

not, the status quo is part of what led to the hostilities. When assisting nations rebuild, therefore, right from the peacekeeping phase to the Peace building process, Canada must effectively seek out and support women trying to enact change in their countries. In the majority of cases, these women will not be at the negotiating table, nor will they be the returning combatants. They will be the women in their homes, in the fields, in factories, and in small grassroots organizations. Where possible, Canada must support the practical and strategic needs of these women as they identify where they need help and what must change. Peace building cannot be a process of supporting the power-holders only. Peace building, and the crucial notion of *acompaniemento*, must entail empowering those who have the resources and will to rebuild their nation from the bottom-up; on their own terms.

In addition, Canada must take the initiative to ensure the missions it sends to rebuilding nations, such as judiciary and police training forces, are sensitive to gender constructs and the lived experiences of groups of women in the country. To be fully effective in this respect, a wide range of Canadian actors can be drawn on to support Peace building. Groups as diverse as human rights and development organizations to legal scholars and legislators could work with women and men in their efforts to create a more democratic society. These efforts must be coordinated, however, and responsive as needs change and conditions shift. Moreover, these efforts must be long-term.

Finally, two, related points must be made. When thinking about gender and peace building it is important to recognize the vast diversity of experience, and thus needs, of women in reconstructing nations. No two nations, nor even groups within nations, will likely be faced with exactly the same problems and opportunities. At the same time as keeping this in mind, however,