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KASHMIR AND 1325
CONFERENCE REPORT – WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: THE
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Table of Contents

Introduction – The Kashmir Conflict	3
Gender Concerns International's Work in Kashmir	4
Information about the 3 Days Working Conference	5
Information about the Delegation	7
Activities	
One Day in Brussels	8
Functional networking conference WCA 1325, September 16-18 in Soesterberg	11
Workshop on Kashmir	11
Public Day Meeting at Peace Palace on September 19, 2008	12
Opening speech of Mrs. Sabra Bano at Public Day Meeting	13
The visit to the International Criminal Court	16
Visit to Dutch Parliament – Meeting with Ms. Chantal Gill'ard	17
Meeting at Ministry of Foreign Affairs	18

The Kashmir Conflict

Last year India and Pakistan celebrated 60 years of independence and sovereignty. Furthermore, the year 2007 marks 60 years of Kashmir's long history of conflicts and many wars that have been fought between India and Pakistan over the territorial dispute of Kashmir. This conflict has added two nuclear powers to this world and contributed to a major rise in militarization and militancy in the region. Women from both sides of Kashmir were and still are victims of this conflict and the aftermath of the earthquake. If natural disasters do not distinguish between gender, wars and their impact on civilians do.

Women rarely initiate conflict but are its main victims, along with their children. The conflict has created a large number of **widows, 'half-widows'** (those whose husbands have disappeared with no proof of whether they are dead or alive), mothers who have lost their sons, daughters who have been subjected to sexual violence, young women who dare not step out of the house, women who have been pushed out of employment by fear and uncertainty of conflict, and women who suffer from medical and psychological conditions related to stress and trauma. Nowadays depression, spontaneous abortions and miscarriages are common. The conflict has created a situation of tremendous fear and uncertainty in the lives of women in Kashmir. Another disquieting consequence of conflict has been the increasing distrust even amongst family members and **an increase in domestic violence.**

While Kashmir has been central to political discussions in India, the impact on women and children of the ongoing conflict has received little or no attention. There are no precise estimates, official or non-official, of the number of women widowed or children orphaned. Resounding official silence has attended a recent revelation by a BBC correspondent that the number of children orphaned by conflict in the State was of the order of a hundred thousand and that most of them are engaged in child labour.

On both sides of Kashmir there is an overwhelming desire for peace on the part of women and hence the more specific and compelling desire of women's groups to come together for a better understanding of each other's needs and aspirations. Women's groups that have emerged in Kashmir have been subject to patriarchal mores to organise themselves for social action at the village level. However, the women of Kashmir have increasingly articulated a pressing need for a dialogue among all groups to help find a peaceful solution to the collective crisis that afflicts the region. Recent developments indicate that it is the state machinery that is not interested in promoting dialogue. There is no involvement of women in peace processes. The impact of conflict on women has largely been ignored, marginalising their needs and aspirations.

Gender Concerns International's Work in Kashmir

This marginalization of women's needs has strengthened the masculinity of the Kashmir conflict which in turn has motivated Gender Concerns International to advocate, lobby and act regarding the impact of this conflict on women in the region.

It is in such a context that we genuinely find it necessary **to challenge the lack of attention and support for women in Kashmir** victimized by this 61 year long and yet ongoing conflict at European and international fora. Since past few years, Gender Concerns International is the only European organization that is raising its voice in favour of the women in Kashmir (see the report on First Lady). In 2007 the organization launched signatory campaign 'Hello Sirs!' (www.genderconcerns.nl) that targets the few most powerful people in this world who are more able than many to stop the horrible crimes regularly being committed against the women victims of this conflict. These powerful people are predominantly the male heads of states, in India, Pakistan, Indian and Pakistan Administered Kashmir, the USA and at the UN, EP and NATO.

Since the death of Aasia Jeelani in a mine blast accident while monitoring elections in Srinagar (Indian Side of Kashmir) in 2004, Gender Concerns International was deeply moved by this atrocity and started to raise attention to the women's plight in both sides of Kashmir. In 2005, Gender Concerns International organized a Sharing Experience Interaction Conference in Srinagar and observed the ground realities of heavy militarization and militancy in the area.

In relation to our work in Azad Kashmir, Sabra Bano, Director of Gender Concerns International visited the earthquake destroyed areas in Azad Kashmir. In the aftermath of the earthquake it was largely women that were subject to gender-based discrimination staring from the early phase of post disaster rehabilitation actions.

Since women are disproportional agents of force, power and assaults in conflict zones, such as Kashmir, an absence of gender component in furthering the development of such a region causes gender blindness in the whole peace procedure. Not adopting a gender perspective refers to a fundamental lack of understanding development in terms of implementing the UN resolution 1325, as well as targeting Millennium Development Goal 3 and 5, which tackle women's empowerment and gender equality.

Gender Concerns International has experience in Pakistan Administered Kashmir as well as India Administered Kashmir and therefore considers the aspect of enabling a platform for women of Kashmir to meet very high.

Important questions in this context are:

- How to promote women's participation in all decision-making levels?

- How to deal with military and police in the region?
- Why have Kashmiri women been denied their basic human rights?
- Why are women in Kashmir left alone by the international community to face the atrocities committed by the military against them?
- What can Dutch and international women's organizations do to increase the number of women at the negotiating tables of the most powerful men?

Gender Concerns International draws European attention to **women and development** and **women's human rights situation** in Kashmir which is mainly unnoticed by any international and European forum. We have been cooperating with European women's organizations, our local partners in Kashmir and European governments. It is precisely this cooperation which brought this conference into being. To highlight the plight of women in Kashmir, we have invited our partners from both sides of Kashmir to the Netherlands and have presented their position to fellow women's organizations, other NGOs, Dutch, Belgian and European governments' officials and the members of these Parliaments.

Information about the 3 Day Working Conference

Women and women's organisations throughout the world are active in conflict prevention, peace building and post conflict reconstruction. We are aware of the fact that women in conflict zones have to deal with: ethnic or nationalist polarisation, destruction of villages or neighbourhoods, life in camps with no economic autonomy, and physical assault and sexual intimidation. Women live with the consequences of armed conflict and struggle to carry on with their family life. Their general situation in conflict zones has convinced them that armed conflict is the cause of trauma and destruction, not alone in their own lives but in the lives of their children and the community as well. Many of these women have taken the decision to break the silence and to stop bearing this pain in an isolation by joining the forces that are active in looking for alternative solutions. They participate in peace building and take initiatives to prevent armed violence.

In conflict zones, women's engagement in alternative solutions to armed violence is supported by Resolution 1325 of the Security Council of the United Nations. This resolution commits governments to enhance the participation of women in peace building and post conflict reconstruction processes. In the Netherlands the Schokland Agreement has been signed in June 2007 between the Government and the civil society organisations to implement UNSCR 1325 and to jointly draft a National Action Plan on 1325 regarding women, peace and security. The Dutch National Action Plan (NAP) commits itself *"to inform the efforts of the parties that have signed it, stating explicitly what is expected from them"*. So far the

Dutch NAP on UNSCR 1325 (see the text at www.minbuza.nl, called NAP 2008-2011) is unique as it has been produced jointly by a government and civil society organizations.

As signatory to the Dutch NAP1325, the Platform Vrouwen voor Duurzame Vrede (Platform VDV) and its member organisations have committed themselves to :

- Show their solidarity and support to women's rights and stimulate women's leadership and social visibility.
- Support activities and projects to increase participation of women in reconciliation processes
- Organize activities to strengthen local women's organisations and networks for development and conflict resolution.

Under the umbrella of **The Netherlands Women's Council (NVR)**, six member organizations of the Platform VDV have launched the joint project WCA 1325. From September 14 to 24, the project facilitated the invitation and hosting of 26 representatives of women's peace and development organisations from six conflict areas by their six Dutch partners. The purpose of this project is to build a learning community on women's work for peace, to strengthen functional networks around each case and to give visibility to women's work in the context of Resolution 1325. The functional networks have had the task to mobilise support for women's courageous initiatives and to work on systematic improvements regarding the approaches of women's work.

The partners in this project are:

- **Women for Peace** and **Nahid** invited a women's peace organisation from Afghanistan:
- **The Women's Organisation Netherlands Darfur** invited a women's peace organisation from Sudan.
- **Gender Concerns International** invited two women 's peace and development organisations from both Indian Administered and Pakistan Administered, Kashmir;
- **Foundation Sundjata en Burundi Women for Peace and Development** invited peace organisations from the Great Lakes region in Africa;
- **Womens Peacemakers Program** invited women's peace organisations from the Balkan.
- **The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** invited a women's peace group from Palestine and Israel.

The project activities consisted of a working conference, a public celebration, and visits to Dutch organisations and institutions. One of **the expected results** was the formulation of a concrete programme of cooperation for the coming years, between the **case owners** (women in conflict areas) and the **case holders** (their partners in the Netherlands) reassuring their mutual commitment to each other.

The other expected result was to generate publicity around the work of women for conflict prevention, peace building and post conflict social reconstruction in relevant conflict areas.

Information about the Delegation

Taqdees Gillani (from Pakistan Administered Kashmir)

University Professor at Azad Jammu & Kashmir and chairperson of HOPE (Helping Organization for People's Equality), Mrs. Gillani has a long history of being a human rights activist. Besides her career as a Professor of English Literature at the University of Azad Jammu and Kashmir University, Mrs. Gillani has been very active in drawing regional attention to the position of women in Kashmir. She is a great supporter in Kashmir of women's equal representation in the parliament and hopes that the European and international community will take serious steps to reassure their support for more just gender and development policies in Kashmir.

Asma Dhar and Safiya Lone (from India Administered Kashmir)

These two young women have established an organization which focuses on women's problems and women's self-help initiatives in Kashmir. By documented account on women's human rights violation situation in Kashmir they draw the attention of their respective authorities, the European and international community to their neglected interest and to include women in Kashmir for the MDGs and especially MDG5 and MDG3. They are members of a gender and development organization **Gender Concerns Kashmir**.

Sahba Husain (from Delhi)

Mrs. Husain has worked with Aman Public Charitable Trust; a Delhi based NGO, as a trustee and manager of the portfolio on Gender, Conflict and Mental Health. This included extensive field work in Jammu Kashmir (J&K). Presently, she is compiling the data for a comprehensive report on gender and political conflict in J&K. She is also an activist in the national women's movement in India and a member of the All India Democratic Women's Association.

One Day in Brussels

1. Meeting with Magda de Meyer

On Monday September 15, the delegation and staff of Gender Concerns International met with Belgian politician Mrs. Magda de Meyer to discuss the role of women in Kashmir conflict. Mrs. de Meyer has been active for the party *Socialistische Partij Anders* and has devoted herself to many different causes such as



animal rights, rights of homosexuals and campaigns against the advertising of plastic surgery. She also participated in the First All-Female International Election Monitoring Mission led by Gender Concerns International to Pakistan in February 2008. Currently, Mrs. de Meyer is Director of the department of Poverty alleviation in Brussels under the State Secretary on this issue.

Focus points of the meeting were the documentary List 1325: List me now: Women's unheard voices in Kashmir and raising wider awareness of the conflict through this film. One of the suggestions that were brought forth was to make women in Kashmir a topic for March 8 (International Women's Day) of the coming year. Furthermore it was proposed to raise questions in the Belgian parliament about the situation of women in Kashmir.

2. Meeting with Vice Prime Minister and the Head of Cabinet of Mrs. Milquet (Minister for Employment and Equal Opportunities)

During the meeting with the Head of Cabinet of Minister Joelle Milquet Gender Concerns International, HOPE and Gender Concerns Kashmir reaffirmed the dire situation that most Kashmiri women find themselves in. They called on the Belgian government to support them in their struggle to safeguard their human rights and ensure that UN Resolution 1325 is also applied to the case of Kashmir. Issues discussed included:

- Finding mechanisms of support for the women's groups in both sides



of Kashmir

- An acknowledgement of the role Gender Concerns International is playing on European level to draw support for the women victims of this painfully long conflict and a due encouragement by supporting its work in Europe and in conflict region

- Cooperation with Belgian women and human rights organizations and Gender Concerns International to work together in order to address the most ignored and neglected situation of women in Kashmir.

At present the Belgian government does not give direct development aid to Kashmir and there is no national plan to do so, although presence of NGOs is supported. The cabinet explained that the case of Afghanistan shows that the Belgian government pays genuine consideration to the gender dimension in development work as approximately 70% of aid is geared towards equality of gender in the region. The cabinet expressed its awareness of the problematic situation in Kashmir and has shown keen interest in the issue. It is hoped that in the near future Gender Concerns International will have close cooperation of the learned cabinet of Madam Milquet and its friends. This will indeed contribute to make Belgian gender and development assistance also more relevant to the women in Kashmir. This luncheon meeting was very cordial and at the same time was very focused on agenda points. Mrs. Bernadette Lambrechts Chief of Staff, Cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister Milquet, Mr. Patrick Renault, Diplomatic Councillor of the Cabinet of Vice Prime Minister Milquet, and many notable parliamentarians were present at this meeting. A screening of the film List 1325: List Me Now was organised after the lunch followed by a discussion on the situation of women in Kashmir.

3. Meeting with Mia de Vits (Member of European Parliament)

On the International day of Parliament, our delegation visited the European Parliament and met with MEP Mia de Vits and Mr. Joseph Bertrand at the Parliament.

The delegation emphasised the role of the European Parliament in Kashmir conflict and pointed out its lack of attention to the neglected situation of women in Kashmir. The delegation briefed Mrs. De Vits about women in Kashmir and the work that Gender Concerns International has done for the past 5 years in Kashmir and stressed the need for an urgent action of European Parliament regarding the appalling situation of women in Kashmir.



In recent years two resolutions were passed by the European Parliament, although neither of them has prompted much action. None of the resolutions take the gender issue into account, leaving Kashmiri

women in an especially vulnerable situation. The learned Parliamentarian Ms. De Vits spoke with all the members of the delegation and assured her support to the women of this conflict. She appreciated the fact that women themselves have taken an initiative to knock on the door of the European Parliament. The fact that they had personally come to an MEP their concerns will definitely be raised in parliament in the coming weeks.

Issues of militarization and political participation of women at peace talk were discussed in details. It was emphasised that women in Kashmir need urgent attention to deal with the atrocities of this 61 year long conflict. Parliamentarians should visit the region and meet with women activists, the Kashmiri delegation underlined. It was also decided that the European Commission must be asked about its post-earthquake rehabilitation assistance to women in Kashmir and its support to women's organisation such as Gender Concerns International that is highlighting the plight of women in Kashmir single handedly. The meeting was concluded in mutual appreciation of host parliamentarians and the Dutch, Kashmiri and Indian delegates.

Functional Networking Meeting WCA 1325, September 16-18 in Soesterberg



International participants of the 3 days conference in Soesterberg

In Soesterberg, the different delegations from Afghanistan, Balkan, Great Lakes of Africa, Kashmir, Palestine and Sudan had the chance to interact with each other and to exchange experiences, ideas and the results of their work. The session started with an official opening of the working conference in the morning and with a definition of the work that should be done. Case owners and their case holder organizations presented themselves and their cases in front of the others before the group was divided case by case. Each delegation started working in workshops led by a facilitator and sometimes assisted by an expert. The four workshops during the conference were followed by a presentation of the intermediary results and the final result was presented in public on September 19th in the Peace Palace.

Workshop on Kashmir

Gender Concerns International was the case holder organization for the Kashmir case and thus worked on an action plan for the Kashmiri women. The purpose of the workshop was to develop a concept which was relevant to Resolution 1325. The facilitator for the Kashmir delegation was Solita Sarwono (a Gender Consultant).

The outcome of the workshop was the following action plan:

1. The initiative
 - **Vision:** Immediate application of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and 1820 for the women in Kashmir and relevance regarding MDGs by 2015
 - **Focus:**
 1. Establishment of women's centres in Srinagar and Muzaffarabad within a short targeted period.
 2. Development of 3 year program plan
 3. Two Training of trainers in organisational development and org. outreach workshops
 4. Four consultative meetings with women at district level to develop a women's network and project activities
 5. Re-establishment of contact with displaced and divided families
2. Strengths of the initiative
 - Direct contact and access to women affected by conflict, violence, migration and natural disaster
 - Self-commitment, determination and motivation to provide a support network
 - Extensive documentation based on women's testimonies from all districts- and firsthand knowledge about grass root situation
 - Link with Gender Concerns International and its partners
3. Strategic network
 - **Links for Policy:** Bar Association of Kashmir, Association of Parents of Disappeared Persons, SAARC, local civil society groups
 - **Links for Finance:** local resources, UN, Belgian and Dutch Embassies, Dutch and Belgian Governments, Cabinet of Mrs. J. Milquet, EU, EP, EC, UNFPA, SAARC, World Bank,
 - **Links for Communication with the public:** local and int. media, civil society, press clubs, G- Concerns newsletter
 - **Links for sharing knowledge and experience:** UN, EU, international NGO's, educational institutions, professional groups
4. Action plan
 - **Program areas:** India and Pakistan Administered Kashmir
 - Step one: Develop complete project proposal
 - Step two: Generate local and international. resources to implement projects
 - Steps for longer term: Make centres self-sustaining, then extend services to other district

Public Day Meeting at Peace Palace on September 19, 2008

On September 19th, 2008, all delegations held a Public Day Meeting at the Peace Palace in Den Haag, with the intention to reach out to the wider public and draw attention to the future of women's peace initiatives in conflict zones. On this occasion all delegations presented to the public their Action Plans which they had developed during the preceding three-day conference in Soesterberg. The session was opened by Mrs. Sabra Bano (see below), the Director of Gender Concerns International. Before the presentation of Action Plans, Mr. Bert van Alphen, the Alderman of the City Council of The Hague welcomed the audience to the city of Justice and Peace. Afterwards, the delegations introduced their Action Plans and initiatives which were then followed by a speech of Mr. Ruud Treffers, the Director General, Department of International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Later on, the delegates and the audience exchanged thoughts and opinions in a discussion led by the former Dutch Minister of International Development Cooperation Jan Pronk. At the end of the afternoon, Gender Concerns International officially launched its co-produced documentary "List 1325: List me now – Women's Unheard Voices from Kashmir".



In front of the Peace Palace

Opening speech of Sabra Bano at Public Day Meeting

“The situation of women in conflict zones, is the hardest of all”

Gender Concerns International has been actively involved in planning and organizing the conference “Women, Security and Peace”. Being a member of the Steering Committee of the Platform Women for Sustainable Peace (VDV), Sabra Bano, Director Gender Concerns International opened the conference by well-coming the guests at the Peace Palace. Here under is the content of her speech:

Dear Ladies and Gentlemen, Honourable guests

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Platform ‘Women for Sustainable Peace’, I, announce the opening of this Public Day meeting by well-coming you to this auspicious occasion here at the Peace Palace in the city known as the city of justice and Peace.

I am grateful to the Dutch **Women’s Council to host and facilitate the initiative taken by the “Platform Women for Sustainable Peace”**. That initiative was to work for the preparation of a Dutch National Action Plan on UNSR 1325 and later on to take action regarding implementation of this National Action Plan, internationally. It is within this context that we all are gathered here today to witness the commitment of Dutch women’s organizations and their local partners regarding issues related to Peace and Security.

The Dutch Women’s Council was established in 1898. Thus this year it has become 110 years old having 46 Dutch women organizations under its umbrella and a membership of more than 1 million women in a country of 16 million people. Today a new chapter has been written in the book of Dutch women’s organizational history of embracing their sisters as partners from conflict countries through Dutch organizations under the platform WSP. To make this connection, **the role of Diaspora women in the Netherlands has been of valuable contribution to this event**. Our recent joint work on 1325 has proved that the Dutch Diaspora women have a keen interest in Dutch international development cooperation in general and they are particularly interested in the development of their country of origin as well. Today is an important day in the history of Dutch women’s long struggle of self organization and self determination as this event also marks the opening of a new chapter **on interaction of Diaspora women** in the mainstream Dutch women’s movement. It is these women who have made a valuable contribution to this event.

-I would also like to say that today is an important day for all of us here to endorse our support to the women in conflict zones. Conflicts minor/major, local/regional, recognized/semi-recognized, and new /painfully old.

Today, I would also like to thank Minister of International Development Cooperation Mr. Bert Koenders and his team at the Ministry for their special attention to include women's NGOs and platform in the process of shaping the direction and widening the scope of Dutch NAP on 1325. Indeed, that opportunity was great and it has opened up new avenues for cooperation among various key-players/stakeholders on peace and security. Such as those between NVR, members of Platform WSP, their local partners, the donor community and all individuals and organizations interested in this issue. We cherish this moment dearly and hope that the spirit of the day will prevail for a long time to come.

I would not say much on the content of the 18 points of the resolution 1325 as I assume all of us being a learned community on 1325. In fact perhaps it is interesting to mention that in our working conference we have studied the resolution closely and analyzed the Dutch NAP on 1325 to prepare the cases that are about to be presented here shortly. We consider that the Dutch NAP is a very supportive instrument to bring about gender justice in conflict situations in respective zones as it seems to be accommodating the needs and facilitating the support to our case-holders and case owners within its broader but focused framework.

Case holder organizations are:

- WILPF,
- Women for Peace and Stichting Nahid
- IFOR Women's Peacemakers Program to the Multicultural Women Peacemakers Program Netherlands,
- Gender Concern International,
- VOND, and
- Sundjata.

The aim of the conference is:

-To forge and strengthen a sustainable partnership between women's peace organizations in conflict situations and such women's organization in the Netherlands. Through that partnership a concrete contribution will be made to conflict prevention, mediation and sustainable peace building.

- Sharing experiences in creating alternatives for armed conflict.
- Developing knowledge and learning communities on effective strategies applied by women in conflict situations, peace building and reconstruction.

-Elaborating women's initiatives for sustainable peace building using a committed functional network around each women's peace organization in a conflict situation

Six of the in VDV participating organizations were able to invite partners from a conflict area and offer them a program during a number of days during their stay in the Netherlands.

I thank our partners from Sudan, Great Lakes area, Palestine/Israel, Afghanistan, Kashmir and Balkan for their hard work of past days to present their cases to this meeting today. They are here for a 10 days work-visit to share with us first hand information from their direct conflict situation; so that we can draw Dutch attention to the very specific nature of their concerns and aspirations.

Life of an average person in a developing country is already hard enough. Life of women in those circumstances is harder but ladies and gentlemen when it comes to the situation of women in conflict zones, it the hardest of all and that is why it requires our full and immediate attention. I wish you a pleasant and an inspiring afternoon, thank you very much

Sabra Bano

The visit to the International Criminal Court

On Monday September 22, 2008, Gender Concerns International and its delegation from India, Pakistan and Kashmir went to visit the ICC. Throughout the day, the delegations were informed about the role of victims and witnesses before the ICC, status of cases and situations. At the end of the day the delegation met with the Registrar of ICC, Mrs. Silvana Arbia.



Mrs. Bano addressing the ICC Registrar Mrs. Arbia

Visit to the Dutch Parliament – Hosted by Mrs. Chantal Gill'ard

In the early afternoon of 23rd September Gender Concerns International organized a meeting between women guests from various conflict zones attending the **Women, Peace and Security** conference and



the Parliamentarians at the Dutch Parliament hosted by Mrs. Chantal Gill'ard, Member of Parliament from the Dutch Labour Party. Mrs. Gill'ard is the parliamentary spokesperson on International Development Cooperation. Various delegations briefed the parliamentarians about the situation of women in conflict zones and how Dutch government can support women's organizations in

those countries to help their fellow country women. Women delegates were received warmly by various parliamentarians. It was agreed that Gender Concerns International will facilitate the communication between the Dutch Members of Parliament and the guest delegates, if necessary.

Meeting at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

On September 23 Kashmiri delegation met with the heads of various departments at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in The Hague. The request for this meeting was made to Mr. Arjan Hamburger (see picture), the Ambassador of Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In the morning session of this meeting a detailed account on women's human rights violation situation in Kashmir was given to the Ambassador Hamburger. While in general, widely neglected situation of women's security, safety, human dignity and representation in the region were the focus of this meeting, the specificities of each Kashmir were highlighted in details as well. It was also emphasized that Gender Concerns International, as the only Dutch Gender and Development Organization finds it important to maintain its focus on the human rights violation situation of women in South Asia and with a particular interest to the conflict region of Kashmir which is a highly disputed issue between two nuclear neighboring countries in the region.



At this occasion it was also mentioned that Gender Concerns International is the only Dutch and European organization that is working intensely to link Kashmir with the wider implementation of UNSCR 1325 and 1820, in Brussels, Geneva and The Hague. The response in Brussels is very encouraging and

it is hoped that the Dutch government will also take notice of human rights and neglected gender and development situation of women in Kashmir. **At this occasion a request for a fact finding mission to both sides of Kashmir was made to Mr. Hamburger.** Mr. Arjan Hamburger showed an interest in the situation of women in Kashmir and assured the delegation to look into the matter as well.



Gender Concerns International at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs

The delegation also met with Mr. Job van den Berg, Senior Policy Officer in the Human Rights, Good Governance and Humanitarian Aid Department, as well as with Mr. Jos Hoenen, Senior Policy Advisor in the Gender Division, Mr. Wierish KSC Ramsoekh, Deputy Head South Asia Division at Asia Oceania Department, and Mrs. Annelies Ellerman, Senior Policy Officer at the Human Rights Division During the meeting, issues concerning the impact of the regional conflict, the situation of women after 3 years of the earthquake and the role of women in Kashmir, were addressed.

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