

THE ASPEN INSTITUTE



COUNCIL OF WOMEN WORLD LEADERS

Greetings!

Welcome to the Council's 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 to be democratically elected president, and [Laura Liswood](#), the Council's 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 equity, 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 Chair of the Ministerial Initiative.

In This Issue

[Cherie Blair Book Talk](#)

[Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum 2008](#)

[Global Gender Gap Report 2008](#)

[Graduate Fellowships](#)

[Council in the Media](#)

[Cherie Blair Book Talk](#)



The Council, in partnership with the Aspen Institute's Alma and Joseph Gildenhorn Book Series, hosted Cherie Blair in a discussion on her recently released autobiography, *Speaking for Myself: My Life from Liverpool to Downing Street*.

Watch the full video interview [here](#).

Support the Council!

NOW...

more than ever, leadership is important in our country and in our world.

The Council of Women World Leaders counts on your support to continue its vital work.



The Council remains committed to its mission of promoting good governance and of enhancing the experience of democracy globally by increasing the number, effectiveness, and visibility of women who lead at the highest levels in their countries. In order to fund our activities to this end, the Council, as a self-sustaining policy program at the Aspen Institute, relies on your charitable donations. To support the Council, please go to our [website](#) or [DONATE](#).

Newest Council Member



The Council would like to

Read the [Book Discussion Event Report](#).

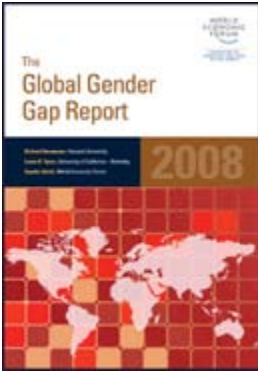
[Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum](#)



The [Aspen Cultural Diplomacy Forum 2008](#) (the Forum) was the inaugural worldwide event convening artists, politicians, academics, and representatives of business and the non-profit sector on a neutral platform to discuss possible solutions to critical issues in the field of arts and culture. Over 150 participants reflected on the use of diverse media, arts, and cultural resources for the strengthening of international relations, mutual understanding, security, and peace-building efforts. The Council, in keeping with our mission of increasing the number, effectiveness, and visibility of women who lead their countries, welcomed women ministers of culture from Lesotho and South Africa to the Forum where their rich expertise and unique perspectives on cultural diplomacy added value and distinction to the dialogue in the Forum's sessions.

[Download](#) the Forum program and schedule.

[Global Gender Gap Report 2008](#)



The Council, in partnership with the World Bank's Group Gender Action Plan, hosted a discussion titled Women's Empowerment: Countries Closing the Gender Gap - The World Economic Forum Global [Gender Gap Report](#) 2008. The report was presented by Saadia Zahidi, Head of the Women Leaders and Gender Parity Programme at the World Economic Forum and co-author of the Report. In addition to introducing the Gender Gap Index and explaining its four components of economic participation and opportunity, educational attainment, political empowerment, and health and survival, Ms. Zahidi highlighted top-ranking countries, global trends, and significant changes in ranking over time.

[Download](#) the report.

[Graduate Fellowships](#)



The Council's Graduate Fellowship Program continues to be a success. This year the Council placed ten graduate fellows in the offices of leaders globally.

[Summer 2008 Columbia University Graduate Fellows](#)

welcome its newest member [Dr. Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner](#), President of Argentina.

EU-US Relations



[Advice to the Incoming American President on EU - US Relations](#)

October 3, 2008 - The Council hosted an intimate dialogue between former United States Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright (1997-2001) and the Honorable Margot Wallström, Vice-President of the European Commission and Chair of the Council of Women World Leaders' Ministerial Initiative, titled Advice to the Incoming American President on EU - US Relations.

The dialogue generated discussion around a variety of global issues and highlighted that the relationship between the European Union and the United States is essential, and that, if further strengthened, this partnership can help address the multitude of challenges faced by all nations.

Read Margot Wallström's [Call to Action](#) to President-Elect Obama.

Upcoming Events

[Summer 2008 Harvard University, Kennedy School of Government Graduate Fellows](#)

Click [here](#) for more information on the Graduate Fellowship Program and to see what the students had to say about their experience.

Public Health Fellowship Program

The Council is seeking to expand its Graduate Fellowship Program to public health graduate students in partnership with top-ranked public health schools from around the world and with pharmaceutical foundations. Selected students will be placed in the offices of members of the Network of Women Ministers of Health to receive hands-on professional experience working with leaders who are engaged in promoting women's health globally.

Council in the Media



Daw Aung San Suu Kyi named [Honorary Council Member](#).

Council Members support the release of Burmese political prisoners. Read the letter of support [here](#).

For the fourth year, Council of Women World Leaders Secretary General Laura Liswood has assisted Forbes in compiling its annual list of the world's 100 most powerful women. The list includes Council members Angela Merkel, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, Yulia Tymoshenko, Michelle Bachelet, Gloria Arroyo, Helen Clark, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, Tarja Halonen, and Mary McAleese. [Read more...](#)

and Initiatives

Colloquium

[International Colloquium](#)

In March 2009, the Government of Liberia will host the International Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security. This two-day event will empower women to be more effective leaders by linking with their peers from around the world and by sharing and implementing best practices on economic empowerment, climate change, and sustainable development. The Council will host a meeting of its members on the occasion of the Colloquium, chaired by H.E. Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Liberia's and Africa's first woman president.

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

[Forward email](#)



This email was sent to info@cwwl.org by info@cwwl.org. Instant removal with [SafeUnsubscribe™](#) | [Privacy Policy](#).

Email Marketing by



Council of Women World Leaders | The Aspen Institute | One Dupont Circle NW, Suite 700 | Washington | DC | 20036