Title: A gender dialogue for peacebuilders

Time: 30 to 45 minutes

Goal or purpose of the exercise:

- To create a space for dialogue between women and men in peace organisations.
- To identify points of tensions between men and women in peace organisations.
- To develop a level of comfort and commitment to addressing gender issues in peace organisations.

How it's done/facilitator's notes:

I. Small group discussion of Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding

1. In mixed small groups of men and women, make a list of the ways men and women experience conflict and violence differently.

2. In the same mall groups, make a list of the different ways that men and women participate in peace work.

3. In the large group, ask each small group to report their findings.

II. Divide the large group in to small groups of women-only and men-only.

1. Ask each group to share successes and challenges with working with the opposite sex on peace issues. Challenge the groups to provide as many real examples as possible, both positive and negative.

2. Ask each group to discuss strategies for working with the opposite sex on peace issues.

3. Have each group report back their findings and strategies.

4. In mixed pairs, one women and one man, ask participants to respond to each other about the reports. Each person should take a turn to talk about his or her feelings about the dialogue while the other listen and try to understand, not interrupting.

This exercise was adapted from Women in Peacebuilding Resource and Training Manual, ed by Lisa Schirch. The full manual can be found at:
http://www.iiav.nl/epublications/2004/womens_peacebuilding_manual.pdf or at:
http://www.ifor.org/WPP/resources.htm

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