



A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR

FROM THE TUTOR/COORDINATOR

AND STAFF OF WAND

WAND Receives Another Award

The Women and Development Unit (WAND) was recently recognized for its contribution to the development of parent education. The award was presented to WAND at the 90th Anniversary Awards Ceremony & Dinner of the Bay Primary School held Saturday November 8, 2003 at the Pommarine Hotel, Barbados.

For the past four years WAND has been working with the Bay primary School in the area of parent education. The Project, which was initiated in July 2000 with a three -day workshop, entitled *Parenting, the Naked Truth: Enlightening, Encouraging and Empowering Parents to Cope with the Everyday Challenges of Child-Rearing in the 21st Century*. This has become an annual event, which has also seen the evolvment of other outreach activities and workshops. To date over 53 parents have been trained. The Primary school is located in one of the Barbados' poorer communities and accommodates children mainly from the Bayville and other surrounding areas.

This is the second award WAND has received. In 2002, the Jamaica Women's Political Caucus recognized the Unit for its support. The Tutor/Coordinator, Judith Soares received both awards on WAND's behalf.

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Encourage the work of UWI HARP on International AIDS Day, December 1, 2003

Sub-Regional Workshop on Women and Disasters

Assessing Women's Disaster Vulnerabilities and Capabilities was the theme of a sub regional workshop held November 20, 2003 in Barbados. Participants were from Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and St. Lucia, and consisted of workers, researchers and disaster managers.

Resource material for the workshop was the publication *Working with Women at Risk. Practical Guidelines for assessing Local Disaster Risk* which allowed participants to consider how the guidelines could assist in planning and conducting successful research in their own communities in the face of the many hazards and increasing risks from disasters.

Some of the significant issues arising from the discussions of this workshop were the recognition that women were the source of knowledge about communities and during disasters, as they were the one



Participants at Sub-regional Workshop

who handled and managed before, during and after the event. It was also recognized that the guidelines were a good resource

material for disaster managers and the elements could be structured to become a training course to be used in community disaster preparedness. Several initiatives were agreed on that will further see the development of these guidelines to ensure its contribution to the disaster management process.

This workshop was a follow-up to the Women's Vulnerability Project which began in 2001 and ended in May of this year. The Project was designed to train and use low-income women to conduct research in their own communities on women's vulnerability and resilience to disasters. The *Guidelines*, an output of the project is a step-by-step guide for assessing the resources and vulnerabilities of communities 'through the eyes of women'.

Antigua and Barbuda Country Conference a Success

The Antigua and Barbuda Country Conference was held from November 13 –15, 2003. Among the many papers presented were *Women in Management and Decision – Making in Antigua and Barbuda: A Statistical Analysis* by Dr. Ermina Osoba, Resident Tutor, Antigua and Barbuda.

The paper, which was well received, spoke to an area of research which is now being addressed in Antigua and the Caribbean. In this sense Dr. Osoba's work has contributed to the literature on Caribbean women.

The Church and Sexuality

Should Confessed Homosexuals be Ordained as Priests: What are the implications for the church was the paper presented by Tutor/Coordinator at a Panel Discussion held on November 6, 2003 at the Codrington Theological College, Barbados. The other presenter was Rev. Dr. Frank Hughes, Lecturer at the College.

Support for Dominica Women's Council

The Women and Development Unit (WAND) contributed ECS\$3000 to the Dominica National Council of Women (DNWC) Crisis Intervention Service which provides support for the victims of domestic violence.

The funds will go towards training for 14 counsellors who will work with women who are victims of domestic violence to provide emotional support in a period of economic decline.

New Face at WAND

Angella Blades took up duties as Secretary in September. She replaces Cecelia Batson who is now pursuing graduate studies in the USA.

Welcome Angella and thanks to Cecelia for eight years of dedicated service.

STAND FIRM AGAINST VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN... EVERY TIME

November 25 – International Day Against Violence
Against Women

Papers Presented....

Tutor/Coordinator Judith Soares presented a paper entitled - Women and Globalization: The Most Important Task of the Trade Union Movement in this Period at the International Labour Conference on FTAA WTO and CSME held October 27-31, 2003 in the Commonwealth of

the Bahamas.

In her presentation the Coordinator suggested that the Trade Union movement needs to change its approach and broaden its mandate in order to survive the globalization phenomenon. She also indicated that there was a need to look at women in the informal sector such as those in the free trade zone and drug trafficking and seek to provide alternatives.

Thought and Action

*We have something the rich do not own.
We have our bodies and spirits and the
justice of our cause as weapons.*

—Cesar Chavez

WAND

Notes

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