



Dear friends,

As you may know, the Boston Social Forum will be held from July 23-25th at the University of Massachusetts Boston, a few days before the DNC. Members of the Women's International League of Peace and Freedom (WILPF) are coordinating a "web" of women-inspired and women-centered activities for that weekend.

One component of this web is a tribunal (modeled on the 1993 Vienna tribunals) where women and men can testify to the various forms of violence (physical, sexual, structural etc and their intersections) they have experienced, to be heard by a council of cronos (wise women). This tribunal will be held on Saturday, July 24th.

First of all, we are seeking women who are willing to share their diverse survival stories at the tribunal by

- 1 giving verbal testimony*
- 2 have their stories read by family members or*
- 3 have a written testimony (in whatever language) posted on the entryway of the tribunal space.*

We hope to hear testimony on violations, on experiences of survival especially as they illustrate community support, and in particular stories that illustrate how various forms of discrimination intersect to exacerbate the violation of women's rights.

In addition, we welcome testimony from the children and other family members of survivors, as well as expert testimony that addresses these issues.

There will be workshops on testifying and witnessing on the afternoon and evening of the 23rd, where survivors and others can prepare their testimony.

We have a second request. Since we anticipate that such a tribunal and associated activities may be traumatic for some visitors, we wish to have counselors available during the entire time who will "tend" the tribunal space entryway and provide the necessary attention and solace, as people read and hear others' testimony.

If you are willing and able to help identify survivors and their family members who might give testimony, interested in bearing testimony, OR able to provide counseling service, even for an hour, please contact Laura at lauraroskos@hotmail.com or 617-864-0712.

Please do not hesitate to contact any of us if you have further questions or suggestions.

Sincerely,
Connie Chow (connie.chow@simmons.edu)
Donna Laverdiere (donna_laverdiere@hotmail.com)
Laura Roskos