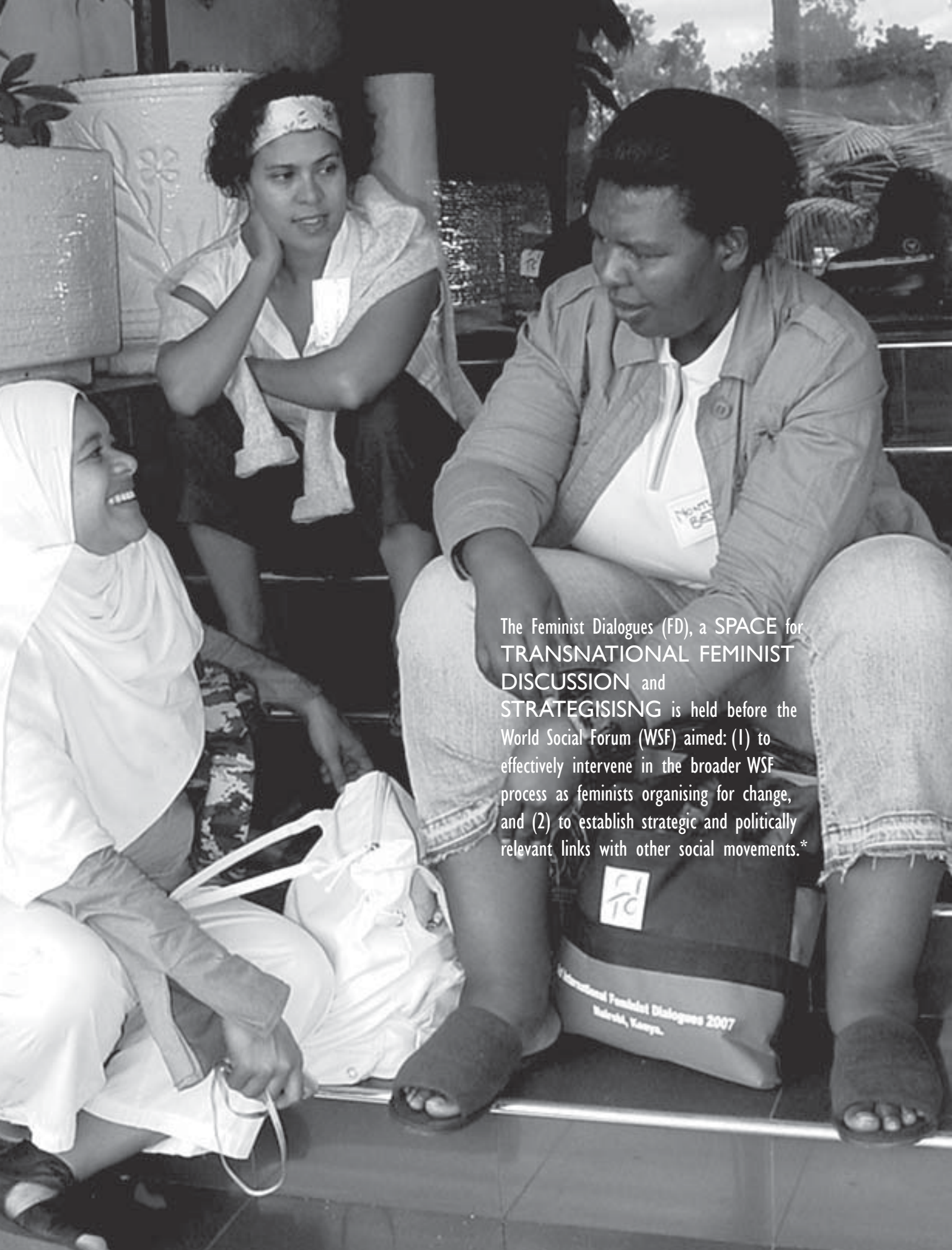


Feminist **Challenges** at the **World Social** Forum

by Isis International-Manila



The Feminist Dialogues (FD), a SPACE for TRANSNATIONAL FEMINIST DISCUSSION and STRATEGISING is held before the World Social Forum (WSF) aimed: (1) to effectively intervene in the broader WSF process as feminists organising for change, and (2) to establish strategic and politically relevant links with other social movements.*

CITC
International Feminist Dialogues 2007
Nairobi, Kenya

As feminists we need to develop a **DEEP** and **PROFOUND CRITIQUE** of **DEMOCRACY** that will enable its transformation and radicalisation, in collaboration and partnership with other social movements.*

FD Nairobi 2007:

Exposed the contradictions, limits, and **blurred realities** of **LIBERAL DEMOCRACY** ...and proposed a **RADICALISATION OF DEMOCRACY**





Members of African LGBT organisations found their space to speak of their experience.

Ma. Cecilia Triol

In a **RADICAL DEMOCRATIC FRAME**, **gender identities are seen** not in and of themselves, but rather **in a permanent interaction and articulation with other identities** and discriminations of race, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, geographical space, as expressions of one over-arching system of domination.*





The RE-ARTICULATION
OF DEMOCRACY in a
radical and transformed form
enables us to re-visit our
understandings of the **nation-
state**, of **sovereignty**, and of
the re-construction of the
notion of citizenship.*

*A laundry list of grievances and calls to action
hung from the balconies of the WSF venue,
Kasarani Stadium in Nairobi, Kenya.*



The **FEMINIST POLITICS** within which we position ourselves generates a new political culture and new frameworks of understanding that articulate the strategies of social movements with the project of social transformation. Through this we enter a **process of overcoming all forms of exploitation, domination and discrimination** in each of our societies and at the global level, **confronting the hegemonic forces of neo-liberalism, militarisms and fundamentalisms** that exclude, violate and dehumanise us, together and separately.*

Security detail from the Kenyan armed forces meant to keep out "unwanted" elements from the gathering only reinforced the perception of exclusion.



Alleen Farniera



... a NEW POLITICAL
DEMOCRATIC CULTURE
requires the **subordination of
the economic to the
political**, and the
**subordination of the market
to social interests.***

*For the first time, a WSF was
sponsored by private
corporations, such as the
mobile phone company Cotel.*



*The WSF 2007 turned more into a
marketplace for Kenyan souvenirs,
sometimes at exorbitant prices.*



In the process of radicalising democracy, women's movements and feminist movements take the struggle into a variety of terrains: Among these are struggles against material and symbolic exclusions; struggles for redistributive justice and the justice of recognition; struggles for local, global and inter-societal justice and peace; struggles for recognition of body politics; struggles for the recognition and dialogue between diversities.*

Feminists and progressive women's rights advocates were surprised that anti-choice groups who were pushing their own, very different agenda were even present at the WSF.



Aileen Fariela

Feminist movements in the new millennium are oriented towards the enriching of the radical democratic political project in which DIVERSITY is RECOGNISED, IS TAKEN ON and WORKED ON, in subjective terms, NOT SEEN AS SOMETHING TO BE MERELY TOLERATED.*

A banner calling for change at the Women's Rally organised by the FD coordinating group at the WSF.



Audience at the Controversy Dialogues examined the criteria for political alliances that women's movements make to challenge militarisation, globalisation, democracy.

The imbalances that exist in the present are the raw materials from which more audacious proposals will emerge, that can expand and connect diverse views and perspectives, surpassing fragmentation and “single visions” that feeds neo-liberalisms and fundamentalisms.





Aileen Familiaria

Another world will not be possible without **another conception of democracy.**

And another democracy is only possible through a process of personal and subjective revolutions, of men and women, with an active recognition of diversity, taking on the intersectionalities of struggles as a collective challenge.*



Aileen Familiaria

* Excerpt from the *Feminist Dialogues Concept Note*.
<<http://feministdialogue.isiswomen.org>>