

3rd INTERNATIONAL Women's Peace Conference
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Thursday

Plan of Action Workshop

Poverty and Migration

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1. What we want to see in place by the end of 2010

2. Past Accomplishments

The first lady mechanic in Nigeria is teaching 63 women how to fix cars to provide for their economic independence

Public awareness

Human rights

Cooperation between organizations

Development of recruitment guidelines for skilled workers

Fundraising supporting organizations

Child health insurance

Law enforcement for better outcomes for refugees in Switzerland

Assisting international students to live and study in USA

"Health kits" for refugee center

Initiated "card check" for hotel workers

Better practice policies for refugees with in child welfare systems

Acknowledgement of migrant women workers

Immigration "academics" support for attaining legal citizenship

Financial management education and support

Network among stakeholders

Training and education

Public education: ESL, community colleges, job retraining

Welcoming church communities i.e. for Vietnamese

Cities absorbed (i.e. 35,000 Katrina evacuees in Dallas area)

Improved academic support in public schools (i.e. California) for ESL students

Water and aid for migrants in the desert southwest (USA)

Family literacy program

Building relationships

Sponsor refugees for 6 months

Give specific language lessons in work/job vocabulary

Economic empowerment of women has increased worldwide.

Guatemala widow's weaving co-op

Shelter programs

Poverty and Migration

1. Vision

Empower Women's Leadership

- More women in government leadership
- Recognition of the power of women
- Improved transportation systems-especially for women
- Women in decision-making processes

Protect Children

- UPE
- Child soldiers
- Trafficking
- Child Abuse
- Exploitation and sexual slavery
- Children in the workplace/sweatshops

Education and Training

- Total eradication of illiteracy for women and children by 2010
- Educated populace
- Ensure that all immigrant children graduate with strong skills in reading, writing and language skills.
- Provide comprehensive and affordable family planning and education.

Create Global Health Care

- Eliminate the AIDS epidemic
- Promote a healthy populace
- Support rural women's empowerment and reduced HIV/AIDS prevalence
- Reduce infant/child and maternal mortality

Require Economic Accountability

- Micro finance for women available in all countries
- Melt down guns used for violence to make tools to produce food
- Accountability from multinational companies (i.e. oil, diamond) working in developing countries
- Just and fair wages and job opportunities in home country
- Safe work environment

Develop Sustainable Communities

- Design and implement low tech, sustainable solutions to provide food, shelter and work so people may stay in their home countries, reducing migration
- Global programs to sustain the lives of women and children in refugee slums and camps
- Better and improved regulation in recruitment of skilled workers
- Universal database of resources

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Protect Human Rights With Policy

- Smart borders include family visits/contact, world ID and common currency
- Open flow of people, resources and information
- Application of “Beautiful Laws” to protect migrants and immigrants
- Passage of equitable immigration laws
- International and national laws to protect immigrants and children
- Protection of rights of internally displaced people

2. Current Reality

Strengths

- Connection to a “receptive” group
- Multi-ethnic church
- Strong commitment leads to caring and activism
- Women are experienced with change
- Able to focus to locate the economic base
- Will try anything: open minded, cooperative, collaborative

- Core group of women(North Texas Methodist) who are dedicated to service for marginalized women and children
- Courageous people
- Education skills
- Experience
- Passion for the issues
- Volunteers
- International exposure
- Advocacy
- Men education
- More skill acquisition for women

- Experience/wisdom living internationally
- Greater knowledge because of travel and media
- Committed faith community to social justice
- Knowledge of demographics
- Access to resources
- Second language

- Teachers
- Passion and excitement about these issues
- Community support
- Organizational skills and business background
- Vision and dreams for a better future
- Openness to others and different ideas
- To believe change is possible
- Tolerance and respect
- Love

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Weaknesses

- Difficulty countering fear mongering
- Trouble to convince others of my vision
- Language barrier
- Finding a logical way to bridge differences
- Strident in over-conviction
- Independent thinkers = long discussions but have hard time reaching consensus
- Lack of supreme focus

- Need more finances for programs/services
- Poorly informed
- Lack of resource
- Lack of preparation/training
- Overwhelmed (stretched too thin)
- Lack of multi- language skill
- Males lack education

- Single language
- Politics
- Overwhelmed by enormity of problem
- Impatience
- Access and skillful use of communication
- Physical isolation

- Afraid to take risks and aversion to change
- Fear of failure
- Procrastination
- Fear of losing what we have
- Lack of self-confidence
- Lack of energy
- Fear of rejection
- Lack of knowledge
- Indecision
- Not giving the voice to whom should have it
- Intimidation

Benefits

- Offer opportunity to “solve” problem
- Humanitarian, global economic issues

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- Working out a solid database to locate services and people in need
- Focus on common ground (know what you do well)
- Migration lends opportunity for world cultures knowledge

- Improved awareness of migration populations
- Financial benefits to realtors
- Overwhelming numbers crossing borders
- Increased members in diaspora community

- United Nations
- Technology and travel
- Exchange of students, volunteers, and other individuals
- Interfaith councils and other NGO's
- Good business practices
- Global development by governments and World Bank

- A sense of community
- Many forms of communication
- Knowledge
- Opportunity of jobs
- More global perspective
- Transfer of skills

Dangers

- Results from working with "haters" = more fear and hatred?
- We think small and need to include more
- Other cultures will take away our jobs and/or replace our values
- Undereducated migrants require more money for job training and economic independence

- Too many people, no services identified
- Crimes increase
- Security threat
- Economic threat
- Health issues
- Illegal drugs
- Human trafficking

- Political and policy barriers to immigration
- Exploitation and corruption by businesses and government
- Not in my neighborhood
- Misinformation and media overload
- Lack of political savvy
- Generational gap and apathy
- Ethnic and religious divisions

- Miscommunication

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- Prejudices and cultural biases
- Exploitation
- Complexity
- Complacency
- Failure of appreciation of different cultures
- “Brain drain”, “brain waste” and “brain gain”
- Isolation

5. Africa Group

Strengths

- Adaptability and adoptability
- Resilience/courage
- Abundant human and natural resources
- Climate and soil advantages
- Cultural diversity
- Extended family support

Weaknesses

- Poor leadership
- Lack of skills/capacity
- Corruption
- Mismanagement
- Gender insensitivity
- Patriarchalism
- Illiteracy
- Disease-polio, malaria, TB, HIV/AIDS
- Conflicts and war

Benefits

- Mutual exchange
- Transfer of skills, technology, education
- Improved standard of living
- Networking
- Partnerships
- Collaboration
- Integration

Dangers

- Local capacities/skills abandoned
- Breakdown in cultural values
- Discrimination
- Double standards
- Unrest/instability
- Induced conflicts
- Scramble for natural resources (oil, diamonds)

6. Strategic Actions

Provide Education and Training

- Recruit volunteers for literacy program

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- Educate and disseminate information on legislative and ESL issues
- Increase vocational skills of immigrants
- Educate citizens about immigration
- Teach English as a second language

Develop Economic Capacity

- Promote micro loans within my congregation
- Empower economics financing loan programs for women
- Teach business courses to women immigrants

Network

- Share best practices through exchange program/networking
- Learn about existing organizations and how to help
- Contact potential partners regarding immediate needs and programs

Organize

- Economic support for land reform in other countries
- Sensitization and awareness in communities

Disseminate

- Create awareness of child trafficking in Guatemala by sharing knowledge
- Write articles for newspapers

Mobilize

- Mobilize women by training women leaders in politics/legislation(TX, CAPWIP)
- Increase participation of women in peace negotiation process/post conflict countries
- Talk to legislators
- Organize local and state groups around immigration
- Mentor a refugee or asylee family
- Become a legislator to address migration/immigration issues
- Form bilingual community center to bring cultures together
- Eliminate detention centers (prisons) for immigrant children
- Develop "senior servants" (retired professionals for volunteer services abroad)
- Begin this process in local community by establishing a Community of Shalom a program developed and funded by UMC
- Help women in Darfur get funding for solar ovens in refugee camps

7. End of Day

Encouraged by:

International conversation

Re-sensitize to women across the world

Re-energized me

The energy, talent and diversity

Reform micro credit ideas

Generation of ideas

Realize others are sharing ideas

Able to voice African challenges

Came to this room as discouraged refugee from Kenya, in this room, my power was recognized.

Meeting my sisters from Africa as another African woman

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Inspired-the sum of our individual paths is greater than individual paths
Impressed with how involved everyone was
I wondered what I could learn- I realize it is just about everyone doing something
Was pleased by the process.
Proud of myself for standing up for myself and asking another person not to dominate.
Moved by all the people in the world.
I can acknowledge your ideas.

Frustrated by:

Not enough time when we were imagining-having to move to writing
A lot to do-hope we move forward
It's hard to deal with the fear!
Not enough time/volunteers
I need visibility, real resources to help in Africa
There is so much to do
I wish I could be her from the beginning. I arrived at 4:30PM from Sudan.

8. One thing I commit to doing

- Advocate for Peace with my church
- Contact representatives
- In congregation-see about helping Katrina victims
- Promote micro-loans
- Run for office
- Help with projects to help finance women to help themselves
- Work in my congregation to help address the bigotry in the US
- Revisit book "Progress and Prosperity" book by Henry George
- Speak and write to legislators
- Train girl child/be a role model
- I will feel the empowered place when I return to Austin. I see more to my role.
- I will create a conversation here forth with other African women from other countries.
- Approach church for finances on women's projects
- I will get more people involved-my friends at college-educating us to the policies and commit to each other and other women in the world.
- Talk to legislators, teach English, etc. (So many things to do!)
- I ask for help to understand the other women as I come to this situation as a white, US woman
- Committed to the women in Darfur

