

support from the NGOs of the region, have taken action. Australia, New Zealand and Fiji have taken France to the World Court and Fiji sponsored a motion that was passed by the UN General Assembly condemning the testing.

*Source: Report by Ruth E. Lechte, Director of Energy and Environment for the World Young Women's Christian Association
20 November 1995
the Western Samoa Observer June 1995
and Fiji Times, July 1995*

SHELTER COALITION FORMED

Three international women's networks joined forces to form what is now known as the super coalition. HIC Women and Shelter Network, Grassroots Organizations Operating To-gether for Sisterhood (GROOTS) based in the USA and the International Council of Women (ICW) based in The Netherlands, as well as the United Nations Council on Human Settlements' (Habitat) Women in Human Settlements Development Programme (WHSDP) have been collaborating to voice the concerns and priorities of women regarding their access to housing, land and services.

The members of this coalition have been working together to have a women's perspective on housing through major United Nations conferences such as the World Summit for Social Development and Commission on the Status of Women (PrepCom II), and the second PrepCom for Habitat II. Over 30 members of the newly formed super coalition met during the NGO Consultation held in New York in March 1995. The coalition was able to get some

clauses on women's land and housing rights into the Draft Platform of Action. One of the clauses that is still bracketed reads: "Governments must guarantee women's human right to equal access to and control of land, property and credit, regardless of customary laws, traditions and practices related to inheritance and marriage. Non-governmental organizations and women's organizations should mobilize to protect the traditional land and property rights of all women, including pastoralists, fishery workers and nomadic groups, indigenous peoples, refugees and migrant workers."

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Source: Women and Shelter No. 9, July 1995

YOU'VE GOT TO BE IN IT TO WIN IT

Just as South Africa was once banned from the Olympics, any country that bars women from its delegation should be sidelined, says Atlanta Plus, an international coalition of activists and athletes.

After 32 countries sent all-male teams in 1992, the group came together to urge the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to improve its record in time for the 1996 games in Atlanta. According to Atlanta Plus, Iran is the only country known to explicitly ban women, but women are conspicuously absent from

the sizeable delegations of other Islamic countries like Kuwait and Pakistan.

The group is urging the IOC to investigate countries that could be running afoul of the Olympic charter, which prohibits gender discrimination. But the IOC has called the campaign an attack on religion—a claim Moroccan gold medalist Nawal El Moutawakel, who is a Muslim rejects. "There isn't a religion on earth that says women can't practice sports."

Source: Ms., Vol. VI, No. 2.

