New Strategic Plan drafted

A three-day strategic planning and evaluation consultation involving representatives of the UWI, communities, non-governmental organisation intermediaries, regional organisations such as CARICOM and WAND staff, has produced a package of recommendations to guide the future development of WAND. The workshop, led by Marion Bernard of Jamaica, looked at the context of the operation of the unit, WAND’s role within this context, its limitations and weaknesses as well as opportunities for development. The recommendations covered organisational and staff matters, work programmes (academic and community), communication and public relations and financing. The process is to be reviewed and refined at another stage. The June 18-20 Strategic and Interactive Planning Meeting flowed from a recommendation in a recent evaluation conducted by HIVOS, a main supporter of WAND’s work over the years.

Spirituality workshop a milestone

There were about 30 participants in a May 29-31 workshop on Women’s Spirituality jointly sponsored by WAND and the Caribbean Conference of Churches (CCC). The workshop examine spirituality and what it means to women - whether women and men experience spirituality in different ways. It also looked at women’s spirituality in different faiths and celebrated this spirituality in varied and creative ways. The sub-regional activity involved resource personnel from Barbados, Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica. They were: the Anglican Bishop of Jamaica, Neville Desouza; Maureen Rowe, Jamaica, representing the Ras Tafari; Pearl Einton Springer, Trinidad and Tobago, representing the Orisha; Resalind Henry-Wilson, the inter-denominational rep; Marcelle Haynes of the Baha’i; Dr Deo Sharma, Hindu; Dr Tiss Wickramasuriya; and Sylvia Goodridge of the Spiritual Baptists of Barbados. The workshop was the initial step in a continuing process since religion and spirituality are crucial areas in WAND’s work in gender equity.

Media Watch B’dos gets a home at WAND

The recently formed Women’s Media Watch Barbados now has a home within the WAND offices. Women’s Media Watch is a subcommittee of the Women and Development Studies Group at the Cave Hill campus of the UWI. The first WMW orientation workshop in Barbados was held June 16-17, facilitated by Hilary Nicholson and Evadney Crooks of WMW Jamaica. The broad outline for the work of WMW in Barbados was defined at the workshop. The establishment of WMW Barbados is a follow on to a Media Images of Women workshop sponsored by WAND in Barbados last November. WMW is concerned with the content of news, features and advertising in the media and seeks to influence journalists and media managers to produce gender sensitive content in their publications and programmes.
Programme Coordinator visits CORE

Programme Coordinator Jeanette Bell paid working visits to the Communities Organising for Self Reliance (CORE) communities at La Pointe, St Lucia, and Fancy and Rose Hall in St Vincent in May. Jeanette and consultant Christobel Ashton conducted a two-day workshop in St Lucia on Understanding and Dealing with Conflict. At Fancy, they had a session with the community to explore its resources and opportunities to develop income generating projects. In Rose Hall they had a meeting with community members to look at the problems and challenges and examine matters of accountability for the management of projects. From this assessment there was a number of suggestions on what support WAND could provide in the future.

WAND in UNIFEM’s post-Beijing talks

WAND participated in a UNIFEM Project Design Workshop June 25 - 26, aimed at Caribbean regional follow up to the Beijing Agenda.

On the agenda of the session organised by UNIFEM and the British Development Division, were the issues of poverty and poverty reduction, women and decision making and women and violence. The workshop brought together agencies working in the region and outlined interventions on what needs to happen in the Caribbean to address these issues over the next three years. Agencies have been identified as part of a steering committee and task forces are to be set up to address each of the three areas.

Penal Reform attracts WAND’s focus

The Tutor/Coordinator of WAND participated in a regional conference, “Alternatives to Custody and Penal Reform” held in Trinidad from April 9-11, 1997. The purpose of the Conference was to discuss with Caribbean agencies, alternatives to custody for some kinds of offences/offenders. The conference focussed on two bills, the Community Service Orders and the Community Mediation Bill, in which more emphasis is placed on rehabilitation and treatment of offenders through non-custodial service such as community service as an option and by so doing reducing the pressure and demands placed on prison services and the stigma attached to imprisonment. The conference was a collaborative event held in conjunction with the Alternatives to Custody group in Trinidad, Penal Reform International and the Centre for Gender and Development Studies, of the UWI.

Tutor/Coordinator chairs CPDC

At the April 1997 CPDC General Assembly, the Tutor/Coordinator of WAND became Chairperson of the Board of Caribbean Policy Development Centre (CPDC). It is WAND’s second year of a two year term of office on CPDC’s Board. The first meeting of the Board is expected to take place in August when the work of CPDC will be discussed. CPDC is an umbrella organisation which helps its members to develop and coordinate policy.

Supporting Programmes for Caribbean Transformation