



Gender Action has really taken off over the last six months! This fourth biannual update illustrates the ways in which Gender Action has been growing as an organization in size and achievements!

## **I. GROWTH**

Gender Action has doubled its staff in the last couple of months and is continuing to build its capacity to ensure that the rights of women, as well as men, are protected and not violated in the work of International Financial Institutions (IFIs).

### **New Staff**

Gender Action is very excited to introduce to you our three latest additions to the staff. As you will see, we feel very fortunate to have such talented and accomplished women on our team!

**Anna Rooke** joined us in February as the new **Programs Coordinator**. She has first-hand experience working on gender and development issues in Latin America and the United States. Before joining Gender Action, Anna spent time working in Ecuador, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic on issues such as adolescent women's reproductive health, women's legal rights and community-led development projects. Anna will soon receive her MSc with Distinction in "Gender, Development and Globalisation" from the London School of Economics and holds a BA Magna Cum Laude in "Women's Studies and Sociology" from Pomona College.

**Mande Limbu** joined us in March as our new **Project Director**. Mande just completed her doctoral studies at Cornell University, in 2007. Her dissertation was entitled, "Making Justice More Accessible to the Poor with a Special Focus on Women: Introducing Clinical Legal Education in Tanzania." Mande also received her LL.B from the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and her L.L.M. from Georgetown University. Mande has previously worked as a law and human rights consultant to the Policy Project of the Futures Group International, with CARE Tanzania as a Program Officer, and as a research assistant at the Ministry of Health Family Planning Unit in Tanzania.

**Katie Campbell**, who joined us in April, is Gender Action's new **Executive/Programs Assistant**. Katie comes to Gender Action from serving in the Peace Corps as a community health educator. As a high school senior Katie co-founded the non-profit organization Touching Hearts Inc. (THI). With THI she worked on projects to develop clean water sources, provide famine relief and start an orphanage in Malawi, Africa. She received the Raoul Wallenberg Humanitarian Award for her undergraduate thesis which demonstrated the resiliency of

orphaned children in Malawi. She graduated with Highest Distinction, Honors and a BA in Sociology from the University of Michigan.

## **II. VISIBILITY**

Gender Action is continuing to become more visible, allowing us to reach out to more potential partners and supporters around the world.

### **Coalition-Building**

As Gender Action rapidly expands with new staff and projects, we are also actively expanding and strengthening our IFI-watcher partnerships. In our new Gender Capacity Building Project, we are working in close consultation with six Financial Institution watchdog organizations: Bank Information Center (BIC); BankTrack; Bretton Woods Project (BWP); CEE Bankwatch; Global Transparency Initiative (GTI); and the NGO Forum on the ADB. Involving our IFI-Watcher partners in ensuring IFI investments work for poor women and men can vastly multiply Gender Action's effectiveness. We are excited to work with and learn from our partners as we all strive to 'engender' our goals, strategies and projects.

Gender Action also continues to work actively with the International Development Association (IDA) 15 Conditionalities Group to pressure the U.S. Congress and other parliaments to end all support for loans that require poor countries to adopt user fees for health services. Our coalitional work with Subgroup members Food and Water Watch, Jubilee USA, Environmental Defense, Global Unions, and the Friends Service Committee, among others, strengthens Gender Action's work to hold the IFI's accountable on their promises to reduce global poverty and promote economic and social equality.

### **Events**

Gender Action's "main event" over the past few months has been working to support our rapidly growing office and project portfolio. While in the middle of hiring new staff and launching three new projects, however, President Elaine Zuckerman spoke on February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2008 to the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights at Crowne Plaza, Crystal City, VA. Elaine delivered a speech about the negative gender impacts of Poverty Reduction Strategies required by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and alternative strategies for reducing poverty and empowering women. You can read her remarks here: [Is it Worthwhile to Engage in PRPSs?: Capacity-Building Discussion with Members of the Youth Coalition for Sexual and Reproductive Rights from Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, and North and South America.](#)

Individual donations help us carry on our vital work. To make a donation, please send a check to Gender Action or click Donate Here at [www.genderaction.org](http://www.genderaction.org).

With continued appreciation for your support,

*Elaine Zuckerman*, President  
*Mande Limbu*, Director of Programs  
*Anna Roche*, Programs Coordinator  
*Katie Campbell*, Executive/Programs Assistant

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