

Third **WORLD
CONFERENCE
OF WOMEN'S
SHELTERS**



‘Break the silence. When you witness violence against women and girls, do not sit back. Act’

Ban Ki Moon, Secretary General of the United Nations

3

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND THE WORLD CONFERENCES ON WOMEN’S SHELTERS

One in three women in this world has been or will be confronted with violence during her lifetime. Many governments, NGOs, grass roots organisations and businesses have committed themselves to combating violence against women and creating a safe and sustainable world for us all. This has resulted in shelters all over the world, which provide women and children with a safe place to go and support them to return to a normal life. *However, much more support and action is needed and you can be part of this at the Third World Conference of Women’s shelters.*

Following the success of the First World Conference of Women’s Shelters in Alberta, Canada (2008) and the Second World Conference in Washington DC, USA (2012), the Global Network of Women’s Shelters (GNWS) aims to organise a Third Conference. GNWS has asked Federatie Opvang, the Dutch umbrella organisation for women’s shelters, to prepare the organisation and host this conference in the Netherlands. It is planned to be held from 3–6 November 2015 in The Hague. The Dutch government has expressed its support. *Now we are looking for sponsors who will help make this conference an international success, especially in creating new initiatives.*

THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTERS Bill Clinton speaking at the Second World Conference of Women's Shelters, February/March 2012 in Washington DC, showing his support and respect for the good and noble work of women's shelters in fighting violence.



THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTERS Board members of the Global Network of Women's Shelters demonstrating how they worked on building the network that will unite women and women's shelter movements globally, in order to end violence against women and their children.



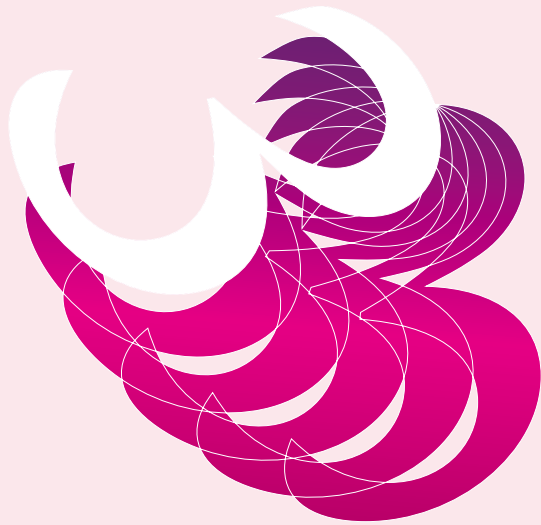
THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTERS Gloria Gaynor closed the conference with a concert, saving her biggest hit, 'I Will Survive' as her final song of the evening. The concert showed her connection with the victims of partner violence and her call for them to be strong.



THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTERS Reese Witherspoon announces the winners of the first-ever Avon Communications Awards: Speaking Out About Violence Against Women, part of Avon's support for the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters.



Domestic violence causes more injuries to women than anything else – more than car accidents, muggings, rapes combined



OBJECTIVES

The conference aims at bringing together 1500+ advocates engaged in combating domestic violence and violence against women. The majority of these participants are practitioners from NGOs and grass roots organisations who are working directly in the prevention of violence and the support of victims. The primary objective of the conference is for all participants to share their experiences in the field and to *find the strength, knowledge and support to continue combating violence against women*. This conference is the platform for creating formal and informal international collaboration initiatives and exchange information on new approaches and methods in order to create concrete actions and partnerships to continue the work on a safe and sustainable life for women and children everywhere. Much is being done to combat violence against women already. This conference wants to give these efforts a massive boost.

*35% of women worldwide
have been the victim of violence
in their lifetime*



HOW CAN YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

The occurrence of violence creates an existential basic fear in women all over the world. By joining the fight against this violence you will create a powerful bond between your organisation and women – and men of good intentions as well.

Seven Premium Sponsorship Packages are available for the conference. These packages were developed to provide a unique variety of branding opportunities that ensure high visibility for each signature sponsor. They are directly linked to thematic sessions, such as economic empowerment, awareness and prevention, safe families for children, digital safety, victims' voices, and recovery programmes.

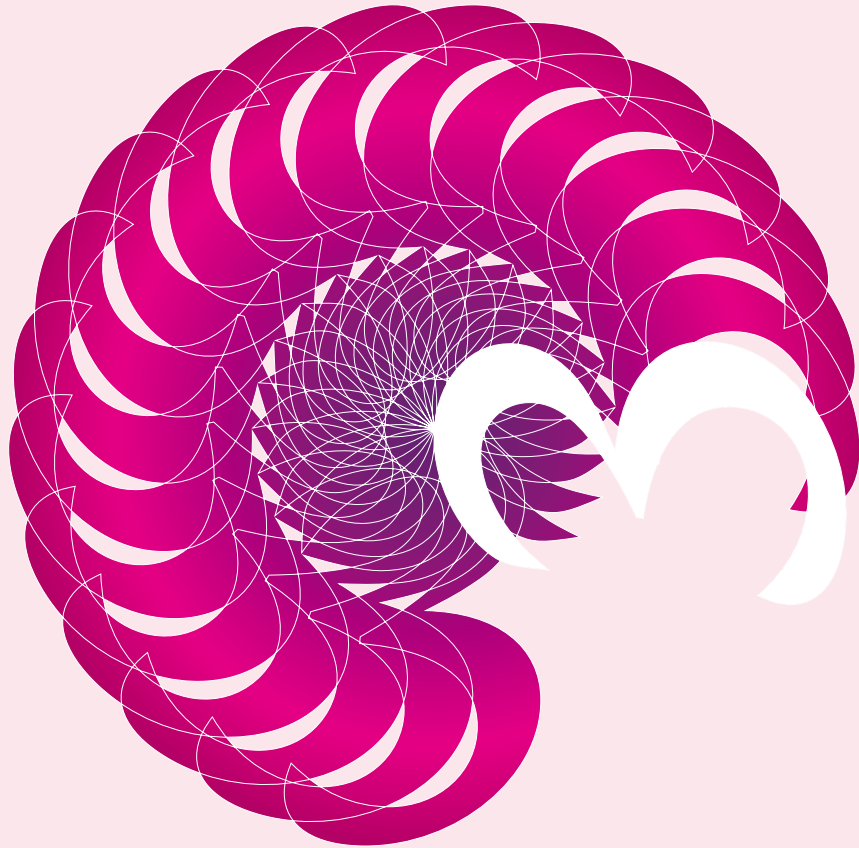
In addition to the premium sponsorship packages, we also have on-site sponsorship opportunities for components such as exhibits, satellite session, and conference material.

This conference targets women from across the globe who are often working in an NGO or grass roots organisation and do not always have the financial means to attend. However, the lives of hundreds of women in their home country could be affected by the participation of such vital community organisations and we are also looking for sponsors to finance the participation of individual persons.

In addition to sponsors, we are looking for goodwill ambassadors who are willing to publicly support the cause and the conference.

‘Exchanging knowledge and information are indispensable and the most important, as well as that you are not alone in the fight and you have partners’

Ruth, Israel



THE SECOND WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN'S SHELTERS

- 1500 participants, coming from grass root NGOs and practitioners to policy makers.
- Representing 80 countries from Afghanistan to Zimbabwe.
- Speakers ranging from Crown Princess Mary of Denmark to President Bill Clinton and Reese Witherspoon.
- Financial support came from sponsors and partners such as Verizon, Avon and UN Women.
- News coverage in over 50 media outlets in print and digital form – Forbes, Washington Post, Huffington Post, CBS News, USA Today and others.
- The conference catalysed new legislation in a number of countries, new shelters (e.g. from 1 to 16 in Vietnam) and a number of international collaborations aimed at transferring new approaches.

CONFERENCE THEMES THIRD WORLD CONFERENCE

The themes of the Conference are still in discussion but we can already think of the following:

- Empowerment of women.
- Financing and managing your Women Shelter.
- New approaches in shelters.
- Shelters and agency approach.
- Dealing with violence in your own organisation.

‘For us the world conferences work as an inspirational platform that invite us to keep moving forward and to remember that we are not alone, that everywhere there are thousands of women helping other women giving them a safe place to go when violence is so bad and life is really in danger’

Margarita, Mexico

ABOUT THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF WOMEN'S SHELTERS

The Global Network of Women's Shelters (GNWS) was founded in 2009 to unite and strengthen the women's shelter movement globally to make change to end violence against women and their children. GNWS is an active global network, united by a shared vision for an equal world where women and their children live free from violence. We work to ensure global awareness of violence against women and their children; support and strengthen the women's shelter movement; promote effective policies and their implementation in order to prevent violence and protect and empower women and their children; and to promote social change that ends violence and oppression against women and their children.

GNWS encourages membership applications from shelters and other violence against women organisations working to create safe spaces for women, such as women's shelters, refuges, safe homes, transition homes, & anti-violence centers. All member organisations must adhere to GNWS' guiding principles, vision, and purpose.

ABOUT FEDERATIE OPVANG

Federatie Opvang is the umbrella organization of the shelters in the Netherlands, fulfilling a leading role in providing lobby and advocacy on behalf of its members. Federatie Opvang and its members have extensive expertise regarding violence against women, domestic violence, honour related violence, trafficking in human beings, and violence in dependency relationships.

For more information you may visit the following sites:

- The website of the Global Network of Women's Shelters www.gnws.org
- The website of the Second World Conference www.worldshelterconference.org
- The website of Federatie Opvang www.opvang.nl

Or contact us for more information at 3WCWS@opvang.nl



