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Center for Women's Global Leadership
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December 8, 1992

Brigitte Mabandla
University of the Western Cape
Community Law Center
Private Bag X17
Belleville, 7535
SOUTH AFRICA

Dear Brigitte:

We would like to invite you to participate in our Strategic Planning Institute (SPI) on women's rights as human rights to be held February 14-20, 1993 in New Brunswick, New Jersey. This invitational Institute is a week-long intensive working session, and all participants are asked to attend for the entire period. We will bring 16-18 women from various regions who are actively involved in working on women's rights as human rights to strategize on next directions to be taken in this work globally.

The Institute will have three major tasks:

- 1) Finalizing plans for presenting our campaign and making the case for women's rights as human rights at the United Nations World Conference on Human Rights in June in Vienna. This will include looking at what has happened in the International Campaign for Women's Human Rights through the worldwide petition drive, local hearings, regional conferences, and other initiatives associated with this event. Based on the work done regionally, we will prepare a submission for the final UN Preparatory Committee for the conference which will be held in Geneva in late March. We will also determine the nature of our one day international hearing scheduled for Vienna in June as well as coordinate with other NGO activities and lobbying for the UN conference.
- 2) Analyzing progress of efforts to date to establish an understanding of women's rights as human rights locally and internationally. This will include evaluation of the strategies proposed at our two Women's Leadership Institutes (held in June of 1991 and 1992) on Women, Violence, and Human Rights. The Institute will outline areas where we need research, legal, and theoretical development and what problems need further consideration if this work is to succeed. Overall we will consider next steps in international networking and action around women's human rights and gender violence to be taken beyond the Human Rights Conference in 1993. This will include looking at how these issues are to be presented during the 1994 Year of the Family and UN Population Conference as well as at the 1995 UN World Social Summit and the next World Conference on Women.
- 3) Recommending specific steps that should be taken by the Center for

Women's Global Leadership as part of this worldwide effort. We held an International Planning Meeting in 1990 which helped mold our initial programs, and we expect this strategic planning meeting to assist in determining our role as a catalyst in this work during 1993-1996. We will specifically ask for input into plans for our 1994 Women's Global Leadership Institute and for advice on what our programs should be for the 1995 World Conference on Women.

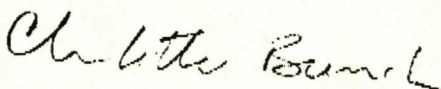
This Strategic Planning Institute will be a residential working session held at the Rutgers University Continuing Education Center at Douglass College in New Jersey and will include a closing session for the public in New York City on February 19th. The sessions will begin on Sunday afternoon, February 14th, and end with a dinner on Friday evening, February 19th. We ask therefore that all participants plan to arrive by 2pm on Sunday and stay at least until 9pm on Friday. We can arrange for housing on Saturday Feb. 13th in New Jersey and for Friday night the 19th in New York City for those who let us know that you need this.

The Center for Women's Global Leadership will pay for the transportation costs and accommodations/meals of all invited participants during the period of the Institute. However our budget is very limited, and if you or your organization can contribute toward your expenses that will enable us to invite more participants. Further, we are not able to offer per diems and will need to know in advance if you have currency exchange problems and will need cash reimbursements for anything while here.

All of the women invited to this strategy Institute have been active for some time in advancing women's human rights, and we are excited about what we can do at these sessions. Many of you have worked with the Center for Women's Global Leadership in various capacities before, and we are particularly happy to think of bringing such a group together in one room for a week. If you would like more background information on the Center, our previous leadership institutes, or the international campaign around the UN World Conference on Human Rights, please let us know. We will mail all participants a packet of material updating these activities in January.

Given the rapid approach of the Holiday Season, we hope that you can respond soon and favorably to our invitation. If you are unable to attend, we also need to know that soon so we can invite someone else from your region. Please fax us some response as soon as possible but by January 4th at the latest. We look forward to hearing from you and hopefully seeing you in February.

Sincerely,


Charlotte Bunch,
Director


Susana Fried,
Institute Coordinator



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December 22, 1992

Ms Bridget Mbandla
Community Law Centre
University of Western Cape
P.O. Box X17, Bellville 7535
South Africa

FAX: 011-2721-959-2411

Dear Bridget:

I am sorry that we have missed each other in the intervening periods since we met in August. I have been in touch with a number of people interested in the issue of gender and race bias in the administration of justice, including Kate O'Regan and Dennis Davis. You may be aware that in conjunction with Dullah Omar and with Pius Langa and Zola Skweyiya, the Trust Fund has been working on a programme to support the transformation of the bench in South Africa. One of the issues which has been raised with us by Kate and Dennis is providing access to the experience in these areas in Canada, including the recent reports on gender and the courts produced by the Bar Association and the parliamentary sub-committee in Manitoba. In principle, we would be willing to provide support a short visit to Canada to identify resources and to enable you and your colleagues to expand the range of Canadian contacts.

I would welcome your advice on how we could pursue this and I think that Kate O'Regan will be in touch with you after the holidays.

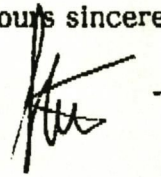
Although we are interested in giving support to research which is focused on the development of new models, our principal interest is in bringing South Africans in contact with practitioners in the Canadian context. I therefore suggested to Kate that any visit should have a strong focus on the programmes and the jurisprudence following the introduction of the Charter of Rights, and the programmes of action undertaken in various levels of the administration to take account of these. I know that you are engaged in work around the issue of the Charter, and I think that your input into the visit would be valuable.

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I look forward to maintaining contact with you on this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Steve Godfrey
Executive Director

cc. Kate O'Regan