

## RESPONSIVE INITIATIVES

Throughout 2007, NWI structured its work in a way that allowed for a strong responsive element to issues arising that year.

### JUSTICE IN DARFUR, SUDAN

The conflict in Darfur, Sudan, is being fought on the bodies of women. The systematic use of rape, the displacement of women and their children, and women's exclusion from the official political processes constitute a massive human rights and humanitarian crisis that cannot be resolved without distinct and specific attention to the rights of women.

In 2007, monitoring and responding to the crisis in Darfur became a major initiative for NWI. Some of the key activities NWI undertook included:

- \* In January, **JODY WILLIAMS** agreed to head a *United Nations Human Rights Council Mission* on the Darfur region of Sudan, after consulting with sister NWI Laureates who concurred that the particular assault on women's rights and the use of rape as a weapon of war were areas of critical concern for NWI.

- \* In March, **WILLIAMS** presented a scathing report on the Mission's findings to the UN Human Rights Council, asserting that the Sudanese government and international community had failed in their responsibility to protect the citizens of Darfur.

- \* In June, **WILLIAMS** and fellow Nobel Peace Laureate **ARCHBISHOP DESMOND TUTU** addressed a special session of the European Parliament and offered suggestions of concrete actions to be taken to stop the carnage in Darfur. Throughout the year, **WILLIAMS** published high-profile op-ed pieces on the situation in Darfur, including an op-ed co-authored with **ARCHBISHOP TUTU**, printed in *The ChristianScience Monitor*, and an op-ed in *The Wall Street Journal* co-authored with **MIA FARROW**.

In the last part of the year, the Nobel Women's Initiative hired a consultant to develop a strategic analysis of advocacy opportunities where NWI could best contribute to relieve the situation in Sudan.

- \* In October, Nobel Laureates and other international human rights leaders sent an open letter to Swiss bank UBS about its dealings with PetroChina, an oil company that has poured billions into Khartoum's coffers as the leading player in Sudan's oil and gas industry. NWI also promoted targeted divestment for Sudan by encouraging visitors to its website to "Take Action."

- \* In December, **JODY WILLIAMS** met with Canadian parliamentarians and other government officials regarding Darfur; suggested actions for Canada included advancing International Criminal Court proceedings in Darfur, divesting from Darfur and pressing China to use its influence in Sudan to resolve the crisis. ■



Nobel Peace Laureate Jody Williams with displaced Sudanese women. United Nations Human Rights Council Mission on Darfur. Gaga refugee camp, Eastern Chad.

### SUPPORT FOR THE IRAQI PEOPLE AND OPPOSITION TO THE IRAQ OIL LAW

In June, the Nobel Women's Initiative Laureates released a statement announcing their opposition to the proposed Iraq Oil Law and to US government pressure on the Iraqis to pass the law. **JODY WILLIAMS** and **ANTONIA JUHASZ**, a participant at the NWI *Women Redefining Peace* conference, conducted interviews on radio stations across the US to educate the public on the implications of the legislation.

In Iraq, **YANAR MOHAMMED**, co-founder of the *Organization for Women's Freedom* in Iraq and another NWI conference participant, organized a network of activists to oppose the law. Thanks to the amazing efforts of Iraqis and the support they received from the international community, at the end of 2007 the Iraq Oil Law appeared to be all but dead. ■

## RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM'S BID FOR THE PRESIDENCY

In February, Nobel Women's Initiative Laureate **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM** announced that she would run for president of Guatemala in the September 2007 elections, offering herself as a candidate of reconciliation and unity in a country wrought with a violent political history.

In the first such campaign by a Mayan woman, **MENCHÚ TUM** and her party encouraged the indigenous population to participate in the political process. Despite deadly campaign violence that killed more than 40 people, it was reported that these efforts to bring women (in general) and indigenous people (in particular) to the polls boosted overall turnout. **MENCHÚ TUM** placed sixth out of a field of 14 candidates, garnering 3% of the vote without resorting to corruption or commercialization. Laureates **BETTY WILLIAMS** and **JODY WILLIAMS** taped video support messages for Menchú Tum's use during the campaign. ■

## Women Working for a Just Peace in Israel and Palestine

The Nobel Women's Initiative is supporting the work of the International Women's Commission (IWC), a coalition of Palestinian, Israeli and international women working for a just peace in the region based on international law, human rights and equality. IWC members attended the *Women Redefining Peace* conference in May. At a June demonstration in London's Trafalgar Square marking the anniversary of the Six Day War, NWI Laureate **MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE** called for an end to 40 years of occupation and a negotiated settlement to the conflict between Israel and Palestine.

# ADVOCACY INITIATIVES

---

## SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL CHANGE INITIATIVES

---

Promote, spotlight and amplify those addressing the root causes of violence

---

The Nobel Women's Initiative's mission is to use the visibility and prestige of the Nobel Prize to promote, spotlight and amplify the work of women's rights activists, researchers and organizations worldwide that are addressing the root causes of violence. In 2007, NWI identified a number of issues to support and endorse in three strategic thematic areas: women's rights, disarmament and human security, and peace and human rights.

## WOMEN'S RIGHTS

UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is a core framework for much of NWI's advocacy. NWI supports the implementation of the resolution in the context of spotlighting specific issues, countries and conflicts, both directly {e.g., NWI actions in response to Burma and Darfur} and through support to other international women's initiatives {e.g., support to *Women Redefining Peace* conference participants from northern Uganda who are working to implement 1325 in the peace process in that country}.

**UN SECURITY  
COUNCIL  
RESOLUTION 1325**

**16 DAYS OF  
ACTIVISM AGAINST  
GENDER VIOLENCE**

Nobel Women's Initiative promoted *16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence*, an annual international campaign sponsored by the **CENTER FOR WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP**. These 16 days link 25 November, the International Day Against Violence Against Women, and 10 December, International Human Rights Day.

**FEMINIST  
TRANSFORMATION  
WATCH**

Since 2006, NWI has supported Just Associates (JASS) in a four-year capacity-building effort to strengthen the leadership and organizational power of women building a grassroots democratic response to community, national, regional and global issues. Actions in 2007 included:

\* **Support to the women of Oaxaca:** In April, NWI issued a statement of solidarity for the women of Oaxaca, Mexico, who organized a three-day *Gathering of Women in Resistance* to speak out against state-sponsored repression and to affirm their collective commitment to democracy, gender equality and peace.

\* **Support to Costa Rican women speaking out against CAFTA:** In September, NWI supported **MUJERES CONTRA EL TLC** (Women Against the Free Trade Agreement), who mobilized an estimated 1,000 Costa Rican women from around the country in *The Power of No*, a national women's day in opposition to the ratification of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

**EMPOWERING  
PEACEMAKERS.  
3rd INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN'S  
PEACE CONFERENCE**

Three NWI Laureates, **RIGOBERTA MENCHÚ TUM**, **BETTY WILLIAMS** and **JODY WILLIAMS**, connected with elected officials and grassroots organizers worldwide at the *3rd International Women's Peace Conference*, held in July in Dallas, Texas.

The purpose of the conference was to empower peacemakers by teaching practical skills and raising awareness on a range of topics relating to women and peace: law, human rights, discrimination, exploitation, economics, inner peace and more.

In November, the NWI director joined women heads of state, government leaders and prominent activists from around the world for the *International Women Leaders Global Security Summit*, whose goal is to enhance the effectiveness of women's leadership on global security through increased resources, public awareness and collective action. ■

**INTERNATIONAL  
WOMEN LEADERS  
GLOBAL SECURITY  
SUMMIT**

**DISARMAMENT  
AND HUMAN SECURITY**

In 1997, the *International Campaign to Ban Landmines (ICBL)* achieved its goal of an international treaty banning antipersonnel landmines. For this effort, the ICBL and founding coordinator **JODY WILLIAMS** were awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.

Throughout 2007, NWI engaged in activities related to the 10th anniversary of this historic treaty, using this milestone as a way to promote and amplify the need for related actions regarding cluster munitions, nuclear weapons and human security. Actions included:

\* In September, ICBL founding coordinator **JODY WILLIAMS** and her ICBL successor Liz Bernstein, now NWI director, were joined in Oslo by Nobel Laureate **SHIRIN EBADI** to represent the NWI at events marking the 10th anniversary of negotiations that successfully resulted in the Mine Ban Treaty. Discussions among diplomats and activists focused on the new cluster munitions treaty and other efforts to strengthen human security.

**10TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF MINE BAN TREATY-  
A SUCCESS IN  
PROGRESS**

\* On 30 November, preceding the 10th anniversary celebrations of the signing of the treaty, **WILLIAMS** spoke in Ottawa on *A World of Women: A Nobel Peace Laureate's Reflections on Canada's Place in the World*, highlighting the importance of timely action by governments in promoting social justice and human security (as Canada did when it spearheaded the landmines treaty process in 1996–97). This public event was co-sponsored by **THE FEMINIST ALLIANCE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTION** and NWI.

#### DISABLING CLUSTERS, SAVING PEOPLE - THE CLUSTER MUNITION TREATY PROCESS

In February, 46 nations, led by Norway, committed to rapidly negotiating a new international treaty on cluster munitions, which (like antipersonnel and mines) act as indiscriminate weapons against civilians. Throughout 2007, NWI provided high-profile support to the *Oslo Process*, the series of international negotiation meetings that is seeking to conclude a treaty banning this weapon in 2008. The NWI website also provides updates and action items for individuals interested in supporting the advocacy work of civil society through **CLUSTER MUNITION COALITION** members.

#### OTHER DISARMAMENT CAMPAIGNS

Nobel Women's Initiative supported a number of other key international disarmament campaigns in 2007, including promoting and spotlighting the *International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)*, *Control Arms Campaign* and *Global Article 9 Campaign to Abolish War* on the NWI website.

Nobel Women's Initiative launched a new Disarmament "Issue" section on the website, providing information, resources and opportunities for action to support these global movements. NWI is offering strategic support to the campaigns in other ways, including having Laureate **MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE** represent NWI at the *Global Article 9 Campaign* conference in Tokyo in May 2008. ■

## PEACE & HUMAN RIGHTS

The role of the International Criminal Court, its gender mandate and its poor record of convictions for gender-based crimes were a key part of the discussion at NWI's *Women Redefining Peace* conference. Conference participants included women from Sudan and Uganda who are working to bring women into the peace negotiations in those regions. NWI will continue to offer support to this important work at the grassroots level.

In March, following Canadian Prime Minister **STEPHEN HARPER**'s announcement that Canada would not meet its international commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Kyoto Protocol, NWI wrote to **HARPER** and published an op-ed in *The Toronto Star*, cautioning about the links between climate change, exacerbated tensions over scarce resources and undermined human security in some of the world's poorest countries.

In December, NWI covered the *United Nations Climate Change* conference in Bali on our website, publishing a statement that Laureate **WANGARI MAATHAI** presented to a gathering of the Network of Women Ministers of Environment and the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, as well as providing information on other gender and climate justice dialogues taking place in Bali. NWI also began planning a 2008 climate justice and gender equality event, scheduled for May in Washington, DC.

On 5 October in London, **MAIREAD CORRIGAN MAGUIRE**, on behalf of all NWI Laureates, helped launch the RAW in War Anna Politkovskaya Award. The award will be given annually to a woman human rights defender from a conflict zone who, like this

#### GENDER JUSTICE AT THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT

Visit the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice website at [www.iccwomen.org](http://www.iccwomen.org)

#### CLIMATE JUSTICE AND GENDER EQUALITY

#### HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD IN HONOR OF SLAIN RUSSIAN JOURNALIST