

understand the situations that women are living under. Women in Rwanda are now the majority and have no choice but to be actively involved in politics (Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre, 1995:14-15).

Indeed, as of 1995, four Rwandan women sat in a cabinet of twenty-two and there were fifteen female members of parliament out of seventy-seven parliamentarians (Zimbabwe Women's Resource Centre, 1995:14-15).

One group of women who have been very active in the peace process of their country are Guatemalan activists. In Guatemala, women became organized early on in the peace accord process. Because of their effective lobbying, they were able to create a "women's sector," to provide feed-back to the government. Within two weeks, what had originated as a very divided cross-section of forty-five women's groups of all classes and backgrounds, emerged as a working sector ready to have its voice heard. Over the past several years the women's sector has lobbied for the rights of displaced women to own land, for women to be eligible for credit and training, as well as recognition of violence against women. At present the women's sector, now grown to encompass 94 groups, is organizing to influence the implementation of the peace accords (Interview:Sandra Moran). **How do we support and use the political energy of women to build peace? Should any Canadian peace building team going into the country have a requirement that they meet with, tap into the women's network?**

Although some women have been able to effectively organize, the obstacles are still great. Indeed, for women in many countries the obstacles are almost too great. In nations undergoing the transition to peace there often remains the danger of a return to pre-war patriarchal practices. Just as some men feel threatened by the new economic potential of their partners, so may male political leaders attempt to push women out of decision-making roles as