



DAWN INFORMS

Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era

Genderscapes in paradoxical times and spaces

DAWN organised a panel on Genderscapes in paradoxical times and spaces at the AWID 9th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development: Reinventing Globalisation, held in Guadalajara, Mexico, 3-6 October 2002 with Peggy Antrobus, Gigi Francisco, Vivienne Taylor, Sonia Correa and Fatou Sow in the chair.

Peggy Antrobus set the context for how DAWN is working on making analytically clear the links between gender justice, economic justice and democracy, and how religious/national/ethnic fundamentalism and economic fundamentalism intersected. DAWN began in the 1990s to define, strengthen and deepen understanding of these linkages. In the ICPD process, DAWN linked economic justice and an enabling environment as the key to gender justice; in DAWN's Political Restructuring and Social Transformation work leading to the World Summit on Social Development, the links were made between economic justice, democracy and governance. The panellists expanded on these linkages in their papers on the paradoxes facing feminist strategists.



Paradoxes for Gender in the Social Movements:



Gigi Francisco spoke about DAWN's ongoing interrogation of the paradoxes that challenge the women's movement at the present conjuncture, which she said springs out of a perspective constituted along three interactive core ideas.

"The first is 'women's agency'. As feminists, women's autonomy and self-determination are core values to our empowerment and to our struggle in reforming gender power relations as these are embedded in power compacts found in institutions and social relations. For us in DAWN, the women's movement is not just about women per se. Our analysis and advocacy is about freeing women as constructed, disciplined and objectified beings, and nurturing our agency in both private and public spaces. Moreover, gender power inequity cannot be separated out from but is entangled with other power inequalities. Thus, it is futile to address gender issues singly, exclusively and in isolation from other struggles against unjust and undemocratic power systems.

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November 2002



DAWN met the women mariarchis of Mexico (above) while there to attend the AWID 9th International Forum in Guadalajara (P1 - 15) and the Steering Committee Meeting in Cocoyoc.

The 5th Asian and Pacific Population Conference in Bangkok 11-17 December 2002 - another battle for the sexual and reproductive rights that were hard-won at ICPD - P2.

Why we should not have another UN international women's conference at this time - P6

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DAWN *Informis* is published three times a year by Development Alternatives with Women for a New Era (DAWN) as a networking tool for its members. DAWN is an autonomous inter-regional organisation of the South which acts as a network and catalyst advocating alternative development processes that emphasise the basic survival needs of the world's people, particularly Third World women and their children.

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