

## **Domestic Violence**

As wars draw to a close, violence against women may take a new form - much closer to home. The reworking of gender relationships that can take place during periods of armed conflict due to the simultaneous absence of men and the increasing economic/social empowerment of women, may turn against women. In some post-conflict nations, domestic violence sharply increases in the immediate aftermath of war. This has been the case in nations as disparate as Mozambique (Chingogo,1996:233) and Guatemala. In Guatemala, women's groups have estimated that 75-85% of women suffer from physical and/or psychological abuse in their homes (Nuestra Voz,1997:3).

## **Prostitution**

Violence against women may also take the shape of economic forces as well. Some women may find themselves turning to prostitution in desperation to care for themselves and their families - this in turn may feed the cycle of assault and disease. Moreover, foreign troops sent in to manage "the peace," may contribute to this particular form of oppression of women. During the Honduran military intervention, prostitution was encouraged surrounding the bases (Enloe,1993:115-116). Prostitution is also reported to have steadily increased in Mozambique after the arrival of U.N. peacekeepers. Some U.N. personnel are reported to have solicited child prostitutes as well (as cited in Chingogo,1996:232).

## **Social Transformation**

Despite the vast atrocities inflicted upon women in times of armed conflict, it would be a mistake perceive of women as only victims of war. Social chaos resulting from war creates new forms of relationships often times with complex results. Some women, for example, become