

What is Inter Pares?

Inter Pares is a Canadian social justice organization working in Canada and around the world to create understanding about the causes and effects of poverty and injustice, and to support actions that lead to positive social and economic change.

Inter Pares collaborates with social change organizations that share our analysis that poverty and injustice are caused by inequalities within and between nations, and who are working to promote social and economic justice in their communities and societies.

Inter Pares – the name means “among equals” – was founded in 1975 to practice a new form of international cooperation, conceived not as charity but as profound solidarity. Inter Pares’ work is grounded in the belief that we and our counterparts are equals, working in common cause to confront injustice and to promote more sustainable models of human community and interaction in the world we share. The name Inter Pares also describes how we work internally. Inter Pares staff form a cooperative management team working on the principle of parity – parity of salary and parity of responsibility.

Inter Pares is a registered Canadian charity supported through the generous donations of almost 10,000 Canadians. In our approach to the public, rather than spending resources on large fundraising campaigns, we have chosen to develop a solid core of committed supporters over time. This strategy has not made Inter Pares a household name, but reflects the type of commitment our supporters and counterparts expect of us.

Staff in 2008

- Caroline Boudreau • David Bruer • Karen Cocq
- Eric Chaurette • Elaine Edwards • Nadia Faucher
- Peter Gillespie • Rachel Gouin • Erum Hasan
- Molly Kane • Samantha McGavin • Rita Morbia
- Marie José Morrissette • Laura O’Neill
- Karen Seabrooke • Jean Symes • Sheila Whyte
- Rebecca Wolsak • Anne-Marie Zilliacus

Board

Caroline Andrew, Chair, is the Director of the Centre of Governance at the School of Political Studies, University of Ottawa.

David Austin is a community worker in Montréal.

Suzie Boulanger is the coordinator of the *Groupe de recherche sur les activités minières en Afrique* at the Université du Québec à Montréal.

Louise Chicoine is an administrative assistant at Rights & Democracy in Montréal.

Amanda Dale is the Advocacy and Communications Director at the YWCA Toronto.

Agathe Gaulin is an adult educator and community activist in British Columbia.

Nathan Gilbert is the Executive Director of the Laidlaw Foundation in Toronto.

Mireille Landry is program coordinator at the Institute in Management and Community Development, University Concordia, Montréal.

Amarkai Laryea is a labour activist and lawyer working with the union Public Service Alliance of Canada, Ottawa.

Yew Lee is a consultant in community and organizational development, Ottawa.

Tamara Levine is an adult educator and labour activist in Ottawa.

Shree Mulay is a women’s health activist and professor at Memorial University, Newfoundland.

Roxana Ng is a sociologist at the University of Toronto.

Marie-Claude Rioux is a community activist and the Executive Director of the *Association des juristes d’expression française de la Nouvelle-Écosse*, Halifax.

Delyse Sylvester is a fundraising consultant living in Nelson, B.C.

Sari Tudiver is a researcher and policy analyst on women’s health issues, Ottawa.

Bill Van Iterson, Treasurer, is an advisor on economic development and management issues.

Inter Pares’ supporters

Inter Pares’ social justice work is an expression of values shared by most Canadians – of one standard of dignity and equality for all, of international cooperation and solidarity. For over thirty years, thousands of Canadians have expressed these values through financial contributions to Inter Pares. Without this support, our work would not be possible.

The generosity of Inter Pares’ supporters extends beyond immediate financial assistance. Many contributors have introduced us to their friends, made gifts in honour of special occasions, and hosted gatherings with us in their homes. We have also been honoured by those who have helped us build a legacy for the future by leaving Inter Pares a bequest in their will.

Inter Pares is also grateful to our institutional donors, including the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) and the International Development Research Centre (IDRC); many foundations, union locals, and religious communities; various organizations that contribute through their solidarity funds; and businesses that support their employees’ philanthropy through matching gifts.

As the political and economic context of our work changes, increasing our financial independence will help assure our political autonomy and our ability to carry out progressive programs to bring about social change. Our individual donors are integral to the sustainability of our work.

For more information on our fundraising, including the many ways in which you can support our work, please visit our Web site at www.interpares.ca or contact us directly.

Supporters

In addition to the generous support of thousands of individuals, the work of Inter Pares was assisted in 2008 by contributions from:

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)
 Canadian Auto Workers Social Justice Fund
 Canadian Labour Congress
 Canadian Union of Postal Workers
 Co-development Canada
 CSN/*Fonds Alliance Syndicats Tiers-Monde*
 CUPE National
 Daly Foundation
 Development and Peace
 EILB Foundation
 Elisabeth Fulda Orsten Family Fund
Filles de la Providence
 Fleming Foundation
Fondation Denise et Robert Gibeau
Fondation Internationale Roncalli
 B & B Hamilton Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation
 Howard C. Green Memorial Fund at the Vancouver Foundation
 Peterborough K.M. Hunter Charitable Foundation
 International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
 Just Aid Foundation
 Kairos
 Movimondo Molisv
 Native Women’s Association of Canada
 Nicaraguan Children’s Fund
 Ontario Secondary School Teachers Federation
 OPSEU – Ontario Public Service Employees Union
 PacNet Services Ltd.
 Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund
 Public Service Alliance of Canada
 Public Service Alliance of Canada Social Justice Fund
 Religious Hospitallars of St. Joseph of Kingston
 Riviere Charitable Foundation
 Janet & Herb Tanzer Charitable Fund at the Toronto Community Foundation
 St. Helen’s Anglican Church Women
 Sisters of the Congregation of Notre-Dame
 Sisters of Providence of St. Vincent de Paul
 Sisters of Mission Service
 Sisters of Service of Canada
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Hamilton
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Saint-Vallier
 Sisters of St. Joseph of Sault St. Marie
 Steelworkers Humanity Fund
 United Church of Canada

We are also grateful to those who have supported our work through a bequest:
 Estate of Jack Allen
 Estate of Muriel F. Gilchrist
 Estate of Elizabeth Bertram
 Estate of Charles Edward Watters

Auditor’s Report to the Members, Inter Pares

We have audited the statement of financial position of Inter Pares as at December 31, 2008 and the statement of revenue and expense and changes in fund balances for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the organization’s management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the organization as at December 31, 2008 and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Ottawa, Ontario
 February 20, 2009

Ouseley Hanvey Clipsham Deep LLP
 Licensed Public Accountants

Statement of Financial Position as at December 31, 2008

	2008	2007
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash	\$ 301,310	\$ 1,322,302
Accounts receivable	82,891	78,144
Program advances (note 3)	734,605	1,170,535
	1,118,806	2,570,981
INVESTMENTS (note 1)	1,558,140	1,142,187
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 2)	712,859	721,375
	\$ 3,389,805	\$ 4,434,543
LIABILITIES		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 92,176	\$ 51,207
Deferred revenue (note 3)	639,658	1,859,047
	731,834	1,910,254
SEVERANCE PLAN PAYABLE	104,765	90,024
	836,599	2,000,278
FUND BALANCES		
Unrestricted	20,766	11,824
Invested in capital assets	712,859	721,375
Bequest Fund (note 4)	797,416	719,225
Reserve Fund (note 5)	779,880	750,000
Endowment Fund (note 6)	242,285	231,841
	2,553,206	2,434,265
	\$ 3,389,805	\$ 4,434,543

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	Unrestricted Net Assets	Invested in Capital Assets	Bequest Fund	Reserve Fund	Endowment Fund	2008 Total	2007 Total
FUND BALANCES – BEGINNING OF YEAR	\$ 11,824	\$ 721,375	\$ 719,225	\$ 750,000	\$ 231,841	\$ 2,434,265	\$ 1,843,366
Excess of revenue over expense	426	—	78,191	29,880	10,444	118,941	590,899
Purchase of capital assets	(20,047)	20,047	—	—	—	—	—
Amortization of capital assets	28,563	(28,563)	—	—	—	—	—
FUND BALANCES – END OF YEAR	\$ 20,766	\$ 712,859	\$ 797,416	\$ 779,880	\$ 242,285	\$ 2,553,206	\$ 2,434,265

Statement of Revenue and Expense for the Year Ended December 31, 2008

	General Operations	Bequest Fund	Reserve Fund	Endowment Fund	2008 Total	2007 Total
REVENUE						
Donations	\$ 1,417,115	\$ 54,622	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,471,737	\$ 2,011,114
CIDA–VSP	1,437,888	—	—	—	1,437,888	1,531,927
CIDA – other projects	4,696,598	—	—	—	4,696,598	3,048,406
Project generated grants	138,517	—	—	—	138,517	189,757
Interest and other	89,562	23,569	29,880	10,444	153,455	123,373
	7,779,680	78,191	29,880	10,444	7,898,195	6,904,577
EXPENSE						
Program						
Projects	6,045,437	—	—	—	6,045,437	4,753,436
Operations	966,558	—	—	—	966,558	936,161
	7,011,995	—	—	—	7,011,995	5,689,597
Administration	300,827	—	—	—	300,827	298,069
Fundraising	466,432	—	—	—	466,432	326,012
	7,779,254	—	—	—	7,779,254	6,313,678
EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSE FOR THE YEAR	\$ 426	\$ 78,191	\$ 29,880	\$ 10,444	\$ 118,941	\$ 590,899

Notes to Financial Statements December 31, 2008

1. SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

- Organization:** Inter Pares works overseas and in Canada in support of self-help development groups, and in the promotion of understanding about the causes, effects and solutions to under-development and poverty. Inter Pares was incorporated without share capital under Part II of the Canada Business Corporations Act. The Corporation is a registered charity under Section 149(1)(c) of the Income Tax Act and as a result is not subject to income taxes.
- Revenue recognition:** Inter Pares follows the deferral method of accounting for contributions. Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Funds received from CIDA for overseas programs are recorded as program advances when sent overseas, and are subsequently recorded as expense when amounts are spent by overseas partners. Donations are recorded as revenue when received.
- Investments:** Investments consist primarily of government bonds and other loans receivable. In 2007 the organization adopted provisions concerning the recognition and measurement of financial instruments such that investments are classified as held to maturity and are recorded at amortized cost.
- Capital assets:** Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a straight line basis over 3 years for office equipment. Computer equipment is amortized 50% in the first year and 25% in the remaining 2 years. The building is amortized on a straight line basis over 40 years.
- Use of estimates:** The preparation of these financial statements in conformity with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.
- Financial instruments:** The organization’s financial instruments consist of cash, accounts receivable, investments, accounts payable and severance plan payable. Unless otherwise noted, it is management’s opinion that the organization is not exposed to significant interest, currency, or credit risks arising from these financial instruments and that carrying amounts approximate their fair value.

2. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	2008 Net	2007 Net
Land	\$ 200,000	\$ —	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000
Building	582,230	96,000	486,230	500,980
Computer and office equipment	139,689	113,060	26,629	20,395
	\$ 921,919	\$ 209,060	\$ 712,859	\$ 721,375

During the year, amortization of capital assets amounted to \$28,563 (2007–\$34,872).

- PROGRAM ADVANCES AND DEFERRED REVENUE** Program advances can vary significantly from year to year depending on the timing of funds sent overseas and the reporting back by overseas counterparts. Deferred revenue consists mainly of revenue related to unspent overseas program advances.
- BEQUEST FUND** During 2004 a bequest fund was established. Bequests received are recorded as revenue in this fund. During the year \$nil (2007 - \$192,616) was transferred from this fund to the reserve fund.
- RESERVE FUND** Inter Pares maintains an unrestricted operational reserve to assure that obligations are honoured in the event of unanticipated changes in external funding. During the year, \$nil (2007 - \$125,000) was transferred from unrestricted net assets to the reserve fund.
- ENDOWMENT FUND** The Margaret Fleming McKay Endowment Fund receives gifts whose principal is invested and held for a minimum of ten years. In addition to such externally restricted gifts, the Endowment Fund contains transfers from Inter Pares which are subject to the same restrictions. As at the year end, the Endowment Fund includes \$82,100 (2007- \$82,100) in externally restricted gifts.



The world we desire

The future belongs to those who give the next generation reason to hope.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Every year, as we prepare this report, we are struck with the mix of the familiar and the new that each year brings. Like so many people, we find plenty of evidence that little really changes, and the world continues to confound our hopes for what we know is possible. Sometimes we even fail to imagine how things could work differently, so convinced are we of the permanence of the world as we know it.

At the same time, we find surprising markers along the way, signs that shifts are taking place. We are inspired by the realization of the dreams of those who have struggled in large and small ways to bring about justice and peace, for themselves and for others.

Through our relationships with other activists and organizations in Canada and around the world, Inter Pares creates opportunities to learn about the world we share. We learn from colleagues, friends and supporters how to improve our understanding of the world in order to be more effective in making it better. By paying close attention to the ways in which people in various places live and shape their lives, we are reminded of the enduring power of human courage, ingenuity and creativity. We never fail to be inspired by human solidarity and generosity.

Inter Pares works closely with women and men who are bringing about the changes in their lives today that will ensure a more just and healthier future for generations to come. These relationships of common cause are long-term, grounded in many years of experience that have brought both great challenges and inspiring achievements. They are also relationships that are open to the future, to the often unpredictable events that affect our lives and aspirations.

Our task is to find the promise of the world we want in the present we know, and to nurture that promise. Welcoming the signs of the future we want can be risky. Nothing is guaranteed. And we have learned we can be bitterly disappointed by utopian visions, predictions of a bright future that never come to pass.

Our best efforts therefore lie not in striving for a far horizon that will always elude us, but rather in paying

close attention to the present – in all its diversity and complexity and possibility. When we seek to encourage the signs of a better world being born, when we recognize it in the actions of so many people in different places and circumstances, we welcome the future we desire as it appears to us now. We see it created by people who believe they can do better than manage the unmanageable; by people who believe they are part of transformative, emancipating change; by people for whom hope is both the source and the fruit of solidarity. In relationships of enduring solidarity, we come to recognize not the *other*, but the *fellow* human being. As we act together today, we get a glimpse of the future we desire, and our hope is sustained.

In this *Annual Report* for 2008 we present some of the highlights of the past year that are the fruits of the long-term solidarity among Inter Pares’ supporters in Canada and our colleagues and counterparts around the world. We have been privileged to support people who are defending human rights and civil liberties, people who are ensuring food security through protecting biodiversity and farmers’ livelihoods, and others who are building peace through community dialogues and reconciliation. We invite you to read more about their efforts in this *Annual Report* and to visit our Web site for more of their stories. We trust you will find in this work signs of a present full of promise, and many reasons to hope.

In relationships of enduring solidarity, we come to recognize not the other, but the fellow human being.

Building relationships of solidarity and hope

Inter Pares develops our programs in collaboration with social justice groups around the world, including Canada. We raise money and generate political support for their work, collaborate in developing plans of action, connect them with like-minded groups, and engage in policy advocacy and public education here at home. While our concerns are broad, the threads that connect them are solidarity and social justice – supporting marginalized communities to build better futures. The following are a few examples of what we have all achieved with your support.



Eric Chavette

Seeds of hope

In 2008, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) added another 40 million to the total number of hungry people in the world, nearing one billion today. Those who have felt the brunt of the food crisis are those who are dependent on food they do not produce. Years of imposed and ill-advised agriculture and trade policies have meant that in many parts of the world today, countries produce what they do not eat, and consume what they do not produce.

But the food crisis has not affected everyone. In the Deccan region of Southern India, an area often exposed to prolonged drought, some communities have found ways to eat well. Rather than depend on imported rice, these communities have gone back to the crop that has sustained them for generations – millet. Millet is often denigrated as being backward and the “poor people’s crop,” but the 5,000 women of the Deccan Development Society (DDS) are proving millet’s value and versatility by planting varieties of all different shapes, sizes, colours, and tastes. Through ecological and biodiverse farming, DDS has reclaimed degraded lands and enhanced food security in the Deccan plateau. Their efforts are helping communities buttress their farms against climate change, as documented in their recent film *Millet, the Miracle Grain*. According to DDS’ analysis, millet farming also uses six million litres less water per acre than conventional rice monoculture. With Inter Pares’ support, DDS is now promoting millet across the country through the Millet Network of India.

Freedom, equality and solidarity

2008 marked the 60th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). As much as it was a moment for celebration, it was also a time to reflect on both the progress and the challenges of six decades of promoting human dignity.

La Ligue des droits et libertés is part of this rich history. In 2008, La Ligue worked to ensure that governments, corporations and individuals in Québec and in Canada respect their human rights obligations. La Ligue was active on a wide range of issues such as access to decent housing, the use of Tasers by police, freedom of expression for independent publishers, and racism and marginalization in Montréal-Nord. In all those cases, La Ligue spoke out. In addition to supporting this work financially, Inter Pares also collaborated with La Ligue through the International Civil Liberties Monitoring Group (ICLMG), a coalition which monitors the implications and abuses of laws and measures related to Canada’s involvement in the so-called war on terror.

La Ligue culminated 2008 with two public events. The first, in November, looked at issues of food sovereignty and human rights with the participation of the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food, Olivier de Schutter. In December, La Ligue also held a conference on “Rebuilding our social solidarity through human rights.” La Ligue marked the 60th anniversary of the UDHR by bringing together people committed to social justice and human rights to remind all of us that the struggle for universal human rights and dignity continues, here at home as well as internationally.



Timothy

Women working for healthy communities

Over thirteen years ago, a small group of women came together to form the organization Likhaan. They were determined to do something about the situation of women in some of the poorest neighbourhoods of metro Manila in the Philippines. They wanted to work with women who had no access to family planning, and experienced some of the highest levels of maternal mortality in the country. With assistance from Inter Pares, Likhaan established local clinics, trained women from the communities as health promoters, and helped build strong local organizations in poor communities. PiLaKK, a federation of these women’s organizations and of youth groups, now has over 3,000 members. The clinics provide family planning to thousands each year, and have saved the lives of many women in critical health situations.

Despite many obstacles, including conservative political forces and increased military harassment, the organization has grown, incorporating women from different neighbourhoods into its staff. During the past year, the approach that Likhaan and PiLaKK members have developed was recognized by the United Nations as a successful means of addressing the problem of high infant and maternal mortality. This encouraged Likhaan to begin work in the islands of Buhol and Samar. In eastern Samar, there is now a strong women’s organization with “reproductive health sentinels,” women trained to monitor their neighbours’ pregnancies and ensure appropriate care. A centre was built where pregnant women from remote villages stay, waiting to give birth in a safe and supportive environment. By combining clinical treatment with community organizing, Likhaan and PiLaKK have helped ensure healthier futures for women and their families.

Communities constructing peace in Africa

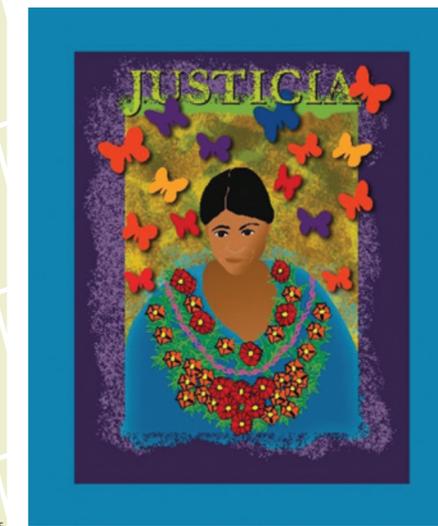
When people affected by divisions among and within their communities choose to commit to peaceful coexistence, hope is invigorated. This is what happened when thousands of farmers, mothers, unemployed youth, choir singers, soccer fans, and local leaders from Sotik and Borabu, two districts located in Kenya’s Rift Valley and Nyala provinces, came together to negotiate their own peaceful coexistence through a social peace contract. The communities wanted to heal the wounds provoked by the post-electoral violence that took place in Kenya at the end of December 2007 and the beginning of 2008.

Building on its past experience of developing social contracts in post-war Burundi, Inter Pares’ counterpart ACORD (Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development) accompanied members of the Sotik and Borabu communities to identify issues that had exacerbated existing tensions and led to conflict and violence. Community members recognized that cattle rustling, land disputes, and demeaning stereotypes about other communities all contributed to deepening divisions. The communities called on everyone to practice acceptance, and to resist the manipulation of political parties and politicians.

Inter Pares staff member Caroline Boudreau was honoured to witness first-hand the commitment expressed by representatives from these two communities that culminated in an official signing ceremony animated by traditional dance, singing, food and a soccer game. Since then, members from Sotik and Borabu have been visiting each other and reactivating their common market area. With Inter Pares’ ongoing support, ACORD is accompanying communities such as these in their long journey for peaceful coexistence and strengthening a broader movement promoting peace and social justice in Africa.



Caroline Boudreau



CALDH

Overcoming fear, finding hope

In many countries in Latin America, massive human rights violations committed during armed conflicts are still met with impunity. Survivors are forced to watch as those responsible for genocide, disappearances, torture, and rape are elected to political office, or grow ever wealthier in times of supposed peace.

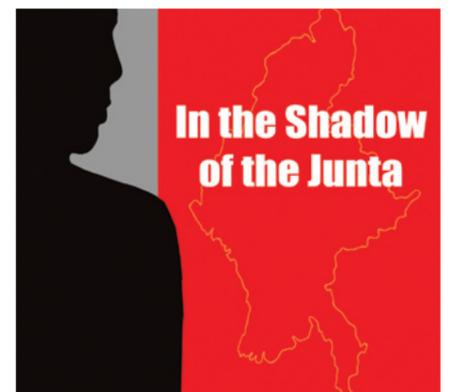
In Guatemala, the obstacles to prosecuting top generals in the national courts led organizations like the Centre for Legal Action in Human Rights (CALDH) to request the Spanish courts to try the case under international jurisdiction. CALDH has been accompanying the national victims’ organization, the Association for Justice and Reconciliation (AJR), with Inter Pares’ support. CALDH has been strengthening the AJR’s capacity to mobilize its members, recuperate collective memory of the genocide, and prepare testimonies. This has required years of emotional, political, and legal support to assist victims in overcoming the paralyzing fear they have lived with for more than thirty years – fear of reprisal, of more genocide, of justice not being served.

In April 2008, the Spanish judge in the genocide case began taking witness testimonies. CALDH and the AJR quickly mobilized national and international alliances for political support, organized a media strategy, and implemented a security plan to ensure the safety of witnesses. For days, with international media attention, AJR members testified about the terrible crimes committed against them. The AJR has successfully taken on a challenge that a few years earlier would have seemed impossible – overcoming fear. The case is sending a message of hope to survivors across Latin America that impunity can be overcome.

Realizing hope through advocacy

Last October in Geneva, the Women’s League of Burma (WLB) coordinated a group of nine women to attend a meeting of the Committee of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). At this meeting, the Committee reviewed Burma’s compliance with the convention. For ten days, the team of women from Burma reported on the systematic and epidemic discrimination against women in military-ruled Burma.

In 2007, the military regime had submitted a CEDAW country report which gave no hint of the discrimination women suffer in Burma. During 2008, Inter Pares counterpart WLB coordinated community-based organizations to compile data for a shadow report to the junta’s “official” submission. The participatory report-writing process concluded with a series of workshops to generate feedback on a draft and formulate the Agreed Recommendations. While in Geneva, the team met with the CEDAW Committee and later observed the Constructive Dialogue with representatives of the military regime. During the dialogue, the Committee raised almost every issue from the shadow report and most of the concerns were also outlined in its concluding report on Burma. It was an unusual opportunity for the women to watch the regime’s representatives struggle to answer the CEDAW Committee’s tough questions. When the young women returned from Geneva, they were glowing with even more optimism and audacity than before. They returned to work with more energy to resist injustice and to step up their efforts to promote women’s human rights in Burma.



Women's League of Burma