



## GEAR Campaign Focal Points

In Africa, the GEAR regional focal point is the **African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)** based in Kenya. FEMNET is a large network comprised of more than 500 women's organizations across Africa. FEMNET works through/with national focal points in almost every African country to strengthen the role and contribution of African NGOs focusing on women's development, equality and other human rights. It provides a channel through which these NGOs can make an impact, reach one another and share experiences, information and strategies to improve their work and the lives of their communities. Some of its strong partners are other networks and organizations that exist and operate within Africa, such as SOAWR (Solidarity for African Women's Rights), Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), Women Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), Association of African Women for Research and Development (AAWORD) and East African Sub-regional Support Initiative (EASSI).

In Europe, **WIDE-Globalizing Gender Equality and Social Justice**, a European feminist network (based in Belgium) composed of women's and development NGOs, gender specialists and women's rights activists across the continent is the GEAR main focal point for Europe. WIDE works on bringing a feminist perspective to international economic and development policy discourses. It specializes on women's rights as a basis for development, through advocacy, research and policy analysis on gender equality and social justice.

In Latin America, the Argentina-based **Fundacion para Estudio e Investigacion de la Mujer (FEIM)** is the GEAR regional focal point and primary partner. FEIM is a non-governmental and non-profit organization created in 1989 specializing in gender issues. Its focus is to develop research, studies, programs, projects, training and other activities in order to improve the social, labor, legal, political, economic, family and health status of women in Argentina. FEIM has offices in Buenos Aires and works regionally and internationally through networks to develop joint projects with women's and youth organizations, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and Africa. Its strong partners on GEAR are in Mexico, Chile, Uruguay, Brazil, Venezuela, Peru, Guatemala and Argentina among others.

In the Caribbean, the GEAR primary focal point is the **Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women**, a comprehensive national umbrella organization. The Network was formed in 1985 to present the position of women in Trinidad and Tobago at the End of Decade Conference in Nairobi. It is an advocacy network that provides support for women's organizations in Trinidad and Tobago. The Network has expertise in women's political participation, gender equality and

empowerment through training, lobby and advocacy. It is part of many regional and international networks of women.

**Asia Pacific Women's Watch (APWW)** is GEAR's Southeast Asia regional focal point. APWW is a formal network composed of national and regional networks of women's groups, dealing on women's issues within the UN designated Asia Pacific Region. Created in 1999, APWW is dedicated to advocating and monitoring the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA) and the outcome document from the UN General Assembly on Women 2000 or Beijing + 5. It facilitates communication and collaboration among women's organizations and networks through a group mailing list of approximately 500 organizations.

**South Asian Campaign for Gender Equality (SACGE)** a network comprised of about 200 organizations from five countries of South Asia (Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka) is the GEAR South Asia regional focal point. SACGE was formed in early 2006 to advocate and lobby for the integration of South Asian perspectives into the UN Gender Equality Architecture Reform process. The network has a focal point in each of these five countries ensuring broader participation.

Saathi is the regional secretariat for SACGE and is based in Kathmandu, Nepal. Established in 1992, it is a well known national and regional advocacy organization with extensive expertise in the area of violence against women and gender equality.