The Role of Women in World Peace

The Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity

Keynote Speaker
2003 Nobel Peace Laureate
Shirin Ebadi

A Symposium
Sponsored by

LEHMAN COLLEGE
The City University of New York
and
THE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH AWARENESS NETWORK
Lehman College
Bronx, New York
May 24, 2004
www.lehman.cuny.edu
KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Shirin Ebadi
2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

Shirin Ebadi received a law degree from the University of Tehran and was one of Iran's first female judges, serving as president of the Tehran city court from 1975 to 1979. After the Iranian revolution in 1979, she was forced to resign her position. She now works as a lawyer and teaches at the University of Tehran.

With Islam as her starting point, Mrs. Ebadi campaigns for peaceful solutions to social problems and promotes new thinking on Islamic terms, arguing for a new interpretation of Islamic law that is in harmony with such vital human rights as equality before the law, religious freedom and freedom of speech. Taking an active part in the public debate, she has defended victims in several controversial political cases and, as a consequence, been imprisoned on numerous occasions. Mrs. Ebadi is also an activist for refugee rights and both the founder and leader of the Association for Support of Children’s Rights in Iran. Among her books are *The Rights of the Child: A Study of Legal Aspects of Children’s Rights in Iran* (Tehran, 1994) and *History and Documentation of Human Rights in Iran* (New York, 2000).

**Olaru Otunnu**

UN Undersecretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Ambassad- dor Otunnu as his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in 1997. He had previously served as an advocate for the rights of children in the context of conflict, promoting measures for their protection in times of war and for their healing and social reintegration in the aftermath of conflict. Ambassador Otunnu was born in northern Uganda and received his higher education from Makerere University in Kampala, Oxford University (as selected overseas scholar) and Harvard Law School (as a Fulbright Scholar). He practiced law in New York, prior to becoming Assistant Professor of Law at Albany Law School.

**Anwarul Karim Chowdhury**

United Nations Undersecretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Ambassador Chowdhury was named to his current position in March 2002 by the UN Secretary-General. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York, when he was President of the UN Security Council, President of the Executive Board of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Vice President of the Economic and Social Council in 1997 and 1998. He served for more than ten years as Coordinator for the Least Developed Countries and has also been the UNICEF Director for Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Ambassador Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and UNESCO’s Gandhi Gold Medal for the Culture of Peace. He received an honorary doctorate from Soko University of Tokyo.

**Michael S. Kimmel**

Professor of Sociology, State University of New York, Stony Brook

Dr. Kimmel has received international recognition for his work on men and masculinity. His books include *Changing Men: New Directions in Research on Men and Masculinity* and *Men Confront Pornography, Against the Tide: Pro-Feminist Men in the United States, 1776–1990*, *Manhood in America: A Cultural History*. His articles have appeared in dozens of magazines, newspapers and scholarly journals, including *Psychology Today*, where he was a Contributing Editor and columnist on male-female relationships. He is the current editor of the international, interdisciplinary journal *Men and Masculinities*. Dr. Kimmel is National Spokesperson for the National Organization for Men Against Sexism, has lectured at over 200 colleges and universities, and run numerous workshops on preventing sexual harassment and implementing gender equity. On the basis of his expertise, he was an expert witness for the U.S. Department of Justice in the VMI and Citadel cases.

**Vijaya Melnick**

First Vice President, International Health and Awareness Network, and Director, Office of Sponsored Research and Programs, the University of the District of Columbia, Washington, DC

In addition to her positions with the International Health Awareness Network and at the University of the District of Columbia, Dr. Melnick is Associate Director of the International Center for Interdisciplinary Studies in Immunology at Georgetown University Medical Center and Senior Science Advisor to the Lemelson Center for Inventions and Innovations at the National Museum of American History—The Smithsonian Institute. A member of the Health Care Ethics faculty at Howard University Medical College, she has served as Science Advisor and member of the faculty of the Einstein Institute for Science, Health and the Courts, as well as Principal Investigator on a number of research projects, and has authored numerous articles and books. She is a current member of the boards and executive committees of many national and international organizations involved with health and education. Dr. Melnick received her Ph.D. and postdoctoral training from the University of Wisconsin at Madison.

**Patricia Fernandez-Kelly**

Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology and Office of Population Research, Princeton University

Dr. Fernández-Kelly’s area of specialty is international development. She has published widely on migration, economic restructuring, women in the labor force, and race and ethnicity, with special emphasis on Latin American and Asian societies. Much of her work focuses on export-processing zones in Asia and Latin America, with special attention to Mexico’s *maquiladora* program. Her book on that subject, *For We Are Sold, I and My People: Women and Industry in Mexico’s Frontier*, was featured by Contemporary Sociology as one of twenty-five favorite books of the last twenty-five years. With Lorraine Gray, she co-produced the Emmy award-winning documentary, *The Global Assembly Line*. Her latest project is a study of fifty African American families living in poverty.

**Gender Equity**

**Olara Otunnu**

UN Undersecretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan appointed Ambassad- dor Otunnu as his Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in 1997. He had previously served as an advocate for the rights of children in the context of conflict, promoting measures for their protection in times of war and for their healing and social reintegration in the aftermath of conflict. Ambassador Otunnu was born in northern Uganda and received his higher education from Makerere University in Kampala, Oxford University (as selected overseas scholar) and Harvard Law School (as a Fulbright Scholar). He practiced law in New York, prior to becoming Assistant Professor of Law at Albany Law School.

**Anwarul Karim Chowdhury**

United Nations Undersecretary-General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States

Ambassador Chowdhury was named to his current position in March 2002 by the UN Secretary-General. Prior to this appointment, he served as the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations in New York, when he was President of the UN Security Council, President of the Executive Board of the UN Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and Vice President of the Economic and Social Council in 1997 and 1998. He served for more than ten years as Coordinator for the Least Developed Countries and has also been the UNICEF Director for Japan, Australia and New Zealand. Ambassador Chowdhury is the recipient of the U Thant Peace Award and UNESCO’s Gandhi Gold Medal for the Culture of Peace. He received an honorary doctorate from Soko University of Tokyo.