

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND TRAINING INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN (INSTRAW)

Good Practice

INSTRAW's "Men's Roles and Responsibilities in Ending Gender Based Violence" programme consisted of two main activities – the Virtual Seminar Series and a set of Working Papers. As part of the GAINS methodology, the Virtual Seminar Series took place through an email discussion list called Ending Men's Violence Net (EMVnet) and was supported by a website with background and technical information on the topic and other resources. A mid-programme survey among members of the EMVnet community helped to evaluate the programme and provided useful information to help redefine and strengthen the GAINS methodology as a virtual community of practitioners, activists, academics and policy makers from around the world. A set of working papers were drafted as well as a final synthesis and is being prepared for publication.

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Recent policy statements

INSTRAW carries out its activities in pursuit of gender mainstreaming by seeking to create a knowledge-based environment in which a gender perspective is integrated in a variety of sectors. In compliance with resolution 1999/54 of the Economic and Social Council, the Secretary-General proposed a new structure and working method for INSTRAW based on the utilization of new technologies as a means of producing, managing and disseminating gender knowledge and information. INSTRAW has responded to its mandate through the establishment of GAINS (Gender Awareness Information and Networking System).

Programme Objectives

Using the GAINS methodology, INSTRAW's objectives are to (a) produce, manage and make available to a network of users gender-aware knowledge and information; (b) gather, organize and make available gender-aware research findings, training practices and other related knowledge and information, especially from the developing world; (c) engender mainstream research and identify training gaps; (d) undertake research and training on gender issues; (e) enhance gender awareness on critical global issues and trends for the exchange of new ideas, concepts and methodologies for integrating and advancing existing knowledge on gender issues; and (f) promote women's empowerment by increasing their participation in the use, production, and management of new information technologies.

Operational activities

INSTRAW has published and launched in March 2003, during the forty-seventh session of the Commission on the Status of Women, its publication entitled "Partners in Change: Working with Men to End Gender-based Violence". The publication explores the causes of gender-based violence in relation to the ways in which men and masculinity are socially constructed and how these, in turn, influence men's behaviour.

As a follow-up to the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development, INSTRAW finalized a study analysing the outcome document of the Conference from a gender perspective to further refine gender dimensions of financing for development. The study proposed practical recommendations which could form the basis of a strategy for integrating gender into the financing for development agenda.

During 2003, INSTRAW has also published, on its website, two research studies. The first entitled "Overcoming the Gender Digital Divide: ICTs as Tools for Women's Empowerment", is a synthesis of the background papers and discussions from INSTRAW virtual seminar series on gender and ICTs. The second study entitled "Gender, Environment and Sustainable Development: Theoretical Trends, Emerging Issues and Challenges" results from the INSTRAW project on gender aspects of environment management and sustainable development that was carried out by the Institute for the World Summit for Sustainable Development held on 26 August - 4 September 2002. ■