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Development

power, movements, change

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Special Report on the 11th AWID International Forum: The Power of Movements

When people struggle together, what was once unimaginable suddenly becomes possible...

Development reports on the 11th Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID) International Forum held in South Africa in November 2008, a dynamic feminist space where over 2,000 women's rights activists from around the world came together to discuss the power of movements.

The journal issue aims to capture the excitement and energy that marks all AWID Forums with a range of articles on women's organizing in rights and social movements from the grassroot to UN level. There is much to learn and celebrate here largely from women's movements in the South on a range of issues around identity politics, fundamentalism, sexuality, women's rights organizing, gender-based violence and HIV and AIDS.

In just a few pages *Development* cannot hope to capture all that was covered by such a full and diverse gathering. But it does give readers a chance to review critical issues that the Forum raised for development policy and action around gender injustice and subjugation. Articles touch on specific studies of women's movement organizing around sexuality, identity, economic inequality, differential gender impacts of health and environment, gendered culture and social oppression. The journal's strong message is that in these times of crisis it is crucial to underscore the links among sexuality, racism, gender-based violence and social and economic justice.



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