



Greetings from Gender Action! In the last year we have been involved in many exciting projects and activities, have made Board changes, and face a challenge that we want to share with you. We hope you enjoy reading Gender Action's first semi-annual Update!

## **I. CURRENT PROJECTS**

Gender Action has a panoply of new projects to ensure that big International Financial Institution (IFI) investments promote and do not violate women's rights. Here are the highlights:

### **Gender Impacts of IFI Pipelines**

Gender Action and Central and Eastern European Bankwatch Network (CEE Bankwatch) are jointly exposing how European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and International Finance Corporation (IFC)-financed Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan and IFC-funded Sakhalin II pipeline projects have led to a dramatic rise in prostitution, human trafficking, HIV/AIDS, and violence against women. Our report, titled [Boom-Time Blues: Big Oil's Gender Impacts in Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Sakhalin](#), recommends ways the EBRD, IFC, and their corporate partners should remedy the tragic gendered impacts of their investments.

### **Gender Guide to World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) Economic Reforms**

By the end of this year we will publish this Gender Guide to provide tools to Southern citizen groups to conduct gender analyses of World Bank and IMF policy-based loans. These loans typically require poor countries to adopt policies that cut government expenditures, effectively choking social spending and deepening poverty particularly among women. We promote alternative macroeconomic policies based on country- and rights-centered approaches to development. Guide annexes include a toolkit for stakeholders to analyze sectoral and economic policies for gender equality.

### **IFI Gender Rights Accountability**

This project will help people harmed by gender discrimination in IFI projects take their complaints to IFI accountability mechanisms. Gender Action and our partner, the Center for International Environmental Law, are preparing a comparative guide on IFI gender policies and accountability mechanisms, including steps on how to take cases to each IFI accountability mechanism. In the future, we hope to offer assistance to Southern groups taking cases to the accountability mechanisms, and give them the tools to do so themselves.

### **Gendered Impacts of World Bank Post-Conflict Reconstruction (PCR) Programs**

We are finalizing a report detailing the extent to which World Bank-financed PCR operations address gender issues, recommending that IFI PCR projects systematically address rights violations and promote gender equality to make peace work. It builds on [The Gender Dimensions of Post-Conflict Reconstruction: The Challenges in Development Aid](#), by Marcia Greenberg and Elaine Zuckerman, published in June 2006 by the World Institute for Development Economics Research.

### **Anti-IMF Campaign**

Gender Action is a founding, active member of the first concerted global campaign against the IMF officially launched in September, 2006. IMF policy-based loans violate women's rights. For example, IMF-mandated tariff reductions undermine the livelihood of farmers, the majority of whom are women in the world's poorest countries. The campaign promotes citizen audits of IMF debts with parliamentary participation and alternative human rights-centered economic policies and financing mechanisms.

## **II. ACTIVITIES**

### **Coalition-Building**

This year Gender Action expanded its ties with citizens' groups around the world. We were the first women's rights organization invited to join the Jubilee USA Network campaign to cancel the crushing IFI debts of poor countries. We also joined the 50 Years Is Enough US Network for Global Economic Justice, a coalition dedicated to the profound transformation of the IFIs. 50 Years and other organizations including Action Aid International, and CEE Bankwatch requested Gender Action provide valuable gender dimensions into their work.

### **Gender Action's Report from the International Peoples' Forum**

Gender Action co-sponsored the International Peoples' Forum Against the World Bank and IMF that convened 700 activists. It was citizenry's response to the World Bank and IMF annual meetings in Singapore, a short ferry ride from Batam. Participants shared knowledge and strategized about how best to confront the powerful IFIs in workshops, panels, and plenary sessions. Gender Action's Programs Coordinator Suzanna Dennis received valuable feedback on Gender Action's projects, and established new partnerships with advocates working on the IFIs around the world.

### **Increasing Capacity Across the Globe**

Gender Action conducts capacity-building activities in response to demand from citizens' groups in the Global South to deconstruct IFI-driven projects and policies for gender impacts and conduct advocacy to ensure they empower and do not harm poor women and men. To date, Gender Action capacity-building workshops have taken place in Bangladesh, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Eritrea, Mozambique, Malawi, Mexico, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa and Thailand.

In the last year, Gender Action's President Elaine Zuckerman spoke about our work at American University, Syracuse University, Georgetown University, the Center for Development and Population Studies' workshop, WomenLead in Promoting Peace and Stability, the Philanthropy West Workshop Alumni Network in Menlo Park, California, the Chicago Global Donors Network 3rd Annual Conference on International Giving, the Fourth Non-governmental Organization Forum on International Environmental Cooperation in Kunming, China, and the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) Forum in Thailand.

We hope you can attend our [Boom Time Blues](#) -- gender impacts of IFI oil pipelines -- launch on November 29 at Washington DC's Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. Gender Action, the Heinrich Boell Foundation, and the Bank Information Center will co-sponsor this event. For details check [www.genderaction.org](http://www.genderaction.org).

## **III. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Gender Action welcomes our newest Board Member, Nicky McIntyre. Nicky brings to Gender Action nine years of experience as Vice President of Development and Communications at the Global Fund for Women. Irene Tinker, our founding Board member, graduated to emerita status. We thank outgoing Board Member Judy Mwangi for her valuable contributions over the last two years.

## **IV. CHALLENGES**

"Where is the Money for Women's Rights?," by the Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) and Just Associates, found that the majority of women's rights organizations have suffered serious declines in funding over the last five years. Elaine will participate in AWID's November 2006 meeting in Mexico to strategize on increasing funding for women's rights.

Gender Action's finances also fall short of our needs. We urgently need financial support *now* to continue our critical work. To provide assistance or advice on fundraising, please contact Elaine at [elainez@genderaction.org](mailto:elainez@genderaction.org).

With great appreciation for your support,

*Elaine Zuckerman*, President

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