenafi, Taina Bien-Aimé, Sapana Pradhan-Malla, and Navanethem Pillay, Honorary Chair.
Navanethem Pillay  
*Honorary Chair*

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**TRANSLATORS**  
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Elena Arengo  
Jana Talton
Equality Now would like to thank these individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement and support.

Asma Abdel Halim
Tatiana Abdushukurova
Maha Abu-Dayeh Shamas
Sudha Acharya
Amina Adam
AIDOS
Archers Tours and Travel
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Daniela Colombo
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Elizabeth Evatt
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Fairview Hotel
Safia Farhat
feminist.com
The Feminist Majority
FIDA Kenya
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Macira Halpern
The Hardisty Family
Kristina Hare-Lyons
Marguerite Harris
Laura Hegedus
Noclean Heyzer
Felicity Hill
Home Box Office
Donna Hughes
Rana Hussein
Pinar Ilkcaracan

International Alert
International Women’s Health Coalition
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Mahnaz Ispahani
Jennifer Jackman
Greg Jackson
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Nicola Johnston
Sarah Jones
Veronica Jordan
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Shakila Khalje
Kristina Kiehl
Angela King
Glenys Kinnock
Antonia Kirkland
Frances Kissling
Tufan Kolan
The Kopp Family Foundation
Ralph & Suellen Koppel
### Statement of Financial Position

#### Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>As of 12/31</th>
<th>As of 12/31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash and cash equivalents</td>
<td>$1,032,771</td>
<td>$430,438</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments</td>
<td>1,032</td>
<td>1,022</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants receivable</td>
<td>336,446</td>
<td>460,875</td>
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<tr>
<td>Accounts receivable</td>
<td>11,314</td>
<td>994</td>
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<tr>
<td>Prepaid expenses</td>
<td>28,871</td>
<td>17,761</td>
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<tr>
<td>Property and equipment, net</td>
<td>37,846</td>
<td>34,517</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other assets</td>
<td>19,404</td>
<td>9,554</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total assets</td>
<td>$1,467,684</td>
<td>$955,161</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Liabilities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Liabilities</th>
<th>As of 12/31</th>
<th>As of 12/31</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Accounts payable and accrued expenses</td>
<td>$159,263</td>
<td>$48,742</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Refundable advances</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deferred rent</td>
<td>—</td>
<td>11,423</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiscal sponsorships</td>
<td>54,329</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total liabilities</td>
<td>$213,592</td>
<td>60,165</td>
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#### Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Unrestricted</td>
<td>$915,294</td>
<td>355,974</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporarily restricted</td>
<td>338,798</td>
<td>539,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total net assets</td>
<td>1,254,092</td>
<td>894,996</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total liabilities and net assets</td>
<td>$1,467,684</td>
<td>$955,161</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certain amounts have been reclassified in the fiscal year 2000 financial statements to conform to the fiscal year 2001 presentation. 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.

### Statement of Activities

#### Unrestricted Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions and grants</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations</td>
<td>$1,499,305</td>
<td>$705,741</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Individual donors</td>
<td>229,414</td>
<td>155,104</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporations</td>
<td>211,735</td>
<td>24,939</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Legacies and bequests</td>
<td>88,432</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special events, net</td>
<td>12,926</td>
<td>38,235</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated goods and services</td>
<td>65,745</td>
<td>156,066</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investment income</td>
<td>14,945</td>
<td>12,351</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other income</td>
<td>6,887</td>
<td>6,863</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net realized and unrealized gains on investments</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>332</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public support and revenue before net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>2,129,261</td>
<td>1,099,631</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>285,224</td>
<td>397,853</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total public support and revenue</td>
<td>2,414,485</td>
<td>1,497,484</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Expenses

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program services</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Action Network</td>
<td>562,541</td>
<td>582,745</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM Program</td>
<td>101,255</td>
<td>159,638</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UN Human Rights Committee</td>
<td>31,982</td>
<td>73,052</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Africa Office</td>
<td>75,867</td>
<td>132,451</td>
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<tr>
<td>V-Day STOP-RAPE Contest</td>
<td>377,945</td>
<td>243,655</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Afghan Women's Summit for Democracy</td>
<td>305,816</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The LAW Project</td>
<td>41,245</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lawyers’ Meeting</td>
<td>71,167</td>
<td>—</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total program expenses</td>
<td>1,567,818</td>
<td>1,191,541</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting services</td>
<td>198,795</td>
<td>171,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Management and general</td>
<td>88,552</td>
<td>71,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>198,795</td>
<td>171,336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total supporting services</td>
<td>287,347</td>
<td>242,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total expenses</td>
<td>1,855,165</td>
<td>1,434,225</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>559,320</td>
<td>63,259</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Temporarily Restricted Net Assets

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contributions</th>
<th>2001</th>
<th>2000</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net assets released from restrictions</td>
<td>(285,224)</td>
<td>(397,853)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Increase in temporarily restricted net assets</td>
<td>(200,224)</td>
<td>395,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total increase in temporarily restricted and unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>359,096</td>
<td>458,281</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets: January 1</td>
<td>894,996</td>
<td>436,715</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net assets: December 31</td>
<td>$1,254,092</td>
<td>$894,996</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE SUPPORT 2001

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

- Bertelsmann, Inc.
- Bydale Foundation
- Dreitzer Foundation
- Ford Foundation
- Home Box Office
- Jana Foundation
- John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation
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- NOVIB
- Payton Foundation
- Ruben & Elisabeth Raising Trust
- Streisand Foundation
- Ruth Turner Fund
- V-Day Fund

AFGHAN WOMEN’S SUMMIT FOR DEMOCRACY

On behalf of the Summit convenors, Equality Now wishes to thank the following for their support of the Afghan Women’s Summit:

- Ford Foundation
- Global Fund for Women
- Open Society Institute
- Pearl Jam
- Seymour 1989 Trust
- UNIFEM
- V-Day Fund

Cover photos: Left, Afghan women walking in Kabul. Right, Afghan girls at a refugee camp in Pakistan. Photos by Jessica Neuwirth.