

# Altering The Landscape

International Women's Democracy Center

Winter 2008

## CAMP - Middle East: Transformative

The 2008 CAMP Middle East Delegation of very accomplished Palestinian and Israeli women leaders arrived in Washington for an intensive program designed to strengthen their public policy, lobbying, and advocacy skills. These women have committed their lives to working on peace and co-existence in their region. One criteria for participation in the

IWDC partnered with MercyCorps to facilitate the pre-departure training in Jerusalem. During their first week in Washington, the Delegation had an overview of Congress, learned how the media works, and where public policy originates in sessions led by lobbyists and policy experts. The sessions also focused on the private sector, interest groups, and how to

The final day was spent on Capitol Hill, hosted by Congresswoman Carolyn McCarthy, who has supported IWDC's CAMP program for the past 7 years. The Delegation learned how politics, policy, and process impact the legislative process as well as the diverse role that the Chief of Staff to a Member of Congress plays.



2008 CAMP-ME delegation with IWDC President, Barbara Ferris.

program is for an Israeli and a Palestinian to share a hotel room.

*"In my country, this is unheard of, but for one week I shared a hotel room in Washington with a wonderful Palestinian woman named Genia. And you know what? Slowly, slowly, the hidden barriers between us were removed and we became friends. I got to know her family, saw pictures of her kids and she got to know about me as well. This process of becoming friends was felt by all the women in our Delegation during the program which centered on lobbying and networking. In places that once were filled with suspicion, a sense of trust and warm feelings of friendship and hope were created. I could never have imagined this!"....*

-Shomit, CAMP 2008 Delegate

develop a strategic plan to achieve your legislative/organizational goal.

The Foundation Center hosted a presentation about international funding- a topic of particular interest as many of the women lead projects or are CEOs.

One day was dedicated to counterpart meetings; each Delegate met with a professional counterpart towards the goal of expanding her network. Counterparts from the National Democratic Institute, VSA Arts, Bread for the World, Center of Concern, The Public Forum Institute, Politics & Prose, the Women's Democracy Network, Interfaith Alliance, and Alliance for Justice generously shared their time and expertise.

The Delegation was graciously hosted for dinners by IWDC Board Member Reesa Motley and her husband Charles and Denyse Sabagh and Roger in their lovely homes.

CAMP 2008 was a powerful and transforming experience for the courageous women leaders who have dedicated their lives to working towards peaceful co-existence in their home land. Recruitment is currently underway for CAMP-ME 2009.

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## Pipeline Project

### 2008

In partnership with Duke University, IWDC facilitated the Pipeline Project workshop in Raleigh. Participants included women from Duke, Bennett College, Peace College, NCCC, and the NC Women and Public Service Commission. Supported by the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation and others, IWDC plans to continue to build on the success at Duke for three more years.

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## Night O' Chocolate '09!

IWDC's first fundraiser, "Night O' Chocolate" was held in partnership with WREI -Women's Research and Education Institute- at the AFL-CIO in Washington, DC. Sponsored by Hershey's, (there was chocolate everywhere) and supported by Kraft, local bakeries, wineries, and businesses, it was a fabulous night, complete with a silent auction and raffle. Save the Date - "Night O' Chocolate" is October 29, 2009!

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## I "GoodSearch" for IWDC

Please go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and under "Who Do You GoodSearch For?" Please type in: International Women's Democracy Center. Then click verify. IWDC receives a donation every time you use this search engine! Please share this information with your friends and strongly encourage them to use GoodSearch as their primary search engine and list IWDC as their charity.

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## From the President

Dear Friends,

With this unprecedented global economic crisis, IWDC and organizations around the world are challenged as never before to keep our doors open. Faced with difficult decisions to continue or cut programs until we can secure the necessary resources, IWDC continues to receive requests for workshop leadership training from women around the world.

IWDC's work is innovative. CAMP Middle East has transformed the lives of extraordinary and courageous women leaders working across borders for peace in their region. The Pipeline Project is training the next generation of leaders. UNYDP has given the next generation of women leaders unparalleled access to participate as official delegates at the United Nations- the only place in the world where nations can come together to dialogue and disagree without the threat of violence or death!

Your support of our mission and your generosity have ensured that IWDC can continue to provide innovative and transforming programs for women leaders who want to put forth policies, politics, and decisions that will improve the quality of life for themselves, their families, their communities, and their nations.

Please continue to be generous. One person can make a big difference.

Finally, all of us at IWDC wish you the warmest of holidays and hope that they are filled with family, friends, laughter and peace.

Happy New Year!



Barbara Ferris  
President

## UN Youth Delegates are Global Leaders

Jackie Colm, Rekha Iyer, and Renuku Shenoy, high school seniors from Cleveland, OH, served as IWDC's Official Delegates to the UN's 52nd Session on the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) at the UN Headquarters in New York through IWDC's United Nations Youth Delegate Program.

The Delegates, accompanied by their teacher, Patricia Komosinski, attended meetings and regional caucuses with delegates from around the world, and met government officials representing the 191 member nations of the UN.



IWDC 2008 UNYDP Delegates.

Their first seminar, *The Exorbitant Cost of Child Sexual Abuse* deeply moved the Delegates as they listened to brave first-hand accounts from sexual abuse survivors and heard the devastating effects not only to victims, but to the economy as well. This poignant session raised numerous questions without any clear answers to this deplorable issue.

The students agreed that the most captivating seminar was the Salvation Army's *Why Women Weep*, which described the grueling horrors that women

face around the world, such as female feticide, genital mutilation, child marriage, fistula, breast ironing, acid burning, rape, and domestic violence.

Another powerful session, *Women and Armed Conflict*, used Colombia as a focal point, and addressed issues such as drug trafficking, armed violence, and the acute discrimination often faced by women, indigenous groups, and those of African descent. Recognizing that the ever-present threats of internal conflict pose an ongoing challenge to women's safety and often results in their marginalization and poverty was a powerful learning experience for the Delegates.

The Delegates spent their last day at the UN observing the African Caucus, learning about the multitude of struggles shared by women across the region and what efforts are being taken to overcome social, political and economic inequity.

The experience was very powerful, and the students left the United Nations with a clearer understanding of the enormous challenges and struggles women around the world face every day of their lives and the many organizations working tirelessly to address these problems. In March the tradition continues when three more high school seniors will travel to the UN to participate in this extraordinary program.

### **Thank You! Gracias! Merci! Shookrun! Enkosi! Xai Xai! Sagbol!**

The Righteous Persons Foundation, Representatives Carolyn McCarthy, Lois Capps, and Betty McCollum, the PLO Mission, AFL-CIO, Altria, Hershey's, Coca-Cola, Schneider's of Capitol Hill, Wagner's Liquor, The Kid's Closet, Chocolate Moose, Kraft, Mt. Gay Rum, Office Depot, Saks Fifth Avenue, The Beacon Hotel, The Boston Harbor Hotel, National Zoo, Edible Arrangements, Baltimore Aquarium, Garden District, Piaf Salon, Barbara Glaeser Photography, DC Improv, Pulp on the Hill, HomeRule, Poste Moderne Brasserie, McCormick & Schmick's, Krispy Kreme, Pepsi, Dolcizza Gelato, Lane's Luggage, Molliccakes, Hello Cupcake, Locolat, Biagio Chocolate, Georgetown Cupcake, Beads for Education, Ace Beverage, Linganore Winery, Frederick Cellars, Sugarloaf Mountain Winery, Artfully Chocolate, Kettle Chips, Bundles of Cookies, Joy of Motion, Miss Pixies, CWA, HP, David and Laura Sangree, Denise Ferguson, Elizabeth Colton, Esther Coopersmith, Fannie and Stephen Kahn Charitable Foundation, Folger Shakespeare Theater, Gala Hispanic Theater, Warner Theater, The Shakespeare Theater, General Mills, Juliette McLennan, Katherine Hibbs Pherson, Quinn Masi, Susan Scanlan, Barbara Ragon, Sandy Stotler, Stephanie Ridgeway, Bill Sweeney, Paul Jenks, Lisa McAvoy, Bob Ramin, Janet Howard, Elaine Reuben, Joan Betros, Ira Peppercorn, Eileen McCarthy, Rod Thompson, Kenneth and Lucy Lehman, Library of Congress, SEIU, Susan Riley, L. Wesley Hayden, WREI, Z. Smith Reynolds, and the IWDC board.

IWDC's Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) is #11209 -- Please consider IWDC for your CFC contribution. Thank you for your support!