

NEW YORK STATE AAUW

MY SISTER'S KEEPER PROJECT The Second Year

I am my sister's keeper.

We are in this together.

Not to win

Not to compete

Not to conquer

But to educate

To nurture

To help.

We are each other's keeper.

Let us celebrate

The power within us all

To make the difference

To change the world!

Dr. Natasha Josefowitz

The **My Sister's Keeper** project was launched in July, 2010 and is the New York State American Association of University Women's statewide project. Developed by Melissa Guardaro, New York State AAUW International Chair and Joan Monk, New York State AAUW District Coordinator Chair, the goal of **My Sister's Keeper** is to foster a greater understanding of the plight of women worldwide and within our domestic borders. Individuals, interest groups and branches were encouraged to develop programming, volunteering, advocacy and education outlets for women suffering from the issues of gendercide, violence, lack of educational opportunities, lack of maternal health care and support the rights of women, and gender equality.

MSK UPDATE

The first year of **My Sister's Keeper** has been a resounding success with the majority of New York State branches participating and embarking on programs to help women around the world. Please see the list attached which outlines the impressive efforts on a branch-by-branch basis. We would like to build upon these successes and incorporate what we have learned to make the second year of **My Sister's Keeper** more successful and sustainable.

For more information or if you have any questions, please contact Melissa Guardaro at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/Response%20forms/intlform.htm> or Joan Monk at <http://www.aauw-nys.org/Response%20forms/districtform.htm>. Also, please do the proper due diligence when considering donations with any of the organizations listed within this program. AAUW New York State is not responsible for any adverse situations arising out of utilizing any of the sources listed.

MSK 2.0

The focus of the efforts in the second year of the statewide project, My Sister's Keeper, will center on sustainability and providing enduring opportunities. We need to know and understand the issues, solutions already tried and ask the right (or tough?) questions. Much has been learned by our members over the course of this program. Whether it is a donation, a purchase, volunteering or organizing a school or clinic, the first question for Year Two initiatives should be, "Will this be sustainable?" For example, we have learned that building schools is a noble first step, but the long view requires a steady supply of teachers and materials. How will this be achieved?

It is important to evolve from donor-dependent, philanthropic initiatives to self-sustaining programs. It is also important to have the person or group being assisted make their own decisions and reach their own conclusions rather than have a solution "dictated." We embrace the philosophy that **a self-determined, locally controlled group of men and women understand their situation best and are the real agents of lasting change.**

Second, it is vital to the American Association of University Women to *foster alliances within our branch, state and national* structure. Inter-branch activity is encouraged for MSK 2.0. Branches can share presentation materials and, in several of our state regions, projects and resources overlap between branch areas. **My Sister's Keeper** can be the focus of District conferences and other programming initiatives.

Thirdly, given the widely held view of a dwindling supply of resources and time, it is important to *work with other organizations – local, regional and national* – to encourage greater AAUW participation and membership and forge new alliances. Many of these issues are being tackled by other national organizations and now is the time to combine efforts to solve these pressing problems.

My Sister's Keeper 2.0 Basics:

Utilize past learning, encourage new alliances within AAUW and in your community, then ask the tough questions:

- 1) Who really benefits from this project/work?
- 2) Is it sustainable, will it endure beyond the initial step?
- 3) What other organizations/NGOs are doing this work?
- 4) What can I/we do? How can "fair trade" become part of my lifestyle?

The next year will start with a *branch wide viewing and discussion of one of three films: Favela Rising, The Shape of Water, or The New Recruits.* Each film will encourage discussion and entice current and new members to develop or strengthen programming that will make AAUW NYS a beacon for women's rights, education and equality. (We encourage branches to select other movies to inspire the development of their programs/projects.)

The Movies...

- **Favela Rising** (2005), 80 minutes. This harsh documentary takes place in a Brazilian favela, or slum, and highlights the everyday struggles of its inhabitants against violence, drugs and hopelessness. Through hip-hop music, the rhythms of the street, and Afro-Brazilian dance, a community rallies to counteract the violent oppression enforced by teenage drug

armies and sustained by corrupt police. Jeff Zimbalist, director of *Favela Rising*, comments that, “it seems most people’s image of global harmony or disharmony is predominantly shaped by the media. When I find myself surrounded by stories of the world falling apart, naturally I imagine the world as a place falling apart. The more access I have to stories of communities that work, the more I imagine a world in which people are also realizing change and breaking the odds stacked against them. I am attracted to these vital and inspiring stories because it is in them that I find myself the most activated and alive.” This is the story of a community that is working to make it work. www.favelarising.com

- ***The Shape of Water*** (2006) 70 minutes. Five strong and courageous women in Senegal, Brazil, India and Jerusalem attempt to make a difference in their communities. They are fighting female genital mutilation, defending their rainforest, opposing military occupation and protecting biodiversity. This documentary examines just a few of the many ways in which passionate women around the world are working for social justice. See the trailer at <http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=-7195906120710429824&hl=en>
- ***The New Recruits*** (2010), 55 minutes. This film shows the idealist, recent Ivy-League graduates who are recruited for one year for the Acumen Fund. The Acumen Fund uses entrepreneurial approaches to solve the problems of global poverty. *The New Recruits* takes an unflinching look at social entrepreneurship as an alternative to charity and highlights its ideals, practices and realities. See the trailer at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XSuAtli_72g

My Sister’s Keeper 2.0 Program:

- See the movie and host a discussion with possible coalition partners
- Be inspired to act, plan a program. Be a GI: Get Inspired, Get Informed, Get Involved!
- Involve other AAUW branches, districts, utilize state and national AAUW
- Forge alliances with other “like – mission” groups

My Sister’s Keeper is a call for each member to be our best selves and not turn away from the greater world. We need to develop programs and behaviors that will endure and ensure equality for women and girls for future generations. Dr. Jonas Salk, in 1984, stated that if we are to survive, we have to evolve. This evolution of compassionate behavior and cooperation will ensure not just the survival of the fittest, but the evolution of *everyone*.

The Issues....

Violence Against Women/Human Trafficking/Gendercide

Millions of women in the third world are enslaved in forced labor, including sexual servitude. The International Labor Organization estimates that there are 12.3 million people engaged in forced labor of all kinds.

“All of us – men and women, soldiers and peacekeepers, citizens and leaders – have a responsibility to help end violence against women.” UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Human trafficking is one of the worst forms of violence against women and girls because traffickers commonly use violence to intimidate the victims. Once recruited, women find themselves isolated and often suffer extreme physical and mental abuse and brutality at the hands of the traffickers. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, human trafficking cuts across human rights, peace and security, development and family health. In the most basic sense, it is about preserving the fabric of society. With a better understanding of why women in particular are vulnerable to trafficking, how traffickers operate, and by providing the necessary legal and technical assistance to ensure that effective countermeasures are in place, this crime can be stopped. Eliminating gender discrimination and gender-based violence will enhance the dignity and human rights of women and girls and help prevent their being trafficked.

MSK 2.0:

We have learned that there needs to be a clear understanding about what it means to be enslaved by a trafficker and being in a low paying job. If there is ongoing exploitation and the person is unable to leave, they are being trafficked. Most importantly, if the victim is under 18 years old, CONSENT IS IRRELEVANT. My Sister's Keeper aims to provide an ongoing structure so that these crimes are not perpetrated indefinitely. In our second year, we would like the focus to shift from solely building more crisis centers to addressing the root of the problem and prosecuting the perpetrators. Merely treating the victim is not going to end the problem in the near future.

Lawyers Without Borders is an organization that is bringing lawyers together from around the world to give back through pro bono service--supporting rule of law, economic development, peace-building and sustainability in the legal sector throughout the world. Their motto is Prevention, Protection and Prosecution. This group is providing for a social justice infrastructure in Israel, Palestinian Territories, throughout Africa and other venues. For more information, go to www.lawyerswithoutborders.org.

Education

“When education is distributed unequally in a society, economic growth almost never occurs and human talent is wasted – that is, a poor country’s most valuable asset remains unproductive.” – Director, David M. Kennedy Center of International Studies, Brigham Young University

Based upon research by Kristof and WuDunn, the poorest families in the world spend approximately 10 times as much (20% of gross income) on a combination of alcohol, prostitution, candy, sugary drinks, and lavish feasts as they do on education. If more money were spent on education, particularly education of girls, the family and the society at large would reap many benefits.

Women with formal education are much more likely to have smaller and healthier families. One year of schooling reduces fertility by 10 percent. An educated woman is more likely to seek medical care, get her children immunized, and adopt improved sanitation practices. Education increases income for wage earners and increases productivity for employers. A girl’s education ranks among the most powerful tools for reducing a girl’s vulnerability in contracting HIV/AIDS. A mother’s education is a significant variable for her children’s educational opportunities. Each year of formal education attained by the mother translates into her children’s remaining in school an additional one-third to one-half year.

MSK 2.0

As stated earlier, it is noble to build schools in areas where none existed but we need to ask how this school will be maintained for the long term. The United Nations Millennium Development Goal 2 of providing children everywhere a primary education by 2015 will not be met because there will not be enough teachers to provide an education. There have been reports of schools being built and then a teacher is not available or, worse, fails to perform his/her duties. It is important to ask how teachers will be supplied to the school and who will be purchase school materials.

Secondly, we have seen instances where boys and girls are attending school in equal numbers but being treated very differently. Boys had their own desk, books and pencils. Girls sat in the back of the classroom and shared two to a desk with one book and one pencil. If asked, the statistics of girls and boys *attending* school would be the same; if asked about *access* to equal education, that answer would be different.

Project Have Hope, benefits women in Uganda and helps them transform their lives and the lives of their families. Through the sale of their beautiful, handmade paper bead jewelry, the women can feed their families, send their children to school, and look forward to a richer future. Project Have Hope is a member of the Fair Trade Federation and, as part of the global fair trade movement, works to build equitable and sustainable trading partnerships and create opportunities to alleviate poverty. www.projecthavehope.org

Maternal Health/Reproductive Rights

“One woman dies in childbirth for every 100,000 live births in Ireland. 2,100 women die in childbirth for every 100,000 live births in Sierra Leone.” World Health Organization, 2007.

From the Center on Reproductive Rights:

- In 2005, more than half a million women died due to preventable complications of pregnancy and childbirth. 70,000 women die annually due to complications from unsafe abortions.
- 100 to 140 million women have suffered female circumcision worldwide and an additional 3 million girls and women undergo the procedure each year.
- In 2007, 61% of the 22.5 million people in sub-Saharan Africa living with HIV were women, most of who were infected by their husbands/sexual partners. Nearly 12 million children under 18 in the region have lost one or both parents to AIDS.

Fifteen years ago, world leaders realized that reproductive rights are human rights and promised to take steps to address the reproductive health needs of women. Some progress has been made. More countries are including access to reproductive healthcare and the reduction of maternal mortality in their national policy agendas. Progress has been slow. Unacceptable numbers still die during childbirth and pregnancy, and almost all of those deaths are preventable.

MSK 2.0

Innovation and commitment to the value of every woman and girl will help to solve this problem. BRAC in Bangladesh has embraced this philosophy and reduced maternal mortality by **40%** in 9 years. The BRAC mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. Our interventions aim to achieve large scale, positive changes through economic and social programs that enable men and women to realize their potential.

This improvement in maternal mortality is due to several factors including reducing the number of child marriages and increasing education for women. Since 1972, BRAC has worked to improve nutrition, family planning, and increase maternal check-ups. BRAC has also used a coordinated, community based health project to cater to slum dwellers. Using mobile phones, health workers can monitor and manage patients and refer problem pregnancies to medical centers if necessary. This patient management system allows for communication and early intervention resulting in a reduction of maternal deaths and infant mortality. These trained medical workers are from the community they are treating and are mothers themselves. See the video at <http://www.brac.net/node/832>.

Economic Empowerment

The face of poverty is female...need we say more?

Economic Opportunities

Studies have shown that when women hold the assets or gain income, the money is spent on education, nutrition, medicine, food, and housing. However, often women do not have access to assets or a means of making an income. The economic statistics are bleak: ONE percent of the world's landowners are women.

MSK 2.0

Microfinance has been offered as a possible solution but we have learned that this, also, is not without risks. Since the return on investment is so favorable, large banks and hedge funds have entered this arena without the community involvement and lending structure of the earlier microfinance efforts. One needs to ask if this bank is for the women or for the investor. Also, is this arrangement contributing to long term sustainability for the woman and her family or driving her further into debt?

Women's World Banking is a non-profit microfinance organization that works globally to economically empower poor women and their families (<http://www.swwb.org/about/about-wwb>). This organization works with women to ensure that markets for their products are developed and helps provide access to these markets. Credit alone will not help women to earn an income.

Fair Trade

According to Wikipedia, "fair trade is an organized social movement and market-based approach that aims to help producers in developing countries make better trading conditions and promote sustainability. The movement advocates the payment of a higher price to producers as well as higher social and environmental standards. It focuses in particular on exports from developing countries to developed countries, most notably handicrafts, coffee, cocoa, sugar, tea, bananas, honey, cotton, wine, fresh fruit, chocolate, flowers and gold."

As educated women, we need to explore opportunities to purchase fair trade products whenever possible and use our purses to persuade companies and vendors to support development efforts abroad. The Fair Trade Resource Network provides information and resources about fair trade practices and products. www.fairtraderesource.org

eBay hosts WorldofGood.com and this is the world's largest multi-seller marketplace for socially and environmentally responsible shopping. The site contains an array of products from clothing and shoes to home and garden products. Vendors are categorized by their impact: people positive, eco positive, animal friendly and supports a cause. Learn more about this interesting site where every purchase makes a positive impact.

Gender Rights/Gender Equity

“The oppression of women worldwide is the *human rights* cause of our time. And their liberation could help solve many of the world’s problems, from poverty to child mortality to terrorism.”

New York Times, August 23, 2009

Gender rights are human rights and in building a better world, one half of the population needs to be recognized as worthy of equal treatment. Gender parity in all aspects of life was addressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights ratified by all United Nations members in **1948**.

At the **Rio+20 Summit** in Brazil in May 2012, sustainable development will be discussed. There are three pillars to sustainable development: environmental, economic and social. One of the themes is a green economy in the context of sustainable development and poverty eradication. In order to achieve this gender parity must be addressed. Women are the source of knowledge and skills. Often, they are the ones who manage the energy sector in terms of collecting fuel, who understand biodiversity and how to manage the water, forests and use of medicinal plants. There will be a multiplier effect when implementing green businesses and timesaving technology.

The Rio+20 Secretariat during the fall of 2011 will be organizing social media activities utilizing Facebook, Twitter and the Rio + 20 website. They are asking for help in growing their social media presence. Activities will include, but are not limited to; discussion forums on the themes of the Conference and other cross cutting issues, a picture contest, as well as a unique opportunity to send world leaders a message directly from your home computer. The strength of these activities is in the numbers! You can help by joining (liking) our Rio+20 Facebook page:

<http://www.facebook.com/UNRioplus20> , following on Twitter

http://twitter.com/#!/UN_Rioplus20 or visiting the Rio+20 Website: <http://www.uncsd2012.org>

MSK 2.0

Basic human rights can be served by solving other needs. In Lahore, Pakistan Women’s World Bank helped to provide banking services to poor women. These conservative Muslim women cannot go to a bank branch without transportation and/or a chaperone. Less than 10% have access to banking. However, this organization issued ATM cards which can be used at a variety of outlets and many possibilities opened for savings and other banking services. An interesting plus was that, in order to get an ATM card, you need a National ID card. With the National ID card, these women can now vote, drive a car and stay in a hotel. Basic human rights are served by banking needs.

Book List:

Half the Sky by Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn

The Means of Reproduction: Sex, Power, and the Future of the World by Michelle Goldberg

An exploration of how and why women's reproductive rights are at the cross-roads of economics, politics, human rights, and the environment. *The Means of Reproduction* crosses four continents and examines issues from abortion to female circumcision to female infanticide, showing how the battle over women's bodies has become a global issue, and what consequences this has on over half the world's population. Goldberg also explains how empowering women and giving them reproductive choice could solve many of the world's most problematic health and human rights issues.

Women, Work, and Poverty: Women Centered Research for Policy Change by Heidi Hartman.

Starting with the passage of the welfare reform bill in 1986, this book explores the effect poverty has on all aspects of a woman's life--including marriage, child care, employment, and education--and proposes new labor market policies that could reduce poverty and improve equal pay standards.

Global Woman: Nannies, Maids, and Sex Workers in the New Economy by Arlie Hochschild & Barbara Ehrenreich.

This series of articles that explore the consequences of globalization on women's lives as they leave their home countries in search of employment in affluent First World countries. By focusing on the traditional movement of labor on the basis of supply and demand, *Global Woman* explores how this transfer of women workers affects the culture in both poor and wealthy countries. The enormous rise in the sex trade, both voluntary and coerced, is also considered.

The Blue Sweater: Bridging the Gap Between Rich and Poor in an Interconnected World by

Jacqueline Novogratz. In this memoir, Jacqueline Novogratz (founder of Acumen Fund) recounts her early experiences developing microfinance organizations in Africa to assist women and her later experience returning to Rwanda after the genocide. *The Blue Sweater* offers an insider's view of what global poverty initiatives, specifically microfinance, can do for women in developing nations.

When the Stars Fall to The Earth by Rebecca Tinsley. This is the story of five young Darfuri refugees as they run from their villages to escape certain death from the Sudanese militia. Author and former BBC journalist Rebecca Tinsley takes readers on a roller coaster ride of gut-wrenching atrocities and uplifting victories, leaving everyone with a story of hope and promise for Africa's future. Proceeds from this book go to Network 4 Africa, an organization devoted to helping genocide survivors rebuild their lives.

The Trouble with the Alphabet by Caryn West. The book highlights 26 different countries, one for each letter of the alphabet. The countries selected represent the wide range of human rights abuses and injustices that plague the world and prey on the smallest and youngest in society - the children. Each chapter closes with a respected non-governmental organization working in that country to provide every reader an opportunity to move from apathy to activism...one reader at a time.

Movie List:

Born Into Brothels – The filmmaker takes up residence in a red light district in Calcutta, documenting the tribulations of the women and children who live in this dangerous environment. The children are supplied with simple cameras to document their own lives; their photographs are eventually used to help provide them with an education.

Black Gold – coffee production in Ethiopia

Darwin's Nightmare – Economic and environmental havoc in Tanzania

A Decent Factory – When Nokia, a Finnish cell phone company, resolved to enforce ethical standards in its business practices, a fact-gathering team travels to China to visit one of Nokia's supplying factories, only to discover a history of poor conditions, low wages and unsympathetic factory bosses.

The Dark Side of Chocolate – fair trade/child labor – CNN's Richard Quest talks to filmmaker U. Roberto Romano, whose documentary "The Dark Side of Chocolate" investigates child labor and cocoa fields in the Ivory Coast.

The Devil's Miner – silver mining in Bolivia

Diamonds and Rust – diamond mining in Namibia

Favela Rising – urban slums in Brazil and community action that is uplifting

Giving Back: The Film – Explore this touching, inspiring and riveting new 23-minute documentary by international humanitarian, author and filmmaker Meera Gandhi. Meera explores the deeply personal and unique ways in which her friends from around the world "give back" to humanity. (www.thegivingbackfoundation.net)

If These Walls Could Talk 1 & 2 – abortion/lifestyle choice- Semi-follow up of the first "If These Walls Could Talk" with three segments set in the same house, but with different occupants which spans nearly 40 years. While the first film dealt with women and the topic of abortion, this deals with women and the topic of lesbianism.

Invisible Children – child soldiers/child prostitutes –Invisible Children continues to keep its focus on rescuing Joseph Kony's child soldiers. (www.invisiblechildren.com)

Manufactured Landscapes – industrial mayhem in China and Bangladesh

Moolaade – multifaceted film about the practice of female circumcision and female and male roles in this outlawed practice

Not My Life – Human Trafficking – Filmed on five continents over a period of four years. *Not My Life*, unflinchingly, but with enormous dignity and compassion, depicts the unspeakable practices of a multi-billion dollar global industry whose profits, as the film’s narration says, “are built on the backs and in the beds of our planet’s youth.”

Pushing the Elephant – Story about Rose Mapendo from the Democratic Republic of Congo and her search for peace and forgiveness

Pray the Devil Back to Hell – the courageous story of Liberian women whose grassroots activism changed the course of history.

Recycled Life – World’s 4th Largest Dump in Guatemala – From the toxic depths of the world’s largest landfill in Central America arises a beautiful story of the human spirit.

Taking Root – the story of Nobel Prize winner Wangari Maathai and how her effort to plant trees grew into a nationwide movement to safeguard the environment, protect human rights, and defend democracy—a movement for which this charismatic woman became an iconic inspiration.

Trade – human trafficking – Adriana is a 13-year-old girl from Mexico City who’s kidnapping by sex traffickers sets in motion a desperate mission by her 17-year-old brother, Jorge, to save her.

Uganda 23 – 23 minute documentary about water issues in Uganda. Benjamin E. Hull, a native of Madrid and a rising junior at St. Lawrence University, is directing and filming a 23-minute documentary about water relief in Uganda with the help of his longtime friends, Potsdam natives Joshua J. McGrath and Micah J. Daby. The film educates people about what is going on and show solutions rather than despair.

A Walk to Beautiful – obstetric fistula – With deeply personal dramas and breathtaking cinematography, the award-winning *A Walk to Beautiful* (85 min.) follows five Ethiopian women on their journey from devastating childbirth injury to health and freedom.

Wal-Mart: The High Cost of Low Price – is a feature length documentary that uncovers a retail giant’s assault on families and American values.

Which Way Home – immigration- “Which Way Home” is a feature documentary film that follows unaccompanied child migrants, on their journey through Mexico, as they try to reach the United States.

Web Site Resource Guide:

General:

UN Academic Impact; sharing a culture of intellectual social responsibility –

www.facebook.com/ImpactUN

Millennium Development Goals - <http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/>

Girl Effect Video – invest in a girl and she will do the rest. www.girleffect.org

The Girl Revolution: sole mission is to revolutionize the way we think about, treat, and raise girls.

www.girlrevolution.com

International Herald Tribune “The Female Factor” series – Articles in this series examine the most recent shifts in women’s power, prominence and impact on societies around the world, and try to measure the influence of women on early 21st century development.

http://topics.nytimes.com/top/news/world/series/the_female_factor/index.html

Commission on the Status of Women – report of the 55th session from February 22 – March 4, 2011

<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/55sess.htm#agreed>

WG-USA – This NGO (non-governmental), non-profit, non-partisan, and [virtual \(online\)](#) organization seeks membership from women graduates who have an interest in international issues affecting women and children worldwide. It is affiliated with the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). WG-USA aims to provide membership with information, resource material, world-wide discussions through the Internet and suggests actions they can take in such areas as: policy issues that affect women and children everywhere, United Nations activities including those of the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) and the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDG), international connections, and advocacy for USA policies such as the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). www.wg-usa.org

Education:

The Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund – www.vgif.org

BEADS for Education – provides school scholarships for African girls, promotes business development and supports conservation through education www.beadsforeducation.org

Women For Women International – dedicated to the educational, economic and interpersonal support of women worldwide who are survivors of war and genocide. www.womenforwomen.org

AAUW Education Opportunities Fund

BeadForLife – a sustainable project for Ugandan women to provide food, medicine, education and hope utilizing bead making and shea butter www.beadforlife.org

Project Have Hope – Project Have Hope works with a group of 100 women in the Acholi Quarter of Uganda and helps them transform their lives and the lives of their families. Through the sale of their beautiful, handmade paper bead jewelry, the women can feed their families, send their children to school, and look forward to a richer future. www.projecthavehope.org

Network4Africa – provides skills for survivors of genocide, including literacy skills. This organization was founded by Rebecca Tinsley, author of When the Stars Fell to Earth.

www.network4africa.org

Economic Opportunity:

Good Guide: GoodGuide provides the world's largest and most reliable source of information on the health, environmental, and social impacts of consumer products. www.goodguide.com

Women's World Banking -provides microfinance that is tailored to the needs of women that are affordable, convenient and sustainable. www.swwb.org

Fair Trade Federation -strengthens and promotes North American organizations fully committed to Fair Trade - www.fairtradefederation.org

Fair Trade Resource Network - an information hub designed to grow the fair trade movement. www.fairtraderesouce.org

Heifer International - mission is to alleviate hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation through the provision of food producing animals to families in need. www.heifer.org

CARE Action Network - Educates leaders about issues of global poverty. www.care.org

Women's Health/Reproductive Rights:

Pathfinder International - an organization devoted to female reproductive health. www.pathfind.org

BRAC - The mission is to empower people and communities in situations of poverty, illiteracy, disease and social injustice. www.brac.net

Violence Against Women/Trafficking/Gendercide:

The Coalition Against Trafficking in Women (CATW): www.catwinternational.org

United Nations Special Rapporteur for Trafficking in Persons - www.ohchr.org/English/issues/trafficking

Say No To Violence Campaign - www.saynotoviolence.org

Gender Equity/Gender Rights:

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women - www.ngoscw.org

UN Women - www.unwomen.org

Gender Equality Architecture Reform Campaign at the United Nations - www.gearcampaign.org

Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) - www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw

International Women's Day - www.internationalwomensday.com

Women's Environment and Development Organization - www.wedo.org

Universal Declaration of human Rights (ratified in 1948) -

<http://www.un.org/en/documents/udhr/index.shtml>

Lawyers Without Borders - www.lawyerswithoutborders.org