

# MADRE

speaks Summer 2001

## Joining Hands to Confront Racism



**Uniendo las Manos para Combatir el Racismo**  
**Reliant les Mains pour Faire Face au Racisme**



MADRE



Vivian Stromberg greets Dr. Luis Foyo, director of the Red Cross in Cuba. In July, MADRE delivered a shipment of mammography film as part of MADRE's Share Hope campaign to fight breast cancer in Cuba.

homes using US-manufactured attack helicopters. More West Bank land and water has been expropriated for use by Israeli settlers, who routinely terrorize Palestinian neighborhoods. In the hot summer months, water shortages in Palestinian communities are especially severe. While Israelis use an average of 348 liters of water a day per person, Palestinians must make do with 70 liters. The daily minimum of water needed per person, according to the World Health Organization, is 100 liters.

Despite gross human rights violations committed by Israel in its repression of the Palestinian uprising, or *Intifada*, the Bush Administration continues to back Israel almost unconditionally. In the first half of this year, the US increased military aid to Israel, approved the sale of more Apache attack helicopters and vetoed a UN Security Council resolution calling for an unarmed observer force to the region.

In the midst of the violence, the Ibdaa Children's Center, MADRE's partner in the Deheishe Refugee Camp, continues to work towards peace with justice. Each week, more than 1200 young people benefit from Ibdaa's programs, including creative writing and dance; human rights education and leadership training; computer literacy and sports; and trauma counseling to help young people heal from the fear and violence that have become part of everyday life. Ibdaa is now working to develop a mobile library to help make books accessible to refugee youth throughout the West Bank and a women's health program to combat violence against women, treat breast cancer and address family planning needs in the community. ■

## Come celebrate MADRE's 18th Birthday!

Join us for a Chinese Banquet November 18, 2001 in New York, NY.

CALL US AT (212) 627-0444 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

## Log On to Support MADRE!

You can now donate to MADRE on-line. Visit our website at [www.madre.org](http://www.madre.org).

## Join MADRE's listserve

for regular updates on our work, urgent alerts and occasional articles.

Send your e-mail address to [madre@igc.org](mailto:madre@igc.org).

## \$\$\$ PUT YOUR TAX REFUND TO WORK! \$\$\$

Bush's new tax law drastically cut funding for education, health and other social services, while allocating \$58 billion a year in tax saving to the wealthiest 1% of the population.

MADRE works to redress the impact of Bush's policies on women and families around the world.

Please consider donating your tax refund to MADRE

If you're able to give \$300 or \$600, Working Assets will match your gift. Give through [www.giveforchange.com](http://www.giveforchange.com).

Contributions of other amounts can be sent directly to MADRE. THANK YOU!



# Support women's human rights with a gift for yourself or a friend

• Joining hands & hearts with women & families for peace, justice & human rights •

## MADRE

• 121 West 27th Street, #301 New York, NY 10001 • (212) 627-0444 • Fax: (212) 779-1104 • e-mail: madre@igj.org • http://www.madre.org •

### MUGS

MADRE design (above) printed wrap-around in red, yellow, purple and green on an 11 oz. white ceramic mug

**\$10** each + shipping & handling:  
(\$3 per mug; \$2 for each additional mug to the same address)



### MADRE T-SHIRT

Original MADRE design printed on black or white 100% cotton preshrunk t-shirts in full color. (please indicate color when ordering; LIMITED QUANTITIES AVAILABLE)

Adult sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL **\$20** + s&h  
children's sizes: ch XS (2-4), ch S (6-8) **\$15** + s&h

(shipping & handling: \$3.50 per shirt; \$3 for each additional t-shirt to the same address)

### New! MADRE Tote Bags!

Off-white canvas bag with MADRE design (detail at left).

Available in  
MEDIUM (15" x 13") **\$25** + s&h or  
SUPER JUMBO (19" x 18") **\$35** + s&h

(shipping & handling: \$5 per tote; \$3 for each additional tote to the same address)

Perfect for the beach or everyday!



Fill out coupon below and return to: MADRE 121 West 27th Street, #301 New York, NY 10001

Please send me MADRE gifts!

ITEM	SIZE	COLOR	QUANTITY	PRICE EACH	SHIPPING	SUBTOTAL
TOTAL: \$						

I am enclosing \$\_\_\_\_\_ for my purchase, made payable to MADRE, Inc.

NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

## Join MADRE's Voyages with a Vision Delegations!

**CUBA:** Come see for yourself the impact of the US embargo on life and culture in Cuba. **January 4-12, 2002.**

**GUATEMALA:** Meet women working in *maquilas* (sweatshops) and learn about their struggle to end abusive labor conditions. **October 3-9, 2001.**

**NICARAGUA:** On this eco-tour, learn about the struggle of Indigenous and African descendent communities to defend their rights and resources in the autonomous region of the country's Atlantic Coast. **February 16-23, 2002.**

## INVITE MADRE

TO SPEAK AT YOUR COMMUNITY CENTER, COLLEGE OR PLACE OF WORSHIP DURING OUR FALL 2001/SPRING 2002 SPEAKING TOUR.

Help teach people about MADRE's work to defend women's human rights, about women's health and development in the communities where we work and about the determination of our sisters to fight for change.

TO ARRANGE FOR A MADRE SPEAKER IN YOUR COMMUNITY, CALL US AT (212) 627-0444.



# MADRE

121 West 27th Street, Room 301  
New York, New York 10001  
Telephone 212 627-0444  
Fax 212 675-3704  
e-mail: madre@igc.apc.org  
http://www.MADRE.org

### Board of Directors

Dr. Zala Chandler  
Liliana Cortés  
Andaye De La Cruz  
Hilda Díaz  
Linda Flores-Rodríguez  
Anne H. Hess  
Rochelle Korman  
Margaret Ratner  
Marie Saint Cyr

### Sponsors

Brooke Adams  
Electa Arenal  
Julie Belafonte  
Vinie Burrows  
Mavi Coakley  
Dr. Johnnetta Cole  
Blanche Wiesen Cook  
Clare Coss  
Alexis De Veaux  
Kathy Engel  
Rosa Escobar  
Roberta Flack  
Devon Fredericks  
Tammy Grimes  
Elizabeth Horman  
Gale Jackson  
Eleanore Kennedy  
Myrtle Lacy  
Isabel Letelier  
Audre Lorde, 1934-1992  
Mary Lumet  
Patricia Maher  
Hon. Hilda Mason  
Member, Council of District of Columbia  
Monica Melamid  
Hon. Ruth Messinger  
Manhattan Borough President  
Holly Near  
Dr. Roxanne Dunbar Ortiz  
Grace Paley  
Antonia Pantoja  
Bernice Reagon  
Chita Rivera  
Sonia Rivera  
Helen Rodríguez-Trías, M.D.  
Digna Sánchez  
Sonia Sánchez  
Yolanda Sánchez  
Susan Sarandon  
Carlotta Scott  
Julia R. Scott  
Pat Simon  
Susan L. Taylor  
Marjorie Tuite, 1922-1986  
Alice Walker  
Joanne Woodward  
Billie Jean Young

Executive Director  
Vivian Stromberg

## membership

- I want to become a member of MADRE. Enclosed is my \$35 annual membership fee.
- I am a member of MADRE and want to offer further support. Enclosed is my tax-deductible contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to MADRE.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MADRE is a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. All contributions to MADRE are tax deductible to the extent of the law. A copy of MADRE's latest financial report can be obtained by writing to the New York Department of State, Office of Charities Registration.

## gift memberships

Introduce a friend or relative to MADRE by sending them a gift membership in celebration of a birthday, wedding, holiday or special event. For \$35 or more per membership, MADRE will send an acknowledgement to you and an information packet and membership to the people you list below.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is \$35 or more for each Gift Membership

YOUR NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Please send me information about Voyages With A Vision

- GUATEMALA: Oct. 2001
- CUBA: Jan. 2002
- NICARAGUA: Feb. 2002

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

## MADRE

121 West 27th Street, Room 301  
New York, NY 10001

NON-PROFIT  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
New York, NY  
Permit No. 3485

DATED MATERIAL

# From the Executive Director

Vivian Stromberg

Summer 2001

**D**ear friends,

This Fall, MADRE will participate in the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR for short). The goal of the conference is to combat these forms of discrimination. But, as usual, the US government is working to derail proposals that would hold it accountable to human rights violations.

At a May meeting to discuss proposed language for the draft agreement of the Conference, I spoke with a member of the US government delegation to the WCAR. I learned that to avoid having to pay reparations to the descendants of African slaves, the US will oppose the designation of slavery as a crime against humanity. Similarly, the US

will try and block the use of the term "Indigenous Peoples" (as opposed to "indigenous people") because the phrase implies legal sovereignty. I asked if the US delegation would accept language mandating governments to abide by all international law and UN resolutions. The delegate said no. And she told me that the US would vote to exclude gays and lesbians from the list of groups affected by discrimination.

MADRE is working to address these and other outrages through our role in the Women's Caucus, the Youth Caucus, the Indigenous Caucus and the Economic Justice Caucus of the WCAR. But lobbying the US government to make meaningful commit-

ments to human rights is not the only aspect of this conference. There is also the Non-governmental Forum, which promises to be a rich assortment of people from all over the world coming together to share experiences and strategies to improve international law.

One of the most impressive aspects of this process has been the work of young people who have organized, demanded and won recognition at the UN of the particular ways that they are affected by discrimination. MADRE's International Advocacy Coordinator, Mónica Alemán, has played a key role in this process. Mónica is a young Indigenous woman from the Atlantic



MADRE Executive Director, Vivian Stromberg, greets Wilma Espin, first lady of Cuba.

Coast of Nicaragua. She has devoted herself to organizing young people at the community level and internationally. Mónica's leadership and vision are part of the guarantee that youth will be represented at UN discussions from now on.

We at MADRE are extremely proud to be represented by Mónica and are equally proud of her determination to fight for change.

The long-term importance of the WCAR is clear: we must improve international law to reflect the needs and priorities of ordinary women and their families. But the immediate needs of these families are no less critical. That's why MADRE is staying focused on our ongoing programs — we have even expanded our community-based work in Guatemala and Nicaragua. And this summer, MADRE launched the Helping Hands Campaign, collecting material aid for the families we work with. Thanks to our dedicated staff and

amazing interns, Helping Hands is off to a fantastic start. You can help us move ahead by posting the flyer on page 8 in your neighborhood, workplace or school and by making a contribution to the campaign. Thanks in advance for your support of Helping Hands and all of MADRE's work.

Yours,

## MADRE

121 West 27th Street, #301  
New York, NY 10001  
212/627-0444 Fax: 212/675-3704  
e-mail: madre@igc.org  
www.MADRE.org

### Volume XVII, #2

MADRE's newsletter, *MADRE Speaks* is published quarterly

Since 1983, MADRE has worked in partnership with community-based women's organizations in conflict areas worldwide to address issues of women's health, economic development and other human rights. MADRE provides resources and training for our sister organizations and works to empower people in the US to demand changes to unjust policies. Based on the priorities of the women with whom we work, MADRE develops programs that meet immediate needs in communities threatened by US policy and supports women's long-term struggles for social justice and human rights.

### Newsletter Staff

Yifat Susskind, Editor  
Sarah Widmer, Assistant Editor  
Amy Thesing, Design

cover photo: © Laura Flanders

## A BIG THANKS TO OUR WONDERFUL INTERNS:

Lauren Enteen  
Andrea Mantsios  
Katie Miranda  
Molly Ornati  
Olga Puigdemont Sola

# A Global Challenge to Racism

Based on a report by Katie Miranda

MADRE youth delegate to the World Conference Against Racism

In September 2001, the United Nations' World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance (WCAR for short) will be held in Durban, South Africa.

The WCAR will focus on developing action-oriented measures to combat racism around the world. Governments will negotiate a consensus document describing historical and contemporary manifestations of racism; designating affected groups; and outlining programs of action to address past, present and future expressions of racial discrimination.

Non-governmental organizations like MADRE will also play a crucial role, working to ensure that the needs of ordinary women and men, and not just the perspectives of elites, are heard by the conference. This work is done through lobbying government representatives to adopt specific language, demands and plans of action in their agreements for the conference. These measures are arrived at through a process of meetings that take place around the world at local, national and regional levels in the months leading up to the conference. MADRE has been involved in the WCAR process since its onset, focusing our work in the Women's Caucus, the Youth Caucus and the Indigenous Caucus. MADRE provided women from our sister organizations with the training needed to participate effectively in the WCAR process of shaping international human rights standards and fighting racism in their communities, their countries and internationally.

## Youth and the World Conference Against Racism

One-third of the world's population — over two billion people — are under 25, yet everywhere young people are marginalized and excluded from basic decision-making,



MADRE's International Advocacy Coordinator, Mónica Alemán (center), attends a satellite meeting of Indigenous leaders for the World Conference Against Racism.

both within the family and in the public sphere. Young people are denied rights enjoyed by adults and have unequal access to education, legal protection and health care. Youth of color and young women are discriminated against based on their age as well as their race and gender. To ensure that their concerns and demands are addressed at the world conference, young people from all parts of the world (among them five MADRE delegates) formed the Youth Caucus to the WCAR.

For the first time, young people are asserting themselves as serious actors on the international stage. Thanks to the commitment and leadership of youth from around the world, young people have insisted on — and gained — a voice within the United Nations. One of the key actors in this process is Mónica Alemán, MADRE's International Advocacy Coordinator. Mónica has been part of MADRE since her childhood during the US-funded war in Nicaragua. Now a leader in her own right, Mónica has brought her political passion, her keen understanding of the UN and her fierce commitment to international law to her work for women's human rights. She is a member of the steering committee of the

Indigenous Women's Forum of the UN and a member of the International Youth Committee, providing guidance for the participation of youth worldwide in the WCAR process and beyond.

## MADRE's WCAR Youth Delegates Speak Out

### KATIE MIRANDA

We are sitting at a Mexican restaurant in the heart of Geneva's new city, eating burritos, surrounded by the Swiss Alps. Arturo is singing along to a mariachi song. Eileen and Gabriela are listening intently. Mónica is revising our agenda for tomorrow. We have been working at the UN all day and are tired and frustrated — no one has energy to think more tonight about the Draft Declaration that will be implemented to combat racism during the World Conference. Myrna and Vivian, our mentors, guides and pseudo-mothers throughout this process, are talking softly. Somehow, someone asks exactly how they met. And the history of MADRE unfolds.



The struggle for justice, for equality, for the right to live in a society free of discrimination runs deep at MADRE. More than international diplomacy, more than the workings of the United Nations system, this is what I learned attending the second preparatory meeting for the World Conference Against Racism. The women who founded this organization, who have fought together through ravage and war, the women who *are* MADRE, form the essence of hope and strength and commitment to equality, dignity and justice that our delegation brought to the UN in May. I have been integrated into this family, and for me, this determination that spans oceans and continents has been the most impressive part of the process I was so privileged to participate in. From the horrors of US-funded war in Nicaragua has grown a resistance in the will and commitment of the women who have dedicated themselves to MADRE. What we have contributed and will continue to contribute to the process of the World Conference Against Racism runs deeper than our participation in such events; it is a history that has planted the seeds and

grown the roots of a promise to combat injustice and inequality from the ground up, in all spheres of our lives — in the international arena, politically, and within our communities, personally. This is the commitment of the MADRE family.

### EILEEN MAIRENA

Thanks to MADRE, we succeeded in incorporating issues we are struggling with in each of our communities into the process leading up to the World Conference. We raised demands for access to reproductive and sexual health services, rights of Indigenous youth and access to quality education. MADRE works for human rights simultaneously at the local, national and international levels. This approach enabled us to bring our communities' issues to the global forum of the conference and, in turn, to apply our achievements in the international arena to local policies, improving our society at all levels.

### ARTURO SÁNCHEZ

One of our key issues as youth is to win recognition of our vulnerability

to multiple forms of discrimination based on our different identities. For example, a female migrant who is black and lesbian suffers a particular form of discrimination. If such a person is young, she is also discriminated against based on her age. In fact, youth is a political category, so we young people need to organize for our rights.

### GABRIELA ROUILLON

The activities we are planning for the World Conference are training workshops about the workings of the United Nations, a big meeting for youth from different countries to exchange experiences and organizing strategies, political debates on the issues we are fighting for and working groups to consolidate our International Youth Declaration and Plan of Action. And the MADRE youth delegation is planning a joint publication with the United Nations' Department of Public Information to document models of youth organizing worldwide at the local, national and regional levels. ■

## COVER STORY IN SPANISH/ LA PORTADA EN ESPAÑOL

# Un Desafío Global al Racismo

Basado en un reporte de Katie Miranda, joven delegada de MADRE a la WCAR

Traducción de Isabella Falco y Olga Puigdemont Sola

**E**n septiembre del 2001, la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo, la Discriminación Racial, la Xenofobia y Formas Conexas de Intolerancia (WCAR, por sus siglas en inglés) tendrá lugar en Durban, Sudáfrica. La Conferencia Mundial tiene por objetivo desarrollar acciones prácticas, medidas y estrategias para combatir y erradicar el racismo alrededor del mundo. Los Estados Miembros de las Naciones Unidas están negocian-

do un proyecto de Declaración Mundial donde se describen las manifestaciones, tanto históricas como contemporáneas, del racismo; designando quiénes son los grupos más afectados; y elaborando programas de acción para monitorear todas las expresiones de discriminación racial del pasado, del presente y del futuro.

Las Organizaciones No Gubernamentales (ONG) tales como MADRE están jugando un papel crucial en la plataforma mundial, poniendo de relieve la necesidad de traer a la mesa de discusión los asuntos que conciernen a las mujeres y a los hombres de los sectores

populares y no sólo los temas y las perspectivas de las elites o clases poderosas. Cumplen este rol a través de negociaciones con los representantes de los Estados Miembros, instándolos a adoptar e incorporar a los acuerdos de la Conferencia textos específicos, demandas y planes de acción. Pero llegan a estos acuerdos después de una serie de reuniones que se llevan a cabo en todo el mundo al nivel local, nacional y regional en los meses previos a la Conferencia. MADRE ha estado involucrada en el proceso de la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo desde sus inicios, y

ha concentrando sus acciones alrededor de la Comisión de Mujeres, la Comisión de Jóvenes y la Comisión de Grupos Indígenas. Felizmente, MADRE pudo proporcionarles a las mujeres de nuestras organizaciones hermanas el entrenamiento y la formación indispensables para garantizar su participación efectiva en el proceso para determinar los estándares internacionales de los derechos humanos en la Conferencia Mundial, y para combatir el racismo en sus comunidades, sus países e internacionalmente.

## Los Jóvenes y la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo

Un tercio de la población mundial —más de dos billones de personas— son menores de 25 años. Sin embargo, a los jóvenes se los margina y excluye de todos los procesos de toma de decisiones, tanto al interior de la familia como en el ámbito público. A los jóvenes se les niegan los derechos de los que disfrutaban los adultos y ellos tienen desigual acceso a la educación, la protección legal y los servicios de salud. A los jóvenes de color y a las mujeres jóvenes se les discrimina por su edad tanto como por su raza y su género. Para asegurarse de que sus demandas fueran escuchadas en la Conferencia Mundial, personas jóvenes de todo el mundo (entre ellos, cinco delegados de MADRE) se reunieron para formar la Comisión de Jóvenes para la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo.

Por primera vez, hay personas jóvenes que están afirmando su presencia como actores que exigen ser tomados en serio en el escenario mundial. Gracias al compromiso y el liderazgo de algunos jóvenes alrededor del mundo, los jóvenes han insistido en tener — y conseguido que se les reconozca — una voz dentro del sistema de Naciones Unidas. Una de las actrices clave en este proceso es Mónica Alemán, la Coordinadora



Arturo Sánchez

Delegados juveniles de MADRE en las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra planeando estrategias de participación de los jóvenes en la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo.

Internacional de Promoción de MADRE. Mónica ha formado parte de MADRE desde su niñez, durante la guerra que los Estados Unidos financió en Nicaragua. Ahora ella es una líder en su propio derecho y está aportando su pasión política, su agudo entendimiento del rol de las Naciones Unidas, y su feroz compromiso con el Derecho Internacional a su trabajo por los derechos humanos de las mujeres. Mónica integra el Comité Coordinador del Foro de Mujeres Indígenas de la ONU y también el Comité Internacional de Jóvenes que se encarga de dirigir y orientar la participación de los jóvenes de todo el mundo en el proceso de la Conferencia Mundial y más allá de ella.

## Los Jóvenes Delegados de MADRE en la WCAR Hablan

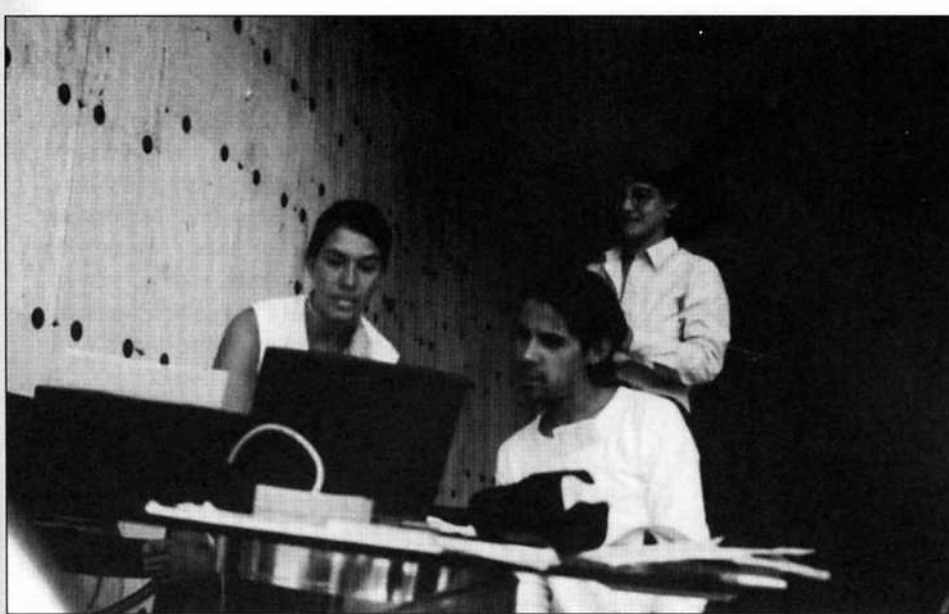
### KATIE MIRANDA

Estamos sentadas en un restaurante mexicano en el corazón de la ciudad nueva en Ginebra, comiendo burritos, rodeadas por los Alpes Suizos. Arturo canta acompañando a unos Mariachis. Eileen y Gabriela escuchan atentamente. Mónica revisa nuestra agenda para el día siguiente. Hemos estado todo el día tra-

bajando en la Naciones Unidas y estamos agotadas, nos sentimos frustradas — ya nadie tiene energías para pensar esta noche en el borrador de la Declaración que se va a implementar durante la Conferencia Mundial para combatir el racismo. Myrna y Vivian, nuestras tutoras, guías y madres adoptivas a lo largo de todo este proceso, conversan en voz baja. De pronto alguien les pregunta exactamente cómo se conocieron. Y así nos revelan la historia de MADRE.

La lucha por la justicia, por la igualdad, por el derecho a vivir en una sociedad libre de discriminación tiene raíces profundas en MADRE. Más que diplomacia internacional, más que los entretreídos del sistema de las Naciones Unidas, esto es lo que he aprendido asistiendo a la Segunda Conferencia Preparatoria previa a la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo. Las mujeres que fundaron esta organización, que han combatido juntas en guerras y vejaciones, las mujeres que son MADRE son la esencia misma de aquella esperanza, aquella fuerza y aquel compromiso con la igualdad, la dignidad y la justicia que nuestra delegación trajo a las Naciones Unidas en mayo. Yo me he integrado a esta familia, y para mí, esta determinación que surca océanos y continentes ha sido la parte más impresionante del proceso en el que he tenido el privilegio de participar. De los horrores de la guerra financiada por los Estados Unidos en Nicaragua ha crecido una resistencia que se manifiesta en la voluntad y el compromiso de las mujeres que le han dedicado sus vidas a MADRE. Lo que hemos contribuido y seguiremos aportando al proceso de la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo va mucho más allá de nuestra participación en este tipo de eventos; es una historia y un pasado que han sembrado las semillas y extendido las raíces de una promesa. La promesa de luchar contra la injusticia y la desigualdad desde sus inicios en todas las esferas de nuestras vidas — políticamente, en el ámbito internacional; y en lo personal, al interior de nuestras comunidades. Este es el compromiso de la familia MADRE.





MADRE

Los delegados juveniles de MADRE en las Naciones Unidas en Ginebra trabajando para lograr que la Conferencia Mundial Contra el Racismo se ocupe de garantizarles a los jóvenes servicios adecuados de salud reproductiva

## EILEEN MAIRENA

Gracias a MADRE, logramos incorporar al proceso que culminará con la Conferencia Mundial los temas por los que hemos estado luchando en cada una de nuestras comunidades. Planteamos como exigencias: tener acceso a servicios de salud reproductiva y sexual, que se reconozcan los derechos de los jóvenes indígenas, y tener acceso a una educación de calidad. Como MADRE trabaja por los derechos humanos al nivel local, nacional e

internacional simultáneamente, pudimos exponer los temas de nuestras comunidades en el foro global de la conferencia y, a la vez, aplicar nuestros logros en el ámbito internacional a políticas locales, con el fin de hacer de la nuestra una mejor sociedad en todos los niveles.

## ARTURO SÁNCHEZ

Uno de nuestros principales objetivos, como jóvenes, es obtener el reconocimiento de nuestra vulnerabilidad ante las múltiples formas de dis-

criminación que se basan en nuestras diversas identidades. Por ejemplo, una mujer migrante que es negra y lesbiana es víctima de una muy particular forma de discriminación. Y si esa mujer es joven, sufre además otra forma de discriminación por su edad. De hecho, la juventud es una categoría política, de modo que nosotros, los jóvenes, tenemos que organizarnos para luchar por nuestros derechos.

## GABRIELA ROUILLON

Las actividades que estamos planeando para la Conferencia Mundial son: talleres de trabajo sobre la organización de las Naciones Unidas, una gran reunión de jóvenes de distintos países para intercambiar experiencias y organizar estrategias, debates políticos sobre los temas por los que estamos luchando, y grupos de trabajo para consolidar la Declaración Internacional y Plan de Acción de los Jóvenes. Además, la delegación juvenil de MADRE está planeando una publicación en conjunto con el Departamento de Información Pública de las Naciones Unidas para documentar los modelos organizacionales que han usado los jóvenes para organizarse al nivel mundial, partiendo primero de los niveles locales, nacionales y regionales. ■

COVER STORY IN FRENCH/ EN COUVERTURE — EN FRANÇAIS

# Un Défi Global pour le Racisme

Basé sur un rapport de Katie Miranda, jeune déléguée de MADRE pour la CMCR

Traduit de l'anglais par Alexandra Solorzano

En septembre 2001, la Conférence Mondiale des Nations Unies Contre le Racisme, la Discrimination Raciale, la Xénophobie et l'Intolérance (CMCR en abrégé) sera tenue à Durban en Afrique du Sud. Le CMCR se concentrera sur le développement de mesures

actives et ciblées pour lutter contre le racisme dans le monde entier. Les gouvernements négocieront un document de consensus qui décrira les manifestations historiques et contemporaines du racisme; en désignant les groupes affectés; et en décrivant des programmes d'action dans le but d'adresser les expressions passées, présentes et futures de la discrimination raciale.

Des organisations non gouvernemen-

tales comme MADRE joueront aussi un rôle crucial, travaillant pour s'assurer que les besoins des femmes et des hommes ordinaires, et non seulement les perspectives d'élites, seront entendus par la conférence. Ce travail est fait à travers le lobbying exercé sur les représentants des gouvernements pour qu'ils adoptent, avec leur consentement, un langage spécifique, des demandes et des plans d'action pour la conférence. Ces mesures sont atteintes

par un processus de réunions qui ont lieu dans le monde entier aux niveaux locaux, nationaux et régionaux dans les mois qui mènent jusqu'à la conférence. MADRE a été impliquée dans le processus de la CMCR depuis sa mise en place, en concentrant notre travail dans le Caucus des Femmes, le Caucus des Jeunes et le Caucus Indigène. MADRE a fourni aux femmes de nos organisations-soeur la formation nécessaire pour participer efficacement au processus de la CMCR, dans le but de définir les normes internationales des droits humains et de lutter contre le racisme dans leurs communautés, leurs pays et de manière internationale.

## La Jeunesse et la Conférence Mondiale Contre le Racisme

Un tiers de la population mondiale — plus de deux milliards de personnes — ont moins de 25 ans, et pourtant les jeunes gens sont marginalisés partout et exclus du processus décisionnel de base, à la fois à l'intérieur de la famille et dans la sphère publique. Les jeunes gens se voient refusés les droits accordés aux adultes et ont un accès inégalitaire dans le domaine de l'éducation, la protection légale et les services médicaux. Les jeunes de couleur et les jeunes femmes sont l'objet de discrimination basée sur leur âge, aussi bien que sur leur race et leur genre. Pour s'assurer que leurs préoccupations et demandes seront adressées à la conférence mondiale, les jeunes gens de toutes les parties du monde (parmi eux cinq délégués de MADRE) ont formé le Caucus des Jeunes au CMCR.

Pour la première fois, les jeunes gens se font valoir comme des acteurs sérieux sur la scène internationale. Grâce à l'engagement et à la direction de la jeunesse dans le monde entier, les jeunes gens ont insisté — et ont gagné — une voix à l'intérieur des Nations Unies. Un des acteurs-clefs dans ce processus est

Mónica Alemán, la Coordinatrice Internationale des Relations Extérieures de MADRE. Mónica fait partie de MADRE depuis son enfance pendant la guerre financée par les Etats-Unis au Nicaragua. Maintenant, elle est un leader dans son propre droit, Mónica a apporté sa passion politique, sa compréhension aigüe de l'ONU et son engagement féroce au droit international, à son travail pour les droits universels des femmes. Elle est un membre du comité de direction du Forum Indigène des Femmes des Nations Unies et un membre du Comité International des Jeunes, fournissant des conseils pour la participation des jeunes dans le monde entier dans le processus de la CMCR et même au-delà de ce domaine.

## Les Jeunes Délégués de MADRE à la CMCR S'Expriment

### KATIE MIRANDA

Nous sommes assis à un restaurant mexicain dans le coeur de la nouvelle ville de Genève, mangeant des burritos, entourés par les Alpes suisses. Arturo chante en accompagnant une chanson mariachi. Eileen et Gabriela l'écoutent attentivement. Mónica révisé notre ordre du jour pour le lendemain.



Arturo Sánchez

Jeunes délégués de MADRE à l'ONU à Genève, organisant une stratégie pour les jeunes pour la Conférence Mondiale Contre le Racisme.

Nous avons travaillé à l'ONU toute la journée et nous sommes fatigués et frustrés — personne n'a plus l'énergie pour penser ce soir sur le Projet de la Déclaration qui sera mise en oeuvre pour lutter contre le racisme pendant la Conférence Mondiale. Myrna et Vivian, nos mentors, guides et pseudo-mères au cours de ce processus, parlent doucement. D'une certaine manière, quelqu'un demande exactement comment elles se sont rencontrées. Et l'histoire de MADRE se déroule.

La lutte pour la justice, pour l'égalité, pour le droit de vivre dans une société libre de toute discrimination rentre au coeur de MADRE. Plus que la diplomatie internationale, plus que les travaux du Système des Nations Unies; c'est ce que j'ai appris lors de ma présence à la deuxième réunion préparatoire pour la Conférence Mondiale contre le Racisme. Les femmes qui ont fondé cette organisation, qui se sont battues ensemble à travers le ravage et la guerre, les femmes qui sont MADRE, forment l'essence d'espoir et la force et l'engagement à l'égalité, la dignité et la justice que notre délégation a apportée à l'ONU au mois de Mai. J'ai été intégrée dans cette famille et, pour moi, cette détermination qui traverse des océans et des continents a été la partie la plus impressionnante du processus auquel j'ai été si privilégiée de participer. Des horreurs de la guerre financée par les Etats-Unis au Nicaragua est née une résistance dans la volonté et l'engagement de ces femmes qui se sont consacrées à MADRE. Ce dans quoi nous avons contribué et continuerons à contribuer dans le processus de la Conférence Mondiale Contre le Racisme est quelque chose de plus profond que notre simple participation dans de tels événements; c'est une histoire et un passé qui a semé les graines et a cultivé les racines d'une promesse pour lutter contre l'injustice et l'inégalité à la source, et ceci dans toutes les sphères de nos vies — sur la scène internationale, politiquement et de manière personnelle à l'intérieur de nos communautés. C'est l'engagement de la famille de MADRE.

## GABRIELA ROUILLON

Les activités que nous projetons pour la Conférence Mondiale sont des ateliers de formation des Nations Unies, une grande réunion pour les jeunes provenant de pays différents dans le but d'échanger des expériences et des stratégies d'organisation, des débats politiques sur les questions pour lesquelles nous nous battons et nous travaillons pour, et des groupes pour consolider notre Déclaration Internationale des Jeunes et notre Plan d'Action. Et la délégation des jeunes de MADRE projette une publication commune avec le Département des Nations Unies d'Information Publique pour fournir des documents-modèle pour les jeunes qui s'organisent aux

niveaux locaux, nationaux et régionaux dans le monde entier.

## EILEEN MAIRENA

Grâce à MADRE, nous avons réussi à incorporer les questions sur lesquelles nous luttons dans chacune de nos communautés dans le processus menant jusqu'à la Conférence Mondiale. Nous avons fait des demandes pour l'accès aux services de santé reproductive et sexuelle, les droits des jeunes Indigènes et l'accès à une éducation de qualité. MADRE travaille pour les droits humains simultanément aux niveaux locaux, nationaux et internationaux. Cette approche nous a permis d'apporter les questions de nos communautés au forum mondial de la con-

férence et, en temps adéquat, appliquer nos exploits sur la scène internationale à l'intérieur de la politique locale, améliorant ainsi notre société à tous les niveaux.

## ARTURO SÁNCHEZ

Un de nos problèmes-clés en tant que jeune est de reconnaître notre vulnérabilité et ses multiples formes de discrimination qui s'appliquent sur nos identités différentes. Par exemple, une émigrée qui est noire et lesbienne subit une forme particulière de discrimination. Si telle personne est jeune, elle est aussi discriminée à cause de son âge. En fait, la jeune personne est une catégorie politique, alors nous, les jeunes gens, devons nous organiser pour nos droits. ■

# CONCERNED ABOUT BUSH'S IMPACT ON WOMEN & FAMILIES AROUND THE WORLD?



PHOTO: JONATHAN SNOW



**You can make a difference... Person to person, woman to woman, child to child.**

**MADRE has launched the**

## HELPING HANDS Campaign

**to collect material necessities for women and children in Guatemala, Mexico, Cuba, Haiti and Nicaragua.**

### WAYS TO HELP:

- Send us your toys and Spanish-language children's books from home 
- Leave a collection box for eyeglasses at your optometrist's office 
- Pick up an extra bottle of vitamins, aspirin or cough medicine at the pharmacy
- Organize a community movie night, barbecue or other activity where admission is a contribution to the campaign
- Offer a tax-deductible donation to help us ship the materials

**YES! I WANT TO SUPPORT madre's HELPING HANDS Campaign**

ENCLOSED IS MY DONATION OF \$ \_\_\_\_\_, (ITEM) \_\_\_\_\_

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

MADRE 121 West 27th Street, #301 New York, NY 10001 • (212) 627-0444 • madre@igc.org • www.MADRE.org



## NICARAGUA: Health Care for All

Until now, Indigenous women on Nicaragua's Atlantic Coast have barely had access to health services.

When treatment has been available, it has often been a site of disrespect, hostility and even violence. In response to this need, MADRE has helped local healthcare providers and activists open CADAMUC Clinic, providing Indigenous women with the high quality, respectful health care that everyone deserves.

CADAMUC is the region's only specialized women's clinic, delivering critical health services, such as obstetrics and gynecology. CADAMUC's programs enable women and girls to educate themselves about reproductive health and the prevention of sexually transmitted disease. The clinic also provides counseling on domestic violence and child abuse. In April, MADRE delivered a shipment of medicines and medical supplies to CADAMUC, valued at over \$500,000.

## GUATEMALA: Weaving Together a New Leadership

Over a decade ago, MADRE supported a courageous group of women in the village of Xemal, who were determined to overcome some of the destruction and economic ruin of Guatemala's 36-year civil war by forming weaving and corn mill cooperatives in their community. In February 2001, MADRE began working with the children of these women, who have been inspired by their mothers to repair and improve the original cooperative projects. MADRE has provided the group, T'al Nán K'oi ("We Are Our Mothers' Children" in the Indigenous Mam language), with a computer and funds to install a phone line in their community. With this technology, the youth will be able to communicate on-line with other young people internationally and build a network for youth activism in Guatemala and beyond. T'al Nán K'oi has begun a training program to increase production at the cooperatives. And in June, the group conducted workshops about the impact of racism and discrimination on their community.



Members of BENIMPUHWE share a traditional Rwandan dance at a MADRE human rights workshop.

## RWANDA: Building a Just Society

MADRE's sister organization, BENIMPUHWE ("From the Heart" in Kinyarwanda) is an association of Rwandan women working to overcome extreme poverty, homelessness, hunger and the bereavement and trauma that are the legacy of Rwanda's 1994 genocide. MADRE has helped BENIMPUHWE to build a new village for women and families displaced during the genocide. When we visited the village in April, we were pleased to see that nearly 180 houses have now been completed. Families are helping to support themselves with the chickens and goats purchased with the help of MADRE members. And thanks to the potable water system being built with MADRE support, the community will soon have clean drinking water. During our visit, MADRE staff ran a two-day workshop for BENIMPUHWE members. Through interactive exercises using dance, song and theatre, the participants developed strategies to fight for women's rights in their community and in their country.

## PALESTINE: Demanding an End to Occupation

Since September 2000, Palestinians have been waging a renewed struggle for self-determination and an end to 34 years of Israeli occupation. Over 500 Palestinians and 100 Israelis have been killed so far in military confrontations and attacks on civilians. Israeli troops have destroyed dozens of Palestinian



prograram  
highlights