



**Center for Women
Policy Studies**

NEWS

from the Center for Women Policy Studies

Winter 2007

A NOTE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

We send this issue of *NEWS from the Center for Women Policy Studies* with all of our best wishes to you, our colleagues and friends, for a wonderful 2008! I know that you have many demands on your resources, especially during an election year, so I am making a very special plea for your financial support of the Center's unique programs to ensure women's human rights during 2008. With your support, the Center will:

- Convene our 8th annual *Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators*;
- Convene our 3rd annual **GlobalPOWER®** (Partnership Of Women Elected/Appointed Representatives);
- Host sessions on reproductive rights, international trafficking of women and girls, and the women's HIV/AIDS epidemic at National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) meetings;
- Expand our State Policy Program on Reproductive Rights. . . and much more to come!

Look for more news about our 2008 programs in the next issue of *NEWS from the Center!*

Leslie R. Wolfe

US FOREIGN POLICY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS

The Center's unique *Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators* brings state lawmakers into the world of US foreign policy. During their week in Washington, legislators learn about the impact of US foreign policy on women and girls worldwide from a faculty of experts and they meet with Members of Congress and State Department officials.

The *Institute* Class of 2007 included 11 state legislators from 10 states — Arizona, Colorado, Delaware, Florida, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Washington.

As a result of this experience, *Institute* graduates are transformed. They leave Washington with a new awareness of the challenges women and children face in countries around the world and of the critical impact of US foreign policy on women's

lives. They take home with them the understanding that women's human rights must be a centerpiece of US foreign policy — and of their own state's policy initiatives as well.



Senator Richard Lugar (R-IN) meets with *Institute* participants.



Representative Gabrielle Giffords (D-AZ) with the *Institute*.

Photography by
Sylvia Johnson.

During its first seven years (2001-2007), the *Foreign Policy Institute* has graduated 84 legislators from 34 states. We thank the *Institute's* initial funder — The John D. and

Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation (2001-2004) — and its current supporters — the Ford Foundation and the Libra Foundation.



Senator Arthenia Joyner (Florida)



Senator Vi Simpson (Indiana)



Representative Bethany A. Hall-Long (Delaware)



Senator Margaret [Peggy] Rotundo (Maine)



Representative Jean Farmer-Butterfield (North Carolina)



Assemblymember Sheila Y. Oliver (New Jersey)



Senator Jean D. Breaux (Indiana)



Representative Kyrsten Sinema (Arizona)



Senator Betty Boyd (Colorado)



Representative Mary Helen Roberts (Washington)



Representative Anne Pasley-Stuart (Idaho)

Photography by Sylvia Johnson.

FOREIGN POLICY INSTITUTE FOR STATE LEGISLATORS 2007 SEMINARS

- The Vienna Tribunal (1993): Women's Rights Are Human Rights
- International Trafficking of Women and Girls: A Global Women's Human Rights Crisis
- Violence Against Women: Weapon of War and Genocide
- Global Apartheid
- Preserving Women's Reproductive Rights and Health
- The Women's HIV/AIDS Epidemic
- Women, Peace, and Security
- The Role of the United Nations in Ensuring Women's Human Rights
- Women, the Environment and Climate Change
- The Role of the US Department of State on Women's Issues
- US Voters and Their Views on US Foreign Policy

NEWS from THE CENTER FOR WOMEN POLICY STUDIES is published by the Center for Women Policy Studies, 1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW, Suite 450, Washington, DC 20036. Tel. 202-872-1770 Fax 202-296-8962; Email: cwps@centerwomenpolicy.org; Website: www.centerwomenpolicy.org

Board of Directors 2007

Rita Jaramillo, *chair*
 Jacquelyn Lendsey, *secretary/treasurer*
 Leslie R. Wolfe, *president*
 Francesta Farmer
 Irasema Garza
 Carmen Lomellin
 C. Lynn McNair

Karen A. Schneider
 Jessie Bernard, *in memoriam*

Founders

Jane Roberts Chapman
 Margaret Gates

The Center for Women Policy Studies was founded in 1972 as our Nation's first feminist policy institute. Our mission today is what it was then — to improve women's lives and ensure women's human rights. A hallmark of our work is the multiethnic feminist lens through which we view all policy issues. Through our **Contract with Women of the USA® State Legislators Initiative**, we seek to bring the promises of the Beijing Platform for Action (1995) home to the United States.

THE CENTER AT NCSL 2007

Every year, the Center conducts special sessions at the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) annual meeting — and NCSL 2007 in Boston was no different!

Our second **Strategic Action Convening (SAC) on Reproductive Rights and Justice** brought together legislators from 11 states (**Hawaii, Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Hampshire, North Carolina, Ohio, Vermont, Virginia, and Washington**) to share strategies and advise the Center on our 2008 plans. We also welcomed colleagues from our sister organizations — the National Women's Law Center, Planned Parenthood Federation of America, the National Network of Abortion Funds, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, and the Center for Reproductive Rights.

At our annual **Legislative Exchange: State Action on International Trafficking of Women and Girls into the USA**, legislators from seven states (**Alaska, Colorado, Hawaii, Indiana, Minnesota, Missouri, and North Carolina**) discussed their leadership in promoting state anti-trafficking initiatives defined by the Center (see our *Resource Guide for State Legislators* at www.centerwomenpolicy.org).

We convened a **Special Session** to present our plans for a new program for state legislators on the **women's HIV/AIDS epidemic in the USA**, to be launched in 2008. Legislators from 10 states (**Colorado, Hawaii, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri,**

Montana, Pennsylvania, Texas, Washington, and Wyoming) expressed their enthusiasm and support for this new undertaking, supported by the Ford Foundation.

THANK YOU!

To all of our individual donors — we express our gratitude for your support of our women's human rights policy agenda during 2007 (for donations received from January 1 through November 5, 2007).

Orentha Alava
Danielle Allen
Bryant A. Anderson
Virginia Aubel
Richard L. Beecher
Jennifer Belcher
Joy Bernard
Judy Bloom
The Honorable Donna Boe (ID)
Margaret C. Botch, Sisters of Providence of Mother Joseph Province
Alice H. Brown
Bonnie J. Campbell
Maria Elena Campisteguy, Metropolitan Group
Wilbur Chase
Kathleen Chatman
Rafael Chirolla
Virginia Cornue
Mary Rose Curtis
Jill Deans
Priscilla Elfrey
Holly Fechner
Shelley K. Finlayson
Jean Hardisty
Lynn Huntley, Southern Education Foundation

Brandy A. Ingargiola
Rita Jaramillo
Leah Karpen, League of Women Voters
Kathleen Keller
The Honorable Beth Kerttula (AK)
Andrew Kolstad
Cynthia A. Kondon
Todd MacLeod
The Honorable Marilyn B. Lee (HI)
Lourdes Miranda, The Miranda Foundation
Mothers Opposing Bush
Rhonda Nalisnik, in memory of Julia Nalisnik
Clare Nolan, Sisters of the Good Shepherd
The Honorable Suzi Oppenheimer (NY)
Rahnee Patrick, Access Living of Metropolitan Chicago
David A. Petersen
Jane Roberts, 34 Million Friends of UNFPA
Marguerite Gee Ross, in memory of Kimo W. Wong
Diane Ruhl
Kimberly Salter, president, California NOW
Karen A. Schneider
The Honorable Andrea Stillman (CT)
Barbara W. Stuhlmann
Maggie Tinsman
Carol Virostek, president, AAUW Connecticut
Frederick Walton
Jane Wentworth, in honor of the Center's staff
Kafele N. Wilks
Leslie R. Wolfe, in memory of Kazuko Oshima and Mal Johnson

FROM OUR FRIENDS

■ Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee **Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (D-DE)** and Ranking Member **Richard Lugar (R-IN)** have introduced the *International Violence Against Women Act*. To learn more, contact Danielle_Borrin@biden.senate.gov.

■ **Susan Faludi's** new book, *The Terror Dream: Fear and Fantasy in Post-9/11 America* (Metropolitan Books/Henry Holt and Company) is available at bookstores. Susan has captured the essence of the backlash against feminism in the context of the "war on terrorism."

■ Order the second edition of **Lora Jo Foo's** book, *Asian American Women: Issues, Concerns, and Responsive Human and Civil Rights Advocacy*, from the National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum at aawbook@napawf.org.

■ **Sanam Naraghi Anderlini's** new book, *Women Building Peace*, is available

in bookstores and from Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc. (www.rienner.com).

■ *The Circle of Empowerment: Twenty-Five Years of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*, edited by **Hanna Beate Schopp-Schilling** and **Cees Flinterman**, will be published in December (The Feminist Press, 365 Fifth Avenue, Suite 5406, New York, NY 10016).

■ **An Urgent Request:** Women and girls in **Zimbabwe** are facing a serious shortage of sanitary napkins, forcing women to use unhealthy means and keeping girls out of school for a week every month. The Center's **GlobalPOWER®** colleague, the **Honorable Member of Parliament Thokozani Khupe**, has asked the Center for assistance — and so we are asking our readers as well. Please send your contribution by check or credit card to the Center

— and mark your contribution "for the women of Zimbabwe".

■ Center president **Leslie R. Wolfe** moderated a panel on **State Policy on Reproductive Rights and Health** at the League of Women Voters of Charleston, SC November forum, *Caring Connections: Women to Women*.



Leslie with state Representative Gilda Cobb-Hunter.



Leslie with SisterSong Board member Juanita Williams. Photography by Lisa Diane White of SisterSong.



**Center for Women
Policy Studies**

1776 Massachusetts Avenue, NW
Suite 450
Washington DC 20036

Nonprofit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Odenton, MD
Permit No. 2520

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED