

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS  
August 2008

For the next two years, these are the issues I suggest you consider in your programming.

1. **CEDAW** – The United Nations Convention for the Elimination of All Discrimination Against Women. As you may have heard, one of the workshops at the convention in April was about CEDAW. After the convention, a resolution was passed that branches are encouraged to have at least one program devoted to CEDAW. I will be presenting the power point presentation again at the Leadership Training next month. Designate your coordinator for International Affairs in your branch or designate a person to attend the Leadership training on Sept. 6.
2. **16 Days of Activism** - I discovered unintentionally while surfing on the Internet regarding violence against women. The 16-day campaign is meant to “highlight violence against women as a human rights violation and to build a bridge between women’s rights movements and the human rights framework”. Six special dates internationally for women are: (a) Nov. 25 – International Day for the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women; (b) Nov. 29 – International Women Human Rights Defenders Day; (c) Dec. 1 – World AIDS Day; (d) Dec. 3 – International Day of Disabled Persons; (e) Dec. 6 – Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre; (f) Dec. 10 – Human Rights Day. The Center for Women’s Global Leadership based in Rutgers University has spearheaded this since 1991. Each year a theme is chosen and a tool kit is developed for organizations to use. Those interested might want to check their Website at: [www.cwgl.rutgers.edu](http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu). Branches may want to associate with kindred organizations and organize something innovative. You might plan something like this for next year. A university or college setting might be the best place to do this especially with students organized already for international studies. Join a community, campus, or the YWCA in some of their activities on violence against women. I noticed last year that the YWCA in Lynchburg had organized some activities relating to prevention of violence against women. The tool kit for this month is ready this month, so look it up at the Website noted above.
3. **Equity is Still An Issue** – We have discussed, written and researched about equity in our organization and as the coordinator of international affairs I also have the burden to make us aware of how equity, especially gender equity, is a greater problem around the globe. I have a suggestion for the designated person in your branch to research some international issues regarding girls and women. There are three important resources one can look up in the Internet. It is not necessary to read the whole reports; reading the executive summary is sufficient. These are: State of the World’s Children, State of the World’s Mothers, and Education for All. These are all United Nations publications and they are easily accessible from the Internet. Just google search the titles.

I am available to present CEDAW, sex trafficking, or education for women and girls. If you have not seen I AM POWERFUL from CARE, or A QUIET REVOLUTION these are available free from the Internet or let me know if you need them from me. I can also speak about my work in India because my work was very similar to what is being shown in these DVDs.

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