



Advocacy Update

Sent April 7, 2010

Restoring Dignity for Women

Janet Stovin, WRJ's delegate to the Non-Governmental Organization/ Department of Public Information at the U.N., reports that on March 2, 2010, Religions for Peace (RfP) launched the North American Women of Faith Network at its two day Restoring Dignity: Women of Faith Leadership Summit. The network, one of six launched so far in various regions of the world, published a declaration that outlines its mission and sets its priorities: ending violence against women, developing young women leaders, improving maternal health, and dealing with the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Most importantly the declaration includes a platform for action and calls on faith-based organizations to implement the priorities. Judith Hertz, past president of WRJ, is on the network's coordinating committee.

The network's goals include mobilizing women clergy to focus attention on the network's priorities by giving them visibility from the pulpit. The goals also include activating women clergy and religious feminists to advance women's dignity by working within their own communities and across faith lines to form networks on the grassroots, regional, national, and international levels to address the priority areas. The summit was held on the first two days of the 54th meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women and included women from faith-based organizations around the world and was another demonstration of the achievements possible when women work together.

Support the International Violence Against Women Act

Your sisterhood members can take action today to advance the well-being of women globally by calling on your representatives and senators to support the bi-partisan International Violence Against Women Act (IVAWA). Please do so today.