



Mahila Participates in the 30th Anniversary of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination

New York, December 4, 2009 - Mahila Partnership participated in the 30th Anniversary of the United Nation's Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women](#) (CEDAW), the international human rights treaty for women, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly 30 years ago, on December, 18 1979. Through the passage of new constitutions, as well as national laws and policies based on the principle of gender equality, women's human rights are now becoming national standards. Secretary General Ban Ki Moon opened the ceremony, and delegates from around the world attended the event calling on the last 8 countries including the United States to ratify the declaration. The event was held on Thursday, December 3rd at the Economic and Social Council Chamber in the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. Jacquelyn Haver who leads Mahila's Women in Development Initiative (WIDI) attended the event.

The Women in Development Initiative provides access to education and healthy hygiene practices for girls in sub-Saharan Africa, and works to promote gender equality, reproductive rights, and sustainable economic growth. In cooperation with several organizations we will provide resources to encourage healthy and culturally sensitive hygiene practices among women and girls in need emphasizing distribution to school-aged girls in order to help ensure that education opportunities are not missed due to an absence of effective menstruation management. Materials for the kits are drawn from locally sourced materials to support the growth of sub-Saharan economies. As a result more girls will continue their education, helping to dissolve gender disparity issues.

WIDI is one of the key initiatives for Mahila in 2010. "Promoting gender equality is at the core of what we do in our projects at Mahila", says Angela Devlen, President, Mahila Partnership, "whether we are working on education initiatives, community development or disaster relief." WIDI began to take shape after a successful conference on women and children at the University of Massachusetts-Boston in 2008. Mahila currently is working with partners and sponsors to expand its global reach on this project.

About Mahila Partnership

Mahila Partnership is a grassroots women's organization committed to issues related to education, community development, and disaster management. We promote partnerships and projects that benefit women and their families through education and resources. Together we inspire communities to foster a culture of sustainability and address the issues of poverty, violence and disaster. To learn more, go to www.mahilapartnership.org or join us on Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Mahila-Partnership/181925754002>