

EQUALITY NOW

ANNUAL REPORT 2000



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.

المساواة 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 لمواصلة الجهود للارتقاء بالدفاع عن الحقوق المتساوية وللدفاع عن النساء اللاتي يتعرضن للإيذاء. توزع المساواة الآن من خلال شبكة مواقف المرأة، توزع المعلومات عن خرق حقوق الإنسان لكل المهتمين بها من مجموعات وأفراد في جميع أنحاء العالم، وتوصي بنشرها والاحتجاج عليها. تمثل شبكة مواقف المرأة جبهة عالمية للنشاط قادرة على الاستجابة السريعة والمنظمة للحالات العاجلة؛ وتتعهد برفع نداء يعم أرجاء العالم من أجل العدل والمساواة للنساء. من القضايا العاجلة التي تهتم بها المساواة الآن: - الاغتصاب والعنف الأسري والحقوق التناسلية والاتجار في النساء ونشويه الأعضاء التناسلية للمرأة والحقوق المتساوية في الفرص الاقتصادية والمشاركة السياسية.

THE YEAR 2000

The worldwide movement for women's rights continues to grow, and for Equality Now the year 2000 was a year of dramatic growth. The broadcast around the world by Oprah Winfrey of an hour-long show on state-sanctioned violence against women more than tripled the membership of Equality Now's Women's Action Network. Eve Ensler and Jane Fonda appeared on the show to talk about what Eve Ensler characterized as "a global pathology to destroy women." The show featured the work of Equality Now as a way in which people could help, and around the world people responded immediately as the show was broadcast in their countries. The challenge now is to channel this interest and concern into strategic and effective action to end violence and discrimination against women. Here are a few of the thousands of e-mails Equality Now received:

From a young girl: *I know that I may be too young to help, but I want to. I'm almost 13. I heard about Equality Now on the Oprah Show. I thought to myself what if this happened to me, I would want someone to help me.*

From a father: *As a man and the father of two daughters, I strongly believe that men have a responsibility to bring awareness to this cause as well. I am disgusted by what I saw concerning these human rights violations. Please let me know what I can do.*

From an African activist: *I am from Sierra Leone, where female genital mutilation is practiced on a large scale, where women are treated as property and considered to be inferior. Having been mutilated myself and considering what it has done to me psychologically has left me with a strong ambition to fight not only for women from my country but from around the world.*



Eve Ensler (left) and Jane Fonda (right)

SOMMAIRE

L'année 2000 a été une année de croissance remarquable pour Egalité Maintenant. L'émission d'une heure de durée sur la violence contre les femmes sanctionnée par l'Etat, qui a été diffusée dans le monde entier par Oprah Winfrey, a triplé le nombre de membres du Réseau Action Femmes d'Egalité Maintenant. L'émission a présenté le travail d'Egalité Maintenant comme moyen de pouvoir rendre service à cet égard, et par suite de cela, Egalité Maintenant a reçu des milliers de lettres, par la poste et par courrier électronique, de partout dans le monde. La tâche maintenant, c'est de canaliser cet intérêt et ce souci vers de l'action stratégique et efficace pour mettre fin à la violence et à la discrimination contre les femmes.

RESUMEN

El 2000 fue un año de crecimiento dramático para Igualdad Ya. Un programa televisivo de Oprah Winfrey de una hora—que se salió al aire en todo el mundo—sobre la violencia contra las mujeres sancionada por el estado, triplicó la membresía de la Red Acción Mujeres. El programa resaltó el trabajo de Igualdad Ya como una manera de ayudar. Como resultado, Igualdad Ya recibió miles de cartas y correos electrónicos de todo el mundo. El desafío ahora es transformar este interés y preocupación en una acción estratégica y efectiva para poner fin a la violencia y la discriminación contra las mujeres.

ملخص

العام 2000 كان عام نمو عظيم للمساواة الآن. بعد البث التلفزيوني العالمي لبرنامج أوبرا وينفري عن العنف ضد النساء وكيف تسند بعض الدول، زادت عضوية الشبكة النسوية للمساواة الآن ثلاثة أضعاف. عرض البرنامج عمل المساواة الآن كأحد الوسائل لتسي يمكن للناس المساعدة من خلاله. ونتيجة لذلك تسلمت المساواة الآن الآلاف من الخطابات والرسائل الإلكترونية من جميع أنحاء العالم. التحدي الذي يواجهنا الآن هو كيفية توجيه هذا الاهتمام وتحويله إلى استراتيجية فاعلة لإنهاء العنف والتمييز ضد النساء.

AFRICA OFFICE LAUNCHED

In 2000, Equality Now opened its first regional office in Nairobi, Kenya. The three day formal launch of the office, from April 9th to 11th, brought together women's rights activists from thirteen African countries across the continent. Equality Now board members came together from as far as Nepal and Argentina for the consultation that was held on the first day of the launch, to provide a forum for collective discussion to help define the role of



Equality Now in the region and the research and campaign priorities for the new regional office. Issues that came up in the discussion included land and inheritance rights for women, female genital mutilation, abduction and forced marriage, sexual violence, political participation, and the lack of enforcement mechanisms for the application of international law.

Distinguished guests at the launch included Elizabeth Evatt, a member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, from Australia; Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, the Deputy Minister of Defense of South Africa; Navanethem Pillay, Judge-President of the UN Tribunal for Rwanda; Winnie Byanyima, a Member of Parliament in Uganda; and The Honorable Amos Wako, the Attorney General of Kenya. The four women Ambassadors to Kenya from Zambia, Sweden, Rwanda and Malawi addressed the reception held on the second day of the launch,





SOMMAIRE

En 2000, Egalité Maintenant a ouvert son premier bureau régional, à Nairobi, Kenya. Le lancement officiel du bureau en avril, qui a duré trois jours, a réuni des activistes pour les droits de la femme venant de treize pays africains à travers le continent. Il y a eu une consultation afin de fournir un forum pour la discussion, pour aider à définir le rôle d'Egalité Maintenant dans la région, et les priorités relatives à la recherche et à la campagne pour le nouveau bureau régional. Un autre aspect du lancement, c'était une journée d'activisme centrée sur la campagne Beijing + 5 d'Egalité Maintenant. Des délégations de participantes sont allées aux ambassades d'onze pays mis en vedette dans le rapport d'Egalité Maintenant, en exhortant les hauts fonctionnaires avec qui elles se sont entretenues à soutenir la réforme des lois discriminatoires.

RESUMEN

En el 2000, Igualdad Ya abrió su primera oficina regional en Nairobi, Kenya. El lanzamiento formal de la oficina se celebró con una serie de eventos realizados durante tres días en abril, y convocó a activistas por los derechos de las mujeres de trece países de todo el continente africano. Se realizó una consulta como foro de discusión para ayudar a definir el papel de Igualdad Ya en la región, así como también para determinar las prioridades de la nueva oficina regional en cuanto a investigación y campañas. También como parte del lanzamiento se realizó un día de activismo centrado en la campaña de Igualdad Ya sobre Beijing + 5. Delegaciones de participantes visitaron las embajadas de once países que figuran en el informe de Igualdad Ya e instaron a los oficiales de gobierno con quienes se reunieron a apoyar reformas de leyes discriminatorias.

ملخص

في عام 2000 افتتحت المساواة الآن أول مكتب إقليمي لها في نيروبي كينيا. جمع الناشطين الرسمي للمكتب في أبريل ناشطات حقوق المرأة من ثلاثة عشر بلدا إفريقيا. عقدت جلسة استشارية تم فيها التشاور حول دور المساواة الآن في الإقليم وطرق البحث وأسبقيات الحملات التي يقوم بها المكتب الإقليمي. كجزء من الناشطين نظم يوم للناشطين ركز على حملة المساواة الآن بمناسبة مرور خمس سنوات علي كين. زارت وفود من المشاركات في الناشطين سفارات أحد عشر بلدا سلطنا عليها الضوء في تقرير المساواة الآن. ناشدت الوفود سفارات تلك البلاد مساعدة تعديل القوانين التي تعزز ضد النساء.

highlighting the importance of women in decision-making positions, the need to eliminate laws and practices that discriminate against women, the need for equality as a constitutional right, and the importance of promoting women's social and economic rights.

A press conference was also held on the second day of the launch for local, national and international media. The opening of the regional office received significant coverage and was highlighted as a unique and historic gathering of women. Board members from Kenya, Nepal and Argentina spoke about the role of Equality Now in advocating for the rights of women both within the region and internationally. They also emphasized the similarity of the situation of women in Africa as discussed in the consultation with the situation faced by women in their own regions, underscoring the need for and value of working together on issues of common concern.



The third and final day of the launch was a day of activism focused on Equality Now's Beijing + 5 campaign. Delegations of participants visited the embassies of eleven of the countries highlighted in Equality Now's report and urged the government officials they met with to support reform of discriminatory laws. The eleven countries were: Algeria, Ethiopia, India, Israel, Mexico, Morocco, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Tanzania, and the United States.



Following its launch, the Equality Now regional office has been working with African activists committed to working together to achieve the goal of equality for women, drawing support and strength through their collaboration. The Africa Regional Office is staffed by Faiza Jama Mohamed, Africa Regional Director; Mary Ciugu, Office Manager; and full-time volunteer Ibrahim Ahmed Osman.

Page 2, top to bottom: Sunday magazine cover of the *East African Standard*, 9 April 2000. Mary Ciugu, Office Manager of the Africa Regional Office. **Page 3, top to bottom:** Winnie Byanyima, Member of Parliament in Uganda; Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, Deputy Minister of Defense in South Africa; and Beth Mugo, Member of Parliament in Kenya (left to right), at Equality Now's press conference marking the launch of the Regional Office. Justice Elizabeth Evatt, an Australian Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee, with The Honorable Amos Wako, Attorney General of Kenya. Winnie Byanyima, Member of Parliament in Uganda, addresses the consultation on the political participation of women in government.

During the Special Session, Equality Now held a press conference at the United Nations, calling for the inclusion of a target date for the elimination of all discriminatory laws in the Outcome Document that was to be adopted and highlighting the failure of governments to honor their commitment to end legal discrimination against women, as set forth in Paragraph 232(d) of the Platform for Action. At the press conference, the following women's rights activists presented developments regarding the reform of discriminatory laws in their respective countries/regions: Fatima Al-Abdali (Kuwait); Meaza Ashenafi (Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association); Sapana Pradhan-Malla (Forum for Women, Law and Development—Nepal); Susana Chiarotti (Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Human Rights, CLADEM); and Jean Kamau (International Federation of Women Lawyers: FIDA-Kenya).



During the Special Session, Equality Now also held performances of *Women Can't Wait!* a creative work, commissioned as part of its campaign. Written and performed by Sarah Jones, *Women Can't Wait!* brought to life the impact of discriminatory laws on women around the world. A special performance, introduced by American actor Gwyneth Paltrow, was held in the United Nations on 7 June 2000 for government delegates and NGO representatives. A public performance, introduced by feminist



activist and writer Gloria Steinem, was held at the Judson Memorial Church on 9 June 2000. The Outcome Document adopted by the Special Session of the General Assembly notes that discriminatory legislation persists and that in a few cases new laws discriminating against women have been introduced. Paragraph 102(b) of the Outcome Document provides that States are to review legislation “with the view to striving to remove discriminatory provisions as soon as possible, preferably by 2005” Although the Special Session is over, the repeal of discriminatory laws continues to be a major focus of Equality Now’s work on behalf of the human rights of women around the world.

Page 4: (Top) Jean Kamau (Kenya), Sapana Pradhan-Malla (Nepal), Meaza Ashenafi (Ethiopia) and Fatima Al-Abdali (Kuwait) at Equality Now’s press conference, United Nations, 6 June 2000 (from left to right). **(Bottom)** An article about *Women Can't Wait!* that appeared in *Asahi Shimbun*, a Japanese newspaper. **Page 5: (Top)** Pinar Ilkcaracan (left) of Women for Women’s Human Rights (Turkey), with Mandy Sullivan (right), Equality Now’s Campaign Director, at the ECE Prep Com in Geneva, January 2000. **(Bottom)** Jacquie Hunt, Sarah Jones, Gwyneth Paltrow, Jessica Neuwirth, Taina Bien-Aimé and Monique Widyono (from left to right), at the United Nations performance of *Women Can't Wait!* 7 June 2000.

SOMMAIRE

En juin 2000, une Session spéciale de l'Assemblée générale de l'Organisation des Nations unies a été convoquée à New York pour examiner l'exécution du Programme d'Action de Beijing, adopté à Beijing en 1995. La campagne Beijing + 5 d'Égalité Maintenant a mis en lumière des lois d'un échantillon de 45 pays autour du monde qui font de la femme l'objet explicite de discriminations, en demandant que les gouvernements annulent ces lois avant la Session spéciale. Pour la Session spéciale, seuls trois d'entre ces pays—le Costa Rica, le Pérou, et le Venezuela—ont changé les lois citées. Pendant la Session spéciale, Égalité Maintenant a donné des représentations de la pièce de théâtre, *Women Can't Wait!* [*Les Femmes ne peuvent pas attendre!*], oeuvre originale écrite et interprétée par Sarah Jones pour la campagne pour faire vivre l'impact des lois discriminatoires sur les femmes du monde entier.

RESUMEN

En junio del 2000, una Sesión Especial de la Asamblea General de Naciones Unidas se reunió en Nueva York para pasar revista a la implementación de la Plataforma de Acción de Beijing, adoptada en Beijing en 1995. La campaña de Beijing + 5 de Igualdad Ya se centró en las leyes de una muestra de 45 países de todo el mundo que discriminan explícitamente contra las mujeres, e hizo un llamado a los gobiernos a que cambien estas leyes antes de la Sesión Especial. Al final de la Sesión Especial, solamente tres de estos países—Costa Rica, Perú y Venezuela—habían cambiado las leyes mencionadas. Durante la Sesión Especial, Igualdad Ya auspició dramatizaciones de “Las Mujeres No Podemos Esperar!”, una obra creativa escrita y actuada por Sarah Jones, que dramatiza al impacto de las leyes discriminatorias en las mujeres de todo el mundo.

ملخص

في يونيو 2000 انعقدت الجلسة الخاصة للجمعية العامة للأمم المتحدة في نيويورك لمراجعة تنفيذ خطة عمل بكين التي تبنتها الأمم المتحدة في بكين عام 1995. في حملتها بمناسبة مرور خمس سنوات على مؤتمر بكين، سلطت المساواة الآن الضوء على القوانين التي تميز صراحة ضد المرأة في 45 بلدا من جميع أنحاء العالم، وناشدت الحكومات تعديل تلك القوانين قبل انعقاد الجلسة الخاصة. عدلت ثلاثة بلاد فقط قوانينها قبل انعقاد الجلسة الخاصة وهي كوستاريكا وبيرو وفنزويلا. أثناء انعقاد الجلسة الخاصة قدمت المساواة الآن عملاً مسرحياً بعنوان "لن نتظر النساء" وهو عمل إبداعي كتبته وقدمته سارة جونز أعطى صورة حية عن أثر القوانين التي تميز ضد النساء في جميع أنحاء العالم.

WOMEN'S ACTION UGANDA

THE EXCLUSION OF WOMEN FROM LAND OWNERSHIP

In August, in consultation with The Forum for Women in Democracy (FOWODE) Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign calling 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 had been passed by the Parliament. The "lost clause" provided that when land is used jointly by husband and wife as a principal place of residence or a principal source of sustenance of the family, such land would be owned in common by both husband and wife.

To illustrate the importance of the "lost clause," Equality Now's Women's Action highlights the case of Mariam Namayanja Kabeere, who lived with her husband for over 38 years in a small house in Kakoba, Uganda, working the land as farmers and raising six children. When Mariam's husband married another woman (polygamy is legal in Uganda under Islamic law or if the couple is married under customary law), he built his new wife a house on the same land and barred Mariam from the property. Unable to farm the land, Mariam was forced to farm plots lent to her by friends to support herself.

When women own and control land, they will also be protected from eviction when they are widowed or divorced. The current system discriminates against women, which violates the equality provisions of our constitution.

—The Honorable Winnie Byanyima,
Member of Parliament from Uganda
and founder of FOWODE

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."



Mariam's husband then demanded the family home in addition to the land. Mariam refused to leave, and consequently he divorced her under Muslim law and claimed entitlement to the house as well as the land.

Women make up over 80% of the agricultural labor force in Uganda and yet only 7% of all women own land. Women like Mariam are placed in the precarious position of depending on a husband or male relative in order to maintain access to the land and have no security of tenure when abandoned, widowed, or chased away from the home. Ugandan inheritance law provides for a widow to receive 15% of her deceased husband's estate, although this small percentage is often withheld in practice. Under customary law a widow may herself be "inherited" by her in-laws and forced to marry a male relative, or she may be displaced from her home, leaving her and her dependent children homeless and vulnerable.

Addressing inequalities and disadvantages women face in land ownership is essential to the realization of the fundamental human right to equality.

The Women's Action Network is appealing to Ugandan government authorities to publicly support and ensure swift passage of the co-ownership amendment to the Land Act. Passage of this amendment would offer women a registrable interest in land providing them with increased security, alleviation of economic dependence, improved access to credit, and protection of inheritance rights.



We call on you to support and ensure swift passage of the co-ownership amendment to the Land Act, to eliminate discrimination against women and to promote women's rights. Be just and support women of your country in their need!

**Valentina Balashova, President
Women's Public Society "ZHETEM"
UKRAINE**

As women lawyers and judges, we support national law reform, in conformance with international law standards, with the aim of eliminating discrimination against women around the globe. We urge you to take a leadership role in actively promoting women's rights by supporting the spousal co-ownership amendment to the Land Act.

**Eva Herzer, Chair of the International Law
Committee
National Association of the Women Lawyers
USA**

We support the call of the women of Uganda for the reinstatement of the "lost clause." Spousal co-ownership of land will go a long way to correct the gender imbalance in ownership of land and will ensure that women and children will have a much better future in Uganda.

**Ang Boon Chong
International Affairs Bureau
ALIRAN
MALAYSIA**

I have sent letters to the President, the Speaker of the Parliament, and the Minister for Water, Land and Environment, urging them to support the co-ownership amendment to the Land Act and work towards equality between the sexes.

**Dr. Daniel Aspilcueta, Executive Director
Instituto Peruano de Paternidad Responsable
PERU**

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En août, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une campagne Action Femmes pour demander la réintégration de l'amendement à la Loi agraire d'Ouganda connu sous le nom de la "clause perdue," lequel reconnaît la copropriété de terre de la part des deux conjoints. Après l'adoption du projet de loi en 1998, l'amendement a été omis de la version finale de la Loi, bien qu'il eût été voté par le parlement. L'Action Femmes met en lumière le cas de Mariam Namayanja Kabeere, à qui a été interdite la cultivation du terrain où elle avait vécu avec son mari pendant plus de 38 ans, après que son mari eut épousé une deuxième femme. Les femmes constituent plus de 80% des ouvriers agricoles en Ouganda, et pourtant 7% seulement des femmes sont propriétaires terriennes.

RESUMEN

En agosto, Igualdad Ya lanzó una campaña de Acción Mujeres para hacer un llamado a favor de la restauración de la enmienda de la llamada "cláusula perdida" del Acta de Tierras de Uganda, que reconocía la propiedad conjunta de tierra dentro del matrimonio. Luego de la adopción del proyecto de ley en 1998, la enmienda quedó fuera del texto final de la ley, aunque había sido aprobada por el Parlamento. La Acción Mujeres resalta el caso de Mariam Namayanja Kabeere, a quien se le prohibió cultivar la tierra en la que vivió con su esposo durante 38 años, después de que su marido se casó con una segunda mujer. Las mujeres constituyen el 80% de la fuerza laboral rural en Uganda, y sin embargo solamente el 7% de las mujeres son dueñas de la tierra.

ملخص

في أغسطس بدأت المساواة الآن حملة عن طريق نشرة مواقف المرأة، ناديت فيها بإعادة "المادة المفقودة" لقانون الأراضي البوغندي، وهي مادة أضيفت كتعديل للقانون للاعتراف بشراكة الأزواج في ملكية الأرض. بعد اعتماد المشروع كقانون في عام 1998، أهمل ذلك التعديل ولم يضمن في الصيغة النهائية للقانون بالرغم من إجازته بواسطة البرلمان. سلط منشور موقف المرأة الضوء على قضية مريم نامايانجا كابييري، التي خزمت من فلاحية الأرض التي عاشت عليها مع زوجها مدة 38 عامًا، وذلك عندما اتخذ زوجها زوجة أخرى. تكون النساء نسبة 80% من القوى العاملة في الزراعة بينما تبلغ نسبة النساء 7% فقط من جملة ملاك الأراضي في البلاد.

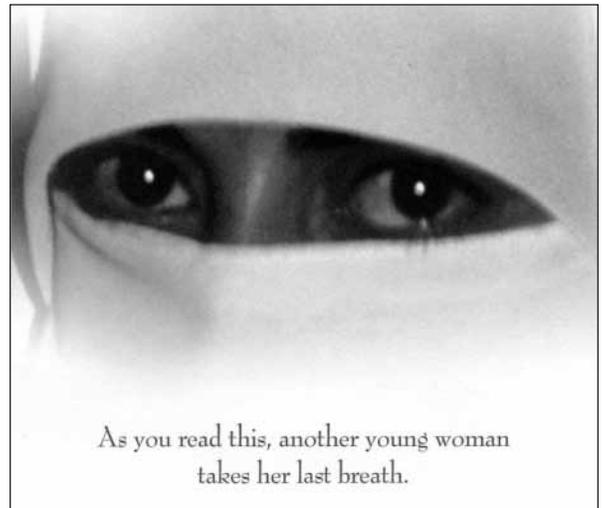
WOMEN'S ACTION JORDAN

“HONOR KILLINGS”: EFFORTS TO PROTECT WOMEN FROM VIOLENCE

shot five times because she ran away from her husband who continually beat and raped her strangled on her wedding night when her husband discovered she was no longer a virgin had her throat slit because her husband suspected her of adultery when he saw her speaking with another man knifed to death because she wanted to continue her education and refused to marry the man chosen for her by her family beaten to death by her younger brother because her elder brother had raped her

In December, Equality Now launched a Women's Action campaign against “honor killings,” focusing on Jordan. “Honor killings” are murders based on the belief that a woman is the property of her family and subject to its dictates. Should a woman's virtue come into question, for whatever reason, or should she refuse to obey her father, husband or brother, her family's “honor” is thought to be disgraced and the woman must then be killed by a male relative to restore the family's good name in the community. The United Nations Population Fund estimates that as many as 5,000 women and girls are murdered by family members each year in “honor killings” around the world. In many countries these murders are socially sanctioned and the killers are treated with lenience. In some countries such as Jordan, “honor crimes” are also legally sanctioned. Article 340 of the Jordanian Penal Code provides for exemption from penalty if a man kills his wife or female relative after finding her “committing adultery with another.”

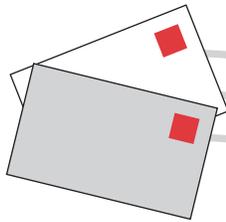
The National Campaign to Eliminate So-Called Crimes of Honor, a strong and growing movement in Jordan, has been campaigning actively for an amendment to the Penal Code abolishing Article 340. Members of the Jordanian royal family, including Queen Noor and Queen Rania, have condemned “honor killings” and have also called for passage of the amendment. King Abdullah has instructed the Prime Minister to amend any law that “discriminates against women and inflicts injustice on them.” The Government submitted an amendment to Article 340 of the Penal Code, but Parliament has been unable to pass it. Although the amendment is supported by the Senate (Upper House), the Lower House has twice voted it down. In the Lower House debates, MP Mahmoud Kharabsheh was quoted as saying the amendment was “an invitation to obscenity,” and that “females are the ones who take the initiative and demonstrate consent to committing adultery.”



HBO invitation to a special screening of Crimes of Honor, co-hosted by Equality Now.

There is no women's shelter in Jordan. There are only state-run women's prisons, where women are incarcerated for their own safety—to be protected from their own families. Ironically, their release can only be secured by a male relative. In addition to calling for the passage of the amendment to the Penal Code, to remove the exemption from punishment for “honor killings,” Equality Now's Women's Action campaign calls on the government to establish shelters and to allow non-governmental organizations (NGOs) to establish shelters for women under threat of violence and at risk of being killed.

In February 2000, Home Box Office (HBO) and Equality Now jointly hosted a screening of the film *Crimes of Honor*, made by Shelley Saywell, followed by a panel introduced by Olympia Dukakis, the film's narrator. The film was broadcast later that month in the United States on HBO. In September 2000, Equality Now sponsored a showing of the film at the United Nations, followed by a panel that included Asma Khader, a leading women's rights lawyer in Jordan. Subsequently, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for the elimination of crimes against women committed in the name of honor.



LETTERS FROM THE CAMPAIGN

Last month Equality Now informed me that an amendment to the Penal Code to abolish Article 340 was rejected in the Lower House of Parliament. Being a member of the Austrian Parliament I was very shocked to hear this. The regulation concerning so-called “honor killings” is an extreme assault against the human rights of women and an injustice.

Elisabeth Hlavac
Member of Parliament
AUSTRIA

COVAW-Kenya requests you to publicly support the amendment in recognition of the inhuman face of violence and insecurity that women in your country have been faced with, a gross violation of the right to life and the right to equal protection under the law.

Rosemary Mueni Mbaluka,
Programme Officer
Coalition on Violence Against Women
(COVAW)
KENYA

I urge you to set up shelters and allow NGOs to establish shelters and other support services for these vulnerable women as an

interim measure towards greater legal and social protection.

Zam Zam Nagujja Kasujja
Uganda Association of Women Lawyers
(FIDA)
UGANDA

THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

I would really like to express my appreciation for your concern about this matter. Yet I find that it is my duty to clarify to you that such matter is not a serious problem in Jordan as you might have heard. . . . A government sponsored shelter for women will soon be functioning. Thus women who are under threat or at risk of being killed will be provided with refuge and adequate support services. . . . Finally, I would like to point out that in Jordan we are lucky enough to maintain family cohesion and strong family ties. Thus, we have very few and limited cases of domestic violence.

Tamam El-Ghul
Minister of Social Development
JORDAN

SOMMAIRE

En décembre, Egalité Maintenant a lancé une campagne Action Femmes contre les “meurtres d'honneur,” en se concentrant sur la Jordanie. La Campagne nationale pour supprimer les prétendus crimes d'honneur, mouvement jordanien puissant et qui s'agrandit, mène une campagne active pour mettre en place une révision du Code pénal qui abrogerait l'article 340, lequel stipule l'exemption de la peine dans les cas de “meurtres d'honneur.” Il n'y a pas de centre d'accueil pour les femmes en Jordanie; que des prisons d'Etat pour les femmes, où l'on les incarcère pour leur propre sécurité. En plus de demander l'adoption de la révision du Code pénal, la campagne d'Egalité Maintenant demande que le gouvernement établisse, et qu'il autorise les ONGs à établir, des centres d'accueil pour les femmes menacées de violence et de mort.

RESUMEN

En diciembre, Igualdad Ya lanzó una campaña de Acción Mujeres contra los “asesinatos de honor”, centrada en Jordania. La Campaña Nacional para Eliminar las Llamadas Muertes por Honor, un movimiento fuerte y creciente ha estado realizando una campaña muy activa a favor de una enmienda al Código Penal aboliendo el Artículo 340, que provee exención de pena en casos de “asesinatos por honor”. No existen los albergues para mujeres en Jordania; solamente hay cárceles del Estado donde las mujeres son encarceladas para su propia seguridad. Además del llamado para la aprobación de una enmienda al Código Penal, la campaña de Igualdad Ya insta al gobierno a establecer y permitir que las ONGs establezcan albergues para las mujeres que se encuentran amenazadas de violencia y en riesgo de ser asesinadas.

ملخص

في ديسمبر، بدأت المساواة الآن حملة مواقف المرأة ضد “جرائم الشرف” وسلطت الضوء على الأردن. تخوض الحملة الوطنية للقضاء على ما يسمى بجرائم الشرف، وهي حركة قوية ونامية في الأردن، حملة شعواء لتعديل قانون العقوبات وإلغاء المادة 340 منه وهي مادة تستثني الجاني من العقوبة في حالة ارتكابه “جريمة شرف”. تحبس النساء في السجون لحمايتهن في الأردن إذ لا توجد ملاجئ للنساء. بالإضافة للنداءات بتعديل قانون العقوبات، ناشدت حملة المساواة الآن الحكومة بالتصريح للمنظمات غير الحكومية بإنشاء ملاجئ للنساء المهددات بالقتل.

UPDATES



The exploitation of our world's poorest girls and young women in the sex trade is—I think—one of our world's greatest human rights offenses, and when I learned that one of the companies was based in Queens, I felt it was time to take action. We shouldn't let violations of the law pass with a wink and a nod. Sex tourism preys on girls and women who are led into prostitution through violence, coercion or economic duress.

Representative Carolyn B. Maloney

Big Apple Oriental Tours

Equality Now continues to campaign against sex tourism, calling 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 January 2000, New York Congresswoman Carolyn B. Maloney joined Equality Now in its efforts to stop Big Apple Oriental Tours. Together with feminist writer and activist Gloria Steinem at a press conference hosted by Equality Now, Congresswoman Maloney called publicly on District Attorney Brown to bring charges against Big Apple Oriental Tours.

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.

Gloria Steinem, Ken Franzblau and Representative Carolyn Maloney (left to right) at Equality Now's press conference, January 2000.

Forced Removal, Rape, and Genocide in the Former Yugoslavia

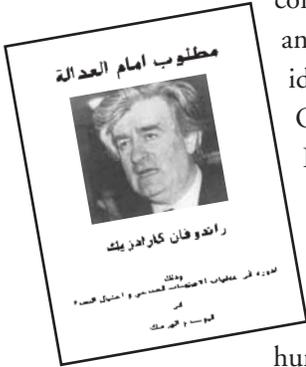
Equality Now continues to campaign for justice for women in the former Yugoslavia, calling for the arrest and trial of Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Ratko Mladic,

commander of the Bosnian Serb army, and Slobodan Milosevic, former President of the Republic of Yugoslavia.

On 25 July 1995, the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY) indicted Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, charging them with genocide and crimes against

humanity. The indictment includes in

the list of acts and omissions attributed to Karadzic and Mladic, "murders, rapes and sexual assaults, tortures, beatings, robberies, as well as other forms of mental and physical abuse" of detained Bosnian Muslims and Croats. On 27 May 1999, Milosevic was indicted by the ICTY for war crimes and crimes against humanity. As of year-end 2000, Karadzic, Mladic and Milosevic remained at large.



SOMMAIRE

Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne contre le tourisme sexuel, en demandant l'engagement de poursuites judiciaires contre l'agence de voyage new-yorkaise Big Apple Oriental Tours. Egalité Maintenant continue également à faire campagne pour les droits de reproduction au Népal, où la loi criminalise l'avortement sans exception. Egalité Maintenant continue à faire campagne pour Denny Baptiste et Haniff Hilaire, deux hommes qui sont au quartier des condamnés à mort à Trinité-et-Tobago pour être venus au secours de Pamela Ramjattan, femme battue dont la condamnation pour meurtre a été cassée en 1999. Egalité Maintenant continue aussi à faire campagne pour la justice pour les femmes de l'ancienne Yougoslavie, en demandant l'arrestation de Radovan Karadzic et de Ratko Mladic, et l'engagement de poursuites judiciaires contre eux.

RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya continúa con su campaña contra el turismo sexual, pidiendo por el enjuiciamiento de Big Apple Oriental Tours. Igualdad Ya también continúa su campaña a favor de los derechos reproductivos en Nepal, donde la ley prohíbe el aborto sin excepciones. Igualdad Ya continúa su campaña de apoyo a Denny Baptiste y Hannif Hilaire, dos hombres condenados a muerte en Trinidad y Tobago por su papel en el rescate de Pamela Ramjattan, una mujer golpeada cuya convicción de homicidio fue revertida en 1999. Igualdad Ya también sigue con su campaña de justicia para las mujeres de la ex-Yugoslavia, reclamando la detención y enjuiciamiento de Radovan Karadzic y Ratko Mladic.

ملخص

ما زالت المساواة الآن تواصل حملتها ضد "سياحة الجنس" وما انفكت تنادي بمحاكمة "بيق أبل أوريينثال تورز" وهي وكالة مقرها نيويورك. كما تستمر حملة المساواة الآن من أجل الحقوق التناسلية في نيبال حيث يحرم القانون الإجهاض بدون أي استثناء. وتستمر حملة المساواة الآن لمساندة دانسي بابتيست وهانيف هيلاري اللذان مازالا في انتظار تنفيذ الإعدام في ترينداد وتوباغو. حوكم الرجلان لإفقاذاها باميل رامجتان التي كانت تعاني من عنف زوجها. كانت المحكمة قد ألغت الحكم ضدها في عام 1999. كما تتوالى حملة المساواة الآن لإحسان النساء في يوغسلافيا سابقا وذلك بالمناداة باعتقال رضوان كراديتش ورانكو ملاديتش. وجهت المحكمة الدولية عدة تهمة لسلوبودان ميلاسوفتش.

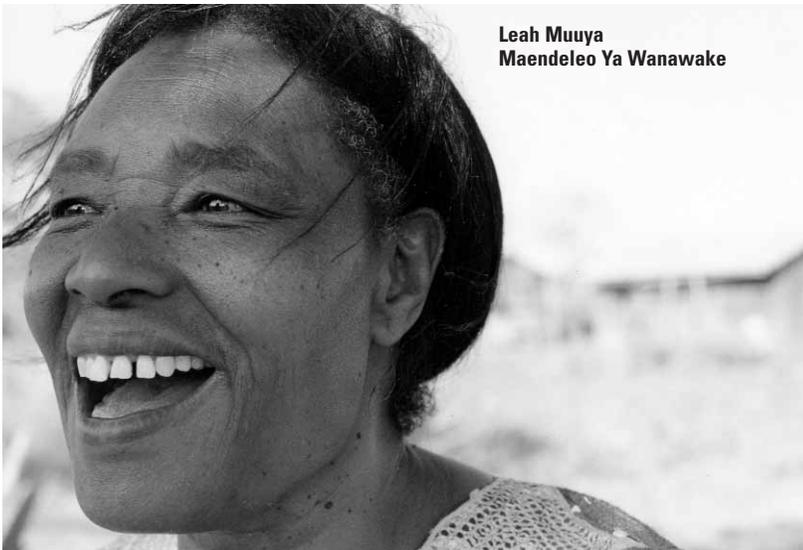
The Impending Execution of a Battered Woman's Defenders in Trinidad and Tobago

In October 1998, Equality Now issued a Women's Action calling for commutation of the death sentences that had been imposed in Trinidad and Tobago on Pamela Ramjattan and her defenders Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire, for the death of her husband Alexander Jordan, an extremely violent man who had continually beaten her, raped her, and threatened to shoot her. In October 1999, Pamela Ramjattan's murder conviction was overturned in light of newly considered evidence that she had suffered from Battered Woman's Syndrome. She was sentenced to serve five additional years in prison on a reduced charge of manslaughter. As of year-end 2000, however, Denny Baptiste and Haniff Hilaire, the men who came to her rescue, remain on death row. Appeals on their behalf are pending in the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

A VOICE FOR THE ERADICATION OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

A *waken* is a publication started 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 *Awaken* published in 2000:

Mrs. Chantal Compaore, Wife of His Excellency the President of Burkina Faso, Feature, Volume 4, Issue 2, August 2000: “In all times and places, women carry a disproportionate percentage of the weight of the world’s sorrows. Not only are they subject to socio-economic obstacles, they are also exposed to all forms of violence and suffer for the most part in silence. I have decided to use every opportunity to speak out against such injustice: not only to make decision-makers at the international level aware of the problem but also to call on them to implement socially responsible policies, which will give women



Leah Muuya
Maendeleo Ya Wanawake

In memory of a Kenyan activist who dedicated her life’s work to end female genital mutilation

“Leah was a hero, a huge force that moved the world into light, that protected young women, that stopped cruelty, that stood up for passion and power and truth. She was beautiful and her love melted people and transformed them. She had a huge impact in this world. She was a great woman, and it is a great loss.”

—Eve Ensler

adequate access to improved health care and education, and which foster full participation in the decision-making process.”

Tidiani A. Diop, Mali, Man Power Vol 4, Issue 3, December 2000: “On my twentieth birthday a friend of mine celebrated his wedding. As tradition dictates we, the groom’s closest friends, accompanied him on the night of the wedding to witness the consummation of the marriage. We helped the groom by holding down the circumcised bride during intercourse. It was ignorant of us to hold her down to facilitate penetration. It was painful. I witnessed several young brides go through a lot of pain during their first sexual encounter because of infibulation, which represents a great health risk and a gross injustice against women. I think it is time to open a debate so that men can participate at all levels against female circumcision.”



Calista Flockhart listening to young Kenyan girls talk about female genital mutilation (FGM), May 2000.

News, Vol 4, Issue 1, April 2000: In a ceremony held in Koroso village in Guinea, hundreds of women who were responsible for performing female genital mutilation (FGM) on young girls handed over the knives that they used in the operations. Ms. Haja Wudu Barrie, a spokesperson from the campaign to end FGM in Guinea, was reported as saying on state radio that the event was a breakthrough after 14 years of campaigning.

News, Vol 4, Issue 2, August 2000: The Governor of Ogun State in Nigeria, Mr. Olusegun Osoba, has signed a bill prohibiting Female Circumcision (FC) in the State. According to Africa News Online, Governor Osoba said that the FC law aims at putting an end to the humiliation and degradation of women caused by the practice that has become obsolete and useless.

In May 2000, Equality Now’s Africa Regional Office organized a visit to Kenya for playwright/activist Eve Ensler and *Ally McBeal* actor Calista Flockhart. In Nairobi, they met with women’s rights activists from a number of African countries including Ghana, Somalia and Sudan. Together with the Kenyan women’s organization Maendeleo Ya Wanawake’s FGM Program Director Leah Muuya and Equality Now staff Faiza Jama Mohamed and Mandy Sullivan, they also visited Narok to witness the new non-violent rites of passage that are being promoted by Kenyan activists to replace FGM.

SOMMAIRE

L’Eveil est une publication lancée en 1997 par Egalité Maintenant pour soutenir les organisations et les activistes individuels qui travaillent pour mettre fin à la mutilation génitale féminine (MGF). *L’Eveil* est un forum pour les informations et pour la discussion, qui encourage une meilleure compréhension de la MGF, et des stratégies plus efficaces pour y mettre fin. Les numéros de *L’Eveil* comprennent des articles de fond qui mettent en lumière quelque aspect d’activisme, des nouvelles sur la MGF de partout dans le monde, une liste de ressources, et un dialogue continu entre hommes sur la suppression de la MGF. On a fourni ici quelques extraits de *L’Eveil*, qui est publié en anglais, en arabe, et en français.

RESUMEN

Awaken es una publicación fundada en 1997 por Igualdad Ya para apoyar organizaciones y activistas quienes trabajan para poner fin a la mutilación genital femenina (MGF). *Awaken* es un foro de información y discusión para promover una mejor comprensión y una estrategia efectiva para la erradicación de la MGF. Las ediciones de *Awaken* contienen artículos sobre activismo, noticias de todo el mundo relacionadas con la MGF, listas de recursos y un diálogo permanente entre hombres sobre la erradicación de la MGF. En esta página, incluimos algunas selecciones de *Awaken*, que se publica en inglés, arábigo y francés.

ملخص

يقظة نشرة دورية بدأتها المساواة الآن في عام 1997 لمساندة المنظمات والأفراد الناشطين في حركة وقف تشويه أعضاء المرأة التناسلية (FGM). تعتبر يقظة منبراً للنقاش ولتشجيع فهم أفضل واستراتيجية فاعلة للقضاء على تشويه أعضاء المرأة التناسلية. تحتوي يقظة على عدة أبواب من بينها باب يسلط الضوء على الناشطين وصفحات للأخبار والمراجع وباب للجدل الدائر بين الرجال حول تشويه الأعضاء التناسلية. تتضمن هذه الصفحات مقتطفات من يقظة التي تصدر باللغات الإنجليزية والفرنسية والعربية.

INTERNATIONAL LAW

Sex trafficking means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act.

Victims of Trafficking and Violence Protection Act of 2000

Equality Now continues to participate in the process of elaborating international legal standards relating to the human rights of women—engaging in the legislative process with regard to both domestic legislation and international law, and participating in court cases that involve issues of equality in an effort to bring arguments under international law to domestic proceedings.

LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES

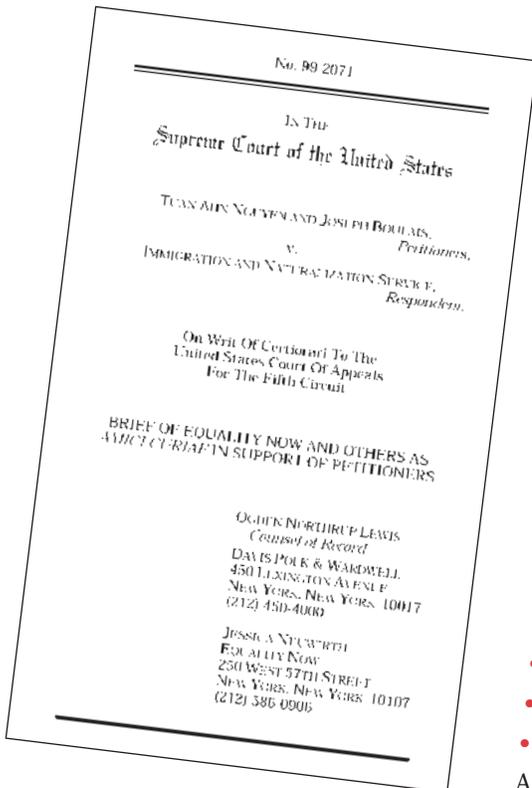
During the year 2000, Equality Now campaigned actively for the passage of a United Nations protocol and US legislation on trafficking in women, both of which were passed in 2000. Equality Now convened and represented a coalition of U.S.-based women's groups, including the National Organization for Women and The Feminist Majority, to engage in a dialogue with the State Department and Members of Congress on the definition of trafficking in both international and domestic law, to ensure that it would be broad enough to protect all victims of trafficking, and facilitate the prosecution of all traffickers. In September, an Equality Now delegation met with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to raise this concern. In June and again in October, Equality Now sent delegations to Vienna for the final negotiations on the international protocol.

LITIGATION—UNITED STATES

As an *amicus curiae* in the *Nguyen* case, Equality Now urged the United States Supreme Court to consider the constitutionality of a discriminatory citizenship law with reference to the equality rights set forth in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, to which the United States is a party, as well as customary international law. Equality Now was joined on its brief by:

- Argentine Association of Women Judges
- Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
- Forum for Women, Law and Development
- International Commission of Jurists
- International Federation of Women Jurists
- International Federation of Women Lawyers
- International Human Rights Law Group
- International Women's Rights Action Watch
- Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights
- Women in Law and Development in Africa

As of year-end 2000, a decision in this case was pending.



From Equality Now's Amicus Brief to the United States Supreme Court: *In reviewing the legitimacy of governmental objectives served by the sex-based distinctions set forth in 8 U.S.C. § 1409, the Court should consider the growing international as well as national recognition that such distinctions between fathers and mothers are incompatible with the equal sharing of parental responsibility and serve to entrench stereotypes that absolve men of this responsibility. In this conceptual framework, no legitimate governmental objective is served by formalizing in law traditional stereotypical assumptions about parenting based on the sex of the parent.*



Janine Benedet (right), the lawyer who represented Equality Now before the Supreme Court of Canada, with Catharine A. MacKinnon (left), following the oral argument in the *Little Sisters* case.

LITIGATION—CANADA

As an intervener in the Canadian *Little Sisters* case and citing several human rights treaties to which Canada is a party, Equality Now successfully argued that the harm-based standard for restricting pornography established by a prior decision of the Canadian Supreme Court should be applied on an equal basis to all, regardless of sexual orientation. The Court's decision, issued in December, noted Equality Now's view and highlighted the distinction between sexual expression and harm-based obscenity, holding that everyone has an equal right both to sexual expression and to protection from harm.

From Equality Now's Factum to the Supreme Court of Canada: *Equality Now submits that lesbian and gay male pornography, including sadomasochistic pornography, promotes inequality-based harms, no less than does heterosexual pornography. Specifically, this material advances and promotes self-hating, aggressive, violent, non-consensual behaviour as positive, normal and liberating. In so doing, it reinforces those social attitudes and behaviours that create systemic inequality on the basis of sex and sexual orientation—misogyny and homophobia alike—by sexually conditioning lesbian women and gay men to those attitudes and practices. The result is harm to individuals who are rendered inferior, vulnerable and unequal on the basis of their gender.*

From the Decision of the Supreme Court of Canada: *Equality Now took the view that gay and lesbian individuals have as much right as their heterosexual counterparts to be protected from depictions of sex with violence or sexual conduct that is dehumanizing or degrading in a way that can cause harm that exceeds community standards of tolerance . . . Violence against women was only one of several concerns, albeit an important one, that led to the formulation of the Butler harm-based test, which itself is gender neutral. While it would be quite open to the appellants to argue that a particular publication does not exceed the general community's tolerance of harm for various reasons, gay and lesbian culture as such does not constitute a general exemption from the Butler test.*

SOMMAIRE

Egalité Maintenant continue à participer au processus de l'élaboration des normes juridiques internationales relatives aux droits humains de la femme. Au cours de l'an 2000, Egalité Maintenant a fait campagne pour l'adoption d'un protocole de la part de l'Organisation des Nations unies, et pour l'adoption de la législation aux États-Unis sur la traite des femmes. Egalité Maintenant a aussi participé à des affaires devant les Cours suprêmes du Canada et des États-Unis—comme intervenant dans l'affaire canadienne *Little Sisters*, en plaidant en faveur de l'égalité de l'application d'un critère basé sur le mal fait pour évaluer la pornographie, quelle que soit l'orientation sexuelle de celle-ci, et comme amicus curiae dans l'affaire *Nguyen*, en exhortant la Cour suprême des États-Unis à considérer la constitutionnalité d'une loi discriminatoire relative à la nationalité, par rapport à la loi internationale.

RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya continúa participando en el proceso de elaboración de legislación internacional relacionada con los derechos humanos de las mujeres. Durante el 2000, Igualdad Ya participó en la campaña para la aprobación de un protocolo de Naciones Unidas así como también legislación en Estados Unidos sobre el tráfico de mujeres. Igualdad Ya también participó en casos ante las Cortes Supremas de Canadá y Estados Unidos—como interventor en el caso canadiense *Little Sisters*, argumentando a favor de la aplicación igualitaria de una norma de revisión basada en el daño para la pornografía, que no discrimine por orientación sexual. También participó en un amicus curiae en el caso *Nguyen*, instando a la Corte Suprema de Estados Unidos a que considere la constitucionalidad de una ley de ciudadanía discriminatoria con referencia a la ley internacional.

ملخص

مزا أنت المساواة الآن تشارك في توسيع دائرة وتفصيل حقوق المرأة في القانون الدولي لحقوق الإنسان. شهد عام 2000 حملة المساواة الآن لتبني بروتوكول في الأمم المتحدة وقانون في الولايات المتحدة خاص بالاتجار في النساء. كما شاركت المساواة الآن في قضايا مرفوعة أمام المحاكم العليا في كل من كندا والولايات المتحدة. تدخلت المساواة الآن في قضية "أخوات صغيرات" وقدمت حججها لتطبيق قاعدة المراجعة التي تعتمد على تقدير الأذى الناتج من المنشورات الفاضحة بغض النظر عن الخيار الجنسي للأطراف. وتدخلت كصديق في قضية *انجوين* وحضت المحكمة العليا الأمريكية على اتخاذ القانون الدولي كمرجع عند النظر في دستورية قوانين المواطنة التي تميز بين الرجال والنساء.

V-DAY: THE STOP-RAPE CONTEST

THE V-DAY REGIONAL COORDINATORS

Codou Bop, Senegal

Rada Borich, Center for
Women War Victims,
Croatia

Atsango Chesoni,
FEMNET, Kenya

Colette De Troy, European
Women's Lobby, Belgium

Alda Facio, ILANUD,
Costa Rica

Lucy Garrido, Cotidiano
Mujer, Uruguay

Shabnam Hashmi,
SAHER, India

Asma Khader, SIGI, Jordan

Stella Tandai Makanya,
WiLDAF, Zimbabwe

Aida F. Santos, Coalition
Against Trafficking in
Women, Philippines

Cherreka Montgomery,
The Feminist Majority,
United States

Equality Now is working closely with V-Day, a movement to end violence against women founded by playwright/activist Eve Ensler. On behalf of V-Day, in 2000 Equality Now convened an international team of eleven regional coordinators for implementation of a global STOP-RAPE Contest, an initiative designed to promote creative ideas and public discussion on how to end rape. The 2001 STOP-RAPE Contest will culminate in the V-Day Gathering to End Violence Against Women, to be held at Madison Square Garden on February 10, 2001. In December, sixty STOP-RAPE Contest finalists from more than forty countries were selected to come to New York to present their proposals at The V-Day Gathering and to attend V-Day 2001, a gala benefit performance of Eve Ensler's play *The Vagina Monologues*.

FROM THE ACTION PLANS OF THE STOP-RAPE CONTEST FINALISTS

From Belgium: Thelma and Louise need a bus (and petrol to run it), a means of locomotion that can carry materials for an itinerant exposition, presentation materials (videos, books, posters, etc.) and most importantly—two activists. These activists, on board their anti-rape bus, will travel around their country for three months, unloading their materials, their knowledge and their passion. In this way, Thelma and Louise will meet women of all ages, from all backgrounds, with all types of experiences. They will communicate information about rape and ways in which women can protect themselves. They will fight myths about rape, and they will teach self-defense. **IRENE ZEILINGER**

From Ghana: I personally have been a victim of rape when I was 13 years old. It was my school head teacher who raped me. To this date, I could not talk about it to anyone not even my mother. I grew up to hurt myself and lived in a life of regret. Because of my own experience, I decided to organize these women to discuss issues that affect our lives. The way society views rape has made it difficult for women to report or talk about it. We used drama discussion to play out what communities, families and friends can do to stop rape. **LYDIA AMY AJOMO, FRAFRA WOMEN'S LITERACY GROUP**

From Guatemala: In Guatemala many co-dependency groups function along the lines of Alcoholics Anonymous (AA). This can be adapted and persons can undertake that for 24 hours they are not going to harm anyone, especially a woman. The steps and traditions are already there, and like AA, the program could become worldwide. I wrote this because I have lived watching the violence my only sister was subjected to in a relationship with a man for 7 years. That is how I know, having seen this since I was 7 years

old. I always told myself that I am not going to permit any kind of violence against my person. I don't want any woman or girl in the world to suffer what my sister and thousands of women suffer daily.

VALERIE CRISTINA LOPEZ CALDERON, AGE 14

From Indonesia: The idea to stop rape comes from the idea that women must start being equal. Being equal means the capability to say no to being an object, especially a sex object. The target population is all women in the world, and the action plan is a campaign for a "Stop Sex Day." On this day women all over the world, maybe for the first time in their life, will say no to having sex with men (husband, boyfriend, client, etc.)—firstly to show solidarity among women for every woman who is being raped every day by her husband or in the neighborhood, and hasn't the voice or courage to say something, secondly to strengthen our struggle for equality and the ability to decide about our own sexuality.

GRACIA DWINITA ASRININGSIH

From Jordan: As an actor and television host, I would like to produce a television drama or series with the aim of overcoming the barrier of silence and fear that fills the hearts of girls and women who are victims of rape and other forms of physical assault that may lead to rape. I want to see these women becoming more courageous in terms of asking for help, and more insistent that offenders are punished so that others do not suffer from similar experiences. I want the voices of victims to be heard.

ABEER ISSA HIKARI

From Pakistan: Most cases of sexual abuse are not reported due to the fear of loss of honor or infamy. An abuser has no fear of the consequences because he knows that the victim will not tell anyone. Women have suppressed their shriek of agony for many centuries. But now is the time to speak out, to change, to revolt, to make the world listen to us, feel our pain, understand our problems and realize our realities.

UZMA GULZAR PIRZADA

From Zimbabwe: The idea of establishing a Rape Crisis Centre may not be innovative and outrageous, but it is certainly necessary. In Zimbabwe, there is no Rape Crisis Centre. Rape victims traumatized by the experience of the forced sexual encounter itself are further despised by the police if they dare to report, jeered by neighbors who happen to hear of what took place, cursed by family members for having brought disgrace to the family, traumatized by the courts if they ever get there, and rapists are often released for lack of proof that an offence was committed. All these experiences leave the "survivor" a walking-dead person.

RENIFA MADENGA, MUSASA PROJECT

V-Day is a vision of human life where girls and women live free, safe, equal and with dignity. V-Day is a spirit affirming that life should be lived creating and thriving rather than surviving victimization and recovering from atrocities. V-Day is a determination to end violence against women. We will not stop. Through ongoing decisions, V-Day will manifest this vision through actions until the violence stops.

SOMMAIRE

Au nom de V-Day, un mouvement pour mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes fondé par Eve Ensler, dramaturge/activiste, Egalité Maintenant a en 2000 réuni une équipe internationale d'onze coordinatrices régionales pour mettre en oeuvre un Concours ANTIVIOLENT mondial, initiative conçue pour encourager des idées novatrices et la discussion publique sur les moyens de mettre fin au viol. En décembre, on a sélectionné soixante finalistes de plus de quarante pays, pour venir à New York présenter leurs projets au Rassemblement V-Day pour Mettre Fin à la Violence Contre la Femme, qui aura lieu à Madison Square Garden en février 2001. Ici paraissent quelques extraits des plans d'action des finalistes du Concours ANTIVIOLENT.

RESUMEN

En representación del "Día V", un movimiento fundado por la actriz y dramaturga Eve Ensler para poner fin a la violencia contra las mujeres, en el 2000 Iguadad Ya convocó un equipo internacional de once coordinadoras regionales para la realización de un concurso mundial llamado ¡PAREMOS LAS VIOLACIONES!, una iniciativa diseñada para promover ideas creativas y discusión pública sobre cómo poner fin a la violación sexual. En diciembre, sesenta finalistas provenientes de más de cuarenta países fueron seleccionadas para viajar a Nueva York y presentar sus propuestas en el Reunión del Día V para Poner Fin a la Violencia contra las Mujeres, que se realizó en Madison Square Garden en febrero de 2001. En esta página, incluimos algunos extractos de los planes de acción de algunas de las finalistas del Concurso ¡PAREMOS LAS VIOLACIONES!

ملخص

كونت المساواة الآن فريقاً من إحدى عشرة منسقة إقليمية لتنفيذ الحملة العالمية "أوقفوا الاغتصاب". وهي مبادرة لتشجيع الأفكار الخلاقة والنقاش العلني للوصول لإنهاء الاغتصاب. هذه الحملة كانت نيابة عن في-داي وهي حركة لإنهاء العنف ضد النساء أسستها الكاتبة إيف إنسلر. في ديسمبر تم اختيار ستين ناشطة من أربعين بلداً للحضور إلى نيويورك وتقديم اقتراحاتهن لتجمع في-داي لإنهاء العنف ضد النساء الذي سيقام في حدائق ماديسون في فبراير 2001. تتضمن هذه الصفحات مقتطفات من خطط العمل المقدمة من بعض المتنافسات.

**EQUALITY NOW
SUBMISSIONS TO
THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COMMITTEE, 1995–2000**

Yemen
United States
Russia
United Kingdom
Sri Lanka
Hong Kong
Afghanistan
Guatemala
Zambia
Peru
Brazil
Lebanon
Colombia
India
Senegal
Lithuania
Sudan
Uruguay
Zimbabwe
Ecuador
Israel
Algeria
Tanzania
Japan
Armenia
Libya
Lesotho
Cambodia
Chile
Poland
Mexico
Republic of Korea
Morocco
Cameroon
Mongolia

Photos: (Top) Susana Chiarotti, Regional Coordinator of CLADEM and a member of Equality Now's Board of Directors. (Bottom) Justice Elizabeth Evatt, a Member of the United Nations Human Rights Committee.

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE

In March 2000, the United Nations Human Rights Committee adopted General Comment No. 28 on the Equality Of Rights Between Men and Women set forth in Article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The Committee decided to update its jurisprudence on Article 3 in light of the experience it had gathered in its activities. Since March 1995 Equality Now has been working to bring human rights violations against women to the attention of the Human Rights

Committee and has made submissions to the Committee on thirty-five countries. The new General Comment codifies a broad vision of equality rights and reflects many of the Concluding Observations of the Human Rights Committee on women's rights concerns in particular countries under review.

Equality Now is working to facilitate greater integration of the Human Rights Committee's work with the activism of women's rights organizations at the national level. This initiative is designed to ensure that information from these



organizations goes directly to the Committee when it considers the countries in which they are based, and that the work of the Committee in turn is of greater use to their work within these countries. In June 2000, together with the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defense of Women's Rights (CLADEM), Equality Now organized a regional training workshop in Peru for women's rights organizations, activists and media representatives, with participation from the Chairperson of the Human Rights Committee.

Following the regional training, women's rights organizations from Argentina and Peru submitted reports directly to the Human Rights Committee, which reviewed these countries in October 2000. In Argentina, the "shadow report" prepared by local organizations received considerable media attention, and following the Committee's meeting a public event was held with CLADEM and government representatives in Buenos Aires, to review the Concluding Observations of the Committee on Argentina's report. In its Concluding Observations on Peru, the Committee called on the Government to review and amend its law criminalizing abortion in cases of rape, an unprecedented request that was welcomed by activists in Peru.



FROM THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMITTEE'S GENERAL COMMENT ON ARTICLE 3

Right to Equality

- adopt not only measures of protection but also positive measures in all areas so as to achieve the effective and equal empowerment of women

Right to Life

- help women prevent unwanted pregnancies, and ensure that they do not have to undertake life-threatening clandestine abortions
- protect women from practices that violate their right to life, such as female infanticide, the burning of widows and dowry killings
- note the particular impact on women of poverty and deprivation that may pose a threat to women's lives

Right to Be Free from Torture or Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment

- provide protection from, and legal remedies for, domestic and other types of violence against women, including rape
- access to safe abortion for women who have become pregnant as a result of rape
- prevent forced abortion or forced sterilization
- eliminate the practice of female genital mutilation

Right to be Free from Arbitrary Detention

- report on any laws or practices that may deprive women of their liberty on an arbitrary or unequal basis, such as by confinement within the house

Right to Freedom of Movement

- report on any legal provision or any practice that restricts women's right to freedom of movement, for example, the exercise of marital powers over the wife or parental powers over adult daughters, or requirements that prevent women from traveling such as the requirement of consent of a third party to the issuance of a passport to an adult woman

Right to Recognition as a Person Before the Law

- the capacity of women to own property, to enter into a contract or to exercise other civil rights may not be restricted on the basis of marital status or any other discriminatory ground
- women may not be treated as objects to be given together with the property of the deceased husband to his family

Right to Privacy

- report on any laws and practices that may interfere with women's right to enjoy privacy on the basis of equality with men, for example where the sexual life of a woman is taken into consideration to decide the extent of her legal rights and protections, including protection against rape
- respect women's privacy as it relates to their reproductive functions from interference, for example, where there is a requirement for the husband's authorization to make a

SOMMAIRE

Depuis mars 1995, l'Égalité Maintenant travaille pour attirer l'attention du Comité des droits de l'homme des Nations unies, constitué par le Pacte international relatif aux droits civils et politiques, sur les violations des droits humains de la femme. En mars 2000, le Comité des droits de l'homme a adopté une Observation générale relative à la disposition concernant l'égalité des droits présentée dans l'article 3 du Pacte. Cette Observation générale codifie une vision large de l'égalité des droits, et elle reflète beaucoup d'entre les Observations finales du Comité des droits de l'homme sur les questions relatives aux droits de la femme dans les pays au sujet desquels l'Égalité Maintenant a fait des soumissions au cours des cinq dernières années. Des dispositions spécifiques de l'Observation générale sont résumées en ces pages.

RESUMEN

Desde marzo de 1995, Igualdad Ya ha estado trabajando para traer casos de violaciones de derechos humanos de mujeres ante el Comité de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas, establecido por El Pacto Internacional de Derechos Políticos y Civiles. En marzo del 2000, el Comité de Derechos Humanos adoptó un Comentario General sobre la provisión sobre derechos de igualdad establecida en el Artículo 3 de la Convención. Este Comentario General codifica una visión amplia sobre los derechos de igualdad y refleja muchas de las Observaciones Finales del Comité de Derechos Humanos sobre las preocupaciones de los derechos humanos de las mujeres, particularmente en países sobre los cuales Igualdad Ya ha presentado casos en los últimos cinco años. Algunas provisiones específicas del Comentario General se resumen en estas páginas.

ملخص

صممت المساواة الآن منذ عام 1995 على لفت انتباه لجنة حقوق الإنسان بالأمم المتحدة، والتي أنشئت بموجب العهد الدولي الخاص بالحقوق المدنية والسياسية، لحث حالات خرق حقوق الإنسان الخاصة بالنساء. تبنت لجنة حقوق الإنسان في مارس عام 2000 التعليق العام الخاص بالمساواة في الحقوق الواردة في المادة 3 من العهد. يقنن التعليق العام رؤية واسعة للمساواة في الحقوق ويعكس عدداً من الملاحظات النهائية للجنة حقوق الإنسان التي عبرت فيها عن قلقها بشأن حقوق المرأة، خاصة في الدول التي ظلت المساواة الآن تقدم تقارير بشأنها طوال السنوات الخمس الماضية. نلخص في هذه الصفحات بعض أجزاء التعليق العام.

decision in regard to sterilization, where general requirements are imposed for the sterilization of women, such as having a certain number of children or being of a certain age, or where States impose a legal duty upon doctors and other health personnel to report cases of women who have undergone abortion

- Protect women's privacy from interference by private actors, such as employers who request a pregnancy test before hiring a woman

Freedom of Expression

- provide information about legal measures to restrict the publication or dissemination of material that may impede women from exercising the rights protected under this provision on an equal basis, such as the publication and dissemination of obscene and pornographic material which portrays women and girls as objects of violence or degrading or inhuman treatment and is likely to promote these kinds of treatment of women and girls

Rights in Marriage

- abolish the laws and eradicate the practices which undermine the right of women to marry only when they have given free and full consent, such as the existence of social attitudes which tend to marginalize women victims of rape and put pressure on them to agree to marriage, or laws which allow the rapist to have his criminal responsibility extinguished or mitigated if he marries the victim
- treat men and women equally in regard to marriage—polygamy is incompatible with this principle and violates the dignity of women

Right to Take Part in the Conduct of Public Affairs

- ensure that the law guarantees to women rights to political participation on equal terms with men and take effective and positive measures to promote and ensure women's participation in the conduct of public affairs and in public office, including appropriate affirmative action

Equality Before the Law and Equal Protection of the Law

- act against discrimination—the commission of so-called “honor crimes” which remain unpunished constitutes a serious violation of the Covenant; laws which impose more severe penalties on women than on men for adultery or other offenses also violate the requirement of equal treatment
- prohibit discrimination by private actors—a large proportion of women are employed in areas which are not protected by labor laws, and prevailing customs and traditions discriminate against women, particularly with regard to access to better paid employment and to equal pay for work of equal value

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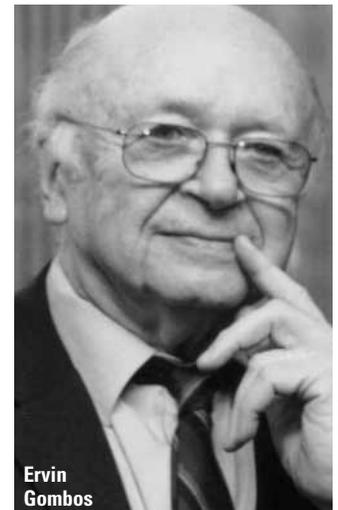
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(Left to right) Liz Young, Efua Dorkenoo, Meryl Streep, Jessica Neuwirth

JENNIFER WARBURG

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

	2000 <i>As of 12/31</i>	1999 <i>As of 12/31</i>
ASSETS		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$430,438	\$252,018
Investments	1,022	4,703
Grants receivable	460,875	144,000
Accounts receivable	994	—
Prepaid expenses	17,761	5,661
Loan receivable	—	7,500
Property and equipment, net	34,517	40,545
Other assets	9,554	9,246
Total assets	<u>\$955,161</u>	<u>\$463,673</u>
LIABILITIES		
Liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$ 48,742	\$ 15,280
Refundable advances	—	5,601
Deferred rent	11,423	6,077
Total liabilities	<u>60,165</u>	<u>26,958</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	355,974	292,715
Temporarily restricted	539,022	144,000
Total net assets	<u>894,996</u>	<u>436,715</u>
Total liabilities and net assets	<u>\$955,161</u>	<u>\$463,673</u>

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

	2000	1999
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
PUBLIC SUPPORT AND REVENUE		
Contributions and grants		
Foundations	\$705,741	\$564,280
Individual donors	155,104	79,501
Corporations	24,939	27,629
Contract revenue	—	7,500
Special events, net	34,010	23,548
Donated goods and services	156,066	297,286
Investment income	12,351	4,632
Other income	6,863	2,610
Net realized and unrealized gains on investments	332	—
Public support and revenue before net assets released from restrictions	<u>1,095,406</u>	<u>1,006,986</u>
Net assets released from restrictions	397,853	81,000
Total public support and revenue	<u>1,493,259</u>	<u>1,087,986</u>
EXPENSES		
Program services		
Women's Action Network	582,745	497,024
FGM Program	159,638	127,705
UN Human Rights Committee	73,052	96,620
Africa office	163,444	67,650
V-Day	243,655	—
Total program expenses	<u>1,222,534</u>	<u>788,999</u>
Supporting services		
Management and general	140,343	117,998
Fundraising	67,123	60,535
Total supporting services	<u>207,466</u>	<u>178,533</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,430,000</u>	<u>967,532</u>
Increase in unrestricted net assets	<u>63,259</u>	<u>120,454</u>
TEMPORARILY RESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
Contributions	792,875	100,000
Net assets released from restrictions	(397,853)	(81,000)
Increase in temporarily restricted net assets	<u>395,022</u>	<u>19,000</u>
Total increase in temporarily restricted and unrestricted net assets	<u>458,281</u>	<u>139,454</u>
Net assets: January 1	436,715	297,261
Net assets: December 31	<u>\$894,996</u>	<u>\$436,715</u>

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 2000

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- Patrick and Aimee Butler Family Foundation
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- Home Box Office
- International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development
- MacArthur Foundation
- Moriah Fund
- NOVIB
- Open Society Institute
- Shaler Adams
- Ruth Turner Fund
- V-Day Fund

COVER PHOTOS

Clockwise from top: Eve Ensler. Sarah Jones, left and Waris Dirie, right (photo by Jennifer Warburg). Gloria Steinem, left, and Meryl Streep, right (photo by Jennifer Warburg). Hibaaq Osman, left, and Efua Dorkenoo, right (photo by Jennifer Warburg).