



Association of War Affected Women

**Newsletter**

**Vol. 1 April 2005**

***AWAW's mission: To achieve Peace through Socio-Economic development with the active participation of the War Affected Women***

**Ongoing programs:**

- ◆ "Taking 1325 to the Village" workshops in all 25 districts making the women of grassroots and urban level aware of the UN resolution 1325 on Women , Peace and Security so that they could secure their due places at all levels of decision making.
- ◆ "Getting women to the peace table" a collective effort of Women's Alliance for Peace

**Response to the December 26, 2004 Tsunami**

***"Peace building through Tsunami reconstruction"***

- ◆ AWAW responded to the tsunami disaster in two general ways; one through lobbying and advocacy to have women's voices heard in the entire rebuilding process, , the other through reconstruction of lives and livelihoods..

**Initiatives.**

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- ◆ *“Weaving 1325 in to tsunami relief”* AWAW has written to the authorities on the importance of having women’s voices heard in relief efforts as well to have women at all levels of decision making within the process of rebuilding. AWAW is playing a major role in calling for the implementation, and implementing UN resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Tsunami relief work.
- ◆ *“Peace building through Tsunami reconstruction”* AWAW calls upon all INGOs and NGOs to prevent any differences in relief efforts between Tsunami survivors and War survivors. Given the Sri Lankan context it is extremely important, to incorporate peace building in to Tsunami relief efforts.
- ◆ Rebuilding the fishing village of Kokkilai. Kokkilai is a small fishing village that has been of strategic importance in the civil war. Thus the goal of AWAW’s endeavors here is to assist in creating a village where all peoples could live together in peace, while taking into account the needs of women in the community. The women had identified a safe and adequate water supply and a space for a health clinic as priorities, so AWAW has undertaken to construct a community center (that will house the clinic) and a water supply project. As of March 30, the basic structure of the center had been completed and the roof had been installed. The plans for the water project had been developed and construction will start on that phase of the project soon.



Kokkilai community center building in progress

- ◆ AWAW has begun the planning phase of a new initiative to construct women’s vocational training centers within each of the eight tsunami affected districts. AWAW currently has funding for the first center, and AWAW is in the midst of developing the construction plans for the center in Batticaloa.

AWAW wish to thank all individuals and organizations for their generous donations towards the Tsunami reconstruction work

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