



Why Women?

From fighting to uniting,
our role in changing global culture

"Prevention, protection and provision for women and families against all forms of violence."

October 9, Houses of Parliament, London

WFWPI Knowing our Rights, living our Dignity Series

Introduction

- ◆ In our current society, maintaining peace requires imposing and enforcing laws and mandates.
- ◆ While these methods are effective to an extent, they do not nurture a state of durable, lasting peace.
- ◆ Must we abide by this current system? Or is there a better approach?

Human Rights & Duties

How far ARE we willing to go?



If all 30 Articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights are fulfilled, will we have created a Culture of Peace?

- ❖ Only if we are able to find the incentive to come to a new consensus about moral imperatives associated with our « duties ».
- ❖ Only if we can agree to a convincing strategy and values-framework that allows that to happen naturally, motivation to do so springs from one's deepest heart, not by any artificial enforcement.
- ❖ Only if we can provide a dignified role and a network of interdependence for each member of the global family,
- ❖ Only when women are encouraged to see themselves as leaders and nurturers in the larger framework- as they do in family

Is there an existing paradigm.....?? Let's consider the family, not only as victim, but as resource and remedy.

- ❖ Many international mechanisms skip “family”; jumping from individual to community. Why is it that in terms of policy, the family is left to fend on its own?
- ❖ If we give women only the opportunity to be treated as victims, we lose the reality of their capacity as peace-makers, as agents of development...similar for family
- ❖ With this renewed paradigm, women become leaders. Women are leaders in their families, and their distinct brand of nurturing, compassionate leadership is lacking in many areas of society.
- ❖ What if society were organized more like a family?

Gender roles and shared leadership



From matriarchy.., patriarchy..
to **“Familiarchy”**

We propose a new framework for peace...

Famili-archy | 'fam(ə)lē ,ärkē|

- ◆ **A system of society in which the family unit is the nexus; parents, children, and extended family members cooperate according to their interdependent roles to enhance each member's value.**
- ◆ **They contribute both as a whole and as individual members to the development of larger community, ultimately becoming an intertwined network of empowered families.**
- ◆ **Expanding naturally to an inclusive system of government in which men and women share responsibility similar to the way that parents guide and nurture their children, taking into consideration advice and active involvement by family elders, as well as youth.**

Examples of Familiarchy

- ◆ When a baby cries as his parents argue, he reminds them that their unity as a family is more important than who's right or wrong in an argument.
- ◆ Working spouses advocating for family-friendly work environments and flexible hours helps to shift social standards of success away from "the bottom line" and towards healthy family life.
- ◆ Women and men giving each other the "support" to be more assertive and more sensitive, respectfully, creates a more balanced and empowered society.

Examples of Familiarchy

- ◆ With respect given to long experience and sacrificial investment of elders, the youth's concerns and views are also greatly appreciated.
- ◆ The most fertile ground for character development and responsible citizenship is within a system of reinforcement of one's goodness and intrinsic value to that system.

Ennobling Femininity by Empowering the Family

- ◆ This paradigm shift will do much towards the acceptance of a masculinity where men are not pressured to satisfy a very restricted notion of manhood. “Male Roles, Masculinities and Violence”
- ◆ It will transform the demeaning stereotyping of women as objects, used, maybe victims, but not cherished
- ◆ Ennobling relations between men and women, partners in development and peace, involves charting a new depth of intellectual, emotional, spiritual dimensions of masculinity and femininity....
- ◆ ...passing it on to the next generation through healthy, positive role models.

Recommendations

- ◆ Women should be aware of their rights, and their unique capacities to respond to global needs such as the MDGs/ Post 2015 Development Goals
- ◆ Women should participate in decisions that affect their lives, learning leadership from childhood, where they already recognize the paradigm of feminine leadership in their mother
- ◆ United Nations, Governments, Institutions, NGO's and the Media should cooperate with families to educate women about their rights and specific entitlements.
- ◆ Peace and development in the society can be achieved through specific feminine qualities, therefore the community should support women in strengthening them.

Recommendations

- ◆ **Human Rights or Peace Education should be prioritized as part of standard curriculum, as a guide to attitudes and behavior needed by responsible global citizens.**
- ◆ **Women have responsibility to assess their own portion of responsibility in failed governance at all levels. (rising from victim to leader mindset)**
- ◆ **Gender roles are influenced by socialization, yet existing innate values of feminine and masculine dignity can be best discovered through parental role models; appropriate training in parenting skills should be made accessible**