



Sophia Women's World Conference

Women and Wisdom

**Sofia, Bulgaria
May 25-29, 2010**

SophiaWWC Strategic Plan

Join the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond at www.SophiaWWC.org

Photography by Penny McManigal © 1991

SophiaWWC Contents

Sophia Women’s World Conference.....	3
SophiaWWC Goals and Strategies.....	4
SophiaWWC Global Planning Council.....	5
SophiaWWC Structure and Process.....	6
SophiaWWC Sofia Site.....	7
SophiaWWC United Nations Council.....	8
SophiaWWC Arts and Culture.....	9
SophiaWWC Communication and Media	10
SophiaWWC Sophia Circles.....	11
SophiaWWC Affirming the Participation of Men.....	12
SophiaWWC Advancing Young Leadership.....	13
SophiaWWC Structure and Process.....	14
SophiaWWC Financial Operations.....	15

Sophia Women's World Conference **Women and Wisdom**

welcomes the world to participate in the collaboration, implementation and celebration of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies, to illuminate and implement vital "United Nations Living Documents" on the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond:

Actualizing the UN Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW
Achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)
Attending the Environment: Bali Outcome
Affirming the Men: Human Rights and Social Development for All
Advancing the Young People: Human Rights and Social Development for All

The SophiaWWC will invite 10,000-15,000 participants from multi sectors of society, including the United Nations, States, organizations, arts and culture, private sector, academia and individuals, from all continents to Sofia, Bulgaria: May 25-29, 2010.

Participants will share accomplishments that have forwarded the UN Beijing Platform for Action: 1995, CEDAW: 1979, the MDGs: 2000, and the Bali Outcome: 2007. Participants will present their best practices for implementation of these UN "Living documents", learn current perspectives, and develop inter-connected initiatives to continue advancement **through awareness, advocacy and action** in the 21st Century.

The SophiaWWC will organize a multi-partnership paradigm to create and conduct this unique and egalitarian conference to elevate UN universal human rights and social development through these vital UN "Living Documents." Thematically, it will focus on **MDG #3, Gender Equality and Empowerment**, as the foundation to achieve the implementation of Sophia's goals and strategies on the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond.

The SophiaWWC will host an **Arts and Culture Festival Sophia:Sofia** to highlight artists, worldwide, who will contribute their talents to advance the SophiaWWC goals and strategies. The organizers will also apply advanced global communication technologies to enable millions, globally to participate, interactively.

The SophiaWWC will provide an engaging environment of diversification, unification, collaboration, implementation and celebration. Host Site Sofia, Bulgaria is at the heart of multiple civilizations and cultures. The Bulgarian society hallmarks social, ethnic and religious tolerance, and the people are a beacon of hospitality.

"Today, we understand, even better than our founders did, that the empowerment of women is a fundamental condition if we are to make progress towards the goals for which the United Nations was created." ~ UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Dr. Linda Stillman
SophiaWWC Global Organizer

SophiaWWC Goals and Strategies **Implementing UN Living Documents**

UN Beijing Platform for Action: Twelve Critical Areas of Concern

- Women in Poverty
- Education and Training of Women
- Women and Health
- Violence against Women
- Women and Armed Conflict
- Women and the Economy
- Women in Power and Decision-making
- Institutional Mechanisms for the Advancement of Women
- Human Rights of Women
- Women in the Media
- Women and the Environment
- The Girl Child

Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW, adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, is often described as an international bill of rights for women. Consisting of a preamble and 30 articles, it defines what constitutes discrimination against women and sets up an agenda for national action to end such discrimination. The Convention defines discrimination against women as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) ~ Target Date 2015 **Goal # 3 is the overarching "Gender Relations Goal" in achieving the 8 MDGs.**

- To halve extreme poverty and hunger
- To achieve universal primary education
- To empower women and promote equality between men and women**
- To reduce infant mortality by two-thirds
- To reduce maternal mortality by three quarters
- To reverse the spread of diseases, especially HIV/AIDs and malaria
- To ensure environmental sustainability
- To create a global partnership for development of aid, trade and debt relief

It is not in the United Nations that the Millennium Development Goals {Platform for Action and CEDAW} will be achieved. They must be achieved in every country by the joint efforts of governments and people. ~ UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan

SophiaWWC Global Planning Council **Reaching the Reality**

The Global Planning Council will transform the SophiaWWC vision into reality through the coordination and collaboration of multi sectors of society, worldwide. Dr. Linda Stillman, world cultural communication and interpersonal relations specialist, will serve as global organizer together with Global Planning Council Organizers to establish an unique and egalitarian international forum for the implementation of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies. The Global Planning Council will be accountable for strategic planning of the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond and will adhere to the wisdom and advice of the SophiaWWC International Advisory Board.

The International Advisory Board will represent world leaders, from all continents, who have globally contributed to the UN Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW, the MDGs and Environmental Issues. Offering expertise and experience, they will be equally dedicated to the development and success of SophiaWWC.

Together, the Global Planning Council and the International Advisory Board will provide wisdom and guidance in the conceptual and concrete coordination of SophiaWWC organizational and relational dynamics.

The SophiaWWC Global Planning Council will work to:

- Coordinate collaborative relationships between the Global Planning Council and participating multi sectors of society, worldwide
 - Sophia, Bulgaria and the Bulgarian Society
 - The United Nations
 - States
 - Organizations
 - Arts and Culture
 - Global Communication Networks
 - Private Sector
 - Academic Communities

Cultivate collaborative communication between the Global Planning Council and SophiaWWC participants to achieve cohesive actions and to ensure win/win results

Establish and execute the SophiaWWC five-day program in Sofia: May 25-29, 2010.

Work closely with SophiaWWC fiduciary partner, Women's International Center, to guarantee sound financial decisions and operations

Support the initiatives of the individual circles of the Global Planning Council.

"When the people lead, the leaders will follow." ~ Anonymous

SophiaWWC Structure and Process **Creating Relationships of Equality**

The Structure and Process Circle will enable interconnectedness and interactivity to flow allowing each person to engage fully and collaboratively in a free environment. This approach is focused on shared democratic principles and complementary leadership. The Global Planning Council Organizers Ann Smith of Circle Connections and Dr. Lauren Oliver of CirclesWork will work with a team of international organizational experts and advisors to integrate diverse organizational structures of the multi sectors to interact effectively, together.

The Structure and Process Circle will work to:

- Design the structure and process of the Global Planning Council comprised of circle organizers who are developing the fundamental elements of the SophiaWWC

- Serve as a paradigm for continental, national and local SophiaWWC planning councils and circles

- Provide resources and resource people to assist participating organizations, groups and individuals in administering integrative structures and processes

- Offer integrative and collaborative guidance to assist organizations, groups and individuals seeking to participate in the SophiaWWC

The circle is a complementary structure that interacts effectively with hierarchical and linear structures. The SophiaWWC structure and process will ensure an egalitarian approach, whereby the organizers and participants will share resolutions, resources, roles and responsibilities.

This egalitarian environment will enable genuine win-win results, through devoted participation, professional/personal development and dynamic creativity. It will equally embrace diversity and honors all cultures, races and religions, allowing for the fullness of humanity to be expressed.

“When a critical number of people change how they think and behave, the culture will also, and a new era begins.... The significance of women’s Circles can be appreciated as a revolutionary-evolutionary movement that is hidden in plain sight.”
~ Jean Shinoda Bolen

SophiaWWC Sofia Site **Bonding the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond**

The Sofia Site Circle will create and coordinate the connections and actions among the Host Site Sofia, Bulgaria, the multi-sector Bulgarian community and the SophiaWWC Global Planning Council.

Formed by Dr. Linda Stillman, world cultural communication and interpersonal relations specialist, the Sofia Site Circle will work closely with the multi sectors of the Bulgarian society. Dr. Georgi Vasilev, senior Bulgarian researcher and international author will serve as one of the advisors together with others. The Sofia Site organizers will liaise with the Global Planning Council, Bulgarian officials and Bulgarian civil society to coordinate jointly the infra-structure of the Sofia Site.

The Sofia Site Circle will work to:

Liaise with the Bulgarian government, Sofia municipality, Bulgarian civil society and the Global Planning Council to establish participation and to facilitate organization

Select an Events Planner located in Sofia to work closely with the Global Planning Council

Negotiate the contributions in-kind by the Sofia municipality and Bulgarian civil society to determine and confirm appropriate facilities for the SophiaWWC five-day program, together

Determine and confirm appropriate facilities for the Art and Culture Festival Sofia:Sofia, together with the Arts and Culture Circle organizers and in partnership with the Sofia municipality and Bulgarian civil society, to create the celebratory and collaborative environment

Determine and confirm the global network communication operations, together with the Communication and Media Circle organizers and Bulgarian counterparts, to establish an interactive environment for worldwide participation

Determine and confirm accommodation options for 10,000 –15,000 attendees, travel opportunities and visas for participants, worldwide

Determine and confirm security needs and safety measures for the SophiaWWC.

The Sofia Site welcomes strong gender relationships with the SophiaWWC Sofia Site organizers to generate and sustain collaboration and good will.

Second oldest city (7000 years) in Europe ~ Sofia's Motto ~ It grows but does not age.

SophiaWWC and the United Nations **Promoting and Practicing Partnerships**

The SophiaWWC United Nations Circle will forge active and full partnerships between civil society and the United Nations to further the advancement of women and girls by implementing the SWWC goals and strategies.

In alignment with United Nations founding principles of human rights, fundamental freedoms and social development, the UNC will function within the normative framework of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights seeking strategies for implementation of relevant United Nations documents. These include Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979); Security Council Resolution 1325; Beijing Platform for Action (Fourth UN World Conference on Women, 1995); and Millennium Development Goals (Millennium Summit 2000).

The Sophia UN Circle will assure SophiaWWC affirms the provisions of these UN “Living Documents,” gathers and celebrates best practices, and develops new initiatives to implement them. It will seek the broadest active participation of representation of civil society, in partnership with agencies of the United Nations and governments in order to create and provide a forum for far-reaching and action-oriented unity. Long-time UN NGO Representatives Dr. Linda Stillman and Eva Richter, Secretary of the UN NGO CSW Committee will represent the United Nations Circle. Dr. Anamah Tan, UN Expert on CEDAW, and Leslie Wright, long time UN activist and former UN NGO CSW Chair, will work with many more international advisors to:

Recruit and organize United Nations Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in consultative status with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and/or the Department of Information (DPI) for participation in the SWWC

Act as liaison with the directors and representatives of participating UN and UN associated entities¹, and in partnership with the UN, create specific circles that focus on the SWWC goals and strategies

Gather and disseminate existing UN documents on implementation and best practices relevant to the SWWC goals and strategies and serve as resource people for all SWWC participants regarding UN related topics.

The UNC welcomes this extraordinary opportunity to reaffirm commitment and realize new endeavors to implement the SWWC goals and strategies, and in partnership with dedicated and diverse sectors of society, create a spirit of will and unity dedicated to elevating all humanity in the 21st Century, through the advancement of women and girls.

These will include, among others, the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Organization for Migration (IOM).

SophiaWWC Arts and Culture **Honoring Human Intellect and Heart**

The Arts and Culture Circle will call upon the artistic and cultural wisdom of women as cultivators of faith, hope and love (the three daughters of Sophia, Goddess of Wisdom) and the supporting artistic and cultural resources of men in order to illuminate the essence of the SophiaWWC. The beauty and brilliance of their contributions to the Arts and Culture Festival Sophia:Sofia will enhance the celebration and motivation of the implementation of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies. The Arts and Culture Circle will honor the socially engaged accomplishments of visual, performing, literary, film and musical performers, and highlight the creative works of artists, globally, who are dedicated to bring balance and harmony among all cultures.

The co-creators of the Arts and Culture Circle, International Artist for World Peace and Transformation, Penny McManigal, together with Dr. Linda Stillman, Global Organizer, will serve as the Arts and Culture Ambassadors for the SophiaWWC. They will organize the SophiaWWC Arts and Culture Festival Sophia:Sofia in partnership with Bulgarian counterparts, and coordinate the participation of the visual, performing and narrative artists, globally, regionally and locally at the SophiaWWC.

The Arts and Culture Circle will invite and assist:

All Bulgarian artists to create an arts and culture program representing the host country and culture

Visual artists to share their creations to be presented in museums, galleries and public venues of Sophia:Sofia

Theatrical and narrative artists to perform in municipal facilities and outdoor public venues of Sophia:Sofia

Dance artists to present their performances at municipal, cultural and public venues, including street celebrations, of Sophia:Sofia

Music artists to present their performances in concert halls and outdoor venues as SWWC welcomes the participation of orchestral, choral and solo performances of Sophia:Sofia

Film documentaries highlighting the SWWC to be endorsed and illuminated at multiple settings of Sophia:Sofia.

The Arts and Culture Circle will call upon all creative peoples dedicated to art and culture to join in the implementation of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies on the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond

The Arts and Culture express the hearts and minds of every civilization. ~ McManigal

SophiaWWC Communication and Media **Bringing a Billion Eyes to Bulgaria**

The Communication and Media Circle will serve as the primary nexus and resource for information and key activities relating to the planning and implementation of the SophiaWWC. It will engage multi-sectors of society to promote the SophiaWWC goals and strategies, while advancing awareness, advocacy and action in a global movement for change through collaboration. It will catalyze "A Culture of Equal Gender Value" to balance the status of women and girls and to foster a more just, compassionate and sustainable world in the 21st Century, in this collaborative venture.

The Communication and Media Circle is anchored by Kimberly King, a social marketing executive with diverse experience in strategic partnerships, international business, and multimedia, who will interact in partnership with global, regional and Bulgarian sectors.

The Communication and Media Circle will work to:

Focus *A Billion Eyes on Bulgaria* and the issues embodied in the UN "Living Documents" supported by the SophiaWWC

Establish global, national and local information and participation in the SophiaWWC

Structure an integrated strategy for internal/external communications to coordinate the Global Planning Council initiatives with international, regional and Bulgarian partners

Develop a comprehensive media and public relations strategy to include press releases news and special interest magazines, radio and television, Internet campaigns, film and documentary, multi-media partnerships, and more...

Design a dynamic interactive website and international forum that attracts and supports a vibrant online and offline exchange of ideas, issues and narratives.

Support an International Interpreter's Circle, led by Coordinator Judy Grosch, whose participants will serve as "living bridges for culture and knowledge" during the planning process and throughout the SophiaWWC five-day program

Coordinate a series of satellite-link events on multiple continents

Produce a live interactive web cast of the speakers and events, enabling people around the globe to contribute and participate in the SophiaWWC

Amplify stories of courage and hope, and invite people of every nation, culture and faith to unite in solidarity to "transform our world together."

"Those who have the mass media in their hands ... bear responsibility for the world and for the future of humanity." ~ Vaclav Havel

Sophia Circles ®
Transforming Our World Together

Sophia Circles, working in collaboration with SophiaWWC and other partners, is a Global Action Network which serves to communicate, coordinate and celebrate the social development endeavors of organizations, groups and individuals. It will focus on the implementation of three SophiaWWC goals and strategies:

Actualizing the UN Beijing Platform for Action and CEDAW
Achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals
Attending the Environment: Bali Outcome

Sophia Circles stand as a platform to educate, engage and enroll millions of individuals and organizations, involved or yet connected into this global movement for peace and social change.

The vision of Sophia Circles, conceived by world social activist Kimberly King in 2003, seeks to catalyze a global call to action that inspires people of every state, culture and faith to unite for the advancement of vital UN “Living Documents” to "transform the world together."

Principally, Sophia Circles strives to educate and align global issues and needs with local actions. By connecting global UN “Living Documents” to community-based initiatives, the power of both individuals and collective groups can be leveraged to accelerate progress toward a just and sustainable world.

Sophia Circles will work to:

Create global, regional and local community partnerships

Link people and their initiatives to global human rights and social development

Enable individual and collective sharing of best practices and lessons learned

Foster an environment for new collaborations and joint-ventures to emerge

Support the vibrant community of change-agents and world social activists

Sophia Circles will work closely with diversely collaborative partners from multiple sectors of society. Joint actions will advance the implementation of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies on the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond.

To meet the challenges of our times, human beings must develop a greater sense of universal responsibility...nation to nation, human to human, and humans to all forms of life. Universal responsibility is the key to human survival. It is our best foundation for world peace. ~ His Holiness the Dalai Lama

SophiaWWC Affirming the Men **Pursuing Positive and Productive Gender Relationships**

The Affirming the Men Circle will connect females and males to forward productive gender partnerships to advance human rights and social development through planning and participating in the SophiaWWC. Gender equality and good relations between females and males are fundamental to empowering and enabling visionary, realistic and practical efforts to implement the SophiaWWC goals and strategies.

The Affirming the Men Circle will focus on expanding gender partnerships by creating an energizing environment that encourages males to connect and contribute to the SophiaWWC goals and strategies. Kathie Murtey, global social activist and Robert Kapnek, Director, J.F. Kapnek Charitable Trust, Specializing in treatments for Maternal and Pediatric Aids in Africa, will co-represent the circle on the Global Planning Council, and they welcome global involvement to advance the role of men in the women's world of human rights and social advancement.

The Affirming the Men Circle will work to:

- Involve men in the coordination and implementation of the SophiaWWC

- Invite men to participate in the Arts and Culture Festival of Sophia:Sofia

- Draw upon the expertise and experience that men can contribute and to forward the conceptual, organizational and relational aspects to ensure a successful SophiaWWC

- Establish a collaborative environment for men to participate freely and fully with women organizers and participants of the SophiaWWC

- Align male efforts and energies to connect men and women from multi-sectors of society: organizational, entrepreneurial, financial, educational, and arts and cultural sectors

- Welcome men to join the global circles represented on the Global Planning Council and to participate in supporting groups

- Welcome men to create their own circles, especially to affirm their own dedication in advancing the status of women and girls.

“Let the winds of the heavens dance between you; love one another, but, make not a bond of love.” No one should grow in the shadow of the other. No one should become the master of the other. There should be freedom of love... There should not be any controlling of one by the other. You cannot possess love or buy love. You can give love, and only by giving love, can you experience the joy of love.” ~ Kahlil Gibran

SophiaWWC Advancing Young People **Engaging and Empowering Young Leadership**

The Young Leadership Circle (YLC) will engage and empower young people to become advocates and activists to work collaboratively for a peaceful, prosperous and positive world community. The young participants are equal partners and valued contributors to the SophiaWWC Global Planning Council to advance awareness, advocacy and action for the implementation of the SophiaWWC goals and strategies. International activist and artist Natalia Kostus represents the Young Leadership Circle on the Global Planning Council. The YLC will forward the global vision of the SophiaWWC beyond Bulgaria to further the implementation of the UN "Living Documents."

The Young Leadership Circle will establish a global network of young people to illuminate their horizons towards global thinking and world leadership. It will foster cultural exchanges and international experiences among young people from diverse national, ethnic, cultural and educational backgrounds. It is committed to creating connections in major cities and local communities, worldwide. The Young Leadership Circle is mentored by advisors, Dr. Linda Stillman, professor of culture, communication and the United Nations, and Ingrid Willgren, spiritual circle specialist.

The Young Leadership Circle will work to:

Establish Young Leadership Circles in major cities and local communities worldwide and connect them globally to foster awareness, advocacy and action for women's and girls' equality and empowerment, positive gender relations, social development, environmental preservation and world peace.

Create Young Leadership Circles in developing countries through partnerships with non-profit organizations in the region and connect them, globally

Share innovative perspectives to the Global Planning Council

Develop and apply leadership and communication, and interactive technological skills to interact effectively with young people

Launch an online forum and interactive website whereby young people can exchange ideas and information, globally, regarding women's and girls' issues

Engage in a fundraising campaign to provide scholarships for young people to attend the SophiaWWC in Sofia, Bulgaria, May 2010

The Young Leadership Circle will strive to enrich the dialog and dynamics as full contributors on the Journey to Bulgaria and Beyond throughout the 21st Century.

The young do not know enough to be prudent, and therefore attempt the impossible and achieve it, generation after generation. ~ Pearl S. Buck

SophiaWWC Financial Requirements

Funding the Future

The SophiaWWC Financial Experts will establish a firm financial budget, together with a timeline for funding requirements and fundraising initiatives, following dissemination of the SophiaWWC Strategic Plan to multi-sectors of society. Several global organizers and financial advisors, Mr. Jerry Claiborne, Retired Partner, KPMG, LLP. Group, Alison May, International Financial/Investment Advisor and Women’s Activist, and Mr. Brent L. Bisson, Regional Vice President World Financial have prepared and approved a broad-stroke budget to support the operational needs for the SophiaWWC, immediately.

The total cost of the SophiaWWC, including implementation activities, is currently estimated at \$US 10 million. As more detailed cost estimates are obtained from providers of the various services, facilities, etc., such costs may differ moderately from current estimates. Following are broad categories of anticipated costs, together with brief descriptions of the expenses included in each category:

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| SOPHIAWWC COSTS | \$US 5 MILLION |
| Logistical operations | \$US 1 Million |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Select a salaried administrator to conduct daily operations• Establish office facilities for headquarters in New York City• Retain consultants, fiduciary partners and fundraisers• Provide funds to enable the leadership and staff to accomplish the following:<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ensure global egalitarian participation from all countries and culturesAttain the goals and strategies of the SophiaWWCCoordinate the collaborative participation and celebration of Sofia, Bulgaria | |
| Arts and Culture Festival | \$US 2 Million |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Secure operational funding to conduct the SophiaWWC Arts and Culture Festival• Provide assistance to artists, worldwide, to attend and participate | |
| Global Communication and Media Network | \$US 2 Million |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a worldwide communication network with host site Sofia, Bulgaria• Provide direction and operational funding for design and development of marketing and multimedia collateral materials• Determine funding for international press agencies and global media outreach• Allocate operational funding for SSWC webcast and satellite event locations | |
| Implementation Costs of SophiaWWC | \$US 5 Million |
| Sophia WWC Goals and Strategies | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide funding, worldwide, to implement the SophiaWWC goal and strategies• Present scholarships, worldwide, for participants to attend the SophiaWWC. | |