

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), 48th Session Report.

By Maryam Funches, representative of the Islamic-American Zakat Foundation

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) held its forty-eighth session, from March 1 to March 12, 2004 at the United Nations Headquarter in New York

The 48th session focused on two thematic issues: 1) review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"; and 2) current challenges and forward looking strategies for the advancement and empowerment of women and girls (within this theme were the following issues/themes: the role of men and boys in gender equality; and women's equal participation in conflict prevention, conflict management and conflict resolution in post-conflict peace-building.

Jose Antonio Ocampo, Under-Secretary-General for Economic and Social Affairs, told delegates that the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality was vital for future work in promoting equality between men and women. He further stated that "men must be fully integrated into the process and ways must be found of encouraging men to understand gender equality and its positive consequences."

"Women and HIV/AIDS" was the theme for International Women's Day on March 8th. The panelists included:

- Mr. Kofi Annan, Secretary-General
- Dr. Lee Jong-wook, WHO, Director-General
- H.M. Queen Noor, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Ms. Angela King, Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

Main Headlights:

- Each day there was an open session, a theme or issue to be discussed.
- 95 % of the participants were women's rights activists from around the world.
- There was a picture exhibition which shown the effect of war and post conflict. Also, there was an exhibition by the Ministry of Women Development of Pakistan

Summary

Sister Sharmin and I assisted in drafting a policy-making statement for one of the thematic caucuses. After a few meetings, I went to the African – Women Caucus and the HIV-caucus. However, she stayed with this caucus until the statement was finalized and presented.

