

The Institute for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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Women Peace Builders Highlighted at 10th Annual Policy Forum

*Institute for Inclusive Security to Launch Training Curriculum, Discuss Differences Women Have Made;
Stephen Lewis to Give Keynote*

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. – January 15, 2009 – On Wednesday, Jan. 21, [The Institute for Inclusive Security](#) will showcase the work of women peace builders around the world at its 10th annual Policy Forum luncheon in Washington, D.C. The luncheon is the culmination of Inclusive Security's 2009 colloquium, a two-week event focused on supporting and profiling 19 women from 12 conflict areas who train women in their communities to build and sustain peace.

Colloquium 2009 also marks the launch of *Inclusive Security: A Curriculum for Women Waging Peace*. The curriculum, based on more than a decade of collaborative research, consists of presentations, video clips and interactive activities to enhance women's capacity to prevent war, stop violence and rebuild their communities after conflict. It follows the 2004 publication of [Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action](#).

"Participants in this year's colloquium are spearheading leadership development critical to ensuring peace and prosperity return to the most volatile parts of the world," said Carla Koppell, director of The Institute for Inclusive Security. "We are honored to collaborate with them to promulgate an exceptionally rich curriculum for driving forward inclusive conflict prevention, resolution and reconstruction."

Stephen Lewis, co-director of AIDS-Free World, will give a keynote address on the urgent need for governments and international organizations to prioritize women's leadership as a means of building sustainable peace. Mr. Lewis is a longtime advocate for elevating women to the highest levels of the United Nations. He was the U.N. Secretary-General's Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa (June 2001 through 2006); deputy executive director of UNICEF (1995 to 1999); and Canada's Ambassador to the U.N. (1984 to 1988).

At the luncheon, Ambassador Swanee Hunt, chair of The Institute for Inclusive Security and president of Hunt Alternatives Fund, will lead panel discussions with Lorne Craner, president of the International Republican Institute, Ken Wollack, president of the National Democratic Institute, and Colloquium 2009 participants from several conflict areas. In collaboration with the Club of Madrid, Inclusive Security also will debut videotaped messages from 11 former heads of democratic states discussing the importance of women's inclusion.

*Members of the media are welcome to attend the **invitation-only luncheon and roundtable policy discussions** but must contact Communications Coordinator Shari Abrams, 617.995.1923 or shari_abrams@huntalternatives.org. Colloquium 2009 participant biographies are available upon request.*

Who: **19 women leaders** from Afghanistan, Bolivia, Colombia, Israel, Kashmir, Lebanon, Liberia, Palestine, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sudan, and Uganda
Ambassador Swanee Hunt, Chair, The Institute for Inclusive Security
Stephen Lewis, Co-Director, AIDS-Free World

What: Policy Roundtables
Jan. 21, 2009, 10 a.m.–12 p.m.
Luncheon
Jan. 21, 2009, 12:30 p.m.–2:30 p.m.

Where: **Fairmont Hotel**, 2401 M Street NW, Washington, D.C.

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The Institute for Inclusive Security advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, Inclusive Security has connected more than 800 women experts with over 5,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information, visit www.InclusiveSecurity.org.