

Pooling Ideas and Recommendations

Closing Plenary

Synthesis prepared by: Maria Nengeh Mensah

Discussions

[Q1 - Edmonton, Canada]: Women truly participate when men are not present. This is both an acknowledgement and a reminder, since we are talking about the importance of involving men.

[Q2 - Cameroon]: We must take women's training and personal development into consideration in every strategy that seeks to improve their safety. Self-affirmation, self-confidence, and self-esteem cannot be forgotten as important factors in improving women's safety.

[Q3 - Hull, Canada]: There are enemies among women and we must find our allies among men, especially young men. This is a delicate issue but it is not enough to be a woman to work in a woman's perspective. The best solution is inclusion.

[Q4 - South Africa]: A meeting with women judges revealed that, even if they were women, they were still limited in their possible actions due to the very post that they occupied.

[Q5 - Western Canada]: I am not convinced that rural areas have fewer barriers to overcome than urban settings. It is more likely the reverse: there is a greater feeling of safety in the city. We must discuss the things that these two settings have in common.

[Q6]: A key challenge lies in "how" - how we, men and women, can bring about a shift both national and local policies. Violence has to be linked to all of our other social concerns and, in all instances, integrated into how we approach these problems. A new political mentality is

necessary; a new way of conceiving power. If we work hand in hand, we will be able to establish positions of power and to debate a new conception of power.

[Q7 - Ecuador]: In order to find a certain balance of powers, we must first respond to women's practical needs. Insecurity is a large problem, especially as related to women's economic rights. In Latin America, it is necessary to think of the equation: woman + poverty + security. Then, in order to be real agents of social change, we must insist that we are given our public and political rights.

[Q8]: Women must strive to fill positions of power that have traditionally belonged to men, particularly through increased involvement with workers' unions.

[Q9 - Martinique]: Why not educate children on the "culture of gender", starting at the youngest age possible? This would allow feminist culture to develop at a larger level.

[Q10 - Richelieu, Canada]: It should be a priority to educate women on their condition beginning at a young age.

[Q11 - South Africa]: Police training is also central. All over the world, women are confronted within the same cases.

[Q12- Jamaica]: Women are more vulnerable when men are present. Women's values and self-esteem must be affirmed and reinforced.

[Q13 - Brazil]: In many countries, we are confronted with the impunity of criminals. We must launch a campaign of zero tolerance for corruption around the world and put such a campaign to good practical use. Furthermore, we must consider the role that racism plays in violence.

[Q14 - Peru]: The lack of productivity when a woman is not working adds to her feeling of insecurity. We must create more paid work for women. This would respond to the problem of female poverty and furthermore to women's safety. Socio-economic indicators clearly demonstrate that we must integrate the fight against poverty into our actions to improve safety.

[Q15 - Peru]: Women's autonomy will be achieved when they earn their own revenue. As such, women will also participate in their country's development and the improvement of the quality of life of all citizens, both women and men. Professional training programs that include the entire family are an interesting direction (ex., shared kitchens, banks, etc.).

[Q16]: Violence crosses the lines of race and class. We must reflect on the role of parents, parental education, and giving parents the tools they need in order to help them change things.

[Q17 - Kenya]: We cannot forget the impact of HIV/AIDS on violence towards women. When women die, their children are left orphans and there are further economic effects.

[Q18 - Chile]: I recommend that the participants of this Seminar oblige their respective governments and cities to live up to their promises.

[Q19 - Quebec, Canada]: We must invest and re-define our vision of "safety". If not, safety will continue to be defined according to corporate powers.

[Q20]: Women must support each other, encourage each other, be visible, and support women elected to positions of political power. We must never forget that women are mothers: it is them who will watch to ensure that our children grow up in a better world, free of stereotypes.

[Q21]: Universities have a fundamental role to play. Urban planning/studies programs should integrate the proceedings of this Seminar into their curricula..

Perspectives

Anne Michaud [A.M.]: Follow-up to this Seminar will include:

- Publication of the *Montreal Declaration on Women's Safety*;
- Dissemination of the *Montreal Declaration* in our respective networks;
- Publication of the complete detailed Seminar Proceedings;
- The launch and maintenance of a Seminar web site, as well as mailing information to those groups who do not have Internet access. We must now find the means to

improve our data base, further develop our international directory of activities and resources, and make these documents more accessible and available in multiple languages;

- Hold another Seminar that could have the theme "Bridging the gaps", in order for us to continue to *make the links*!