



National Commission on Working Women

of Wider Opportunities for Women

Irene Natividad
Chair

Maureen Bunyan
Vice Chair

Cynthia Marano
Executive Director

You Are Invited to

"BEYOND BEIJING: A CELEBRATION OF NEW BEGINNINGS"

A Breakfast Forum

with our featured speakers

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton

Honorary Chair, U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women,
Honorary Chair, President's Interagency Council on Women

and

**Donna Shalala, Secretary,
Health and Human Services**

Chair, President's Interagency Council on Women

Members of the U.S. Delegation to the
U.N. Fourth World Conference on Women and the
President's Interagency Council on Women will be present

Monday, February 5, 1996

8:30 - 10:30 a.m.

**Ballroom, National Press Club
529 Fourteenth Street, N.W.**

RSVP by faxing the enclosed form by Friday, February 2nd. **SPACE IS LIMITED, SO REGISTRATION IS AVAILABLE ON FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS.** This is a seated breakfast, and the program will begin promptly as scheduled. Early arrival is advised.

*This program is made possible through the generosity of
The Coca-Cola Company.*



The President's Interagency Council on Women

January 24, 1996

Follow up on U.S. Commitments Made At the UN Fourth World Conference on Women Beijing, September 4-15, 1995

The United States committed to action in the seven areas outlined below. In addition, an eighth commitment to education has been added since returning from Beijing. The Administration contemplates further commitments during the coming months.

1. **President's Interagency Council on Women.** The President has established an Interagency Council chaired by Secretary of Health and Human Services Donna Shalala. This intragovernmental body is charged with coordinating the federal implementation of the Platform for Action adopted at Beijing, including the U.S. commitments announced at the Conference. The Council is also developing related initiatives to further women's progress and engages in outreach and public education to support the successful implementation of the Conference agreements. The Council holds monthly public meetings to discuss its work. For information about meeting time and location of public meetings, call (202) 663-3070 for a recorded message.

Currently Council members are working with their individual agencies, usually through a task force or working group established for this purpose, to analyze the Platform as it relates to them, with an eye towards identifying possible initiatives to take.

Council members have been engaged in outreach activities across the country, attending conferences and meetings, participating on panels, and addressing gatherings.

Many NGOs have been in contact with the Council regarding their follow-up activities and commitments they are making, and also communicating to the Council actions they would like to see the government take. All such communications are taken up with the appropriate agency representatives on the Council.

CONTACTS: Theresa Loar, Kathy Hendrix, Lycia Sibilla
Telephone: (202) 456-7350, FAX: (202) 456-7357
President's Interagency Council on Women.

2. Working Women. Through the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Women's Bureau's 1994 "Working Women Count" survey, more than a quarter of a million American working women spoke their minds about their jobs and their lives. In response, the Women's Bureau has created the Working Women Count Honor Roll program. The Honor Roll encourages employers and other organizations to implement real change in the three areas women say they care about most: improving pay and benefits, balancing work and family, and valuing women's work through training and advancement. Launched in September, and announced at the Fourth World Conference on Women, the Honor Roll has already generated more than 600 pledges: from major corporations, small businesses, state and local governments, and grassroots organizations. These pledges represent new policies and program making concrete improvements in the lives of hundreds of thousands of American women -- the Women's Bureau hopes to reach at least one million working people within the year.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Diane Faulkner, (202) 219-6601, x 137, email dfaulkner@dol.gov; or Harriett Harper, (202) 219-6601 x105, email hharper@dol.gov, Women' Bureau.

3. Violence Against Women. Through the Violence Against Women Office at the Department of Justice, the Administration has taken several very important steps to heighten awareness about the problem of violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual assault. The Administration declared October National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and a variety of local and national programs were held around the country, including an Information Fair held by the Department of Justice in Washington, the first step in its Employee Awareness Campaign. In addition, President Clinton signed an Executive Memorandum, directing all federal agencies to educate their employees about violence against women and resources that are available.

The Department is announcing its first Violence Against Women Program grants to states for training of law enforcement and criminal justice system personnel and for enhancement of victims' services. All grantees, and their sub-grantees, must consult and coordinate with, among others, nongovernmental victim services programs (such as sexual assault and domestic violence victim services programs) in developing their implementation plan, and document this involvement when submitting the plan.

POINT OF CONTACT: Bonnie Campbell, (202) 616-8894, DOJ.

4. CEDAW. The Administration considers the ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to be its top priority among the human rights treaties now awaiting the advice and consent of the U.S. Senate. Last year, President Clinton forwarded a package of reservations, declarations and understandings prepared by the Department of State (DOS) concerning CEDAW to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, a necessary step in the ratification process. However, the Committee has taken no action on CEDAW since the beginning of the present session of the Congress.

POINT OF CONTACT: Gracia Hillman, (202) 647-9358, DOS.

5. Women and Economic Security. The Department of the Treasury, through the Community Development Financial Institutions (CDFI) Fund, is establishing a Presidential Awards program to honor outstanding micro-lending organizations. The awards will help publicize the importance of microenterprises and micro-lending organizations, and will provide benchmarks for organizations to use in assessing their own efforts. The CDFI Fund will also coordinate a new Federal Microenterprise Initiative to ensure that funding by federal agencies effectively supports the growth and development of the U.S. microenterprise field.

The U.S. Agency for International Development's (USAID) Office of Microenterprise Development has completed agreements to launch new microenterprise programs in more than 15 countries, which will enable low-income women entrepreneurs to gain access to credit. USAID will work with each local implementing organization to enable it to expand its outreach and become financially sustainable. USAID will also promote microenterprise through the World Bank's new Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest.

Also, most recently, USAID has launched a research effort to determine the impact of microenterprise services on women and their families, and it is about to launch a best practices project to ensure that all USAID funded microenterprise programs operate at high efficiency.

The Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise (ICWBE) in conjunction with the National Women's Business Council (NWBC), continues to secure economic self-sufficiency and business growth and development for women through entrepreneurship. In early 1996, ICWBE/NWBC will submit its first annual report to the President and Congress which will include the newly released census statistics on the growth of women-owned businesses and a review of the Federal programs and policies that foster women's business ownership -- a resource for current and prospective women business owners. On November, 1995 the NWBC hosted a workshop with the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University where academics, government officials and

public policy makers met to design a National Research Agenda to promote women's entrepreneurship. The Agenda, which will identify what research should be conducted to enrich the profile of women's entrepreneurship, will be issued in the spring of 1996. The ICWBE and NWBC are also preparing a video which will highlight the business development programs that work for women. In May 1996, the NWBC and the Kellogg School will again team up to host an assembly of 300 Presidents of women's business organizations and leaders from the corporate sector, academia, government and other social, research and philanthropic institutions to foster strategic alliances and produce an economic agenda which reflects the priorities of America's entrepreneurial women.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Jeannine Jacokes, (202) 566-6640, Treasury. Beth Rhyne, (202) 663-2360, USAID. Amy Millman, Carolyn O'Brien, (202) 205-3850, ICWBE.

6. Health. The Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is taking action on a range of problems of concern to women throughout the life cycle, recognizing the additional problems faced by women of low income and from ethnic and racial minorities. Programs include: a comprehensive plan to reduce smoking among children and adolescents by 50 percent; a new initiative to reduce teen pregnancy; the establishment of a Governing Council on Children and Youth; the inauguration of the National Women's Health Clearinghouse; new initiatives on breast and cervical cancer, the impact of poverty-related diseases on women, and the inclusion of women in clinical trials; focus on contraceptive research and development; a continued commitment to the Women's Health Initiative; and a public policy agenda on HIV/AIDS specific to women, adolescents and children.

USAID has committed major resources to the health and well-being of women in the developing world. USAID is working in more than 70 countries and with a number of public, private, and non-governmental organization (NGO) partners in the areas of family planning, safe motherhood, sexually transmitted diseases and HIV/AIDS, breastfeeding, women's nutrition, adolescent reproductive health, post-abortion care, and female genital mutilation. Comprehensive programs in these areas include: service delivery; training; education and communications; biomedical, operations and social science research; commodity procurement and logistics management; and policy development. USAID also supports financially the work of the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.N. Joint and Co-Sponsored Program on HIV/AIDS.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Sarah Kovner, (202) 690-5400, DHHS. Elizabeth Maguire, (703) 875-4402, USAID.

7. International Development. USAID is continuing planning for two mutually-reinforcing initiatives concerning women's political participation and legal rights as well as an initiative on girls' and women's education.

The political participation program will increase women's access to and participation in political processes and elections in both transitional and consolidating democracies around the world. It will provide assistance in political leadership training, support networking among politically active women and women's political organizations, educate women about voter rights, civic rights and responsibilities and provide technical training and leadership services. The Global Bureau's Center for Democracy and Governance recently awarded The Asia Foundation -- in cooperation with the African-American Institute, America-Mideast Educational and Training Services, Inc., and Participa (of Chile)-- a \$1 million, three-year cooperative agreement to carry out this program.

The women's legal rights program will develop through research and disseminate knowledge about women's legal status, and strengthen the capacity of private voluntary organizations, NGOs and other actors to implement corrective programs. Goals will include strengthening women's legal literacy, integrating gender issues into law school curricula, providing gender-sensitive training to the judiciary, supporting legal clinics, engaging in dialogue with legislators to promote equitable laws and policies and facilitating partnerships and networks across sectors.

USAID is continuing to carry out its Girls' and Women's Education Initiative. The major focus of the Initiative is on increasing girls' primary school completion in twelve USAID-assisted countries. USAID is serving as a catalyst in a process to promote local ownership of the problems and solutions to girls' education by assisting policy-makers from the government and the private sector in these countries to form constituencies to promote girls' and women's education. These constituencies are being trained in strategies for identifying the key economic, religious, social, educational and political constraints to girls' education in their countries. They are also being trained to develop culturally-appropriate policies, programs and practices for addressing these barriers. Chief among the objectives is to create programs that are sustained with locally generated human and financial resources. The programs aim to involve communities in activities to increase girls' primary school participation. Where appropriate, USAID is assisting policy makers to apply effective approaches, such as the "community school" approach, which stimulates involvement by parents and community members in the life of the school. Other successful approaches include developing programs that provide small incentives to girls and their families, training local female workers to provide tutoring assistance to girls, and

training parent committees to find practical means for increasing girls' school participation. In addition, USAID is also working to increase women's literacy and young girls' school readiness in selected countries.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Women's Political Participation -- Melissa Brown, (202) 736-7979; Women's Legal Rights -- Cafe Johnson, (703) 816-0291; Girls' and Women's Education -- Susie Clay, (703) 875-4179, all of USAID.

In addition to the seven commitments announced in Beijing, the Administration is pleased to announce a further commitment:

8. Education. The Department of Education (ED) will take action on a range of issues to remove barriers facing girls and women of different backgrounds, including girls and women with disabilities, those of low income, and those from ethnic and racial minorities. Priority initiatives are as follows: to convene a national assembly on girls' and women's education and launch a public awareness campaign to change gender discriminatory policies and practices; to convene a leadership forum dedicated to nurturing a new generation of women leaders; and to intensify efforts to raise the number of employers who encourage family involvement in learning. ED also will intensify efforts and will collaborate with other lead agencies to promote girls and women in science, mathematics, and technology and to combat violence against girls and women.

POINT OF CONTACT: Sandra Battle, (202) 401-1000, ED.

MRC

- ~~that~~ all take advantage of this energy who knows the magic orb of why this happened
- This has a grass roots appeal
- great Conf. largest gathering ever
- transforming event
- Conf. of commitment - President set up ^{grass roots appeal} ^{real story rather than with state plan}
- Council - Bring ideas home
- ripple effect of 8000
- As I talk to Am women post-Conf. enthusiasm - 200 ^{grass roots} women came to WH what they are doing - many who could not go to Beijing
- Reinvigorated, new energy, new mobilizing event
- young women - middle & high schools
- young people in Ky

Donna

- Council's hard at work - includes senior high level reps all agencies who can bring age to table
- at our next mtg first reports back on what agencies are doing to follow up
- 3 councils - Pres. Donna head, MRC honorary chair
- 2 mandates ^{set it under review of WH} ask reps to stand up some reps also but it is broadened
- implement & monitor commitment
- outreach to American public diplo
- Council member & Beijing delegate on our tour - travel across country - 100s of mtg strategy, - churches, schools, workplaces
- real story - what you do at work here
- packets at table
- KTH & TL

• Comts - substance

(Prepared for Delivery)

Ambassador Madeleine Albright

Women's Conference Circle Event -- President's
Interagency Council on Women

The White House

January 24, 1996

The Fourth World Conference for Women was a success, and a major reason why was that well-known author--Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The First Lady's very presence in Beijing made a statement; and the statement she delivered there made history.

Hers was a message in which all Americans could take pride; a message that girls and boys should be valued equally; that females and males should have equal access to education, health care and the levers of economic and political power; that families are stronger when family responsibilities are shared; and that women's rights are neither separable nor different from those of men.

As we strive now to make that message a reality, I hope none of us will doubt what is at stake.

Around the world, today, appalling abuses are being committed against women: including coerced abortions and sterilizations, children sold into prostitution, ritual mutilations, dowry murders and official indifference to violence.

Some say this is all cultural and there's nothing we can do about it. I say it's criminal and it's the responsibility of each and every one of us to stop it.

Over the course of this past week, I have visited Liberia, Angola, Rwanda and Burundi. Each of these countries has been wracked by civil war. In each, hundreds of thousands have been killed, or orphaned or forced to leave their homes.

In Rwanda, in the yard outside a quaint stone church, surrounded by some of the most breathtaking scenery in the world, I saw a pit containing an estimated 5000 bodies being exhumed by the International War Crimes Tribunal. I was told that in Rwanda now 60% of the women are widows, and that a whole new generation of children is being born--the product of rapes perpetrated during the war. Everywhere, the legacy of lawlessness and hate was on display.

The lesson here is found not simply in the fact that women and children are the principal victims of such wars--although that is true.

The lesson is not simply that societies in which women are denied the tools of empowerment are more prone to poverty, social breakdown and conflict--although that, too, is true.

The lesson is that if we are to build a future fit for any of us to live in, we have to establish and enforce standards--universal standards--that reflect the rights and dignity of every human being, and that every society is called upon by all societies to uphold.

That is what Beijing was all about. For standards of justice and law are under assault on every continent.

The Beijing Platform addressed the right of a child in Thailand to avoid being sold into prostitution; the right of a woman here in the United States to be free from the threat of domestic violence; the right of a woman in Bosnia to hold accountable those who used mass rape as a tactic of war; and the right of women and girls everywhere to live their lives free from exploitation and discrimination.

I am not a veteran conference-goer, but I have been told, and I believe, that America's delegation to Beijing was one of the strongest we have ever put together.

We had experts on everything from labor to health to the environment to microenterprise to human rights. We had tough negotiators; we were bi-partisan; we had representatives from each of the two, count'om two, genders; we stuck together and we worked well as a team.

But the real source of our strength was the knowledge of who and what we went to Beijing to represent.

We didn't just make up our position on the Platform for Action as we went along; we went there with a mandate from you and from women and men around this country.

That mandate was obtained in the regional meetings and other events undertaken in preparation for the conference. We went there committed to speak forcefully and confidently in support of an agenda for action that will, when implemented, advance the cause not only of women, but of all people.

It is a matter of great pride to Americans that half a century ago, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was brought into being largely through the efforts of Eleanor Roosevelt.

In Beijing, through the eloquence of another great First Lady, and through the efforts of literally thousands of women and men, America reaffirmed its commitment to the Declaration, and embarked towards a better future--with the Platform for Action as a map.

Today, and in days to come, we must re-dedicate ourselves to the principles ratified in Beijing.

We must re-capture the spirit of solidarity--albeit a somewhat soggy solidarity--that pervaded the NGO Forum in Huairou. We must build a durable coalition that will fully implement the Platform for Action in America. And we must lend our support to those struggling for dignity and freedom overseas.

I know many of you have heard this before, and I promise this will be the last time I recite it. But this past week, after seeing the faces of so many young children in gravely afflicted societies, I feel its relevance more deeply than ever.

It is an old Chinese poem, in which a father says to his young daughter:

We keep a dog to watch the house;
A pig is useful, too;
We keep a cat to catch a mouse;
But what can we do
With a girl like you?

The measure of success for the Women's Conference is whether it brings us even a little closer to the day when that question is never again asked anywhere in the world; to the day when girls everywhere will be able to look ahead with confidence that their lives will be valued, their individuality respected, their rights protected and their futures determined by their own abilities and character.

It is our joint task to build that kind of future.

And it is a task, with all the energy and commitment I see in this room, I am confident we will achieve.

Thank you very much.



BRINGING Beijing HOME

JAN. 1996

The Fourth World Conference: A Success for the World's Women

BY AMBASSADOR MADELEINE ALBRIGHT, U.S. PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS;
CHAIR, U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Fourth World Conference on Women was a rousing success.

The community of nations came together and addressed every area of women's lives — as individuals with human rights; as mothers, wives, sisters and daughters with family roles and responsibilities; as workers, employers, entrepreneurs and activists; and as leaders at the community, national and global levels.

The final document — the Platform for Action — is a powerful and progressive statement about the empowerment of women and the imperative to advance their status. Its outstanding and unifying feature is its particular attention to the human rights of women. The concept of the human rights of women is so integrated into the Platform that it provides the foundation and framework for the broad public policy agenda that the document sets out.



At the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton chaired the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) panel discussion on "Women's Economic Empowerment." Mrs. Clinton told participants, "Our country has accepted the challenge of making the World Conference on Women a conference of commitments." Also pictured are (from left) Esther Ocloo, Sustainable End of Hunger Foundation, and member of International Federation of Business Women, Ghana; Ela Bhatt, General Secretary, Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) Cooperative Bank, India; Noeleen Heyzer, Director, UNIFEM; and Muhammad Yunus, Managing Director, Grameen Bank, Bangladesh.

For all the painstaking and numerous details, the principles behind them can be simply stated:

- Violence against women in all its forms must be stopped.
- Girls must be protected and valued equally with boys in their families and by societies.
- Women must have access to education and health care of a high quality and to the levers of economic

and political power.

- Family responsibilities must be shared.
- The right of women to control their own fertility, and equality in sexual relations, are fundamental to women's empowerment.
- Freedom of expression is a prerequisite to human rights, which are women's rights.

The consensus and the document itself would have been unimaginable twenty years ago

when the United Nations proclaimed 1975 to be International Women's Year, thus setting into motion the cycle of events that led us to Beijing. That the nations of the world could have come to such a consensus regarding the status of women, the obstacles to their advancement, and the actions necessary to empower them is testimony to the women of the world who have organized themselves into a powerful force — an international women's movement of activists, advocates and advisors to the nations of the world.

Message from the First Lady

BY HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON, FIRST LADY, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; HONORARY CHAIR, U.S. DELEGATION TO THE UN FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

I feel privileged to have played a role in the UN Fourth World Conference on Women. The Conference focused world attention on issues that matter most in the lives of women and their families: access to education, health care, jobs and credit; and the chance to enjoy basic legal and human rights and participate fully in the political life of their countries.

What we have learned around the world, and what I have taken away from my trips to South Asia and Latin America and through our own country, is that if women are healthy and educated, their families will flourish. If women are free from violence, their families will thrive. If women have a chance to work and earn as full and equal partners in society, their families will prosper.

As an American, I will continue to speak up for women in the United States who are raising children on the minimum wage, women who can't afford health care or child care, women whose lives and those of their families are threatened by violence, sometimes violence in their own homes.

I will continue to speak up for mothers who are fighting for good schools, safe neighborhoods, clean air and clean airwaves; for older women, some of them widows, who have raised their families and now find that their skills and life experiences are not valued in the workplace; for women who are working all night as nurses, hotel clerks, and fast food cooks so that they can be at home during the day with their kids; and for women everywhere

who simply don't have time to do everything they are called upon to do each day.

I urge you to bring the message of the World Conference home to your state, city and community. Let us heed the call so that we can create a world in which every woman is treated with respect and dignity, every boy and girl is loved and cared for equally, and every family has the hope of a strong and stable future.

Join the Working Women Count Honor Roll!

BY KAREN NUSSBAUM, DIRECTOR, WOMEN'S BUREAU, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

In Spring 1994, the Women's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Labor reached out to working women across the country and asked how they felt about their jobs — what they liked, what they didn't like and what they wanted to change. More than a quarter of a million women responded to the "Working Women Count" survey. Working women said they needed change in three key areas: better pay and benefits, help balancing work and family, and more respect and opportunity on the job.

The Women's Bureau heard them. And through our *Working Women Count Honor Roll* program, so have businesses, state and local governments, unions, community groups, and nonprofit organizations nationwide.

The *Honor Roll* encourages employers and other organizations to make concrete changes in the lives of working women and their families. Since the *Honor Roll's* official launch on Labor Day 1995, hundreds have answered the call.

The Women's Bureau has promised to obtain more than a thousand pledges affecting the lives of at least a million working people in the next year. **This goal is also one of the major U.S. commitments that Ambassador Madeleine Albright announced at the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing.**

We are pleased with the variety of participants that have already responded: insurance giant Aetna Life and Casualty; the Congress of National Black Churches; the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government, Lexington, Kentucky; McAlvain Construction, a small company in Boise, Idaho; and the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees Union Local 2 in San Francisco, California. Pledges range from flexible work schedules to child care on snow days; from business school scholarships to paid leave for participating in a child's school activities.

Employers are finding that *Honor Roll* programs not only benefit workers but also boost productivity. At a White House ceremony honoring several *Honor Roll* pledges, James J. Shiro, CEO of Price Waterhouse, said, "Companies have studied pay-back from programs like this, and we realize the positive impact in our bottom lines. The results make me wonder ... why isn't every company in the country supporting programs like this?"

The potential is there, but the Women's Bureau needs your help to turn it into real change. Anyone who wants to be on the *Honor Roll* can get pledge materials by calling **1-800-827-5335**. You can also help spread the word by including this toll-free number in your newsletter, publication or on-line service. **And we want to issue a special challenge to everyone who participated in United States regional preparatory meetings before the Fourth World Conference on Women, and everyone who cares about U.S. implementation of the Platform for Action agreed to in**

Beijing. Help the Women's Bureau make the Honor Roll a reality in the lives of U.S. women where they live and work. Call us to suggest organizations we can approach; or partner with us by working with your own organization, or with a business or other group, to organize a pledge yourself.

Together we really can make a difference.

Women's Bureau Honor Roll contacts: Diane Faulkner, (202) 219-6601 x137; Harriett Harper, (202) 219-6601 x105.

Followup on U.S. Commitments to Implement the Platform for Action

At the UN Fourth World Conference on Women, the U.S. committed to action in seven major areas. The Department of Education has since added a commitment, and the Administration plans to make further commitments. Below are U.S. government contacts for each commitment area:

- 1 Establishing a President's Inter-agency Council on Women to plan for effective U.S. implementation of the Platform for Action finalized at the Fourth World Conference: *Theresa Loar and Kathy Hendrix, President's Interagency Council on Women, The White House, (202) 456-7350.*
- 2 Implementing the Working Women Count Honor Roll, a grassroots campaign to improve conditions for women in the workplace: *Diane Faulkner (x137) or Harriett Harper (x105), Women's Bureau,*

Department of Labor, (202) 219-6601.

- 3 Increasing women's economic security — New steps to recognize leaders in the micro-lending field and ensure funding by Federal agencies specific to the micro-lending area: *Jeannine Jacokes, Department of the Treasury (202) 622-8232; Securing economic self-sufficiency for women through entrepreneurship: Amy Millman and Carolyn O'Brien, Interagency Committee on Women's Business Enterprise, (202) 205-3850.*
- 4 Launching a six year, \$1.6 billion initiative to fight violence against women, including domestic violence and sexual assault (in accordance with the Crime Bill passed in 1994): *Bonnie Campbell, Department of Justice, (202) 616-8894.*
- 5 Improving women's health by taking action on a range of health problems of concern to women throughout their life cycle, recognizing the additional problems faced by women of low income and from ethnic and racial minorities: *Sarah Kovner, Department of Health and Human Services, (202) 690-5400.*
- 6 Taking a number of actions to remove educational barriers facing girls and women, including girls and women with disabilities, those who are low income, and those from ethnic and racial minorities: *Sandra Battle, Department of Education, (202) 401-1000.*
- 7 Pressing for U.S. Senate advice and consent to ratification of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW): *Gracia Hillman, Department of State, (202) 647-9358.*
- 8 International development — New initiative to increase women's political participation: *Melissa Brown, Agency for International Development, (202) 736-7979; New initiative to promote knowledge about women's legal rights: Cate Johnson, AID, (703) 816-0266; Continuing a commitment to launch microenterprise programs to enable low-income women entrepreneurs in developing countries to gain access to credit: Beth Rhyne, AID, (202) 663-2360; Continuing commitment to improve the health and well-being of women in developing countries around the world: Elizabeth Maguire, AID (703) 875-4402; Continuing an initiative announced at the World Summit for Social Development in March 1995 to increase girls' primary school completion rates: Susie Clay, AID, (703) 875-4179.*

Published by the Women's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, and the President's Interagency Council on Women, The White House.

This is the fifth in a series of publications; the first four were titled On the Road to Beijing. For more information, contact Diane Faulkner (x137) or Harriett Harper (x105), Women's Bureau, (202) 219-6601. For information about U.S. followup to the Fourth World Conference on Women, contact the President's Interagency Council on Women, (202) 456-7350.

The President's Interagency Council on Women

BY THE HONORABLE DONNA SHALALA, SECRETARY, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES



At the NGO (Nongovernmental Organization) Forum on Women in Beijing, Donna Shalala met two employees of METRO (the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority) who are graduates of nontraditional job training programs offered by Wider Opportunities for Women in Washington, D.C. Pictured are Sarah Reynolds, METRO train mechanic; Donna Shalala, Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services; and Verelett Allen, METRO radio technician.

On August 26, 1995, the 75th anniversary of Women's suffrage and just prior to September's UN Fourth World Conference on Women, President Clinton announced the formation of an interagency women's council. According to the President,

"The (Women's) Conference is going to talk about education and domestic violence and grassroots economics, employment, health care, political participation....And we don't intend to walk away from it when it's over. I'm going to establish an interagency council on women to make sure that all the effort and good ideas actually get implemented when we get back home."

This intragovernmental body, the President's Interagency Council on Women, is now in operation, charged with coordinating the implementation of the Platform for Action adopted in Beijing, including the U.S. commitments announced at the Conference. The Council is also charged with developing related initiatives to further women's progress and engaging in outreach and public education to support the successful implementation of the Conference agreements.

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton is the Honorary Chair of the President's Interagency Council on Women, and I serve as Chair. The Council membership includes high level representatives from Executive Branch agencies.

To contact the Council, phone our office at (202) 456-7350, fax (202) 456-7357. Or write The President's Interagency Council on Women, The White House, New Executive Office Building Suite 3212, Washington, DC 20503. Our Internet home page is located at <http://women.usia.gov/usia/>.

RESOURCES

The President's Interagency Council on Women

The White House
New Executive Office Building,
Suite 3212
Washington, DC 20503
Phone (202) 456-7350
Fax (202) 456-7357
The Council's home page on the Internet is located at <http://women.usia.gov/usia/>.

UN Secretariat of the Fourth World Conference on Women

Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
DC2-1234
Two United Nations Plaza
New York, NY 10017
Phone (212) 963-8385
Fax (212) 963-3463
The DAW's home page on the Internet is located at <http://www.undp.org/fwcw/daw1.htm>
The DAW's email address is daw@undp.org

U.S. Network for the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women and Beyond

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The Women's Bureau's home page on the Internet is located at <http://www.dol.gov/dol/wb/welcome.html>.
To reach the Women's Bureau via email, send your message to dfaulkner@dol.gov or hharper@dol.gov.

TO OBTAIN THE UN PLATFORM FOR ACTION

The Platform for Action (the final document of the Fourth World Conference on Women) can be located on the Internet at <http://www.undp.org/fwcw/dawfwcw.htm>. Or call the UN Public Information Office at (212) 963-4475 for information about ordering a printed copy.

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