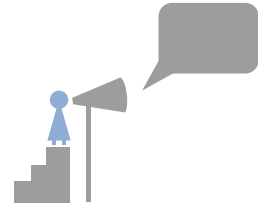


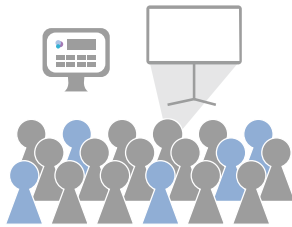
The Problem

Millions of women throughout the world are discriminated against and deprived of their fundamental human rights for no reason other than that they are women. Given the clear connection between expanding women's freedoms and peace, democracy and economic development, solving this problem is critical.



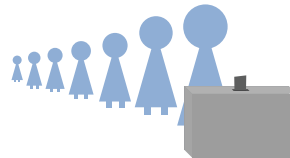
Where We Come In

Our Mission is to empower women and give voice to the struggle for civil, economic, and political rights.



What We're Doing

In our first year, WVN will be hosting **Women's Voices from the Muslim World: A Short-Film Festival**. The Festival is focused on giving voice to women of all faiths living in Muslim-majority countries, as well as Muslim women living as minorities around the globe. We aim to present an unfiltered and neutral account of these women's stories and to highlight pro-women voices from within the Muslim world. Films accepted to the Festival will be available for viewing online where these women can speak directly to each other and to an international audience. Cash prizes will be awarded to the winning films. Top films, coupled with panels of speakers providing further insight and context, will be screened at the WVN Festival in Los Angeles in February 2011 and in venues around the world.



Why the Muslim World?

Women in Muslim-majority countries are at the forefront of the global struggle for women's rights. Many live in highly patriarchal societies and face massive legal and social obstacles to enjoying their basic freedoms and human rights. Nevertheless, these women—along with Muslim women around the world—are showing an incredible capacity for transforming their communities into more open and accepting societies. The Festival will provide a multimedia forum through which to elevate an already complex and nuanced dialogue; a dialogue to which justice can only be done by a multiplicity of voices from diverse national, economic and religious backgrounds. In addition, the Festival will contribute to the awareness, empowerment, and connectivity of Muslim women themselves—crucial weapons in the fight for women's rights.



How You Can Help

We are only as effective as the reach of our message. Please help us by disseminating our call for submissions, by promoting the Web site where the films can be viewed, by assisting in the organization of screenings and panels of speakers around the globe, and by funding our efforts to realize these projects. Visit our site at **womensvoicesnow.org**

Timeline

2010

- Jun 2 – WVN Web site launch
- Jun 23 – festival opens for submissions
- Oct 1 – submissions deadline
- Nov 1 – late submissions deadline
- Dec 1-31 – online Audience Choice contest

2011

- Feb – WVN Festival in Los Angeles

It is impossible to realize our goals while discriminating against half the human race. As study after study has taught us, there is no tool for development more effective than the empowerment of women.

- Kofi Annan