

Commission on the Status of Women
52nd session
25 February – 7 March 2008

Interactive panel on the theme
“The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men,
including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS”

Wednesday 27 February 2008, 1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bios of panellists

1. Ms. Shahra Razavi (UNRISD)
2. Ms. Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Iceland)
3. Mr. Dean Peacock (Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa)
4. Ms. Noerine Kaleeba (TASO-Uganda)

1. Shahra Razavi, United Nations Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)

Shahra Razavi is Research Coordinator at UNRISD since 1993. She specializes in the gender dimensions of social development, with a particular focus on livelihoods and social policies. She has led the Institute’s research projects on gender, including Gender, Poverty and Well-Being; Agrarian Change, Gender and Land Rights; Globalization, Export-Oriented Employment for Women and Social Policy; and work on Gender Justice, Development and Rights which was carried out as part of the Institute's contribution to the Beijing Plus 5 Review Process. More recently, she coordinated the preparation of the UNRISD report (published in 2005), *Gender Equality: Striving for Justice in an Unequal World*. Her current research areas include work on gender and social policy, and the interface between religion, politics and gender equality. Her most recent journal publications include: “The return to social policy and the persistent neglect of unpaid care” (*Development and Change*, 38/3, May 2007), “Does paid work enhance women’s access to welfare? Evidence from selected industrializing countries” (*Social Politics*, 14/1, 2007), and “Liberalization and the debates on women’s access to land” (*Third World Quarterly*, 28/8, 2007). Ms. Razavi is currently coordinating a large comparative research project on the political and social economy of care at UNRISD.

2. Ms. Kristín Ástgeirsdóttir, Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality

Ms. Ástgeirsdóttir is the Director of the Icelandic Centre for Gender Equality. She previously worked as a part-time teacher in Gender Studies at the University of Iceland and also as a Director for the Centre for Gender Research at the University of Iceland. Ms. Ástgeirsdóttir has also served as the director of the Human Rights Office in Iceland. She worked as a project manager for UNIFEM in Kosovo 2000-2001. She was a member of Parliament and served as

Chairperson of the Parliament's Committee of Social Affairs. During her time as Chairperson of the Committee of Social Affairs both the legislation on Equal Rights and Equal Opportunities for Women and Men and the Government's Plan of Action for the advancement of Women were revised. Ms. Ástgeirsdóttir has delivered several lectures and written several publications.

3. Dean Peacock, Sonke Gender Justice, South Africa

Mr. Dean Peacock is an expert in men and gender equality and HIV/AIDS. He is the Founder and Co-Director of the NGO Sonke Gender Justice located in Cape Town, South Africa. The NGO aims to promote greater collaboration between organizations working on gender and HIV/AIDS and has three main programmes – Women's Health and Rights, Next Generation, Youth Leadership and Men as Partners initiative. Mr. Peacock has extensive policy and consultant experience. He has collaborated with international organizations such as UNDP and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Mr. Peacock was an expert at the EGM on the Role of Men and Boys held in Brazil in 2003. He has made many presentations, including at the international level and published widely. He also serves as a research analyst for UCLA's Programme for Global Health.

4. Ms. Noerine Kaleeba, The AIDS Support Organization (TASO - Uganda)

Ms. Kaleeba previously worked as a programme development adviser focusing on Africa, for the UNAIDS in Geneva. A physiotherapist by training and an educator, Ms. Kaleeba is the founder and previous Executive Director of the "The AIDS Support Organization- TASO Uganda, which provides care, support and counselling. The organization also mobilizes communities and neighbourhoods to care for people with HIV/AIDS and their families. Ms. Kaleeba has been awarded several international awards in recognition of her national and global anti-AIDS efforts, including The Belgian King Baudouin Prize for Development, awarded to TASO in 1995, and two honorary doctorates from Nkumba University (2000) and Dundee University (2005). She has served on various national and international bodies, including the World Health Organization Global Commission on HIV/AIDS, the Global AIDS Policy Coalition and the Uganda AIDS Commission. She has been a trustee of international NGO boards such as Maristopes International, Noah Ark (Sweden), and is currently Chair of ActionAid International Board of Trustees.