



Annual Report 2006

Table of Contents:

I. Mission & Vision	Page 2
II. Message from the Nobel Women	Page 3
III. Acknowledging Support	Page 4
IV. Executive Summary	Page 4
V. Development	Page 5
VI. Activities & Projects	Page 6 - 8
VII. Outreach & Partnerships	Page 9
VIII. Change Initiatives & Support	Page 9 - 11
IX. Financial Summary	Page 12 - 14

Mission & Vision

We believe that peace is much more than the absence of armed conflict. Peace is the commitment to equality and justice; a democratic world free of physical, economic, cultural, political, religious, sexual and environmental violence and the constant threat of these forms of violence against women – indeed against all of humanity. We also believe that violence is a choice and the creation of a just and peaceful world must start with people. We will not accept any solutions based on violence or the abuse of ideology, science or religion.

It is the heartfelt mission of the Nobel Women's Initiative to address and prevent the root causes of violence by spotlighting and promoting the efforts of women's rights activists, researchers and organizations working to advance peace, justice and equality. It is our vision to create a culture of peace defined by a commitment to choosing non-violence and working for equality with justice.

Message from the Nobel Women

We six women Nobel Peace Laureates, whose roots are in North and South America, Europe, the Middle East and Africa, believe the Nobel Peace Prize confers both great honor and great responsibility. It is this sense of responsibility that compelled us to create the Nobel Women's Initiative in January 2006 to help strengthen work being done in support of women's rights and peace around the world, work too often carried out with little recognition. With our various experiences over thirty years and on every continent, we know that women are an unshakable force for peace. We also know, however, that women's work in building a more peaceful, secure world is too often marginalized and unrecognized and women face relentless threats of violence as they carry out their work around the world.

In creating the NWI we wanted to turn the Nobel Prize, an honor bestowed on our work, into a force for strengthening the work being carried out by these unrecognized women. One way we aimed to do so was by sharing our visibility and access to media with women's rights and peace campaigns at strategic moments and by connecting women's voices, priorities and solutions with high-level global policy-makers.

Yet, when we established this Initiative just over a year ago, we did not know if it was a sound one. We did not know if we could commit fully to this joint effort, in addition to carrying out our own work; we did not know if we shared common ground in our goals for addressing peace and women's rights; we did not know if we could settle on concrete actions, as much of this terrain is new to us; and we did not know if existing networks of women's rights activists would welcome our Initiative. But our first year not only allayed our doubts- it exceeded all our expectations! Our Initiative has captured our imaginations – and women's rights advocates' worldwide. We, ourselves, have contributed more time, energy and financial resources than even we anticipated. We have been energized by our work together- turning our initial idea into genuine action, developing meaningful projects together, and indeed the welcome and enthusiastic responses from our partners. We are thrilled with the progress we've made in our first year and the potential for our Initiative and we are committed to ensuring its future success!

Betty Williams *Mairead Maguire* *Rigoberta Menchu Tum*

Betty Williams

Mairead Corrigan Maguire

Rigoberta Menchu Tum

Jody Williams

Shirin Ebadi

Wangari Maathai

Jody Williams

Shirin Ebadi

Wangari Maathai



Acknowledging Support

We would like to thank the following supporters of the Nobel Women's Initiative. Without their generous support, encouragement and collaboration the success of our first year would not have been possible.

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Swiss Ministry of Foreign Affairs
American Friends Service Committee
The Global Fund for Women
The Peace Jam Foundation
Samuel Ruben Foundation
Tides Foundation
University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work
Jerry Murdoch
Emily Simon
several generous individuals
All of the women Nobel Peace Prize Laureates

Executive Summary

In order to help us contribute to advancing the cause of women, we focused on establishing our initiative as quickly as possible in 2006. Activities from January through April focused on formally establishing the NWI and setting up offices in Canada and the US. From June to December we focused on implementing strategies and actions on a variety of critical issues, including violence against women in the Middle East, disarmament and UN reform. Throughout 2006 we worked to develop partnerships with international activists and organizations working on critical women's and peace movements and took actions calling for the freedom of our sister Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma. We ended the year by turning our focus to planning "The Nobel Women's First International Conference: Women Redefining Peace in The Middle East & Beyond" which will take place in Galway, Ireland in May 2007.

"We have come a long way from ignorance to deep insight, from fear to courage... We moved from self to others, from 'my issue' to 'our issues', from home to communities, from national level to global. Now we embrace the concepts of our common home and future." ~ Wangari Maathai

Development

The Nobel Women's Initiative (NWI) got off the ground in January 2006 with a staff of one-Director Liz Bernstein. Liz came to the NWI after more than a decade working with the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, where she helped found the Cambodian Campaign in the early 1990's and coordinated the International Campaign from 1998 to 2005. She also coordinated Make Poverty History Campaign Canada in 2005.

The University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work (GCSW) also generously provided a graduate student, Demetri Lopez, to serve as a full-time intern. In August 2006 NWI hired Demetri as a Program Associate. Demetri maintains an NWI office at the GCSW, where she supervises our growing internship program.

Early in 2006 NWI put together a working group of women activists and academics engaged in a variety of work around women's rights issues. The group of 5 women, selected by the laureates, participates in strategy discussions and action planning to help shape the development of the Initiative.

We registered as a not-for-profit corporation in Canada, and set up our office, sharing space with the Canadian Research Institute for the Advancement of Women. We also launched our website www.nobelwomensinitiative.org, our NWI quarterly Updates, and implemented a number of other tools to enhance outreach and facilitate effective communication.

We held several planning meetings throughout 2006. The first took place in April in Los Angeles. During these initial discussions we developed our Mission Statement, discussed our goals and strategies, as well as actions to achieve them. In September we held a second planning meeting in Denver, Colorado where we reviewed recent NWI activities, confirmed plans for our first international conference to be held in 2007 and strategized about other future events and initiatives.



Clockwise from top left: Nobel Peace laureates Archbishop Desmond TuTu, His Holiness the Dali Lama, Betty Williams, Shirin Ebadi, Mairead Maguire, Adolfo Perez Esquivel, Rigoberta Manchu Tum, and Jody Williams in Denver at PeaceJam's 10th Anniversary

Activities & Projects

In 2006 we took action on a number of important issues, many of which were related to the violence wreaking havoc on the Middle East and the devastating impact this violence has on women. Our main activities and projects are described below.

US-Iran conflict: delegation to Vienna

While gathering for our first meeting in April and setting out our priorities for the year, tensions mounted between the US and Iran over Iran's nuclear program. Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams, feeling a particular responsibility as US and Iranian Peace Laureates, responded to the standoff between their governments by setting in motion a series of actions to promote women's engagement in conflict resolution in the Middle East. We saw engagement in this issue as a natural and important first project and a meaningful way to contribute to women's efforts at conflict prevention.

Ebadi and Williams immediately issued a joint statement and held a press conference on the mounting conflict, in partnership with the Feminist Majority Foundation. Next, in June, Williams and Ebadi led a delegation of American and Iranian women's and other civil society organizations to Vienna for meetings with representatives of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors and senior IAEA officials working on Iran's nuclear program. Williams and Ebadi attended a meeting with IAEA Director General, Dr. ElBaradei. NWI not only led this delegation to meet with relevant governments to urge a negotiated solution to the US-Iran stalemate, but most importantly to broaden cooperation between Iranian and US civil society. The gathering was the first of its kind and received media coverage in more than 30 international newspapers and websites.

This delegation contributed to achieving two of NWI's primary goals: to build bridges between women's rights activists and to use the prestige of the Nobel Peace Prize to help strengthen their work. First, by promoting greater exchange between Iranian and US NGO's we were able to initiate proactive collaboration between activists from opposite sides of world who are working to prevent a conflict that will inevitably fall hardest on the women of their nations. Second, Ebadi and Williams were able to use their position as Nobel Laureates to secure high-level meetings between government officials and our delegation, as well as international media coverage. We then used these meetings to highlight the work being done by the women in our delegation- work that would be severely undermined if a war between the US and Iran erupts.

NWI scheduled follow up activities in the U.S. with Williams and Ebadi in 2007.

Jody Williams and Shirin Ebadi with members of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Vienna 2006



Human and women's rights in Iran

In June, a peaceful demonstration in Tehran, Iran, which NWI had issued a letter of support for, turned violent as police used force to disperse the gathering. Many women and girls were beaten and 70 people, including 28 men, were arrested. We immediately condemned this act of violence and issued an action alert urging the public to write letters to the Iranian authorities demanding an end to the persecution of nonviolent activists and an investigation into the police beatings. Shirin Ebadi agreed to legally represent several of the activists.



Shirin Ebadi and Jody Williams with colleagues during "Rebuilding Us-Iran Relations" event in Washington, DC
January 2007

As a follow-up to the June 12 demonstration, Iranian women's rights activists launched a landmark signature campaign "One Million Signatures Demanding Changes to Discriminatory Laws." Under the leadership of Ebadi, NWI helped collect the signatures of several Nobel Peace Laureates and other prominent individuals and kept our website updated with campaign news and action alerts.

In August we saw more aggression against our allies in Iran when the Iranian government declared the Center for the Defense of Human Rights (CDHR) illegal and threatened its president, Shirin Ebadi, and her staff with prosecution if they continued their human rights activities. The NWI mobilized another urgent action alert, contacted government representatives who responded by issuing statements or conducting demarches, and organized together with PeaceJam, a letter of support from ten Nobel Peace Prize Laureates. In September, Dr. Ebadi informed NWI that the support the international community offered her and the CDHR was extremely helpful. The NWI remains vigilant and continues to demand respect for human rights and women's rights in Iran.

"The rise in power of a few select women, or the election of a handful of women to the Parliament will not solve anything. The true victory of women will occur when discriminatory laws are lifted and democracy is realized." ~ Shirin Ebadi

"We have learned that change cannot come through war. War is not a feasible tool to use in fighting against the oppression we face. War has caused more problems. We cannot embrace that path." ~ Rigoberta Menchu Tum

Israel-Lebanon-Gaza conflict

In July NWI responded to the devastating violence that broke out in Israel-Lebanon-Gaza by issuing an action alert urging the public to donate to women's organizations providing relief and support to civilians, particularly women and children who were disproportionately affected by the violence. We also issued a statement calling upon the government of Israel and all other armed groups to declare an immediate ceasefire. Ebadi and Williams wrote an editorial, published in the *International Herald Tribune*, demanding that the UN Security Council intervene to stop the violence.



Shirin Edbadi, Wangari Maathai, and Jody Williams at the World Social Forum Kenya 2007

The Nobel Women's Initiative's First International Conference

Having decided our first international conference would focus on women's role in redefining peace in the Middle East, we spent the last several months of 2006 clarifying our goals and objectives for the conference and preparing conference logistics. In close collaboration with our working group and other partners, we drafted an agenda for "The Nobel Women's First International Conference: Women Redefining Peace in The Middle East & Beyond" which will take place in Galway, Ireland from 29-31 May 2007. We will invite 70 women's rights activists and researchers from around the world- including ex-political prisoners, founders of international rights organizations, disarmament experts, journalists and the most promising emerging activists- to join us for discussions aimed at deepening our understanding of how the private and public dynamics of violence against women, particularly in the Middle East, intersect and therefore how our solutions must reflect a far more integrated approach. In collaboration with conference participants we will identify how we as NWI can best help spotlight critical women's efforts and advance some of the recommendations to come out of this meeting.

"If we have any power as an individual, it's because we work with other individuals in countries all over the world... We've all worked together to bring about extraordinary change." ~ Jody Williams

Outreach & Partnerships

During 2006 a priority for NWI was outreach to establish and develop partnerships with activists working on critical women's and peace movements, so that we can help strengthen their work by participating in and supporting their initiatives. We are pleased to have begun developing close working relationships with a variety of groups.

Some of the activities we were excited to participate in during 2006 include the *Global Women's Action Network for Children Conference "Mobilizing for Action,"* under the patronage of Her Majesty Queen Rania Al-Abdullah and co-hosted by Children's Defense Fund (US) and National Council for Family Affairs (Jordan); the *Vancouver World Peace Forum*, the 9/11 Families for Peaceful Tomorrows conference *"Civilian Casualties, Civilian Solutions"*; the launch event for the *Women Leaders Intercultural Forum (WLIF)*; the *"Money and Movements"* international meeting sponsored by AWID and Semillas.

We were also able to support the efforts of some of our long time partners by participating in activities such as PeaceJam's 10th anniversary celebration held in Denver Colorado where ten Nobel Laureates, including 5 members of NWI, issued a "Global Call to Action," launching a 10-year campaign to work with global youth to address ten core social problems. In September, NWI took part in the *Mothers of the Earth for World Peace Summit* in Piacenza, Italy, hosted by Betty Williams' World Centers for Compassion for Children International (WCCCI) in partnership with the Gorbachev Foundation. In November, Jody Williams and Betty Williams joined Rigoberta Menchú Tum in Guatemala for a series of activities related to the 10th anniversary of the Guatemalan Peace Accords.

"Thirty years in the field has convinced me of one thing, the obvious fact that there are no answers from the top down...If we are committed to helping our world's children, then we must begin to create solutions from the bottom up." ~Betty Williams

Change Initiatives & Support

Our endorsement of other groups' work is a key to our mission of spotlighting and promoting the efforts of activists, researchers and organizations working to advance women's rights and peace with justice and equality. In 2006 we purposefully focused our limited resources on strategically endorsing initiatives that were at critical phases- where our support would have the most impact in helping a campaign achieve its goals. Some of the campaigns we endorsed and issues we engaged in during 2006 are described below.

"If we want to reap the harvest of peace and justice in the future, we will have to sow seeds of nonviolence, here and now, in the present." ~Mairead Maguire

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

We view UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security as a conceptual underpinning for our work, as well as a framework for NWI action. In 2006 we introduced ourselves to key women's organizations working on women, peace and security and gathered input on how we can best, most strategically be helpful in their work on 1325 implementation. In October we drafted and circulated an op-ed in honor of 1325's six year anniversary, highlighting how a new UN women's agency could benefit 1325 implementation. We also included 1325 news on our website and in our electronic newsletters throughout the year.

UN Reform: A Women's Agency

We worked with partners to monitor the UN reform process to ensure the world body prioritizes advancing women's equality and women's human rights as it carries out its work. We endorsed a statement issued by more than 90 international women's organizations welcoming the High Level Panel's proposal for a new UN Women's Agency and urging full and rapid implementation. NWI is committed to ensuring governments commit financially and politically to the Agency.

Other campaigns we endorsed this year include:

- Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC): We endorsed this campaign for a new international treaty addressing cluster munitions and wrote an op-ed which appeared in the *Ottawa Citizen* during the critical Review Conference of the Convention on Conventional Weapons in November. During the Conference 30 states expressed their willingness to begin negotiations on a new cluster munition treaty. NWI will continue to support the CMC as they work to conclude the treaty;
- Control Arms Campaign: We signed their statement to the General Assembly calling for an Arms Trade Treaty. An overwhelming majority of the world's governments voted to start work on such a treaty. We will continue to support the campaign in its next crucial phase;
- Debt cancellation: We joined Adolfo Perez Esquivel and other Nobel laureates in calling for the cancellation of outstanding debt and celebrated Norway's announcement that it would unilaterally cancel US\$80 million in illegitimate debts owed by 5 countries;
- Feminist International Radio Endeavor: We participated in virtual observations of the Nicaraguan elections organized by the Feminist International Radio Endeavor together with Nicaraguan women's organizations and issued a statement on "Women and the Nicaraguan Elections".

"The cause of peace and human security, the protection and wellbeing of civilians, the eradication of violence and hatred, the survival of our planet and the freedom of its people demands a new arrangement... That arrangement is a UN agency that promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women overall, in times of peace and times of conflict."

~ Nobel Women's Initiative on a new UN women's agency

Aung San Suu Kyi and the people of Burma

Of the seven living women Nobel Peace Laureates only Suu Kyi, still imprisoned in Burma, is unable to formally join the work of NWI though we are confident she shares our vision. Throughout the year we witnessed Suu Kyi's sentence lengthened, communications restricted and security around her tightened. NWI contacted Secretary General Annan and members of the Security Council and called on them to urgently adopt a binding, non-punitive resolution to help bring about national reconciliation and democracy in Burma. In addition, NWI worked to raise public awareness of the situation in Burma by providing information on our website and regularly calling for Suu Kyi's immediate and unconditional release during NWI press conferences and public events. During November and December NWI planned a collective action (January 2007) where we organized 13 Nobel Peace Laureates worldwide- from Seoul to Washington- to seek visas to visit their sister Laureate.

For more information about specific activities and events please refer to the NWI website news page which provides articles about many of our projects: www.nobelwomensinitiative.org/news



NWI and US Campaign for Burma demonstration for the release of Aung San Suu Kyi
January 2007

"The people of Burma deserve freedom. It will not happen, though, unless we press the governments of the world to take action."
~ Jody Williams

Financial Summary

van Berkom & Ritz completed the 2006 NWI Independent Audit. The following excerpt is taken from their report.

A full copy of the report is available upon request.

van Berkom & Ritz

100-1755 COURTYARD CIRCLE - OTTAWA, ON K2C 2E5 TEL: 613-829-8292 F: 613-221-0604

AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Directors of **Nobel Women's Initiative**:

We have audited the statement of financial position of **Nobel Women's Initiative** as at December 31, 2006 and the statement of revenues, expenses and changes in net assets for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2006 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Ottawa, Ontario
January 29, 2007

van Berkom & Ritz
Chartered Accountants

Financial Summary

van Berkom & Ritz completed the 2006 NWI Independent Audit.
The following excerpt is taken from their report.

A full copy of the report is available upon request.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION	
NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE	
December 31, 2006	
	<u>U.S. \$</u>
ASSETS	
CURRENT ASSETS	
Cash	\$ 27,148
Contributions receivable	7,804
Prepaid expenses	<u>234</u>
	<u>\$ 35,186</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	
CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 16,862
Deferred contributions	<u>10,000</u>
	26,862
NET ASSETS	<u>8,324</u>
	<u>\$ 35,186</u>
See notes to financial statements	



Financial Summary

van Berkom & Ritz completed the 2006 NWI Independent Audit.
The following excerpt is taken from their report.

A full copy of the report is available upon request.

STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENSES AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS	
NOBEL WOMEN'S INITIATIVE	
For the Year Ended December 31, 2006	
	<u>U.S. \$</u>
REVENUES	
Government of Norway	\$ 75,555
Government of Switzerland	39,000
Donations	47,078
Other grants	23,500
Foundations	2,367
Contributed services (Note D)	6,805
Interest	<u>1,063</u>
	195,368
EXPENSES (See Schedule)	
<u>Administration</u>	
Equipment	2,021
Office and general	6,973
Printing and photocopying	3,732
Professional fees	9,538
Rent	<u>4,466</u>
	<u>26,730</u>
<u>Communications</u>	
Design	3,650
Resources	2,066
Telecommunications	3,146
Translation	3,094
Web site	<u>6,344</u>
	<u>18,300</u>
<u>Staffing</u>	
Contract	71,708
Program associate	<u>14,751</u>
	<u>86,459</u>
<u>Travel and meetings</u>	
Vienna delegation	20,357
Travel	22,436
Travel related expenses	11,659
Meeting costs	<u>1,103</u>
	<u>55,555</u>
	<u>187,044</u>
EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES AND NET ASSETS AT END OF YEAR	\$ <u>8,324</u>

See notes to financial statements