

1. lo[p
CEM IFUW ADVOCACY AT THE UNITED NATIONS

‘INSIGHTS INTO WORKING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AND ITS AGENCIES’

THE WORK OF THE IFUW REPRESENTATIVES AT THE UNITED NATIONS HEADQUARTERS, IN NEW YORK, IS FIRST AND FOREMOST GUIDED BY OUR MISSION STATEMENT

(SEE MISSION AND VALUES)

“TODAY OUR MISSION IS TO:

- PROMOTE LIFELONG EDUCATION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS; PROMOTE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION, FRIENDSHIP, PEACE AND RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL, IRRESPECTIVE OF THEIR GENDER, AGE, RACE, NATIONALITY, RELIGION, POLITICAL OPINION, GENDER AND SEXUAL ORIENTATION OR OTHER STATUS; ADVOCATE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF THE STATUS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS; AND
- ENCOURAGE AND ENABLE WOMEN AND GIRLS TO APPLY THEIR KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING IN ALL FORMS OF PUBLIC AND PRIVATE LIFE

IN ADDITION TO THE MISSION I REFER YOU TO ADVOCACY TOOLS FOR GUIDANCE

(SEE “ADVOCACY TOOLS”)

UN REPS WORK TO ENSURE THAT OUR PRIORITY ISSUES ARE INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL DEBATE. IFUW’S UN REPS HAVE AN OFFICIAL PRESENCE AT THE MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES WHERE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS AND AGREEMENTS ARE DRAFTED AND ADOPTED. IFUW REPS WORK WITH OTHER INTERNATIONAL NGOs WITH SIMILAR AIMS, GIVING GREATER WEIGHT TO OUR VOICE.

2.

THE ROLE OF IFUW AT THE UNITED NATIONS IS THAT OF ADVOCACY, IN ITS MANY FORMS AND MANIFESTATIONS.

I WILL CITE THREE (3) INSTANCES WHERE PEOPLE MADE AN IMPACT ON “MY” APPROACH TO ADVOCACY IN THE (12) YEARS I HAVE HAD THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING A MEMBER OF THE IFUW TEAM.*

- MARY PURCELL -- FORMER PRESIDENT OF BOTH AAUW, AND IFUW IS RESPONSIBLE FOR ME JOINING THE TEAM THOSE MANY YEARS AGO.
 - CO-FOUNDER OF NGO COMMITTEE ON UNICEF WORKING GROUP ON GIRLS
 - PARTICIPATED IN SEVERAL OF THE UN CONFERENCES INCLUDING KENYA 1978 AND BEIJING 1995 WHERE IT IS ACKNOWLEDGED THAT SHE PLAYED A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN PROVIDING, FOR THE FIRST TIME, SPECIFIC LANGUAGE IDENTIFYING NEEDS/ RIGHTS OF WOMEN AND GIRLS IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION. THE FORMALIZATION OF THESE AGREED CONCLUSIONS IN THE BEIJING PLATFORM FOR ACTION IS AMONG THE, (LIMITED NUMBER OF) STRONG DOCUMENTS THAT IS ESSENTIAL FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS
 - * INVITED ME TO JOIN WGG AND UNICEF CONNECTIONS
- THE FIVE (5) IFUW PRESIDENTS I SERVED UNDER:
 - LINDA SOUTER
 - REIKO AOKI
 - GRISELDA KENYON
 - LOUISE CROOT

▪ MARIANNE HASLEGRAVE

3.

EACH OF THE FIVE (5) IS RECOGNIZED FOR HER EXPERTISE IN HER PROFESSION; AND, BY VIRTUE OF HER ELECTION TO THE PRESIDENCY OF IFUW SUGGESTS THE POSSESSION OF A WIDE REPERTOIRE OF SKILL SETS. WHILE LEADERSHIP STYLE DIFFERED, OUR GOALS WERE ADVANCED DURING EACH PRESIDENT'S TENURE. EACH PRESIDENT'S ARTICULATED EXPECTATION FOR THE COORDINATOR/REPRESENTATIVE (FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE MAIN REP) HAS VARIED. EACH HAS PROVIDED A FORM OF INFORMAL MENTORSHIP.

- COLLABORATION WITH OTHER NGOs
AN EXAMPLE OF DEMONSTRATING STRENGTH IN NUMBERS (5 NGO ORGANIZATIONS) AS A CHANGE AGENT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT, AT THE INTERNATIONAL/COUNTRY LEVEL – FOR GIRLS TO COMPLETE THE PRIMARY GRADES.
 - PROJECT 5-O
 - PROJECT 5-O's 25 ANNIVERSARY IN COPENHAGEN
 - PROVIDED A DIFFERENT DYNAMIC OF BOTH SUPPORT AND LEADERSHIP (THE POSITION OF CHAIRPERSON ROTATED AMONG THE FIVE OF US).
 - WE MADE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO OUR PRESIDENTS WHO MET IN NEW YORK THE DAY BEFORE THE ANNUAL MEETING OF CSW

THE TOOLS OF ADVOCACY CONSIST ON ENSURING OUR, (IFUW) PRIORITY ISSUES ARE BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF MEMBER STATES AND ARE INCLUDED IN INTERNATIONAL DEBATES AND RESOLUTIONS

4.

PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES WITH MEMBER STATES

ONE EXAMPLE OF A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT WITH A MEMBER STATE; (GUATEMALA) WAS ONE OF SEVERAL MEMBER STATES INCLUDING INDIA AND NIGER HAD BEEN THE SUBJECT OF EARLY MARRIAGES OR CHILD BRIDES. THE COORDINATOR/REPRESENTATIVE AS A MEMBER OF WGG AGREED TO BE THE LEAD PERSON TO ORGANIZE THE "PROJECT."

^AN OPPORTUNITY TO BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH A MEMBER STATE AND EDUCATE AND INFLUENCE ATTITUDES

CHANGES ABOUT THIS PRACTICE OF CHILD BRIDES JOINT PROGRAM, HELD IN TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL IMPRESSIVE PANEL PRESENTATION. WE HAD EXCELLENT ATTENDANCE THAT INCLUDED REPRESENTATIVES FROM A NUMBER OF MEMBER STATES, UNICEF STAFF MEMBERS, NGOs AND MANY MEMBERS FROM THE UN COMMUNITY. ONLY MEMBER STATES GAIN ACCESS TO ROOMS IN THE UN BUILDING. THANKS TO OUR PARTNER (GUATEMALA) OUR EVENT WAS HELD IN THE TRUSTEESHIP COUNCIL ROOM (GOOGLE IT).

THE SUCCESS OF THAT EVENT LED TO AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ME, REPRESENTING IFUW AND AS A MEMBER OF WGG, TO ATTEND THE GIRL CHILD CONFERENCE IN THE HAGUE. THE NETHERLANDS TOOK THE LEAD AT THAT CONFERENCE AND PROVIDED GRANTS FOR PEOPLE LIKE ME TOOLS THAT CAN FOSTER MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN NGOs AND MEMBER STATES

(COLLABORATION)

^COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

WHEN SIGNIFICANT PREPLANNING HAS OCCURRED CAN HAVE A POSITIVE IMPACT UNLIKE THE PRECEDING YEAR THE SESSION

5.

== AN INTERVENTION IS A HIGHLY VALUED ADVOCACY TOOL, AND A PREFERRED STRATEGY BY MANY. IN NEW YORK IT REMAINS A GOAL THAT IS RARELY ACHIEVED.

ORAL INTERVENTIONS (WITH A MINIMUM OF 25 COPIES FOR DISTRIBUTION) AT SOME MAJOR BRIEFINGS (PROGRAMS) EMPHASIS IS PLACED ON CLOSE ALIGNMENT BETWEEN THE CONTENT OF THE INTERVENTS AND THE CONTENT OF THE BRIEFING.

SIGNIFICANT UN AGENCIES:

- COMMISSION FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
- COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
- DPI/NGO (DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INFORMATION)
- ECOSOC
- UNICEF
- UN WOMEN
- WGG (WORKING GROUP ON GIRLS)

OUTCOMES WE HAVE ACHIEVED IN NEW YORK INCLUDE:

VISIBILITY FOR IFUW

ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCCESSFUL RELATIONSHIPS (AT ALL LEVELS)

INTERVENTIONS AT THE HIGH LEVEL

WHILE "WE THE PEOPLE" HAVE THE RIGHT ...

(AGEING

MIGRATION) ENCOURAGE INTERVENTIONS BY NGOs

IFUW LEVEL INTERVENTIONS SEEM TO BE WELCOMED

*****RELATIONSHIPS WITH NFAs

LINKAGES WITH NFAs

- EXPLORE AND CLARIFY EXPECTATIONS
- COLLABORATIVE SUPPORT CAN INCREASE MUTUAL GAIN AND SATISFACTION



6.

TECHNOLOGY ADVANCES ACCESS FOR ALL

- AWARENESS OF UN AREAS OF FOCUS IN A TIMELY MANNER (LONG TERM AWARENESS OF CALENDAR)

- USE OF TOOLS AVAILABLE TO ALL
 - THE UN JOURNAL
 - UN WEBSITE – LIVE STREAM EVENTS, “VIDEOS” OF SELECT SPEECHES AND EVENTS
 - CSW 58

LESSONS LEARNED:

- GAINS MADE ON BEHALF OF OUR AGENDA/ MISSION OF ADVOCACY ARE PAINFULLY SLOW; BUT GAINS HAVE BEEN MADE
- DEVELOPING PERSONAL PEOPLE CONTACTS CAN BE SIGNIFICANT
- ORGANIZED AS OPPOSED TO AD HOC APPROACHES ARE CRITICAL MEMBERS OF THE TEAMS ARE OUR VALUABLE ASSET – IT IS IMPORTANT TO HAVE BOTH A TEAM SPIRIT, AND A SENSE OF COLLABORATION

THE WAY FORWARD

- UN REP ACT/PLAN **STRATEGICALLY** TO ADVANCE IFUW's GOALS THROUGH THE UN STRUCTURE. AS OUR PRESIDENT STATED YESTERDAY – PLANNING BEGINS EARLY (1 YEAR IN ADVANCE). FREQUENTLY MAJOR DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE BEFORE THE EVENT
AN EXAMPLE MEETING WITH UN CSW BUREAU PEOPLE EARLY OR IDEALLY AS SOON AS THE CONCLUSIONS FROM THE PRIOR YEAR HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED.

7.

- UN REPS DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP WITH UN BUREAU MEMBERS OF CSW TO ACCESS INFORMATION AND CONSIDER FUTURE OPPORTUNITY. (NGO COMMITTEE ON CSW HAS BEEN CAPTURED THIS RELATIONSHIP; BUT ENTRE ACHIEVED BY SERVING ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF CSW.
- **ADVISOR TO UN REPS** --ROLE FOR A FORMER IFUW PRESIDENT **TO THE UN REPS** USE OUR IFUW PEOPLE RESOURCES OF TO BETTER ADVANTAGE – I WOULD SUGGEST THAT A FORMER PRESIDENT MIGHT BE WILLING TO “COORDINATE/ADVISE” UN REPS --
- BOOT CAMP FOR UN REPS AS PART OF EACH TRIENNIAL
- ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE IS A LEARNING CURVE FOR TEAM MEMBERS IN TERMS OF NOT ONLY THE JARGON, BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY AGENCIES (ECOSOC, (THIRD COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY)

- UN REPS MAY FORMALIZE AN ANNUAL MEETING WITH PRESIDENTS OR THEIR DESIGNEE TO INTRODUCE/REINTRODUCE IFUW TO THE HIGHEST LEVELS
- BUDGET FOR UN REPS (INFORM TEAM MEMBERS OF THE PROCESS AND INCLUDE THEM IN UPDATING THE PROCESS). I MUST THIS WAS NOT A PRIORITY FOR ME.
- ❖ **CONGRATULATIONS AND BEST WISHES TO OUR 2013-2016 LEADERSHIP**
- ❖ **POLLY AND SOPHIE – WARMEST APPRECIATION FOR THE WORK YOU HAVE ACCOMPLISHED AND WILL CONTINUE TO ACCOMPLISH IN THE FUTURE AS UN REPS IN NEW YORK. IN THE FUTURE. YOU HAVE THE CAPACITY TO IMPLEMENT THE GOALS OF IFUW AND CHANGE THE WORLD (IF NOT THE UN) ONE STEP AT A TIME**