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CAF International News

At January's meeting of CAF's International Directors, held in the UK, representatives from America, Australia, Brazil, Bulgaria, India, Russia, South Africa and the UK met to discuss common challenges and share examples of best practice. Some of the key achievements discussed included a marked rise in donor receipts for CAF Southern Africa. The group also noted the highest ever levels of donor receipts for CAF Australia and CAF America.

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International Women's day 2008

Celebrated for nearly a century, and sanctioned by the United Nations since 1975, International Women's Day is now recognized as a national holiday in over a dozen countries. Celebrated each year, IWD has become much like Mother's Day in many countries, an opportunity to express appreciation for the lives of everyday women. IWD 2008 will focus on "shaping progress," and on the plight of women today who continue to bear the burden of discrimination and violence.

Violence against women is still shockingly prevalent around the world. Despite UN Conventions to eliminate it, far too many women worldwide (regardless of ethnicity, religion, age, or appearance) will be victims of gender-based violence, including incest, domestic violence, rape, and human trafficking this year. According to the National Organization for Women (NOW), every day in the United States four women die as a result of domestic violence.

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Ni Putes Ni Soumises

Samira Bellil was not only raped repeatedly by gang members in the Parisian cité where she grew up; she was also expelled from her family and community after writing a book about it. In 2002, her autobiography *Dans l'enfer des tournantes* (In Gang Rape Hell) shocked France with its graphic and violent account of her life in a housing project on the outskirts of Paris. A year later, motivated by her own experiences and her desire to help women in similar circumstances, Samira helped

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(IWD) and to mark the event we take a look at some of the key issues affecting women worldwide. These include economic security, education, health and violence against women. We also....

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Women's Role in Philanthropy

A notable advance in the realization of women's rights over the past century is economic empowerment. In the United States, women comprise over 50% of the workforce, and control a similar percentage of the nation's wealth. Although still paid on average less than men (approximately \$0.68 to every \$1 earned by a man), women exercise more control over their finances than ever before. During the latter half of the last century, particularly over the last 30 years, women have emerged from their historic role as volunteers to become philanthropists.

In the 1950s, Katherine Dexter McCormick, a suffragist and heiress to a substantial fortune, was perhaps the first to demonstrate that women could, and would in increasing numbers, become generous philanthropists. McCormick donated nearly \$2 million to fund research for the first oral contraceptive. Upon her death, she bequeathed \$5 million to the International Planned Parenthood Federation.

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Introduction from Susan K.E. Saxon-Harrold



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Welcome to the first issue of *CAF America News* in 2008. March 8 is [International Women's Day \(IWD\)](#) and to mark the event we take a look at some of the key issues affecting women worldwide. These include economic security, education, health and violence against women. We also outline some of the issues that donors in the United States should consider when looking to support overseas or international nonprofits working in this field.

Elsewhere in *CAF America News* we explore the increasing significance of [women in philanthropy](#) in the United States and take a look at [Ni Putes Ni Soumises](#), a French charity working to combat gender violence against women in poor, urban communities in the country. We also outline some of the outcomes of the recent [CAF International Directors'](#) meeting.

In addition, CAF America has produced *Empowering Women*, an Issue Brief covering many of the issues that I have touched upon here. The brief provides a synopsis of facts, research and funding opportunities. Please click [here](#) for more information.

If you would like to help, please [forward](#) this e-newsletter onto friends and colleagues that you think might be interested in learning about these issues.

Best wishes,

Dr. Susan K.E. Saxon-Harrold
Chief Executive Officer

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The Global Fund for Women (GFW), a nonprofit organization that works to advance women's rights worldwide, estimates that one in three women will at some time in their life be raped, beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise violated. Rape as a tactic of war is routinely employed in conflict-ridden countries like Sierra Leone, Iraq, Kosovo and Afghanistan.

Last year on the occasion of International Women's Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon condemned the continuing assault on women's rights. "Worst of all, violence against women and girls continues unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women's lives, on their families, and on society as a whole. Most societies prohibit such violence, yet the reality is that too often, it is covered up or tacitly condoned."

Although the statistics present a bleak picture, much excellent work is being done to counter this. For example, [Ni Putes Ni Soumises](#), a French charity, is working to combat shocking levels of gender violence against women in poor, urban communities in the country.

The facts surrounding other issues are no less surprising. The UN's *The World's Women 2005* report estimated that more than two thirds of the world's 960 million illiterate adults were women. These figures are mirrored by the fact that two thirds of the world's uneducated children are girls. Although eradicating illiteracy remains one of the UN's strategic objectives, the organization has conceded that little progress had been made in achieving this. It has also called for a 50% improvement in the levels of adult literacy by 2015. Other studies maintain that educating women and girls is likely to be the single most effective strategy to improve the wellbeing of children.

The GFW paints a similarly depressing picture across other issues.

- Women perform two-thirds of all labor and produce more than 50% of the world's food. Yet, they own only about 1% of the world's assets. And represent 70% of those living in absolute poverty.
- Women make up 51% of the world's population yet hold only 16% of parliamentary and congressional seats worldwide. The GFW asserts that such gender bias is entrenched and further

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limits women's presence in corporate and civic positions.

- In developing countries women and girls often lack access to the most basic health care services. And maternal mortality is the leading cause of death in women of reproductive age.

The scale of the task facing those agencies and people working to effect lasting change on some of these issues is immense. By exploring some of them in *CAF America News* we can not only do our small bit to raise additional awareness, but also inspire some of you to consider giving to such international issues as part of your 2008 giving plan.

Women's Role in Philanthropy

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Today, more and more women are following McCormick's example, devoting both time and money to philanthropic causes. This includes women of modest means from diverse backgrounds as well as wealthy benefactors. The Falconer Group, a group of family wealth advisors, surveyed nearly 200 women about their philanthropic activities. The women surveyed donated gifts of \$200 to \$4 million annually and their occupations included, among others, professor, artist, homemaker, physician, lawyer and publisher.

This trend is hardly surprising; a new survey of Federal Reserve Board data revealed that women now control 51.3% of personal wealth in the United States. And while a common myth is that men give more to charity than women, the reality is quite different. A recent study by the National Science Foundation indicated that women, on average, donate twice as much as men. (Eckel, Catherine C. and Philip J. Grossman. "Are Women Less Selfish than Men?" *Economic Journal*)

Moreover, it is increasingly evident that women give in different ways than men. Sondra C. Shaw-Hardy and Martha A. Taylor, co-authors of *Reinventing Fundraising: Realizing the Potential of Women's Philanthropy* and founders of the Women's Philanthropy Institute, stress that in general, women want a more personal or emotional link to their gifts, and often contribute time and energy in addition to money. They often appreciate personal appeals from a charity and many want to be regularly informed or updated about a charity's activities.

Recognizing women's growing financial independence and interest in giving, charities and foundations are increasingly shaping their donor appeals to reach women. Moreover, this growth in the number of women donors is matched by growing participation in the management of U.S. Foundations. According to the Council of Foundations, over 50% of foundation leaders in the U.S. are female, including our very own CAF America CEO.

Despite this growing influence, women still face gender bias in the world of philanthropy. In *Business Week Magazine's* 2003 list of the "Top 50 Most Generous Philanthropists," 26 of the 50 philanthropists were women; all were listed with their spouses.

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Ni Putes Ni Soumises

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Founded to shock citizens into action, Ni Putes Ni Soumises (NPNS) promotes feminism based on respect, secularism, and equality between the sexes. Through regional chapters, an annual conference on the status of women's rights, and outreach initiatives to victims of violence and rape, NPNS hopes to achieve a "new feminism" while reducing violence against women, and fighting against all genres of discrimination.

Sadly, Samira's story mirrors the lives of many of the women NPNS strives to help. The French charity's first debate attracted only 15 participants, and many vocal detractors, including gang members. However, the tragic story of 19-year-old Sohanne Benziane, who was burned alive on a trash heap by a gang member in a Parisian suburb, subsequently mobilized the charity. When several youths came forward to report the crime, the resulting public uproar culminated in a 30,000 strong demonstration in Paris on International Women's Day 2003. The movement has continued to generate both political and popular support with 65,000 French citizens signing a national petition calling for a "new feminist struggle." It has successfully lobbied for legislation to protect women and secured funds to develop a guide about respect for distribution to teenagers.

It also partners with local groups, such as battered women's shelters and family planning groups, and advocates for sexual education in school and classes on gender equality and women's rights. Most importantly, it creates shelters and safe houses for abuse victims and women in extreme need, where they can meet with volunteer lawyers and psychologists.

The group's efforts are frequently directed toward the impoverished cités of France—housing projects with unemployment rates nearly four times the national average and disturbing rates of violence against women. Often home to immigrant communities, the cités have experienced a rise in youth violence over the last three decades. Disaffected, unemployed young men mercilessly rule their neighborhoods, inflicting their frustration on women in the process. In such environments, a girl is often labeled a whore if she dares to dress or act 'immodestly,' prompting many to wear baggy tracksuits or veils.

NPNS has tapped into a groundswell of public opinion and now boasts over 6,000 members and numerous regional chapters throughout France. Largely dependant on public funding, the organization received a \$90,000 grant from CAF America in January 2008 as a result of a suggestion from Philip Morris International.

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On the back of its encouraging growth CAF Southern Africa has established a new endowment fund, created new grant making services and played a key role in introducing a pre-tax payroll giving campaign. Companies in South Africa are showing a willingness to be more socially responsible, perhaps encouraged by the country's Black Economic Empowerment policy.

Duncan Power, Executive Director of CAF Australia, noted major developments since 2006, including the development of an Aboriginal Scholarship Fund and a partnership with a financial institution in Singapore.

Susan Saxon-Harrold, CEO of CAF America, said that the on-going credit squeeze in the financial markets in the USA has introduced uncertainty in the giving environment. The creation of CAF America's new website has, therefore, been timely as it will encourage more online gifts and provide donors and charities with sound advice about international philanthropy. Last year CAF America received a record US\$17.5m and is on target to repeat this level of donor receipts in 2008.

In Russia, changes in endowment law have created a new landscape for managing funds. On the strength of this CAF Russia has made significant changes to its organisational structure. It now has over 70 corporate clients and has raised US\$1.7m through its *Charity Instead of Gifts* campaign.

CAF's international partner in Brazil, the Institute for the Development of Social Investment (IDIS), plans to increase its positioning beyond Brazil, expanding into Latin America with a focus on Argentina and Mexico. IDIS is a civil society organisation that provides consultancy to donors. It was instrumental in creating the first family endowed foundation in Brazil, now worth an estimated US\$100m.

CAF India's current priority is corporate consulting. The organisation's presence and outreach extends across south Asia and the Asia Pacific region. Companies in these regions are becoming increasingly socially responsible and CAF India's expertise is in great demand.

CAF Bulgaria (BCAF) is the largest and most successful nonprofit in the country, raising local money for projects rather than depending on the EU. Philanthropy is still a new concept in the country so BCAF's current priority is donor and charity education.

For more information about any of the CAF International offices mentioned above please click [here](#).

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CAF America News & Updates

- We are pleased to welcome Caroline Brown, our new Corporate Development Officer. Caroline joined CAF America in February and brings significant experience in the nonprofit sector. This includes two years as an organizational consultant for government and nonprofit clients at Quatt Associates and Booz Allen Hamilton, and six years as a grant officer focused on domestic environmental organizations at the Environmental Support Center. She holds an M.A. in Public Administration and a Certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Alabama (Birmingham), and a B.A. in American Studies from the University of Alabama (Tuscaloosa).
- Also new to CAF America is David Venne, who joins us as Director of Finance. David has worked within the non-profit sector since 1992 and most recently as Director of Finance and Administration with Christian Service Charities, an association of charities. David has a BA in Accounting from Luther College, Decorah, IA.

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