

MEDIA ADVISORY

Local and International Women to Speak about Key Global Issues at Press Conference in Downtown Pittsburgh

The Women's Funding Network and the Women and Girls Foundation of SWPA will hold a press conference featuring a panel of international and local women who are shaping and setting the public agenda around global issues such as: human trafficking, global poverty, and the increasing role of women in politics.

Thursday, May 4, 2006
9:00 a.m. EST
Hilton Hotel, Downtown Pittsburgh
King's Terrace Room
9:00-9:45 am

To launch the **Women's Funding Network's** annual international conference, *Setting the Agenda for Women and Girls*, which will take place in Pittsburgh May 4 -6th, local conference host the **Women and Girls Foundation (WGF)** will sponsor a press conference to provide Pittsburgh media with a briefing on three important issues for human rights globally: human trafficking, global poverty, and the increasing role of women in politics—and particularly how women's funds are working internationally to address these issues through leveraging their grantmaking investments and public advocacy work.

“As Pittsburgh engages in a global economy, we need to become more cognizant of the dependence that our local and national economy and security have on global issues such as immigration, human trafficking, global poverty and the changing international political landscape.” Explained Heather Arnet, Executive Director of the Women and Girls Foundation.

Arnet representing WGF, along with Tracy Sturdivant of the **White House Project**, will speak about their work to increase female participation and representation in American politics, while their International counterparts will discuss the dramatic gains women have attained in political participation globally – with more women being elected in the last year to become President and/or Prime Minister of their countries compared with any previous year in modern history.

The escalating epidemic of human trafficking will be addressed by Angelika Arutyunova of **The Global Fund for Women**. She will also be joined by representative Mary Burke of the **Project to End Human Trafficking**, a group based in Pittsburgh that will be going to Costa Rica next week to engage in a public awareness campaign to aid victims of trafficking.

Chris Grumm, President & CEO of the Women's Funding Network, and Heidi McPherson of **Chester County Fund for Women and Girls** will relate poverty statistics for women globally with international economic health. They will articulate how investing in women and girls has resulted in economic development for entire regions and how women can be both a barometer of crisis and a catalyst for change. They will also be joined by international colleagues from Africa, India, and Eastern Europe who will discuss the issue as it relates to the people and governments of their countries.

Please join us at this event, which will give members of the Pittsburgh media a unique opportunity to discuss global issues as they relate to our local community. For information please call Heather Arnet, Women and Girls Foundation, at 412-720-4280