

# **GLOBAL NETWORK For JUSTICE**

**A Project of New Orleans Bread  
for the World at the Twomey  
Center for Peace Through  
Justice**

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## **WORLD SOCIAL FORUM 4, held in January 16-21, 2004, Mumbai, India**

People's movements around the world are working to demonstrate that the path to sustainable development, social and economic justice lies in alternative model for people-centered and self-reliant progress, rather than neo-liberal globalization.

The World Social Forum (WSF) was created to provide an open platform to discuss strategies of resistance to the model for globalization formulated at the annual World Economic Forum at Davos by large multinational corporations, national governments, IMF, the World Bank and the WTO, which are the foot soldiers of these corporations.

Firmly committed to the belief that Another World Is Possible the WSF is an open space for discussing alternatives to the dominant neo-liberal processes, for exchanging experiences and for strengthening alliances among mass organizations, peoples' movements and civil society organizations.

**For more information visit**  
<http://www.wsfindia.org>  
**Download our February 2003,  
volume 2 number 6 bulletin for  
historical background of WSF at**  
<http://www.carmelite.info/ngo/globalnetworkbulletinindex.htm>

### **The following articles were gathered from WSF 4**

#### **Women are looking for new economic solutions**

Jivka Marinova 01/20/2004

Economy of solidarity - this is a magic term that seems to have a big potential for people who want to escape from poverty, misery, and dependence especially women. Women all over the world are looking actively for better solutions both for themselves and for their families. This came out of the workshop of the Penelopes, where International Network of Women for Solidarity-based Economy gathered.

There were women from India, South America, Africa and Eastern Europe. All of them lived in different contexts and had different problems, but all of them have followed almost the same path to find the way of escaping poverty. From food production for catering, to big commands for events like the World Social Forum, from small knitting and handicraft businesses, to complex management of microcredit system. One of the Indian women wisely said: "We don't need money. Money can not feed us and can not cover us when we are cold. We need to produce our own food and our own clothes, and if we can make people buy our own products we will have enough for us. We need to do what we can do best. But we don't have the resources to make publicity like the big multinationals."

#### **The Importance of networks**

But is it enough only to produce food and clothes? Obviously not. Women can do much more and they need the experience of the others. This workshop showed how innovative can women be and how solidarity can make miracles. There was one warning as well: big international companies are trying to make profit from the savings of women. We need to be very attentive and not to repeat the mistakes of others before us, but learn from them. Solidarity-based economy is not something that has been invented yesterday. It has always been existing in different forms but we need to fill it now with new experiences, and look how to make it profitable – especially for women that urgently need livelihood possibilities. Therefore, it is important to maintain the links and the networks and to make the information flow. Visit: <http://www.penelopes.org>

#### **The Jesuits Delegation at the WSF share their experiences**

##### **In the midst of Jesuit tradition and history**

Under the banner of SAPI (South Asian People's Initiative), The Jesuit-sponsored delegation of about 1500 people gathered on the grounds of a Jesuit school for the groups' opening session, which preceded, and was a preparation for, the inaugural session of the WSF. For many Jesuits it was a home-coming with a difference, for many it made possible to live out the challenges in a place steeped in Jesuit tradition and history. (Jesuits Social Apostolate Headlines 2004 [HL40107])

### ***Giving voice and uncovering the suffering***

One of the main characteristics of our consumerist society – some will even add of our globalized society - is that it gives voice only to those who have the money and resources to benefit from the market, and simultaneously hides the social and political reality of suffering and marginalization. As Anne Furst, a French member of the delegation points out, the thousands of Dalits (untouchables) and Adivasis at this WSF acquire in this gathering a concrete face, a face of celebration, and dignity; they become visible in the public space, visible to all, recognized by all. Their suffering and demands are brought to the forefront. In ways radically different from the process of globalization, the WSF and the people who make it possible give voice to those who, according to the logic of the market, do not count, and uncover the political and social suffering that unnerves our economic elites. (Jesuit Social Apostolate Headlines 2004[HL10420])

### ***How to redistribute wealth and power globally?***

One afternoon on Sunday 18 January, CIDSE (International Network of Catholic Development Organizations), and Caritas Internationalis organized a panel to discuss ways of reducing the unequal and unfair distribution of resources and benefits. In particular, it considered the extent to which fulfillment of the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDG) can play a role in lessening inequality. The discussion was opened by the rich exposition, rooted in Christian values, of

Duncan McLaren, Secretary General of Caritas Internationalis. It was followed by four short exposition on debt, taxes, gender and trade, which helped explain the mechanism through which wealth and power imbalances are maintained. Efforts on water and environment in the Philippines were presented as an illustration of false and excluding solutions. It was generally accepted that the MDGs will not be achieved unless the goal requiring structural changes in existing regulations on debt, trade, aid and tax cooperation was met. Javier Iguiniz from Peru was of opinion that the fulfillment of MDGs will have a powerful impact on the redistribution of wealth and power. Oded Grajew, one of the architects of the WSF, concluded the discussion by proposing true democracy as the basis for new partnerships between North and South. [HL10421]

### ***Closing Ceremony***

Speeches long and short, songs joyful and moving, crowds local and foreign—a wonderful mix of sights and sounds marked the close of the WSF on Wednesday evening 21 January. Over one hundred thousand people gathered in a huge ground called Azad Maidan (Freedom Ground) in central Mumbai to bring the five days of the WSF to an end, carrying banners, dancing, and shouting slogans. A human rights activist from Pakistan implored the crowd not to give up the struggle for justice as she recounted the global and local challenges we face; an Indian statesman recalled the inspiration of Gandhi as a guide; and a woman leader of local people in Ecuador spoke movingly of the hope we all had as the WSF concluded. Many in

the crowd had not attended the formal sessions of the WSF but had simply wandered into the arena attracted by the music and dance. These included hundreds of children, mostly very poor, a poignant reminder to us of the urgency of the theme of the WSF, “Another World Is Possible.” A Brazilian folk singer, justice activist and now Minister of culture in the new Brazilian government, brought the crowd to its feet, touching all hearts with songs of life’s beauty and tragedy. For me, the closing event was a summary of what had moved me again during the days of WSF. There were intellectual moments of analyzing globalization, enthusiastic moments of calls to resist US imperialism, emotional moments of testimony of suffering of the world’s majority, hopeful moments of commitment to change, spiritual moments reminding us of the reality of the human family. I can agree what a young Zambian colleague told me during the course of the evening: “I will remember this event for the rest of my life!” (Peter Henriot, SJ, [HL40128])

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