

2013 NOW Conference Workshop Proposal:

## **Women of the World Unite to End Violence Against Women & Girls!**

**Description:** Women have increased their organizing globally to end all forms of violence against women and girls at the grassroots levels, with arts and cultural resources, in solidarity with other women from the Global South, working through International non-governmental organizations and the United Nations. Given the numerous forms of and escalating violence against women and girls in the U.S. and around the world, women are stepping to say NO, not in my name, we can find better ways to live free from violence and peacefully with one another! Our emphasis in this lively, engaging, hopeful and interactive workshop experience will be to learn from and exchange strategies and solutions with women organizing locally and globally about ways to prevent and end personal, institutional and structural violence that incorporate multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination based on cultures, classes, abilities, citizenship status (Native American and immigrant), ages, and sexualities.

We will kick-off with Eve Ensler's *One Billion Rising Campaign* that activated women and girls locally and globally through music, dance and the arts to resist violence. Presenters and participants will share strategies and solutions from: 2013 UN Commission on the Status of Women meetings in NYC that prioritized ending violence to redefining security from State to human needs; current Legislation in the US and Internationally to prevent and address violence, including arms and gun violence; and the renewed effort to ratify The Women's Treaty/CEDAW.

We will also feature some film clips from UNCSW 57 activities and One Billion Rising actions. Stephanie Ortoleva (who cannot be present) will share Women Enabled recommendations to ensure all women's abilities are incorporated (via a Handout).

Mona Lisa Wallace has offered to combine her One Billion Rising Dance workshop with this one.

### **Goals and three Calls to Action:**

To learn from and exchange strategies and solutions with women organizing locally and globally about ways to prevent and end personal, institutional and structural violence that incorporates the women who face multiple, intersecting forms of discrimination based on cultures, classes, abilities, citizenship status (Native American and immigrant), ages, and sexualities. Develop recommendations through Resolutions and Campaigns to NOW activists and leaders as well as our sister/allied organizations to participate in the global women's movement to end violence and increase human security for all peoples.

1. To take action on, and communicate within NOW, some of the Recommendations from the UNCSW activities, the Report from the UN Special Rapporteur on violence against women (in the U.S.) , plus upcoming opportunities to organize in solidarity with women at local and international levels;
2. To participate in and update strategies for NOW in the revitalization of U.S. government Ratification of The Women's Treaty/CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women);
3. To create NOW Resolution(s) that advance U.S. and International Legislation and organizing Campaigns that will prevent and end violence against women and girls.

Moderator and Presenter:

Jan Strout, National NOW Board, US Women and Cuba Collaboration

Presenters:

Zenaida Mendez, President, New York State NOW; National Dominican Women's Caucus

Mona Lisa Wallace, National NOW Board

Jerilyn Stapleton, National NOW Board

Stephanie Ortoleva, Women Enabled (via Handout)