



**Center for Women
Policy Studies**

NEWS

from the **Center for Women Policy Studies**

Spring 2005

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FROM OUR PRESIDENT

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the founding of the **United Nations** — in June 1945 in San Francisco — an important moment in world history that gives us cause to celebrate.

This also is the moment to remember how the **women of the world** brought all of our governments — and the United Nations — to the global understanding, at long last, that **women's rights are human rights** — a simple phrase for a world-shaking concept.

We pause to remember the leadership of our sisters at the UN Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993. We remember the "Tribunal on Violations of Women's Rights" at which brave women from all over the world gave testimony about gender-based violence as the quintessential violation of human rights. Their powerful message and mission ultimately changed the outcome of the Conference. Indeed, the final "Vienna Declaration" made women's human rights a priority and called for governments to eliminate violence against women as a human rights obligation.

We pause to remember the leadership of our sisters at the UN's International Conference on Population and

THE CONTRACT WITH WOMEN OF THE USA STATE LEGISLATORS INITIATIVE

The Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators Class of 2005

The Center launched the *Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators* in 2001, with visionary support for this unique program from the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. Now, in 2005, with support from the Ford Foundation, the *Institute* is a permanent feature of our annual program — and an unqualified success.

The *Institute* Class of 2005 will be the largest ever, with 22 legislators from 19 states, including:

- Representative Catherine L. Barrett (Ohio)
- Delegate Bonnie L. Brown (West Virginia)
- Representative Marilyn Canavan (Maine)
- Representative Fran Natividad Coleman (Colorado)
- Representative Merika Williams Coleman (Alabama)
- Representative Jessica Farrar (Texas)
- Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald (Colorado)
- Senator Nia Gill (New Jersey)
- Representative Sonya "Sonny" Googins (Connecticut)
- Delegate Ana Sol Gutierrez (Maryland)
- Assemblymember Susan John (New York)
- Representative Phyllis Kahn (Minnesota)
- Senator Karen Keiser (Washington)
- Representative Judith Loganbill (Kansas)
- Representative Linda J. Lopez (Arizona)
- Representative Anne Pasley-Stuart (Idaho)
- Senator Gloria J. Romero (California)
- Senator Martha G. Scott (Michigan)

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- Representative Senfronia Thompson (Texas)
- Representative Kathy Tingelstad (Minnesota)
- Senator Maggie Tinsman (Iowa)
- Representative Juanita Head Walton (Missouri)

During their five days in Washington, DC, these legislative leaders will sharpen their knowledge about US foreign policy and its impact on women and girls worldwide. To learn more about the *Foreign Policy Institute for State Legislators*, contact Leslie R. Wolfe at LWolfe@centerwomenpolicy.org.

Strategy Session for State Legislators on US Foreign Policy

The Libra Foundation supported the Center's first-ever **Strategy Session for Legislators on US Foreign Policy**, which we convened in Washington in May. We used this opportunity to bring together a small group of state legislators — in state-level "pairs." Each pair included a graduate of the *Foreign Policy Institute* — who invited a newly elected woman legislator from her state to join her for this special meeting. In this way, we are bringing emerging state

legislative leaders into the world of foreign policy advocacy early in their state legislative careers.

Three state "pairs" participated in the **Strategy Session**, including:

- *Institute* graduate Representative Nancy Detert and Representative Trudi Williams (Florida)
- *Institute* graduate Representative Marilyn B. Lee and Representative Lyla Berg (Hawaii)
- *Institute* graduate Senator Karen Fraser and Representative Sherry Appleton (Washington).

The weekend session opened with an overview of key issues presented by **Carmen Lomellin**, executive secretary of the Inter-American Commission of Women of the Organization of American States, **Regan Ralph**, executive director of the Fund for Global Human Rights, and **Yolonda Richardson**, president and CEO of the Centre for Development and Population Activities.



Front Row, L-R: Karen Fraser, Sherry Appleton, Carmen Lomellin, Nancy Detert, Brenda Romney Martin. Second Row, L-R: Sarah Doire, Jennifer Tucker, Lyla Berg, Yolonda Richardson, Celinda Lake, Leslie Wolfe, Marilyn Lee, Trudi Williams.

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From the President

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Development in Cairo in 1994 — where more than 180 governments officially recognized that women’s reproductive, educational, economic, and social rights are the key to sustainable development. For the first time, thanks again to brave women from all over the world — the UN accepted a vision for “population and development” that emphasizes women’s human rights — including the right to bodily integrity and reproductive self-control — as a unifying principle.

By the time of the **UN Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995**, “women’s rights are human rights” — the global feminist rallying cry — had become a cliché spoke by government officials. And it became the guiding principle behind the 12 point Beijing Platform for Action.

As advocates for women’s human rights, we have much to remember and much to celebrate.

And today, we have a huge task ahead of us to ensure that our government keeps these promises. While we always are optimistic — we are not naïve about the willingness of governments to change. So, I promise you that the Center will continue to bring these global understandings to the discourse about our Nation’s domestic and foreign policy.

In this struggle, we thank you again for your financial and sisterly support — and we thank you for sharing our commitment to the fight for women’s human rights within the United States and throughout the world.

Leslie R. Wolfe

Strategy Session for State Legislators

Continued from page 2



L-R: Regan Ralph, Yolonda Richardson, Carmen Lomellin.

Celinda Lake, president of Lake Snell Perry Mermin and Associates, presented an indepth analysis of US voters’ views on US foreign policy and **Kristin Poore** engaged legislators in the Aspen Institute’s *US in the World Training*.



Celinda Lake

Legislators also heard from **Sarah Albert**, public policy director of the General Federation of Women’s Clubs regarding the status of CEDAW and from **Erin Gould**, WiLL Washington associate, regarding federal foreign aid and defense spending.

Each state pair developed **action plans** to bring their knowledge of key foreign policy issues back to their home states.

THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON STATE POLICY ON TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

The Center continues to provide state legislators and other community leaders with information and technical assistance on the importance of crafting state policies to address trafficking of women and girls into the United States from impoverished communities worldwide.

During the 2005 state legislative sessions nationwide, several graduates of our *Foreign Policy Institute* sponsored legislation to define trafficking as a state felony offense, including: **Representative Beth Kertula (Alaska)**, **Representative Joyce Elliott (Arkansas)**, and **Representative Lisa Tessier Marrache (Maine)**.

Members of the Center's *National Honor Roll of State Legislators* sponsored similar legislation, including **Senator Sheila Kuehl** and **Assemblymember Sally Lieber (California)**, **Representative Terri Jo Austin (Indiana)**, and **Minnesota Senator Sandra Pappas** and **Representative Kathy Tingelstad** (a member of the upcoming *Foreign Policy Institute* Class of 2005).

Representative Elliott's bill in **Arkansas** has been signed into law, as have criminalization statutes sponsored by **Senator Marilyn Jarrett (Arizona)**, **Senator Nia Gill** (a member of the upcoming *Institute* Class of 2005) and **Representative Linda Stender (New Jersey)**, and **Senator Nick Jordon (Kansas)**. Similar bills are pending in **Illinois, Louisiana, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and South Carolina**.

Washington state **Senator Jeanne Kohl-Welles**, a *Foreign Policy Institute* graduate, introduced legislation to improve services to victims of trafficking, which Governor Christine

Gregoire signed into law in May. **Senator Kuehl** and **Assemblymember Lieber** have introduced similar legislation in **California**.

Following the lead of **Washington** and **Connecticut**, legislators have been successful in creating statewide task forces to assess the nature and extent of trafficking into the state and make policy recommendations. **Representative Alice Borodkin**, a *Foreign Policy Institute* graduate, joined by **Senator Joan Fitz-Gerald** (a member of the upcoming *Institute* Class of 2005), introduced a bill to establish an "Interagency Task Force on Trafficking in Persons," which has been signed into law. In **Idaho**, *Institute* graduate **Representative Donna Boe** co-sponsored a successful resolution that authorizes an interim committee to study human trafficking in the state. *Honor Roll* members introduced similar legislation, including **Senator Kuehl** and **Assemblymember Lieber (California)**, **Senator Pappas** and **Representative Tingelstad (Minnesota)**, *Foreign Policy Institute* graduate **Representative Martha Alexander (North Carolina)**, and **Senator Kate Brown (Oregon)**. Similar bills are also pending in **Massachusetts** and **Nebraska**.

Regulation of "International Matchmaking Organizations" is the subject of legislation introduced in **Missouri** — by **Senator Joan Bray**, a *Foreign Policy Institute* graduate and the lead sponsor of the state's trafficking criminalization bill that passed in 2004. **Assemblymember Lieber (California)** and **Representative Austin (Indiana)** have introduced similar bills, as have legislators in **New Jersey**.

To learn more about the Center's **National Institute on State Policy on Trafficking of Women and Girls**, or to invite the Center to your state, contact Center president Leslie R. Wolfe at LWolfe@centerwomenpolicy.org or policy associate Sarah Doire at SDoire@centerwomenpolicy.org.

JOIN US AT NCSL IN AUGUST

The annual meeting of the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) takes place August 16-20, 2005 in Seattle, Washington. As always, the Center will present several special sessions, including our annual **Luncheon for Legislators**. This year we are fortunate to have as our speaker **Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey (D-CA)**, who will speak about her **SMART Security Platform for the 21st Century**; SMART stands for "Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism."

In addition, the Center is presenting a special session on **State Policy Initiatives on Trafficking of Women and Girls into the United States** — which will feature several of the women state legislators whose leadership has brought these issues to their legislatures and ensured passage of groundbreaking laws. We also are convening our annual **Reproductive Rights Legislative Exchange** and are hosting another special session to introduce the work of our sister organization, the **Women's Bioethics Project**, to state legislators.

To learn more about our plans for NCSL, contact director of public policy Brenda Romney Martin at BRomney@centerwomenpolicy.org or 202-872-1770.

WOMEN ENGAGING GLOBALLY

With our partners — the **League of Women Voters** and the **Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO)** — we convened the first five town hall meetings on the impact of US foreign policy on women worldwide. Following the first town hall meeting in November 2004 (see *NEWS from the Center*, Fall 2004), we convened four sessions during the early spring of 2005.

The town hall meeting hosted by the **League of Women Voters of the Austin (Texas) Area** addressed refugee and immigrant women's issues and featured a presentation by **Sarah Martin** of Refugees International in Washington, DC.



L to R: Center policy associate Sarah Doire, director of public policy Brenda Romney Martin, and League of Women Voters of the Austin area representative Judy Parken at the Women Engaging Globally town hall meeting in Austin, TX.

At the **Boston** town hall meeting — addressing international trafficking of women and girls and hosted by the **League of Women Voters of Massachusetts** — Connecticut state Senator **Andrea Stillman** — a *Foreign Policy Institute* graduate — described her legislation that created the Connecticut state task force on trafficking.



Connecticut state Senator Andrea Stillman.



L-R: Lolly Jacobsen, League of Women Voters of the Cuyahoga Regional Area; Rachel Whiting, Women's Environment and Development Organization; Mary Lou Jones, panelist; Kathy Woodbridge, panelist; Pilar Velasquez, League of Women Voters of the US; Brenda Romney Martin, Center for Women Policy Studies.



L-R: Jennifer Tucker, Leslie Wolfe, Janet Sawaya of Women's Campaign International, and Senator Connie Williams.

The final two town hall meetings focused on the women's HIV/AIDS epidemic. The **League of Women Voters of the Cuyahoga Regional Area** hosted the session on "The Feminization of HIV/AIDS" in **Cleveland, Ohio** — which featured a presentation by the wife of the Vice President of

Uganda, Dr. **Margaret Bukonya**. The **League of Women Voters of Southeastern Pennsylvania** convened the town hall meeting in **Philadelphia** on "The HIV/AIDS Pandemic and its Effects on Women and Girls Worldwide, featuring a keynote speech by **Pennsylvania state Senator Connie Williams**.

For more information about our plans for the next eight **Women Engaging Globally** town hall meetings — scheduled for the fall of 2005 and supported by the Open Society Institute — contact Center president Leslie R. Wolfe at Lwolfe@centerwomenpolicy.org.

Project EMPOWER A New Program to Promote Access to College for Low Income Women

With support from the American Express Foundation, the Center has launched **Project EMPOWER: Effective Models of Postsecondary Opportunity for Women through Education Reform**.

Through this research, the Center is identifying "best practices" that create educational opportunities for low income women students who are enrolled in postsecondary education programs. We will look for college based programs, community based programs and others that provide essential support services — such as child care, financial aid, health care and transportation, for example. We also are interested in programs that help low income women students cope with their work, school and family "balancing act." Other "best practices" might include academic and counseling support designed to serve low income women students and efforts to address campus climate issues, for example.

This program enables the Center to continue its leadership of nearly 17 years to assist state legislators, college leaders, and

community-based organizations to ensure that low income women have access to college — which provides the best route out of poverty into economic self-sufficiency.

To learn more about **Project EMPOWER**, or to share “best practices,” contact Center vice president Jennifer Tucker at JTucker@centerwomenpolicy.org or (202) 872-1770 ext. 207.

THE CENTER CO-SPONSORS CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFING

The Center co-sponsored a special Congressional briefing, *Japan's Aging Society: Policies to Meet the Challenge*, with the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation and the House Committee on Ways and Means, Subcommittee on Human Resources (Minority). The briefing — hosted by Paige Cottingham-Streater of the Mansfield Foundation and Sonja Nesbit, Democratic staff on the Subcommittee, and moderated by Center vice president Jennifer Tucker — featured presentations by Ysuyako Nakamura, Assistant Professor at Japan's Doshisha University, and Mansfield Fellow Yukiko Ellis, Mathematical Statistician at the US Bureau of the Census.

The speakers addressed demographic changes that both the United States and Japan are facing as they confront the aging of the population, the declining fertility rate, the need to provide economic security for rapidly growing elderly populations, and the importance of maintaining sufficient numbers of highly skilled workers in an increasingly technology driven environment. The panelists also discussed the importance of creating woman-friendly and family-friendly workplaces and public policy to address these concerns.

EXPANDING OUR AUDIENCE THE CENTER “ON THE ROAD”

Center vice president Jennifer Tucker conducted a workshop on “Gender Issues in Poverty and Hunger” in March at the Central Region **Second Harvest** Annual Conference in Corpus Christi, TX.

Jennifer Tucker served as a panelist at the **Tennessee Economic Summit for Women** in the session, “Current Research on Women, Work and Diversity” in December, to present findings from the Center's **National Women of Color Work/Life Survey**, from *No More “Business As Usual”: Women of Color in Corporate America*. At the annual meeting of the **National Council for Research on Women** in New York in June, Tucker again presented the Center's research findings and discussed their implications for both corporate and public

policy at a session entitled “Opting Different: Reframing the Work/Life Debate.”

Tucker spoke at the **W.K. Kellogg Scholars in Health Disparities Annual Symposium** at Morgan State University in April, at the session on “Policy Perspectives on the Health of People of Color”.

Tucker and policy associate Sarah Doire hosted a roundtable discussion, “Moving from Poverty to Self-Sufficiency: Low Income Women Succeeding in Institutions of Higher Education,” at the **American Association for Higher Education** annual conference, in Atlanta in March. Tucker spoke on access to postsecondary education for low income women at the annual meeting of the **American Association of University Administrators** in Galveston, Texas in June.

Director of public policy Brenda Romney Martin and policy associate Sarah Doire represented the Center at the symposium on "Trafficking in Persons: Global Crisis, Global Perspective" at **Tulane University Law School** in New Orleans in April.

Center president Leslie R. Wolfe made presentations to legislative bodies in several states on state policy on trafficking of women and girls during their 2005 legislative sessions. She spoke at a special briefing hosted by **Foreign Policy Institute** graduate **Representative Alice Borodkin** in Denver, **Colorado** and also spoke to the **Arizona** Senate Judiciary Committee in Phoenix, at the invitation of **Senator Marilyn Jarrett**.

Wolfe spoke to the House Judiciary Committee in Juneau, **Alaska**, at the invitation of **Foreign Policy Institute** graduate **Representative Beth Kerttula** and to the joint Senate/House

Judiciary Committee in Augusta, **Maine**, invited by **Foreign Policy Institute** graduate **Representative Lisa Tessier Marrache**. In Albany, at the invitation of **Senator Suzi Oppenheimer**, Wolfe spoke at a special briefing convened by the **Women's Legislative Caucus of New York**, chaired by **Representative Aurelia Greene**.

Wolfe spoke on the women's HIV/AIDS epidemic worldwide at the **Women Engaging Globally** town hall meeting, hosted by the League of Women Voters of Southeastern Pennsylvania and sponsored by the Center, the League of Women Voters of the USA, and the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO), in Philadelphia in May.

Wolfe addressed the **Pacific Rim Forum 2005: Interdisciplinary Conference on Economics and Environment** at the University of Alaska Southeast in Juneau in April, speaking about international trafficking of women and girls into the United States. She also spoke on trafficking of women and girls at the annual **Women's Legislative Briefing** sponsored by the **Montgomery County, Maryland Commission for Women** and numerous local women's organizations in January; she also discussed the issue at the **Clarence Foundation** Giving Circle in the San Francisco Bay area in May. In June, Wolfe spoke on federal/state partnerships to confront trafficking of women and girls into the United States to employees of **Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security**, in Seattle.

Wolfe spoke on "HIV/AIDS, Trafficking, and Threats to Women's Rights and Health" at the **International Women's Day 2005** conference sponsored by the Simon's Rock College of Bard Women's and Gender Studies Program and the Berkshire Chapter of UNIFEM/USA in Great Barrington, Massachusetts in March.

At the **Dutchess Community College** conference on "Leadership Tools for Women" in Poughkeepsie, New York in June, Wolfe made the keynote speech, entitled "'Lifting As We Climb': Women in Leadership."

NEW FROM THE CENTER

The Center submitted written testimony to the Human Resources Subcommittee of the House Committee on Ways and Means for its Hearing on Welfare Reform Proposals, held February 10, 2005. The testimony urges members of Congress to allow postsecondary education to count as a work activity under TANF to ensure that low income women actually move from poverty to economic self-sufficiency, and not just from the ranks of the welfare poor to the working poor. Read the testimony on our website at www.centerwomenpolicy.org.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2005 DONORS

We express our enduring gratitude to all of the individuals who have made contributions to the Center from January to May of 2005. Their financial support — and their commitment to the Center's mission — give us strength and make our work possible.

We also are enormously grateful to the American Express Foundation, the Connect US Fund, the Ford Foundation, the Hewlett Foundation, the Libra Foundation, and the Open Society Institute, for their generous and invaluable support of our many programs.

The Honorable Martha Alexander

Stephanie Alvarez

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Ariam Asmerom

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The Honorable Alice Borodkin

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Vicki Smith

The Honorable Andrea Stillman

Virginia Strunk

Brandi L. Traylor

Doris Ward, Bethany House of Northern Virginia

Mary Wiberg, in honor of Leslie R. Wolfe

Barbara Wolfe

RESOURCES FROM OUR FRIENDS

- *Progress for Children: A Report Card on Gender Parity and Primary Education* is available from **UNICEF** at www.unicef.org.
- A new nationwide survey from the **Mautner Project**, a national lesbian health organization, found that nearly three quarters of lesbians have delayed obtaining health care — even when they were sick — for a variety of reasons. For more, go to www.mautnerproject.org.

- Subscribe to the **World Institute on Disability's** monthly e-newsletter, *EQUITY*, at www.wid.org and to learn more about WID's "Access to Assets" program.
- *A Dose of Reality: Women's Rights in the Fight Against HIV/AIDS* is available from **Human Rights Watch** at www.hrw.org.
- *Common at Its Core: HIV-Related Stigma across Contexts* by Jessica Ogden and Laura Nyblade is available from the **International Center for Research on Women** at www.icrw.org.
- The **5th National Low Income Immigrant Rights Conference** is in Washington, DC June 16-18, 2005. For more, visit www.nilc.org.
- The March issue of the **Alan Guttmacher Institute's** *Perspectives on Sexual and Reproductive Health* includes "Opportunities for Action: Addressing Latina Sexual and Reproductive Health" and is available at www.guttmacher.org.
- *Women, Philanthropy and Social Change: Visions for a Just Society*, edited by Elayne Clift, is available from the University Press of New England, at www.upne.com.



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