

Prologue

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It is both a pleasure and an honor for Lehman College of The City University of New York (CUNY) to host this symposium on The Role of Women in World Peace and the Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity. This symposium is being co-sponsored by the College and the International Health Awareness Network (IHAN), which is led by Dr. Sorosh Roshan. I, and Lehman's President, Dr. Ricardo Fernández, look forward to continuing this new partnership with Dr. Roshan and IHAN in furthering the cause of world peace. We also want to take this opportunity to thank CUNY Chancellor Matthew Goldstein, the Executive Vice Chancellor Louise Mirrer and Vice Chancellor Jay Hershenson for their generous support of the symposium.

Today's symposium and last night's reception at the United Nations have given us the opportunity both to hear and honor one of the great women of the new century, Mrs. Shirin Ebadi. Mrs. Ebadi, the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, received this award in recognition of her struggle for human rights and democracy, particularly for women and children, in her country of Iran, a struggle that she carried out in the face of threats to her own well-being and safety.

One of the greatest threats to world peace today is the lack of mutual understanding and tolerance between Islamic and Judeo/Christian societies, and thus the topics of our symposium are both timely and critical. I would note that the funds raised through the U.N. reception and the symposium, to which Mrs. Ebadi herself has been a generous contributor, are being used to establish the Shirin Ebadi Peace Scholarship at Lehman College, which will support students whose work will focus on conflict reduction on a local, national or international level. Mrs. Ebadi's ideals, therefore, will continue at Lehman through many of our student projects.

The symposium has been organized into two sessions. Joining Mrs. Ebadi in the morning session, which addresses the Role of Women in World Peace, are Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, United Nations Undersecretary General and High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked and Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States, and Ambassador Olara Otunnu, United Nations Undersecretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary General for Children and Armed Conflict. Ambassador Chowdhury's presentation addresses "The Role of Women in Peace Building," and Ambassador Otunnu's presentation focuses on "Ending the Victimization of Children in Situations of War: Moving from Words to Deeds." This strong link between the symposium and the United Nations continues a history of involvement between Lehman College and this great world body. This relationship dates back to the first meeting of the U.N. Security Council on American soil, which was held on this campus in 1946. Again in 1995, the Arms Control Education Conference, which was part of the U.N.'s fiftieth-anniversary celebration, held its day-long conference at Lehman College.

The afternoon session on The Role of Men and Boys in Gender Equity features three speakers, each of whom addresses this topic from a unique perspective. Dr. Vijaya Melnick, IHAN First Vice President, and Director, Office of Sponsored Research and Programs of the University of the District of Columbia, presents "Her Story: A Continuing Struggle to Reach Gender Equity" in terms of the social and biological differences between men and women. Dr. Patricia Fernández-Kelly, Senior Lecturer in Sociology, Department of Sociology and the Office of Population Research, Princeton University, speaks to the topic of "Reforming Gender: Effects of Globalization on Masculinity and Femininity in Mexico and the United States," a topic that is particularly relevant to the community around Lehman, which has a rapidly growing Mexican population. Finally, Dr. Michael Kimmel, Professor of Sociology, State University of New York at Stony Brook, and a national spokesperson for the National Organization for Men Against Sexism, directly addresses the topic "Why Men Should Support Gender Equity."

The afternoon session is completed by a presentation of a scene from *Lysistrata*, a comedic play by Aristophanes, which tells the story of how the women of Athens, who were weary of the Peloponnesian war, bring an end to the fighting by withholding sex from their warring husbands. We are thankful to the Director of Lehman Stages, Mr. Dante Alberti, and the Bronx Repertory Company for bringing this delightful close to a very eventful day.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank the members of the Symposium Organizing Committee and in particular the members of the Women's Studies Program at Lehman College, Professors Bertrade Ngo-Ngijol-Banoum, Sharon Freedberg, and Elhum Haghghat, Lehman's Deans of Arts and Humanities, Education and Natural and Social Sciences, Drs. Marlene Gottlieb, Annette Digby and William Tramontano, the Vice President for Institutional Development, Dr. Anne Johnson, and her staff, particularly Marge Rice, the Director of Media Relations, Maria Castro, Office of the Provost, and Mabel Chee of the Office of Grants and Contracts, Jerold Barnard of Information Technology Resources and Michael Max Knobbe of Bronxnet. A special note of appreciation goes to Jerry Matthews, Director of Public Safety, and all his staff.