

The Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) has compiled a policy, called *Women in Development: CIDA Action Plan*, which is applied to every proposal of a development project, requiring that the impact of the project on women be identified. The policy makes the consideration and removal of systemic barriers to participation by women a mandatory part of every proposal. This policy means that in every initiative CIDA undertakes, its impact on women is a crucial and immediate issue to be understood and accommodated in the manner best suited to the promotion of women's equality.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 8**

**The Committee recommends that the federal government move within its own jurisdiction to eliminate systemic barriers which prevent women from enjoying equality of opportunity and security, and encourage the provinces to also do so.**

#### **RECOMMENDATION 9**

**The Committee recommends that Parliament mandate the Women's Parliamentary Association (WPA) to study, and present a report, within six months on existing systemic barriers to women's full participation within the House of Commons and its Support Services, and to make recommendations for the elimination of such systemic barriers.**

#### **RECOMMENDATION 10**

**The Committee recommends that the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women be invited to conduct gender-sensitivity programs for Members of Parliament.**

#### **F. FUNDING OF SHELTERS FOR BATTERED WOMEN**

Front-line workers who provide counselling, support, advocacy and shelter to physically and sexually assaulted women and their children told the Committee that too few services are in place to assist the number of victims of violence who need help. Services for battered wives and sexual assault victims are, in the main, provided by organizations that lack adequate and secure funding.

There are a total of 292 transition houses for battered women and their children across Canada (Canada, *Transition Houses and Shelters for Battered Women in Canada*, Health and Welfare Canada, 1989). Developed originally through community