

“Women Leading Global Change”

International Conference for Young Women: 5th October, 2007
Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, Westminster

Independent-State School Partnerships:

*Mulberry School for Girls, City of London School for Girls, Central Foundation School for Girls,
Channing School, Skinners Company School for Girls, Highbury Fields School for Girls*

Rationale

The above-named six girls’ schools are involved in a long-standing, successful partnership which promotes the high quality education of young women. Each school has its own distinctive ethos which reflects the particular community and area which they serve. Each school promotes the importance of leadership by young women in employment, in public and community life and in family roles. Each school develops aspiration, confidence and high level communication skills amongst their pupils to enable them to succeed in future life.

This conference is designed to support these aims. Pupils are becoming increasingly aware of the global environment in which we live and that their lives are becoming evermore affected by the prevailing international socio-economic and political situation. The concern they feel lies in three main areas:

1. Environmental change
2. World peace
3. Political voice locally, nationally and internationally

The conference is thus constructed to promote the development of pupil voice in relation to these three themes. By exploring the leadership of women internationally in these areas of pupils’ concern, the conference aims to support aspiration and to demonstrate the potential for leading positive change as a global citizen. Whilst we are keen to address the domain of global citizenship, we are also conscious that there is still significant under-representation of women in leadership positions in politics and employment – in education and industry, 33% of executive leaders are women and in engineering and construction (including architecture), it is far less at 16%. (Figures – The Independent 29/12/05). The need for balance in representation ties in with the broader social policy perspective in socio-economic planning and London as a city of global importance.

As leading girls’ schools situated in the heart of the financial, political and business centre of the UK, we have a responsibility to address these educational, socio-economic and political priorities.

Through the design of the conference, impact across all six schools will be considerable. There are approximately five thousand young women in total who will be involved and who will participate in some way. Although only a percentage of pupils will attend the conference day, the associated preparation projects and follow up work will ensure that all pupils in each school will benefit. It is a major project that has the capacity to influence the London generation of women to come. The power of collective action by women as individual agents of positive change was celebrated through the nomination of one thousand women together for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. This

has inspired our pupils and it is the focus for the afternoon session in the conference, leading to a statement of intent by each pupil delegate which forms part of the set of conference outcomes.

The conference is supported by the DfES and Sir John Rowling who chairs the partnership. Governors of Mulberry School for Girls are sponsoring the hire of the venue and refreshments for the programme to enable the conference to take place. The Women's Library is heavily involved in associated project work.

Conference Objectives

There are a number of educational objectives for young women at the conference:

1. To develop a consciousness of the concept of leadership and of the range of possibilities for leadership locally in their own community, nationally in corporate, public and political spheres and internationally as participants in a global society
2. To create an understanding of leadership by women across the world and the diversity of issues faced ranging from poverty and the right to basic reproductive healthcare to the effects of war upon women to the right for self-advocacy and power for self-determination
3. To become aware of the work by women in acting as agents for positive change in the world, learning through women from a variety of international backgrounds and in a variety of roles
4. To consider their own leadership skills and skills in advocacy through:
 - Taking on responsibility for the planning and organisation of the conference, supported by teachers
 - Writing the pre-conference papers and developing pre-conference materials
 - Learning through the experiences of the women they meet
 - Following up on and disseminating what has been learned to others.

Conference Programme

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| 9.00am | Arrival and registration in the main foyer of the QEII Conference Centre. Delegates to be seated and introductions made with facilitators for each table. |
| 9.15am | Seated in the Churchill Auditorium for pre-conference announcements – e.g. health and safety. Welcome to the conference – Shanaz Begum, Mulberry School for Girls and Thakmina Begum, Mulberry School for Girls (Comperes) – outline of aims and objectives for the conference. |
| 9.30am | Keynote speaker – ‘Women Leading Global Change’. <u>Baroness Cox</u> |
| 9.50am | Ten Minute Presentations by: <u>Jo Wilding</u> – 1000 Peace Women – ‘Women working for world peace’ <u>Bience Gawanas</u> – Advocate for the rights of Namibian Women and board member for the African Development Forum – ‘Women leading political change’ <u>Samira Ahmed</u> – Channel 4 News Presenter – ‘Women and leadership in the media and wider world’ |

Emily Cummins – Women of the Future Award Winner for Young Entrepreneur / Inventor – ‘Women changing the environment’

Tracey Hahn – Merrill Lynch Director of HR & board member for education in the London Mayor’s Office – ‘Women leading change in the workforce’

- 10.40am Group discussion on the issues raised and preparation for panel discussion.
- 10.50am Panel discussion with the six speakers chaired by **Jill Tuffee**. Comperes identify ‘question-asker’ from each school and get ready. Questions from the floor – roving radio mikes x 2 held by comperes.
- 11.20am *Tea and coffee* in the Pickwick Room.
- 11.40am Group discussion activity using dialogue mats – what issues most affect young women today? Facilitated on tables by group facilitator.
- 12.00pm Student presentations from the stage – 6 x 5 minutes each on (variously)
- Political voice – City of London School for Girls
 - Environmental change – Central Foundation School for Girls
 - Leadership in the workplace – Skinner’s Company School for Girls
 - World peace – Channing School for Girls
 - AIDs / HIV and global action – Highbury Fields School for Girls
 - The representation of women – Farzana Begum, Mulberry School for Girls
- 12.30pm Changing Lives Film – by the ELC.
- 1.00pm *Lunch break in the Pickwick Room* – opportunity to talk to speakers if they can stay and to look at exhibition work on ‘1000 Peacewomen’
- 1.45pm Opening of afternoon of the conference – **Dr. Masaias Cowper** – AIDs & HIV Activist – ‘Women speaking out for social change’
- 2.00pm Student drama performance on ‘1000 Peacewomen’ (20 minutes). Introduced by comperes.
- 2.20pm Delegate work on dialogue mats – themed tasks – ‘My voice – making it count’ and ‘Leading positive change’
- 3.00pm Speaker: **Meena Patel** – Southall Black Sisters. ‘Women challenging human rights issues’
- 3.25pm Speaker: **Dr. Katherine Rake** – Director of the Fawcett Society. ‘Women leading global change’
- 3.50pm Conference outcomes – delegates fill in star postcards with ‘One important thing I have learned’, ‘One hope for the future’ and ‘One action I will take for positive change’

- 4.10pm Performance: **Tara Kamangar** – International Concert Pianist and winner of Women of the Future Award – plays live while an image presentation is made of women’s leadership in a global context
- 4.20pm Conference close – **Leisha Fullick** – Pro-Director for London, Institute of Education, London University

Associated Projects

1. Conference film – a film will be made of the conference day which will be used as an educational resource with post-conference materials.
2. ‘Changing Lives’ – an education programme led by the Women’s Library will be undertaken exploring visual image and women who undertake work in peace, the environment and political change. A group of 5 pupils from each school will work collaboratively on the selection of image, interpretation of the image and visual literacy, followed by a critical commentary on the image. The themes will follow the main 3 of the conference – ‘Women changing the environment’, ‘Women working for peace’ and ‘Women changing the world’. A DVD film will be made of this work together with an exhibition of the research materials and an associated booklet which will become an education pack.
3. ‘1000 Peacewomen’ – a drama performance created and improvised by a group of 4 pupils from each school. This live performance will be devised in a week long workshop led by David Evans during the final week of the summer holiday period followed by a 3 day refresher in the week of the conference. An artist in residence at Mulberry School will assist.
4. ‘1000 Peacewomen’ – an exhibition of work undertaken by pupils at all 6 schools will be displayed at the exhibition and then put together as part of the post-conference brochure.
5. ‘Tree of 1000 Stars’ – a 2D tree upon which delegates will stick their star postcards at the end of the conference to form the conference outcomes. Pupils will design the postcard to be printed.
6. Pre-conference packs with materials which will include biographies of contributors and 3 papers written by pupils on the conference themes.
7. Creation of a glass globe and glo-sticks to signify hope – by all six schools led by Mulberry School for Girls.
8. Goodie-bags! By Central Foundation School for Girls.
9. Newspaper by Skinner’s Company School for Girls.
10. Post-conference materials which include:
 - a. DVD ‘Changing Lives’

- b. Education pack of research materials, pedagogic framework and educational activities
 - c. DVD of the conference day & documentary of the making of the conference
 - d. Education handbook suggesting uses for the resource material
11. Dialogue mats to be designed and created for use at the conference.
12. Website for conference materials and responses – created by Mulberry School for Girls with Reuters.