



COUNCIL OF

Women World Leaders

at the Aspen Institute

Council of Women World Leaders Quarterly Newsletter

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June 2008



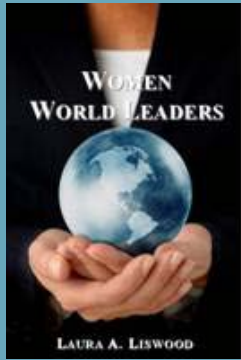
Greetings!

Welcome to the Council's Quarterly E-Newsletter! The Council of Women World Leaders is a network of current and former women prime ministers and presidents established in 1996 by Vigdís Finnbogadóttir, President of Iceland (1980-1996) and first woman in the world to be democratically elected president, and Laura Liswood, Secretary General. The Council's mission is to mobilize the highest-level women leaders globally for collective action on issues of critical importance to women.

Through its networks, summits, partnerships, and fellowships the Council promotes good governance and gender equality, and enhances the experience of democracy globally by increasing the number, effectiveness, and visibility of women who lead their countries. Mary Robinson, President of Ireland (1990-97) and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (1997-2002), serves as Chair of the Council and Margot Wallstrom Vice-President of the European Commission serves as the Chair of the Ministerial Initiative.

Program Updates

**The Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the
Aspen Institute Series- A Public Program of the
Council of Women World Leaders**



In an unprecedented journey which took her into corridors of power around the world, Laura Liswood conducted one-on-one interviews with fifteen women presidents and prime ministers. Using this unique first person material gathered in 1996, Liswood analyzed the obstacles these politicians faced in attaining the highest office in their respective countries, examined whether once in power they were able to further the cause of women in their countries, and assessed the differences between male and female leaders.

The Aspen Institute has inaugurated the *Madeleine K. Albright Women's Voices at the Aspen Institute Series*, a public program of the Council of



Madeleine K. Albright WOMEN'S VOICES AT THE ASPEN INSTITUTE

Women World Leaders, a newly established policy program of the Institute. The *Albright Women's Voices Series* will focus on global issues of particular importance to women and on the policy areas where women have taken the lead in combating problems which impact humanity at large.

Given the work that US Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (1997-2001) has done to amplify the voices of women internationally, her support of the Council as Chair Emerita of the Ministerial Initiative, and her dedication to the Aspen Institute as a trustee and advocate, it is more than fitting to name the series after her. At each *Albright Women's Voices Series* event, recognized experts will be invited to discuss effective solutions and collaborative actions to address security, environmental, and social matters, as seen through a gendered lens.

Elliot Gerson, Executive Vice President of Policy and Public Programs at the Aspen Institute, sees the integration of the Council into the Aspen Institute as a Policy Program as a very positive development for the Aspen community as a whole, and is especially enthused when speaking about the *Albright Women's Voices Series*: "This series endeavors not only to increase the diversity of ideas at the Institute, but also to increase the visibility and participation of women within the Aspen community."

Over the years, the mission and the impact which the Council has had on women's leadership in the global arena has evolved considerably. In 1998, the Council was born as the outgrowth of the Women's Leadership Project in which Ms. Liswood interviewed and documented discussions with 15 current and former women heads of state and government.

Ten years later, Ms. Liswood reflects on the new phase in the Council's collaboration and integration within the Aspen Institute: "We are delighted to be a part of the Institute, which, for over the past 4 years, has housed the Council and has supported our efforts to elevate women's leadership world-wide." Ms. Liswood currently serves as a Senior Advisor at Goldman Sachs and is the Founder and Secretary General of the Council of Women World Leaders.

The collaboration between the Aspen Institute and the Council, especially as it pertains to the *Albright Women's Voices Series*, strikes a note with the core values of the Institute. According to Ms. Liswood, "The *Albright Women's Voices Series*, by adding the gender dimension to existing conversations on global issues of the highest concern, fits perfectly into the scope and into the agenda which the Aspen Institute seeks to pursue on an international level."

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation Grants Funding to

Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health

A significant new grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will strengthen the leadership capacity of health ministers and their senior staff in select countries and support the World Health Organization (WHO) in interventions that will have a positive impact on women's health around the world. The multi-year grant to Realizing Rights: The Ethical



Globalization Initiative will support the *Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health (MLI)*, an innovative project designed to meet the critical need for political leadership to address major global health challenges. The Council of Women World Leaders and the Health Financing Taskforce are partners in the Ministerial Leadership Initiative.

MLI partners will work with select ministers of health and their senior staff to improve the equity and effectiveness of public and private aid financing for health. In addition, the *MLI* will support the World Health Organization (WHO) in its implementation of interventions that will have a positive impact on women's health. *MLI* is a partial outgrowth of the Council of Women World Leaders' Network of Women Ministers of Health, a network developed in 2004 to provide a platform for current women ministers of health to discuss and identify potential solutions to health issues of importance to women, their families, and their communities.

Ministerial Leadership Initiative for Global Health-Geneva

As part of its ongoing support for women working at the highest levels of government, the Council staff traveled to Geneva, Switzerland, to welcome members of the Council's Network of Women Ministers of Health for the Fifth Annual Meeting and Working Lunch, held on the occasion of the 61st World Health Assembly. This high-level meeting brought together women Ministers of Health to cultivate relationships with other Ministers and to share their ministries' successes since last year's Network meeting.



International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative

On November 15-17, 2007, the *International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative* convened a Summit of a select group of 68 women leaders from across the globe, including current and former heads of state and government, high-level government officials and representatives from intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations in



New York, New York. This historic two-day meeting provided a forum for the women leaders to discuss and advance a broader security agenda in order to address global security within and across borders by identifying regional priorities and highlighting alternative methods to move the global security agenda forward.

Levers of Global Security Series

In 2007 the Council established its *Levers of Global Security* series, a thematic set of roundtables and working groups that endeavor to better understand the concept of global security and effectively inform policymaking to incorporate a global security approach. Convened in strategic international cities over the coming year, these roundtables will analyze different aspects of governance, society, environment, and politics as they relate to global security through a gendered lens to better support and empower the most marginal members of our global society.



The first roundtable, *Examining How a Changing Climate Impacts Women* was convened on September 21, 2007 in partnership with Women's Environment & Development Organization. This roundtable brought together experts in the field to inform high-level advocacy and policymaking on the linkages between climate change and global security in anticipation of the High Level Summit on Climate Change convened prior to the United Nations General Assembly in September 2007.

The *Levers Series* continued in June 2008 with the roundtable *The Role and Contribution of Women in Track II Diplomacy* convened as follow-up to the International Women Leaders Global Security Summit. Subsequent series events will include: *Policing & Protective Services - Women's Roles and Gendered Impact* and *Securing the Right to Have Rights - Citizenship and Statelessness* to be convened in 2009.

Track II Diplomacy Roundtable

The Role and Contribution of Women in Multi-Track Diplomacy

As a follow-up to the *International Women Leaders Global Security Initiative* - a program of the Annenberg Trust at Sunnylands in partnership with The White House Project, the Council, and the Women Leaders Intercultural Forum - the Council convened a high-level panel discussion in May on *The Role and Contribution of Women in Multi-Track Diplomacy*. This panel discussion highlighted the active role of women within the parameters of the evolving discourse on global security and looked at the contributions that women make to multi-track diplomacy efforts worldwide. The Council welcomed a full house at the Aspen Institute at this session moderated by Honorable Mary Robinson, engaging respected leaders in the field such as Ambassador James Kimonyo, Dr. Eileen R. Borris, Ms. Carla Koppell, representing both the academic and the practitioner perspectives, as they related their own experiences and expertise to current conflict issues and diplomacy efforts.



Click below for video footage from the roudtable.

[Quicktime](#)

AARP Roundtable



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

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

Council of Women World Leaders Fellowship Programs

The Council has placed twelve students as Fellows at sites of leaders around the world for the summer of 2008. The Fellowship sites for the eight students from Columbia University include UNICEF in New York City, the Oscar Arias Peace Foundation in San Jose, Costa Rica, the Swedish International Peace Research



Institute in Stockholm, Sweden, The Albright Group in Washington, D.C, Realizing Rights in New York City, the Club of Madrid in Madrid, Spain, and the Council of Women World Leaders in New York City and Washington, D.C. The Columbia University Fellows program is funded by a grant from the President of Columbia, Lee Bollinger.

The Fellowship sites for the four students from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University include the Office of the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Liberia in Monrovia, Liberia, the Office of Margot Wallstrom at the European Union in Brussels, Belgium, the Women's Leadership Program at the World Economic Forum in Geneva, Switzerland, and the F.W. DeKlerk Foundation in Capetown, South Africa. The Kennedy School Fellows program is funded by the Women's Leadership Board of the Kennedy School.

Six South Pacific Island States Fellows are participating in the program funded through New Zealand AID and taking part in Leaders in Development, a two-week executive education program at the Kennedy School at Harvard University during June. The six 2008 Fellows are Ethel Sigiman, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Women, Youth and Children's Affairs, Solomon Islands, Palanitina Tupuimatagi Toelupe, Chief Executive Office, Ministry of Health, Samoa, Laeimau Tanuvasa-Savea, Chief Executive Officer, Computer Services, Ltd, Samoa, Domina Abo, Executive Director, Anglicare Stop AIDS PNG, Papua New Guinea, Jennifer Wate, Executive Director, Solomon Islands Development Trust, Solomon Islands, Barbara Toiya, Programme Manager, Voluntary Service Overseas, Papua New Guinea.

The Secretary General at Davos

2008 World Economic Forum Annual Meeting

For her ninth annual meeting of the World Economic Forum at Davos, Laura participated in a number of activities, most of which were focused on elements of gender. She has worked closely with the Women Leaders Programme since its inception. She and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders, the Honorable Mary Robinson, are members of the Advisory Group of the Women Leaders Programme.



Laura was on a panel entitled "What the 20th Century has Achieved?"

Laura and Mary Robinson also attended a private dinner hosted by Queen Rania of Jordan and Indra Nooyi, Chair of PepsiCo. The focus was maternal mortality. On a lighter note, during the dinner, Warren Buffet and Bono stopped by to "wait" on the women leaders, pouring coffee and wine.

Council Global Involvement

Upcoming Engagements

Kim Campbell, Prime Minister of Canada 1993:

Tuesday, July 1, 9AM, Council of Europe: Strasbourg, Third Summer University for Democracy, Governance, Power and Democracy, - "Europe and its Neighbours"

Laura A. Liswood, Secretary General of the Council of Women World Leaders:

2008 Women's Business Conference/ Charter 100/ NAWBO, June 11-14, 2008 Phoenix, AZ;

InterAction Meeting, June 24-27, Stockholm, Sweden

The Council in the Media

The New Security Beat

Council Sponsors Climate Change Report

The report from the Council of Women World Leaders' meeting on "How Climate Change Impacts Women" is now available online.

[Read More](#)

[Full Report](#)

Conscious Commerce

Council Chair, Mary Robinson, Speaks at UN Conference

Honorable Mary Robinson was featured as a keynote speaker at the UN Global Compact Hosting Conference on April 28, 2008 at the Harvard Business School. The conference focused on "Business and Human Rights" and celebrated the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

[Read More](#)

Polskie Radio

Madeleine Albright in Warsaw

Madeleine K. Albright, Council Chair Emerita of the Ministerial Initiative, meets with Polish President Lech Kaczynski and partakes in the 13th Tischner Debate on the values of international politics.

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Huffington Post

A Gender Perspective on the World Economic Forum at Davos

Laura Liswood discusses the achievements and challenges of women's empowerment in the 20th century.

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Huffington Post

The Other Woman Running For President

Hillary Clinton isn't the only strong female contender in a major political race. Margot Wallstrom, currently one of five Vice Presidents of the European Commission, is running for president of the European Council, the highest political body in the European Union. Laura Liswood discusses Wallstrom's candidacy and its similarities to the U.S. Democratic candidates.

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E! Sharp

Another Angle

Polly Toynbee explores the role of women as heads of state of European Union nations.

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The Financial Times

Europe's Male Cartel Should be Broken

Margot Wallstrom, chair of the Council's Ministerial Initiative, advocates for the end of the era of male political dominance, and for greater engagement of women in high levels of European politics.

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