

# Quote, Unquote

*A selection of inspiring quotations  
from various publications*

“Mainstream media is ‘manstream’ media....Profit is the name of the game in communications and because of this profit-seeking, anything will be made to be sold. The growing pattern of consumerism has included the use of women in pornography. Media globalization is an attack on diversity....Future paradigms need a feminine perspective rather than a continuation of the destructiveness of male norms. Paradigms must be centrally focused and guided by peace, equality and justice. In order to begin changing the current norms, we must begin changing our language. An example of such language is the use of ‘developed’ and ‘underdeveloped’ to describe countries. Why should third world countries aspire or wish to become first world when the latter are exploitative, wasteful and unwilling to share? On the other hand, should countries be called underdeveloped only because they do not waste and are willing to share? It is time to embrace new terms, ones which are considered feminine, such as ‘caring, emotional, creative, non-linear and circular’.”

*From an interview with author Kamali Bhushan on  
“Communication and Human Agency” in Women  
Inquirer, No. 29 September 1998, p.12.*

At the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia and the International Tribunal for Rwanda, rape and other forms of sexual violence committed during war are being given a new priority. The tribunal’s mission is to name the crimes, investigate wrong-doing, and punish those responsible. Those who elude the trials can be declared international outlaws. Activists have lobbied for the following: recognition of rape, forced pregnancy, and related crimes against women as instruments of genocide, crimes against humanity and grave breaches of the laws of war; equal participation of women at every level of the tribunal; gender-sensitivity training for all the tribunal’s criminal justice personnel; and protection for survivors and witnesses....The resolution that established the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia specifically condemns the ‘massive, organized, and systematic detention and rape of women as a crime against humanity’.”

*From “Will War Crimes Against Women Finally Count?”  
in No. 48, Women’s Movement, 1996*

“ Women and girls are disadvantaged throughout their lives. It is estimated that there are some 100 million fewer women alive today than could be expected through the natural pattern of birth and survival in infancy. Deep prejudices against girls means that many are never even born due to pre-natal sex selection. Others are either killed as infants or die of neglect. Will it cost too much? It is unconscionable that a world which is able to spend approximately US\$800 billion on weapons each year believes that it cannot find the money needed for basic education of girls. An extra US\$5-6 billion is needed annually to achieve primary education for all. It must be found.”

*From a speech by Leona Helgerson, Executive Director  
UNICEF*

“ Ecofeminism is a mode of thought which would restore a lost intimacy between humankind and the planet on which we live....Ecofeminism also understands the well-being of the earth and its ecosystems as inextricably connected with the well-being of women. Abuse one and the other must suffer; to improve the treatment afforded either of this mirrored pair is to better them both. How do we get there?....Rather than bemoan the end of nature, we humans, women and men, need to re-evolve into beings who prefer our local gardens. We must resist the call of Western tradition to bring enlightenment to all of the planet. Paradoxical as it may seem, a respect for the powers of fertility — in all of its diverse vegetative, social and imaginative forms — may be the most prudent, moral and politically effective means for surviving into the 21st century.”

*From Tertile Grønnaas: Women, Earth and the Limits of  
Critical, by Irene Diamond (Boston: Beacon Press, 1994)*

For millennia women have dedicated themselves almost exclusively to the task of nurturing, protecting and caring for the young and old, striving for the conditions of peace that favor life as a whole....It is time to apply in the arena of the world the wisdom and experience thus gained in activities of peace over so many thousands of years. The education and empowerment of women throughout the world cannot fail to result in a more caring, tolerant, just and peaceful life for all.”

*From the key address of Ang Sui Sun Koi, Nobel  
Peace Laureate, at the UN Conference of Women at  
Beijing, September, 1995*