



Power – Movements – Change

JASS crossregional learning & visioning

Amsterdam, December 4-6, 2009

This JASS crossregional gathering brings together 27 close allies, board and staff from 17 countries for an exciting learning and visioning process about feminist movement-building from local to global levels.

Together we hope to gain:

- **shared understanding and fresh insights** about the theory and practice of **feminist movement-building** (contexts, issues, approaches and strategies)
- **new knowledge** about the principles and dilemmas involved in building a **flexible transnational institution** as an NGO-movement hybrid (JASS)
- **further clarity** about the **theory of change, core principles and political philosophy underpinning JASS'** movement-building
- **fresh visions of JASS in 2015:** what (gains, problems solved, what level), who (allies, constituencies, staff), how (strategies, approaches) @ regional and global levels

An enriching non-NGO feature of JASS is that we embrace multiple organizational affiliations within our community. What does this mean? Well, that some of us doing feminist movement work do it with a JASS hat on, others with another organizational hat, others many hats including JASS, and still others, with no hat at all – just as an activist. In this workshop, we invite you to wear all your hats. We will focus particularly on experiences within and related to JASS, while respecting the distinct contributions of the many organizations and individuals in the room. This stimulating process comes at a very important moment in JASS' young life as we take our training, organizing, action, advocacy, knowledge and impact to a new level. Each one of us brings vital knowledge about how to build and mobilize the collective power of women for justice. We expect that this workshop will provoke questions and responses across the board, as well as addressing our needs as JASS.

Some big political themes and core practical questions we hope to explore:

Power: Applying and questioning our analysis of the world using the three faces of power (visible, hidden and invisible); the personal is political; and building alternative power to, within, with – collective power. (see attached Making Change Happen: Power)

Hegemony: One of the most complex dynamics of power – understanding and fighting the ideas, ideologies, discourses that normalize and reproduce inequality and oppression.

Resistance + Transformation: Understanding and reinforcing women's resistance, from the personal to the public, is a critical element of transformation; how do we strengthen individual and collective actions that cross the line while navigating inevitable risk and conflict?

- What is **political consciousness** and how is it nurtured in new forms of **activist leadership**?
- How do we **come together across differences** of class, race, age, sexuality and location and sustain our organizing, common agendas and collective action?
- How do we **generate and mobilize knowledge that challenges the dominant thinking** that marginalizes/disempowers women and feminists?
- What does **local-to-global solidarity** look like and how do we deal with the inherent conflict and possibilities of such political relationships?

Expected Products:

The most important outcome of this meeting will be stronger bonds and understanding between us, clearer political thinking and new questions, and greater JASS coherence. In addition to that huge achievement, we hope to produce 1-3 working papers and possibly another installment of Making Change Happen from the presentations and debate. All contributions are faithfully recognized!!



DRAFT OUTLINE of the AGENDA

Day 1: December 4th, 9am-5:30pm

Aims

- To situate and celebrate where JASS is now + where we came from
- To review innovations and challenges in transnational organizing and institutions

Possible Sessions

- Introductions and expectations
- Timeline and stories
- JASS today: overview and discussion
- Transnational civil society, NGOs and movements - provocative presentations
 - Atila Roque: World Social Forum processes and lessons
 - Srilatha Batliwala: transnational civil society research and discoveries
 - Ellen Sprenger: innovations with global organizing

Day Two: December 5th, 9am-5:30pm

Aims

- To learn about and from concrete feminist movement-building experiences
- To identify common principles, priorities, assumptions - weave a creative theory of change

Possible sessions + presenters¹:

- Feminist movement-building in practice/contexts and cases from the frontline:
 - Southeast Asia** – multigenerational leadership and link the political and economic in our organizing, Nani Zulminarni
 - Southern Africa** – grassroots organizing in Malawi, Hope Chigudu + Sindi Blose
 - Mesoamerica** – mobilizing action when there is no state – *Observatorios* + other action strategies TBD
 - Crossregional**
 - *Generating and mobilizing power and knowledge: linking on-line and face-to-face organizing
 - *Identity and conflict in practice – lessons about race, class and gender from indigenous women’s leadership training: Patricia Ardon
- A feminist movement-building theory of change - pulling together key differences, assumptions, principles and components to consolidate JASS’ “theory of change”

Day Three: December 6th, 9am-5pm

Aims

- To imagine where we’ll be as JASS in 2015: what (gains, problems solved, what level), who (allies, constituencies, staff), how (strategies, approaches) [regional and at global levels]

Sessions: TBD

7-10:00pm Celebration dinner

¹ Yes, we know we haven’t discussed and confirmed this with anyone – just suggestions and please don’t panic!