

FAX

DATE: 30 October 1998

TO: Rosalie Flanagan, Central Secretariat office

FROM: Pearl Sagar, Vital Voices

Number of Pages 8

MESSAGE

Some information as promised I hope it helps. I have included the conference pamphlet, I have been unable to get hold of Ann Toolan at the Consulate but I will keep trying and get back to you as soon as possible.

Monday, 31 August 1998

11.30am - 1.30pm

Registration and Casual Buffet Lunch

1.30pm - 3.00pm

**Opening Plenary Session
Women's Vital Voices: Framing the Issues**

Welcome to Belfast: The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor, Cllr. David Alderdice

Conference Opening: Theresa Loar,
Senior Coordinator for Int'l. Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Remarks from: The Hon. Philip Lader,
U.S. Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Remarks from: Ambassador Wendy R. Sherman,
Counselor of the U.S. Department of State

Remarks from: Mr. Seamus Mallon, M.P.
Deputy First Minister, The New Northern Ireland Assembly

Remarks from: The Rt. Hon. Mr. David Trimble, M.P.
First Minister, The New Northern Ireland Assembly

Remarks from: Minister of State, Mary Wallace, T.D.
Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, Ireland

**Keynote Speaker: The Rt. Hon. Dr. Marjorie Mowlam, M.P.
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

3.00pm - 3.30pm

Afternoon Break

3.30pm - 5.30pm

Participation in Public Life
Workshop Session 1.
Engagement

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

**Legal and Social Progress
In Civil Society**
Workshop Session 1.
Engagement

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

**Economic Development
and Opportunity In a Time
of Change**
Workshop Session 1.
Engagement

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

6.30pm

Casual Buffet Dinner

Hosted by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Hillsborough Castle

Tuesday, 1 September 1998

9.00am

Morning Coffee, Tea and Refreshments

9.30am - 10.00am

Morning Announcements

Theresa Loar, Senior Coordinator for Int'l. Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

10.00am - 12.00pm

Participation In Public Life
Workshop Session 2.
Effective Decision-Making

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

Legal and Social Progress In Civil Society
Workshop Session 2.
Social Justice In a Time of Change

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

Economic Development and Opportunity In a Time of Change
Workshop Session 2.
Funding, Financing and Planning for Growth

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Luncheon

1.30pm - 3.30pm

Participation In Public Life
Workshop Session 3.
Exercising Influence

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

Legal and Social Progress In Civil Society
Workshop Session 3.
Rights and Responsibilities

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

Economic Development and Opportunity In a Time of Change
Workshop Session 3.
Women & the Workplace

Panel

- Moderator Opens
- Panel of Workshop Facilitators present brief strategies to the entire group.

Workshops

- The Group breaks into smaller groups to develop the strategies.

3.30pm - 5.00pm

A Special Programme: Women's Voices and Resources on the Internet:
Promoting Your Agenda through On-Line Networking - BT Studio
or
Networking Time
or

Visit the Cyber Café, the Art Exhibition or the Vital Voices Information Exchange

6.00pm

Fork Buffet

Hosted by the First and Deputy First Ministers, The New Northern Ireland Assembly, The Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings, Stormont

Wednesday, 2 September 1998

8.30am

Morning Coffee, Tea and Refreshments

9.00am - 10.30pm

Plenary 2.

Opening Overview:

Theresa Loar, Senior Coordinator for Int'l. Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State

Vital Voices: Strategies for Moving Forward

Reports from the Three Track Rapporteurs

Investing in the Future

James Lyons, Special Advisor to the U.S. President and Secretary of State
for Economic Initiatives in Ireland

Next Steps: Overview of Partnership Opportunities from the Three Track Moderators

10.30pm - 12.00pm

**Vital Voices
Partnership Opportunities
Working Session 1.**

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Luncheon

12.00pm - 1.30pm

Visit the Launch of the BT / Ulster Orchestra Access Scheme, BT Studio

12.40pm - 1.30pm

Motivational Speaker, Mr. Watt Nichol, speaks on *Surpassing Your Expectations*, Auditorium.

1.30pm - 3.30pm

**Vital Voices
Partnership Opportunities
Working Session 2.**

3.30pm - 4.00pm

Afternoon Break

4.15pm - 6.00pm

Closing Plenary

Summing Up: Strategies and Partnerships

An Emerging Vital Voice

**Remarks from: The Rt. Hon. Dr. Marjorie Mowlam, M.P.
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland**

Keynote Speaker

U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

6.30pm

Closing Reception

Hosted by The Rt. Hon. The Lord Mayor & Belfast City Council, The City Hall

Workshop Topics

Participation In Public Life

Engagement

- Public Education and the Political Process: Gaining and Sustaining Interest
- Building Relationships Between Community Organisations and Political Parties
- Running for Office: Practical Pointers
- Mobilising Your Community: Making Things Happen
- Forging Leadership Opportunities for the Next Generation

Effective Decision-Making

- Shaping Creative Alliances: Communities, Businesses, Education, and Government
- Models for Inclusive and Participative Decision-Making
- Women In Public Life: Seeing Ourselves as Leaders
- Putting Your Campaign Together
- Media Strategies: Communicating Your Messages to the Media
- Mentoring, Partnering, and Developing Personal Networks

Exercising Influence

- Effective Lobbying as a Political Tool
- Taking Charge: The Challenges and Responsibilities of Leadership
- Reaching Out and Developing Popular Support
- Capitalising on the Peace Agreement: What It can mean for Women?
- Managing Public and Private Life
- Building Alliances for Legislative Action

Legal and Social Progress In a Civil Society

Legal Protections In a Civil Society

- Strategies for Transforming a Culture of Violence
- Domestic Violence and the Criminal Justice System
- Capitalising on the Peace Agreement: What It can mean for Women?
- Bridging the Sectarian Divide: Taking Responsibilities, Taking Risks

Social Justice In a Time of Change

- Restorative Justice for Victims of Violence
- From Paper to Practice: Moving from Legal Equality to Actual Equality
- Long-Term Sustainability: Bringing Resources to the Community
- Women Organising for the future
- Using Public Awareness Campaigns for Social Causes

Rights and Responsibilities

- Developing Transparency in Government Processes
- Prisoner Reconciliation In a Just Society
- Working with the Media for Legal and Social Progress
- New National and International Human Rights Legislation: The Impact on Women
- Advancing the Status of Women through Advisory Bodies and Civic Fora

Economic Development and Opportunity In a Time of Change

Creating Opportunities

- Bringing Women Into Non-Traditional Jobs/Professions
- Tapping Into Resources: Getting What You Need From Support Agencies
- Long-Term Sustainability: Building Partnerships for Non-Profits
- Women In Big Business: How to Succeed
- New Technology - New Opportunities
- Women Growing the Economy

Funding, Financing, and Planning for Growth

- Basic Fund-Raising for Community and Voluntary Organisations
- Microcredit and Entrepreneurship
- Growing a Small Business: Attracting Investment and Planning for Growth
- Marketing Strategies for Small Businesses
- Mapping Your Career Growth

Women and the Workplace

- Advancing Women in the Workplace Through Unions
- Presentation Skills for Women In Business
- Career and Mentoring Networks for Women In Business
- Creating a More Family-Friendly Workplace
- New Partners: Technology and Entrepreneurship

During your free time, visit the Cyber Café,
the Art Exhibition or the Vital Voices Information Exchange.
Watch the closed circuit TV monitors for documentary films by women film directors.

VITAL VOICES

Vital Voices is an on-going, global initiative which supports US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's mandate to integrate issues affecting women into the mainstream of American foreign policy. The Vital Voices conferences seek to build on existing ties, establish new relationships, expand partnerships, and secure resources to strengthen the roles of women in democracy.

During the first two days of each Vital Voices conference, participants develop strategies for action in three focused areas of concern to women. Vital Voices Belfast focused on women's

- Participation in Public Life
- Legal and Social Progress in Civil Society
- Economic Development in a Time of Change.

The closing day of the Vital Voices conference focused on "Partnership Opportunities" for the future. Conference participants will continue to build on the conference strategies by developing on-going partnerships and exploring follow-up projects.

The participants of the Vital Voices conference come together to share their knowledge, experience, and expertise. The "Partnership Opportunities" portion of the conference encouraged participants to focus on and think creatively about how to maximise their participation.

"PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES"

Prior to the Vital Voices conference government agencies, private sector corporations, non-governmental organisations, experts, and individuals developed "Partnership Plans". The plans outlined follow-up projects focused around the conference themes. Each "Partnership Plan" was included in the conference programme. On the closing day of the conference, the "Partnership Plans" were presented and further developed at working sessions. By the end of the day, "Partnership Plans" were moulded into partnership projects that suit the needs of the Vital Voices participants.

FOLLOW UP TO BELFAST CONFERENCE

A steering group representing various interests in NI and the US is being established to advise on how the outcomes of the Conference should be taken forward, and Pearl Sagar is to be appointed as a consultant to co-ordinate the follow up to the Partnership Plans.

cover a range of issues such as childcare, unemployment, education, legal protectors, and domestic violence. For example: a New Deal for lone parents will help women back into work. We are taking steps to identify and plan the particular needs of children and parents in Northern Ireland, and a new Play Care initiative will provide out of school play opportunity for children to enable parents to return or remain in work. We are also providing help through a new child care tax credit scheme to help parents with the cost of child care. We are working to increase the number of women appointed to public bodies and working on a Northern Ireland Strategy to combat Violence against women.

As part of our follow up to the Belfast Conference I am pleased [to be able to tell you today] that Pearl Sagar has been appointed as a consultant to co-ordinate and develop the partnerships which were suggested at the Conference. A steering group, representing a variety of interests in Northern Ireland and the US [has also been] [will shortly be] established to oversee and advise on the follow up. We want to grasp wholeheartedly at all partnership opportunities, and to develop the strong links which already exist between people on both side of the Atlantic. We want to create new ties and make new connections which will allow groups to work together more effectively.

Finally I want to repeat my heartfelt gratitude to the people in the US who have supported the initiative which will play such a vital role as we move forward to peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland.