

**The International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
InterAction's Commission on the Advancement of Women (CAW) and
Committee on Development Policy and Practice (CDPP)
and Gender Action**

Invite you to participate in a Brown Bag lunch workshop on

"PRSPs and Gender"

A presentation by Elaine Zuckerman with Ashley Garrett

Wednesday, January 15

12 noon – 2 pm

At ICRW, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, Suite 301

Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), introduced by the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund in 1999, have become critical elements in Bank and Fund lending processes. The Bank and Fund introduced PRSPs for highly indebted poor countries receiving debt relief, but require them of all countries receiving concessional lending from these institutions. Several other assistance agencies also require PRSPs before providing aid. Moreover, PRSPs have become *de facto* national plans. Despite PRSPs' important role in the development process, most PRSPs have paid little attention to gender gaps and have not promoted women's rights. Since poverty has been increasingly feminizing, PRSPs and their lending offshoots—such as Poverty Reduction Strategy Credits and investment projects—must promote gender equality and women's rights to achieve their central poverty reduction goal.

Mainstreaming gender into PRSPs is an important element in the work of Gender Action, a new advocacy campaign promoting women's rights and gender equality in large international investments in developing and transition countries.

Elaine Zuckerman is Gender Action's founder and President. Elaine has worked for 25 years in international development including inside the World Bank and the Inter-American Development Bank. She worked for many years in China, for several in Latin America and on numerous occasions in Africa. She studied political economy at McGill University, the University of Toronto and the University of Beijing during the Cultural Revolution, and business at Georgetown University.

Ashley Garrett is an international human rights and gender expert. She has extensive experience working on domestic violence, sexual assault and trafficking crimes in the US and internationally. She recently moved to Washington following graduation from the Monterey Institute's Public Administration in International Management masters program. While job hunting and settling into a new position at the International Organization for Migration, she has voluntarily worked with Gender Action.

RSVPs are requested, and should go to Suzan Atwood at ICRW, at satwood@icrw.org or 202-797-0007, ext. 156.