

An Iraq-US Summit

Creating Our Common Future

A Program of the Global Peace Initiative of Women

Beginning the Dialogue Between Iraqi and American Women

March 26th - 28th, 2006

New York City

Program Agenda



“ We cannot stop. We cannot get discouraged when we look around us -- if we give up who will remain? ... We must work in the spirit that one day those inciting violence in my country will be gone and keeping this in our heart we must have the courage not to stop working for peace. Many people here feel this. I am not alone. This is why I don't give up.”

- Iraqi Delegate

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“All the resolutions in the world won't make peace until, like these brave women, we reach out to this generation so that the next generation is made safe, not by force but by faith in the essential humanity of all humanity... This kind of peacemaking takes real courage. No wonder the ancients taught us to pray for it so long, so hard, so often.”

- Sr. Joan Chittister, OSB

Sunday, March 26, 2006 – Pre-Summit Meeting

12:00 – 1:30PM

Roundtable discussion among Iraqi Delegation and Global Peace Initiative of Women – Setting the Summit Goals

100 UN Plaza (48th Street and 1st Avenue), Ground Floor Ballroom
Lunch will be served.

2:00 – 4:30PM

Impact of Conflict on Iraqi Children

Moderator: Mr. Olara Otunnu, President, LBL Foundation for Children & Former UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict

6:00PM

Welcome Dinner For US and Iraqi Delegation

Hosted by The Global Peace Initiative of Women

100 UN Plaza (48th and 1st Avenue), Ground Floor Ballroom

Monday, March 27, 2006 - Millennium UN Plaza Hotel (44th Street and 1st Avenue), 2nd Fl.

8:30 AM

Registration (Coffee and Muffins)

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM

WELCOME and Setting of Summit Goals

Welcome by:

- Ms. Dena Merriam, Convener, The Global Peace Initiative of Women
- Ms. Maryam Zarif, Reading from Rumi
- Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell, Chair, The Global Peace Initiative of Women and Director of Department of Religion, Chautauqua Institution
Chair, Morning Session

Opening Remarks:

- H.E. Samir Shakir M. Sumaida'ie, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Iraq to the United Nations

9:30 AM – 12:30 PM **OPENING PLENARY Part I - Stories from the Ground:**

Reports from Iraqi women on what the Iraqi people have experienced since the conflict began, in the context of the challenges faced over the past several decades.

This opening session will help set the context for the dialogue and introduce the themes. In the first half of this plenary, Iraqi women will provide accounts of what their communities have experienced, representing many perspectives, ethnic backgrounds and regions within Iraq. Some of the issues to be covered will include the impact of the conflict on the security of family and children, efforts and challenges to building national unity, updates on infrastructure and rebuilding, perceptions of the Iraqi people regarding the American presence, impact of the conflict on the environment and the newly emerging religious divisions.

Moderator: Ms. Elizabeth Vargas, Co-Anchor, ABC World News Tonight & 20/20

Remarks by Iraqi Delegation:

Challenges to building National Unity - Perceptions of the American Presence

Emerging Religious Divisions

Impact of Conflict on Families and Children

Obstacles to Rebuilding

Open discussion between Iraqi and American Women

12:30 PM

Closing Remarks:

- Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, Co-Chair, The Global Peace Initiative of Women
- Mr. Olara Otunnu, President of LBL Foundation for Children & Former UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict
- Ms. Charlotte Ponticelli, Senior Coordinator, International Women's Issues, the US Department of State - "Generating Economic Support/Partnerships for Iraqi Women"

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Lunch – The Council Room 7th Floor

Remarks by:

- Ms. Diana Taylor, Superintendent of Banks for the State of New York - "Thoughts and Insights on the Global Role of Women in Finance"
- Ms. Wendy R. Acho, Collaborator, American Middle East Economic Affairs Committee (AMEAC) Women's Business Committee, US Arab Economic Forum

2:30 – 5:00 PM

**PLENARY II: The Role of Women in Post-Saddam Hussein Iraq
Achievements and Challenges**

Moderator: Sister Joan Chittister, OSB, Co-chair, The Global Peace Initiative of Women

Iraqi women leaders will detail the situation facing women regarding legal and political rights, access to education and healthcare, their freedom of movement, etc.? What are likely scenarios regarding religion/state relations and its impact on women?

Iraqi women have enjoyed relative freedom to advance professionally during the past few decades. This is now suddenly being threatened as questions arise over the role of religion in the political arena. How can the international community support Iraqi women in their quest for equal status and opportunity? What are the challenges and how are such challenges to be met within a democratic framework? A question and answer session will follow.

Remarks by Iraqi delegation

4:00 – 5:00 PM

Closing Remarks by:

- Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell

5:00 PM

Depart for St. Bartholomew's Church

5:30 – 7:00 PM

Interfaith Service & Reception

In Celebration of the Unity of All Peoples

Location – St. Bartholomew's Church – 51st Street and Park Avenue

Reception open to the New York community

7:00 PM

Dinner for US and Iraqi Delegation – The Grand Hall, St. Bartholomew's Church

Classical Khatak Dance from North India by Ms. Prachi Dalal and Ms. Mai Nemoto, ArtsAhimsa

Benediction and Welcome by Rev. Dean Parks Morton and Prof. Amir Al Islam

Tuesday, March 28, 2006 - Millennium UN Plaza Hotel (44th Street and 1st Avenue), 2nd Fl.

8:30 AM

Coffee and Muffins

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Welcome by:

Sister Joan Chittister, Chair, Morning Session

Opening Remarks:

- Ms. Carol Bellamy, President, World Learning University & Former Executive Director, UNICEF

PLENARY III - Fostering People-to-People Dialogue:

Changing Attitudes and Misperceptions

Moderator: Ms. Kate Snow, Co-anchor, ABC News Good Morning America Weekend Edition

This session will explore the challenges to US-Iraq relations and how civil society initiatives can repair some of the ill will created as a result of the events following the invasion. It will also explore the role of the international community in healing some of the damage caused

by the conflict. It will look at vehicles available to help civil society groups engage with one another.

Remarks by Iraqi delegation

Open Discussion between Iraqi and American Delegates

1:00 – 2:30 PM

Lunch

2:30 – 4:30 PM

PLENARY IV - Shaping the Commitment: Balancing the responsibilities of the international community with the needs of the Iraqi People

Moderator: Rev. Dr. Joan Brown Campbell

This session will explore steps for moving forward in building a secure and healthy Iraqi nation. What can American women do to support the peacebuilding efforts of Iraqi women? How can Iraqi women better communicate the state of affairs and their needs to the American public? How can we build a partnership?

This session will open with remarks from the young Iraqi delegates on their visions for the future. Then one Iraqi and one American woman will begin the dialogue, which will then be opened to the full assembly

4:30

Coffee Break

5:00 – 6:30 PM

CLOSING SESSION – How To Move Forward

Moderators: Ms. Dena Merriam

Presentation of recommendations for expanding the dialogue among the people of Iraq, the US and the international community to strengthen the bonds and to build understanding and partnership.

Closing Remarks:

- Ms. Jane Arraf, Edward R. Murrow Press Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations & Former CNN Baghdad Bureau Chief and Senior Baghdad Correspondent

Closing Thoughts & Readings

- Venerable Chang Ji, Dharma Drum, Taiwan
- Ms. Laila Atshan, Palestine
- Ms. Mary Lamar, USA
- Ms. Maryam Zarif, Iran

Special Thanks

We pay special tribute to the Iraqi women for their courage and determination in making the long journey to the United States to meet with American women. We express our support to those who could not make the journey and our commitment to work with them in the future to help further their efforts to bring peace and stability to their country.

We thank the following individuals and organizations for their generous financial support without which this summit would not have been possible:

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Participating Organizations

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ABC News: World News Tonight	Business Peace Council	The Christian Science Monitor
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