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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Israeli and Palestinian Women Peace Activists Further the Drive for Peace

Six members of the IWC in Washington to advocate for Mideast peace

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Members of the media are invited to attend a presentation and panel discussion with a delegation of six visiting Israeli, Palestinian, and international women peace builders at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars on Friday.

[The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#), in conjunction with Equality Now, is bringing the group to Washington Thursday and Friday. The women are members of the International Women’s Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace (IWC), an organization formed in 2005 under the auspices of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

The IWC is visiting the United States to meet with representatives of the UN, including Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon, and with members of Congress, U.S. State Department officials and others at a crucial moment in Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice has recently made several trips to the Middle East in preparation for a summit in Annapolis, Md., next month, which Rice called the Bush administration’s first significant efforts toward a Palestinian-Israeli peace in seven years. At least two of the lead negotiators, Rice and Israeli Foreign Affairs Minister Tzipi Livni, will be the first time women to participate in Middle East peace talks at such a high level.

The delegation includes **Anan Attiri**, Director, Nablus Governorate; **Naomi Chazan**, Head, School of Government and Society, Academic College of Tel-Aviv-Yaffo and former Deputy Speaker of the Knesset; **Naava Eisin**, Director, Archives of Jewish Education, Tel Aviv University; **Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas**, Co-founder and Executive Director, Women’s Center for Legal Aid and Counseling, Jerusalem; and **Simone Susskind**, adviser to Belgium’s Minister of Justice and Deputy Prime Minister; and **Jessica Neuwirth**, President, Equality Now.

Renewing the Push for Peace: Palestinian and Israeli Women’s Perspectives

WHO: Israeli peace activists **Naomi Chazan** and **Naava Eisin**; Palestinian peace activists **Anan Attiri** and **Maha Abu-Dayyeh Shamas**; peace activist **Simone Susskind**; **Jessica Neuwirth**, President, Equality Now; and **Carla Koppell**, Director, The Initiative for Inclusive Security.

WHERE: Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 5th Floor Conference Room, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

WHEN: Friday, Nov. 2, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m.

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Editor’s Note: To meet with the IWC delegation or to arrange an interview with any of its members, contact **Lisa Hennings** at lisa_hennings@huntalternatives.org or 617.995.1925 or **Lakshmi Anantnarayan** at lanant@equalitynow.org or 212.586.0906.

The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, 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 500 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.