

2000 Annual Report



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Executive Summary

In 2000, the Women's Learning Partnership (WLP) established dynamic partnerships with NGOs in **Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine** that played a crucial role in WLP's activities throughout the year. WLP chose to work in these three countries because each is engaged in important social, political, and cultural transitions, and in each there exists a well-established indigenous women's movement which is both progressive and culture-based. All three are striving to craft locally-applicable forms of democratic governance and to balance the competing values of their traditions and the forces of modernization. These challenges provide an unprecedented opportunity to re-imagine and restructure values and norms in ways that are equitable for women.

Among the activities accomplished by WLP in 2000 were the following:

- Established a **women's leadership program** entitled *Cyber Institute for Women's Empowerment and Leadership (CIWEL)* to create Internet-based, culture-specific education tools for individuals and organizations in the Global South for developing and strengthening women's participation and leadership in building civil society;
- Developed a **prototype handbook on empowerment and leadership training** through a power-sharing, collaborative process with partner organizations in Morocco, Nigeria and Palestine. The handbook encourages rights, responsibility, and democratic participation within a dialogical framework emphasizing horizontal power arrangements, learning partnerships, and maximum inclusion and participation.
- Convened an **international symposium** entitled *Cultural Boundaries & Cyber Spaces: Innovative Tools and Strategies for Strengthening Women's Leadership in Muslim Societies* to raise awareness about the importance of a strong cadre of women leaders in strengthening civil society in the Global South;
- Held a **multi-regional expert group planning meeting** to identify the local needs and priorities for development of women's leadership, to gather information about regional NGO's activities, to assess the role of WLP in assisting them to achieve their objectives, and to identify potential local partners with whom WLP may collaborate;
- Established a 25-member **International Advisory Council** that is representative of diverse professional, cultural, and religious perspectives and has the expertise to evaluate the social,

cultural, and political implications of WLP's projects;

- Produced **culture-specific multimedia tools** including publications, and multi-media programs for radio, video/television, CD-ROM, and the Internet. Most recent productions are a **30-minute video** entitled *Culture Boundaries & Cyber Spaces: Women's Voices on Empowerment, Leadership, and Technology* and a **29-minute radio program** entitled *Women e-merging/Stories of Women Using Communication Technologies in Africa and the Middle East* in which women leaders from Africa and the Middle East discuss innovative uses of technology to educate and empower women;
- Designed a **universally-accessible website** to provide information resources for activists, practitioners, and scholars on women's leadership and empowerment, advocacy, political participation, democracy, human rights, development, globalization, primarily produced by and for women in the Global South, for whom such cross-regional exchanges are especially rare;
- Created a **human rights program** which consists of alert campaigns to mobilize action in support of women around the world and launched an annual forum entitled *Life Lines: The Literature of Women's Human Rights* where women poets and prose writers read from their works on human rights;
- Collaborated on **symposia, panels, and workshops** with such leading institutions as the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, the Library of Congress, Middle East Studies Association, State of the World Forum, and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, among others. These collaborations provided the opportunity for WLP to benefit from the resources available at these institutions and to expose new audiences to WLP's work;
- Organized an **outreach program** to promote public awareness of issues relating to women's empowerment and development, and to the digital divide. WLP organized and participated in more than sixty conferences, meetings, and interviews with policy-makers and international agencies, NGOs, media, and potential partners.

Women's Leadership Program

In 2000, WLP established a women's leadership program entitled *Cyber Institute for Women's Empowerment and Leadership (CIWEL)* and launched its first phase. Using modern information technology, culture-friendly approaches, and methodologies based on dialogue and choice, the CIWEL program is creating a conceptual framework for new leadership and producing training materials that provide necessary skills for women's participation in local, regional, and global decision-making organs. Through CIWEL, WLP and its partner-collaborators in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine, aim not only to bolster the number of women involved in leadership roles, but also to help them develop styles of leadership that correspond to women's vision of economic and social development as a process that leads to gender equality, social justice, democracy, peace, and human rights. CIWEL approaches this task by developing leadership concepts, practices, and materials emphasizing horizontal power relations, enhanced participation, better communication, and learning partnerships. CIWEL materials are designed for grassroots women activists, women's organizations, social service organizations, and professionals who work on behalf of women. By ensuring women's participation in decision making and by promoting a participatory and dialogical leadership style, CIWEL will help change the nature of individual and group relations within family, community, and society, leading to new and more equitable forms of power sharing.

WLP's methodology calls for working with partners who are committed to similar principles of women's empowerment and leadership. WLP will develop materials collaboratively with its partner organizations, test and retest materials in workshops attended by partners' constituents, and facilitate the exchange of ideas, strategies, and resources between and among the collaborating organizations. This approach sets in motion the sorts of learning partnerships that the CIWEL program seeks to foster. WLP believes that as the "graduates" of CIWEL leadership workshops fan out into society and implement many of the power-sharing leadership arrangements emphasized in the CIWEL method and materials, and as the model of WLP's own partnership arrangements is reproduced with and by additional organizations, other individuals and institutions will choose to adopt like-minded leadership and organizational arrangements. In this way, WLP will help social, economic, and cultural institutions to better serve the needs of not only women but all members of society.

In the first phase of the project, in 2000, WLP established partnerships with NGOs in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine, with whom it collaborated on developing a **prototype leadership training manual** for women geared to cultures in the Global South and to Muslim societies.

In the second phase, WLP's local partner organizations in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine will test the prototype handbook in their communities through workshops, presentations, and reviews by experts.

Data will be collected from the testing process about ways to enhance, abridge, and amend the prototype handbook to **customize the lessons/sessions** for the cultural and linguistic specifications of the target communities. Wherever necessary, curriculum will be available in Arabic and Hausa. The prototype handbook (in English) will be finalized and published during this phase.

In the third phase, customized handbooks along with **web pages, CD-ROMs, radio and video programs** will be developed in collaboration with the partner organizations using the women's leadership handbook as a framework. The customized handbooks will be finalized and published, and WLP will focus on the development of multimedia training programs and tools.

In-Country Partnerships with NGOs in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine

CIWEL develops its educational materials on women's leadership in collaboration with local NGOs to ensure the materials' relevance, applicability, and effectiveness. In considering potential collaborative partners for the CIWEL program, WLP weighed the following criteria: compatibility of goals; commitment to women's empowerment, participation, and leadership in civil society; its strength of networks with other NGOs in the area and region; the effectiveness of its programs and outreach; the potential for broadening the impact of CIWEL materials; ease of communication; and the reputation of the NGO among leading women advocates and experts from the target countries and among local NGOs in the community. In 2000, WLP established formal partnerships with NGOs in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine.

WLP's partners are responsible for testing, critiquing, and adapting the prototype leadership handbook for their communities through a collaborative-working process. At each of the organizations, WLP has identified liaisons who are responsible for co-coordinating the design and development of the CIWEL prototype handbook, as well as directing the local testing processes and supervising the translation and adaptation of the country-specific leadership handbooks. Among those who will be participating in the test workshops are the staff and constituents of the partner organizations.

Morocco

In Morocco, WLP's partner is the Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc (ADFM). ADFM was established in 1985 as an independent association to defend and promote the human rights of women, and to foster equitable policies and social practices. As one of the largest NGOs in Morocco focused on the rights of women, ADFM has been successful in forming networks with private and governmental civil society institutions regionally and internationally. The organization aims to guarantee and reinforce the rights of women through advocacy, awareness raising, literacy campaigns, direct assistance, and education, among others. In particular, ADFM has created a Center for Female Leadership, which seeks to increase women's voices in all levels of decision-making.

ADFM's CIWEL coordinators are Amina Lemrini and Rabéa Naciri who are responsible for coordinating the test groups and experts who will review the CIWEL materials. Amina Lemrini is the

President of ADFM. She is also a Founder and Member of the Moroccan Human Rights Organization (OMDH) and serves on the Board of Directors of Collectif 96 Maghreb-Egalité, a women's regional NGO working in Morocco, Algeria, and Tunisia committed to preventing violence against women. Ms. Lemrini has lectured and published on a variety of issues dealing with human rights, in particular the rights of women and children. Rabéa Naciri is the Executive Director of the Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité. She is a Professor in the Faculté des Lettres et Sciences Humaines at the University of Rabat in Morocco.

Nigeria

WLP's partner organization in Nigeria is the well-respected BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights. BAOBAB is a non-profit, non-governmental organization working for women's human rights and legal rights under religious laws, statutory laws, and customary laws. BAOBAB works with women, legal professionals and paralegals, policy makers, women's and human rights groups, other NGOs, and members of the general public. Its programs promote human rights education, particularly women's human rights. BAOBAB sponsors women's rights training and education projects and projects to enhance understanding of women's rights with an aim to influencing social and government policies. Among its projects is a legal literacy booklet series on various topics relating to women's rights.

BAOBAB's Executive Director, Ayesha Imam, is the CIWEL coordinator. She is responsible for reviewing the text of the leadership manual for Nigeria, and coordinating test workshops. As a women's rights activist and social scientist, she has worked extensively on behalf of women in Nigeria's Muslim communities. She is the coordinator of programs for Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML) for Africa and the Middle East. Ms. Imam has taught women's and gender studies at universities in Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and Canada, and has written widely on the rights of women.

Palestine

In Palestine, WLP's partner is the Women's Affairs Technical Committee (WATC). WATC is a coalition of women affiliated with five political parties in Palestine, six women's studies centers, local and international human rights organizations, and many politically independent professional women. WATC was established in 1992 as part of the technical committees formed to assist the Palestinian negotiating team in preparation for the Middle East peace negotiations. WATC's organizations work together for the realization of the elimination of discrimination against women and in the pursuit of a well-established, democratic society that respects human rights. The aims and objectives of WATC include: mainstreaming Palestinian women's issues within the process of constructing a democratic society to affect public policy; developing young women's leadership skills; increasing women's political participation at all levels; and empowering and supporting existing women's rights organizations. WATC attempts to achieve its objectives through training, networking, advocacy, campaigning, maintaining an educational media presence, and forming databases.

WATC's CIWEL coordinator is its Director General, Suheir Azzouni. Ms. Azzouni was instrumental in developing the WATC from a voluntary organization in 1992 to one of the largest and most effective NGOs in Palestine today. Ms. Azzouni writes and lectures extensively on the issues of Palestinian women's rights.

Development of the Prototype Leadership Training Handbook

During the first phase of CIWEL, WLP and its partner organizations began developing a prototype leadership training handbook for women. Based on several consultations with regional experts and activists, WLP identified the concepts and ideas which form the basis of the handbook, tentatively titled, *Leading to Choices: A Leadership Training Handbook for Women*.

The prototype handbook takes no specific cultural perspective and is designed for women and men based anywhere. It includes a comprehensive curriculum on leadership and decision-making skills, focusing on strengthening women's leadership within institutions and enhancing the viability and effectiveness of women's organizations. Topics covered include: *team building, collective learning, effective listening, providing feedback, negotiating, consensus building, embracing diversity, questioning assumptions, developing shared vision and goals, and motivating others through participatory decision making*, among others.

The handbook begins with two theoretical chapters that explore the foundations of a new kind of leadership that is democratic, participatory, horizontal and, most significantly, empowers women. The chapters explain the connections between leadership and communication skills and strategies, making the case for improving women's access to and control over communication technologies as a means of improving women's leadership potential. Emphasizing the value of learning organizations and learning societies, the chapters provide the contextual basis for the session exercises that follow. A learning organization, the handbook explains, seeks to develop a collaborative-learning approach to institutional development. It comprises a networked set of diverse, self-managed, self-controlled teams with multiple centers of coordination that adapt their responsibilities according to the requirements of the tasks. When successful, members are highly motivated and involved in their work, information is fluid, results are tangible, and learning and leadership occur in a dialogical setting. Learning organizations are the driving organizational model throughout the handbook.

The handbook's workshop section is divided into 12 sessions, each of which covers a single topic or several closely related topics. Using non-fictional biographies, fictional scenarios, role playing, and articles on leadership, in general, and women's leadership, in particular, as well as other culturally relevant material, each session assists a workshop facilitator to lead a participatory discussion. The sessions are geared to enhance participants' understanding of and confidence in democratic systems, and at the same time encourage awareness of the motivations and performance of politicians, corporations, religious authorities, and other civic leaders. The handbook's interactive exercises enable participants to discuss cooperatively and collectively the issues that are particularly relevant to their own leadership development and to generate locally-appropriate solutions. The handbook's sessions are

preceded by a Guide for Facilitating to assist facilitators understand the learning objectives of the workshop sessions and achieve their own objectives in the workshops.

The methodology used in the leadership handbook will help workshop participants and facilitators alike to challenge established dogma by involving them in the production and interpretation of their message and their medium of communication. CIWEL's training will assist participants to collectively develop locally relevant strategies and advocacy techniques. Among them are effective uses of media campaigns, community awareness programs, public meetings, and other forums to address customs and traditions that restrict women's participation in social, political, economic, and cultural life.

Once the first draft of the prototype handbook is final and undergoes initial expert vetting, it will be tested in workshops in the targeted communities identified in consultation with the partner organizations. For the handbooks, as well as other CIWEL educational tools including CD-ROM, and radio and video programs, the partner organizations will implement an evaluation process to assist in recording and then incorporating test participants' responses and ideas into the materials. Test participants will be selected by the in-country partner organizations, some of whom will later be trained to use the materials in workshops they facilitate independently.

In the next phase, the partner organizations will begin the process of customizing the handbook for their specific communities. The process of developing the content for each culturally adapted CIWEL handbook will be undertaken primarily by the CIWEL coordinators in Morocco, Nigeria, and Palestine. The coordinators will be responsible for assessing what will need to be added or removed from the prototype handbook to make it more relevant in their communities. The prototype handbook will then be revised by the coordinators to adapt it for the specific cultural, religious, economic, and educational conditions of their organizations' target constituencies. The final product will be a language/idiom, culture, and issue appropriate learning tool for women covering leadership constraints and strategies.

International Symposium

To raise awareness about the importance of a strong cadre of women leaders in strengthening civil society in the Middle East, Africa, and elsewhere, and to generate global dialogue on this issue during the United Nations' General Assembly Special Session on Beijing+5, WLP convened an international symposium entitled *Cultural Boundaries & Cyber Spaces: Innovative Tools and Strategies for Strengthening Women's Leadership in Muslim Societies* in New York, in collaboration with New York University's Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, on June 1, 2000. The symposium brought together activists, scholars, and influential women leaders in politics, civil society, media, and information technologies from Muslim societies and elsewhere in the Global South. Discussions focused on women's definitions of leadership, new approaches to leadership, and women's uses of information and communication technologies (ICTs) to empower themselves and each other, strengthen their full potential, and mobilize grassroots communities around common causes.

Symposium panelists spoke of the need for changing the nature of leadership in this rapidly globalizing world and for transforming the traditional hierarchical, centralized decision-making structures to non-hierarchical, participatory, consensus-based patterns. This new leadership should be centered on the creation of shared meaning, shared goals, shared aspirations, and collaborative partnerships for achieving commonly defined goals. Women leaders described their ideal leadership pattern as participatory, inclusive, and compassionate, noting that leaders defined within the parameters of new leadership should lead by example and be accessible, accountable, good at negotiating, and quick to realize the contributions of others. Participants suggested that organizations and individuals seeking to demonstrate new leadership should engage in efforts to conduct internal dialogue institutionally or organizationally, to share responsibility, to reach the “unconverted,” and to promote sustainability so that the effort or initiative will be self-sustaining. Women’s NGOs and grassroots movements need to incorporate into their own administration the same egalitarian values and strategies they hope to implement on a larger scale.

In thinking strategically about ways of using ICTs as tools to enhance women’s leadership and to empower women and girls, participants observed that accessibility and training are key to women taking advantage of technology in ways and for aims that lead to real change in their lives. ICTs provide women, especially those in traditionally closed societies, with the unique opportunity to exchange information and ideas in the public sphere from within their private sphere, and enable them to determine their own aspirations, priorities, and ways of learning and teaching. Women’s access to technology and control over the production of information are central to their full involvement in the knowledge-based communities that form the basis of today’s society. If women lack the capacity to engage in these knowledge-based communities, they will lack the power to participate fully in the social, civil, political, economic, and cultural development of their societies and nations. It is therefore imperative that women take leadership in transforming and utilizing technology in ways that lead to women’s empowerment.

ICTs, however, are still only a means to an end. While women’s mobilization, activism, and leadership will be assisted or enhanced through strategic use of ICTs, symposium participants cautioned that those strategies should not be confused as goals within themselves. Plans for increasing access to, affordability of, and training on ICTs, should be developed in the context of women’s organizations’ other objectives. Organizations that work to increase women’s political participation or to encourage emerging leaders should take an integrated approach to the use of and reliance on ICTs so that these tools demonstrate measurable advantages in the organizations’ functions and administration. Others suggested that there are advantages to ICTs irrespective of larger institutional goals. These participants emphasized the value of simply having women “plugged in,” whether by telephone, fax machine, or the Internet. Examples cited were telecenters, cyber cafés, women’s resource portals, and well-managed listservs through which women may participate in the significant exchange of information now taking place in cyberspace.

Participants commented on the importance of women producing content in local languages that is reflective of the local culture and priorities, and can serve to strengthen the local community. They

noted the enormous value in international exchanges of information and ideas, and gave as an example the challenges to state interpretations of Shari'a occurring in several countries. The Internet, among the various forms of ICTs, is an ideal forum for publicizing strategies and new legislation that gives greater rights and freedoms to women living under Islamic laws. While no doubt differences exist between the cultural context within which Islam is practiced in Nigeria or Morocco, there are definite advantages to women in both countries sharing strategies for advancing the rights of Muslim women.

Multi-regional Expert Group Planning Meeting

WLP held its first multi-regional expert group planning meeting for CIWEL on June 2 in New York following the international symposium. The meeting was attended by conference panelists, NGO leaders, and regional experts. The purpose of this initial consultation was to identify the local needs and priorities for development of women's leadership, to gather information about regional NGOs' activities, to assess the role of WLP's CIWEL program in assisting them to achieve their objectives, and to identify potential local partners with whom WLP may collaborate to implement and evaluate CIWEL.

Discussions revealed the need for locally produced materials and training to enable activists to prepare women leaders in their communities to gain control over the decision-making structures and processes affecting their lives. Participants also discussed the need for developing culturally appropriate goals for connecting women to specific ICT resources –the Internet/World Wide Web (Web) in particular– that will enable women to access and produce information to strengthen their efforts. Out of the discussions emerged several concrete ideas for increasing ICT accessibility to enhance women's leadership. These ranged from the development of telecenters and computer training courses, to the creation on the Web of a global directory of women leaders in the Global South that would include descriptions of their expertise, their publications or relevant works, and a brief biography.

Among the other resources cited by participants that would be useful to them if available on the Web were: information about women's as well as men's efforts to combat gender discrimination; online bibliographies; listservs organized by region with participants including academics, activists, and UN agencies; and online libraries of legal resources, feminist literature, and best practices, written in local languages and by local authors. The Web provides an unprecedented opportunity for women in the South to disseminate their information and ideas in an instantaneous and cost-effective manner to a wide international audience. Participants reflected on their own responsibility to make this happen and steps that might be taken to generate such information on the Web. The group also shared their respective local and cultural concerns regarding access, cost, and technical capacity, and the constraints of language and restricted speech on their particular communities' use of ICTs.

International Advisory Council

In 2000, WLP established an International Advisory Council (IAC) that is representative of diverse professional, cultural, and religious perspectives and is well equipped to evaluate the social, cultural,

and political implications of the CIWEL program. The IAC assists WLP to fine-tune the legal, political, and social science information provided in the CIWEL materials. Additionally, throughout each phase, consultants with relevant expertise are brought in individually to critique the handbooks and other materials. The International Advisory Council members are:

Hafsat Abiola	Founder, Kudirat Institute of Nigerian Democracy
Afifa Dirani Arsanios	International Consultant, Lebanon
Suheir Azzouni-Mahshi	Director General, Women's Affairs Technical Committee, Palestine
Charlotte Bunch	Executive Director, Center for Women's Global Leadership
Thais Corral	Coordinator, Centro Mulher Informação, Assessoria, e Execução de Projetos (CEMINA), Brazil
Nancy Flowers	Human Rights Education Consultant
Noeleen Heyzer	Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Ayesha Imam	Executive Director, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, Nigeria
Zahira Kamal	General Director, Directorate for Gender Planning and Development, Palestinian Ministry of Planning
Farhad Kazemi	Vice Provost, New York University
Asma Khader	Lawyer and women's rights activist, Jordan
Laurie King-Irani	Editor, Middle East Report-MERIP
Amina Lemrini	President, Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc
Afaf Mahfouz	President, Conference of Non-governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations
Ann Elizabeth Mayer	Associate Professor of Legal Studies, University of Pennsylvania
Rabéa Naciri	Executive Director, Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalité, Morocco
Kumi Naidoo	President, Civicus
Thoraya Obaid	Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Ayo Obe	President, Civil Liberties Organization, Nigeria
Jacqueline Pitanguy	Founder and President, Cidadania, Estudo, Perquisa, Informacao, e Acao (CEPIA), Brazil
Aruna Rao	President, Association for Women in Development (AWID)
Kavita Ramdas	President, The Global Fund for Women
Bouthaina Shaaban	Professor, Damascus University, Syria
Zenebeworke Tadesse	Founding member, Association of Africa Women for Research and Development, Ethiopia
Sherifa Zuhur	President, Association of Middle East Women's Studies

Culture-Specific Multimedia Tools

Exposure to technology and its uses is a critical component of empowering women to navigate their paths to modernity. The growing influx of information and communication technologies (ICTs) can play a crucial role in helping women to obtain knowledge about their political, social, and economic rights as well as to share with and learn from others in their communities, nations, and abroad. With greater knowledge, women can become participants in the developmental process, not only materially, but, more importantly, ethically and morally. At the moment, however, we are faced with an information divide--a digital divide--that arises from unequal access to information and knowledge, and unequal capacity to produce and use the information and knowledge needed for development.

While in developing countries everyone's access to information and communication technologies (ICTs) is minimal, the digital divide is particularly apparent among women. For instance, over 70% of all Internet users worldwide are based in Europe and North America. In the developing countries of China and South Africa, women users make up 7% and 17% respectively. Only 6% of Internet users in the Arab states are women. At the end of the 20th century, 90% of data on Africa was stored in Europe and the United States. The United States, with a population close to the population of the Middle East, has 144 million Internet users while the Middle East has only two million.

Control over the production and distribution of information and knowledge will enable women to communicate to others their core values that serve their new interests as well as serve their families and their societies. To enhance women's advocacy skills, WLP develops multimedia tools to enable women to become stakeholders, producers, and participants in the growing knowledge/information network. WLP's educational programs for radio, video, CD-ROM, and the Internet empower women by helping to demystify technology while at the same time demonstrating its potential for social change.

Video

Visual images and video footage are compelling means of conveying ideas, dispelling stereotypes, and raising public awareness about women's rights issues. WLP develops educational video programs that can be used as supplementary materials in workshop seminars and trainings, and as prototypes for the partner organizations to produce their own video programs. Where possible, WLP will work with its local partners to broadcast the CIWEL video programs over national and regional television networks.

Based on taped interviews with women leaders from Africa and the Middle East following WLP's 2000 international symposium and expert group meeting, WLP produced a 30-minute video program entitled *Cultural Boundaries & Cyber Spaces: Women's Voices on Empowerment, Leadership, and Technology*. The purpose of the video program is to dispel stereotypes about women from Africa

and the Middle East, to generate dialogue about women's leadership and empowerment, and to encourage women to think strategically about the different tools and resources that can enhance their effectiveness in reforming society. In their interviews, experts in the video share some of their views on Muslim women's leadership, and describe how the technology revolution has brought about advances in communication and trade that have widened the divide between the rich and the poor. Nevertheless, as the experts demonstrate, the computer age has also brought about unprecedented opportunities. The video presents the testimony of many dynamic and inventive Muslim women who are developing strategies for using new technologies to educate and improve the status of women in their communities. It showcases innovative uses of computers, email and listservs, radio, video, telecenters/cyber cafés, and websites across the globe.

The *Cultural Boundaries & Cyber Spaces* video will be used as a teaching aid to encourage women to take on leadership roles, discuss factors that prohibit or promote female leadership in their communities, and develop innovative uses of technology for advancing their goals.

Among those appearing in the video are (in order of appearance):

Mahnaz Afkhami (Iran)	President, Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)
Aruna Rao (India)	President, Association for Women In Development (AWID)
Thoraya Obaid (Saudi Arabia)	Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore)	Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)
Ayesha Imam (Nigeria)	Executive Director, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights
Najat Rochdi (Morocco)	President, Morocco Internet Society
Farida Allaghi (Libya)	International Consultant, Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organizations (AGFUND)
Sakena Yacoobi (Afghanistan)	Vice President, Creating Hope International
Zahira Kamal (Palestine)	General Director, Directorate for Gender Planning and Development, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation
Asma Khader (Jordan)	Coordinator, Sisterhood Is Global Institute/Jordan
Naadia Davis (South Africa)	Project Coordinator, African Information Society Gender Working Group (AIS-GWG)
Vivian Manneh (Palestine)	Programs Manager, Women's Affairs Technical Committee
Bushra Jabre (Lebanon)	Senior Communication Advisor, Johns Hopkins Center for Communications Programs
Gillian Caldwell (USA)	Director, Witness
Alia Arasoughly (Palestine)	Sociologist of Culture and Producer/Director
Janice Brodman (USA)	Director, Center for Innovative Technologies, Education Development Center

Dissemination

The video is available in VHS/NTSC, VHS/PAL, and VHS/SECAM formats. WLP distributed the video to individuals and organizations in sixteen countries (Afghanistan, Brazil, Canada, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Lebanon, Monaco, Morocco, The Netherlands, Nigeria, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Syria, and the United States), among them the June 2 meeting participants, WLP's partner NGOs, and women's studies programs in Africa, the Middle East, North Africa, and the United States.

Numerous organizations from around the world requested copies of the video for use in their programming. Among them were: the Academy for Educational Development (US); Amnesty International's Women's Human Rights Program (US); the Center for Strategic Initiatives of Women (US); Girl Source, Inc. (US); Interaction (US); MIFTAH-Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy's gender program (Palestine); UNESCO (France); and Yokohama Women's Association for Communication and Networking (Japan). As part of WLP's outreach efforts, videos were sent to several non US-based NGOs free of charge. Moreover, the video will be made available upon request to the general public through WLP's website.

Various academic institutions also requested the video for use in their programming and classroom activities. Among these were: City University of New York; Eastern Michigan University; the Howard Samuels State Management and Policy Center at the Graduate School and University Center, Illinois State University Women's Studies Department; Johns Hopkins University's Center for Communication Programs; Randolph-Macon Woman's College's Center for International Programs; Rutgers University's Institute for Women's Leadership; Southern Illinois University at Carbondale's Empowering Women Through Democratic Process Program; the University of California at Santa Clara; the University of Oregon's International Studies Department; and the University of Pennsylvania.

In September, WLP announced the video's release on its listserv which reaches approximately 1000 individuals and institutions worldwide. Among the institution that responded and requested copies of the video were: The Asia Foundation's Women's Political Participation Program; The Centre for Development and Population Activities (CEDPA); the Population Reference Bureau; The Winrock International's Leadership Development Program; and the Women's Museum: An Institute for the Future (A Smithsonian Affiliate in Dallas). Among the individuals who requested the copies of the video, Judy Lyons Wolf is presenting the video to an NGO in Uganda. Susan Davis ordered the video to use in conjunction with her work with a group of women weavers in Morocco who sell their products online.

In the last months of 2000, *Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces* was viewed at several events. In November, the video was presented at the annual Middle East Studies Association (MESA) conference in Orlando, Florida, by Shiva Balaghi, Associate Director of the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, as part of the Association for Middle East Women's Studies program. In December, WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami and Research and Technology Director Rakhee Goyal presented the video to audiences at the Middle East Institute and the World Bank

Group's Gender and the Digital Divide Seminar Series. Both presentations were followed by interactive group discussions.

Response

WLP received many positive comments regarding the video from individuals worldwide. Ellen Fairbanks-Bodman, coordinator of the MESA annual film festival, wrote: "[The video] is a fine professional production. I like the way you introduce a few site scenes at first, to draw the viewer in, and then let go with your syncopated fusillade of women's voices. The film is well and briskly paced, the soundtrack subtle and supportive. . . . I was especially impressed by Jordanian Asma Khader and Thoraya Obaid of Saudi Arabia who set the tone of tolerance and culturally sensitive change. . . . thus laying a solid platform for further discussions." From the Khazar University Women's Center in Azerbaijan, WLP received a letter stating that they had gathered a group to watch the video and they felt that the video would be of great use to their center. Ms. Miho Omi, Information Officer for the Yokohoma Women's Association in Japan wrote that she enjoyed the video and that they would be adding the video to their library so that women could borrow it or use it in their facility. Ms. Bouthaina Shaaban, noted Syrian feminist writer, called to describe the positive reaction of her students in a women's studies class that she is teaching at Eastern Michigan University. She is now exploring with Syrian TV the possibility of having the video subtitled in Arabic. WLP continues to receive feedback by letter, email, fax, and phone from organizations and individuals that the video has sparked conversations and ideas in their communities.

Radio

Radios are cheap and ubiquitous in the developing world. They are among the most effective means of communicating with people— regardless of geography, class, and literacy levels— particularly with women who can listen to the radio while carrying out their domestic tasks. WLP developed its first radio program using interviews conducted by WLP with NGO leaders and activists, and some audio-footage from its video. In collaboration with WINGS radio service (Women's International News Gathering Service) WLP co-produced *Women e-merging/ Stories of Women Using Communication Technologies in Africa and the Middle East*, a 29-minute radio program for the United States and international audiences. Narrated by Nafisa Hoodbhoy, the program highlights innovative uses of technology to educate and empower women. As part of WINGS' weekly news and current affairs series, *Women e-merging* will be played on 45 radio stations nationwide, and WLP anticipates that it will be picked up by other stations at national and international radio conferences in the coming months. Moreover, audio cassettes of the program will be distributed by WLP to its partner-collaborators to be used as a prototype for locally produced radio programs on similar themes.

As part of WINGS' distribution package for the radio program, the following description was included:

Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) can let village women trade globally without leaving home, be a source of worldwide information for local women's organizations,

and let women living in secluded environments enter the public sphere. These were some of the revelations at the seminar "Cultural Boundaries and Cyberspaces" held in June 2000 by the Women's Learning Partnership. In this radio program, fifteen leading women from Libya, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, Palestine, Jordan, Lebanon, South Africa, Afghanistan, Nigeria, and other countries tell about the impact of ICTs on women's ability to organize and educate.

Speaking on the program are (in alphabetical order): Mahnaz Afkhami (Iran), President, Women's Learning Partnership; Farida Allaghi (Libya), International Consultant, Arab Gulf Programme for the United Nations Development Organizations; Davar Ardalan (USA), Producer, National Public Radio; Janice Brodman (USA), Director, Center for Innovative Technologies, Education Development Center; Gillian Caldwell (USA), Director, Witness; Naadia Davis (South Africa), Project Coordinator, African Information Society Gender Working Group; Noeleen Heyzer (Singapore), Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women; Ayesha Imam (Nigeria), Executive Director, BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights; Bushra Jabre (Lebanon), Senior Communication Advisor, Johns Hopkins Center for Communications Programs; Zahira Kamal (Palestine), General Director, Directorate for Gender Planning and Development, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation; Asma Khader (Jordan), Coordinator, Sisterhood Is Global Institute/Jordan; Thoraya Obaid (Saudi Arabia), Executive Director, United Nations Population Fund; Aruna Rao (India), Independent Scholar and President, Association for Women in Development; Najat Rochdi (Morocco), President, Morocco Internet Society; Sakena Yacoobi (Afghanistan), Vice President, Creating Hope International.

Website

Information is a powerful resource. Almost 90% of the 550 billion documents stored on the World Wide Web are in English, though the language is spoken by less than 10% of the world's population. Much of the information is created in Europe and North America and has little relevance to the lives and needs of the Global South, particularly of women. For instance, constituents of WLP's Moroccan partner have expressed their ambivalence about the World Wide Web because materials in Arabic are scarce and because they have limited bearing on women's rights. To reverse this dynamic, WLP is creating a website that is a cyber center for multi-lingual information on women's leadership, political participation, human rights, and development issues, by and for women in the Global South.

WLP's primary aim in creating the website is two-fold: (a) to provide culturally-, linguistically-, and community-relevant content to motivate women to use the Internet as a resource for materials that may enable them to become more effective in their efforts to improve women's status, to make better decisions and choices, and to advocate for legislative, political, economic, and sociocultural reform; and (b) to enable South-South and South-North exchanges of ideas, strategies, priorities, and other information that will fortify women's existing regional and international networks and enable them to create new networks to strengthen women's mobilization and advocacy efforts. The website is targeted to activists, educators, practitioners, scholars, students, journalists, policy-makers, and others in the Global South and North.

Accessibility

Access to the Internet is dependent on infrastructure, language of the content, and availability of culturally relevant materials. WLP's website is being designed taking into account problems common to accessing the Internet from the Global South including intermittent flow of electricity, low speed data-transfer modems, bandwidth access, unreliable Internet connections, and the types of browsers and software available. WLP's solution to these problems is to develop an optimized site with the following considerations:

- The site does not contain any elements that require high bandwidth speed, for instance, frames, bleeding edge technology, or plug-ins such as Flash.
- The site is designed for 28.8 K modems to enable users with slow data transfer modems to easily access the site.
- The site is designed for low browser versions (3.0 +) and for small screen sizes (800x600) and monitors with small resolution (640 x 480 monitor resolution setting).
- The site has low resolution images for easy downloads and small wait times, and the option of viewing a text only version. The graphics and images have all been coded in such a way that the visually impaired using screen reading software can navigate the site with minimal disruptions.
- The site has a well-implemented navigation design so that at all times site visitors will know which section they are in and how to get to other areas of the website.
- The site's content initially is being developed in English and subsequently will be translated into other languages, beginning with Arabic and French.

WLP is seeking the advice and recommendations of its Information Technology (IT) consultants at every stage of the design process to ensure the development of an optimum website. WLP's IT Consulting Group includes: E.magination Network; Jaleh Behroozi, LINC's Project Director, National Institute for Literacy; Denise Duncan, Research Fellow, Logistics Management Institute; Najat Rochdi, President, Morocco Internet Society and Member of the UN high-level panel of experts on ICTs; and Usha Venkatachallam, Business Consulting Lead, Global Services, CommerceOne.

Content

After developing the basic framework for its website, WLP sent a request for proposals to which five firms responded. WLP evaluated the work of these firms by examining the non-profit websites they developed, simplicity and appeal of their designs, competitive prices and cost-effectiveness, familiarity with building multi-lingual sites, and recommendations from various individuals. WLP then hired E.magination Network which designed the homepage and eight primary sections of the site - About WLP, Events, Facts and Figures, Directory of Organizations, international and national Legislation including family laws protecting women's rights, Profiles of women activists and leaders from the Global South, Bibliographies, and Articles and Speeches by and about women - including their subsections.

During the last year, WLP developed much of the content for the website. The Organizations and Bibliographies sections were designed to strengthen women's advocacy around the globe through facilitating larger and more geographically diverse networks among individuals and organizations that share a common purpose locally, regionally, and internationally. For the Organizations section, WLP put together lists of organizations which address women's leadership and empowerment issues in the Middle East, Africa and other regions. Available information about women's NGOs that are working on women's leadership and empowerment in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is scarce, despite the MENA region's rich landscape of thoughtful writers and activists working to advance women's status. In the Organizations section, WLP will fill this void by regularly updating its online catalogue of regional women's organizations that are working on leadership and political participation, civil society building, human rights activism and education, and sustainable development.

The website's Bibliographies section is another important resource section of the site providing information about books, journal and newspaper articles, and NGO resources on issues relating to democracy, peace, and human rights initiatives. Whenever possible, the bibliographies on the site list training manuals and key theoretical works on women's leadership, culture of peace, human rights and gender violence to enable activists, practitioners, and others to use them as resource materials in their work. In the coming months, the bibliographic citations will be annotated to provide descriptive information so that visitors can easily determine which resources may be most helpful to them.

Gathering and organizing information on the website will continue into the next year. WLP will collect, collate, and provide digestible information for the Facts & Figures and Legislation sections of the website. Statistics, especially gender-disaggregated facts and figures, are an important measure of the status of women globally. Not only do they provide a snapshot of the current situation but they can also spark research, advocacy, activism, and policy changes critical to advancing gender parity. WLP is compiling comprehensive and up-to-date statistics on political leadership, women's access to and use of technology, globalization, human rights, and gender violence that will include facts about women's political participation, education, work, and economic security.

Human Rights Program

During the past year, WLP initiated a human rights program to raise public awareness about human rights conditions for women around the world. The program involves distribution of human rights campaigns through an email listserv, responding to alerts sent to us by our partners and colleagues, and a poetry and literature series entitled *Life Lines: the Literature of Women's Human Rights*.

Campaigns

Frequently WLP circulates emails through its extensive listserv comprised of human rights activists, the media, scholars, and interested individuals, to mobilize action in support of women around the world. In May 2000, WLP began a campaign in support of Mehrangiz Kar, a lawyer, writer and human rights advocate, and Shahla Lahiji, director of Roshangaran, a prominent publishing house of women's books in Iran. In April, both women were imprisoned by the Islamic Republic of Iran and charged with "acting against the internal security of the state and disparaging the sacred order of the Islamic Republic," after attending a conference in Berlin on the future of Iran. WLP initiated letter writing campaigns to Iranian officials, UN administrators, and governmental officials in the United States to express concern over the welfare of these two women. After being released on bail in June, Ms. Kar and Ms. Lahiji underwent subsequent trials and received sentences of 4 years in prison each. After her initial imprisonment, Ms. Kar was diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer, but was not permitted to leave Iran to seek medical treatment abroad. In December, WLP began an international "get well card" campaign for Ms. Kar to demonstrate to the Iranian government the level of international support for her freedom and safety. In addition to letters that have been sent directly to Iran, WLP was requested to forward numerous messages to Ms. Kar from Argentina, Bangladesh, Israel, Peru, Sudan, Switzerland, Turkey, the United States, and elsewhere around the globe.

In November 2000, WLP circulated an alert sent to us by our partner organization in Palestine, the Women's Affairs Technical Committee, on the increasingly violent situation for women and girls. This campaign urged supporters to write to media organizations in the US, Europe, and the Middle East, to request that more media attention be given to the violence targeted at women and girls, and the effects of the continuing violence on their daily lives in conflict situations. WLP received positive responses from many members of the media, ranging from a radio station in Johannesburg, South Africa, who wanted to produce a program on violence against women in Palestine, to a journalist from Radio Free Europe in Prague, wishing to interview members of the Women's Affairs Technical Committee.

WLP routinely responds to alerts sent by other organizations worldwide. During the past year, WLP has written letters of concern regarding serial murders of women in Ghana, the execution of a female Ethiopian migrant worker in Bahrain, the granting of political asylum in the US for a member of the

Islamic Salvation Front in Algeria, and the use of excessive force in the Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

Life Lines Series

During the past year, WLP created *Life Lines: The Literature of Women's Human Rights* as an occasional forum where women poets and prose writers read from their works on human rights. By making an individual reader/listener a witness to events, conditions, and social realities, women's literature has the unique ability to sensitize, educate, and mobilize people. The *Life Lines* forum serves both as a celebration of women and their art, and as a call to respond to human rights abuses.

On May 11, 2000, WLP brought together five women writers from around the world to convene the first session of *Life Lines* at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Speakers included Ama Ata Aidoo, Ghanaian poet, playwright, novelist, and short story writer; Mahnaz Afkhami, Iranian author and President of the Women's Learning Partnership; Samar Attar, Syrian poet and novelist; Carolyn Forché, American poet, journalist and human rights activist; and Grace Paley, American poet, professor, and anti-war activist. The writers shared with the audience their reflections on their own lived human rights experiences within the context of broader political struggles. The event drew a large audience of human rights activists, scholars, students, and writers.

As part of the Annual State of the World Forum conference held in New York to coincide with the United Nations Millennium Summit, WLP coordinated the second session of *Life Lines* on September 6, 2000. Participants included Marjorie Agosin, human rights activist, professor, and poet from Chile; Meena Alexander, South Asian poet, novelist, and professor; Abena Busia, Ghanaian poet and women's studies professor; Emma Sepúlveda, Argentinian human rights activist, poet, novelist, professor, and president of Latinos for Political Education; and Rose Styron, journalist, poet and human rights activist. Readings were followed by discussion from the audience, comprised of authors, policy makers, and other professionals.

Outreach Program

An important dimension of WLP's work is to raise issues pertaining to improving women's roles and participation in their societies. WLP seeks to promote public awareness of issues relating to women's empowerment and development, and to the digital divide, through organizing and participating in conferences, meetings, and interviews. In the past year, WLP has engaged in numerous activities towards this aim.

Outreach to Policy-Makers and International Agencies

1. On June 25-27, at the World Forum on Democracy in Warsaw, Poland, WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami participated in a panel entitled *Opening Closed Societies* organized by the National Endowment for Democracy (NED). The discussion focused on institutional changes and new forms of technology as a means of increasing political participation in closed societies. The forum was co-sponsored by Freedom House and the Stefan Batory Foundation (Poland), and coincided with a foreign ministers' meeting in Warsaw.

2. On September 4-10, at the Annual State of the World Forum conference held in New York to coincide with the United Nations Millennium Summit, Mahnaz Afkhami presented the contextual framework for the plenary entitled *Science, Technology and Globalization*. She focused on the necessity of bridging the global digital divide for women as a path to economic and social development. WLP convened a panel on *Gender Dialogues and Human Rights in the 21st Century* in which panelists of both genders discussed their perspectives on the challenges facing men and women to secure rights in the age of rapid globalization. Among those participating on the panel were Charlotte Bunch (Executive Director of the Center for Women's Global Leadership), Jose Ramos Horta (Recipient of the 1996 Nobel Peace Prize), Kumi Naidoo (Secretary General and CEO of CIVICUS), and Mary Robinson (UN High Commissioner for Human Rights). In addition, Rakhee Goyal, WLP's Director of Research and Technology participated in a panel on *Bridging the Global Digital Divide*. In her presentation, she showed the *Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces* video produced by WLP to illustrate the need for content development in bridging the digital divide.

3. On November 11-16, at the World Movement for Democracy (WMD) conference held in Sao Paulo, Brazil, WLP convened a functional workshop entitled *Strengthening Networks to Increase Women's Participation in Politics* moderated by Mahnaz Afkhami. Among those participating in the workshop were Ayesha Imam (Director of BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights in Nigeria), Jacqueline Pitanguy (Founder and President of CEPIA- Cidadania, Estudo, Pesquisa, Informacao e Acao), and Olexandra Rudneva (President of Kharkiv Center for Women's Studies). Mahnaz Afkhami also participated in a panel titled *From Laws to Reality: Diminishing the Gap Between Human*

Rights Laws and Their Implementation and in the Middle East regional workshop. In addition, she chaired a plenary session to present reports from topical workshops held previously. At the conference, Mahnaz Afkhami accepted the WMD tribute of “unusual courage in service to the cause of democracy” on behalf of the Iran Pro-democracy Student Movement. To increase awareness of this tribute in the Iranian community, Ms. Afkhami arranged for a press release about the tribute to be broadcast in Persian on Radio Sedaye Iran on November 22 and on Radio Free Europe on November 25. The press release was also printed in the December 7, 2000 issue of *Kayhan*, an international Persian language newspaper.

Outreach to NGOs

WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami also gave numerous presentations on topics including the mission and programs of WLP; her personal experiences regarding the women's human rights movement; women's leadership; the status of women's involvement in decision-making processes and in bridging the resource gap in their nations, particularly in Muslim societies; the impact of family laws and judicial systems on women in Muslim societies; the status of women's access to technology and in bridging the digital divide in the Global South at the following events:

- Children’s Defense Fund meeting on mothers and children, February 16.
- Women’s International Forum entitled *Religion, Culture, and Women’s Participation in Muslim Societies*, February 25.
- Georgetown Law Center’s International Women’s Human Rights Clinic session on *Women Living under Muslim Laws*, March 1.
- Center for Women's Global Leadership 10th Anniversary Conference, March 9.
- Feminist Majority Foundation's Feminist Expo 2000, March 31-April 2.
- Institute for Women's Leadership's Pre-Beijing Plus Five Review, Mills College, April 14-16.
- Children's Defense Fund, Women's Outreach Meeting, Bellagio Study and Conference Center, panel on *The Struggle for Women’s Human Rights in the Muslim World*, April 25-29.
- Center for Women's Global Leadership's *Women 2000: A Symposium on Future Directions of Human Rights* hosted by Columbia University, Center for the Study of Human Rights, June 4
- The American Jewish Committee's Board of Governors and regional chapters, and the Jacob Blaustein Institute's Administrative Council, June 5.
- The United Nations' Women 2000 film festival hosted by the U.S. Custom House, June 6.
- The Association for Women in Science's conference *Let Everyone Play: Women Crossing the Digital Divide into the Future*, June 7.
- The Joint Regional Conference convened by Amina Lemrini of the Association Democratique des Femmes du Maroc and Rabéa Naciri of the Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalite, Casablanca, Morocco, June 30-July 1.
- The National Democratic Institute, July 13.
- The Shavano Institute's seminar *Innovative Project in Gender Reconciliation*, July 21-23.
- The Barnard Center for Research on Women's event *Writing Toward Hope* at Barnard College, October 25.

- The Library of Congress's symposium *Globalization and Women in Muslim Societies* organized by the African and Middle Eastern Division, November 2.
- The Woodrow Wilson 'International Center for Scholars' panel discussion with Gwendoline Konie, social democrat party founder and presidential candidate in Zambia, co-organized by the Women's Learning Partnership, November 28.
- The Middle East Institute's presentation of the *Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces* video, December 15.
- The World Bank's Gender and the Digital Divide Seminar Series entitled *Using Information and Communication Technologies to Empower Women in the MENA region*, December 19.

Outreach to Media

In addition to presenting lectures on a wide variety of topics, WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami granted the following interviews discussing women's issues, in general, and WLP's activities and programs, more specifically, to print, radio, and televised media:

Radio

- Nazi Azima of Radio Free Europe, March 1.
- Swedish Radio, March 8.
- Farah Jahangiri of Radio Free Europe, March 8.
- Kojo Nnamdi of National Public Radio's "Public Interest," March 8.
- Judith Latham of Voice of America, March 20.
- Mehdi Sharif of the BBC London, May 31.
- Joan Hamburg of New York City call in radio show WOR, May 31.
- Shole Shodr of Australian Radio, May 31.
- Harmonie Toros of the Associated Press, June 1.
- Deborah Zabarenko of Reuters News Agency, June 1.
- Pari Safari of Sedaye Iran, June 1.
- Jean Feraca of the Wisconsin Public Radio call in show, June 5.
- Golnaz Esfandiary of Radio Free Iran, June 9.
- Mr. Abbasi of Voice of America, June 9.
- Judith Latham of Voice of America, June 23.
- Farah Jahangiri of Voice of America, July 11.
- Mr. Kazemi of Voice of America, August 3.
- Farah Jahangiri of Voice of America, August 28.
- Thomas Nehls of the German Radio Network, September 5.
- BBC Radio, September 6.
- Mrs. Safari of Sedaye Iran, September 11.
- Jerome McDonnell of NPR Chicago's program *Worldview*, November 30.
- Homayoun Majd of Radio Free Europe, December 15.

Television

- Tele Montecarlo, Italian *60 Minutes* with Alesandra Mattirollo, April 18.
- *Q&A* with Riz Khan on CNN International, a call in, write in, live television show, August 29.
- *Positive Spin*, a half hour cable TV show shown on cable networks in California, September 8.
- Voice of America television with Mr. Baharlou, December 8.

Print

- Deirdre Taylor of *Spirituality & Health Magazine* published a biographical profile of Mahnaz Afkhami and description of the work of WLP in the fall 2000 edition of the periodical.
- The Summer-Fall 2000 edition of *SAIS Review*, of the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies at John Hopkins University, published an article by Mahnaz Afkhami entitled, "At the Crossroads of Tradition and Modernity: Personal Reflections."
- The Fall 2000 edition of *Middle East Women's Studies Review* published two articles regarding WLP projects: a review of "Life Lines: The Literature of Women's Human Rights," by WLP Program Assistant Maureen Donaghy; and a review of the "Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces" symposium by Shiva Balaghi, Associate Director of the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies, New York University.
- *Architects of Peace: Visions of Hope in Words and Images*, a compilation of essays by 75 leading peacemakers— spiritual leaders, politicians, scientists, artists, and activists— with photography by Michael Collopy, published in October 2000, included essays by WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami and WLP Board Directors Marian Wright Edelman and Hafsat Abiola.
- Press Conference with Nora Boustany and Eliza Patterson of the Washington Post, Nelson Chung of Central News Agency, Heather Dahl of The News Hour with Jim Lehrer, Richard Finney of Radio Free Asia, Georgie Anne Geyer of Universal Press Syndicate, and Luis Torres de la Llosa of Agence France Presse, October 27.
- *The Washington Post's* "Diplomatic Dispatches" column by Nora Boustany published November 1, 2000 mentioned WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami in conjunction with the World Movement for Democracy conference held in Brazil.
- *The Washington, DC City Paper* published a piece on the Middle East Institute presentation of *Cultural Boundaries and Cyber Spaces* in the *Citylights* section for daily events, December 15-21.

Outreach to Potential Partners

In pursuit of WLP's goal to foster international collaboration and leadership among women as they strive to gain knowledge, promote justice and achieve quality for all, WLP strives to build partnerships and cultivate close relations with women's groups and individual activists who share similar interests. WLP President Mahnaz Afkhami met with the following to lay the foundation for future possible cooperation and collaboration:

- Shiva Balaghi, Associate Director of the Kevorkian Center for Near Eastern Studies at New York University, about possibilities for collaboration in 2001 as follow-up to WLP's conference, July 5.
- The International Museum of Women in Washington, DC to plan for future programs and exhibitions, July 18.
- Susan Deller Ross, Director of the International Women's Human Rights Clinic at Georgetown University Law Center, on collaboration between WLP and the Clinic on a project to research laws affecting women in Muslim societies to be broadcast on the WLP website, September 29.
- Jim Garrison, President of the State of the World Forum, to discuss future collaborative projects following the annual forum in September 2000, October 17.
- Women's Rights Division of Human Rights Watch to strategize for future campaigns, October 20.
- Aruna Rao, President of AWID- Association of Women in Development, Joanne Sandler, Chief of Organization Learning and Resource Development at UNIFEM, and independent development consultant David Kelleher to plan collaboration between CIWEL's leadership programming and the Institutional Transformation Network, November 1.