



EQUALITY NOW

1992-1993 REPORT

EQUALITY NOW



Equality Now was founded in 1992 to work for the protection and promotion of the human rights of women around the world. Working with local human rights groups and individual activists, Equality Now documents violations of these rights and adds an international action component to support local and national efforts on behalf of women's rights and on behalf of individual

women who are suffering human rights violations. Equality Now is adapting action techniques that have proven effective in the context of other human rights organizations (such as letter-writing appeals for the release of prisoners of conscience) and using these techniques both to help individual women and to promote women's rights around the world. By gathering information about human rights abuses and distributing it to groups and individuals around the world, along with recommended actions for publicizing and protesting these abuses, Equality Now hopes to facilitate the coordination of an international force for women and human rights. Equality Now brings an expanded concept of human rights to mainstream international human rights work, taking up many issues which have generally been considered outside the scope of international human rights, such as trafficking in women, domestic violence, reproductive rights, and female genital mutilation. What Equality Now adds to the work of groups already fighting for women and human rights is a worldwide, rapid-response grassroots action component that will have an immediate impact on individual situations and a long-term impact on social policy.

RÉSUMÉ

Egalité Maintenant a été fondée en 1992 afin de travailler pour la protection et la promotion des droits individuels des femmes dans le monde entier. Travaillant avec des groupes locaux de droits individuels et des militants individuels, Egalité Maintenant documente les violations de ces droits et ajoute un aspect international d'action pour soutenir les efforts locaux et nationaux au nom des droits des femmes et au nom des femmes individuelles qui subissent des violations de leurs droits humains. Egalité Maintenant aborde les questions qui ont généralement été considérées en dehors du champ des droits humains internationaux, telles que la traite des femmes, la violence familiale, les droits de reproduction et la mutilation féminine génitale.

RESUMEN

Igualdad Ya fue fundada en 1992 para trabajar por la protección y promoción de los derechos humanos de la mujer alrededor del mundo. Trabajando con grupos de derechos humanos y activistas locales, Igualdad Ya documenta violaciones a estos derechos. Además, agrega un componente internacional para apoyar los esfuerzos nacionales y locales a favor de los derechos de la mujer y en nombre de mujeres (a título individual) que están sufriendo violaciones a sus derechos humanos. Igualdad Ya trata temas que generalmente han sido considerados fuera del ámbito de los derechos humanos internacionales, como el tráfico de mujeres, violencia doméstica, derechos reproductivos y mutilación genital femenina.

ملخص

تأسست منظمة المساواة الآن في عام ١٩٩٢ م وذلك بغرض العمل من أجل حقوق المرأة والنرويج لها على مستوى العالم وتعمل منظمة المساواة الآن بالتعاون مع كل منظمات حقوق الإنسان العالمية والمحلية وكذلك مع الأفراد النشطين في مجال حقوق الإنسان وتقوم بتوثيق انتهاكات حقوق المرأة واضطهادها على مستوى العالم وتعمل على عكس مثل هذه الانتهاكات على الرأي العام العالمي وحشد الجهود الدولية وحثها على اتخاذ مواقف إيجابية حيال ذلك ومشاهدة المؤسسات الدولية لدعم الجهود المحلية المعبودة من أجل حقوق المرأة وكذلك تعمل على القيام بحملات توعية نيابة عن النساء التي يعلن من جراء انتهاكات حقوق الإنسان لدعم قضاياهن. هذا بالإضافة إلى أن منظمة المساواة الآن تعمل على إثارة قضايا تعترض خارج المعايير الدولية لحقوق الإنسان مثال ذلك المتاجرة بالنساء، الاضطهاد الأسرى، استحداث حقوق إضافية وصور الخفض الجنسي للنساء.

The Women's Action Network

RÉSUMÉ

À la fin de l'année 1993, le réseau consistait de près de mille groupes et individus dans 25 pays dans le monde qui répondent aux appels au nom des femmes individuelles, participent à des campagnes sur des questions plus générales relatives aux femmes et disséminent des renseignements sur le statut des femmes et les violations des droits individuels dans leurs pays par l'intermédiaire du réseau. Grâce au réseau d'Action Femmes, Egalité Maintenant a abordé les questions de droits de reproduction, d'asile politique basé sur le sexe de la personne, le viol comme arme de guerre et de génocide, la traite des femmes et la mutilation féminine génitale.

RESUMEN

Hasta fines del año 1993, la Red consistía de casi mil grupos e individuos en 25 países del mundo que realizan acciones en respuesta a violaciones de derechos humanos de mujeres individuales, participan en campañas sobre temas más amplios relacionados con la mujer y canalizan información sobre la situación de la mujer y violaciones a sus derechos humanos en sus países de vuelta a la Red. A través de la Red de Acción Mujeres, Igualdad Ya ha tratado los temas de derechos reproductivos, asilo político basado en el género, violación como un arma de guerra y genocidio, tráfico de mujeres, y mutilación genital femenina.

ملخص

بنتهاية عام ١٩٩٣ م توسعت شبكة عمل نشرة مواقفت المرأة لتضم قرابة الألف من منظمة الي افراد و تلك في ٢٥ قطر من مختلف انحاء العالم و الذين سبق ان قاموا بريدون فعل مختلفة اما بالكتابة نيابة عن نساء قد اثيرت قضاياهن او شاركوا في حملات قضايا المرأة للمنتسبة او تفضلوا بارسال معلومات حول وضع المرأة في اقطارهم من خلال قنوات شبكة عمل النشرة.

من جهة اخرى استطاعت منظمة المساواة الان من خلال شبكة عمل نشرة مواقفت المرأة اثاره قضايا هامة مثل استهداف بنود جديدة لحقوق المرأة و ضرورة منح حق اللجوء السياسي بناءا على التفرقة العنصرية على اساس الجنس (رجل و امرأة) وكذلك قضية الاغتصاب التي اصبحت احد اسلحة الحرب و وسيلة للابادة العرقية كما اثاره ايضا قضية الخفافض الضمسي للنساء.

The Women's Action Network is the core of Equality Now. As of year-end 1993, the Network consists of almost one thousand groups and individuals in twenty-five countries around the world who take action in response to appeals on behalf of individual women, participate in campaigns on broader women's issues, and channel information on the status of women and violations of human rights in their countries back through the Network. Equality Now has undertaken the following five Women's Actions to date:

- Reproductive Rights in Poland
- Gender-Based Political Asylum in Canada—The Case of Nada
- Systematic Rape and Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina
- Trafficking of Women to Japan: The Death of Maricris Sison
- UNICEF's Failure to Fund Efforts to Stop Female Genital Mutilation

All women's actions are issued in English, Spanish, French and Arabic to promote equal access to information and to facilitate grassroots participation.

Violence against women knows no borders

No society can be just that tolerates these abuses of human rights.

In Bosnia-Herzegovina, 24 women—the youngest age 12—were abducted from their village months ago by Serbian soldiers, USA TODAY reports this week. Raped as many as 30 times a day, 12 of the women finally managed to escape a few weeks ago. At least one—a 17-year-old girl—is pregnant as a result of the rapes. The 12 other women presumably remain captive—they still in danger of further abuse.

This is the latest atrocity of violence against women to come to the world's attention—but tragically, violence against women is systematic in countries around the world.

The international human rights movement must expand its agenda to oppose such violence against women, to oppose rape and other human rights violations which disproportionately harm women, with the same fervor and skill we use to defend other fundamental human rights.

The need is clear and urgent. Consider these incidents that have occurred in the past year:

- Kosovo, July 14, 1991, 300 schoolgirls at a boarding school in Metohija, the girls' dormitory, fire cutting the power line, then battering down the door. Seventy-one teen-age girls are raped, 19 girls in their attempt to escape, are

trampled to death in the stampede.

Joyce Kilbarr, vice principal of the school, explains afterward that "the boys never meant any harm against the girls. They just wanted to rape."

• India, Oct. 20, 1991. In tears, a young girl tells a judge, an affidavit who asks her why she is crying, that she is 10 years old and her father has forced her to marry the 60-year-old Saudi Arabian man sitting next to her, Yahya M. J. al-Saghi. He had rejected her older sister as dark and ugly and purchased her for the equivalent of \$20.

• Ireland, Jan. 27, 1992. A 14-year-old Irish girl tells her parents that she has been molested and raped by her best friend's father. Three days later, her pregnancy is confirmed. She threatens to kill herself rather than give birth, but the High Court issues an order forbidding her to leave the country for nine months, preventing her from traveling to England for an abortion.

A month later, the Supreme Court of Ireland revokes that order, but only because doctors who examined the girl confirm that she is capable of suicide if forced to carry the pregnancy to term.

These are only a few instances of abuses that result in the degradation, enslavement, injury and death of girls and women around the world—not occasionally but every day. Every single day.

In the United States, a victim is raped every six minutes. More than 4 million women are beaten and severely thrashed women murdered every year by their male partners.

More often than not, batterers, traffickers and rapists are not even prosecuted for crimes they've thought to have committed.

In many countries, in fact, their behavior is reinforced by official and quasi-official policy; their activities are not even considered criminal. Despite governments'

systematic failure to protect women from this violence, it has not been addressed as an international human rights issue.

The international human rights movement can help change the climate of indifference by working to stop these human rights violations. Litigation is often defended with arguments that the abuses are "non-governmental" or "culturally relative" or "personal" as opposed to "political."

But such distinctions don't mean much to the women who must endure these abuses. The pain they suffer is the same.

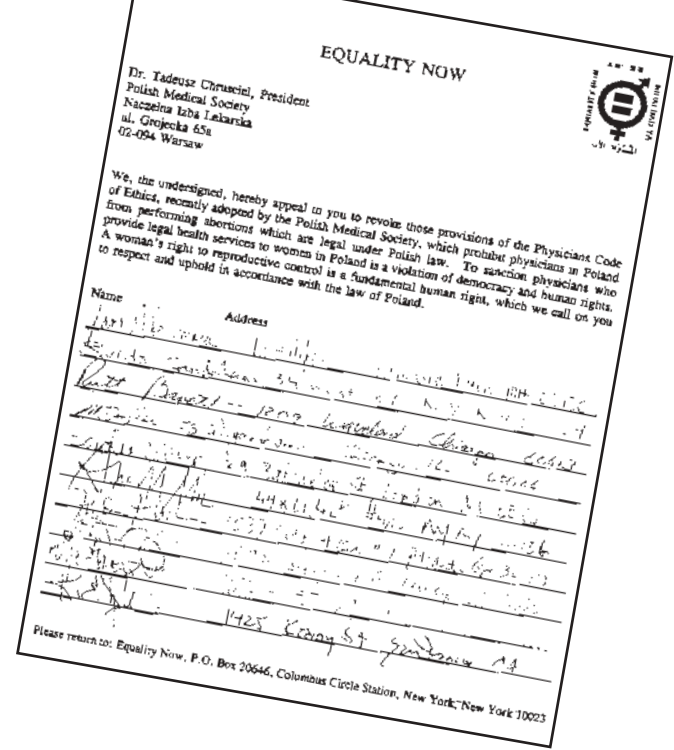
Governments have a fundamental obligation to protect their citizens equally. Let's remember the forgotten gender and address these human rights violations by putting names and faces to women raped and beaten in Bosnia and to all the world's victims of gender violence.

More importantly, let's act now to end violence against women.

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Reproductive Rights in Poland

MARCH-JULY 1992



In March 1992 Equality Now issued its first Women's Action, to protest the Polish Medical Society's revision of its Code of Ethics to prohibit doctors from performing abortions, even though abortion was legal in Poland. Equality Now targeted the medical profession in its Women's Action, calling on doctors and medical associations around the world to contact the Polish Medical Society and express opposition to the provisions of the new Code of Ethics which would impose sanctions on doctors for performing health services in accordance with Polish law. The Women's Action generated a number of letters from prominent doctors including the Dean of the Columbia University School of Public Health and the National Secretary for Health of the Pan Africanist Congress of Azania (South Africa). Despite the efforts of Equality Now and other groups in and outside Poland, the Polish legislature subsequently passed a law criminalizing abortion with a two-year prison sentence for doctors who perform abortions in all cases except when the pregnancy results from rape or incest, when the fetus is damaged, or when the mother's health or life is threatened. Equality Now has since been working with the Polish Federation for Women and Planned Parenthood, and with the International Planned Parenthood Federation, to consider how best to address the deteriorating situation with respect to reproductive rights in Poland.

RÉSUMÉ

En mars 1992, Egalité Maintenant a lancé leur première Action Femmes pour protester contre la révision du Code de déontologie de la Société Médicale Polonaise pour interdire aux médecins de pratiquer des avortements bien que l'avortement soit légal en Pologne. Malgré les efforts d'Egalité Maintenant et d'autres groupes en Pologne et à l'extérieur, la législature polonaise a passé par la suite une loi criminalisant l'avortement par une condamnation à deux ans de prison pour les médecins qui pratiquent des avortements dans tous les cas excepté lorsque la grossesse est due à un viol ou l'inceste, lorsque le fœtus est endommagé, ou lorsque la santé ou la vie de la mère est menacée.

RESUMEN

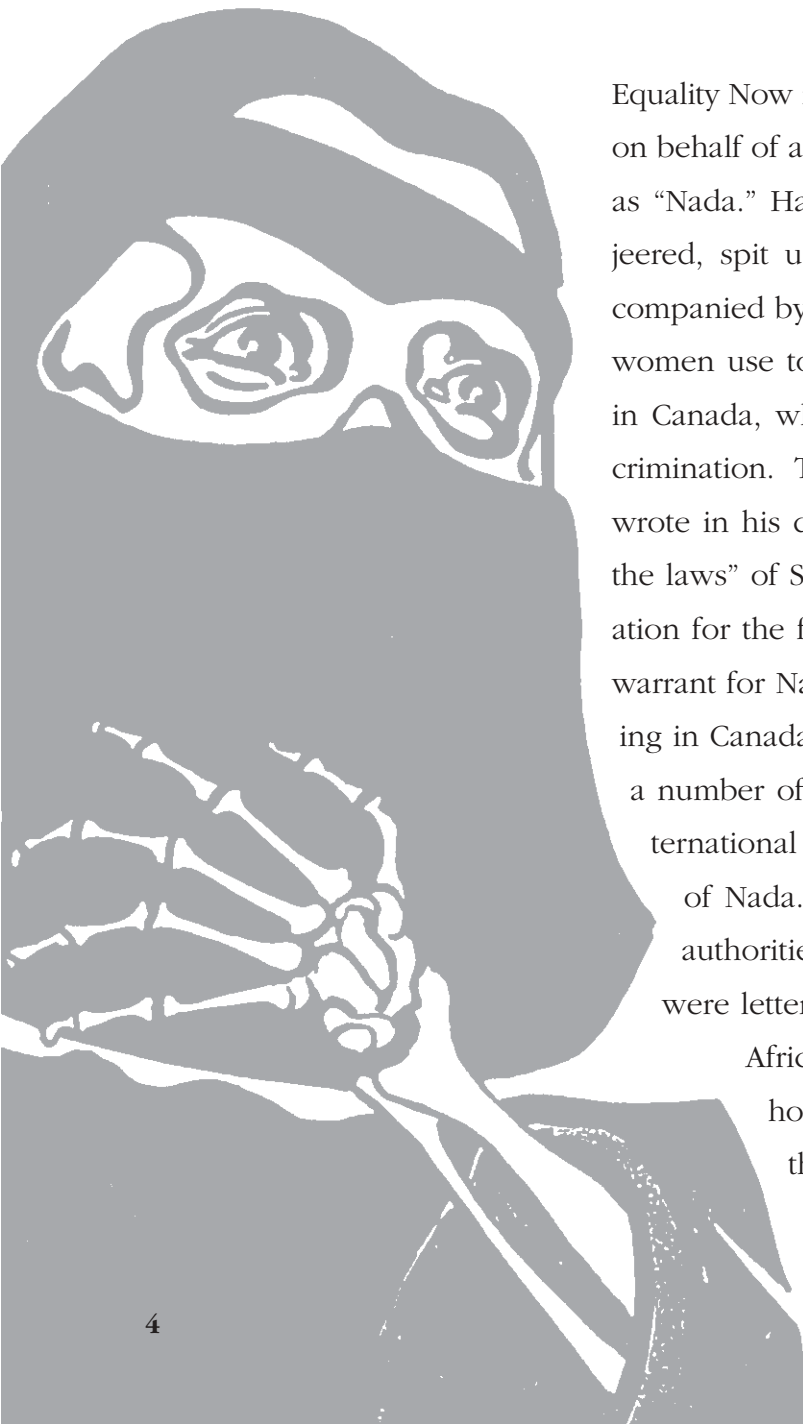
En marzo de 1992 Igualdad Ya publicó su primera Acción Mujeres para protestar la revisión del código de ética de la Sociedad Médica de Polonia destinada a prohibir que los doctores practiquen abortos, pese a que el aborto era legal en Polonia. A pesar de los esfuerzos de Igualdad Ya y de otros grupos, tanto dentro como fuera de Polonia, la asamblea legislativa de ese país aprobó posteriormente una ley que penaliza el aborto con una sentencia de dos años de prisión para los doctores que realizan abortos en todos los casos, excepto cuando el embarazo es resultado de una violación o incesto, cuando el feto está dañado, o cuando la vida o la salud de la madre está amenazada.

ملخص

اصدرت منظمة المساواة الان العدد الاول من نشرة (مواقف المرأة) في مارس عام 1992م وقد جاء في العدد احتجاج المنظمة على قرار رابطة الاطباء البولندية و الناض بتعديل لائحة القانون العرفي للرابطة ليضم فقرة تمنع الاطباء من اجراء عمليات الاجهاض رغم شرعية ذلك في القانون البولندي وبالرغم من الجهود التي بذلتها منظمة المساواة الان وبعض المنظمات الاخرى داخل وخارج بولندا الا ان السلطات التشريعية في بولندا وافقت على التعديل و خصصت فقرة تنص على العقوبة بالسجن لمدة عامين لاي طبيب يقوم باجراء عملية اجهاض ما عدا في الحالات التي يكون الحمل فيها قد جاء نتيجة لعملية اغتصاب او اكراه والتي يكون فيها الجنين قد تأثر من جراء ذلك او في حالة تعرض صحة الام او حياتها الى خطر.

Gender-Based Political Asylum in Canada

OCTOBER 1992-JANUARY 1993



Equality Now issued its second Women's Action in October 1992, on behalf of a Saudi Arabian woman in Canada known publicly as "Nada." Having fled Saudi Arabia where she was routinely jeered, spit upon, and pelted with stones for walking unaccompanied by a male in public, or for refusing to wear the veil women use to cover their faces, Nada sought political asylum in Canada, which she claimed on the grounds of gender discrimination. The Canadian judge who denied Nada's claim wrote in his decision that she would "do well to comply with the laws" of Saudi Arabia and that she should "show consideration for the feelings of her father." A deportation order and a warrant for Nada's arrest were issued, and Nada went into hiding in Canada. Equality Now, working with Nada's lawyer and a number of women's rights groups in Canada, added an international component to the Canadian campaign on behalf of Nada. Among the many letters of protest to Canadian authorities generated by Equality Now's Women's Action were letters from the Women Lawyers Association of South Africa, the Federation for Women and Planned Parenthood in Poland, and the Association of the Bar of the City of New York. Equality Now also generated international publicity on the case, and an Equality Now op-ed published in the *Christian Science*

Monitor was noted by several Canadian Parliamentarians. When in January 1993 Canadian authorities announced their decision to allow Nada to remain in Canada, concern for Canada's international reputation was cited as a factor. Following this case, the Canadian Government introduced national guidelines to facilitate the consideration of gender-based claims to political asylum.

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THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

A Test of Canada's Gender Equality

By Jessica Newirth

A SAUDI Arabian woman known publicly as Nada is in hiding in Canada. A warrant for her arrest has been issued. If arrested, Nada will be deported to Saudi Arabia, where like all women in Saudi Arabia she has been forced to live her life as a second-class citizen.

In rejecting Nada's claim to refugee status on the basis of gender discrimination, the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board Commissioner Loris Dorion suggested that Nada would "do well to comply with the laws of general application she criticizes... or to show consideration for the feelings of her father who, like all the members of his large family, were opposed to her liberation of his daughter."

The laws that Commissioner Dorion recommended to Nada prohibit her, because she is a woman, from standing what she wants. They compel her, because she is a woman, to cover her head, face, and body in public at all times and to be accompanied in public at all times by a man or boy of the household.

Nada is a strong and independent woman. In Saudi Arabia, Nada was persecuted by almost constant ridicule, threats of violence, and violence because she refused to wear the veil women use to cover their faces and because she often walked unescorted in the streets of her town. Men would jeer, spit, and throw rocks at her.

She was also harassed on several occasions by the *Mutawwin*, religious authorities who patrol the streets carrying sticks with which they beat women who are not sufficiently modest in dress or manner. These authorities are legally empowered by the state to detain suspects. The *Mutawwin* have been known to threaten women with an "inspection of virginity" for violating the dress code or for being seen in public with men who are not their fathers, brothers, or husbands.

Finally, unable to live anywhere under such oppressive conditions, Nada decided to leave Saudi Arabia. It took her three years to get a passport, and she had to get the country's permission by her brother. When she arrived in Canada on April 5, 1991, Nada requested asylum as a refugee on the basis of gender discrimination. In a statement to the Immigration and Refugee Board, Nada wrote: "I am being trapped in a situation similar to death. Why can't I regain my dignity and personal integrity as a woman and as a human being somewhere else where that is possible?"

The answer to Nada's question, in short, is that gender discrimination is not what Canadian authorities consider to be a question of human rights. Human rights activists who have defied oppressive regimes are generally considered to be refugees when they leave their country as a result of persecution for their activism.

YET the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board ruled that Nada did not qualify as a refugee. Her belief in gender equality was not considered to be a "political opinion." One of the reasons the Ministry gave to Nada's attorney for refusing to allow her to stay in Canada was that the Canadian government does not want to criticize the Saudi government.

There has been no reluctance on the part of the Canadian government to criticize the Republic of South Africa for its racial apartheid. Why the reluctance to criticize the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for its gender apartheid?

Isn't gender discrimination as abhorrent as racial discrimination? The restrictions placed on women in Saudi Arabia constitute blatant discrimination, in violation of fundamental international legal principles of equality enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and many other United Nations treaties on human rights.

Canada's own Charter of Rights and Freedoms provides that all persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law without discrimination based on race, ethnic origin, religion, or gender. If Nada's claim of persecution had been based on grounds of race, ethnic origin, or religion, would she have been granted refugee status by the Canadian Immigration and Refugee Board? It's not too late for the Canadian government to right this wrong and demonstrate its commitment to gender equality.

■ Jessica Newirth is director of Equality Now, a New York-based international human rights group.

RÉSUMÉ

En octobre 1992, Egalité Maintenant a lancé leur deuxième Action Femmes, pour le compte d'une femme d'Arabie Saoudite au Canada, connue publiquement sous le nom de «Nada». S'étant enfuie d'Arabie Saoudite, Nada a demandé l'asile politique au Canada, qu'elle a réclamé sur des motifs de discrimination sexuelle. Egalité Maintenant, travaillant avec l'avocate de Nada et un certain nombre de groupes de droits de la femme au Canada, ont ajouté un aspect international à la campagne canadienne au nom de Nada. Lorsqu'en janvier 1993, les autorités canadiennes ont annoncé leur décision de permettre à Nada de rester au Canada, la préoccupation de la réputation internationale du Canada a été citée comme un facteur.

RESUMEN

En octubre de 1992 Igualdad Ya publicó su segunda Acción Mujeres, en favor de una mujer de Arabia Saudita que vive en Canadá, conocida públicamente como "Nada". Después de escapar de Arabia Saudita, Nada buscó asilo político en Canadá sobre la base de discriminación por su género. Igualdad Ya, a través de su trabajo con el abogado de Nada y con varios grupos locales de derechos de la mujer, agregó un componente internacional a la campaña canadiense en su defensa. Cuando en enero 1993 las autoridades canadienses anunciaron su decisión de permitir que Nada permanezca en el país, la preocupación por la reputación internacional de Canadá fue mencionada como uno de los factores que influyeron en la decisión.

ملخص

في أكتوبر ١٩٩٢م أصدرت منظمة المساواة الآن عددها الثاني من نشرة (مواقف المرأة) والذي أثار فيه قضية امرأة من المملكة العربية السعودية قدمت إلى كندا وتعرف باسم ندى والتي كانت قد هربت من المملكة العربية السعودية وتقدمت بطلب إلى السلطات الكندية لمنحها حق اللجوء السياسي معاملة طلبها هذا باضطهادها من جراء التفرقة التمييزية على أساس الجنس (رجل و امرأة) الشيء الذي تنص عليه كل القوانين في المملكة العربية السعودية هذا وقد تعاونت منظمة المساواة الآن مع المحامي الذي تولى قضية السيدة ندى وكذلك مع منظمات حقوق المرأة في كندا وذلك في إطار الحملة العالمية التي يبارت بها المنظمات الكندية لدعم قضية السيدة ندى.

في عام ١٩٩٢م أصدرت السلطات الكندية قرار تم بموجبه السماح للسيدة ندى بالبقاء في كندا وقد اكتسب هذا القرار السلطات الكندية سمعة عالمية طيبة في سجل حقوق الإنسان.

Systematic Rape and Genocide in Bosnia-Herzegovina

FEBRUARY 1993-PRESENT

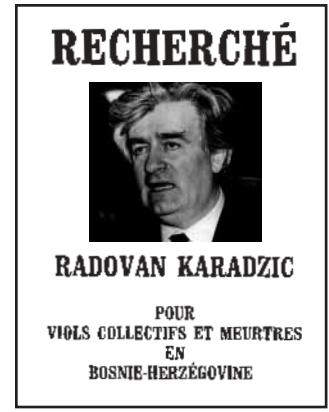
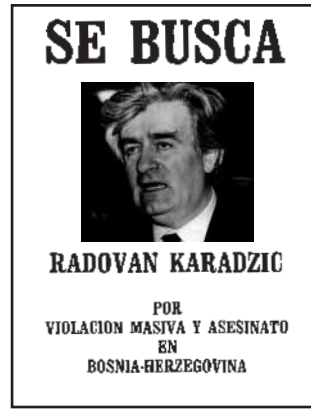
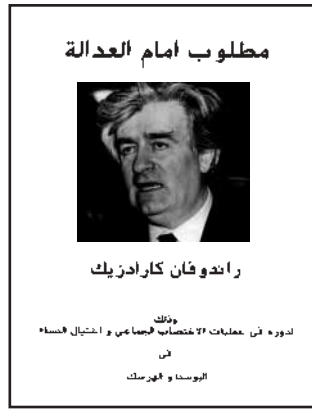
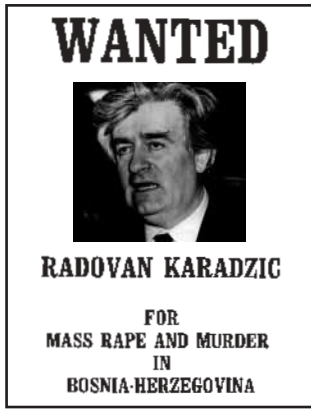
One of the soldiers, a man around 30, ordered me into the house. He told me to undress. I was terribly afraid.... I closed my eyes. He did it to me. I cried.... I had been a virgin. He went out and invited two other soldiers to come in. I cried. The two repeated what the first had done to me. I didn't even know when they left. I stayed there, lying on the floor alone in a pool of blood.

—A 16-YEAR-OLD MUSLIM GIRL

In February 1993 Equality Now sent its first mission, consisting of Vice-Chair Feryal Gharahi, a Muslim lawyer, and Nicaraguan activist Bianca Jagger, to Croatia and Bosnia-Herzegovina to investigate the systematic use of rape and forced pregnancy by Serbian forces in the genocidal campaign of “ethnic cleansing.” Equality Now’s mission delegates met with refugee women and women’s groups in Bosnia and Croatia, with Bosnian government authorities, and with officials representing the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and other relief agencies providing refugee services. Based on their findings, Equality Now’s mission delegates testified in Congress at hearings organized by the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, co-chaired by Senator DeConcini and Con-



PHOTO: FERYAL GHARAH AND BIANCA JAGGER ON EQUALITY NOW'S FIRST MISSION TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA WITH UNHCR OFFICIALS AND REFUGEE CHILDREN.



gressman Hoyer. Equality Now also issued its third Women's Action, calling on the United Nations to take immediate action to stop the rape and killing in Bosnia. The Women's Action included a "Wanted" poster highlighting the role of Radovan Karadzic, leader of the Bosnian Serbs, in using rape and forced pregnancy as an official weapon of war, carried out under orders. The poster has been widely used by other human rights groups, and was enlarged by one group and draped over the front entrance of the UN Human Rights Conference held in June 1993 in Vienna. Led by Vice-Chair Feryal Gharahi, Equality Now's campaign on Bosnia brought the findings of its mission to the attention of the public through newspaper, radio, and television interviews, public rallies, university campus events, and conferences. In June 1993, in the face of media silence on the use of rape in Bosnia, Feryal Gharahi returned to Croatia on behalf of Equality Now and traveled to the border of Bosnia-Herzegovina for a first-hand update on the situation. Her findings on the continuing systematic use of rape formed the basis of Equality Now's Women's Action Update issued in June 1993. In October 1993, at the request of the United Nations War Crimes Commission, Equality Now undertook the recruitment of volunteer women attorneys to gather evidence of rape and sexual assault in Bosnia on behalf of the UN Commission.

RÉSUMÉ

En février 1993, Egalité Maintenant a envoyé sa première mission comprenant leur Vice-Présidente Feryal Gharahi, avocate musulmane, et la militante Bianca Jagger en Croatie et en Bosnie-Herzégovine pour enquêter sur l'emploi de viol collectif et de grossesse forcée par les forces serbes dans la campagne génocide de «purification ethnique». Se basant sur les constatations de leur mission, Egalité Maintenant a lancé leur troisième Action Femmes exigeant une action immédiate pour arrêter le viol et la tuerie en Bosnie et soulevant le rôle de Radovan Karadzic, chef des serbes bosniaques, dans ces atrocités.

RESUMEN

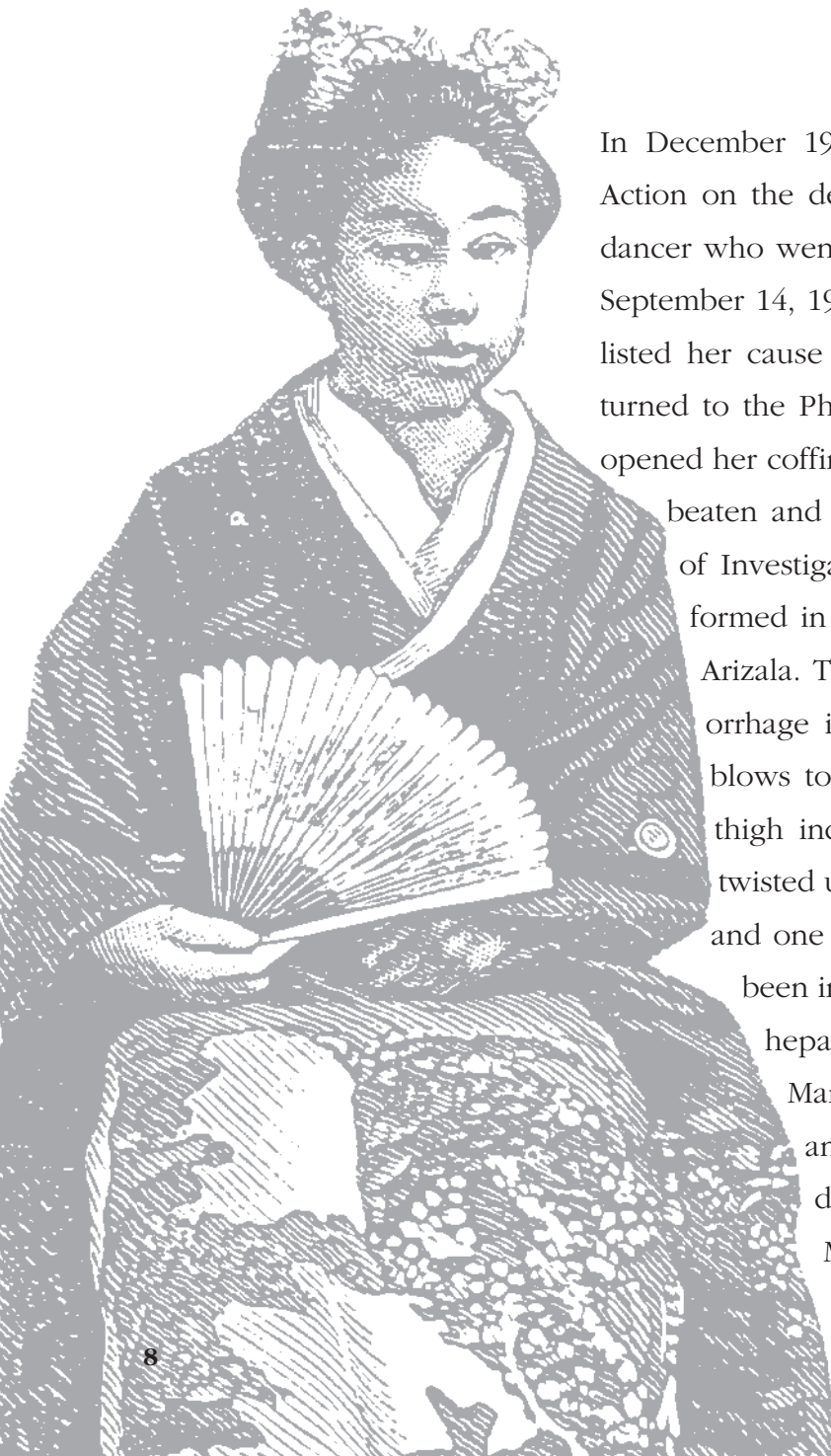
En febrero de 1993 Igualdad Ya envió su primera misión, integrada por su vicepresidenta, la abogada musulmana Feryal Gharahi, y la activista nicaragüense, Bianca Jagger, a Croacia y Bosnia-Herzegovina a investigar el uso de violaciones masivas y embarazos forzados por parte de las tropas serbias en la campaña genocida de "depuración étnica". Basada en los hallazgos de esta misión, Igualdad Ya publicó su tercera Acción Mujeres llamando a la acción inmediata para detener las violaciones y asesinatos en Bosnia y dar a conocer al mundo el rol de Radovan Karadzic, líder de los serbios bosnios, en estas atrocidades.

ملخص

أوفدت منظمة المساواة الآن في فبراير ١٩٩٣م أول وفد لها إلى كل من كرواتيا و البوسنيا و الهرسك و قد ضم في عضويته السيدة فريال جهاهي رئيسة المنظمة و هي محامية مسلمة و السيدة بيانكا جاجير و هي من نيكاراجوا و مدافعة نشطة عن حقوق المرأة و ذلك بغرض التحري في عمليات الاغتصاب الجماعي و الاكراه على الحمل بواسطة قوات الصرب في إطار مخطط حكومة الصرب للإبادة العرقية و التطهير العرقي للمسلمي البوسنا و بناء على تقرير الوفد اصدرت منظمة المساواة الآن عندها الثالث من نشرة (مواقف المرأة) حثت فيه المجتمع الدولي باتخاذ موقف عاجل وحاسم لايقاف عمليات القتل و الاغتصاب الجماعي في البوسنا و سلطت الضوء بصفة خاصة على راندوفان كارادزيك قائد قوات الصرب لنوره المباشر في هذه العمليات العنصرية.

Trafficking of Women to Japan: The Death of Maricris Sioson

DECEMBER 1993-PRESENT



In December 1993 Equality Now issued its fourth Women's Action on the death of Maricris Sioson, a 22-year-old Filipina dancer who went to work in Japan in 1991 and died there on September 14, 1991. On her death certificate, Japanese doctors listed her cause of death as hepatitis, and her body was returned to the Philippines. When the family of Maricris Sioson opened her coffin for the funeral, they found that she had been beaten and stabbed. They requested the National Bureau of Investigation to conduct an autopsy, which was performed in Manila on October 4, 1991 by Dr. Floresto P. Arizala. The autopsy findings included a subdural hemorrhage in the cerebral cortex, presumably caused by blows to the head, and two stab wounds, one in the thigh indicating that a double-edged blade had been twisted upward, downward and diagonally in the flesh, and one in the genital area indicating that a blade had been inserted vertically. Dr. Arizala found evidence of hepatitis in early stages, but identified the cause of Maricris Sioson's death as traumatic head injuries, and not hepatitis as claimed on her Japanese death certificate. Despite forensic evidence that Maricris Sioson was killed, the Japanese police took the position that she died as a result of



MARICRIS SIOSON

natural causes, and no one was ever charged or tried in connection with her death. In October 1993 Equality Now board member Surita Sandosham met in the Philippines with the doctor who had conducted the autopsy of Maricris Sioson. Equality Now also enlisted Dr. Fred Jordan, the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Oklahoma, as an independent expert to review the medical records relating to Maricris Sioson's death. His conclusion, after review, was that the death should have been classified as a homicide. Equality Now's Women's Action, which was researched and written in consultation with the BATIS Center for Women in the Philippines and the HELP Asian Women's Shelter in Japan, calls on Japanese authorities to investigate the death of Maricris Sioson and to prosecute those responsible. It is also intended to highlight the vulnerability of the tens of thousands of Filipino women working in Japan's entertainment industry.

natural causes, and no one was ever charged or tried in connection with her death. In October 1993 Equality Now board member Surita Sandosham met in the Philippines with the doctor who had conducted the autopsy of Maricris Sioson. Equality Now also enlisted Dr. Fred Jordan, the Chief Medical Examiner of the State of Oklahoma, as an independent expert to review

RÉSUMÉ

En décembre 1993, Egalité Maintenant a publié sa quatrième Action Femmes concernant la mort de Maricris Sioson, une danseuse philippine de 22 ans qui est allée travailler au Japon en 1991 et qui est morte là-bas le 14 septembre 1991. Les médecins japonais ont indiqué la cause de sa mort comme étant une hépatite, mais lorsque son corps a été renvoyé aux Philippines, des signes visibles montrant qu'elle avait été battue et poignardée ont conduit à une autopsie qui a découvert que des lésions traumatiques à la tête étaient la cause de sa mort. Action Femmes d'Egalité Maintenant a fait appel aux autorités japonaises pour enquêter sur la mort de Maricris Sioson et pour poursuivre ceux qui en sont responsables.

RESUMEN

En diciembre de 1993, Igualdad Ya publicó su cuarta Acción Mujeres sobre la muerte de Maricris Sioson, una bailarina filipina de 22 años que fue a trabajar a Japón en 1991 y murió en ese país el 14 de septiembre de 1991. Los doctores japoneses reportaron la causa de su muerte como hepatitis, pero cuando su cuerpo fue devuelto a las Filipinas, signos visibles de que había sido golpeado y acuchillado llevaron a hacer una nueva autopsia. En ésta se encontró que las causas de la muerte eran heridas traumáticas en la cabeza. La Acción Mujeres de Igualdad Ya hace un llamado a las autoridades japonesas para investigar la muerte de Maricris Sioson y enjuiciar a los responsables.

ملخص

في ديسمبر ١٩٩٣ م أصدرت منظمة المساواة الآن العدد الرابع من نشرة (مواقف المرأة) أو الذي أشارت فيه حادثة اغتيال الأنسة مازسريز سيسيون البالغة من العمر ٢٢ عاماً و هي فلبينية الجنسية ذهبت الى اليابان في عام ١٩٩١ م بغرض العمل هناك و قد توفيت في ١٤ سبتمبر ١٩٩١ م و قد جاء في التقرير الطبي الياباني ان سبب الوفاة كان نتيجة الاصابة بعرض اليرقان و لكن عندما ارسل الجثمان الى نيوها وفتح بغرض التجهيز لمراسم الدفن وجد ان هنالك علامات ضرب و طعنات مدية حادة مما استدعى نيوها الى ارسال الجثمان الى المشرحة و قد جاء تقرير الطبيب هذه المرة ان هنالك جروح عميقة في الرأس هي التي سببت الوفاة . هذا و قد طالبت منظمة المساواة الآن السلطات اليابانية باجراء عملية تحري شاملة في حادثة اغتيال الأنسة مازسريز سيسيون و تقديم من تثبت ادانتهم الى المحاكمة.

UNICEF's Failure to Fund Efforts to Stop Female Genital Mutilation

NOVEMBER 1993-PRESENT

However much a little girl may want to be excised because all other girls of her own age have been done, or because she has been persuaded that it is the right thing to have done, this does not mean that she doesn't suffer excruciating pain. Similarly she feels that violence is being done to her body; she is conscious of suffering a physical injury, of being maimed in some way. Whatever other people may claim, what she experiences is a mutilation...

—AWA THIAM
BLACK SISTERS SPEAK OUT

Female genital mutilation is the focus of Equality Now's fifth Women's Action, issued in November 1993. An estimated one hundred million girls and women around the world have undergone female genital mutilation, a practice which takes different forms in different countries ranging from circumcision of the clitoris to removal of all external genitalia. For the girls and women who survive these procedures, the lifelong health consequences include chronic infection; severe pain and suffering during urination, menstruation, sexual intercourse, and child-





A CHILD'S DRAWING, USED FOR A T-SHIRT CAMPAIGN IN THE GAMBIA TO STOP FEMALE CIRCUMCISION.

birth; and indelible psychological trauma. The practice of female genital mutilation is prevalent in a number of African countries, as well as some Asian countries, and among immigrant populations in Europe and North America. In May 1993 Equality Now reviewed British and Swedish legislation and commented on draft United States legislation criminalizing female genital mutilation. Although female genital mutilation is practiced in the name of tradition and culture in many countries, many grassroots women's organizations in these countries are fighting within the same tradition and culture to eradicate female genital mutilation. After consultation with the London-based group FORWARD and with other groups and individuals who have long been campaigning against this human rights violation, Equality Now issued its Women's Action, calling on UNICEF to provide greater funding for efforts to stop genital mutilation of girls. The Women's Action followed a "Day One" report aired in September 1993 by the American television network ABC, in which the Executive Director of UNICEF acknowledged that of the \$922 million budget of UNICEF, only several hundred thousand dollars are spent on these efforts. As of the end of 1993, the campaign to increase these funds has generated letters and petitions to UNICEF from groups and individuals around the world.

RÉSUMÉ

En novembre 1993, Egalité Maintenant a lancé leur cinquième Action Femmes demandant à l'UNICEF d'accorder plus de fonds dans le but d'éliminer la mutilation génitale. On estime que 100 millions de fillettes et de femmes dans le monde ont subi une forme ou autre de mutilation féminine génitale. La pratique de la mutilation féminine génitale est répandue dans un certain nombre de pays africains ainsi que dans quelques pays asiatiques et parmi les populations d'immigrés en Europe et en Amérique du Nord. Depuis la fin de 1993, la campagne pour accroître ces fonds a produit des lettres et des pétitions adressées à l'UNICEF provenant de groupes et d'individus dans le monde entier.

RESUMEN

En noviembre de 1993 Igualdad Ya publicó su quinta Acción Mujeres haciendo un llamado a la UNICEF para que ésta aumente el financiamiento a los esfuerzos para detener la mutilación genital femenina. Aproximadamente 100 millones de niñas y mujeres alrededor del mundo han sufrido mutilación genital femenina. Esta práctica prevalece en varios países africanos, al igual que en algunos países asiáticos y entre las poblaciones inmigrantes de Europa y América del Norte. Al final de 1993, la campaña para aumentar estos fondos ha generado cartas y peticiones a UNICEF de grupos e individuos alrededor del mundo.

ملخص

صدرت منظمة المساواة الآن العدد الخامس من نشرة (مواقف المرأة) في نوفمبر ١٩٩٣ م حول عادة الخفافض الجنسي للنساء و قد طالبت فيه منظمة اليونيسيف بتخصيص دعم مالي معتبر لتمويل الجهود التي تبذل لمحاربة هذه العادة، حيث إن هنالك حوالي ١٠٠ مليون من امراة الى فتاة قد تم خفافضهن على مستوى العالم و بصفة خاصة تنتشر هذه العادة في عدد من الاقطار الافريقية و بعض الاقطار الاسيوية و في لوساط المهاجرين في اوربا وامريكا الشمالية هذا و بنهاية عام ١٩٩٣م تم ارسال عدة خطابات و عرائض الى منظمة اليونيسيف عن قبل افراد و مجموعات تطالب فيها المنظمة بضرورة زيادة الميزانية المخصصة لمحاربة هذه العادة.

Board of Directors

PHOTOS: (TOP) FERYAL GHARAHİ ON AN EQUALITY NOW MISSION TO BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA. (BOTTOM) EQUALITY NOW BOARD MEMBERS AT THE 1993 ANNUAL MEETING.



TAINA BIEN-AIMÉ

Taina Bien-Aimé holds a Juris Doctor from New York University School of Law and a *Licence* in Political Science from the University of Geneva/Graduate School of International Studies, Switzerland. From 1985 to 1988, she worked for the African-American Institute as a Program Assistant and Officer in Education and Training. She is currently practicing international corporate law at a New York-based international law firm.

FERYAL GHARAHİ

Feryal Gharahi holds a Bachelor of Science in nuclear engineering from Oregon State University and a Juris Doctor from Georgetown Law School. She worked for seven years as an engineer at Bechtel Corporation and Stone & Webster prior to returning to Georgetown for a law degree. She is currently practicing as a criminal defense lawyer in Washington, DC.

JACQUI HUNT

Jacqui Hunt holds a Bachelor of Science (Honors) in Linguistic and International Studies from the University of Surrey and a Master of

Science in International Relations from the London School of Economics. She worked for seven years at Amnesty International, in the International Secretariat in London and in various capacities for Amnesty International USA. She then studied law at the College of Law, London, and is currently working at an international law firm in London.

JESSICA NEUWIRTH

Jessica Neuwirth holds a Juris Doctor from Harvard Law School and a Bachelor of Arts in History from Yale University. From 1985 to 1990, she worked for Amnesty International in various capacities, including as first Chair of Amnesty International USA's Women and Human Rights Task Force. From 1990-1993 she worked at a New York-based international law firm, specializing in international finance for developing countries. She is currently practicing law part-time in New York, in the field of trusts and estates.

NAVANETHEM (NAVI) PILLAY

Navi Pillay holds a Bachelor of Law from Natal University, a Masters of Law and a Doctorate in Juridical Science from Harvard University. She has been practicing law in Durban, South Africa relating to human rights and prisoners' rights and has acted in political trials for trade unionists and members of the African National Congress, the Unity Movement and the Black Consciousness Movement. Navi Pillay is co-founder of the South African Advice Desk for Abused Women and co-author of *Violence Against Women—Their Legal Rights and Remedies*.

SURITA SANDOSHAM

Surita Sandosham holds a Bachelor of Arts (Honors) in Political Science and History from London University, School of Oriental and African Studies, and a Diploma in Law from City University, London. She is a Barrister-at-Law admitted in Gray's Inn, London, and is also qualified to practice law in the jurisdictions of Singapore and the State of New York. In 1990 she joined Amnesty International USA as Legal and Policy Advisor and is currently serving as Deputy Executive Director for Finance and Administration.



Advisory Council

VERONICA DE NEGRI

Verónica De Negri was arrested, “disappeared,” and held in a concentration camp in Chile after the coup d’état in 1973. She was subsequently forced into exile and has since lived in the United States, where she has worked in community outreach and youth counseling in the Washington, DC metropolitan area. She is a former member of the Board of Directors of Amnesty International USA and is currently Director of the Rodrigo Rojas Fund, a fund dedicated to the memory of and justice for her son, who was burned to death at the age of 19 by soldiers of the Chilean Government, and to youth education on human rights issues.

JEWELLE TAYLOR GIBBS

Jewelle Taylor Gibbs has been a member of the faculty of the University of California at Berkeley since 1979 and is now a Professor in the School of Social Welfare. Her publications include *Young, Black and Male in America: An Endangered Species* (editor) and *Children of Color: Psychological Interventions with Minority Youth* (co-author). She serves on the Council of Advisers of the National Center for Children in Poverty and as a board member of the Northern California Steering Committee of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

JOHN G. HEALEY

John G. Healey served as Executive Director of Amnesty International USA from 1981 to 1993. He was Executive Producer of both the 1986 “Conspiracy of Hope” tour and the 1988 international “Human Rights Now!” tour. Prior to his work for Amnesty International, he served as Director of the Peace Corps in Lesotho, Africa. He has also worked as Program Director for the Center of Community Change and Director of the American Freedom from Hunger Foundation.

GLORIA STEINEM

Gloria Steinem is a writer, editor and feminist organizer. She is currently an editorial consultant and writer for *Ms. Magazine*, which she co-founded in 1972. Her publications include *Revolution from Within: The Book of Self-Esteem*, *Outrageous Acts and Everyday*

Rebellions and Marilyn: Norma Jeane. She serves as a board member or advisor for the Ms. Foundation for Women, the National Women’s Political Caucus, Voters for Choice, and the Coalition of Labor Union Women.

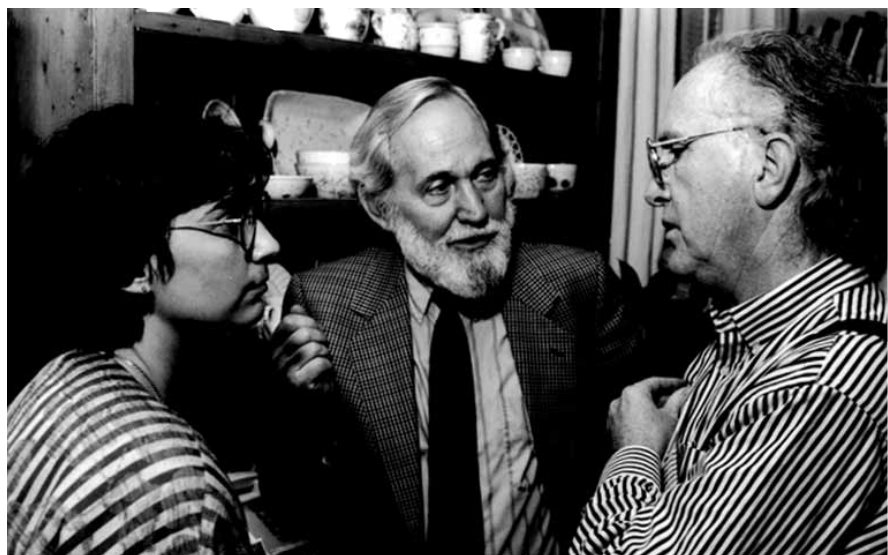
ROSE STYRON

Rose Styron is a writer, poet and human rights activist. She has been a board member of Amnesty International USA and the P.E.N. American Center and currently serves on the boards of Helsinki Watch, America’s Watch, the Fund for Free Expression, the Lawyer’s Committee for Human Rights, the Rainforest Foundation, and the New York Foundation for the Arts. She is on the advisory boards of the Foundation for National Progress (*Mother Jones*), National Institute (*The Nation*), and the *American Poetry Review*.

LIZ YOUNG

Liz Young is an international relations specialist. She works for the Corporate Research & Planning Department of the Washington Office of Mazda. She serves as a board member for Mazda Foundation USA and is on the advisory board of Outward Bound in North Carolina.

PHOTOS: (TOP) VERONICA DE NEGRI DISCUSSES EQUALITY NOW VIDEOTAPE OF EFUA DORKENOO, FOUNDER OF FORWARD, DESCRIBING THE PRACTICE OF FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION. (BOTTOM) JESSICA NEUWIRTH WITH WOMEN’S ACTION NETWORK MEMBER ANDREW BLANE AND JACK HEALEY AT EQUALITY NOW’S LAUNCH RECEPTION IN NEW YORK.



Friends of Equality Now



The board and staff of Equality Now would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their advice, encouragement, support, and participation in the launch of Equality Now:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Deborah Ashford | Jewelle Taylor Gibbs | Michael Neuwirth |
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| Cherif Bassiouni | Jennifer Green | Mildred Newman |
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| | Sarah Nall-Lono | Constance Wynne |
| | Gloria S. Neuwirth | Liz Young |

PHOTOS: (TOP) EFUA DORKENOO REVIEWING LETTERS WRITTEN BY WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK MEMBERS. (BOTTOM) KEITH GASSER DESIGNING A COMPUTER DATABASE FOR EQUALITY NOW.



Staff

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Efua Dorkenoo
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Cecilia Valdé1

S
Pierre Weill
Adil Yousif



PHOTOS: (TOP) ANOUCHKA ORENZOW PREPARING A QUARTERLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT. (BOTTOM, LEFT) KAREN BLOOM SIGNING UP A NEW MEMBER OF THE WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK. (BOTTOM, RIGHT) JESSICA NEUWIRTH WITH ELSA GEBREYESUS OF THE NATIONAL UNION OF ERITREAN WOMEN, FOLLOWING A WORKSHOP IN ASMARA ON WOMEN'S RIGHTS AS HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZED BY THE NATIONAL UNION AND THE WOMEN'S PROGRAM OF THE FUND FOR PEACE.

Financial Statements

Foundation Support 1992/1993

The Arca Foundation

The Bydale Foundation

The J. Roderick MacArthur
Foundation

The Joyce Mertz-Gilmore
Foundation

The Cissy Patterson Trust

The Fanny and Leo Koerner
Charitable Trust

The Tides Foundation
(Boca Lupo Fund)

Witness

CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET AND INCOME STATEMENT

	1992	1993
Assets		
Cash	\$ 27,756	\$ 41,167
Accounts Receivable	0	227
Fixed Assets (Net of Depreciation)	1,698	8,853
Other Assets	<u>0</u>	<u>929</u>
Total Assets	<u>29,454</u>	<u>51,176</u>
Liabilities and Fund Balances		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	1,265	2,838
Fund Balances	<u>28,189</u>	<u>48,338</u>
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances	<u>29,454</u>	<u>51,176</u>
<hr/>		
Support and Revenue		
Contributions	45,479	99,866
Donated Services and Fixed Assets	34,616	60,500
Other	<u>1,344</u>	<u>870</u>
Total Support and Revenue	<u>81,439</u>	<u>161,236</u>
Expenses		
Program Services	36,214	100,620
Management and General	4,862	19,655
Fundraising	<u>10,911</u>	<u>21,112</u>
Total Expenses	<u>51,987</u>	<u>141,387</u>
Excess Revenue	<u>29,452</u>	<u>19,849</u>

In Memoriam



LEE STEARNS

*The answers quick and keen,
the honest look, the laughter,
The love—*

EDNA ST. VINCENT MILLAY
