

Race conference addresses gender issue

DURBAN, South Africa (AP)- Lower caste women in India often are raped while collecting water. Some women in Niger are sold into slavery as "fifth wives" to wealthy men. Black and Hispanic women are disproportionately represented in American jails.

When race and gender intersect, the impact of discrimination can double, experts said Sunday at the world conference against racism.

U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, who is also Secretary-General of the U.N. conference, led the discussion, saying that since the Beijing Conference on Women in 1995, strides have been made to improve the rights of women, but discrimination persists, especially for minorities.

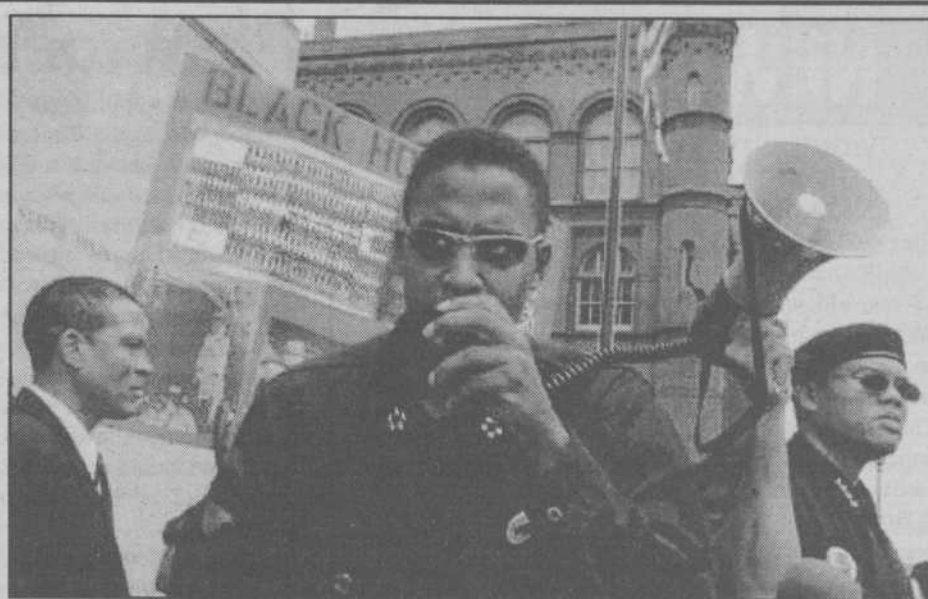
She said the racism conference's action plan would call for nations to study the plight of minority women specifically, rather than focusing on racial and gender discrimination separately. Nations would also be expected to adopt specific measures to remedy the problems found.

The U.N. conference has been dominated by the Palestinian and Arab delegations' effort to have Israel condemned in the meeting's final declaration. Discussion of contemporary slavery, caste discrimination and the rights of indigenous people have been overshadowed, though organizers say those issues - along with gender - should top the agenda.

The United States sent a midlevel delegation because of language in a draft declaration that it said would embarrass Israel. Mordechai Yadid, head of the Israeli delegation, accused the Palestinians of "attempting to hijack the conference." The Norwegian delegation was trying to mediate a compromise text, he said.

Black lawmakers from the United States, lobbying to have reparations for slavery restored to the conference's final statement, also bemoaned how the Middle East conflict has become the center of attention.

But pro-Palestinian groups scored a victory Sunday when a human rights forum coinciding with the conference equated Zionism - the movement to establish and maintain a Jewish state - with racism, and called for international sanctions against Israel.



Black Panthers on the prowl

Dr. Malik Zulu Shabazz, national chairman of the New Black Panther Party, center, and Rev. Hasim Inzinga, right, lead a protest about reparations for slavery in front of the National Holocaust Museum in Washington, Saturday. (AP Photo/Hillery Smith Garrison)

Proponents: Reparations for slavery on track

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) - African representatives have joined African-American activists in encouraging delegates at the World Conference Against Racism to adopt a final declaration that calls for an apology for slavery and colonialism and initiates reparations.

Since the conference began Friday, one African representative have given speeches blaming the slave trade and colonialism for the underdevelopment of their countries. Some demanded only apologies, while others wanted cash.

"Slavery should be remembered not only as an appalling tragedy, but also as a factor which, for centuries, deprived Africa of her human and natural resources," said Enoch Kavindele, the vice president of Zambia - who is also representing the African Union, the successor to the Organization of African Unity.

He said the union "calls for the establishment of an international compensation scheme

for victims of the slave trade and a development restoration fund to provide additional resources for the development of countries affected by colonialism."

Members of the U.S. Congressional Black Congress have attended the conference since it began on Friday, condemning President Bush for not sending Secretary of State Colin Powell, and demanding U.S. reparations for slavery.

"The treatment of blacks in (the United States) has historically been deplorable, and while steps have been made to better the racial climate, nothing as been done to compensate those who have been wronged in the process," Rep. Cynthia McKinney, a Georgia Democrat, said.

The Council of Europe announced Monday that its 43 nations had agreed to help fund a new African development program to help compensate for colonialism and slavery, but those funds would be provided outside the context of the racism conference.

Sharpton

(Continued from Page 1)

ground since '84 and '88 when (Rev. Jesse) Jackson ran. We registered a lot of voters and it gave our issues front burner concern. Since then, we've lost the governor (of Virginia and we've lost mayors of major cities. So the best that could happen is that I would win. The worst is that our issues are out front and we would be able to bring other people in. I really want to do it, I'm just studying the feasibility of it."

When asked his response to the recent use of the word "nigger" by a former official of the Community College of Southern Nevada to describe Zelda Williams, wife of Nevada Assemblyman Wendell Williams (D-Dist. 6), he said, "That gives you an example of why it's necessary to have a movement.

People ask, 'Why the National Action

Network? Why should Sharpton run?' When people feel comfortable enough to say that, that's why. If he clearly felt that there was going to be some repercussions, he wouldn't have said that. And it also says that the spirit of racism is not dead."

Sharpton said he has visited Las Vegas many times for entertainment. Last weekend was the first time he visited West Las Vegas. He likened the difference between the strip and West Las Vegas to the conditions of apartheid, which was once practiced in South Africa. He referred to the situation as "the tale of two cities."

"But, there's a new game in town," he said. During his two-day stay in Las Vegas, Sharpton spoke at a reception and fund-raiser at Texas Station, visited and spoke at four churches on Sunday morning, and met with many local officials.

Stations

(Continued from Page 2)

first place, \$15,000 for second place and \$10,000 for third.

"This is what our community should be all about...this commitment really pays off," said CCSD Superintendent Carlos Garcia.

"You always have complaints in the community about schools. They're just not complaining. Station Casinos is walking the walk and they recognize that schools are in need."

Six local charities will be the recipients of a \$50,000 donation that will accompany the media blitz.

"We clothe apparently 3,000 children in the school district. The teachers select the students and get them to us," said Char Hejmanowski, president of Assistance League of Las Vegas, the first organization to receive a donation.

"This adds to academic achievement. Children feel good about themselves."

"A lot of people will know you- you're more famous than other people," said 11-yr-old Joseph (Joey) Plumeri, who was filmed in the ads and liked the community program.

"If they need something, the schools will get the support they need."

"They care about schools," said another 11-yr-old, Cynthia Ojeda, who also was filmed for the upcoming television spots.

Be Involved

AARP is looking for a few volunteer leaders to help make the voices of our more than 249,000 Nevada members heard on issues like Social Security, Medicare, long-term care and consumer protection. If you or someone you know wants to be involved, please contact us by September 24. Send an e-mail with "Tell Me More" in the subject line to dmarlowe@aarp.org, or call us at (702) 938-3234.

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