



International Leadership Forum for Women with Disabilities

Press Release: June 15, 1997

Health & Family Issues to be Forum Focus, June 18

In every culture girls and women with disabilities have difficulty in obtaining appropriate health education and services, especially concerning sexuality, reproductive issues, pregnancy and motherhood. In addition, due to prejudice, ignorance and discrimination, disabled women are often not considered as potential wives and mothers by their families, communities or societies.

International Leadership Forum sessions on Wednesday, June 18 will explore ways to address these problems from the points of view of disabled physicians, physicians specializing in disabled women's health and disabled women advocates involved in improving this situation.

Keynote speakers will include: Mary O'Hagan of New Zealand, founding president of the World Association of Psychiatric (Service) Users; Marsha Saxton of the USA, expert on reproductive issues; Lesbia Solarzano of Nicaragua and Lyubov Popova of Russia, both disabled physicians who have established specialized services for women with disabilities.

Workshops

The six workshops on Wednesday afternoon will explore this theme in depth: reproductive issues, parenting & family issues, violence against girls and women with disabilities, sexuality, health and wellness—prevention of secondary disabilities, and developing health services and clinics for disabled women.

Speakers from the following countries will be featured: Russia, Japan, Kenya, Zimbabwe, Korea, Namibia, Uganda, Canada, Vietnam, Brazil, Germany, Mexico, Nepal, Jamaica, Australia, Philippines, Nicaragua and the USA.