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# GUATEMALA TRIP REPORT

WOMEN'S LEGAL RIGHTS INITIATIVE UNDER THE WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT IQC

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## SECTION I

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### Travel Dates, Destinations, and Purposes

#### A. Travel Dates and Destinations

Lelia Mooney, Legal Specialist for the Women's Legal Rights Initiative (WLR), visited Guatemala City from April, 22 through May, 7 2005 to monitor program status implementation and attend major activities planned and underway. Destinations in Guatemala City included the offices of the Guatemalan Public Ministry, the University of San Carlos Law School (USAC), the Ministry of Education, Diploma Program Partner Institutions and Guatemala Courts.

#### B. Purpose of Travel

The primary purpose of Ms. Mooney's trip was to: 1) monitor program status and implementation and identify program priorities for the next quarter; 2) attend several planned activities including the Diploma's Lessons Learned and Best Practices Workshop, the Diploma Graduation Ceremony and conduct a participatory evaluation of the Diploma program including meetings with all the partners involved in this one year long process, and 3) work with the local team to make sure there was a follow-up strategy and system in place for all the planned activities based on WLR's results framework.

During her visit, Ms. Mooney held a series of meetings with various Guatemalan government officials including the Chief of International Cooperation of the Public Ministry Clarissa Gonzalez Lopez, USAC's Law School Dean Dr. Bonerje Mejia, the Director of USAC's Legal Postgraduate Institute Dr. Villegas Lara, the Special Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Education Dr. Carlana Imeri Velarde, the newly appointed Director of the Judicial School Ramses Cuestas and the Coordinator of the Institute of the Public Defender's Training Academy (UNIFOCADEP) and President of the Guatemala Bar Association Yolanda Perez Ruiz.

As part of her visit, she designed and implemented a participatory evaluation of the Diploma program. The information collected from this participatory evaluation will be used to complete the *Diploma Program Final Activity Report*. This process consisted of meetings with USAC, focus groups with Diploma graduates and Diploma professors, visits to Diploma partner institutions and a site visit to one of the projects currently implemented in the city of El Progreso (approximately 100 km away from Guatemala City) by Judge Judith Secaida de Lemus and Raquel Paez y Paez.

Ms. Mooney devoted a considerable amount of time to working with WLR local staff on WLR's results framework and indicators and on the importance of having an efficient system that captures the project's successes while we are implementing it. This discussion also focused on the five public awareness campaigns currently being implemented and the upcoming sixth one to be implemented in partnership with the Ministry of Education. She also paid special attention to putting the Master's program in full operation.

Furthermore, Ms. Mooney kept close communications with USAID/ODI Rule of Law Advisor Oscar Chavarria and USAID/ODI Team Leader Sharon Van Pelt to briefly update them on program implementation status and next steps. Mrs. Van Pelt provided enthusiastic feedback after the Chief of International Cooperation of the Public Ministry Clarissa Gonzalez Lopez confirmed that they have decided to display the entire brochure on violence against women (developed by WLR together with this public institution) on its website under a heading “*No more violence against women.*”

## SECTION II

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### Trip Results

Significant trip results of this trip include:

- √ Public Awareness Campaign in process of dissemination in partnership with the a) Public Ministry, b) Diploma students as part of their advocacy projects, c) 11 Justice Centers and their Domestic Violence Committees throughout the country, d) radio networks throughout the country and e) USAID/Checchi Rule of Law Project.
- √ Public Ministry of Guatemala has expressed an interest in also using WLR's posters on violence against women to distribute it within its network of schools throughout the country.
- √ Completed Diploma's Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop.
- √ Completed Diploma Graduation Ceremony.
- √ Master's degree in process of implementation.
- √ Continued strengthened coordination with USAID/ODI Guatemala, partner institutions and other initiatives.
- √ Local WLR team in full operation.

#### A. Staff Supervision

Ms. Mooney met with the WLR local team to discuss implementation status, expected results and challenges ahead for the weeks of her visit and beyond her visit. This included the update of the weekly set of priorities and tasks to be completed, a revision of the quarterly report contributions that the Field Office sends to the Home Office and the importance of enhancing the monitoring system of the different public awareness campaigns that are currently being implemented. She also discussed challenges for program implementation for the upcoming quarter: the Master's program and monitoring the impact of the public awareness campaigns. The team also focused on the importance of implementing the activities based on the Guatemala's Action Plan as approved by USAID AND WLR Results Framework. As a result of these discussions, the local team agreed on the importance of having a system in place to monitor and follow-up program activities status and to begin a much more assertive system for collecting the information from our local partners as well as systematizing it.

#### B. Action Plan and Implementation

##### B1. Public Ministry

Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada met with the Chief of International Cooperation of the Public Ministry Clarissa Gonzalez Lopez. The purpose of this visit was to discuss the status of WLR cooperation with the Public Ministry. Mrs. Gonzalez Lopez was pleased to announce that the Public Ministry's website displays the brochure on violence against women on its front page ([www.mp.lex.gob.gt](http://www.mp.lex.gob.gt)). According to her, by doing this the Public Ministry is showing its commitment to prosecuting different cases of violence against women. As agreed during the WLR team's visit during the month of February 2005, Mrs. Gonzalez Lopez is also coordinating via UNICAP (the Public Ministry's Training Academy) a follow-up session with the 117

prosecutor's that attending WLR's trainings during 2004. This particular event will take place on May 12 at UNICAP premises and WLR Local Coordinator is also invited to attend the event.

## **B2. Public Awareness Campaign**

This activity consists of a dissemination strategy developed in cooperation with the a) Public Ministry, b) Diploma students as part of their advocacy projects, c) 11 Justice Centers and their Domestic Violence Committees throughout the country, d) radio networks throughout the country and e) USAID/Checchi Rule of Law Project.

During this visit, Ms. Mooney revisited with the WLR local team the tracking and monitoring systems currently in place to evaluate the impact of these ongoing activities and how best to receive the feedback from our collaborating partners. During this quarter and the next one, the WLR local team will focus on this program component more carefully.

### **B2a. Ministry of Education**

On Friday, May 6 Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada met with the Special Technical Advisor of the Ministry of Education Dr. Carlana Imeri Velarde. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss this public institution's interest to begin working on the area of violence against women within the public education's network. Dr. Imeri Velarde leads an initiative on civic education and democratic values. She considered that WLR's posters could contribute enormously to enhancing their initiative since according to her *"it does focus on justice as a democratic value, access to justice as a citizen's right and addresses the issue of violence against women with a gender-based language while also representing the ethnic diversity that Guatemala is all about."* Dr. Imeri Velarde will officially request WLR 10,000 copies of the posters and begin with their distribution process through the *Coordination of Department Coordination, Special Projects*, the *Future's Demonstratives Schools (Escuelas Demostrativas del Futuro)*, the *Department of Quality and Development of the Education System* and the *National Literacy Commission*.

## **B3. University of San Carlos Law School (USAC)**

### **B3a. Diploma in Gender and the Law**

The WLR local team worked on the logistical arrangements for the Graduation Ceremony of the Diploma in Gender and the Law that took place on Thursday, April 28 2005. 500 invitations were sent to WLR contacts in the academic community, the justice sector, government institutions, civil society organizations, and the international community. 260 people attended the event, including the 47 Diploma graduates, their sponsoring institutions and other WLR partners.

Dr. Bonerje Mejia (speaking on the picture) gave opening remarks on behalf of the USAC



Law School and Dr. Jorge Efrain Monterroso Salvatierra spoke on behalf of the Director of USAC's Legal Graduate Institute Dr. Villegas Lara (he could not attend the event as his mother passed away that same week). WLR Consultant and Academic Advisor, Dr. Walda Barrios-Klee was the master of ceremonies of the event.

### **B3b. Participatory Evaluation of the Diploma Program**

One of the major objectives of this trip was to conduct a participatory evaluation of the Diploma program. While the general findings are described in this report, the in-depth findings will be described as part of the larger *Diploma Final Activity Report* that WLR Legal Specialist Lelia Mooney will put together following the completion of this report.

The participatory evaluation consisted of the following steps: 1) Diploma Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop with all the 47 students; 2) Focus Group with the leaders of the 7 most sounding advocacy projects; 3) Focus Group with the Diploma Professors; 4) Visit to the leaders of the Institutions that housed the 7 most successful advocacy projects and 5) Site visit to El Progreso to meet with local civil society organizations leaders and members of the Judicial Branch who are part of the advocacy project implemented by Diploma graduates Judge Judith Secaida de Lemos and Raquel Paez y Paez. A brief description and results of these 5 different steps follows below:

#### 1-) Diploma Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop:

On Saturday April 23 2005, the Diploma Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop took place. 42 out of the 47 students attended the event. The objective of this final workshop was to identify the different levels of impact (on the personal, professional and institutional levels) that the Diploma helped the Diploma students achieve. The workshop Agenda (*See Annex A*) walked participants to reflect on the three different levels of impact they have achieved



From left to right: Ana Gabriela Contreras, Raquel Paez y Paez, Julissa Baldetti and Irma Baten Hernandez.



Group of Diploma graduates that attended the Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop on Saturday, April 23 2005.

and present their success stories and personal reflections. WLR local consultant Delia Castillo was the major facilitator of this activity.

#### 2-) Focus Groups with Diploma Graduates:

On Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup> Ms. Mooney conducted a focus group interviewing with 10 Diploma students (*See Annex B for a complete list*). They were chosen based on the levels of impact and sustainability these projects have achieved. The students that attended this meeting were as follows: Raquel Paez y Paez, Jeidy Maribel

Estrada Montoya, Maria de la Luz Ivette Melgar Paz, Carolina Isabel Morales de Leon, Ernesto Antonio Lopez Escobar, Lucinda Garcia, Irma Baten Hernandez and Ana Gabriela Contreras.



Ernesto Antonio Lopez Escobar.

He says, "*the Diploma taught me the difference between equality and equity when it comes to enforcing women's rights.*"



Diploma Students and the WLR team after concluding the focus group interviewing. From left to right: Julissa Baldetti, Ernesto Lopez, Carolina Morales, Ivette Melgar Paz, Eugenia de Celada, Jeydi Estrada Montoya, Ana Gabriela Contreras, Raquel Paez y Paez, Lucinda Garcia, Irma Baten Hernandez and Lelia Mooney.

### 3-) Focus Groups with Diploma Professors:

On Monday, April 25 Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada met with the team of professors that taught at the Diploma program. The objective of this meeting was to get their final evaluation of the process, the impact it has achieved and their suggestions for the Master's program. They all agreed that the fact that this was a multidisciplinary process provided the opportunities to combine legal analysis with high-level advocacy impact. The advocacy projects show that this type of academic exercise is not only possible but also that can prove to be successful.

### 4-) Visit to Diploma Partner Institutions:

From April 26<sup>th</sup> through 29<sup>th</sup>, Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada visited the institutions that were involved in the Diploma. The representatives interviewed were: Ivonne Aguilar from the Institute of Comparative Criminal Studies (INECIP), Ermelinda Chuk from the Ombudsman for Indigenous Women's Issues (DEMI), Carlos Giron Mendez from the Office of Permanent



Assistance (OAP) of the Public Ministry, Yolanda Perez Ruiz from the Institute of the Public Defenders, Ramses Cuestas from the Judicial School, Mercedes Asturias de Castaneda from the Asociacion Mujer Vamos Adelante (AMVA) and Yolanda de Caceres from the National Commission for the Strengthening of the Justice System.

The purpose of these visits was to discuss with the institutions' representatives how they saw their participation in this process. They all agreed that the fact that they were involved from the very beginning and that they were always kept informed on how the students and the Diploma were performing, contributed to keeping them motivated. They all value the contributions made by the students. The advocacy projects brought an added value to the institutions' programs and approaches to dealing with women's rights in general and on the development of new strategies in particular. They have also been able to incorporate the lessons learned and products developed as part of the advocacy projects within their own institutional plans which secures both program impact and sustainability.

#### 5-) Site visit to El Progreso:

On Tuesday, May 2<sup>nd</sup> 2005 Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada traveled to the city of El Progreso to visit one of the advocacy projects that have been implemented in this jurisdiction by two of the Diploma graduates: Judge Judith Secaida de Lemos and Raquel Paez y Paez. Their project's name is *"Justices of the Peace and Judges of 1<sup>st</sup> Instance from the Jurisdiction of El Progreso developing together a model that provides a better and faster access treatment of domestic violence cases."* As part of their strategy, Judge Lemos and Raquel Paez decided to work with both women leaders from the community and a network of 9 Justices of the Peace and of 1<sup>st</sup> Instance from the Jurisdiction of El Progreso. By working with both sectors, they were able to achieve a greater impact and reach out other community leaders. They have trained women leaders and they are actively working on a crusade to fight violence against women.

On the other hand, since they were able to work under the guidance and supervision of the Judicial School, the 9 Judges bought into the process as it was sponsored by this institution. They were also able to engage in a dialogue to identify the constraints that domestic violence law had and how in most cases they could not provide an efficient access to justice to the victims of these cases. As a result of this, they are in the process of finalizing a procedure manual that will aim at filling those lagoons identified by the 9 Judges themselves and that they will commit to implementing in the cases that get to their courts.

Midalia Orellana de Calderon has attended the trainings on violence against women conducted by Judge Lemos and Raquel Paez.

*Midalia says "after attending this training and receiving the WLR brochure, now I always keeps it with me and take it everywhere so I can share it with other women and organizations from my community."*





Judge Edgar Francisco Payes is one of the 9 Judges from the jurisdiction of El Progreso who has been participating in this process.

He says: *“many laws are passed without taking into consideration the different realities within which they will have to be enforced. By participating in this process, I have been able to understand that we need to place ourselves where we are, within our realities and see what are the constraints that do not allow us to provide women and victims of domestic violence with the proper measures they need to stop with that violence at home.”*



Judge (and Diploma graduate) Judith Secaida de Lemos at her office in the jurisdiction of El Progreso. She has been able to engage her colleagues Judges in a dialogue on how to improve the adjudication on cases of domestic violence.

**B3c. Masters in Gender, Women's Rights and Access to Justice**

During this visit, Ms. Mooney and Mrs. De Celada held several meetings with the Director of the USAC Legal Postgraduate Institute, Dr. Villegas Lara to discuss the next steps needed to put the Master's program in operation. This process will be guided by the amendment to the MOU signed on February 15, 2005 (See Annex E from *Guatemala Trip Report February 2005*). During these meetings it was agreed that the recruitment process for the Master's program will be conducted through WLR's data base (CSOs, Justice Sector, Government Agencies, Bar Association, Law Clinics and Universities) during late May 2005. The month of June will be devoted to making admissions decisions, the preparation of letter of commitments and scholarships awards to be signed by the selected students, selecting the Master's coordinator and working with the group of professors who will be in charge of the first semester of classes. It is expected that classes will begin in mid to late July 2005.

## SECTION III

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### Next Steps and Mission Support

#### A. Next Steps

The local team will continue to work to implement the Country Action Plan, focusing on:

- Paying a closer attention to the Guatemala Action Plan, its results framework and planned activities for upcoming quarters and begin reporting to the HO based on these guidelines.
- Implementing the M&E system that more efficiently captures WLR activities and their impact.
- Launching the Master's program.
- Enhancing the M&E system of the different aspects of the Public Awareness Campaign.
- Strengthening coordination with institutional partners.

Ms. Mooney will supervise the local team on program status and implementation through daily e-mails and phone communications, and will work with the home office support team on administrative procedures. She will conduct the next trip in July 2005. Finally, she will continue facilitating contacts with USAID Guatemala, the new leadership at partner institutions, and supervise WLR local staff.

#### B. Mission Support

USAID Mission support in Guatemala has continued to be positive and supportive of WLR activities. Ms. Mooney, while in the field, keeps constant communication with Ms. Sharon Van Pelt and Oscar Chavarria . WLR has found USAID Guatemala's input extremely helpful.



**ANNEX A****Diploma Best Practices and Lessons Learned Workshop**

**DIPLOMA ESTUDIOS DE ACTUALIZACIÓN EN DERECHOS DE  
LAS MUJERES Y GÉNERO**

**FECHA:**

23 de abril de 2005

De 8:30 a 13:00 horas

Club Campestre “La Montaña”

**AGENDA**

<b>HORA</b>	<b>ACTIVIDAD</b>	<b>RESPONSIBLE</b>
8:30	Arribo a instalaciones y ubicación	Lorena Coronado/Erika Gutiérrez
9:00	Bienvenida, Objetivos y Contenidos de Agenda	Lelia Mooney/Eugenia de Celada
9:15	Estudio de casos, conceptualización	Lelia Mooney/Eugenia de Celada
9:30	Presentación de casos, trabajos por proyecto	Delia Castillo
10:00	Preguntas	Delia Castillo
10:10	Café	
10:30	Trabajos por proyectos	Estudiantes/Docentes
11:00	Incidencia del Diplomado	Estudiantes
12:00	Compartiendo en grupo	Modera Delia Castillo
13:00	Clausura	Eugenia de Celada/Delia Castillo/Lelia Mooney



**ANNEX B****Most Sounding Advocacy Projects (sorted by Institution, project and responsible leader)**

<b>INSTITUCION</b>	<b>NOMBRE DEL PROYECTO</b>	<b>NOMBRE DE RESPONSABLE</b>
Juzgado de Paz y de Primera Instancia de Familia del Departamento de El Progreso.	Desarrollo del Modelo de Atención en los Casos de VIF, de los Jueces y Juezas de Paz y de Primera Instancia de Familia del Departamento de El Progreso.	Judith Secaida Lemus y Raquel Mercedes Páez y Páez
Instituto de la Defensa Pública Penal	Inclusión de la Perspectiva de Genero en la Defensa Técnica de las patrocinadas del Instituto de la Defensa Pública Penal.	Jeydi Maribel Estrada Montoya
Oficina de Atención a la Víctima Metropolitana del Ministerio Público	Modelo de Atención con Enfoque de Genero para la Oficina de Atención a la Víctima Metropolitana del Ministerio Público.	Ma. de la Luz Yvette Melgar Paz, Carolina Isabel Morales de Leon, Ernesto Antonio Lopez Escobar
Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena (DEMI)	Divulgación del que hacer de la Defensoría de la Mujer Indígena DEMI – y de los derechos específicos de la Mujer Indígena.	Aura Leticia Teleguario Sincal, Lucinda García Ortiz y Norma Sactic
Mujer Vamos Adelante	Diseño Modelo Taller sobre Salud Productiva para las Mujeres de Sumpango	Irma Baten Hernández
Comisión Nacional para el Seguimiento y Apoyo al Fortalecimiento de la Justicia / CNSAFJ	Estándares idóneos para el tratamiento de las mujeres privadas de libertad	Ana Gabriela Contreras
Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala	Guía para la inclusión del tema de genero en las actividades de capacitación del Instituto de Estudios Comparados en Ciencias Penales de Guatemala	Julissa Lourdes Baldetti Pérez