



# 9WAMM NEWSLETTER

March 2010

## 9<sup>TH</sup> COMMONWEALTH WOMEN'S AFFAIRS MINISTERS MEETING

7-9 June 2010, Barbados

*Theme: Gender issues in economic crisis, recovery and beyond: Women as agents of transformation.*

### Countdown...

It's just over two months to go before the Commonwealth's largest meeting of Women's Affairs Ministers, which takes place this year on the Caribbean island of Barbados.

The meeting will break with tradition by including for the first time invited Ministers of Finance, Central Bank Governors and finance officials. It will be a unique opportunity to discuss the issues raised by the theme directly with the people responsible for national finances and budgeting.

The sub-themes of the meeting will address the economic recovery and conflict in the context of the Millennium Development Goals.

One of the key speakers at 9WAMM will be Michael Green, author of the best-selling *Philanthrocapitalism*. He will introduce Ministers to the prospects of harnessing philanthropy capitals – finance, networks and skills, for growth with equity.

Before ministers meet, civil society, lawyers and judges, parliamentarians, young people and the private sector will gather for the Partners Forum, which runs from 4-6 June.

For further enquiries about 9WAMM, please contact: [Dorothy Leathley](#) or [Pindra Kaur](#) in London or [John Hollingsworth](#) in Barbados

For further enquiries about the work of the Commonwealth Secretariat's Gender Division, please click [here](#).



**Dr Shirin Sharmin Chaudhury, State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, Bangladesh - and Chair of the Commonwealth Gender Plan of Action Monitoring Group**

### National Women's Machineries

Last month, representatives from Commonwealth National Women's Machineries met in New York, just prior to the Commission on the Status of Women. By all accounts, it was a successful precursor to 9WAMM. Esther Eghobamien, Head of Gender at the Commonwealth Secretariat said: "The subject area of the economic crisis and recovery was a topical theme, which meshed well with current thinking on gender financing and equality."

Delegates heard from Roberta Clarke, UNIFEM regional director for the Caribbean, whose keynote address 'Haven't we said so already' was published in [Open Democracy](#) earlier this

month. It looked at progress made since 1995, when more than 30 000 women around the world met in Beijing, China to put together a global framework for greater equality and opportunity for women.



**Roberta Clarke, Regional Programme Director, UNIFEM presents her keynote address**

The meeting was also a chance for representatives to catch up with what the Commonwealth has been doing with its own [Plan of Action for Gender Equality](#), launched in 2005.

The mid-term review is an important milestone for the next five years of gender work within the Commonwealth and the results will be made available at 9WAMM.

The Commonwealth has unique convening powers and political legitimacy. Through its Ministerial and Heads of Government meetings, it brings together decision-makers from diverse regions of the globe, and from small and large countries, wealthy and poorer.

The timing of 9WAMM is significant because it is happening so soon after the financial crisis and before the G8 meeting in Canada, which will debate key priorities, including maternal health.

The meeting will assess the global landscape for the development community in the run-up to the High Level Summit on the Millennium Development Goals at the UN in New York in September.

9WAMM will prepare National Women's Machineries to ask the right questions of governments and of development partners.

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## **Secretary-General's statement on International Women's Day**

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth celebrated two important days on March 8:

International Women's Day and Commonwealth Day. The Secretary-General Kamalesh Sharma issued a statement to mark IWD, which can be read here: [Poverty has a women's face – radical change is required](#).

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## **Barbados on target for 9WAMM**



**John Hollingsworth, Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Barbados**

In New York, John Hollingsworth, Director of the Bureau of Gender Affairs, Barbados said his country was looking forward to welcoming delegates to the Ministerial meeting in June. In his update, he confirmed that key logistical arrangements had been agreed upon, including venues and accommodation.

"We have put in place a venue coordinator, liaison and transport coordinators, a civil society coordinator as well as hospitality, security and media personnel."

Mr Hollingsworth said the Ministry of Youth, Family and Sports – which is responsible for gender affairs – would now move into the

next phase, where contracts are finalised and the meeting's agenda is agreed on.

He added that alongside the summit, there would be displays of art and craft and other small business products in addition to a gender hub where tools of gender analysis will be displayed and explained.

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## Thank you and welcome

The Commonwealth Secretariat would like to thank Barbados Minister Dr Esther Byer Suckoo for her work and commitment to 9WAMM and wish her well for her new portfolio as Minister of Labour.



**Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Stephen Lashley (left) and Minister Dr Esther Byer Suckoo.**

A warm welcome is extended to the new Minister of Family, Youth and Sports Stephen Lashley, who will preside over 9WAMM.

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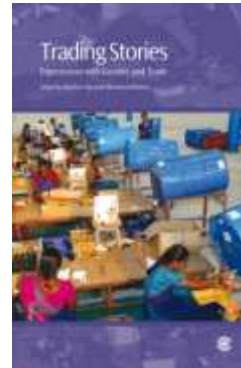


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## New publications

**Trading Stories: Experiences with Gender and Trade** (Edited by Marilyn Carr and Mariama Williams )



Through twenty regional and country case studies, *Trading Stories* pulls together the key links between trade, gender and economic development. Ten case studies focus on the gender impacts of trade policies, detailing differential consequences on men and women; and ten focus on linking women with global markets – including FairTrade, organic, niche and mainstream markets – through a range of best practices involving government, NGOs, people's organisations and associations, private sector and international agencies.

The book draws on three recent Commonwealth Secretariat publications on gender and trade: *Gender Mainstreaming in the Multilateral Trading System*; *Chains of Fortune: Linking Women Producers and Workers with Global Markets*; and *Gender and Trade Action Guide* and is a useful addition to the growing body of evidence that will help governments to effectively mainstream gender in their trade policy.

March 2010, 282 pages, Paperback, GBP £20.00, ISBN 978-0-85092-873-0

Link to buy:

<http://publications.thecommonwealth.org/trading-stories-783-p.aspx>