

International Program ideas for branches

By **Maria Viera-Williams, AAUW Texas International Affairs Liaison**

International Matters

AAUW's International Affairs Committee (IAC) recently launched "International Matters" - Project Papers for Branches, a resource designed to assist branches in international programming. A major priority of the AAUW IAC is to involve branches in global issues. State and branch leaders are encouraged to select those issues and/or topics that coordinate with the particular needs of their constituencies and communities. In developing international programs, AAUW Association suggests that special attention be given to issues related to AAUW's mission and Value Promise. Follow links cited for information.

International Affairs programs are consistent and support the 2007-2009 AAUW Public Policy priority issues: *to achieve economic self-sufficiency for all women and to guarantee equality, individual rights, and social justice for a diverse society.*

AAUW's International Corner http://www.aauw.org/About/international_corner/index.cfm

International Affairs for Branches-Resources for Programming Global Issues http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/IAC/

The topics are as follows: 1) The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Eileen Menton), 2) HIV/AIDS (Phyllis Driver), 3) Citizen Diplomacy (Joanne Clark), 4) Women, Peace and Security (Carolyn Donovan), 5) Human Trafficking (Claritza Jimenez), 6) Economic, Social, and Political Development of Women (Bonnie Lincoln), 7) Education of Women and Children (Esther Mabry)

Program in a Box

International Woman's Day: http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/IntlWomensDay2009.cfm

Convention for the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) http://www.aauw.org/member_center/programs/cedaw.cfm

ORGANIZATIONS WITH SIMILAR GOALS / INTERESTS
Great Decisions (www.greatdecisions.org)

Features impartial, thought-provoking analyses on eight issues of concern to U.S. policymakers today. The 2009 edition features articles on *U.S. and rising powers, Afghanistan/Pakistan, Energy & the global economy, The Arctic, Egypt in the 21st Century, Global food supply, Cuba after Castro* and *Universal human rights*. (**Editor's Note: Some branches have Great Decisions Study groups**).

World Affairs Council (www.worldaffairsCouncils.org)

If your area has a World Affairs Council in your area, members and guests discuss *Great Decisions* topics and invite speakers on topics that often coincide with AAUW's mission and public policy issues.

One Shared World (www.onesharedworld.org)

One Shared World encourages American women to learn

more, connect more and do more to support United States development assistance efforts. Focusing on health, education and economic progress, One Shared World aims to connect American working women to the many public and private efforts that help people in developing countries overcome poverty, hunger, illiteracy and disease. It highlights the similarities between American women and those in cities, towns and villages in every corner of the globe. This shared aspiration moved AAUW to become a key partner in their campaign to celebrate women around the world whose grit, ingenuity and dignity are an inspiration and a force for change.

International Museum of Women (www.imow.org)

AAUW has become a partner in the International Museum of Women's *Imagining Ourselves: A Global Generation of Women*. The project reaches out to a new generation of women – one billion women between the ages of 20 and 35 – to answer the question, "What defines your generation?" It draws upon the thoughts of young women worldwide to reveal a generation of women poised to take the reigns of global leadership like no other generation in history – a generation of women who believe that anything is possible for young women today. *Imagining Ourselves* is a platform for young women to create change in their lives, their communities, and their

world. *Imagining Ourselves*,

www.imaginingourselves.imow.org

CARE: Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (www.care.org) CARE is a leading humanitarian organization fighting global poverty. CARE places special focus on working alongside poor women because, equipped with the proper resources, women have the power to help whole families and entire communities escape poverty. Women are at the heart of CARE's community-based efforts to improve basic education, prevent the spread of HIV, increase access to clean water and sanitation, expand economic opportunity and protect natural resources. CARE also delivers emergency aid to survivors of war and natural disasters, and helps people rebuild their lives. AAUW has become a partner with CARE.

Women's Edge Coalition (www.womensedge.org)

The Women's Edge Coalition advocates international economic policies and human rights that support women worldwide in their actions to end poverty in their lives, communities and nations. The program raises awareness about women's roles in development and in their economies among policymakers in Congress and in the Administration; with others in the development community; and with the general public. The Women's Edge Coalition actively works to increase the U.S.'s investment in international assistance programs, especially programs that invest in women and girls, so that we tap women's full potential to reduce poverty in their families, communities and ultimately, their countries.



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