

## WOMEN ENGAGING GLOBALLY by Ruth Norman

This is the first of a series of articles based on a collaborative project undertaken by the League of Women Voters (LWV), the Center for Women Policy Studies (CWPS), and the Women's Environmental Organization (WEDO). This project resulted in a dynamic conference in Seattle in 2005 with a variety of notable speakers on women's issues. In addition to the speakers a collection of material related to women's issues, written by WEDO, and CWPS was distributed. This article and others to come are based on that material. Each is an issue of great concern to women around the world reflecting the commitment of the League in the advancement and empowerment of women. All of which is fundamental to achieving peace and prosperity throughout the world.

WEDO was co-founded in 1990 by Bella Absug and Kim Kelber, both of whom were feminist activists. It is an international non-governmental organization (INGO) advocating women's equality in global policy. WEDO became a leader among all non-governmental organizations (NGOs), both national and international, at the UN placing women and gender at the center of global policy making. While CWPS, a national NGO founded in 1972, is the nation's first feminist policy analysis and research institution. The mission of both is to shape public policy to improve women's lives.

Included in these articles will be Trafficking of Women; Immigrant, Refugee and Internally Displaced Women; Peace and Security: (UN) Resolution 1325 (which recognizes women as active agents in building peace); Women and Global HIV/AIDS Epidemic. While the articles are based on the materials developed for the conference, it will be supplemented by information from UN sources, the NGOs committed to women's issues and other international groups active in the role of women in those resolutions stated by the League.

Your comments and questions related to any of these issues are welcome. Email them to our editor and they will be answered or integrated in future newsletters.