

The Millennium Group 21 April 2008

Friday, 30 May 2008

Empowering Women for Peace and Democracy Report on Launch of 2008 Project and First Information Training Day 21 April 2008

Background

Early in 2008, WAFE (International Federation of Women Against Fundamentalism and for Equality) and WFWP (Women's Federation For World Peace) UK agreed to work together to advance Millennium Development Goal Number 3: The Empowerment of Women.

Kofi Annan, when Secretary General to the United Nations, said that without reaching this goal none of the other goals could be realised. The enormous work undertaken by women's NGOs, to promote women's advancement and wellbeing, was clearly being handicapped by the absence of women from decision-making positions.

We agreed to run a joint project to help UK women enter politics, and in particular to improve the dismal 19% of women in the House of Commons.

The Millennium Group

We formed a small steering committee, the Millennium Group. We are:

Mitty Tohma, President WFWP UK

Elizabeth Sidney, Chair of WAFE

Tina Coombs, Vice President WFWP Europe

Roya Kashefi, Human Rights Activist

Tahirihi Danesh, International Coordination for Gender Justice in Iraq

The 2008 Project

The Millennium Group developed a programme to run through 2008. It was launched in April. Our total programme is:

April 21st: Inaugural Launch

April 24th: First Information Training Day: How the Political Systems Work

April 24th: Evening: Celebration of Women working for Gender Equality

June 14th: Information Training Day: Institutional Barriers to Women's Advancement

September 20th: Changing a Culture

November 25th: Evening pre-Christmas Reception

November 29th: Violence isn't only physical