



# WIDE

*Globalising Gender Equality & Social Justice*

## **Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice moves headquarters, transitions to rotating coordination**

Brussels, 21.12.2005. The Women's International Coalition for Economic Justice will be closing its New York City secretariat and moving its headquarters to Brussels, Belgium as of January 2006. WICEJ will be housed at the Network Women in Development Europe (WIDE), a founding member of the coalition. Carol Barton will be stepping down as WICEJ Coordinator in December 2005. A rotating leadership of the WICEJ Coordinating Group will be responsible for the coalition. Meagen Baldwin, Executive Director of WIDE, is currently assuming this role.

This move marks a new stage for the five-year-old coalition made up of 40 organizations from all regions of the globe. WICEJ will maintain its information and networking roles through website and electronic communications, while reducing its education and advocacy work. WICEJ will also be stepping down as member of the international Feminist Dialogue Coordinating Group which has had an important presence at the World Social Forum, and is pleased that Wendy Harcourt, Chair of WIDE, will join the CG as a new member.

Founded in March 2000 at Stony Point, New York, WICEJ spearheaded the economic justice caucus at Beijing+5, and became an active player in the UN arena from the Commission on the Status of Women to the World Conference Against Racism, the Financing for Development Process and the Millennium Development Goals debates.

Some of the key facets of the WICEJ approach are:

- highlighting intersectional analysis, seeing race and class issues as central to the feminist agenda;
- bringing historically marginalized voices to the table;
- integrating gender justice and economic justice within a women's human rights framework, including efforts to name each others' issues in diverse venues without trading one issue for another;
- maintaining a sharp critique of the neo-liberal agenda from a feminist perspective;
- creating a North/South coalition with more equitable power dynamics;
- working across organizations of diverse sizes and purposes;
- strengthening partnership between women's NGOs and women in trade unions;

- building collective analysis using popular education;
- including perspectives and leadership by women of Eastern and Central Europe;
- keeping grassroots groups in the loop who cannot regularly focus on the UN or global agenda;
- building strong, positive relationships that affirm rather than compete.

“WICEJ has always been a very unique coalition because it brings women together across many differences. We feel it offers a model for global feminist movements,” Carol Barton. “At this time when patriarchy is trying to eliminate all vestiges of our gains, WICEJ is the kind of organisation we need,” Linda Christiansen-Ruffman CRIAW.

WICEJ expresses appreciation to those who have provided critical financial support for this experimental coalitional effort in our first five years. They include AFL-CIO, AWID, the Ford Foundation, Mama Cash, Public Services International, the Sister Fund, the United Methodist Women’s Division, UNDP, and UNIFEM, with in-kind support from MADRE, Alternative Women in Development/ NY, and the Center for Women’s Global Leadership. WICEJ can be contacted through WIDE, at [meagen@wide-network.org](mailto:meagen@wide-network.org). Please notify them if you would like to be part of the informational listserve. WICEJ coordinating group members include Bulgarian Gender Research Foundation, CAFRA, CRIAW (Canada), DAWN-Caribbean, Fiji Women's Rights Movement, MADRE, Mesa Mujer y Economia (Colombia), Public Services International, SIGLO XXIII (El Salvador), South Asia Watch and WIDE. The WICEJ website is <http://www.wicej.org/>

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