

it is important to recognize the ways in which women in different reconstructing nations may be able to assist one another. Sandra Moran has commented on the usefulness of meeting with other Central American women at a regional conference several years ago (Moran, interview).

Likewise, Rwandan women have similarly benefitted from exchanging conflict and post-conflict experiences and strategies with women from Zimbabwe (Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre, 1995). Canada must find ways to support this kind of cross-national networking between women.

Canada has an excellent international reputation for its work in areas of human rights and gender and development (Moser, 1989 & Chowdry, 1995). In addition to formulating concrete policies in these areas, Canada has also sought change to create change for women in the international arena. At the Fourth World Conference on Women, for example, Canada took the lead in negotiations and won language that reaffirms that "rape in the conduct of armed conflict constitutes a war crime and under circumstances it constitutes a crime against humanity." (Platform, 1996) Canada not only recognizes the key role of women in development, but that the female experiences of violence and security must be addressed if a society is to progress. Moreover, Canada recognizes that women have inherent rights in and of themselves. To this end, it is vital that Canada incorporate its previous experience into Peace building policy. Only when the impact of gender is effectively assessed and when the needs of different groups of women and men are accounted for, can Canada best help other nations build a, "sustainable infrastructure of human security." (Axworthy, 1996) **What are the obstacles to focusing on gender; a) within the Canadian Federal government b) in a reconstructing nation? In what respects does incorporating gender fulfill the peace building mandate? In what respects**