

***Who Is Raising the World's Children?
Grandparent Caregivers: Economic, Social and Legal Implications***

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 11:30am – 2:00pm

AARP, 601 E Street NW, Washington, D.C.

The Council of Women World Leaders, AARP Foundation, and AARP International co-convened a panel discussion on March 11, 2008, at AARP Headquarters in Washington, DC, on the topic of Grandparenting. This discussion was part of the Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Roundtable Series hosted by the Council of Women World Leaders in conjunction with the Aspen Institute.

Traditional family structure is being disrupted in many developing countries as the effects of HIV/AIDS, urbanization, drug and alcohol abuse, international migration, armed conflict, and other modern social challenges create an increasingly larger number of "skip-generation" families in which grandparents take on the responsibility of raising their grandchildren. Developed countries are not immune to this phenomenon; the United States in particular faces its own set of obstacles, including diasporas from Central and South America, and extremely high incidence of grandparents as primary caregivers for the youngest generation in Native American communities. The commonality between developing and developed countries is that grandmothers, as a social group, are disproportionately affected and bear the brunt of caregiving in these families. While many grandparents derive great satisfaction from creating and sustaining meaningful long-term relationships with their grandchildren, becoming a primary caregiver for grandchildren can significantly threaten the economic security for all family members and create both legal and long-term social implications.

The panel discussion endeavored to examine the impact of the growing rate of grandparents as primary caregivers on the well-being and opportunities for children, the security and quality of life for the aging population, and the integrity and functioning of families across the globe. Speakers from developed and developing countries highlighted:

- The current status of grandparent caregivers in their region of expertise
- Successful laws, policies, public benefits and program models
- Gaps in available resources and services
- Recommendations for future action



AARP's International Program and AARP Foundation
and
The Council of Women World Leaders
Present:

***Who Is Raising the World's Children?
Grandparent Caregivers: Economic, Social and
Legal Implications***

Tuesday, March 11, 2008 from 11:30am – 2:00pm

AARP, 601 E Street NW, Washington, D.C.

AGENDA

- 11:30am Buffet lunch
- 12:00pm Opening Remarks
- Line Vreven, AARP International: Greeting
 - Laura Liswood, Council of Women World Leaders: Greeting
 - Mara Mayor, AARP (Panel Moderator)
 - Mavis Kindness, Yakama Nation
- 12:30pm Panel Presentations
- Rhoi Wangila, Ark Foundation of Africa: Africa
 - Amy Goyer, AARP Foundation Grandparenting: United States
 - Merril Silverstein, USC: Asia
 - Betty Cornelius, CANGRANDS: Canada
- 1:10pm Q&A and Discussion
- 1:45pm Closing: Robin Talbert, AARP Foundation

This discussion is part of AARP's International Program and AARP Foundation's outreach on grandparenting and women's issues, and the Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Roundtable Series hosted by the Council of Women World Leaders in conjunction with the Aspen Institute.

SPEAKERS BIOS

In order of appearance

Line Vreven, Vice President, International, AARP

Ms. Vreven joined AARP following a distinguished diplomatic career during which she received two knighthoods and was recognized by four governments and the United Nations with several awards for advancing government, business, and humanitarian causes throughout the world. As a top Belgian diplomat, Ms. Vreven led a range of sensitive global negotiations to conclude bilateral and multilateral agreements in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Middle East, and the Americas. Her portfolio included international trade policy, social agendas, development aid, agriculture, education, and military and industrial projects. Ms. Vreven's successful diplomatic career was shaped by her extensive international legal experience and her skill as an analyst, both of which prepared her to navigate the political organization and decision-making processes of the United States, as well as those of other governments and multilateral institutions such as the European Union, NATO, WTO, OECD, UN, Council of Europe, the International Criminal Tribunals for the Former Yugoslavia and Rwanda, and the International Court of Justice. More recently, Ms. Vreven ran her own international consulting firm through which she provided strategic management consulting on international policy development, effective corporate messaging, organizational structure, and international markets to a wide variety of clients. Ms. Vreven has also served as Head of European Affairs and Associate Vice President at the Pharmaceutical Research & Manufacturers of America (PhRMA), where she was in charge of developing and implementing strategic plans, advocacy projects, legal actions, grassroots campaigns, as well as strategies for strengthening transatlantic relations. In this capacity, she succeeded in eliminating policies in overseas markets that had been detrimental to US industry and patients worldwide. Ms. Vreven is Former Member of the Antwerp Bar. She graduated as Doctor Juris (cum Laude) from Free University of Brussels, with international law specialty and has a LL.M (cum laude) in International Legal Cooperation, from the Free University of Brussels in cooperation with EU and the University of Georgia, U.S. She also has an advanced degree (cum laude) establishing qualifications to teach law at university level from the Free University of Brussels. She is a Graduate of University of Maryland National Leadership Institute. She has published, co-authored and edited various books, publications and articles regarding International Law and International Policy. She is fluent in 5 languages.

Laura A. Liswood, Secretary General, Council of Women World Leaders; Senior Advisor, Goldman, Sachs & Co.

In August 1996, Ms. Liswood co-founded the Council of Women World Leaders with President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland, located at The Aspen Institute in Washington, DC. Ms. Liswood is the Secretary General of the Council, which is composed of women presidents, prime ministers, and heads of government. In 2001, Liswood was named Managing Director, Global Leadership and Diversity for Goldman Sachs. Working on issues of globalization and workforce diversity, she is now a Senior Advisor to the firm. From 1992 – 1996, as director of the Women's Leadership Project, Liswood interviewed 15 current and former women presidents and prime ministers, which is chronicled in her

book and video documentary, *Women World Leaders*. Liswood's professional experience includes CEO/President of the American Society for Training and Development, executive-level consulting to Fortune 500 and international companies, executive positions at Rainier National Bank and Group W Cable, a subsidiary of Westinghouse Broadcasting and Cable. She received the Westinghouse Award of Excellence for her contribution to women and minorities in the work place. She is also the author of a book on service quality, *Serving Them Right*. Liswood has also held management positions in the airline industry, including general manager for the Pacific Northwest, for TWA, and was a consultant for the Boston Consulting Group. Liswood has contributed to leadership in the women's community for more than twenty years as a member of the International Women's Forum, Leadership America, and as commissioner of the City of Seattle Women's Commission. In 2000, the Secretary of Defense appointed her to a three-year term of the Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services (DACOWITS). After the events of September 11, 2001, she became a reserve police officer for the Washington, DC Metropolitan Police Department. Liswood holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. from California State University, San Diego. She holds a J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and is admitted to practice law in California and Massachusetts.

Mara Mayor, Member, AARP Board of Directors, Class of 2012

Mara Mayor, Ph.D., of Bethesda, MD, is a member of the AARP Board of Directors, Class of 2012. During the 2006-2008 biennium, Dr. Mayor serves on the Board Membership Committee and AARP's Insurance Trust. She also is a member of the Governance Review Committee. Dr. Mayor is an educator whose focus has been on extending opportunities to learn in both formal and informal settings. She has served as director of The Smithsonian Associates, director of education at the Smithsonian's National Zoological Park, director of The Annenberg/CPB Projects at the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and on the faculty of the University of Connecticut. As a volunteer, Dr. Mayor serves as a member of the Collaboration Task Force for AARP's Women's Leadership Circle and is a member of the WETA Public Television/Radio Board involved with local, national and worldwide programming. She also is a board member of the Creativity Foundation as well as a member of the Women's Forum of Washington, the Cultural Alliance of Greater Washington, and ArtTable. Dr. Mayor was instrumental in positioning the Annenberg/CPB Project as a leader in the world of education and philanthropy using telecommunications technologies, which resulted in over 100 major awards, including an Emmy and the Peabody Award for the Project's programs. Among Dr. Mayor's recognitions and awards are Recognitions for Outstanding Programming from the Embassy of Russia and the Women's Forum of Washington, Outstanding Board Service from the National Science Resources Center, and Woman of the Year Award from the University of Connecticut.

Mavis Kindness, Yakama Nation, Grandparent Caregiver

Ms. Kindness is a leader in the Yakama Tribe, and has worked for the Yakama Nation since 1972 in various services and projects. She serves as Vice-Chair of the Counsel, and was a Program Manager for the Yakama Tribe's Language & Cultural Program. She has taught the Yakama Language at a nearby public school district. Ms. Kindness comes

from one of the 14 Bands & Tribes known as K'ahmilt-pah (deep canyon) and her language dialect is called "Wah-huu-pam." Ms. Kindness is the youngest in her family, who lived on the Reservation for most of her childhood. Ms. Kindness has been a family caregiver for many years and raised six children by herself. Battling alcohol addiction and poverty, she achieved sobriety in 1980 and shortly thereafter began raising two granddaughters when their mother and father were incarcerated. While raising these grandchildren, she attended college in business management. She later took in two more grandchildren and was unable to complete her college education. Despite the challenges of raising grandchildren, a very common situation in the Yakama Nation, Ms. Kindness says she has a very close bond with these grandchildren she's raised, and continues to develop strong family and cultural ties among the generations in her family.

Amy Goyer, National Coordinator, AARP Foundation Grandparenting

Amy Goyer has been involved in intergenerational issues and programs at the local, state, and national levels for 25 years. Ms. Goyer has been with AARP since 1994, and is currently National Coordinator of the AARP Foundation's Grandparenting, leading efforts to serve and support grandparents in their various roles and caregiving responsibilities. Ms. Goyer develops, markets and implements integrated collaborative programs to support grandparent's economic security, health and well-being. She serves as editor of *GrandCare News*, leads research projects, and has spoken and written widely on aging, intergenerational issues and grandparenting, and has appeared on the Today Show, NBC Nightly News, the PBS Nightly Business Report, and the CBS Early Show. Ms. Goyer has served on boards and advisory councils of several international, national and local organizations, including the American Society on Aging, the National Council on Aging, The Eden Alternative, Generations United and the International Consortium of Intergenerational Programmes. Ms. Goyer was previously Intergenerational Coordinator for AARP and held various positions at the Ohio Department of Aging, including administering Senior Volunteer Program funding, monitoring Older Americans Act and state funding to Area Agencies on Aging, and leading the Governor's statewide Intergenerational Initiative. She worked in direct service in adult day health centers and nursing homes in Columbus, Ohio. Ms. Goyer is also a Music Therapist and teacher, and is a graduate of Ohio University.

Rhoi Wangila, Founder, Ark Foundation of Africa

Rhoi came to the United States, became a citizen and with sheer determination and little working capital, devoted her life to helping her beloved Uganda – later branching out with programs in other East African countries. She began organizing villagers, educating them on the importance of helping their own children and orphans and providing opportunities for education and learning income-generating skills that transformed their lives. Rhoi has worked with, lived among, and constantly witnessed individuals and families suffering from day-to-day effects of poverty and lack of opportunities. She was on the ground working when the devastation of HIV and AIDS crept into communities, tearing at the fabric and stability of families and communities. She has witnessed firsthand the hopelessness and despair of villages and communities devastated by the disease – and she has experienced the resilience, determination and hope of thousands of women, children and communities. Rhoi has used her time and talents, with or without

compensation, to save the lives of hundreds of children and their families who live in poverty stricken communities in East Africa and other parts of the continent. Through the Ark Foundation, she has created education and training projects under trees, in one-room school houses, in schools ARK has built, and any place where a blackboard can be hung and where people will gather.

Dr. Merrill Silverstein, Professor of Gerontology and Sociology, University of Southern California

Merrill Silverstein, Ph.D. is Professor of Gerontology and Sociology at the University of Southern California. He received his doctorate in sociology from Columbia University, after which he was a post-doctoral scholar (NIA trainee) at USC and then research assistant professor at Brown University. He joined the faculty of the USC Davis School of Gerontology in 1993, was promoted to associate professor in 1999, and in 2002 split his appointment equally with the USC Department of Sociology upon becoming full professor. Dr. Silverstein's research focuses on aging within the context of family life, including such topics as intergenerational transfers and transmission, social support over the life-course, grandparent-grandchild relations, migration in later life, public policy toward caregiving families, and international perspectives on aging families. Dr. Silverstein is currently principal investigator of the Longitudinal Study of Generations, a project that has tracked multigenerational families over four decades to study how family relationships have changed across biographical, historical, and generational time. He also has active projects in China, Sweden, and Israel on the topic of intergenerational relations. His research has been supported by grants from the NIA, NICHD, NSF, Fogarty International Center, Binational Foundation, and AARP. He has more than 90 publications, two-thirds of which are in peer-reviewed journals. Dr. Silverstein is a Fellow of the Gerontological Society of America, the Brookdale National Fellowship Program, and the Fulbright International Senior Scholars Program.

Betty Cornelius, Founder, CANGRANDS National Kinship Support

Betty Cornelius is the founder of CANGRANDS KINSHIP NATIONAL SUPPORT, a national grassroots organization providing information and support to the 70,000 grandparents and kinship families across Canada. CANGRANDS's aim is to promote, support and assist families in maintaining or re-establishing family ties between grandchildren, grandparents, and extended families and for those denied Kin children. CANGRANDS has two internet support groups and 26 chapters across Canada. Betty has been welcomed at workshops and conferences, speaking on topics such as kinship in Canada, denied access, and violence issues. She has a strong background in business, addictions and social psychology, and thrives on "making things happen." Betty recently started a project called 'Hands & Hearts' quilt, which is a quilt traveling across Canada to promote both denied grandparents and those raising grandchildren. Betty established the first Kinship Conference and Camp in Canada which has become a lifeline for kinship caregivers. July 2008 will see our seventh annual CANGRANDS conference and camp out. She assists with court appearances for grandparents who need support. She has a strong drive that motivates her to continue to learn about Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, Radial Attachment Disorders and Behavior Modification. Betty is the mother of two grown boys, one of whom is multi-handicapped. Betty has fostered 32 children

over the past 30 years. She is denied access to her first granddaughter and is currently raising her second granddaughter. Betty works tirelessly providing encouragement, moral, and emotional support to kinship families. She deals with kinship issues ranging from setting up speakers for conferences and listening and encouraging grandparents to fielding media calls and hosting internet support lists. She stays up-to-date on Canadian Parliamentary Bills that effect kinship families such as Bill 210, as well as medical, parenting, legal and/or political issues. She is a strong advocate for kin-children and kin-headed households, having personally been denied access to one grandchild and rescuing another from an abusive situation.

Robin Talbert, President, AARP Foundation

As President of the AARP Foundation, Talbert provides leadership across the Foundation areas of development, legal advocacy, and programs. The AARP Foundation is the affiliated charity of AARP and serves more than 2 million people per year, utilizing the talents of 35,000 volunteers and the support of over 900,000 donors. Talbert has been at AARP since 1988 serving in a variety of leadership roles. Prior to joining AARP, she was an attorney with Land of Lincoln Legal Assistance Foundation, specializing in consumer law. She has a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, a J.D. degree from Washington University in St. Louis, and is a volunteer mediator with the D.C. Superior Court. Talbert has been a speaker at numerous professional conferences and authored articles on topics ranging from dispute resolution to consumer rights to insurance issues for older persons. She is a member of the Women's Leadership Board of Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Other professional affiliations include the American Bar Association, the American Society of Association Executives, Grantmakers in Aging, the Independent Sector, and the Association Foundation Group.