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**Network of East-West Women, Inc.  
Final Report to World Learning, Inc.  
Re: Grant # NIS-2022-00-28**

Name:  
Project Title:

Date of Commencement:  
Date of Report:  
Reporting Officers:

Network of East-West Women, Inc.  
NEWW in Russia:  
Communication, Law and Self-Defense  
June 1, 1994  
May 19, 1997  
Elaine Reuben (202)-265-3585  
Robert Gibbs (202)-265-3585

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Organization Information

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Project Title:	NEWW in Russia: Communication, Law and Self-Defense	
Date of Commencement:	June 1, 1994	
Date of Report:	May 19, 1997	
Reporting Officers:	Elaine Reuben	(202)-265-3585
	Robert Gibbs	(202)-265-3585
Total Project Funding:	\$144,000	
Year 1:	\$82,257.00	
Year 2:	\$61,750.00	

Description of Project Activities

**Project Goals:** This two-year project seeks to connect Russian women to one another and to women in the U.S. and Central and Eastern Europe in order to increase their capacity for public participation, to promote women's rights, and to improve the quality of living for Russian women.

NEWW works in partnership with the Moscow Center for Gender Studies (MCGS) to coordinate:

- (1) an electronic communications network to link women's NGOs;
  - (2) a meeting of women's rights lawyers and advocates to develop a legal advocacy network in Russia;
  - (3) a self-defense instructor program to empower Russian women;
- and with the Women's Information Network to produce:
- (4) a quarterly publication, in English and Russian, summarizing postings to our electronic resources.

The multi-part project made possible by this World Learning grant has been far more successful than could have been originally expected. Activities begun under its auspices bloomed and grew, often to seed others or serve as models for similar undertakings in other cities or countries in the Former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe region. Lessons learned from NEWW's Russian partners have been and continue to be applied in neighboring countries. The On-Line project continues to expand, and the East-East Legal Coalition originated simultaneously with the World-Learning supported Russian Legal Committee, and built around concepts and experiences developed there, is presently one of NEWW's fastest growing and most dynamic networks of activists. The natural connection between NEWW On-Line and EELC projects in turn has led to the development of the On-Line Legal Resource Service (OLLRS), laying the groundwork for the further strengthening of interconnections and exchange of information and experiences internationally and between our partner groups in the region.

Partnerships

The Network of East-West Women's continuing partnership with the Moscow Center for Gender Studies began tentatively, with each partner hoping for a mutually beneficial alliance and neither able to be certain of the outcome. In retrospect, it is clear that both partners worked very hard to cooperate in creating a trustworthy and effective alliance. We were also fortunate in being able to take advantage of various opportunities, on three continents over the course of this grant, to meet and work together "outside the lines" of formal grant activities.

The partnership forged under this World Learning grant engendered a further collaboration between NEWW and MCGS to continue and advance legal advocacy activities in the NIS. NEWW and MCGS worked together successfully to obtain funding from ARD/Checchi to support additional legal activities, and to support office space and staff for NEWW in the MCGS offices. Subsequently, the Moscow Center has obtained funding to carry on its legal project activities; these will continue and reinforce other efforts of the Russian Legal Committee and the On-Line Legal Resource Service, and connect with related East-East Legal Coalition activities region-wide now supported in part by a grant from the Open Society Institute.

Our formal relationship with the Women's Information Network (WIN) of Moscow started in June 1996, but we have long been connected through our work on similar and related projects and issues: Tatiana Troinova, Director of WIN, was one of the first consultants to the NEWW On-Line project. Through our experience partnering with MCGS we had developed effective systems for communication, coordination and financial reporting that have made our collaboration with WIN productive and effective. NEWW provides unique and valuable content for the On-Line Bulletin, while WIN's networks and distribution systems allow the informational material to reach more women's organizations than ever before.

These partnerships have already and will continue to enable the US-based partner to coordinate numerous, ambitious projects in Russia without having to establish an elaborate and costly field office staffed by Americans; instead, the partnerships nurture the work and aspirations of indigenous groups and cultivate cross-cultural exchanges of skills and resources. The partnerships have enabled MCGS and the Women's Information Network to share and distribute resources to sister organizations who are geographically isolated, or at a less advanced stage of development, and to others who simply could benefit greatly from their participation in a national, transnational and international network.

Partnership has been an implied theme of all the specified activities of this grant. Beyond and in addition, new projects and partnerships, both formal and informal, funded and volunteer-supported, continue to develop because women NGOs are now able to send and receive information in many directions on a much broader scale. New groups in the On-Line project have invited NEWW to partner with them on various projects, and seek NEWW's advice and support for others; such groups often seek -- and find -- partners, participants and allies for their activities in the region through their participation On-Line.

## **Accomplishments**

### **COMMUNICATION**

#### **Activities:**

##### **1. Preparation**

From June-October, 1994 NEWW developed many of the structures that supported the On-Line project. The training of trainers program was designed: housing and travel arrangements made; criteria for a trainer and On-Line participating organizations were established. In Russia, a selection committee made up of representatives from MCGS, the Independent Women's Forum, the Feminist Orientation Center and the St. Petersburg Center for Gender Issues chose Galina Venediktova to be the Russian candidate for the Training of Trainers, and selected 10 women's non-governmental organizations to receive equipment, training and monthly stipends to support email use and distribution.

## 2. Training of Trainers

NEWW's intensive training of trainers in Washington, D.C., October-December 1994, provided a strong foundation for the success of the On-Line project. Galina Venediktova from Moscow and Victoria Vrana from the U.S., together with Polish participant Roma Ciesla, studied the technical and cultural obstacles likely to be encountered when building an email network in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe. They acquainted themselves with the people and distinctive traits that make up each Internet Service Provider there, and identified tech support and Internet resources in the cities and countries where the On-Line project would be hooking up women's groups.

While on-site trainings are vital to the success of this project in the field, training of trainers in the U.S. permitted the project to offer comprehensive, advanced training in electronic communications, embracing the latest technical achievements in the field. In this setting the trainers could also study another important component of the training: the use of electronic communications as a part of the everyday worklife of an NGO, and as a tool for social activism. Several U.S.-based organizations (Institute for Global Communications, ISAR, Kompas Resources International) contributed training sessions and consultations with the trainers.

Together, the trainers and other project staff developed the reporting and tracking procedures for the project. Each participating NGO was asked to sign a contract accepting the responsibilities outlined, and affirming their understanding that equipment would be returned to NEWW and stipend payments would cease if the requirements were not fulfilled (See Appendices I and II for Russian contract and quarterly report requirements). Despite the extra administrative work and financial costs involved, stipends were distributed quarterly, after receipt of a quarterly report from participants, to ensure proper and regular use of project resources.

## 3. On-site Trainings

On-site email/Internet trainings began with a joint training by Victoria Vrana and Galina Venediktova in Moscow, January 1995, documented by a World Learning photographer. Through May 1995, trainers<sup>1</sup> traveled to 9 additional cities across Russia: Kaluga, Kemerovo, Mirnyi, Moscow, Murmansk, Naberezhnye Chelny, St. Petersburg, Sergiev Posad, Tver and Voronezh (see Attachment III for list of organizations trained).

Trainers spent approximately a week in each location, working closely with the previously selected women's NGO to: familiarize that group with the responsibilities and structure of the On-Line project; deliver and install its desktop computer, modem and software; introduce the organization to its Internet Service Provider (ISP) and local technical support; open an email account; and train women from the On-Line participating organization and from other local NGOs in all aspects of electronic communication.

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<sup>1</sup> Vrana trained in St. Petersburg, and continued her work in Central and Eastern Europe. Venediktova traveled to and trained in 8 locations in Russia.

When Venediktova returned to Russia, she trained her assistant, Irina Doskich, to conduct courses and presentations on use of email and the Internet. Since, Ms. Doskich continues to assist with technical support and troubleshooting for On-Line participating organizations. She now also provides trainings for NEWW and other organizations (including the Russian Family Planning Association and the US-NIS Women's Consortium) across Russia; as noted below, she is responsible for the Russian work of the OnLine Legal Resource Service and its electronic mailing list.

Trainings included: basic computer operations -- from clicking the mouse to installing software (where necessary), connecting to the ISP, using email and electronic mailing lists, using gopher, ftp and (where possible) the World Wide Web, integrating electronic communications into office routine, managing and organizing information, using email for global networking, coordinating transnational projects by email, and using the Internet for women's rights advocacy.

Ten desktop computers and modems were purchased, distributed and installed. Thirty-five women were trained initially, some of whom have since gone on to train other women in their organizations, new staff members and women at other Russian women's NGOs. From their reports, we estimate an additional 30-50 Russian women have been trained in this way through the NEWW On-Line project, and their outreach presumably will continue.

#### 4. Information exchanged

On-Line participants first communicated primarily through NEWW's general electronic mailing list, *women-east-west*. Organizations introduced themselves and were warmly welcomed by NEWW members and staff around the globe. Subsequently, participants posted and received a wide range of information: articles, calls for submissions and papers, e-newsletters, electronic resources (information about other lists and addresses of sites on the Internet dealing with related topics), calls for endorsements, petitions, protests, announcements of conferences, seminars, fellowships, internships, courses, information about funding opportunities, job announcements, profiles of other NGOs in the region and their projects, news about international organizations and their work, availability of publications, reports from conferences and other events, technical advances in electronic communication or regional service providers and software, United Nations documents and urgent actions/appeals.

On-Line participants also posted and responded to requests of all kinds from others, requests for contact information for organizations and institutions, funding support and advice, news of organizations and projects, research for papers and studies, and specific information about legal and political issues.

Participants used email to coordinate projects and actions. The On-Line project itself was, of course, coordinated solely through email (and the *occasional* phone call or in-person meeting, few and far between). Once all parties had email, the legal meeting in Pushkin (referenced later in this report) was arranged and organized through electronic communications.

Soon after the inception of the project, NEWW staff had the opportunity to meet with representatives from each of the 10 On-Line participating organizations at a June 1995 conference, "Feminisms East-West" organized by the St. Petersburg Center for Gender Issues, itself one of the ten Russian participants. At this conference, On-Line staff conducted 3 workshops for the On-Line participants: to evaluate the project to date, to learn from one another about how groups are using the email, and to discuss ways to maximize use of the network. Participants agreed they would like to meet on-line through a Russian-language electronic mailing list. NEWW opened the list, *glas.sisters*, in July 1995.

In early autumn 1995, an Independent Women's Forum Platform on Women's Issues, outlining the women's movement position on issues of importance to women in the forthcoming elections, was disseminated through email. Subsequently, after the new Parliament was elected in 1996 and many women lost their seats, the fledgling Russian women's email network supported the circulation of a draft petition to the Duma, insisting on a renewed commitment to women's issues by the current Duma members.

With fortunate historical timing, the email network was also able to be instrumental in organizing and preparing Russian women and others for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in September 1996. At the request of project participants, NEWW opened an additional electronic mailing list specifically for information and questions about Beijing, *neww-beijing*. Assisted by their planning and coordination through the list and personal email, Elena Kotchkina of Moscow and Urszula Nowakowska of Warsaw, NEWW partners and On-Line participants, led in the formation of an East-East caucus at Beijing, the first of its kind. The caucus brought women from the entire post-communist region together there; they critiqued the Platform for Action in light of the unique issues and challenges women face in the CEE and FSU, and presented their views to the entire UN Assembly in a speech entitled, "Statement from a Non-region" (See Appendix IV for statement text). The statement, other documents and news from the Beijing conference were posted in near real-time for women around the world unable to attend the conference.

### 5. Distribution

NEWW envisioned the On-Line participating organizations as nodes, points of contact for all women's organizations in their cities and regions. Distribution was a requirement for groups in the region, and two-way exchange was always encouraged, i.e. not only would On-Line participants distribute information received by email to groups and interested parties without access, but they would also solicit materials from those groups which they would then convert to electronic format and send out to the list by email.

Participants have disseminated information in a variety of ways:

- Some organizations, like the Women's Democratic Independent Initiative in Voronezh, are umbrellas for or coalitions of many women's groups (in this case, 28 different women's organizations). All the email materials are distributed at their regular meetings, and at events and conferences.
- Women's Light, Tver, creates a list of documents received by email and sends it (by fax or postal mail) to all women's organizations in the area. Groups can then request the full text of items of interest. Women's Light also radio broadcasts some of the email postings.
- Femina, in Naberezhnye Chelny, published information in the newspaper, "Woman" in Kazan and in the students' magazine "Researches and Projects" (sic).
- The Association of Humanitarian Initiatives in Mirnyi, a city in northeastern Siberia, regularly published the emailed information in an Appendix called "Professional Women" as part of the region's newspaper, "Mirnyi's Worker." Copies of the newspaper (circulation 11,000) are distributed widely throughout this huge permafrost area, reaching even the most isolated sites there.
- Elsewhere, materials are placed in women's information centers and gender studies libraries for public access. Timely information is often shared locally, delivered by hand or by telephone. Some organizations summarize and translate specific items, and postal mail a regular "newsletter" to women's organizations in their region; others create special spaces in regular organizational publications for email news.

Participants distribute primarily to other women's NGOs, but they also share information with faculty and students at universities, with journalists, government officials and members of parliament, with private individuals, and conference and seminar participants. The organizer of a very successful first summer school on gender studies in Russia, "Volga-96" in Tver, reports, for example, that NEWW's electronic network was the most efficient, effective means of spreading the information about that program, and in attracting participants and resources. Based on the quarterly reports of participants, we estimate that On-Line materials reach approximately 75-100 additional organizations, individuals, and institutions in at least 20 cities throughout Russia.

Through the volunteer efforts of project staff, interns and staff at Glasnet, NEWW was able to open two web sites, one in Russian and one in English. The web sites function primarily as points of distribution to the West for information about women's issues, activities and organizations in the FSU and CEE. At this point in "cyberspace history", most people/NGOs in the world do not have access to the World Wide Web; not only are most users of the Internet currently from the West/North, most of the information there is about, or by, the West/North.<sup>2</sup> The best way NGOs in the South and in the FSU and CEE can utilize the Web is as a vehicle to educate the West about issues in their regions; NEWW works to ensure that the Internet does include information about gender issues in the region. Our web sites receive 100-140 hits per week, and NEWW gained 50 new members through the English site in 1996.

#### 6. ISC meetings

Another objective of NEWW On-Line was to put members of our International Steering Committee on-line and hold quarterly electronic meetings. The ISC consists of both country (two in Russia, one in other countries) and project representatives. Olga Lipovskaya of the St. Petersburg Center for Gender Issues and Valentina Uspenskaya of Tver's Women's Light are ISC country reps; Lena Kotchkina of MCGS is the Russian Legal Committee representative. ISC representatives are members of On-Line participating organizations, and attendance in ISC meetings is an additional requirement of the project for these groups.

ISC meetings in cyberspace were the first of their kind; creative guidelines and procedures were developed to hold a discussion electronically across vast geographical distances and time zones. Through these On-Line encounters and meetings, representatives got to know each other on a personal, individual level and develop and strengthened their electronic communication skills. Each meeting, 6 weeks long, has a moderator and technical facilitator. In the beginning, representatives decided how to vote, come to consensus, and debated issues of representation and governance. The first meeting began in July 1995; we are currently holding the sixth quarterly meeting. The meetings' format and moderator's guide to holding On-Line meetings have become models for other organizations: for example, NEWW is currently providing consultation to Georgetown University Law School's African Women's Legal Fellowship Program on developing structures for their returning fellows to continue communicating with one another and for their Board to hold regular discussions on-line.

#### 7. On-Line Legal Resource Service

Participants of both the On-Line project and the East-East Legal Coalition also expressed a need for materials about women's legal issues in CEE and FSU. NEWW received funding from the Eurasia Foundation in March 1996 for the On-Line Legal Resource Service (OLLRS). This project creates a self-sustaining infrastructure of useful informational resources and ongoing technical assistance that will support the networks of women's NGOs and other NGOs currently helping to create a rule of law in the FSU and CEE, one that includes women and women's social and legal concerns.

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<sup>2</sup> We realize that cyberspace history is a rapidly moving phenomenon and choose the term "focus" intentionally. Simultaneous work to include women/NGOs in CEE and FSU in the current wave of Internet technology is important and essential.



Irina Doskich, On-Line FSU Program Assistant and Trainer, was hired full-time to coordinate the OLLRS project in Russia. NEWW opened two new electronic mailing lists in 1996, (neww-rights in English, and glas-women-rights in Russian) for the electronic distribution of documents and discussion about women's legal advocacy in the region. To date, we have gathered over 200 documents (announcements, articles, bibliographies, country news, curricula, draft legislation, events profiles of projects and organizations, publications, reports and e-resources ) on four topics: violence against women, health and reproductive rights, labor and United Nations conventions, treaties, procedures and events. We are currently researching family law. (See Appendix V for list of materials available through OLLRS).

## 8. Publications

In January 1995 NEWW produced the NEWW On-Line Guide to using email in the FSU and CEE, the first email manual written specifically for women in the region. Published in English, Russian and Polish (translation into Polish provided by the Batory Foundation), the Guide was distributed to all On-Line participants, and to Internet Service Providers across the region; IREX put the Guide on their gopher site for access by the general public. We also produced a Guide to Internet Service Providers in the FSU and CEE, based on our trainers' research and experience, and a Guide to Holding On-Line Meetings.

## **Results:**

To a large degree, email now replaces fax and telephone for our participants' long distance communication needs. Though it does not replace traveling to visit one another, email does make possible a new mode of regular exchange that, like every other medium, contributes to the whole. Its unique contributions are the simultaneity of conversations and the increased access to resources, both of which spread authority, and thereby power of decision making, among a larger number of participants in a lateral power structure.

While we expect that the full and far-reaching impact of our work is yet to be revealed, we are able to point to numerous significant results, both expected and unanticipated, already evident.

In one of the most exciting outcomes, the On-Line project has helped create new communication norms among our members, encouraging responsiveness, clarity, punctuality, and more effective (more pleasant) collaborations, east-west and east-east. The On-Line project has helped break down cultural and geographical barriers and stimulate information flow. It is absolutely breathtaking to observe ISC members "talking" to one another, uploading their thoughts on governance onto the electronic conference -- defying physical space and time to meet and share their mutual concerns.

Because the project provides so many practical and much-needed resources, recipients feel their needs are being satisfied. The notion of lateral exchange of resources is, we are told, becoming tangible, sensible, rewarding. Almost everywhere, this common response has spawned a renewed commitment and investment in NEWW. We are now becoming the active network we aspire to be, far exceeding our capacities in past years.

As a result, our daily work is more closely aligned with our mission. With staff in Moscow, NEWW is more concretely situated in "the region" and more strongly represented by our eastern affiliates. The Network of East-West Women is no longer perceived as a U.S.-based, foreign assistance organization, as some saw it initially, but rather as an active international network with numerous locations that are readily accessible via email.

We did not fully anticipate the essential, significant roles and responsibilities of the trainers: they have served as activist organizers, facilitators, teachers, interlocutors and bridges between the east and west. They developed personal relationships with each other, project staff and trainees that proved invaluable in the success of coordinating the project and encouraging participants to communicate via email. Sometimes one of the first messages an organization sent was to their trainer, seeing if she had returned home safely. This evolution of the trainer's positions benefited them personally and their work in the framework of the project; since we had not budgeted for their full-time salaries, additional funds had to be raised for their support. All continue to be actively involved in the work begun under this grant.

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## LAW

### Activities:

In May 1994 the scheduled inaugural meeting of NEWW's East-East Legal Coalition (EELC) took place in Budapest, Hungary. The EELC was to examine and monitor the legal impact of the post-communist transition on women's lives all across the CEE/FSU region. At the founding meeting, participants exchanged ideas about the legal situation of women in their countries and shaped agendas in preparation for the establishment of functioning national legal committees in their countries.

They agreed on an international agenda and a common set of guiding principles that would serve to frame the objectives of the EELC as a whole and the goals of each individual national committee. The EELC would hold:

- (1) **an oversight function**--disseminating information about the rapidly changing legal structures in the region and their impacts on women, fostering research and reporting;
- (2) **a strategy function**--developing legal strategies in employment discrimination, reproductive freedom, sexual battering, as well as in those areas that are gender neutral on their face but have disparate impacts on the lives of women;
- (3) **a legal consultation function**--responding to requests for reviewing existing and proposed laws and drafting new model laws;
- (4) **an international legal advocacy function**--analyzing laws and practices under relevant international conventions;
- (5) **a legal literacy function**--providing advocates with training in legal literacy, leadership and program development. Coordinating educational outreach to police, the court system and the general public to raise awareness of women's social and legal issues;
- (6) **an education function**--launching a human rights education campaign to establish pilot human rights education programs throughout the region.

Since, the East-East Legal Coalition (EELC) has grown to become the largest project NEWW is coordinating, essentially via email. Women's rights activists and lawyers from more than twenty countries in the FSU and CEE are presently connected, connecting (or being connected) and participating at various levels in the activities of this regionally-based legal reform, advocacy, and outreach network.

## Legal advocacy and the EELC in Russia:

Before the EELC's Budapest meeting, staff at the Moscow Center for Gender Studies began discussing what they saw as an urgent need for the creation of a locally-based legal advocacy committee that would assess, analyze, and monitor existing legal structures in Russia and the way they affect the situation of women. With colleagues at the Petersburg Center for Gender issues they began to formulate ideas for such a committee. These initial discussions, reinforced through participation in the Budapest meeting, culminated in plans for a national committee founding meeting of Russian lawyers, advocates and law professors.

With support from World Learning, NEWW was able to plan and organize the Russian Legal Committee's founding meeting, and to assist in that committee's first stages of development. The group's independent inaugural/planning meeting took place in Pushkin (in the vicinity of St. Petersburg) in October 1995. Forty-six women attended: 42 Russian participants from across the country and 4 US speakers/workshop leaders. This event is also notable in that it provided the first occasion on which NGO activists and innovative scholars had an opportunity to meet, work with, and establish credibility for the third sector with decision-making level government officials, researchers and legal specialists.

In the course of the meeting, plans were made to coordinate the first six months of the group's activities, such as:

- forming a panel of legal experts to critique draft legislation affecting women's rights;
- writing a situation assessment on the legal status of women;
- organizing a second meeting in Saratov in March 1996 to present the assessment and strategize ways to use it;
- developing on-line legal resources to be widely disseminated;
- forming a fund-raising strategy and long-term plan of action to advocate on behalf of women's rights;
- training legal advocates in electronic communications.

The formation of the Russian Committee and its planning meeting were the first steps in a series of activities and projects (See Appendix VI for agenda).

## **Results:**

In short time the Russian Legal Committee became one of the EELC's most dynamic, and an inspiration to other groups forming in the region. Its various activities (education, publication, sophisticated legal analysis, organization of meetings and workshops, etc.) attracted outside funding and other forms of support for the projects conceptualized at the 1995 meeting in Pushkin:

In 1995 the Network of East-West Women obtained a grant from ARD/Checchi in support of further development of the NIS Legal Network, the NIS component of the EELC. Russia was one of three participants in this project, with Ukraine and the Kyrgyz Republic. The project's goals focused on the development of functioning NIS legal committees in the participating countries, and the research for and writing of preliminary reports on the legal status of women in each.

To achieve these goals NEWW helped organized a joint planning meeting of the Russian, Kyrgyz, and Ukrainian Legal Committees in Saratov, Russia, in March 1996. Participants there shared experiences and made plans for continuing exchange of ideas and collaboration for the future. The preliminary reports produced by all three committees are currently being built upon in the development of similar reports in other countries in the region under the Open Society Institute grant received by the Network of East-West Women in 1996 for its work with the East-East Legal Coalition.

In 1996, also continuing the momentum of the ARD/Checchi project, the Moscow Center for Gender Studies obtained a significant grant from PROWID/ICRW to develop expert gender-based analysis of Russian law, state programs and current legislation and continue the activities of the Russian Legal Committee, with foci now not only in Moscow, but also in St. Petersburg at the Center for Gender Issues and at the Saratov office of the Interregional Association of Women Lawyers.

Elena Kotchkina, the EELC Project's Russian Project representative and coordinator of the Russian Legal Committee, manages this grant, which derives from and builds upon Elena's and the Center's leadership role in the NIS Legal Network Project, as well as their other work. Its activities, which have the potential for significant impact on Russian legal development, will contribute in turn to the further development of other activities of the Russian Legal Committee, and of related developments of the East-East Legal Coalition.

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## **SELF DEFENSE**

### **Activities:**

NEWW and its Russian partner, the Moscow Center for Gender Studies, hosted a Self-Defense for Instructors Seminar in Moscow from October 13-16, 1994. The seminar was attended by 39 women from 15 Russian cities (See Appendices VII and VIII for list of participants and course curriculum ), and provided an unprecedented opportunity for women to learn how to take positive action and provide for their own personal security. The skills they learned at the four-day course prepared them to conduct an 8-12 hour basic self-defense course for adult women.

The training, conducted by Melissa Stone, NEWW Self-Defense Coordinator, and Carol Middleton, President of Impact International, addressed the most common form of attacks against women: by a single, unarmed assailant, often an acquaintance. Using techniques that proven effective for adult women, the training addressed:

- 1) strategies to stay safe in your home, workplace and on the street;
- 2) how to tell if you are in a potentially dangerous situation;
- 3) where and under what conditions personal attacks and robberies are most likely;
- 4) what characteristics attackers look for in potential victims;
- 5) what are the most effective defenses that an adult woman can use to ward off attack;
- 6) how can a woman reduce her risk of injury in the event of an attack,
- 7) the most common choke holds, and how can women escape from their effects;
- 8) good strategies for escaping from enclosures and pins;
- 9) how to make self-defense instruction a sustainable course offering; and
- 10) how self-defense instruction can complement curriculum offered by public safety departments, rape crisis intervention facilities, police departments, battered women's shelters, and other social service programs.

### Adjustments/Innovations/Highlights

Although the budget originally provided for 12 to 15 participants, Moscow residents volunteered to stay at home just to be able to take the course during the day, thus we were able to accommodate 39 women -- about three times the number originally expected. This extraordinary response was an indicator of how important Russian women feel self-defense issues to be.

Having meal-times and after class informal discussions together enabled students to express their emotional concerns and recommend ways to improve the training.

The representative from the Russian People's Friendship University, Dr. Irina Akimushkina (our original partner in the project), was offered a Fulbright scholarship in the U.S., which she accepted before the training began. Her superior, and Head of the History Department, Vladimir Nicolaievich, assisted in locating and negotiating with the university for lodging, meals and training space.

The assistant to the self-defense program, Dr. Tatiana Zhuchenko, recruited 5 participants to the course from a Moscow-based Aikido school, and translated all materials for the course.

### Follow-up

In January 1995, Irina Doskich, On-Line staff member and a participant in the training, conducted a self-defense training for medical students in Moscow with the rape crisis center "Syostri", which was televised by a Russian station.

In March, 1995 Melissa Stone held a four-week beginning self-defense course for NEWW members in Washington, D.C. to raise funds to bring one of the participants from the Russian course to the U.S. for advanced training.

Aminat Malsagova was selected to attend an advanced self-defense course in Seattle, Washington in August, 1995. Melissa Stone accompanied her and functioned, pro bono, as her translator. The course was taught by women self-defense instructors from across the U.S. who are participating in self-defense instructor certification developed by the national Women's Martial Arts Federation. Training covered advanced self-defense techniques for adult women and crisis intervention techniques.

We have not been able as yet to obtain funding needed to continue this aspect of the World Learning project. We are, however, working in tandem with several groups and organizations engaged in related activities with issues of domestic violence and sexual harassment. As these partnerships continue to develop, we expect to include self-defense trainings into the project(s) that arise out of such collaboration(s).

## **BULLETIN**

In project evaluations and quarterly reports, On-line participants uniformly expressed their most urgent challenge: to systematically manage and financially afford the vast stores of information they receive. In many parts of Russia, email users cannot afford the costs of mailing list subscriptions, because they are charged per kilobyte. Moreover, they are burdened with the unmanageable amounts of material, often irrelevant, that are regularly posted to electronic conferences.

To ease the NGOs' management of NEWW On-Line information, allay costs and maximize use of electronic communication, NEWW began producing an electronic and hard copy publication, the NEWW On-line Bulletin in June 1996. With editions in both English and Russian, the Bulletin provides summaries of the information contained in NEWW's four electronic mailing lists, divided into major topics and subcategories. Readers can request full text versions of any entry in the Bulletin from NEWW or the original sender.

### **Activities:**

### **Production**

Messages from the electronic mailing lists *women-east-west*, *neww-rights*, *glas-sisters* and *glas-women-rights* are summarized in the Washington, D.C. office of NEWW. Thus far, volunteers and interns have provided pro-bono translation from Russian to

English. Inclusion of Russian materials in the English version of the Bulletin has been a priority as English-speaking members of NEWW and On-line participants in the CEE have been unable to participate in the Russian language electronic conversations.

Tatiana Troinova of the Women's Information Network (WIN) in Moscow coordinates the Russian edition of the Bulletin, overseeing translation, layout, production and distribution. Since part of WIN's mandate is to collect and circulate information about women's issues and activities in Russia, the Bulletin project complements and extends their current work.

### **Distribution**

NEWW distributes the Bulletin in Russia (and other countries in the FSU) through a variety of ways in order to reach women's groups in every part of Russia using the most cost-effective methods. WIN sends the Bulletin by postal mail with their regular mailings to women's organizations in 80 cities throughout Russia and in Central Asia, the Baltics, and Transcaucasia. We have also made arrangements with 5 of our On-line participating organizations in Voronezh, Murmansk, Tver, Naberezhny Chelny and St. Petersburg to produce and disseminate the Bulletin in their cities; they distribute both by hand and postal mail. This arrangement not only helps ensure widespread readership, but also provides a small amount of much-needed support to these groups for their continued on-line use and participation.

The English and Russian electronic versions of the Bulletin are sent to individual NEWW members with email, posted to our mailing lists, and broadcast through other electronic mailing lists. In total, the Bulletin reaches approximately 300 women's organizations in Russia, 300 in other parts of the FSU and CEE.

### **Results**

The response to the Bulletin has been extremely enthusiastic. The most frequent comment is "Please publish more often!" At least 20 organizations have requested full-text copies of articles. After the first issue, 10 organizations contacted NEWW for more information about our organization or to become members.

We are currently seeking further funding designated for support of publication of the Bulletin. In the meanwhile, NEWW expects, within the limits of our core funding, to maintain this publication as a regular feature of our services to women east and west.

### **In Summary:**

It should be evident that the various aspects of this project have, on the whole, reinforced one another and been reinforced by other NEWW activities, and that new and originally unanticipated activities reported here, such as the OnLine Legal Resource Service and the Bulletin, evolved in response to needs expressed and as an outcome of previous accomplishments.

We hope to continue to build upon the work done to date: with training of more email trainers, for example, and further technical assistance to those in our networks who are able to proceed to more advanced electronic research and exploration. We expect that the legal analysis and advocacy efforts begun in the last several years will not only continue to involve more groups but to evolve in sophistication and social impact.

While working with our various partners and making additional connections in Russia, we hope to continue to link groups and their experiences there with others throughout the region to their mutual benefit.

# **APPENDIX I**

## **On-Line Russian Participant Contract**

NETWORK OF EAST-WEST WOMEN "NEWW"  
(Объединение Восточно-Западных Женщин)  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 302  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
Телефон: (202) 265-3585  
Факс: (202) 667-3291  
Электронная Почта: neww@igc.apc.org

28 Декабря, 1994

Дорогие Члены Международного Комитета Управления!

Как вы знаете, NEWW сейчас занимается развитием сети электронной связи, NEWW On-Line (Подключение к системе), для того, чтобы связь между членами NEWW была шире, прямее и дешевле. Как часть NEWW On-Line, мы получили фонды чтобы финансировать оборудование, подготовку и маленькую месячную стипендию для участвующих членов Международного Комитета Управления (ISC). Поддержка из учреждений относится только к членами ISC в Восточной и Центральной Европе и в бывшем Советском Союзе, а не к членам в Соединённых Штатах, Западной Европе, и Австралии.

Чтобы эта новая система электронной почты была эффективная, нам придётся развивать два ряда директив: один ряд по общему употреблению NEWW On-Line -- и сообщению и обсуждению на электронной почте, и другой ряд по установлению ответственностей и условию за оборудование, подготовку и стипендию для членов ISC. Мы надеемся, что эти директивы помогут всем нам работать с одинаковым ожиданием.

Мы приглашаем вас участвовать в формулировке этих директив. В последние два месяца, некоторые из членов, представительей ISC, членов правления, учителей и кафедр предлагали вопросы, советовали и помогали писать следующие наброски, включая в себя:

- учителей по электронной почте: Рома Сисла, Галина Венедиктова, Виктория Врана;
- членов правления: Маргарит Боуман, Нанетт Фанк, Анастасия Посадскава, Анн Снитоу;
- членов ISC: Шана Пэнн, Карма Рид, Соня Джаффи Роббинс, Славка Валчюска;
- координатора по русской программе: Лена Котчикина;
- консультанта по электронной почте: Катерин Турнипсид.



Директивы вносят ясность в соглашение между проектом NEWW On-Line и членами ISC по поводу снабжения оборудования, подготовки и стипендией. Кроме того, мы прилагаем список вопросов и ответов, который, мы надеемся, будет вам полезным. Это может быть самый важный вопрос, на который мы пытаемся найти ответ, Анастасия Посадскава спросила: "Что мы можем сделать, для того, чтобы эта сеть связи стала ценным СРЕДСТВОМ, а не тягостью?"

Это является только наброском. Нам хотелось бы узнать ваши комментарии, реакции, и рекомендации по этим предлагающим директивам. Пожалуйста, читайте, критикуйте, исключайте, начинайте с начала, сомнивайтесь, и аплодируйте. Пожалуйста, отвечайте нам как можно скорее -- не позже \_\_\_\_\_ Января, 1995 -- чтобы мы могли составить приятный и выполнимый обмен.

Огромное спасибо вам за ваше мнение.

От имени всех нас, кто работал над этим наброском, мы желаем вам счастья,

Шана Пэнн

Соня Джаффи Роббинс

Анн Снитоу

## НАБРОСОК

Предлагаемые Директивы Между Проектом NEWW On-Line и Членами Комитета Управления

### I. Что могут участвующие члены ожидать от NEWW On-Line?

#### A. Оборудование

В первые три месяца 1995-ого года, NEWW даёт модем каждому члену ISC чтобы связать её компьютер с сетью электронной почты. В бывшем Советском Союзе, некоторые члены ISC получают компьютеры, в согласий с условиями разных субсидий из фондов. В Восточной и Центральной Европе, член ISC должен уже иметь компьютер чтобы получить подготовку, модем и стипендию. Те члены ISC которые уже имеют модем, получают подготовку и стипендию.

#### Б. Подготовка

1. NEWW даёт участвующим членам ISC подготовку по получению и употреблению NEWW сети электронной почты. Наши учительницы по электронной почте будут путешествовать по Восточной и Центральной Европе и по бывшему Советскому Союзу с Января по Март 1995-ого года чтобы проводить подготовки.

2. Кроме того, NEWW даёт простой справочник по проекту On-Line. Этот справочник будет написан на английском языке, но NEWW в Вашингтоне пытается найти фонды для переводов, и также ободряет каждого члена ISC делать так же или хоть как-нибудь помочь с этой работой NEWW.

3. После того, как вы получите предварительную подготовку и вы подключитесь к системе, можно будет обратиться по электронной почте к Галине, Роме и Виктории. Если мы найдём нужные фонды, учительницы будут преподавать курсы переподготовки либо в вашем кабинете, либо на собраниях.

4. В бывшей Югославии, Катарин Турнипсид учила женщин электронной почте от имени «Электронные Уичис» и проекта «СТАР», в том числе многих членов ISC.

#### В. Стипендия

1. NEWW даёт каждому участвующему члену ISC маленькую месячную стипендию (\$150 в месяц членам в Восточной и Центральной Европе, и \$100 в месяц плюс компьютер членам в бывшем Советском Союзе).

2. Цель стипендии -- это помочь вам распределить по электронной почте информацию для общества, которое, по-вашему, интересуется вопросами прав женщин, гражданством и т.д. Далее,

стипендия будет употребляться для того, чтобы связаться почтовой системой с другими и управлять NEWW в демократическом направлении.

3. Вы получите стипендию, даже если вы не получите модем и подготовку от наших учительниц.

## II. Что требуется, чтобы проект функционировал?

Для того, чтобы NEWW управлял и эффективно служил проектам женщин, от участвующих членов ISC требуются следующие:

A. работать не менее в 12 месяцев.

B. иметь связь.

-- Участвующие члены ISC будут регулярно встречаться с другими членами ISC по электронной почте на электронной конференции. Мы ожидаем 2 собрания в месяц по этому соглашению, и более, если вы желаете. Мы ищем добровольцев для облегчения проведения первого собрания.

B. распространять информацию.

1. Участвующие члены ISC будут распространять информацию из групп по электронной почте и по электронной конференции лицам, которые находятся в широкой сети NEWW, в её районе.

2. Каждый член ISC, в её сообществе с другими, решит как лучше распределять полезную информацию и что надо переводить. Мы предлагаем следующее:

а. загружать (хранить в компьютере) все материалы и посылать по почте или по факсу к связным людям по их желанию;

И/ИЛИ

б. посылать по почте или по факсу месячные списки заглавий новых объявлений другим связным людям NEWW, и давать материалы по их желанию;

И/ИЛИ

в. давать или еженедельно или два раза в неделю копии материалов в местный феминистский центр информации;

И/ИЛИ

г. приносить материалы в местные конференции и собрания;

И/ИЛИ

д. дать материалы в местную прессу

И/ИЛИ

е. приглашать женщин употреблять электронную почту, научить системе управления, и помогать распределять информацию.

3. Делить ответственности: все эти деятельности не надо выполнять только членам ISC. Можно делегировать многие из них, особенно те, которые касаются с распределением информации. После подготовок, можно будет обратиться к учительницам и кафедрам чтобы узнать, как другие группы занимаются электронной почтой и электронными конференциями. Собрания будут подключена к системе между членами ISC, однако, требуется присутствие членов ISC для того, чтобы функционировать как орган демократического управления. Если ISC согласится, то всем заинтересованным членам можно будет получить сводки этих встреч.

### III. Как поддерживать оборудование?

А. Распределяемые оборудования, в согласии с договором между NEWW и фондами, употребляются для того, чтобы было продвижение сети подключенной к системе. NEWW в Вашингтоне несет ответственность за пользование оборудованием, а не за его ремонт. Модемы редко выходят из строя. Можно будет обратиться по электронной почте к учителям по поводу технических советов.

Б. Если участвующий член ISC захочет закончить её ответственность за эту деятельность, она сможет вернуть оборудование NEWW в Вашингтоне, Д.С. для переходов в другую группу в её городе/стране/районе, и/или она сможет помочь решить этот переход.

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Когда член ISC получит оборудование, подготовку и стипендию, она соглашается выполнить все эти условия. Пожалуйста, внимательно подумайте об этих условиях и не соглашайтесь получить стипендию и т.д., если вы не сможете выполнить эти условия. По поводу наших вопросов, вы можете сейчас обратиться к Шане Пэну и Соне Джаффе Робинсу в Америке, и учительницы смогут ответить вам на ваши вопросы, когда вас посетят.

Спасибо за ваш пересмотр и комментарии на этих предлагающих нам условиях. Ещё раз, ЭТО ЯВЛЯЕТСЯ ТОЛЬКО НАВРОСКОМ. Мы с удовольствием принимаем ваш совет и мы благодарны вам за него.

### NEWW ON-LINE

#### ВОПРОСЫ И ОТВЕТЫ

1. Какое взаимоотношение между членом ISC и сетью электронной почты?

Невозможно полно ответить на этот вопрос, пока вы ещё не употребляете сети электронной почты и не решили индивидуально и коллективно характер отношений. Ответ на этот вопрос, как часто бывает, только решён частично, потому что ответ зависит от вашего

В

участия, которое можно облегчить по электронной почте, чем через другие средства.

На основании опыта других активистов, сеть электронной почты является хорошим путем обмена информации чтобы служить нашему уважаемому обществу и развитию органа демократического руководства. В нашем случае, это является NEWW.

2. Часто ли используется электронная почта для установления сети между активистами?

Да, многие активисты и негосударственные организации установили сети электронной почты. В Восточной и Центральной Европе и в бывшем Советском Союзе, сторонники защиты окружающей среды употребляют электронную почту. Но пока нет феминистской сети электронной почты которая соединяет женщин в этих странах, за исключением бывшей Югославии, где сейчас пытаются установить такую систему. Кроме этого, нет другой сети, которая обеспечивает членов стипендиями.

3. Сколько времени потребуется для этого?

Каждый член ISC решит это, и скорее всего, будет по-разному. Важно вам уяснить насчёт времени и вашей энергии, которые вы сможете посвятить на этот проект, однако, обсудить это с другими членами из NEWW перед тем, как вы решите служить или не служить. Мы понимаем, что у всех есть сложности в жизни, и может быть, NEWW не играет большую роль в вашей жизни. Тем не менее, нам надо знать, какая эта роль и как она сопоставляется с вашей другой работой. Возможно, что придётся доложить о состоянии проекта четыре раза в год, и время и энергия, которые вы сможете дать в течение одного года могут быть разными. Собрания два раза в месяц являются важными источниками информации.

4. Если срок обязательства -- один год, тогда что произойдёт после выполнения этого срока?

Может быть ISC решит, продлит ли члены время ещё на один срок или уйдут из ISC. Если женщины захотят продлить служить в ISC, тогда NEWW поможет каждому члену получить нужные фонды для того, чтобы продержаться. Если член решит уходить, она сможет помочь выбрать преемницу или другие смогут выбрать её.

NEWW уже собрал деньги на второй год подготовки по электронной почте в Восточной и Центральной Европе, но не в бывшем Советской Союзе. Может быть ISC решит, кому можно стать членом ISC во втором году, и ещё, какие будут условия обязательства (т.е., либо один год либо больше одного года). Кроме того, может быть ISC решит, как обеспечивать фондами членов ISC на втором году в бывшем Советском Союзе.

5. Есть ли фонд для сети электронной почты после второго года?

Пока нет. Продолжение фондов зависит от нужды и требования за продолжение сети электронной почты. Члены ISC и NEWW решат

этот вопрос. Далее, это будет зависеть от того, как хорошо мы продемонстрируем цели системы.

6. Как можно использовать стипендию?

Можно использовать стипендию по требованиям и мнениям каждого члена ISC. Стоимости электронной почты расходятся в разных странах. Способности распределения расходятся в разных обществах. Скорее всего, каждый член ISC разовёт свои методы использования стипендии и посоветует друг другу по поводу того, как лучше пользоваться стипендией и сети электронной почты. Можно использовать стипендию на следующие стоимости: труд, месячные расходы электронной почты, расходы распределения. Учительницы вам сообщат, сколько стоит электронная почта в вашем районе. Если вы пожелаете, кафедры в Вашингтоне и в Нью-Йорке вам помогут определить другие стоимости.

7. Когда договор и стипендия вступят в силу?

Стипендия вступит в силу после того, как установят ваш модем, откроют счёт электронной почты и начнётся подготовка. Мы понимаем, что будет разница в несколько недель среди членов ISC, но разница небольшая. Пожалуйста, комментируйте по этому поводу.

8. Сколько денег будет распределено?

NEWW в Вашингтоне договорится с каждым членом ISC чтобы распределить стипендию, намерное сезонно. Вашингтонскому отделу надо будет узнать, есть ли у вашей организации счёт в банке, в который можно посылать деньги по телеграфу.

9. Есть ли пути дополнения к стипендии?

Мы одобряем каждого члена ISC употреблять этот источник и собирать ещё фонды для её организации. NEWW в Вашингтоне сообщил нескольким учреждениям, что сеть электронной почты развивается и попросил возможности членам ISC ходатайствовать в учреждении за фондами, на пример «НИС-ЮС Уиманс НГО Консортием» в Москве; «Глобалъ Фэнд фор Уиман» в Калифорний; «Сорос Фоундашон» в нашей стране. Предварительные фонды, которые получил NEWW этим проектам, увеличат способности каждого члена ISC собирать ещё фонды. Если есть желание, NEWW в Вашингтоне посоветует каждому члену, как собирать эти фонды.

Далее, NEWW в Вашингтоне сейчас собирает фонды чтобы:

(а) платить за расходы переводов каждого члена ISC, (б) развить продолжение обучения, и (в) получить подаренное компьютерное оборудование.

Ещё возможно рекламировать вашу способность по электронной почте как службу местным активистам. Вы сможете запросить небольшую сумму послать и получить сообщения от имени других, обучить других, проводить изучение (пока подключены к системе) от

имени других. Кто-нибудь на ваших кафедрах может работать «электро-почтмейстером» или «электро-библиотекарем».

10. Как определить, пользуют ли сеть электронной почты члены ISC?

Пожалуйста, что-нибудь предлагайте. Может быть каждому члену придётся заполнять четыре раза в год отчёт, который описывает как часто и по каким целям употребляют электронную почту.

11. Что будет если, неожиданно, я слишком занята чтобы выполнить своё обязательство?

Пожалуйста, что-нибудь предлагайте. Можно сказать заранее, что слишком занята, помочь выбрать преемницу, участвовать в выборе Комитета Управления выбрать преемницу. Модем и стипендия тогда даются новому члену ISC.

12. Ограничена ли я в употреблении электронной почты только участвовать в ISC? Можно ли просто для себя пользоваться всемирные ресурсы?

Пожалуйста, пользуйте электронную почту и Internet (Междусеть) в широкой форме. Цель NEWW On-Line -- это не только чтобы увековечить NEWW. Хотя мы этого не ожидаем, мы ободряем членам ISC употреблять компьютерную связь и внутри её страны и за границей, и далее, употреблять Internet достигать информацию в компьютерах из всех концов мира. NEWW даёт обучение к ISC пользоваться службы, напремер следующие: gopher (гофер), Archie (Арчи), Veronica (Вероника), и т.д.

В большой степени, NEWW является сетью обмена информации, и одобряет часто обменивать информацию и с группами и с лицами. Если вы желаете, подключение к этой системе даёт много видов деятельности и собраний в которых вы можете участвовать.

NETWORK OF EAST-WEST WOMEN  
1601 Connecticut Avenue, NW Suite 302  
Washington, D.C. 20009  
телефон: (202) 265-3585  
факс: (202) 667-3291  
электронная почта: <neww@igc.apc.org>

#### NEWW On-Line Договор

NEWW получил фонды из Фордского Учреждения, МакАртурского Учреждения, Уирльда Лернинга, Инк., и Юражаского Учреждения чтобы установить проект On-Line. Поскольку эти учреждения нас финансируют, мы обязаны демонстрировать ответственность, и нам придётся работать по следующим условиям.

Все из нас в NEWW получают фонды и оборудование с согласием показать всё, что мы завершали.

Чтобы оправдать эти расходы нашим учреждениям, нам всем надо:

1. показать, что оборудование, подготовка и стипендия получены;
2. показать что мы употребляем оборудование, подготовку и стипендию в согласии с установившимися директивами, например нас придётся написать:
  - а. сколько информации распределено;
  - б. сколько просеб за информацию мы получаем;
  - в. сколько интересов развивается в женских предметах;
  - г. сколько новых людей участвует в NEWW
  - д. как мы тратим стипендии.

Важно всем из нас выполнить проект с подготовки до распределения, и вести учёт наших деятельностей чтобы показать наши завершения и как мы можем улучшить этот метод связи.

С моей подписью на этом документе, я понимаю и соглашаюсь с условиями обмена оборудования, подготовки и стипендии за участие в сети NEWW On-Line.

Подпись

\_\_\_\_\_  
Начальница NEWW

Член ISC

\_\_\_\_\_  
дата



## **APPENDIX II**

### **On-Line Quarterly Report Guidelines**

## NEWW ON-LINE PARTICIPANTS; INFORMATION TO INCLUDE IN YOUR QUARTERLY REPORTS:

Each organization participating in NEWW On-Line is required to produce an quarterly report every three months. The report should be 1-2 pages long, informal and sent to the NEWW office in Washington, D.C. by e-mail or fax.

Things you must include in your Quarterly Report:

1. How you are spending your monthly stipend.

Example:

In April we spent \$45 on our e-mail account, \$15 dollars on paper and \$40 on salary. In May we spent half our stipend on our e-mail account and half our stipend on salaries. In June we spent \$50 on postage, \$10 on computer discs and \$40 on our e-mail account.

2. What kind of information you find useful and/or interesting that you receive through e-mail. What kind of information you do not use and would like to not receive.

3. How you are distributing the e-mail information to organizations and institutions in your region who do not have access to electronic communications technology. Example:

In April we sent a list of all the documents we received by e-mail to 20 women's organizations in Our City. We sent documents on request through the mail to 6 of these organizations. In May we brought documents we received by e-mail to a conference one of our members attended on Women's Health in Moscow. We also sent information about subscribing to NEWW's conference/ mailing list to everyone we know who has e-mail. In June we sent another list of documents received to organizations in Our City. One of our members handed the article we received about women and employment in the Baltic countries to the students in her economics course at Our City University.

Things you might want to include in your Quarterly Report:

1. A list of organizations and/or individuals you have sent e-mail documents.
2. A list of women's organizations in your region.
3. Any technical or distribution problems you may be having.
4. E-mail addresses of contacts you have made on-line.
5. How e-mail has changed your office routine.
6. Any questions you have about NEWW On-Line or e-mail.

## **APPENDIX III**

### **Russian On-Line Participating Organizations**

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## **Russian Women's NGOs Trained in E-mail for NEWW On-Line Network**

1. Voronezh  
Independent Women's Democratic Initiative (NEZHDI)  
Ludmila Y. Tarasova  
e-mail: forvor@glas.apc.org
2. Kaluga  
Women's Rights Advocating Organization "Lubava"  
Lubov Mikhailova  
e-mail: forkalug@glas.apc.org
3. Kemerovo  
Independent Women's Democratic Initiative (NEZHDI)  
Natalya Sapsina  
e-mail: nejzdi@womfond.kemerovo.su
4. Mirnyi  
Association of Humanitarian Initiatives  
Marina Belozerova  
e-mail: formir@glas.apc.org
5. Moscow  
Moscow Center of Gender Studies  
Elena Kotchkina  
e-mail: mcgs@glas.apc.org
6. Murmansk  
Women's Congress of Kola Peninsula  
Lubov Shtylyova  
e-mail: irina@womkongr.murmansk.su
7. Naberezhnye Chelny  
Women's Public Association "Femina"  
Elena Mashkova  
e-mail: elena@fem.kamaz.kazan.su
8. St-Petersburg  
St-Petersburg Center for Gender Issues  
Olga Lipovskaya  
e-mail: sisters@sovam.com
9. Sergiev Posad  
Women's Society "Soglasie"  
Lidia Gorbatova  
e-mail: las@soglasie.msk.su
10. Tver  
Association of Women's Independent Initiative  
Valentina Uspenskaya  
e-mail: val@usp.tunis.tver.su

## **APPENDIX IV**

### **"Statement from a Non-Region"**

East-East Caucus  
at the IV World Conference on Women  
Beijing, China

**"VOICES FROM THE NON-REGION"**  
**24 COUNTRIES WITH ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION**  
**IN THE ECE REGION**

PRESS RELEASE, 14. IX. 1995

Our group of countries is a Non-Region, because there is no recognizable political or geographic definition for the region composed of countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Our most serious problem is the consistent and drastic decline in the status of women. Women face problems with unemployment, environmental disasters, armed conflicts, increased violence and trafficking in women. The Governments have failed to incorporate the needs and interests of women in their reforms.

Notably, for the first time in the history of the United Nations, we, more than 400 women representing more than 80 NGOs from 19 countries, came together to NGO Forum and articulated the concerns of women of the region. The East European Caucus have developed specific recommendations and amendments to the Beijing Platform for Action.

We recognize that the Platform for Action includes many issues important to the region; however, we have some reservations about the Document. We could not contribute in drafting in the early stages of the process and believe that the description of the impact of the transition to democracy on women is inadequate (paragraph 17). We disagree with the description of the feminization of poverty as a short - term consequence of the political, economic and social transformation (paragraph 50). We also disagree with the analysis of reproductive health issues for the countries in transition in paragraph 98 and believe that the most pressing concern is the restriction or threatened restriction on the right to legal and accessible abortion.

Despite these concerns, we believe that the Platform for Action can be a powerful tool for change in our region. We have recommendations to our Governments to develop a plan for regional cooperation and allocate appropriate resources to implement the recommendations in the Platform.

The decline in the status of women in our region negatively impacts progress in the world community. We urge all nations to consider the particular conditions of women in our region in implementing the platform.

## **APPENDIX V**

**English and Russian Materials Available  
through the On-Line Legal Resource Service**

**ENGLISH MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH  
NEWW ONLINE LEGAL RESOURCE SERVICE  
(As of April, 1997)**

**HEALTH**

1. ARTICLE - "The New Abortion Act." by Ibolya Jakus. From The Hungarian Quarterly. v. 34, no. 129. Spring 1993
  2. ARTICLE - "Women and HIV/AIDS in Russia." by Irina V. Savelyeva. From "Initiatives in the New Independent States." World Learning, Inc. Issues II & III. Spring/Summer 1994.
  3. ARTICLE - "Disabled Women Form Coalition for Change in Novosibirsk." by Marc Krizack. From "Initiatives in the New Independent States." World Learning, Inc. Issues II & III, Spring/ Summer, 1994.
  4. ARTICLE - Table of Contents of the NIS Health Promotion Bulletin and article on family planning. the Center for Communications, Health and the Environment (CECHE). vol. 2, issue 1. Spring 1997.
  6. ARTICLE - "Contraception and Abortion in Romania." by Brooke R. Johnlon, Mihai Horga and Laurentia Andronache. From The Lance. Volume 341. April 3, 1993. p. 875-878.
  7. ARTICLE - Transcript of a Voice of America piece on Abortion in Russia. by Elizabeth Arrott, Edited/Distributed by HURINet - The Human Rights Information Network. Jan. 22, 1997.
  8. ARTICLE - "Contraceptive Use Increases in Russia." by Margaret Schehl. From the AVSC Newsletter. Vol. 34, No. 4. Winter 1996.
  9. ARTICLE - "Women, Disability, and Health Care in Siberia." by Jen Peterson and Ellen Dorsch. from World Learning's Initiatives Newsletter Fall 1995.
  10. ARTICLE - "Abortion for Money or Not." Excerpted and translated from Donosy, a Polish language daily email newsletter. February 11, 1997.
- 
1. CONTACT - List of World Health Organization member states.
- 
1. COUNTRY NEWS - The current situation of women's reproductive rights in Croatia and the actions being taken to limit women's access to abortion in Croatia. February 21, 1997.
- 
1. E-RESOURCE - American International Health Alliance's online women's health resources web page. Russian language women's health materials. Feb. 20, 1997.
  2. E-RESOURCE - American International Health Alliance's online women's health resources web page. (March 6, 1997)
  3. E-RESOURCE - AIHA Women's Health Sites (Complete list).
- 
1. EVENTS/CONFERENCES - Roundtable on Women in the Law, Sponsored by ABA-CEELI & WLDI, 22 January, 1997.
- 
1. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - American International Health Alliance. "Women's Health Initiative."
  2. PROJECTS/ ORGANIZATIONS - Aids Infoshare (based in Moscow and California,) and a list of their partner organizations.



3. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Action Alert - International Criminal Court & Justice for Women.
4. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Access to Voluntary and Safe Contraception (AVSC) International.
5. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - "I Gave my Heart to the Program From Heart to Heart." by Anya Gurina. From World Learning's Initiatives newsletter, Fall 1995.

6. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Canadian HIV/AIDS Legal Network.

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1. PUBLICATIONS - AVSC Publications list.
  2. PUBLICATIONS - International Legal Perspectives law journal.
  3. PUBLICATIONS - American International Health Alliance women's health literature published in Russian.
  4. PUBLICATIONS - "Meeting the Health Needs of Women; Survivors of the Balkan Conflict; Adoption, Abortion and Citizenship: Legal Issues and Recommendations of Croatian Organizations." from the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy. 1993.
  5. PUBLICATIONS - "The Right to Know; Human Rights and Access to Reproductive Health Information." by Article 19 International Centre Against Censorship. Dec 1994.
  6. PUBLICATIONS - A Parent's Guide to Teenage Sexuality. by Jay Gale, Ph. D., in Lithuanian. From the Lithuanian Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women.
  7. PUBLICATION - Press release on "Promoting Reproductive Rights: A Global Mandate." Produced by the Center For Reproductive Law and Policy.
- 

1. REPORT - "Health for all policy gaining in influence throughout the Region" WHO Regional Office for Europe.
  2. REPORT - Exerpts from "The Situation of Women in Poland," a publication by the Polish Committee of NGOs - Beijing 1995. Warsaw 1995. pp. 35-48.
  3. REQUEST - Request for statistics on STD transmission in Russia.
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## **LABOR**

1. ANNOUNCE - Books on Women and Employment.
  2. ANNOUNCE - Welcome Labor; CALL FOR PAPERS
- 
1. ARTICLE - "Albanian Women's Employment" AP, January 22, 199. 2 6 pp. Journal, (Winter, 1994) 5pp.
  2. ARTICLE - "Continuity and Discontinuity in the Legal System: What it Means for Women: A Female Lawyer's Perspective on Woman and the Law in Hungary" by Krisztina Morvai. 3pp.
  3. ARTICLE - "The EC. A View Toward EEC Law: A Practical Guide" by Christine Alice Corcos, Case Western Reserve Journal of International Law, (Spring/Summer, 1990) 34 pg (only posted outline, complete guide available).

4. ARTICLE - "Enhancing the Effectiveness of the Prohibition of Discrimination Against Women" by Theodor Meron, American Journal of International Law, (January, 1990).
5. ARTICLE - "Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities in the Russian Labour Market" by Ludmila N. Zavadskaya, 9 pg.
6. ARTICLE - "The European Court of Justice and the US Supreme Court: Parallels in Fundamental Rights of Jurisprudence" by Steven A. Bibas, Hastings International Comparative Law Review, (Winter, 1992) 35 pg.
7. ARTICLE - "Judicial Review in the New Nations of Central and Eastern Europe: Some Thoughts From a Comparative Perspective" by Justice Robert F. Utter & David C. Lundsgaard, Ohio State University Law Review, (1993) 37 pg.
8. ARTICLE - "Gender Discrimination - Related Cases Before the European Commission and Court of Human Rights" by Krisztina Morvai, (Fall, 1994). 5pp.
9. ARTICLE - "Gender Discrimination--ECC European Court of Justice Determines that a Non-Contributory Occupational Pension Scheme Should Not Discriminate on the Basis of Sex. Barber v. Royal Exchange Assurance" by R. Mace Flournoy, Georgia Journal of International and Comparative Law, (1991) 23 pg.
10. ARTICLE - "International Labor Standards and Instruments of Recourse for Working Women" by Lance Compa, The Yale Journal of International Law, (Winter, 1992, vol. 17, no. 1), 21 pg.
11. ARTICLE - "Marshal II: Enhancing the Remedy Available to Individuals for Gender Discrimination in the EC" by Gina L. Ziccolella, (December 1994) 34 pg.
12. ARTICLE - "National and International Sources of Women's Right to Equal Employment - Opportunities: Equality in Law Versus Equality in Fact" by Jill Andrews, Northwestern Journal of International Law and Business, (Winter, 1994).
13. ARTICLE -- "Reconstructing Social and Economic Rights in Transitional Economics", Rebecca Sewall. 5 pp.
14. ARTICLE - Russia: Russian women fight stereotypes in election battle (22 October 1993) 3 pg
15. ARTICLE - Abstract: "Sexual Harassment in the Workplace: Stereotypes, Legislation, and Reality".
16. ARTICLE - "Some Unsolicited Advice to My Women Friends in Eastern Europe" by Patricia M. Wald, Southern Methodist University Law Review, (Winter, 1992) 25 pg.
17. ARTICLE -- "Summary of Findings: A Tenuous Moment: Women and Economic Reform in Hungary" Rebecca Sewall, 1992. 19pp.
18. ARTICLE -- "Women in Labor", Moscow Times, August 10 1996. 1 p.
19. ARTICLE -- "Women Swell Ranks of Working Poor", World of Work, International Labor Organization, SEP-OCT 1996. 5 pp.
21. ARTICLE -- "Women's Realities in European Human Rights Law: A Case Study", Krisztina Morvai.
22. ARTICLE - "Sex Discrimination or Gender Inequality?" by Leslie Bender, Fordham Law Review, (May, 1989).X 38. NEWS - News about NGO Law in Hungary.
23. ARTICLE - PART ONE "Central and Eastern Europe: Women Workers in the Transitional Phase", Eva Eberhardt & Jacqueline Heinen, Labour Issues: 8, Geneva, 1993

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24. ARTICLE - PART TWO "Central and Eastern Europe: Women Workers in the Transitional Phase", Eva Eberhardt & Jacqueline Heinen, Labour Issues: 8, Geneva, 1993

25. ARTICLE - "World Criminal Court Is Urgently Needed", Jimmy Carter, \_New York Times\_, December 10, 1996.

26 ARTICLE - "The Gender Consequences of Political and Economic Reform", Jirina Siklova, from the Conference Social Science Research Council on "The Social Bases of Liberalization", Warsaw, September 23-25, 1994.

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1. BIBLIO -- PART ONE "Labor Law Annotated Bibliography" Lori Hirtelen, Fall, 1996. 6 pp.

2. BIBLIO - PART TWO "Labor Law Annotated Bibliography" Lori Hirtelen, Fall, 1996. 6 pp.

3. BIBLIO - "Selected Current Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Labor Law" by Marta Tarnawsky & Maria Smolka-Day, Comparative Labor Law Journal, (Winter, 1994) 5 pg.

4. BIBLIO - "Selected Current Bibliography on Foreign and Comparative Labor Law" from the \_Comparative Labor Law Journal\_, Winter, 1994 by Marta Tarnawsky & Maria Smolka-Day

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1. COUNTRY NEWS - News about NGO Law in Hungary.  
1 p.

2. COUNTRY NEWS - "Women's Employment in Tajikistan" By Dr. Marjorie Kheday, Executive Director of Women's NGO 'Traditions and Contemporaneusness'.

3. COUNTRY NEWS - Law of the EEC in England, 2 pg.

4. COUNTRY NEWS - Suggestions to Project Labor Code in Albania, by WOMEN'S LEGAL GROUP, Tirana.

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1. DRAFT LEGISLATION/LEGISLATION - Poland: Polish Law Governing Termination of Labor Relationship Between Workers and Workplace, December 28, 1991

2. DRAFT LEGISLATION/LEGISLATION - Labor Law of Mongolia, As adopted January 24, 1991, and as amended January 14, 1993. NOTE: Only the section of the labor law relating specifically to women has been included in this posting.

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1. PROJECTS - Description of International Criminal Court, November 14, 1996.

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1. PUB - Assessing the Status of Women - A Guide to Reporting Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, produced by the International Women's Rights Action Watch (IWRAP), Article 11 - Employment, 3 pg.

2. PUB - U.S. Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women - An overview and analysis of U.S. law relating to the obligations of the Women's Convention, produced by the International Human Rights Group.

3. PUB - Selected ILO Documents on Working Women, produced by International Labour Office Geneva. 3 pp.

4. PUB - Manual on Human Rights Reporting, produced by United Nations Centre for Human Rights and United Nations Institute for Training and Research, Chapter on: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women by Zagorka Ilic, 23 pg.

5. PUB - Employment Discrimination - Law and Litigation, Volume 1, by Merrick T. Rossein.

6. PUB -- Guide to Legal Studies in Europe, 1996-1997.

7. PUB - Russian Labor Review.

8. PUB - Polish Legal Journal Publication.

1. REPORT - Judgment of the Court of 17 October 1989. Preliminary finding on article 177, equal pay for men and women, 9 pg.

2. REPORT - Judgment of the Court of 28 September 1994, social policy and pension schemes 1 pg.

3. REPORT - Judgment of the court of 28 September 1994, social policy and pension schemes 16 pg.

4. REPORT - Opinion of Advocate General With Regard to Internal Sexual Discrimination on Promotion, (19 November 1987) 5 pg.

5. REPORT - Polish Law Governing Termination of Labor Relationship Between Workers and Workplace, (28 December 1991) 8 pg.

6. REPORT - Resolution on Sexual Discrimination at the Workplace, (16. April 1984) 1 pg.

7. REPORT - The Role of Women in Rebuilding the Russian Economy, produced by the World Bank. 5 pp.

8. REPORT - Summary Description of European Community Institutions; Council Directive (February, 1976), principle of equal treatment for men and women, 5 pg.

9. REPORT - Case Report to European Court of Human Rights, first case involving a gypsy applicant, produced by European Roma Rights Center, October 3, 1996. 5 pp.

10. REPORT -- "Women and Work" section from "The Situation of Women in Poland" report for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, by Polish Committee of NGOs; March, 1995.

11. REPORT -- "Labour and Social Insecurity" section from "Bulgaria 1995, Situation of Women" report for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, by UNDP, 1995. 5 pp.

12. REPORT -- "Women in the Labor Market" section from "Women in Ukraine" report for the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, by UN mission and organizing committee, 1995.

13. REPORT -- "Workshop on the Status of Women in the New Market Economies" co-sponsored by the University of Connecticut Law School's International Legal Programs, the Network of East-West Women, and the Connecticut Journal of International Law, April 13-15, 1996, Prepared by Donna Axel. 4 pp.

14. REPORT -- "The Changing Role of Women in Employment in Eastern Europe" World Bank Report #8213, by Monica Fang and Gilliam Pane, February, 1992.

15. REPORT - "Assessing the Status of Women: A Guide to Reporting Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women Second Edition - 1996, Produced by: Commonwealth Secretariat, International Women's Rights Action Watch, 1996.

1. Treaty on European Union (29 July 1992) 1 pg.

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#### **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

1. ARTICLE - "Secrets of the Private Home: An Interview with Isabel Marcus on Domestic Violence Cases in Hungary." Published in *Noszemely*, a Hungarian feminist publication, 1995. pp. 6-7. 4 pp.

2. ARTICLE - "Ending Violence Against Women in Russia and Worldwide." by Yevgenia Israelyan and Tatiana Zabelina. From *Surviving Together*, Vol. 14, Issue 1. Spring, 1996. 1 p.

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1. BIBLIOGRAPHY - "Domestic Violence, an annotated Bibliography of Legal and Social Science Literature." by Lori Hirtelen SUNY Buffalo School of Law, April 22, 1996. 18 pp.

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2. BIBLIOGRAPHY - Date rape (2 books) 1p.

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1. CONTACT - European Network of Policewomen.

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1. COUNTRY NEWS - "A City Where Violence Does Not Pay Off." by Eva Capova. Reprinted from "Prague Gender Studies Bulletin" Dec. 1995-Jan. 1996. 1 p.

2. COUNTRY NEWS - "Domestic Violence/ Sexual Assault in Russia." by Natalia Khodyreva. The Crisis Psychological Centre for Women. St. Petersburg, Russia. 3pp.

3. COUNTRY NEWS - Women in Belgrade, Serbia (calendar of events, Jan-April 1997) 1 p.

4. COUNTRY NEWS - News from Belgrade, Serbia, written April 20, 1996. 1 p.

5. COUNTRY NEWS - Conference on Domestic Violence in Krakow, Poland. Oct., 1995. 1 p.

6. COUNTRY NEWS - Violence Against Women Tribunal; Violence Against Women as a Human Rights Violation; Poland Dec. 1995.

7. COUNTRY NEWS - Exerpt from the Prague Gender Studies Centre Bulletin. December, 1995-January, 1996.

8. COUNTRY NEWS - Russian Association of Crisis Centers for Women; Violence Against Women in Russia; Research, Education and Advocacy Program. 2 pp.

9. COUNTRY NEWS - The Moscow Sexual Assault Recovery Center "Syostri." Report on the Use of the Rape Crisis Hotline. 1. p.

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1. CURRICULUM - "Teen Relationship Violence." Produced by the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women. 1 p.

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1. DISCUSSION - Kristen Hansen Re: legal assistance for battered women in Russia.

2. DISCUSSION - Kristen Hansen Re: legal assistance for battered women in ECE and FSU.

3. DISCUSSION - Maria Bevacqua Re: Child abuse prevention. 2 pp.

---

1. NEWW - "Violence Against Women: At Home and in War." Meeting on June 22nd, 1996.

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1. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - The Center for Women War Victims in Zagreb, Croatia. 1. p.

2. PROJECTS/ORGANZATIONS - Medica Zenica, Women's therapy center; Zenica, Bosnia-Hercegovina. 5pp.

3. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - NANE, Women Working with Women Against Violence. Budapest, Hungary 6 pp.

4. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Albanian Women's Center. 1 p.

5. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Organizational profile of the Warsaw women's rights center. 1 p.

6. PROJECTS/ORGANIZATIONS - Women's Legal Group. Albania. 4 pp.

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1. PUBLICATION - Book review on How to Create a Women's Crisis Center. Reprinted from Surviving Together. Winter 1995, vol. 15, issue 4. 3pp.

2. PUBLICATION - "Domestic Violence in Albania." Produced by the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. April 1996. 1p.

3. PUBLICATION - "Domestic Violence in Bulgaria." Produced by the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. March 1996. 1 p.

4. PUBLICATION - "Lifting the Last Curtain; A Report on Domestic Violence in Romania." Produced by the Minnesota Advocates for Human Rights. February 1995. 1 p.

5. PUBLICATION - Prague Gender Studies Centre Bulletin; December 1995 - January 1996. 1 p.

6. PUBLICATION - Domestic violence and disability in Australia. 1p.

7. PUBLICATION - State Response Improvements. A study on laws addressing domestic violence. From Women, Law & Development. Apr., 1996.

8. PUBLICATION - Sexual Violence: An Invisible Weapon of War in the Former Yugoslavia, by M. Cherif Bassiouni and Marcia McCormick. The International Human Rights Law Institute and DePaul University, 1996.

---

1. REPORT - Inter-Balkan Workshop on Domestic Violence, Tirana, Albania.

2. REPORT - Excerpts from the full report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. (part 1) 3 pp.

3. REPORT - Excerpts from the full report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. (part 2) 5 pp.

4. REPORT - Excerpts from the full report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. (part 3) 4 pp.

5. REPORT - Excerpts from the full report of the UN Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, its Causes and Consequences. (part 4) 5 pp.

6. REPORT - "Selected Estimates of the Costs of Violence Against Women." a Canada-US Women's Health Forum; sponsored by the Centre for Research on Violence Against Women and Children. 1 p.

7. REPORT - Workshop on the Stu\*\*comomies. Co-sponsored by the University of Connecticut Law School's International Legal Programs, the Network of East-West Women and the Connecticut Journal of International Law. April 13-15. 6 pp.

8. REPORT - "Working for Women Against All odds: Voices from the Yugoslav Successor States." 3 pp.

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1. REQUEST - Domestic Violence in Romania. 1 p.

2. REQUEST - The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and Slovenia Country Review. 1 p.

**RUSSIAN MATERIALS AVAILABLE THROUGH  
NEWW ONLINE LEGAL RESOURCE SERVICE  
(As of April, 1997)**

4/15/96

1. Информация об целях и порядке работы конференции glas.women.rights.
2. Приветственное письмо Шейны Пенн участникам конференции glas.women.rights.

4/19/96

3. Список участниц/ов конференции - "Комитеты по правам женщин" март, 1996г. г.Саратов.
4. Отчет о работе конференции - "Российский комитет по правам женщин" октябрь, 1995 г. Пушкин, Ленинградской области.
5. Отчет о работе конференции - "Комитеты по правам женщин С НГ", март, 1996 г. г. Саратов.
6. Пресс-релиз конференции - "Женщины и трудовое право" март, 1996, Москва.

4/25/96

7. Объявление о теме обсуждений в glas.women.rights в апреле.
8. Объявление о конференции - "Безопасность женщин" в Санкт-Петербурге в апреле 1996г.(С-Петербургский кризисный центр).
9. Доклад - "О правовом статусе женщин в РФ"(Московский центр гендерных исследований).

5/22/96

10. Визуализация проблемы насилия над женщинами (по материалам акции " День звонка", Наталия Ходырева).

5/27/96

11. Инструкция для доступа к WWW-страницам NEWW на сервере Гласнета (Ирина Доскич).

5/28/96

12. Информация о ресурсах Интернета по домашнему насилию (прислала Кристен Хансен).
13. Информация об электронной конференции neww.rights.

5/30/96

14. План законотворческой деятельности Государственной Думы РФ на 1996 (Из Информационного листка N5 Информационного Центра Независимого Женского Форума от 21 мая 1996 года).
15. Пресс-релиз парламентских слушаний - "О взаимодействии Комитета Государственной Думы ФС РФ по делам женщин, семьи и молодежи и неправительственных организаций по разработке законодательства по проблемам женщин и детей"(Из Информационного листка N5 Информационного Центра Независимого Женского Форума от 21 мая 1996 года).
16. Проект рекомендаций парламентских слушаний - "О взаимодействии



Комитета Государственной Думы ФС РФ по делам женщин, семьи и молодежи и неправительственных организаций по разработке законодательства по проблемам семьи, женщин и детей" (Из Информационного листка N5 Информационного Центра Независимого Женского Форума от 21 мая 1996 года).

5/31/96

17. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 1 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).
18. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 2 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).
19. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 3 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).

6/01/96

20. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 4 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).

6/04/96

21. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 5 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).

6/14/96

22. BIBLIO - Аннотированная библиография по домашнему насилию юридической и социологической литературы. Часть 6 (Составлено Лори Хиртелен, Школа Права Буффало Государственного Нью-Йоркского университета).

6/20/96

23. Открытое письмо Боннэр Г. от главного редактора правозащитной просветительской газеты "Позиция", председателя Челябинского областного фонда "Экология" Николая Щура.
24. ANNOUNCE - Материалы круглого стола "Права женщин сегодня" (Из информационного листка N 6 Информационного Центра Независимого Женского Форума от 14 июня 1996 года).

7/10/96

25. PUBLICATION - Фактическая информация о насилии в семье (Бюллетень Пражского гендерного центра, декабрь 1995-Январь 1996).
26. PUBLICATION - Домашнее насилие в болгарии (Отчет предложен Адвокатами за Права Человека из Миннесоты, США).
27. PUBLICATION - Глобальный Обзор законов по Системе Международного Развития. (Контакт: Women, Law & Development International 1350 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Washington, DC 20036-1701 USA Tel. +1 (202) 436-7477 Fax: +1 (202) 436-7480 E-mail <iwld@igc.apc.org>).
28. REPORT - Отчет о секции по домашнему насилию на конференции Сети Женщин Восток-Запад (Апрель 13-15 1996 Составлен Полной Аксель)

7/12/96

29. NEWW - Обращение NEWW к адвокатам и юристам.

7/17/96

30. ANNOUNCE - Объявление об открытии WEB-страницы по правам человека в РФ (Андрей Блинусов, директор ОЦ "Открытое Общество").

7/19/96

31. PUBLICATION - Материалы круглого стола в Московской Мэрии, который состоялся 11 июня, 1996 (Из информационного листка N 6 ИЦНЖФ от 14 июня 1996 года).

8/06/96

32. COUNTRY NEWS - Пресс-релиз летней школы в Твери "БАЛДАЙ-96" (Оргкомитет летней школы "БАЛАЙ-96").

8/12/96

33. COUNTRY NEWS - С-Петербургский центр Гендерных проблем возбудил судебное дела против журнала "Плейбой" (из сообщений АСИ).

34. ANNOUNCE - Второй конкурс проектов "Общественная активность и гражданская инициатива" Московского представительства Института "ОТКРЫТОЕ ОБЩЕСТВО" (Из сообщений Информационного Центра Независимого женского Форума (в частности Дины Утешевой).

8/18/96

35. ANNOUNCE - Приглашение к сотрудничеству (Санкт-Петербургский кризисный центр).

8/21/96

36. CONTACT - Список участников Ассоциации кризисных центров (по сообщению Марины Пискаловой, Ассоциация "Нет насилию").

8/26/96

37. ANNOUNCE - Объявление о конференции экологов в Тамбове в 23-25 августа.

8/27/96

38. CONTACT - Список представителей NEWW по регионам (источник: Washington DC Office of NEWW).

39. ANNOUNCE - Объявление о начале выпуска электронной версии экологического бюллетеня ECONEWS in INTERNET.

9/06/96

40\*CONTACT - Канадская феминистка ищет контакты (приюты).

9/10/96

41\*ANNOUNCE - Объявление темы "Женщина и труд" в сентябре в конференции glas.women.rights.

9/12/96

42. UN - Конвенция о ликвидации всех форм дискриминации (извлечения).

43. МОП - Конвенция МОП о труде женщин (извлечения)

40

44. REPORT - Доклад Заместителя Председателя Комитета по труду и социальной политике Ярыгиной Т.В. на парламентских слушаниях "ЖЕНЩИНЫ И ТРУДОВОЕ ПРАВО" Москва, март, 1996.

45. ANNOUNCE - "Об установках женщин на использование декретного отпуска в период трудовой деятельности" (тезисы) (И.Б. Назарова Центр охраны семьи, материнства и детства МЗ Республики Татарстан).

46. ANNOUNCE - Статистические данные по уровню прожиточного минимума в РФ (Из Бюллетеня Трансграничного Экологического Информационного Агентства для граничных районов Северо-Запада России, стран Балтии, Финляндии 1-15 августа 1996, Vol. 2, No. 15).

47. COUNTRY - Безработица в Финляндии (Из бюллетеня Трансграничного Экологического Информационного Агентства для граничных районов Северо-Запада России, стран Балтии, Финляндии 16-31 августа 1996, Vol. 2, No. 16).

9/16/96

48. REQ - Требуется консультация по трудовому праву (Татьяна Павловна и я, Юлия Жукова, сотрудница Петерб. Центра Гендерных Проблем).

49. REPORT - Резолюция парламентских слушаний "Женщина и трудовое право."

50. REPORT - Изменения и дополнения к КЗОТ РФ (Т.В.Ярыгина).

51. ESSAY - Статья "Отверженные", напечатанная в "Независимой газете" (передала для glas.women.rights автор статьи Зоя Хоткина).

9/17/96

52. COUNTRY - Объявлении конференция деловых женщин во Владивосток (источник АСИ).

9/20/96

53. ESSAY - "Право на труд женщин-инвалидов (Ирины Потапова /Мурманск/).

9/21/96

54. COUNTRY - Цензура в Internet (Alexey V. Frolov |mailto: frolov@inm.ras.ru WWW (Koi8!): <http://inm.ras.ru/users/frolov/koi8/Home.html>).

55. COUNTRY - заметки из Санкт-Петербурга о "НОВОЙ" ПОЛИТИКЕ КРЕМЛЯ В ОТНОШЕНИИ ЖЕНЩИН" (Юлия Жукова, ПЦГИ).

56. ANNOUNCE - Акция в защиту Александра Никитина (Материал взят из ЭКОНЬЮС N 24 от 20 сентября 1996г).

57. COUNTRY - Проект "Хартии Земли" (Материал взят из Эконьюс N 24 от 20 сентября 1996г).

10/05/96

58. REPORT - Материал о нарушении трудовых прав женщин (нотариус г. Балаково Саратовской области, кандидат юридических наук Атапина Е.А.).

10/16/96

59. REPORT - Миграция женщин из РФ (Из доклада "О правовом статусе женщин в РФ. Современные дебаты. Проект". Авторский коллектив: Елена Баллаева, Елена Кочкина, Надежда Кузнецова. Редактор: Наталья Мандельбаум. МЦГИ. Москва, 1996 г.).

10/22/96

41

60. COUNTRY - Сообщения о конференции по вопросам женщин семьи и молодежи при Президенте РФ и о конференции "Смежная зона", организованной по инициативе женских общественных организаций и посольства Швеции в России (Из информационного листка ИЦНЖФ N 14 от 21 октября 1996г.).

10/29/96

61. COUNTRY - Сообщение об участии женских организаций из г. Мурманска в окружной конференции в Стокманнесе/северная Норвегия/. (Надежда Ворохобина, Светлана Паршкова, Любовь Штылева).

11/03/96

62. COUNTRY - Права женщин: перспективы и реальность. Сообщение по материалам встречи представительниц общественных организаций г. Саратова, посвященной проблемам положения женщин в Саратовской и опыту решения проблем улучшения положения женщин в других субъектах Российской Федерации 18 сентября 1996г. (Материал для Glas.women.rights прислала Надежда Кузнецва, Межрегиональная Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратова.).

11/04/96

63. CONTACT - Вариант решения проблем женской безработицы (Из информационного листка N 15 от 1 ноября 1996 года по материалам Агенства социальной информации (АСИ)).

11/11/96

64. Very important message! (Предупреждение о вирусе, который может содержаться в сообщениях, имеющих в поле "Subject" слово "Irina". Сообщение Ирины Доскич).

11/20/96

65. ANNOUNCE - Сообщения АСИ о II общегородской конференции "Деловая женщина и бизнес" 14 и 15 ноября в Нижнем Новгороде, на которой деловые женщины г. Н- Новгорода обратили внимание общественности на проблемы насилия. Объявление о семинаре "СОЦИАЛЬНЫЕ И БЛАГОТВОРИТЕЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЕКТЫ КАК ФОРМА ЗАНЯТОСТИ" 27 ноября. Организаторы семинара: Комитет труда и занятости правительства Москвы и общественная организация "Фонд женской занятости и содействия предпринимательству".

11/25/96

66. NEWS - Информация о конференции по "Женская солидарность в борьбе с насилием". 10-15 ноября 1996 года в Брайтоне (Англия) (Материал для конференции Glas.women.rights прислала Лариса Корнева, Санкт-Петербургский кризисный центр для женщин).

11/26/96

67. COUNTRY - Новости из Мурманска. (Информационный листок 2 N 12 /ноябрь 1996г./ от 24 ноября 1996 г., Мурманск. Материал для Glas.women.rights прислала Любовь Штылева, редактор Информационного листка Конгресса женщин Кольского полуострова).

68. ESSAY - Статья "Я - начальник, ты - раба" (Автор - Любовь Штылева).

69. ESSAY - Статья "Русская "пиявка" - женский взгляд "(Продолжение статьи "Я - начальник, ты - раба" Автор - Любовь Штылева).

70. COUNTRY - Женский парламент Саратовской области (Материал об учреждении женского парламента Саратовской области на региональной конференции " Год после

Пекина", 19-20 ноября г. Саратов. Данный материал для glas.women.rights прислала Надежда Кузнецова, президент Ассоциации женщин-юристов г. Саратова).

12/02/96

71. ORG/PROJ - Фрагмент из "Оценка статуса женщин" (Руководство для отчета по реализации Конвенции по искоренению всех форм дискриминации против женщин. Второе издание, 1996. Автор: Commonwealth Secretariat, International Women's Rights Action Watch Перевод с английского).

72. ORG/PROJ - Что такое ICC (Материал о Международном уголовном суде. Перевод с английского).

73. REPORT - Об изменениях в трудовом законодательстве республики Албания (Группа женщин-юристов. Тирана, Албания. Перевод с английского).

12/05/96

74. ESSAY - Трудоустройство женщин в Таджикистане. Исторические и социологические аспекты (Доктор Маргарита Кегей(Dr.Margarita Kheday), экономист и социолог, исполнительный директор женской НПО "Традиции и современность". Душанбе, Таджикистан. Перевод с английского).

75. DISC - Положение женщин в новой рыночной экономике (По материалам семинара по "Положение женщин в новой рыночной экономике". 13-15 апреля 1996 г. Ко-спонсоры: международная юридическая программа; юридическая школа, университет Коннектикута; сеть Женщин Восток-Запад; журнал по международному законодательству штат Коннектикут. Подготовлено Донной Аксел Конспект #3. "Женщины на рабочем месте" Со-фасилитаторы - Анастасия Посадская-Вандербек Айлин Сильверстейн Перевод с английского).

76. COUNTRY - Благотворительные проекты как форма занятости (27 ноября лидеры и представители общественных объединений приняли участие в семинаре "Социальные и благотворительные проекты как форма занятости", организованном Комитетом труда и занятости правительства Москвы и Фондом женской занятости и содействия предпринимательству. Сообщение Эмили Ефимовны Чугуновой).

12/06/96

77. Презентация Женского Консорциума стран СНГ-США. Пресс-релиз Перевод с английского Галины Венедиктовой).

78. ANNOUNCE - Объявление о начале темы "Здоровье. Репродуктивные права" в glas.women.rights.

12/10/96

79. ANNOUNCE - Сообщения АСИ о II общегородской конференции "Деловая женщина и бизнес" 14 и 15 ноября в Нижнем Новгороде, на которой деловые женщины г. Н-Новгорода обратили внимание общественности на проблемы насилия. Объявление о семинаре "СОЦИАЛЬНЫЕ И БЛАГОТВОРИТЕЛЬНЫЕ ПРОЕКТЫ КАК ФОРМА ЗАНЯТОСТИ" 27 ноября. Организаторы семинара: Комитет труда и занятости правительства Москвы и общественная организация "Фонд женской занятости и содействия предпринимательству".

12/14/96

80. COUNTRY - Фрагмент из Отчета о положении женщин и национальному механизму. Позиция женских неправительственных организаций"(Этот доклад предлагался на конференции "Год после Пекина", 6-7 ноября 1996г. в качестве раздаточного материала. Материал взят из Информационного Листка N 17 ИИИЖП от 3 декабря 1996 года)

12/15/96

81. PUBLICATION - Экология и здоровье. Новые факты и статистика (Из Бюллетеня Трансграничного Экологического информационного Агентства для граничных районов Северо-Запада Балтии, Финляндии 1-15 августа 1996, Vol. 2, No. 15).

12/16/96

82. REPORT - Репродуктивные права в России (По материалам семинара "Реализация репродуктивных прав в России: ожидания и реальность", Москва, Январь, 1996. Материал для glas.women.rights передала Е. Баллаева (Московский центр гендерных исследований).

12/19/96

83. COUNTRY - Сообщения ИЦНЖФ о репродуктивных правах (Подборка материалов из информационных выпусков ИЦНЖФ, затрагивающих проблему репродуктивных прав в России).

12/26/96

84. COUNTRY - Правительство Москвы и общественные организации объединяют усилия по оказанию помощи безработным женщинам (из выпуска N51 АСИ).

85. CONTACT - Координационный Совет в Новгороде (Цели и задачи Совета. Контактные телефоны: (816) 5-33-33, 7-30-57 Надежда Лисицина. Эта информация получена из выпуска N51 АСИ).

86. CONTACT - Общество "Будущее без СПИДа" ищет партнеров (Информация получена из выпуска N51 АСИ).

1/09/97

87. COUNTRY - Обсуждение Проекта Концепции законотворческой деятельности по равным правам и равным возможностям мужчин и женщин в Российском представительстве Консорциума женских неправительственных организаций стран СНГ - США 27 декабря 1996 г. (Из Информационного листка N1a (20) ИЦНЖФ от 8 января 1997 г.).

1/16/97

88. ESSAY - Репродуктивные установки женщин и подростков из многодетных семей сельской местности республики Татарстан (И.Б.Назарова, Г.М.Волкова  
Центр охраны семьи, материнства и детства МЗ РТ)

1/30/97

89. COUNTRY - Семинар "Реализация репродуктивных прав в РФ" (По материалам семинара "Реализация репродуктивных прав в России: ожидания и реальность", Москва, Январь, 1996. Материал для glas.women.rights передала Е. Баллаева (Московский центр гендерных исследований)

90. CONT - Резюме женского центра "Экоинициатива" при Николаевской областной экологической ассоциации "Зелений світ" (Материал прислала Наталия Мирошниченко)

91. REPORT - Отчет о IV Российской конференции "Планирование семьи: вчера, сегодня, завтра" 21-22 января, Москва.  
(Организаторы: Российская ассоциация "Планирование семьи" (РАПС))

44

при участии Международной Федерации планирования семьи (МФПС),  
Комиссии по вопросам женщин, семьи и демографии при Президенте РФ,  
Министерства здравоохранения РФ.

Конференция посвящена обмену опытом и подведению итогов 5-ти летней  
работы РАПС.

Материал взят из Информационного листка N3(22) ИЦНЖФ от  
30 января 1997г.)

92. ORG/PROJ - Информация о новом проекте поддержки  
негосударственных организаций в Северо-Западном регионе  
(Общество "Русско-немецкий обмен" начало реализацию проекта  
"КАНГО" - Контактное агентство негосударственных органи-  
заций - в рамках программы "TACIS" Европейского Союза.  
Проект с декабря 1996 года, рассчитан на год, и, возможно, будет  
продлен и расширен по окончании этого срока.)
93. ANNOUNCE - Объявление о новой программе малых  
грантов Института экономики города, для реализации  
девяти проектов, среди которых разработка законопроектов  
о жилье и недвижимости, проекты "Внедрение эксплуатации  
управления жилищного фонда частными компаниями на  
конкурсной основе" и "Кредитование строительства и рекон-  
струкции жилья". Партнеры фонда - Российская гильдия  
риэлтеров, Ассоциация российских банков, Ассоциация  
ипотечных банков, Союз российских городов, ряд крупнейших  
российских банков.
94. ORG/PROG - Бесплатные консультации по социальным, правовым  
правовым и жилищным вопросам для социально-незащищенных  
жителей №1 «ОМосквы.  
(Объявление Общества инвалидов Гагаринского района г.  
Москвы "КООРДИНАЦИЯ" №1 «О начале работы №1 «О Социально №1-«О Информационного  
центра)

2/12/97

95. CONT - Протокол круглого стола ABA/CEELI "Женщины-юристы  
г. Москвы" 22 января, 1997 Москва.  
Sponsored by ABA-CEELI & WLDI  
Материал для конференции передала Кристен Хансен)

2/14/97.

96. PUBLICATION - Электронный бюллетень NEWW выпуск N1 (Часть 1)  
(Электронная версия бюллетеня NEWW "Лучшее в сезоне"  
по материалам электронных конференций women-east-west,  
glas.sisters и glas.women.rights)
97. PUBLICATION - Электронный бюллетень NEWW выпуск N1 (Часть 2)  
(Электронная версия бюллетеня NEWW "Лучшее в сезоне"  
по материалам электронных конференций women-east-west,  
glas.sisters и glas.women.rights)

2/16/97

98. PUBLICATION - Электронный бюллетень NEWW выпуск N1 (Часть 3)
- 45

- (Электронная версия бюллетеня NEWW "Лучшее в сезоне"  
по материалам электронных конференций women-east-west,  
glas.sisters и glas.women.rights)
99. PUBLICATION -Электронный бюллетень NEWW выпуск N1 (Часть4)  
(Электронная версия бюллетеня NEWW "Лучшее в сезоне"  
по материалам электронных конференций women-east-west,  
glas.sisters и glas.women.rights)
100. PUBLICATION -Электронный бюллетень NEWW выпуск N1 (Часть5)  
(Электронная версия бюллетеня NEWW "Лучшее в сезоне"  
по материалам электронных конференций women-east-west,  
glas.sisters и glas.women.rights)
101. COUNTRY - О семинаре "Социальная политика: новые возможности  
для женщин?"  
(С 7 по 9 февраля в г. Звенигород (Московская обл.)  
Организаторы: Информационным центром независимого женского  
форума при поддержке Фонда Форда совместно  
с Консорциумом неправительственных женских  
организаций.  
Материал взят из Информационного листка N4(23) ИЦНЖФ от  
13 декабря 1997 года)
102. ANNOUNCE - Объявления о конференциях, семинарах, парла-  
ментских слушаниях в феврале. Разное - анонсы.  
(Материалы взяты из Информационного листка ИЦНЖФ N4(23)  
от 13 декабря 1997 года,  
из Информационного листка N 16/3/ февраль 1997г Конгресса  
женщин Кольского полуострова)
103. E-RESOURCE - Объявление о WEB-странице, содержащей  
информационные листки ИЦНЖФ

2/18/97

104. PUBLICATION - Из "Основ законодательства Российской Федерации  
по охране здоровья граждан" N 5498-1 от 22 июля 1993 года  
Раздел VII "МЕДИЦИНСКАЯ ДЕЯТЕЛЬНОСТЬ ПО ПЛАНИРОВАНИЮ  
СЕМЬИ И РЕГУЛИРОВАНИЮ РЕПРОДУКТИВНОЙ ФУНКЦИИ ЧЕЛОВЕКА"
105. PUBLICATION -Статья "Будем ли мы здоровы"  
(О.В. Степаненко, главный врач ТМО N9 г. Воронежа  
Материал для glas.women.rights прислала Наталья Ткачева,  
"НЕЖДИ", г.Воронеж)
106. DISC - Помочь попавшим в беду  
(Наталья Лопатина, врач областного наркологического  
диспансера г. Воронежа  
Материал для glas.women.rights прислала Наталья Ткачева,  
"НЕЖДИ", г.Воронеж)

2/19/97

107. PUBLICATION -5 глава "Охрана материнства и отцовства. Планирование  
семьи" проекта Концепции законотворческой деятельности  
по обеспечению равных прав и равных возможностей мужчин  
и женщин



2/24/97

- 111 PUBLICATION - Опыт организации службы планирования семьи  
в Чдмуртской республике  
(К.Г. Серебренникова, доктор медицинских наук,  
Н.А. Харина, гл. акушер-гинеколог ЧР  
Материал взят из "Аналитического вестника" N 25,  
выпущенного Аналитическим Управлением Федерального  
Собрания Государственной Думы РФ, Москва, 1996г.)

2/25/97

- 112 CONT - Информация о Российской Ассоциации "Планирование семьи"  
(Материал для конференции glas.women.rights прислала  
Анна Лукина, ответственная по информационным ресурсам  
Московского центра планирования семьи)
- 113 PUBLICATION -Материалы круглого стола "Социальная политика: новые  
возможности для женщин", 10 февраля, 1997г. Москва, Го-  
сударственная Дума РФ  
(Из информационного листка N5(24) ИЦНЖФ от 24 февраля 1997)
- 114 CONT - Санкт-петербургский центр планирования семьи  
пропагандирует методы контрацепции, как основной метод  
планирования семьи.  
(Из дайджест из выпуска Агентства Социальной Информации # 7(116)  
от 14 - 20 февраля 1997 года)
- 115 CONT - Фонд спасения детей и подростков от наркотиков  
предлагает свои услуги  
(Из дайджест из выпуска Агентства Социальной Информации # 7(116)  
от 14 - 20 февраля 1997 года)

2/28/97

- 116 CONT - О членстве в Ассоциации "Планирование семьи"  
(Материал для конференции glas.women.rights прислала  
Анна Лукина, ответственная по информационным ресурсам  
Московского центра планирования семьи)

3/13/97

- 118 ESSAY - Письмо С.В. Полениной о гарантиях избирательных  
прав для женщин

3/14/97

- 118 Информация о Карельском центр гендерных исследований  
(Материал для glas.women.rights прислана Лариса Бойченко,  
президент КЦГИ)

3/15/97

- 119 E-RESOURCE - WEB-страница Американской Международной  
ассоциации здравоохранения (AINA)  
(перевод с английского)
- 120 COUNTRY - Репродуктивные права в Хорватии

121 ESSAY - "Голос Америки" об абортах в России  
(ELIZABETH ARROTT)

3/16/97.

122 NEWS - Предлагается книга о DV на русском языке State  
Responses to Domestic Violence, WLDI, глава 5  
(Информационный листок ИЦНЖФ N 7)

3/19/97

123 Обращение к участникам конференции с просьбой  
прислать информацию о численности организаций -  
подписчиков конференции  
(Ирина Доскич)

3/20/97

124 COUNTRY - Информационный сборник "О нас и нашем деле",  
март, 1997  
(Татьяна Тройнова, директор, Женская Информационная сеть)  
125 COUNTRY - Тренинг в Киргизстане. Антиядерная феминистская  
акция  
(Наталья Ходарева, С-Петербургский Кризисный центр)

3/22/97

126 SOS - Обращение к Борису Немцову  
(Инициатор акции ИЦНЖФ)  
127 COUNTRY - Критерии отбора для участия в летней школе "Волга-97"  
(Лариса Лунякова, Московский Центр гендерных исследований)

3/26/97

128 ANNOUNCE - Предлагаются материалы по правам беженцев  
(Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратов)  
129 ANNOUNCE - Информация о предстоящей конференция "Жизнь жен-  
щин севера" в Тромсхе (Норвегия) 21-25 июня 1997  
130 PUBLICATION - Информационно-справочные материалы для женщин (Часть 1)  
(Материалы по правам беременных женщин, одиноких матерей,  
многодетных семей и солдатских матерей, подготовлены  
Ассоциацией женщин-юристов г. Саратова  
Подготовка этих материалов осуществлена благодаря частичной  
финансовой поддержке проекта МАЖЮ: "Информационно- правовой  
центр женских НПО России", Институтом "Открытое Общество".  
Материал прислала Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация жен-  
щин-юристов г. Саратов)  
131 PUBLICATION - Информационно-справочные материалы для женщин (Часть 2)  
(Материалы по правам беременных женщин, одиноких матерей,  
многодетных семей и солдатских матерей, подготовлены  
Ассоциацией женщин-юристов г. Саратова  
Подготовка этих материалов осуществлена благодаря частичной

финансовой поддержке проекта МАЖЮ: "Информационно- правовой центр женских НПО России", Институтом "Открытое Общество".  
Материал прислала Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратов)

3/27/97

132 PUBLICATION -Информационно-справочные материалы для женщин (Часть 3)  
(Материалы по правам беременных женщин, одиноких матерей, многодетных семей и солдатских матерей, подготовлены Ассоциацией женщин-юристов г. Саратова  
Подготовка этих материалов осуществлена благодаря частичной финансовой поддержке проекта МАЖЮ: "Информационно- правовой центр женских НПО России", Институтом "Открытое Общество".  
Материал прислала Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратов)

133 PUBLICATION -Информационно-справочные материалы для женщин (Часть 4)  
(Материалы по правам беременных женщин, одиноких матерей, многодетных семей и солдатских матерей, подготовлены Ассоциацией женщин-юристов г. Саратова  
Подготовка этих материалов осуществлена благодаря частичной финансовой поддержке проекта МАЖЮ: "Информационно- правовой центр женских НПО России", Институтом "Открытое Общество".  
Материал прислала Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратов)

3/28/97

134 SOS - о целесообразности строительства ВМС  
(по просьбе Марии Косолаповой из московской группы экологов, выступающих против реализации "Валдайского" варианта строительства ВМС  
EcoNews)

135 PUBLICATION -Информационно-справочные материалы для женщин (Часть 5)  
(Материалы по правам беременных женщин, одиноких матерей, многодетных семей и солдатских матерей, подготовлены Ассоциацией женщин-юристов г. Саратова  
Подготовка этих материалов осуществлена благодаря частичной финансовой поддержке проекта МАЖЮ: "Информационно- правовой центр женских НПО России", Институтом "Открытое Общество".  
Материал прислала Надежда Кузнецова, Ассоциация женщин-юристов г. Саратов)

3/30/97

136 PUBLICATION -Питание во время беременности  
(Источник: WEB-страница Американской Международной Ассоциации Здравоохранения  
<http://www.aiha.com/women/whindex.htm>)

4/01/97

137 PUBLICATION -"Аборт глазами женщины"

(И.И.Гребешева, Л.Г.Камсюк, И.Л.Алесина, Российская Ассо-  
циация планирования семьи (РАПС))

138 ORG/PROJ - Опыт работы РАПС

(И.Л.Алесина, Российская ассоциация "Планирование семьи")

139 PUBLICATION -Права клиента центров планирования семьи

(Из книги "Пособие по оказанию услуг в области планирования  
семьи" (МФПС, перевод с англ.). Издана на русском языке  
Российской ассоциацией "Планирование семьи")

4/02/97

140 PUBLICATION -климакс и гармональная терапия

(Источник: WEB-страница Американской Международной Ассоциации  
Здравоохранения <http://www.aiha.com/women/whindex.htm>)

4/04/97

141 ANNOUNCE - Предварительная программа и проект работы  
регионального семинара Конгресса женщин по проблемам

социальной политики" в Мурманске 19-20 апреля 1997г.

/из Информационного Листка Конгресса женщин N 19/март 1997г./

4/06/97

142 PUBLICATION -Медико-демографические показатели по РФ

(Материал для конференции glas.women.rights прислала

Анна Лукина, ответственная по информационным ресурсам  
РАПС)

## **APPENDIX VI**

### **Agenda of Russian Legal Committee Conference in Pushkin, Russia, June 1995**

# Meeting --St Petersburg -- of Russian Legal Committee AGENDA

## Friday (late afternoon)

Opening Session  
(Roundtable, chaired by Shana Penn and Lena Kotchkina)

- *Introductions*
- *History of project*
- *Goals of meeting*

## Saturday (morning)

Beijing and International Women's Rights

*A historical overview of international human rights law and its relevant documents*  
(Marjorie Lightman and Isabel Marcus)

*Russian participation in regional and international treaties, covenants, declarations, platforms etc.*  
(Anastasia Posadskaya and/or Lena Kotchkina)

## Saturday (afternoon)

*Relationship between international law, norms and obligations, and russian codes: theory, practice and contradiction*  
(Nadezhda Kuznetsova or/and Tatiana Diagileva)

## Sunday ( morning)

Human Rights Education

*Grassroots legal literacy*  
(Julie Mertus)  
Professional training

## Sunday (afternoon)

The Future of the Russian Legal Committee

*Who are we?*  
*What do we intend to accomplish?*  
*How do we intend to reach our goals?*  
( open discussion with the formation of necessary sub-groups)

## Monday (morning)

Assignments  
Future meeting reporting and meeting dates  
Publication of proceedings

52

**The Russian Women's Rights Legal Committee Conference**  
**October 14-16, 1995 in Pushkin, Russia**  
co-sponsored by Network of East-West Women (NEWW),  
Moscow Center for Gender Studies and Petersburg Center for Gender Issues

Conference Report prepared by Donna K. Axel, NEWW

On October 14-16, 1995, the East-East Legal Committee of the Network of East-West Women held a meeting in Pushkin, Russia, a beautiful village outside of St. Petersburg. This meeting brought together forty-five women from Russia for the purpose of creating a national coalition of lawyers and legal advocates.

**DAY ONE:**

The meeting commenced on October 14 with introductions by Olga Lipovskaya, the conference coordinator based in St. Petersburg, Lena Kochkina, the Moscow-based Legal Committee liaison for Russia, and Shana Penn, NEWW's director. In their introductions, they stated the goals of this three-day event, specifically:

- (1) an agreement upon common goals for the Russian Legal Committee, including concrete projects for the Legal Committee;
- (2) statements of commitment from each individual regarding the actual work each woman would involve herself in before the next meeting in Saratov, and finally;
- (3) acceptances by a few participants to write status reports on women's situation in Russia to be presented at the Saratov meeting. Afterwards, each participant introduced herself.

After the lunch break, the participants reconvened for the afternoon's Beijing Debriefing. The first main speaker, Ludmilla Zavadsкая, relayed to the participants what had transpired in Beijing at the Fourth UN World Conference on Women. She discussed women's participation in armed conflict, violence against women during war, including rape and sexual abuse, women's membership and participation in NGOs working toward nonviolence.

Based upon the Beijing Platform's intent to have women equally represented in government structures, Zavadsкая recommended that women in Russia should be equally represented in Parliament. With respect to women and power in Russia, Zavadsкая stated that although the Women of Russia faction insisted on women occupying 50% involvement in the Parliamentary structures, there is currently a 33% special quota for women in Parliamentary structures.

With regard to reproductive rights and sexuality, Zavadsкая discussed that for the first time at a UN conference, sexual orientation was introduced into the concept of the family. However, it was not included in the document, primarily because the Vatican was against this position.

Zavadsкая also discussed the role of girls in modern society, including the special discrimination against girls in Africa. She stated that there are types of discrimination in Africa that are "quite impossible in European society." She included examples such as female fetuses being aborted, the problem of girls and women undergoing a clitorrectomy,

and the special types of cancer that are unique to girls and women. In conclusion, Zavadskaya stressed the importance of ratifying the Convention on the Rights of the Child with special emphasis on the rights of girls.

With regard to Beijing, the next speaker, Lena Kochkina, stated that "the Russian Delegation in Beijing was not well organized nor effective." In fact, as pointed out by another participant who went to Beijing, [the NGOs] were in Beijing, all gathered, and no government official showed up to discuss the issues." Russia's lack of unity was compared with the European bloc. Lena Kochkina stated that she "would reproach the government regarding Third World Countries...It (our country) should have been 'countries in transition.' There was a problem regarding the dissemination of results. All this work and then no one knew what happened or where we could discover the results or the product of our work."

Interesting questions and comments that surfaced during the Beijing debriefing revolved around the Russian government's failure to acknowledge women's problematic status in Russian life. One participant questioned, "Why does the Russian government believe that everything is all right in our country?" And another stating, "Before Beijing, the Russian government traveled throughout Russia to investigate women's situation, but failed to report any problems." Some participants stressed the positive aspects of Beijing including the lobbying for Article 17 (countries in transition). "We were against the original language which stated, 'the road to democracy has been rapid and peaceful.' This was changed." These questions and comments led to the decision that NGOs needed to work together and with government officials to make women's position in Russian society transparent.

One participant stated, "Beijing was like a sporting event between Western Europe and the U.S.--Russia was the loser. Russia had lost even before the game had begun. We were waiting for the U.S. and Western Europe to help us...We gave our impressions, advice, etc. for reports and we were ignored." In response to this negative impression, another participant stated that "the women here [from NGOs] were not ready to write a report, so there was [only] an official report, but no other. We had no experience and this was our first step in the process. But in ten years (at the next Women's Conference), it is our duty to be ready." Participants discussed the possibility of meeting with government officials and the NGOs. Other suggestions included formulating goals and seeking a public forum such as radio, television, or newspapers.

The next part of the day was spent meeting in small groups that focused on:

- (1) Women and Health/Reproductive Rights/Sexuality
- (2) Labor
- (3) Family
- (4) Domestic Violence/Rape/Prostitution
- (5) Resources/Refugees/Homelessness/Small Businesses

The discussions in these small groups revolved around fleshing out:

- Good Legislation/Working Laws
- Bad Legislation/Laws that Do Not Work
- The GAP: What is missing from the legislation



- Implementation

After the small groups met, the participants reconvened and held a large group discussion in order to summarize each small group's conclusions.

In the **Labor** group, the participants discussed existing and proposed legislation under Chapter 11 of the Labor Code, entitled, "Guarantees and Privileges for Working Women." Zavadskaya stated that, "we need equal opportunities in order to implement equal rights. The central issue turned on whether certain provisions in the Labor Code should be changed from express positive discrimination to more neutral language. However, participants could not agree on whether neutral legislation would lead to equal rights or if equal rights would be further threatened if the special provisions for women were eliminated from the various codes.

As one participant stated, "the Labor Code provides special privileges for women. This is one form of discrimination against women. We must recognize positive discrimination (express discrimination) in order to realize equal rights." An opponent of this position who worked in the Duma stated that previously when the Duma proposed the elimination of certain special legislative privileges, women would write to the Duma members begging not to change the law. These women stated that they could not survive without, for example, maternity leave. Needless to say, this debate over whether express language in statutes providing women with special rights was not resolved during these three days in Pushkin. The only agreement reached was, "most of us agreed that [the laws] are ineffective anyway."

The **Family** group labeled their discussion: "The Family: To be or not to be" based on the notion that the status and definition of a family in Russia is uncertain. A proposed draft for a new Family Code is underway. The existing Family Code is from 1968.

As one participant stated, "for some of us in this group, there is a question of whether we need a family at all...and what kind of family. For other participants in this small group discussion, this was not a concern." However, the majority believed that with respect to the laws, "the family is always involved, whether with respect to a single parent or two parents"...because "the family is the basic institution for health, labor, etc." The central issue that emerged was, as phrased by one participant: "How can you apply a law that accounts for a 'traditional family' to a non-traditional family?"

The **Health** group, basing their discussion on the fact that there are only two provisions or laws regarding health, simply stated that "the law does not work and is not effective."

The **Domestic Violence/Rape/Prostitution** group was the largest group, with 14 participants. They narrowed their topic and focused on the proposed legislation for a Domestic Violence Code. The participants' concern over this proposed legislation is summed up by one of the participant's declaration that, "the existing proposal cannot be recommended because there are many incongruencies and gaps. It would be 'still-born' or 'dead on arrival' if it passed."

Due to the absence of access to information regarding proposed legislation, this group attempted to flush out the Parliamentary procedures for postponing the enactment of legislation if there was a serious criticism. There was some confusion over whether the code had had its first or second reading before the Parliament. The legislation's status is significant because there are different legal strategies depending on the stage of the Bill. One participant from the Duma resolved this confusion by stating that "this proposed legislation has not even been proposed (been read for the first time before the Parliament) yet."

This group decided to form a working group that would continue after this conference in order to ensure that the proposed Domestic Violence Code did not pass and a better Code would replace the current proposal.

The working group would attempt to invoke more standard procedures for including NGOs in providing comments for proposed legislation. Until now, the NGOs carried the responsibility of contacting the Parliament in order to request an involvement in the process. Then, the Parliament chose certain NGOs to submit comments on proposed legislation. Then, the Parliament decided, independently of the NGOs, how to use these comments or whether to use them at all.

The **Resources** group focused on the need for more precise definitions to determine the status of women. The group discussed the absence of laws regarding universal tax-breaks for women-run businesses and for implementing tax breaks.

This group also focused on how refugees are regulated but displaced people are not regulated. While acknowledging that the Propiska system (the requirement for each individual to have a residential card) discriminates against people in general, "we cannot eliminate it because of the need to regulate and keep track of criminals."

One participant concluded by stating, "under the subjective rights to include groups of people, the legal system of civil society is unreal because of our present situation. Society is in a permanent flux. We need a more flexible legal system in order to focus on subjective cases. We should focus on the economic situation and on data collection to determine subjective situation."

During the large group summation of the small group discussions, the clash between lawyers and non-lawyers, and the different world views of older and younger participants became apparent. In order to place some closure on this tense issue, one participant suggested more legal literacy and stated: "If non-lawyers act as if they do not know about the law, or propose something outside the law, lawyers should not jump down their throats because these non-lawyers are reflecting reality and the current social system. . . It is the lawyers' role to educate, and create legal literacy. This is the problem."

## **DAY 2: ARE WOMEN CREDIBLE?**

Isabel Marcus presented a workshop on international women's human rights on the second day of the conference. She focused primarily on the issues of credibility and accountability.

She began with some questions: Are women credible? Are women included in legal documents? Are women included in the terms such as "all people" and in the term "women"?

Marcus used the example that rape was not considered during the process of document creation. Therefore, when rape was brought into the discussion, the question of women's credibility arose. Because treaties and conventions such as ECOSOC and The Convention on Civil and Political Rights derived from the male experience, "we needed CEDAW in order to have women's representation."

Marcus pointed out the significant role that NGOs play in creating human rights law. Moreover, a government cannot understand everything, but the populace and NGOs can inform the government and act to change the government.

In terms of accountability, Marcus recommended utilizing national and international sources. The national sources include the media, NGO reporting and watchdogs, the police, the courts and domestic remedies and mechanisms. The international sources include complaint forums, reporting and investigation. For example, as per ECOSOC and the Political and Civil Human Rights Committee, the State or individual via an NGO can take action against their own country or another country. The documentation must be accurate because women's credibility is questioned.

Martina Vandenberg, a participant on behalf of the Rape Crisis Center in Moscow and the Winrock NIS-U.S. Women's Consortium, debriefed the U.S. participants of the afternoon's session, lending insight and impressions based on her knowledge of Russian culture, language and the background of many of the participants.

During the day, there had been a fast-paced heated discussion surrounding the proposed domestic violence legislation. The participants were particularly concerned with discovering the stage of this legislation at the Duma. There was even some general confusion as to the Duma's procedure for passing a law.

Martina Vandenberg prefaced her explanation on the day's hot topic by stating, "in Russia, rape is considered a crime against the State, but not the way it is in the U.S. Here, it is based on concepts of non-aggression policies within a Socialist State," in light of the ideals of Socialism.

With regard to the bicameral system in the Duma for passing a law, the Upper House requires a 2/3 vote and the President has the veto power. Members of the Women of Russia faction are "centrics" and hold 8% of the seats in the Duma. Klimontova, a member of the Duma representing the Women's faction, went to the U.S., where she met various women's leaders and NGO representatives. Upon her return to Russia, she began to push for many positive changes. For example, Maya is supportive of including women NGOs in the Duma's process and stated, "you do not want to make women unemployable." During the day's discussions regarding who to contact at the Duma regarding the proposed domestic violence legislation, the Parliamentarian would not give

the family name--she finally provided this information: "Ludmila Kirka is the woman responsible for NGO contact with the Duma."

The Duma's procedure for passing a new law is as follows: There are three hearings: the First Hearing, where the purpose is to determine whether in principle there is a need for a law. At this stage, individual deputies propose laws, and committees comment on the proposed laws. Then, it is sent out to different groups for comments. It is the NGO's responsibility to establish and maintain contact with the Duma. NGOs must be included in the working group process at this stage in order to have some effect on the substance of the law. At the Second Reading, the list of feedback and criticisms is included. The Third Reading is mainly for edits.

The Duma is divided into three groups: Faction; Committee; and the Apparatus. There are 270 laws to review in this session. Maya Kuzmina is the only woman and she must examine all the laws regarding women. Two factions refused to vote on human rights until "something happens."

### **DAY THREE:**

On October 16, the participants discussed the future of the Legal Committee.

The first question discussed was whether the name of the group should be either "Women of the Women's Movement of Russia" or "Legal Committee of the Women of Russia." If the group took the former name, they would be a Network of Regional Institutions. If the participants chose the latter, they would be a public movement, having representation on a national level. This essence of this debate revolved around whether the Legal Committee would be included in Art. 12 or Art. 8. Art. 8 governs NGOs.

According to Russian law, certain articles would require each member to represent the entire group--"This is a problem because we do not have a common ideology." Thus, the name dilemma took on the question of "How can we unite our different perspectives, ideologies, and efforts?" This question was postponed to a later date.

The group agreed upon the functions of the Legal Committee:

- (1) Analytical
- (2) Information
- (3) Expertise
- (4) Coordination
- (5) Law Making
- (6) Codification
- (7) Protection of Human Rights

The more specific functions include organizing scientific and practical experts to define problems of different committees; working to include women's human rights more fully into the legislation; and commencing Inter-regional cooperation of lawyers headed by Nadezhda Kuznetsova.

The participants also agreed upon four main tasks for the Legal Committee through June, 1995:

- (1) Situation Assessment regarding Women's Status  
This report can be provided to other women's NGOs.
- (2) Law Proposal regarding the proposed domestic violence law
- (3) Conference in Saratov
- (4) Structure/Composition/Function of the Legal Committee

Each participant signed up for a specific group and accepted certain obligations. The groups included:

- (1) Develop education on human rights
- (2) Domestic Violence Proposed Legislation
- (3) Labor Code
- (4) Information Collection and Dissemination
- (5) Report on the Legal Committee (Status Assessments)
- (6) Saratov Meeting of NIS Legal Committee representatives
- (7) Expert Groups
- (8) Create Database

The participant from the Duma stated in closing that, "based on the comments we have already received, the Parliament will change this proposed [Domestic Violence] Code."

Elena Mashkova stated that she has "collected a lot of data about women and their structures and institutions." Previously, she did not know how this information could be useful, but as a result of Isabel Marcus' workshop, she understands that this information is essential to helping women to be credible in the eyes of international and national "experts" and to making these experts accountable to the rights of women. She volunteered to include her information in a situation assessment.

The NIS Legal Committee will form and officially meet in Saratov in March, 1996. "We will exchange information with women from the other NIS countries." The participants agreed to prepare a status report for Saratov with a similar format so that each organization presents a paper with the same format.

Women Creating a Human Rights Culture: A Manual for Women's Human Rights Education, by Julie Mertus, was introduced to the Legal Committee participants on the final day of the meeting in the form of a workshop facilitated by Julie Mertus, a human rights lawyer. This manual is available in Spanish, Russian and English and is published by the People's Decade for Human Rights Education; the Russian version is published by the Network of East-West Women. This manual reflects the experiences of hundreds of women, as Julie Mertus has sought to ensure that this manual be used and altered, with women from each part of the world assisting in the development and refinement of this manual.

While the manual is divided into three sections, this workshop was based primarily on Part I, which offers a small set of exercises to

be conducted in a group. These exercises encourage women to think first about their own lives and to draw from their experience and knowledge in creating strategies for demanding rights. Women were asked to draw from their own realities and then develop critical analytical skills needed to access, exercise, redress and promote women's human rights. Through participatory exercises and discussion questions, this workshop encouraged women to see themselves as active participants in human rights and not mere recipients of rights bestowed from above.

Women Creating a Human Rights Culture was born out of the belief that the key to empowerment and equality is education, and that education can occur only through development of self-awareness. Accordingly, the workshop addresses substantive information about how international conventions and international bodies have framed rights, and about how human rights activists are debating rights, yet, the participants were encouraged to question these basic human rights concepts. Participants were free to reject or accept what they heard, and to reframe issues in a manner that better reflected their realities.

Mertus' workshop closed the conference. It began in the large conference hall and ended in one of the small group rooms, where all forty-five participants linked arms, swayed back and forth, and stated their wishes for the future:

- Peace,
- Freedom from oppression and fear,
- The success of the Network of the East-East Legal Committee.

For more information regarding the conference and follow-up activities, please contact Donna Axel at NEWW-D.C.: Tel: (+1 202) 265-3585; Fax: (+1 202) 265-3508; email: newwdc@igc.apc.org; or Lena Kochkina at Moscow Center for Gender Studies: Tel/Fax: (+7095) 332-45 32; email: mcgs@glas.apc.org; Nadezhda Kuznetsova at Saratov Association for Women Lawyers, Tel: (+7 8452) 242 834 Fax: (+7 8452) 991 578.

## **APPENDIX VII**

### **Participants in Self-defense Instructor Course October 1994**

Participants of October 12, 1994 SD Instructor Training Course

- 1 Erofeeva, Tanya - Naberezhnye Chelnye
- 2 Vechko, Galina - Chelyabinsk
- 3 Chebaltasova, Tatiana - Tomsk
- 4 Khrenpykova, Lyuba - Naberezhnye Chelnye
- 5 Cherevatenko, Valentina - Novogerkassk
- 6 Akimova, Marina - St. Petersburg
- 7 Atroshenko, Olya - Novodibkov (Bryansk Reg)
- 8 Fedyuneno, Luda - St. Petersburg
- 9 Aristova, Marina - St. Petersburg
- 10 Salon, Antonina - Novodibkov (Bryansk Reg)
- 11 Nechaeva, Lydia - Kungur
- 12 Mishlanova, Svetlana - Perm
- 13 Bocharova, Galina - Voronezh
- 14 Gurina, Tatiana - Zarechnoy (Chelyabinsk Reg.)
- 15 Sidnyeva, Tatiana - Ivanovo
- 16 Malsegova, Aminat - St. Petersburg
- 17 Demyenova, Veronica - St. Petersburg
- 18 Voitenkova, Ludmilla - Tiver
- 19 Kolesova, Natasha - Dubna
- 20 Veshkoteskaya, Ludmilla - Podolsk (near Moscow)
- 21 Haumicheva, Svetlana - Podolsk (near Moscow)
- 22 Gorbatoval, Elena - Severnie Posad(Zagorsk)
- 23 Katan, Anna - Severnie Posad(Zagorsk)
- 24 Gorbatoval, Lydia - Severnie Posad(Zagorsk)
- 25 Howley, Anne - Moscow (took Impact in USA)
- 26 Shepeleva, Larisa - Moscow
- 27 Doskich, Irina - Moscow (WREI Demo)
- 28 Glushenkova, Aleksandra - Moscow (Organizer!)
- 29 Zolotavina, Elena - Moscow (WREI Demo)
- 30 Trubitsina, Ludmilla - Moscow (Aikido School)
- 31 Rodina, Asya - Moscow (Aikido School)
- 32 Ovchinninova, Ekaterina - Moscow (Aikido School)
- 33 Zhuchenko, Tatiana - Moscow (Aikido School)
- 34 Tupikina, Galina - Moscow (Aikido School)
- 35 Krilova, Nadia - Moscow (Ctr. for Gender Stud.)
- 36 Debyolaya, Tanya - Moscow (VEGA)
- 37 Nikitina, Marina - Moscow (VEGA)
- 38 Koveshnikova, Tanya - Moscow



## **APPENDIX VIII**

### **Schedule of Self-defense Instrurctor Course**

## **Schedule:**

### **Wednesday, October 12, 1994**

- First evening (everyone arrives - about 20-25)

17:00 Registration

20:00 Supper

21:00 Welcome to Workshop/Introductions

22:00 Demo of Shorin Ryu?

### **Thursday, October 13, 1994**

- Training for trainers

08:30 Breakfast

09:00 Warmups

09:30 Session 1 (Basic Self-Defense Course) (2 hours)

11:30 Break (Coffee, tea, bathroom, etc.)

12:00 Session 2 (2 hours)

14:00 Lunch Break

15:30 Session 3 (2 hours)

17:30 Break (Afternoon tea)

18:00 Session 4 (2 hours)

20:00 Supper

21:00 Discussions/Videos? (1.5 hours)

### **Friday, October 14, 1994**

- Training for trainers

08:30 Breakfast

09:00 Warmups

09:30 Session 5 (2 hours)

11:30 Break

12:00 Session 6 (2 hours)

14:30 Lunch Break (1.5 hours)

15:30 Session 7 (2 hours)

17:30 Break (Afternoon tea)

18:00 Session 8 (2 hours)

20:00 Supper

21:00 Discussion/Videos? (1.5 hours)

**Saturday, October 15, 1994**

- Training for students (Approximately 40)

08:30 Breakfast (for trainers)

09:00 Warmups

09:30 Trainers as helpers - Session 9 (2 hours)

11:30 Break

12:00 Trainers as helpers - Session 10 (2 hours)

14:00 Lunch Break (for trainers and students)

15:30 Trainers as helpers - Session 11 (2 hours)

17:30 Break (Afternoon tea)

18:00 Trainers as helpers - Session 12 (2 hours)

20:00 Supper/Students go home

21:00 Aikido Demo?/Discussion for trainers (1.5 hours)

**Sunday, October 16, 1994 - Training for trainers**

08:30 Breakfast

09:00 Warmups

09:30 Session 13 (2 hours)

11:30 Break

12:00 Session 14 (2 hours)

14:00 Lunch Break

15:00 Session 15 (1.5 hours)

16:30 Break

17:00 Ceremony for certificates

18:00 Final Supper/Banquet

## **APPENDIX IX**

### **Articles about NEWW in Russia Project**

# WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS ON-LINE: THE NEW POST-SOCIALIST REVOLUTION

*Shana Penn*

**J**elica Todosijevic, feminist activist and e-mail trainer in Serbia, comments:

"Last year at about this time, we [women in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union] discovered e-mail. After that, nothing was like before. Now we are no longer imprisoned by state limitations and censorship. Now we can read and learn the same things that the rest of the world does and contribute with our own experiences."

Six years ago this autumn, when the communist bloc collapsed and its hermetic borders opened, thousands of westerners began entering the region, driven by curiosity for the people and forces that effect social change. As one US human rights activist wrote that winter, "The revolutions were astounding to witness. The bit of democracy that has been won is precious and fragile, and we in the West share responsibility for protecting it, now that the excitement and drama is being replaced by the very real demands of political and economic change."<sup>1</sup>

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Shana Penn is executive director of Network of East-West Women, in Washington DC, and a writer completing a book about women's roles in anti-Communist opposition movements in central Europe. For their contributions, Ms. Penn wishes to thank: Roma Ciesla, Jyothi Kanics, Eliza Klose, Marjorie Lightman, Sonia Jaffe Robbins, Amy Rubin, Ann Snitow, Jelica Todosijevic, Victoria Vrana, and Galina Vendiktova.

S&S  
Review  
Winter 1996

On my first trip to central Europe in June 1990, I met US and west European journalists reporting on the first free elections in countries where, six months earlier, it had been impossible to organize political parties. In train stations and at border posts, I met sociologists and historians conducting research in archives and libraries that had formerly been off-limits. I met lawyers coming to help develop new constitutions, and economists preparing to advise on the transition of bureaucratic command economies into free markets and private enterprise. While waiting in line to use the long distance telephone services in post offices and hotels, I met environmentalists and feminists who, like myself, were volunteering at the grassroots level to help develop a non-profit sector. Little did I imagine in those historic first months that one of the most effective east-west mechanisms for establishing free information flows in countries long suffering from decades of cultural isolation and censorship would be the introduction of the Internet.

During the communist era, committed dissidents built clandestine underground networks for smuggling pro-democracy literature. In the current transitional period, as the burgeoning social movements doggedly pursue the ambitious goal of opening these restrictive societies, electronic mail has become the civic activist's tool of choice for transmitting principles of tolerance, pluralism, equality, and diversity. Environmentalists, feminists, human rights advocates, and peace activists are all using e-mail to maximize the exchange of information, develop technical and institution-building skills, coordinate research, and influence policy decisions. They are establishing regional, non-profit electronic networks, usually in cooperation with western counterparts and with much foreign assistance. E-mail has become a powerful, practical tool and an even more powerful metaphor for democracy-building.

When tanks rolled into Moscow in October 1991 and the Parliament building was under siege, one of the best means for sending news in and out of the Russian capital was via e-mail. Eliza Klose, who directs ISAR, an environmental NGO supporting grassroots cooperation between the former Soviet Union and the US that was one of the first groups to place Russian environmentalists on-line, comments, "In such moments, when

conservatives are trying to turn back the tides of change, they are not aware of technology's capacity to leapfrog over their ability to control the situation. It limits the tyrant."

"Less dramatic, but equally significant, is the way e-mail enables different groups to work together across great distances," Klose adds. To a large degree, e-mail now replaces fax and telephone for the communication needs of civic activists who have access to the technology; as long as the electricity and phone lines are working, it is the most efficient and cost-effective means of informational exchange. Though e-mail does not replace personal visits, it does make possible a new mode of regular exchange that, like every other medium, becomes part of the whole. Its unique contributions are the simultaneity of conversations and the increased access to resources, both of which spread authority and the power of decision-making, among a larger number of participants—creating what advocates call a "lateral power structure."

In this article, I will discuss the ways that newly emerging grassroots women's organizations in post-communist countries are adopting electronic communications to exchange ideas, experiences and strategies for safeguarding women's rights in transitional societies. My own experience has come from establishing the first electronic network to link women's groups in 31 cities across central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. Women involved in building this electronic network, which is coordinated by the Network of East-West Women (NEWW), saw in telecommunications technology a system that might become both our functional means of communication, to exchange goods and services, and our medium of discourse to develop and explore a consciousness of gender.

We embarked on this labor-intensive venture with many questions in mind, ones that were widely asked by the region's NGO communities as they considered adopting electronic communications:<sup>2</sup> To what extent, and how, might computer networking become an effective tool for cross-cultural activism? How will women's rights activists use telecommunications technology? With whom will they speak, in what languages, and about what? Who won't use it and why not? Will electronic technology change

the roles and relationships of the participating organizations? Will it help break down complex elitisms that tend to keep information always in the same hands, and often in national capitals? Will it create links among local groups inside each country as well as inter-regionally? Will it draw feminists from the east and west closer together? Now that the first generation of users are equipped and trained and the electronic network is up and running, we can begin to answer some of these questions and point to several rewards and challenges, both anticipated and unexpected, that this networking project has already produced.

There are three phenomena to explore: The remarkable growth of indigenous feminist initiatives in societies where women were *de jure* but not *de facto* equal. The adaptation of advanced telecommunications technology by women (and men) who have been accustomed to wiretapping and surveillance and who commonly lack the material means to afford computers and telephone lines. The role of international movements in supporting pro-democracy activism and use of electronic communications by women's NGOs and the region's NGO sector in general.

### *Is Democracy Gendered?*

Women's rights advocates in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union hold a wide variety of positions that reach all strata of society. In all fields of work they aim to cultivate a consciousness of gender in cultures where women's equality had been narrowly linked to communism—the failed, mendacious, and consequently discredited, experiment. Because social change was always implemented from above, with no popular feedback in the decision-making process, the communist blueprint for women's emancipation actually excluded women from informing the equation.

In the wake of disintegrating communist systems, women began coming together to articulate their specific social needs and to seek protection of their interests. Concerned women's advocates questioned their newly forming republics: Would the political and economic reform process respect women or exclude them? Would the new systems



recognize social structures and services that support women's needs? Could the term 'feminism' transcend its former associations with communist rhetoric and gain legitimacy in the radically changing climate? As early as 1990, women began organizing rape crisis counseling services, shelters for abused women, political caucuses that advanced women's issues, electoral training programs for teaching women political and campaign skills, feminist journals, women's studies programs, gender libraries, and legal centers to monitor and enforce the law. In many cases, each new initiative was the first of its kind in a given country, and sometimes in the region as a whole. Women were also contacting their west European and US counterparts, seeking to learn from the experience of western feminism and to draw support for their own endeavors. A feminist movement was emerging in the former Soviet East, and the call to action was urgent.

The onset of political and economic reforms in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union marked an increased marginalization of women from the political, economic, and civil spheres of life. The systemic failures of the former regimes notwithstanding, communism had advanced women's position in society in ways that were suddenly being threatened. Despite claims of democracy, women were not being adequately represented in the newly-elected governments and, in many countries, women's formal political representation was declining. This has proved to be a fundamental problem endemic to the situation of women in all of the post-communist countries. Women's inadequate political representation has meant that traditional women's concerns, from child care, reproductive rights, education and quality of life questions such as the environment, to portable pension insurance and adequate housing, were being forfeited in governments' attempts to quickly establish large-scale infrastructure and a solid private-sector economy. Even when women's interests were represented in Parliaments, they were often sacrificed in order to hold together fragile coalitions with conservatives. Women's lack of political representation has proved to be particularly detrimental because the economic and political reforms of the last few years threatened women's economic position. Women's potential to significantly contribute in the labor market is being overlooked. The reform process of the last

several years has spawned public and private sector discrimination against women, not only in employment but also in the burgeoning institutions of these new democracies. With limited public participation of women, democracy is itself being compromised.

Unfortunately, the drastic economic situation in the region has led to a public re-evaluation of the role of women in society. Members of Parliament and members of the press have been making efforts to beckon women back to the home as a solution to the region's high rate of unemployment. In light of the large percentage of women holding advanced academic degrees and employed in highly skilled professions, it is a short-sighted solution. In the press, in parliaments, and in public forums throughout the region, new debates are raging over women's proper place in society. This "back to the home" mentality is bolstered by the eroding of women's reproductive rights. Laws severely restricting abortion have already passed in the Polish and Hungarian Parliaments, and are being considered in Albania and Russia. These laws will have very real consequences for women in this region since access to contraception is minimal. The emergence of this mentality, coupled with the eroding of women's rights to reproductive freedom and evidence of increased violence against women, has swept across the region, forcing women to fight battles for which they are unprepared.

It became apparent early on, with the first attempts to restrict reproductive freedom in Poland in 1990, that serious cross-cultural conversation among women's advocates was needed to analyze the emerging patterns and strategize effective responses. The Network of East-West Women and other international organizations became involved in two central political debates: one, how to articulate and effect changes beneficial to women as their societies democratized and the new market economies altered women's work and family lives; and two, how to explore the meanings of feminism across vastly different cultural terrains.

Ann Snitow, a feminist scholar and co-founder of NEWW, points out the importance of encouraging these debates, "In the dramatic shift from communism to democracy there is unlikely to be political, social or economic parity between men and women without a consciousness of

gender. Gender has been a suppressed variable in social debate in the region. The very concept of women as a social group has called for fresh, indigenous re-examination. It has been crucial that women analyze their changing reality."

Snitow also notes that one of the central problems in developing these transnational discussions is language.

Without a language to talk about the differently experienced reality of gender, there is no way to account for our differences in a just and equal manner. Our members are deeply aware—from experience—of the tensions and inequalities among us that our discussions reveal. We talk about what languages to use when we gather together; about rival meanings for words even inside the same language; about the hidden injuries of class in countries that were supposed to be classless; and about the rural-urban split in countries that were supposed to be (but were not) uniformly educated.

We search for ways to convey the meaning of English-language concepts and phrases, such as "the personal is the political," "sexual harassment," and "date rape," that are untranslatable in the region's languages. The translation of experience into language is very slow, and into multiple languages, very complicated. Moreover, for the exchange of experience between women east-east and east-west needs to be fruitful, dialogue needs to be continuous, or women with similar concerns but very different cultural experiences will not be able to penetrate the boundaries of politeness.

When the transition began, women in the east and west pursued a kind of "suitcase trade"—using anyone traveling as an opportunity to send letters, books, training manuals, video and cassette tapes, condoms, and so forth. We purposefully schlepped our divergent feminisms back and forth across the Atlantic, taking advantage of the historic opening of geopolitical borders to assist the effort to stake public space for women and women's social interests. The experience of the past several years made many women experts in communication as they learned to find ways to include people who have no telephone or ready access to media. While

calculating frequent flyer miles and bargaining with telecommunications corporations for the lowest international phone rates, we became clever purveyors of informational exchange.

Our encounters were instructive and exciting, yet, due to the limitations of communication modes, they were still sporadic. Phone, fax and in-person visits simply cost too much to sustain the quality of communication that allows deep understanding and motivates action. Regular communication methods were constraining activists' ability to function in a productive and timely manner and were unresponsive to the growing need for involvement in political processes. No group could rely on one language to be commonly used across borders and translations were costly. Technical and financial limitations, compounded by the communist legacy of censorship and the dislocation of war in the Balkans, were keeping many women and women's groups isolated, especially those in very remote areas, such as Siberia and Central Asia, or in war-torn regions. Due to the various limitations of telephones, faxes, and postal mail, numerous problems arose that needed to be addressed.

The growing NGO sector shared common problems:

*Cost:* The cost of traditional methods of communication prevents groups who have limited financial resources from taking full advantage of the variety of information, activities, and contacts that are available internationally. A Czech activist, for example, had to wait several months to mail an information request to a US organization because the postage equaled four hours pay.

*Lateral Power-Building:* The inflexibility of communicating via fax, phone, and postal mail was limiting the kinds of contact and involvement women could initiate inside and across borders, from strategy sessions on how to monitor discriminatory employment practices to discussions about reproductive health care policies. Such restraints often caused a great deal of confusion and incomplete information sharing. Due to the expense, groups were often unable to ask one another questions that arose day to day, or questions for which an immediate answer was needed. The Polish

Women's Political Caucus, for example, could suggest to its Hungarian counterpart, MONA, that they write a letter to Parliament regarding abortion legislation; but if the Hungarian caucus was unclear about what the letter should state, they would be unable to request further clarification.

*Technical Assistance:* Many women's groups in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, reflecting the needs of the NGO sector in general, needed to develop institution-building skills. The expense and inconsistency of existing forms of technical assistance, however, was limiting the amount and kinds of follow-up needed after workshops and on-site training sessions had been conducted. In many cases, once the workshop was over or the consultant left, only minimal follow-up was possible given communication constraints.

*Project Coordination:* The cost and time involved in sustaining contact and planning joint projects prevented many groups from fully participating in national or regional activities or in learning about and making use of the many kinds of resources at their disposal. These constraints limited a group's ability to coordinate collaborative activities and prevented women from developing skills to influence public life. Although international funds might have been available to bring Ukrainian women to a conference, their lack of operating funds would inhibit their ability to participate in the setting of the agenda prior to the conference.

*Multi-cultural Exchange:* Cultural isolation, formerly due to communism and now due to nationalistic campaigns, has caused contacts across boundaries to be underdeveloped and hard to maintain. Yet the analogies among the countries of the region and the potential for mutual understanding and assistance among women exists, though these remain largely untapped.

*Time:* The time required for traditional methods of communication restricts a group's responsiveness and awareness of events and resources. In an unpublished essay, Jelica Todosijevic, a feminist organizer from

Serbia, aptly describes the activist's frustration with unreliable communication modes:

Only a year and a half ago, women from Serbia and Croatia communicated through letters (censored by both sides), and, in urgent situations, by faxes for which we had to rely on a third party abroad who had phone connections with both of us. Not much information could be exchanged, not very many letters of support and encouragement could be sent. By the time we received information, the material received wouldn't be news any more.

Members of NEWW and other organizations began searching for solutions to these communication gaps. This led us to consider setting up an e-mail network. We hoped that electronic communications would foster control, immediacy, change, and community—that it would, in the words of Christina Kotchemidova of the Free Feminists in Bulgaria, “enable us to be as united as we feel ourselves to be.”

The inspiration for this innovative way of linking ourselves fueled our awareness of the political implications. Even when computer equipment and technological capacity for Internet access are widely available to individuals and organizations, as they are in the US, women are usually the last sector of the population to have access to these invaluable resources. According to a survey conducted by the Georgia Institute of Technology in early 1995, only 10 percent of Internet users in the US are female.<sup>3</sup> Information is power and using the Internet provides women, in both the emerging democracies and the west, entry into the mostly male preserve of telecommunications. Access to electronic communications early on in the development of an “Information Superhighway” in post-communist countries would enable women to participate more fully in public life and perhaps even bypass the gender deficit women faced in the US. It would enable women to leap into the late twentieth-century opportunities that advanced technology provides. By involving women in all aspects of electronic communications, from teaching technical skills to generating the content of the Internet, women would gain an equal role in the control of information.

*The Information Age*

There are estimated to be thirty million Internet users in 200 countries on seven continents. The critics of telecommunications shake their heads and warn that electronic communication is to the 1990s what television was to the 1950s. They say it is a media conspiracy that, like television, isolates people in their houses where they sit alone, isolated and glassy-eyed, and press buttons before a spellbinding screen. Yet electronic communication, at its core, is interactive and much more educational than television. Moreover, language, research, and literary skills are vital to maximizing the benefits of using the technology.

Electronic communication alters the pattern, shape, and texture of communication and informational exchange. It not only increases productivity and improves communication skills, but changes expectations. Most importantly, it creates a lateral exchange of information: communication fans out in many directions at once, which has a democratizing effect on the senders and receivers of information, as well as on the social value of the tool itself. It is a social tool, encouraging intimate and worldly interaction, and inspiring a sense of connectedness across geographic and cultural borders.

For Roma Ciesla, a Polish e-mail trainer for NEWW, the technology is liberating. She believes that using electronic communication expands the meaning and boundaries of private space; it brings the world into her home, unobtrusively, and easily provides her a place in the world. Anyone working in the international community to support the development of community-based, civic organizations in central and eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union is keenly aware of the technology's value. Eliza Klose of ISAR, a US environmental NGO with five offices in the former Soviet Union and multiple cross-cultural projects currently underway, notes that, "when developing relationships with groups in countries that are so far away and in cultures so different from our own, the initial back-and-forth responsiveness is crucial for cultivating trust."<sup>4</sup>

*International Networking*

In 1991, most non-governmental organizations in the region did not have e-mail access. Only government supported scientists, universities, and the military were using the technology. Representatives from the region, however, quickly convinced western philanthropic organizations that what they most needed was equipment that would allow them to exchange information. According to a 1995 survey cited in *Internet Resources for the NIS*: "The number of Internet hosts, computers which 'host' e-mail accounts, in eastern Europe and the former USSR increased by 132 percent [in 1994]."<sup>5</sup> Non-profit networks were some of the first linkages created and they continue to be some of the strongest locations for electronic activity. Incorporating regional electronic databases, archives and libraries networked to universities, and large collections of resources (related to civic education, environmental issues, legal reform, health care, human rights, conflict resolution, and fund-raising), these regional and national, non-profit networks link civic activists and provide informational resources devoted to specific topics.

These networks include: Glasnet in the former Soviet Union, Bulnet in Bulgaria, Econnect in the Czech and Slovak republics, Strawberry Net in Romania, SilkNet in Kyrgyzstan, Green Spider in Hungary, and ZaMir Transnational Network in the Yugoslav successor states. Several formed originally to support indigenous environmental movements, and later expanded their access to other social change groups, including women's rights advocates. Many eventually joined the global activist network called the Association of Progressive Communications (APC), which assists users in reaching international contacts and resources.

The technical capacity to incorporate electronic communication varies per country, but none has a very strong telecommunications infrastructure. Albania currently has no Internet capacity, though plans are in progress to construct a non-profit network via satellite, provided by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Most other countries have e-mail access but lack full Internet access, which means that people must learn methods for accessing Internet resources via e-mail, or rely on friends



in other countries who have full access. In Berlin, Germany, for example, the Women's Information Center (ZiF) conducts Internet research for east European women's groups that lack access, essentially acting as an electronic librarian. Financial considerations remain—the costs of e-mail and Internet accounts vary dramatically from one country to another. Some accounts are free, while others cost from \$20-\$200 per month, depending on the location and type of service provider.

The most dramatic example of post-communist electronic networking is found in the Balkans. When civil war erupted in Yugoslavia, the ZaMir network<sup>6</sup> was created to link mobilizing peace groups across borders, over and beyond the spiraling ethnic and nationalist conflicts. It was an ingenious solution for overcoming the dislocation and isolation wrought by war. ZaMir's creator, a conscientious objector from Canada who defected to Europe twenty years ago, created links among Croatia, Serbia, Slovenia, and Bosnia via a host computer in Germany. Because phone lines in the former Yugoslavia are usually overloaded or the electricity is down, accessing the ZaMir network is often nearly impossible. One Serb feminist reports that it can take anywhere from 30 to 300 attempts to make a successful modem connection. Even though the network does not reliably function all of the time, the fact that it works some of the time is undeniably empowering to those who would otherwise be tragically isolated.

Many women's rights activists working in the successor states, such as Jelica Todosijevic, are connected to ZaMir-net. Todosijevic cites the specific advantages of using e-mail in her war-torn region:<sup>7</sup>

- People are able to receive information in its original format, not biased by the current policy makers, and can share it with other peace activists and the rest of the community.

- Sister organizations in Zenica, Tuzla, Sarajevo, Zagreb, Pristina are in constant touch and can not only support each other with messages of compassion, but can organize for conferences, determine which common problems to resolve, define an efficient strategy, and organize workshops.

- Organizations are able to let the world learn about their activities.
- They can establish a lot of very useful contacts with organizations and resources outside of the former Yugoslavia.
- Incoming information provides these groups with other people's experiences, which can then be applied to their own work. It may introduce revolutionary ideas or supply useful tips which simplify their work. Learning about the success of women-in-struggle itself provides positive energy.

When we began conceptualizing the On-Line project, the Network of East-West Women drew upon the experiences of peace and environmental movements which had electronically linked their groups. From those who preceded us, such as ISAR, we learned that monitoring and ensuring use of the equipment by the recipients was the first challenge. Some groups felt they could not manage the responsibility of being the only group in their locale to have such expensive, high-tech equipment. Other groups felt they could not afford the maintenance of an e-mail account. Occasionally, we learned, a group would sell the awarded equipment because they desperately needed the hard currency.

Anticipating these kinds of problems, NEWW raised funds to support each user's monthly e-mail costs, copying expenses (for distributing on-line resources to non-users), and labor costs. NEWW also provided computers and/or modems, software and training materials, and drew up contracts to be signed by participating groups. In exchange for resources, the recipients agreed to maintain bi-monthly contact with NEWW project staff, attend quarterly meetings of our governing body, the International Steering Committee, and share information with their respective communities. The monetary provisions were intended to encourage usage, but they could not cover all costs. Translation costs, especially, had the potential to limit the reach of information to those who speak English. Moreover, at the close of the two-year start-up phase of our project, participants would have to begin sustaining their e-mail costs themselves. It seemed to some that the responsibilities were greater than the benefits.

Why should an over-committed feminist leader use her precious time to learn about technology when there is still so much nitty-gritty, political work that needs to be done? Is it even possible to use e-mail in Poland or Romania or Slovakia, where the overall telephone infrastructures are so underdeveloped? Who has the resources to print, copy and distribute the vast amount of information that travels electronically? And, considering that the best time to use e-mail is at night when phone lines are more available, who will volunteer to remain at the office after work hours to download and upload the day's messages?

The burning question became: How might we treat this project as a valuable resource, and not as a burden? Even though the terms of the collaboration were discussed and developed among project staff, trainers, and members, it was difficult to predict whether the investment would be worthwhile until the trainings and connects began. Only then, after twelve long months of preparation and collective feedback, did NEWW discover the true value of its inspired leap.

### *Feminist Networking*

Nina Beth Huntemann, who analyzes the ways in which feminist organizations use telecommunications technology, writes:

In the past six years, beginning notably with the Earth Summit, there has been a trail of success stories from feminist activists using computer networking to organize for social change. From e-mail to electronic conferencing, 'virtual' protests to World Wide Web publishing, these activists have captured the spirit and political potential of connecting women from all over the globe via the (still) public and (relatively) inexpensive communication medium, the Internet...The essence of (computer networking) strategies—e-mail training, travel advice, UN Conference coalition building, NGO Forum event planning—is the linking of local perspectives with global action. Women on-line are sharing experiences with each other, reflecting and developing the strategies for change in international arenas as well as backyard initiatives. The use of the technology is fairly new, so the possibilities for NGOs and social change movements

are yet to be discovered...What remains speculative is the range of influence computer networking will have on policy-making and the structure of social groups.<sup>8</sup>

For NEWW On-Line, using e-mail to influence policy on women in the region is premature. The immediate step is consciousness-raising: to gather together the emerging social and technological capacities, to facilitate the development of a means of communicating that takes into account the differences among languages and vocabularies, and to advance the use of the technology among women, a traditionally under-served population, in countries that are technologically underdeveloped. It has often been the case that a group installed its first telephone and modem at the same time. Putting technology in the hands of women will, it is hoped, enable women to catch up with the global networking already underway in other parts of the world.

The trainers and trainees alike found the week-long, on-site training workshops compelling. Victoria Vrana, a US-based trainer and project director of NEWW On-Line, describes the profound and intense experience of a two and a half month trip to Russia, Kyrgyzstan, Hungary, Germany, Romania, Bulgaria, and Albania:

My first days were usually filled with contacting the access provider, setting up a training schedule, installing modems and software, re-configuring telephone systems and most importantly, gaining the trust of the women with whom I was to work. For many of the women, initially, I was just another American coming to teach them something. They often had a lot of anxiety about the project, their obligations, and the technology.

Every training session was completely different. Each place had its own quirky technical difficulties, but more significantly, the goals and development levels of the groups differed radically. In some places we started with learning to use the mouse. Other groups progressed to in-depth analyses and discussions of Internet issues such as ownership, censorship, copyrights, and privacy.

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Only now, with the On-Line project fully operating and training a second generation of trainers and users, have participants begun using e-mail to influence policy. After retrieving Internet news on global women's issues, they broadcast the information through local mainstream media, such as radio and television. As new laws and constitutions are being created, Russian women are using e-mail to distribute abstracts and critiques of draft legislation concerning women. Under the Soviet government, draft legislation was announced in newspapers but, in the transition to a free market economy, newspaper publishers now opt to sell the space to advertisers. Women are taking it upon themselves to maintain the dissemination of pertinent legislative information. In 1994, for example, the Russian Parliament drafted a proposal to eliminate abortion from health insurance policies after decades of government coverage. Using their computers, women acted quickly to inform their constituencies, appeal to parliamentarians, organize public debates, and make policy recommendations.

### *International Steering Committee Meets On-Line*

One of the goals of NEWW was to bring together its International Steering Committee (ISC) for quarterly meetings via electronic conferencing. The ISC is a dispersed group of individuals, all of whom represent regions or projects and have very different resources, priorities, and understandings of the tasks at hand.

To have a conversation among so many different kinds of people requires some structuring rules and agreements about protocol. NEWW wanted to experiment with such protocols, to teach each other how to build a democratic, ordered discussion that would be capable of expressing differences while usefully linking our diverse energies. Together, we are establishing guidelines for engaging in a multi-person conversation: ordered, structured, and simultaneous, yet without any central point of authority.

An electronic conference has to modify the familiar face-to-face meetings of international boards, or the system of country-centered affiliates with international representatives characteristic of organizations like the League of Women Voters or the Association of University Women. The

differences begin with the character of a network, in contrast to a more formal organization. Since this is a network, the ISC needs to know as much as possible about what all of its members are doing, thinking, and planning in order to form a group identity, represent and inform respective communities, create activities, funded and unfunded, and stretch its thinking in ways good for women.

As currently organized, an ISC meeting takes place over a four to six week period, with two-week deadlines assigned for discussing and voting on specific topics. The moderator fulfills a key function in facilitating the group's ability to concentrate together over time and space, in addressing technical limitations, and in informing participants of each other's technical problems. During the course of a meeting, the moderator might summarize the discussion, suggest ways to focus the discussion, or set parameters for completing a discussion topic. The moderator also sets general limits on the size of messages sent—being careful herself to send preparatory documents in scheduled installations, so as not to burden participants with too much homework at once. The moderator is also responsible for preparing and distributing the minutes of a meeting for approval and uploading the document onto the public conference.

The ISC is still debating, and redesigning a number of protocols regarding its electronic conference. Due to the pioneering aspect of this project, the process is on-going and flexible as NEWW members work together to create an effective committee. The progress made thus far, however, indicates that, through the Internet, it is indeed possible for an NGO to be directed by a group that never actually meets in person.

### *Looking Ahead and Preparing for Future Work*

It will take time, not only for women's groups but for the NGO sector in general, to develop the language of e-mail and to understand this new genre. The diverse, cross-cultural efforts at communication are occurring in languages where equivalent words carry subtly different meanings. These subtle differences continue to be amplified by a surprisingly high level of cultural ignorance on the part of both East and West. E-mail can only communicate in the languages we strive to develop.

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In the emerging democracies of eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, electronic communication has great potential that is still largely unexplored. Across the developing NGO sector, pro-democracy pioneers, often in cooperation with western advocates, continue to experiment with telecommunications technology as a means:

- to share more fairly the often uneven access to information and resources;
- to offer models and experiences of de-centralized national movements to people building them in areas without much precedent for this type of national vision;
- to build national social movements able to take advantage of international opportunities.

As we have witnessed over the last five years, internationalism means little in countries where social movements do not exist and where activist groups are isolated not only from international discussion but also from internal, national discussion. International and national are intertwined—they reinforce each other's growth, capability and credibility. We are reminded of this vital interplay every time we turn on the computer.



#### Notes

<sup>1</sup> Martha Henderson, "The Gentle Revolution," *Elmwood Quarterly*, Fall 1990, p.6.

<sup>2</sup> NEWW has relied on the experiences of various e-mail trainers and service providers in the region, including ISAR, IREX, Electronic Witches, STAR, ASEED, E-Law, Sacred Earth Network, and Kompass Resources International.

<sup>3</sup> Fran Maier, "Women.Not@Cyberworld," *Washington Post*, April 6, 1995, p.1.

<sup>4</sup> Lynn Richards, "Greening the Globe: The Magic of Electronic Mail," *Surviving Together*, Winter 1993, p.20.

<sup>5</sup> Robert Upjohn, *Internet Resources for the NIS*, Seattle, Washington: Center for Civil Society International, 1995, p. 1.

<sup>6</sup> ZaMir means "For Peace" in Serbo-Croatian.

<sup>7</sup> NEWW's telecommunications work is supported by the Eurasia Foundation, the Ford Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, World Learning, Inc., and others.

<sup>8</sup> Nina Beth Huntemann, "Abstract: The New Girls's Network," May 1995.

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**After The Walls:  
Breaking NEWW Ground in Electronic Communication  
by Nina Beth Huntemann  
nbh@comm.umass.edu**

"(The women in Murmansk) had their first training and sent off a message to us in Washington. Well, I had turned on my computer probably an hour later. There was the message. I sent one back and two hours later they went back on and there it was, and they cried...There was that kind of joy, constantly...(T)here was so much talk going on, so much communication."

--Shana Penn, NEWW Executive Director

"Internetworking" - using online technologies to build political and social change networks - is at the heart of a growing number of organizations, having matured into an effective forum for discussing feminist concerns and planning political action. Following a tradition in feminist organizing, electronic communication technology, specifically email and online discussion groups, may prove to parallel social spaces women created in 17th-century French salons and 20th-century kitchen klatches. This article highlights the journey of one international women's organization, The Network of East-West Women, to broaden their influence and facilitate feminist awareness through the use of computer communication technology. NEWW's model of democratic political participation and feminist social change via the Internet may inform international non-profits and grassroots organizations who wish to explore the potential of online technologies for furthering women's rights at home and world-wide.

## HISTORY AND STRUCTURE

The Network of East-West Women is a non-profit, international women's organization linking women in the United States, East and Central Europe (ECE) and the former Soviet Union (fSU). Founded in 1990, NEWW aims to "support the formation of independent women's movements", and, its primary objective, to "increase the capability of women and women's NGOs to intervene effectively on policy regarding women's lives" (NEWW, August 1995).

NEWW pursues this objective by coordinating programs to forge communication links between women and women's groups in ECE and fSU regions. The organization consists of a membership base and NEWW location groups. These groups, women's



organizations situated across the ECE, FSU and U.S., also hold a representative position on NEWW's governing board, the International Steering Committee. On-going NEWW projects include a committee of women from fourteen countries in ECE and FSU who monitor the legal impact of emerging governments and law in post-communist countries, an international research group that supports the formation of women's studies centers, programs and libraries, and a training program in Russia for self-defense instructors.

In recent years, rapid changes in the political and social environment of the former Soviet Union intensified the need for NEWW members to communicate quickly and effectively. The current modes of communication - telephone, fax, postal mail, and face-to-face meetings - were often unreliable and always expensive. During spring of 1994, NEWW explored the possibilities of electronic mail to improve telecommunication connections vital to the Network's operation. Funded by the Eurasia Foundation, Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and World Learning, Inc., NEWW trained three women as email instructors who then traveled to thirty-one cities in the former Soviet Union and East Central Europe, teaching over 150 women how to use email and the Internet. By April 1995, forty email accounts were opened and the electronic backbone of NEWW's governing body, the International Steering Committee, was complete.

#### EMAIL TRAINING

"Sisters,

The email training in Budapest has been awhile, and the women here are no less enthusiastic...I would also like to take this opportunity to say how much I appreciate all your wonderful work and am fascinated by how electronic networking is bringing like- (and different-) minded people together the world over."

--NaNE Domestic Violence Project in Budapest, Hungary (May 9, 1995)

Essential and unique to the NEWW On-Line Project is its training program. Initially challenged by drastically different levels of computer know-how throughout NEWW, and facing potential language barriers both in training and in integrating international groups into the English-dominated Internet, trainers would have to adapt to the level and language of each new trainee group, as well as the equipment and telecommunications infrastructure of each country. Three women were hired to overcome these potential complications and lead the four-month email training tour in the FSU and ECE.

For eight weeks in Washington, DC, Victoria Vrana (United States), Roma Ciesla (Poland) and Galina Venediktova (Russia), studied all aspects of electronic communications, from sending and receiving email, conducting research on the Internet and using online discussion groups, to installing modems, configuring communication software and learning country-specific

telecommunications requirements. As NEWW employees, the trainers were also instructed in the purpose of the On-Line Project - its objective, structure and future goals. This perspective was important to the first few hours of each training, during which time the instructor and trainees would discuss what they hoped to gain from using the technology. Once a focus was clear and participants understood why they were learning email, the trainer would then cover specifics of using email, including basic computer skills if necessary, and Internet resources when time allowed.

NEWW further increased the efficacy of their program through an on-going support system; after the training tour, NEWW's email trainers formed the core of a technical support group, available to the On-Line Project participants for trouble-shooting computer problems. Not only was this internal support group familiar with participants' equipment and telecommunication systems, but saved the women's organizations costly consulting fees. Tailored email instruction and accessible technical support provided by NEWW-employed trainers, has cultivated an autonomous network of skilled computer users.

"I taught really long hours sometimes, but it was great...(T)he teaching was so easy and so fun...The trainings would be really different, depending on the group. Some groups could go all the way to the Internet. In Germany we had a two hour discussion about privacy and the future and how this effects communication and what you can do, and building your own Web site...(I)n other places we started with using the mouse...I always tried to talk a little bit about the concepts of email and Internet and what it meant, and what that would mean for them, and how email was different for them than for those in other countries...By the end of the week, these women would be my friends and we would have exchanged life stories by that point and we would be giving each other gifts."

--Victoria Vrana, NEWW email trainer and On-Line Project U.S. Coordinator

#### WOMEN.EAST-WEST AND THE INTERNATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

A common failure of computer training initiatives is the trainees' lack of sustained motivation and enthusiasm to use what was learned. NEWW avoided this pitfall by providing trainees instant indication of their presence and connection to others online.

Prior to the email training tour, NEWW opened an online discussion group, women.east-west. The group was created as a meeting place to discuss issues regarding women in the FSU and ECE regions, and post announcements of member activities and NEWW-related information. All NEWW On-Line participants were subscribed to this list after completing their email training. Some of the first messages participants sent to women.east-west were introductions, often written and electronically posted during training. After sending an introduction, participants would see their message on the discussion group and the "welcome" responses from other women.east-west subscribers.

The NEWW On-Line Project has also pioneered a method of governance via electronic communication, the International Steering Committee. NEWW representatives of the ISC meet online to review the direction of NEWW projects, discuss outreach strategies, and address financial and administrative concerns. A meeting begins with a welcome message and agenda list from the moderator emailed to all members of the ISC. Members read the first message and then email their opinions and questions regarding the agenda items to a one email address. Every ISC member receives the email responses, which may prompt additional responses or initiate a vote. During the first ISC meeting, which consisted of six weeks of email correspondence, NEWW members discussed the organization of online meetings, including how to share minutes with local members, a process for choosing the meeting moderator, and voting procedures.

Holding meetings online nourishes an on-going conversation between NEWW governing members, unhindered by distance, time zones and busy schedules. The structure of online technologies potentially increases the effectiveness and efficiency of group decision-making, allowing several agenda items to be discussed and in more depth than infrequent, time-stressed face-to-face meetings (Sproull & Kiesler, 1991). Furthermore, the ISC represents the On-Line Project's underlying objective to facilitate, through non-hierarchical communication methods, a democratic process of information exchange and governance (NEWW, Winter 1994).

## CONCLUSION

"Dear sisters!

We've just finished our e-mail training with Galina Venediktova in Murmansk. Today is Sunday. It is still winter in Murmansk. It is very cold, a lot of snow, strong north wind is blowing. But it is warm in our cosy room moreover because we all are in a very good mood. We feel very enthusiastic about e-mail...We are very happy to participate in the NEWW On-Line Project. We are very interested in contacts with organizations implementing projects similar to those which we develop. We are eager to hear from you...See you on-line."

--Elena Bagmet, Irina Fogt, and Irina Toroenkova. Email from Murmansk, Russia.  
(April 1, 1995)

Information technologies, as the NEWW On-Line Project demonstrates, can function as effective tools for facilitating feminist discussion, promoting political participation and furthering women's concerns. The essence of online technologies - the World Wide Web, discussion groups, searchable databases - is linking resources, ideas and people. With a strong tradition of self-supported communication networks, women's organizations must take advantage of the most extensive communication link available today - the Internet - to continue building forums for feminist social change.

WORKS CITED

# Women's NGOs Advocate On-Line

By Shana Penn

In June 1994 the Network of East-West Women (NEWW) launched NEWW On-Line, the first electronic network linking women's rights groups in the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe. NEWW On-Line has been generously funded by World Learning Inc., the MacArthur Foundation, the Eurasia Foundation, the Ford Foundation, and others.

The Network saw in telecommunication technology a system that might become both our functional means of communication to exchange goods and services and our medium of discourse to develop and explore a consciousness of gender.

To a large degree, e-mail now replaces fax and telephone for our participants' long distance communication needs. Although it does not replace traveling to visit one another, e-mail does make possible a new mode of regular exchange that, like every other medium, contributes to the whole.

The simultaneity of conversations and increased access to resources spread authority, and thereby power of decision making, among a large number of participants—what one advocate calls a "lateral power structure."

One of the goals of NEWW On-Line was to bring together our International Steering Committee (ISC) for quarterly meetings via electronic conferencing. The ISC is a dispersed body of individuals, all of whom represent regions or projects and have very different resources, very different understandings of the tasks at hand, and very different priorities. Made up of representatives from twenty-four countries, the Steering

Committee's purpose is to govern NEWW and order its priorities.

Governance is always a difficult task, made more difficult when steering committee members are separated by geography or national identity. The fact that our ISC collectively deliberates is somewhat unique, especially in the world of electronic activity.

To have a conversation among so many different people requires some structuring rules and agreements about protocol. We wanted to experiment with such protocols and to teach each other how to build a democratic, ordered discussion that is capable of expressing differences while usefully linking our diverse energies. Together, we established guidelines for engaging in a multi-person conversation with no central point of authority or control.

Making sure that each major location of NEWW activity is represented on-line has been important.

Because this is a network, the responsibility of the ISC is primarily programmatic and information sharing. The purpose of exchanging information among the members of the ISC is to inform one another, to explore ideas with one another, and to help find the financial means to support members' activities. The information flow forms a group identity and stretches our thinking in ways good for women.

Because the informational exchange focuses on the ideas, issues, and needs of the participants, all subjects are possible that relate to the general theme of the network, and ideally, there is no

hierarchy of importance among subjects.

The first topics of discussion were:

1. clarifying the guidelines for becoming an ISC member (will the ISC continue to be a self-selected body? whom does an ISC member represent?);
2. determining whether meetings will be open to the general membership;
3. drawing up bylaws; and
4. choosing moderators for future meetings.

To make the first meetings less chaotic, the process moves slowly, at least initially. It has been important that each representative become familiar with all of the technical conditions for meeting on-line and to develop certain standards for communication to enable members to become acquainted.

The first two meetings were for the whole group. Subgroups, made up of three or more persons from more than one country, formed to draw up bylaws (to be presented at the third meeting) and to create the draft agenda for the second meeting.

Because the groups and subgroups tend to change size and composition over time, the memory of past discussion needs to be saved for future reference. The moderator and staff arrange and make available archives on the public electronic conference <women.east-west> and in NEWW's office files. Eventually, this information can be saved on disks and stored in several places, which will become necessary as more subgroups form.

*On-Line, continued on page 8*

### *On-Line, from page 7*

In this overall context, the specific issues of protocols still exist. As currently organized, an ISC meeting takes place during a four-to-six week period, usually with two-week deadlines assigned for discussing and voting on specific topics.

Guidelines have already been established to allow people to move in and out of the discussion. For example, in our first meeting, held in summer 1995 while some people went on and returned from vacation and others prepared for the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women in Beijing, this flexibility was necessary.

All entries begin with a date, time, place, and state to whom or to what subject the message is addressed. The first entry sent by a participant also includes some personal information and/or local news to allow members to envision one another and to learn about each other as individuals. Members need to gain a sense of other places and a feel for e-mail, which may be more akin to letter writing in the nineteenth century than to office memos of today.

Members also begin their messages by repeating the query or agenda item to which they are responding.

During the course of a meeting, the moderator fulfills a key function in facilitating the group's ability to concentrate together over time and space, in addressing technical limitations, and in informing participants of each other's whereabouts and technical problems. The moderator might summarize the discussion, suggest ways to focus the discussion, or set parameters for completing a discussion topic. She also sets the general limits on the size of messages sent, being careful herself to send preparatory documents in scheduled installations, so as not to burden participants with too much homework at once.

Minutes of a meeting are prepared and distributed by the moderator, who uploads the document onto the public conference. Whether one or more people can moderate a discussion and thus share the responsibilities is currently under discussion.

The group is also completing a discussion on whether to make decisions by consensus or by majority vote (and what constitutes a majority vote).

### **Looking Ahead**

In the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union, electronic communication has great potential still largely unexplored. It will take time, not only for women's groups but for the NGO sector in general, to develop the language of e-mail and to understand this new genre.

The numerous, diverse, cross-cultural efforts at communication are in languages where equivalent words carry subtly different meanings. These subtle differences are amplified by a surprisingly high level of cultural ignorance on all sides, which Ann Snitow describes, "On the one side, westerners persist in using words like democracy, capitalism, freedom, free market, equality, and justice, as if through simple repetition we give the concepts greater clarity. On the other side, the communist debasement of the language historically used in the liberal democratic tradition leaves only our successful consumerism as a patent reality."

Yet, e-mail can only communicate in the languages we strive to develop. We are reminded of this necessary and vital interplay every time we open our e-mail boxes.

*Until recently, Shana Penn was Executive Director of Network of East-West Women, in Washington, DC. Currently she is Director of Media Relations for the Holocaust Memorial Museum and a*

*writer completing a book about women's roles in anti-communist opposition movements in Central Europe. Ms. Penn wishes to thank the following people for their contributions to this article: Roma Ciesla, Irina Doskich, Lena Kochkina, Marjorie Lightman, Olga Lipovskaya, Sonia Jaffe Robbins, Ann Snitow, Jelica Todosijevic, Victoria Vrana, and Galina Venediktova.*

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### *Agriculture, from page 6*

on-line. The organization plans to establish farmer consultation service centers in the Tver and Volgograd regions that will be able to quickly and efficiently respond to the needs of food producers.

With its communications capacities, FADR is bringing people and resources together from around the world to contribute to agrarian reforms in Russia.

*Roger Bairstow is Communications Manager, and Jennifer Abel is Projects Manager at Rodale Institute's Global Program office, located in Kutztown, PA. For more information, contact: Rodale Institute, 611 Siegfriedale Road, Kutztown, PA 19530, tel: 610-683-1400, fax: 610-683-8548, e-mail: <jabel@rodaleinst.org> ; or FADR, Vorobyovy gory, MSU, Room 598-B, Moscow 119899, Russia, tel/fax: (095) 932-1182, e-mail: <admin@fadr.msk.ru>.*

FADR hosts a World Wide Web home page, located at <<http://fadr.msu.ru>>, and an electronic news service, *FADRnews*. To subscribe to *FADRnews*, send the message *Subscribe srcc.fadrnews* to the address: <[Newsserver@srcc.msu.su](mailto:Newsserver@srcc.msu.su)>.

## All Aboard the Beijing Express

story and photos by Victoria Vrana



The Trans-Siberian route has long been regarded as one of the most exotic train journeys in the world. Add over 200 women from more than 40 countries, make the destination Beijing, China, for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women—the largest UN conference ever—and the journey becomes a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

The Beijing Express, organized by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) with additional support by governments and corporations, left Warsaw, Poland, on August 20th for an eight-day, 9,174 km trip. Participants traveled to Warsaw from almost every country in the post-Soviet bloc. One participant, Juna Muftic-Baksic, escaped from Sarajevo, Bosnia, through an 800-meter tunnel to ride the train.

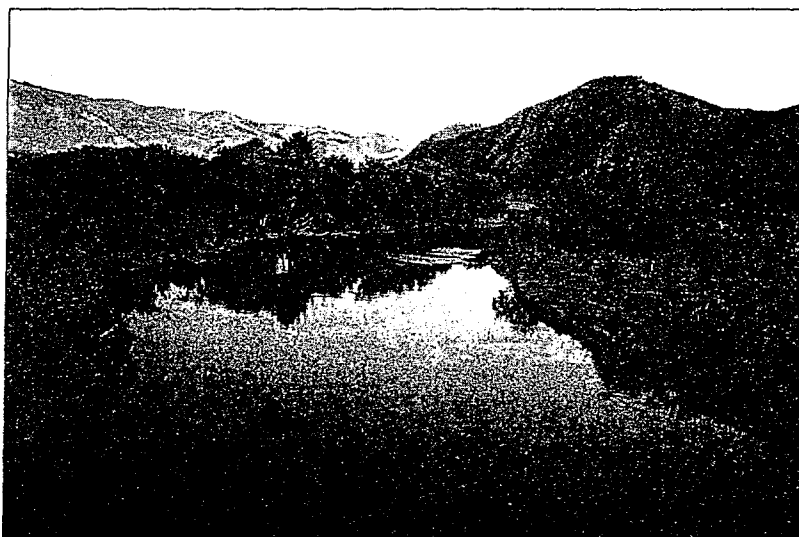
Women from all over the former Soviet Union joined the train the next day in Moscow, Russia, and more were picked up in Ulan Bator, Mongolia. The purpose of the express was not only to bring women from 29 countries in the under-represented region to the conference but also to use the eight days to prepare women for the intense work

ahead at the UN conference and NGO forum.

To this end, a cadre of trainers from the US, Canada, Israel and Turkey were on board to provide classes in everything from negotiating to computer training. Passengers also included UNDP staff, journalists from around the world including a CNN camera crew, and 60 Russian train staff, interpreters, a staff doctor and eight heavily armed Russian soldiers to guard the train as it wound its way across the hauntingly beauti-

ful Russian steppe, Siberian taiga, the Gobi desert in Mongolia and China's original Great Wall.

The trip started off with controlled chaos. Women moved from car to car, greeting old friends and meeting colleagues they had known only by name. The corridors were always filled with passengers negotiating their way to training sessions or dining cars, tripping over wires and cords that were powering up laptop computers. The schedule changed constantly as passengers and



The Mongolian countryside from a window of the Beijing Express.

*Victoria Vrana is director of NEWW On-Line, the electronic communication project of the Network of East-West Women.*

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staff tried to adjust to seven time changes over the course of the trip. Cultural presentations from Africa, Ukraine, Cyprus and Bosnia filled the evenings, followed by dancing and laughter late into the night.

The train itself was an historic vehicle, once used to carry Soviet nomenclatura. Some of the carriages were from Krushchev's private train and included a bar car with velvet curtains and cushions, and a parquet floor; two dining cars with intricately carved wooden detailing and silver dining service; and one entire carriage full of showers. For our modern mission, the train was supplied with high-tech equipment: a VCR and monitor, color printer, laptop computer and two mobile satellites for communication with the outside world. The Beijing Express had its own home page on the World Wide Web and an e-mail address, which received over 300 messages from well-wishers around the world.

Many of the trainers found their "Express" classes the most logistically and emotionally difficult sessions they had ever held. The loud noise and rumbling of the train made presentations and discussion challenging. The computer team of five trainers included Lior Arussy and Bob Rosenschein of Accent Software International, who not only financially supported the Beijing Express but donated their own much-needed energy and expertise. The team was rounded out by Petra Schmidt of the UN executive office, Howard Marmorstein and myself. Computer classes, held from 9 am to 8 pm, covered a variety of skills from using a mouse to learning Accent software, a word processing program that operates in 41 different languages. We



taught more than 80 participants, and they were the most dedicated, enthusiastic students with whom I have ever had the pleasure of working.

The initial confusion on the train quickly gave way to a tightly run and ever-complex micro-community. The Express produced a daily newspaper that kept passengers up-to-date on crucial world and train events such as the

At the Ulan Bator stop, riders of the Beijing Express enjoyed ceremonies and celebrations given by local residents.

### Women of the "Non-Region" Speak Out at

Our group of countries is a Non-Region because there is no recognizable political or geographic definition for the region composed of countries in Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. We are bound by the common problems associated with the transition to democracy. In this difficult and uneven transition, the most serious problem is the consistent and drastic decline in the status of women. This decline in our region negatively impacts progress in the world community.

For the first time in the history of the United Nations, we, as independent NGOs from this region, are able to speak for ourselves. I am able to speak to you today because more than 400 women representing more than 80 NGOs from 19 countries came together to articulate the concerns of women of the region. The efforts of our caucus, called the East European Caucus, reflect work that began in Bratislava, Vienna, New York and the Beijing Express Train from Warsaw to Beijing.

The East European Caucus met in Huairou and analyzed the U.N. Platform for Action. We developed specific recommendations and lobbying strategies to reflect our concerns. The East European Caucus recognizes that the Platform for Action includes many issues important to the region; however, we have some reservations about the document. Unfortunately, we were not involved in drafting the document in the early stages of the process and believe that the description of the impact of the transition to democracy on women is inadequate.

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release of Harry Wu and the expulsion of the train's Russian soldiers at the Mongolian border. The Cypriot and Turkish participants came to an historic peace agreement on the train, accompanied by many tears and much dancing. Azeri and Armenian women agreed to work together after the conference to promote gender equality and help negotiate peace in their region. Car No.

Mongolian dancer in traditional costume entertains Beijing Express riders.



19 initiated a declaration to be taken to Beijing, signed by representatives of almost every country, detailing recommended changes to laws regarding non-profit organizations. Many of the women made post-Beijing plans to work together.

At almost all of the train's thirty-minute stops, passengers were met with elaborate ceremonies and celebration. At Orsha, Belarus, Leueen Miller, Train Director and UNDP Division I Chief, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS, was presented with a smoked suckling pig. In Ulan Bator, Mongolia, we were treated to an unforgettable presentation of dancers in traditional costumes.

For me, the most memorable stop was at the border of Mongolia in the middle of the night. At this small, largely uninhabited stop, surrounded by darkness, people unrolled beautiful Persian rugs on the hard ground. They had waited hours in the cold for the train's arrival to sing traditional Mongolian love songs and engage us in large circle-dances accompanied by raucous disco music.

At every stop, local women gave bouquets to women on the train. Throughout the trip, these beautiful flowers decorated our carriages. At the Chinese border, one official came through the door with an armful of blossoms. Many women, befuddled by sleep, thought he was giving them away. He turned out to be the Chinese Quarantine Officer and was confiscating all of our flowers. By this time, nothing could faze this determined group of women, so without flowers, but full of new skills, alliances and friends, the Beijing Express rolled into Beijing on August 28th, well-prepared for the work ahead.

## the Fourth World Conference in Beijing

For example, we disagree with the description of the feminization of poverty as a short-term consequence of the process of political, economic and social transformation (paragraph 50). Describing the problem as short-term minimizes the seriousness of the problem and ignores the longterm impact on the women in our countries.

We also have a serious concern about the description in paragraph 17 that the transition to parliamentary democracy has been rapid and relatively peaceful. The changes have not been peaceful or rapid. In fact, we have witnessed more than 20 armed conflicts in the region.

We disagree with the analysis of reproductive health issues for the countries in transition in paragraph 98. The most pressing concern for women in our region is the restriction or threatened restriction of the right to legal and accessible abortion.

Despite these concerns, we believe that the Platform for Action can be a powerful tool for changes in our region. We urge all nations to consider the particular conditions of women in our region in implementing the Platform. We also urge our governments to develop a plan for regional cooperation and allocate appropriate resources to the implementation of the recommendations in the Platform.

We are committed to working with our governments and the international community to achieve these goals. Through this process, we hope to transform our Non-Region into a recognizable region.

—Wanda Nowicka

Director of the Federation for Women & Family Planning, Poland



# NETWORK of EAST-WEST WOMEN

SUMMER 1995

## NEWW On-Line Connects Women

THE FIRST WOMEN'S ELECTRONIC NETWORK  
IN CENTRAL & EASTERN EUROPE AND THE FORMER SOVIET UNION

By VICTORIA VRANA

*Dear sisters! Today we have our e-mail training in Tver. It is Saturday. The weather is fine. The sun is shining. But we crowd around our computer and can't stop our work. We are so excited about the new possibilities and broad perspectives which we've got thanks to NEWW On-line project.*

*Valentina Uspenskaya and Marina Tsoy  
Association of Independent Women's  
Initiatives; Tver, Russia, March 4, 1995*

This message was only one among many received this winter and spring as the Network of East-West Women built an electronic communications network, called **NEWW On-Line**, among grassroots women's organizations and individuals in Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union, the United States, Western Europe, and other parts of the world where NEWW members reside.

The first women's network to connect women in the former communist bloc through e-mail and the Internet, NEWW On-Line aims to maximize the exchange of information, develop technical and institution-building skills, and coordinate research and projects. Funded by the Eurasia Foundation, the Ford Foundation, MacArthur Foundation, and World Learning, Inc., the electronic network enables users to overcome the isolation wrought by decades of authoritarian rule.

### Getting Connected

Between January and April, NEWW's e-mail trainers — Galina Venediktova of Moscow, Russia; Roma Ciesla of Cracow, Poland; and Victoria Vrana of Washington, D.C., U.S.A. — trained more than 150 women in basic e-mail and Internet research skills. The trainers carried suitcases filled with computers, modems, and NEWW's User's Guides (in English and Russian, and soon to be translated into Polish and Bulgarian) to 31 cities in the FSU and

CEE. They opened new e-mail accounts for 40 groups and taught participants how to distribute information to non-e-mail-users in their respective communities. As one participant exclaimed: "We can finally talk to our neighbors and feel a part of the world!"

Some of the first generation of participants include NEWW's International Steering Committee (ISC), a democratic leadership body for NEWW and for women's rights advocacy in the post-communist region. The ISC will meet twice a month to discuss administrative issues and govern and advise NEWW in



a lateral, democratic fashion. Academics are using the On-Line network to announce conferences and calls for papers, to conduct interviews, and to exchange research materials. Activists distribute urgent action bulletins about everything from violence against lesbians in Serbia to the controversy over the site of the NGO forum at the upcoming U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing. On-Line participants are also getting to know each other through e-mail.

### NEWW Conferences On-Line

One of the main locations for information exchange is NEWW's conference/ mailing list <women.east-west>. NEWW opened women.east-west in March 1994 and has used it to distribute information about NEWW's activities,

members' travel itineraries, member organizations' activities, announcements of conferences, film festivals, protests, and other activities. <women.east-west> is also a forum for discussion of issues of interest to women living in or working on the former Soviet Union and Central and Eastern Europe.

In response to requests by many NEWW On-Line participants and other women who have contacted us via e-mail, NEWW opened a second conference/ mailing list in April 1995 called <neww.beijing>. This conference provides lists of those planning to attend the NGO Forum in Beijing; information on contacts, funding, travel and accommodations; country reports; and general preparation updates.

Since January of 1995, NEWW's electronic activity has increased exponentially. NEWW's office now receives approximately 50 new e-mail messages each day; 20 postings to <women.east-west> a week; 10 new subscribers to <women.east-west> a week; 10 new subscribers to <neww.beijing> a week (when <neww.beijing> was first opened, 30 people subscribed to its mailing list in two days!); and 15 new NEWW members a month. We have received information requests from members, new groups, new countries, foundations, government agencies, and universities. People ask for advice about public policy, conflict resolution strategies, legal support for Muslim women, institution-building, fund-raising, and, of course, about NEWW.

If you have e-mail, join NEWW's conversation on-line. If you don't have e-mail, contact the NEWW On-Line participant in your area to share in the information they have access to. \*

*See pages 4, 5, and 9 for sample reports  
from NEWW On-Line participants and  
page 6 for e-mail and other addresses.*

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# COPING WITH VIOLENCE

SELF-DEFENSE COURSES EMPOWER RUSSIAN WOMEN

by *Melissa L. Stone*

At the conclusion of one of the first self-defense courses I taught in Moscow three years ago, a Russian woman approached me expressing hope that the course could be made available to other women. She explained that she herself didn't need such a course, never having had difficulty fending off unwelcome advances, even as a little girl. From the right front pocket of her skirt she produced a small sewing needle, and proceeded to demonstrate her technique of quietly perforating any intrusive hand. The needle, she indicated, had been used frequently.

Her story came as no surprise. Since then, I have received an overwhelming number of invitations to teach self-defense courses in cities all over the former Soviet Union (FSU), including Bishkek, Kyiv, Novosibirsk, Pskov, Ryzan, St. Petersburg and Vladivostok. Some appeals sounded urgent, with an anxious inquirer hoping for an immediate acceptance, including confirmation of time and place.

Others spoke of needing seminars in order to dispel the myths surrounding women and attacks. For example, "a single woman cannot be raped by a single man, that is, if she *really* does not *want* to be raped." Another myth purports that men are so much stronger than women that no matter how much self-defense training a woman has, she can never defend herself against a man's force. Such myths jeopardize women's self-perception about their ability to fend off attack.

While these myths affect women universally, Russian women are also subject to another psychological barrier. Soviet propaganda proclaimed women "equal" to coerce them into difficult physical jobs such as construction while offering little protection or support for domestic responsibilities. In the last decade many women rebelled against such false equality, taking on the trappings of "femininity" and even weakness.

This phenomenon discourages many from exploring self-defense skills, much less believing that they possess any innate ability to defend themselves. Fortunately, this barrier can be broken. Russian women are often shocked and elated to learn of studies done in the West that prove that 70 percent of women who resist

personal attack by a single, unarmed assailant escape without injury.

For the growing number of Russian women who have attended self-defense courses, their interest has only been piqued. After each two-hour seminar, women asked any of a number of questions: "Do you have any articles or books about this in Russian?" "Did you know that women here can't take a taxi without fear and can't even go to the police for help?" "Will you come to our city and teach this to our girls?" "Every young girl should know these things in order to take care of herself. . . ."

And "take care of themselves" is truly what Russian women want to learn how to do. Although they greatly appreciate foreigners from Finland, Germany and the US who offer self-defense courses in Moscow and St. Petersburg, they are hungry to receive instruction from other Russian women, who grew up there and know their culture.

Women from the Moscow Sexual Assault Recovery Center, the St. Petersburg Center for Women's Studies and a number of other urban locations requested that their staffs receive training in how to teach self-defense skills and be fully equipped to offer courses to their own constituencies. Many Russian women think it is important for the self-defense instructor to be a woman, rather than a man. Having a strong female example to demonstrate the verbal and physical techniques reinforces the message that women are capable of defending themselves effectively.

Women agree that any self-defense instructor should be sensitive to the fact that some students may have been attacked before. When teaching self-defense skills, it is especially important for the instructor to be respectful, encouraging and positive, and this requires an intimate understanding of the local culture.

Nevertheless, without native trainers available, Russian women may remain dependent on foreign instructors for formal self-defense training—at least until

*Melissa L. Stone is the project leader of NEWW's Self-Defense Project, a senior self-defense instructor at the DC Self-Defense Karate Association and the executive director of Kompass Resources International.*

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a series of self-defense instructor training courses for Russian women are organized. The first such course was held in Moscow in October 1994. Envisioned as one of an ongoing series, the training emerged from the collective efforts of:

- Dr. Irina Akimushkina of the Gender and Family Studies Center at the Russian Peoples' Friendship University (RPFU);

- Dr. Vladimir Nikitin, head of the History Department at RPFU and an instructor of Shorinryu karate there;

- Lena Kotchkina, the Moscow representative of the Network of East-West Women (NEWW) and also of the Moscow Center for Gender Studies;

- Lydia Skoptsova, an organizer of the 1992 Independent Women's Forum in Dubna;

- Dr. Tatiana Zhuchenko, a brown belt in aikido from the Seisin Aiki Club; and

- Carol Middleton, a 20-year veteran of the women's self-defense movement in the US and founder of DC Self-Defense Karate Association.

The dorm lobby buzzed with excitement as the four-day training, funded by World Learning, Inc. and the MacArthur Foundation, was about to begin. Although we had expected 12 to 15 applicants, actual participation tripled that. Most of the 39 Russian women trainers-to-be were from feminist NGOs across Russia. Several martial artists in the styles of Kyokuyushinkai, Aikido and Judo, attended to learn the techniques that best serve women in real attack scenarios.

The first training session addressed the most common and basic forms of attack against women: those carried out by a single, unarmed assailant. Often such attacks are perpetrated by an acquaintance, beginning as verbal intrusion, escalating to a grab or choke-hold, and ending in violence such as rape, battery and even murder. While the trainers received packets of articles translated into Russian, they also took detailed notes throughout the training in order to make their own instruction handbooks. They also had the opportunity to student-teach a short self-defense seminar for women from Moscow. This practice included supervision and evaluation.

The trainers learned verbal and physical self-defense techniques that have proven effective for adult women of all ages, sizes and physical abilities. Issues covered by the training included: 1) differences between property

and personal attacks; 2) strategies for staying safe in the home, workplace and on the street; 3) characteristics attackers look for in potential victims; 4) how to make self-defense instruction a course that generates income while promoting women's safety in a local community; and 5) how self-defense instruction for women can complement services offered by public agencies.



photo by melissa stone

Antonina Salop (r) demonstrates the "guarded position" that women assume when threatened by a potential attacker.

At the end of the last day, women raised many questions, "What if he is somebody I have to work with every day?" "What do I do if he has a knife, gun or mace?" "What if there is more than one of them?" "When are you coming back to teach us more of this?" "Can we come to your country and take the advanced course?" "What do we tell a student who says that her husband beats her only when he is drunk?" "What do we tell her if she has nowhere else to go for help? . . ."

These questions reinforced the fact that no one course can assuage the fear that permeates women's lives in Russia today. In a world where violence is understood to be the leading cause of injury to women of reproductive age (15 to 44), their fear of attack is legitimate. Some of these fears can be alleviated by self-defense instruction that provides women with reliable strategies and options to ensure their personal safety. However, each of these pioneers, in her determination to learn the tools of self-defense and share them with other Russian women, is also engaging in a bigger battle to conquer the myths, oppressive stereotypes and even laws that falsely presume women to be defenseless.