



## Papua New Guinea Group Forges Ahead on Women's Environmental Awareness

Dear Sisters,

We saw a short description of your organization in **The Tribune** February 1993 and are writing for more information about Isis International.

The **Melanesian Environment Foundation** is a non-government organization working to raise awareness of environmental issues in Papua New Guinea. Our work primarily focusses on the issues of logging, mining and dynamite fishing and is conducted by youth in schools and with people in villages. Over the past year and a half **MEF** has made a concerted effort to encourage the full participation of women in our work. In our efforts to involve and strengthen the women we have begun to address some basic issues that keep women from work such as violence against women, childcare, health including family planning and feelings of shame, jealousy and fear. These issues have not been totally resolved but have been dealt with significantly so that the women have now begun to participate in the awareness work on environment regularly rather than just office support work.

In our early stages of planning the women's program, we need information from other women's groups like yours that will help to strengthen our understanding of women's relationship with the environment, models to help us develop ways to work with groups of village women and ways to help the men feel less threatened and more supportive. We are interested in receiving your information pack on the environment and what women are doing to protect it and any other publications you may have on the subject..

We realize that we are asking for a lot but please understand that any information you can provide us now or in the future will be greatly appreciated.

**Joyce David and Gerry Pearson**

Women's Program  
Melanesian Environment Foundation Inc.  
PO Box 4830  
Boroko, NCD  
Papua New Guinea

☛ We will be more than happy to send you the information you requested. If any of our readers would like to share their experiences of actively involving women in environment issues, please write directly to MEF. - **Editor**

## Africa Exchange

Dear Madam,

Warm greetings.

Thank you for your letter. We received your magazine **Women in Action** which included an announcement of the 7th International Women and Health Meeting. We are glad for assistance and cooperation.

We are sending you a copy of our magazine **Africa Women and Health**.

Yours sincerely,

**Maurisia Ssebugwawo**

Safe Motherhood Initiative in Uganda  
PO Box 1191  
Kampala, Uganda

☛ Many thanks for this exchange of publications. - **Editor**



## Research on Women Migrants in India

Dear Isis,

I am Dr. Kalpana Paralikar, core faculty member of the Women's Studies Department at M.S. University of Baroda. I have been working on women and migration since 1985. I have developed a teaching module on research methodologies for studying women and migration at the household level.

Last year I undertook the study of women migrants from India to the USA addressing issues of concern to planners and policy makers in the two countries. I am also working on a paper on women and migration based on studies in India. Review of available literature indicated a focus on internal migration instead of women migrants from other countries such as Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

Studies showed that most of the migrants settled in north and south eastern states. However, not much information is available on them and there is a need to study the migrant population and identify facilities provided to them for settlement or transition in their own country.

I would like to know if you have done any projects in this area and see if we can undertake similar ones here. I hope that you will be able to share some information with me.

With regards,

**Dr. Kalpana R. Paralikar**  
8 Aditi Park, opposite Skating Rink  
Akota, Baroda 390020, India

☛ We hope that this issue on women and migration will be helpful to your research work. Do keep us informed about your studies. - **Editor**

## Documenting Women's Testimonies of Violence Worldwide

Dear Isis,

Our Association is looking for world wide testimonies from women, of all religions and cultures, about the ill treatment inflicted on them by men. The list which includes rape, battering, sexual mutilation, polygamy, repudiation, stoning, sexual harassment, prostitution, pornography, discrimination at work, foot binding, and chastity belts is by no means exhaustive.

The accounts, treated *confidentially*, will eventually form part of a brochure relating the outrages imposed upon women by the patriarchal system.

Thank you for cooperating with our informative action on the status of women.

**Dr. Michèle Dayras**  
SOS SEXISME  
2 Rue du Bel Air  
92/90 Meudon  
Paris  
France

☛ Testimonies from women, in particular, personal accounts of one of the largest, sustained and ignored abuse of human rights, that of violence against women, need to be documented. - **Editor**



## Iranian Woman Requests Women's Experiences of Rape

## War Crimes Against Women Revealed

Dear Isis,

Thank you for sending us copies of the information packet, "Let Our Silenced Voices be Heard: The Traffic in Asian Women". It is a very useful information material.

In exchange, enclosed is a complimentary copy of the book on Filipino comfort women - "Crimes on Asian Women: Military Sexual Slavery by Japan During World War II". The book is available at P200 per copy at the Asian Women Human Rights Council (AWHRC) office.

Again, thank you.

Sincerely yours,

**Nelia Sancho**  
Asian Women Human Rights Council  
45-A Mapagkumbaba Street  
Sikatuna Village  
Quezon City  
Philippines

☛ For all those interested in finding out more about the military atrocities against women perpetuated in the name of empire building, read this book. - **Editor**

Dear Isis,

Congratulations on the success of your journal, **Women in Action**. We wish you all the best in your efforts to document women's issues and activities.

Sina Soroosh, a member of our university, would like to write an article on women's experiences of rape or attempted rape - their immediate responses when being attacked and the situation in which this attack occurred. We would appreciate it very much if you could publish this letter so that women interested in sharing their experiences may write her directly at the address below.

Thank you very much for your help.

**Lida Walim**  
Women's Research  
Central Evaluation of International Studies  
PO Box 11365-7331  
Tehran, Iran

☛ We hope that our readers will be able to share their experiences with Sina. - **Editor**

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Friends,

**Isis International is currently updating its directory of Women's Organizations in time for the 1995 UN World Conference on Women in Beijing, China.**

**If you wish to be part of the directory, please fill in the inserted self-addressed form and return it, no later than 14 February, 1994. Any current literature produced by you, such as brochures, annual reports, etc., will be of help in accurately describing your organization.**