



## The Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury Fund for Reproductive Health Care and Rights for Adolescent Refugees

OF THE WOMEN'S COMMISSION FOR REFUGEE WOMEN AND CHILDREN

**A Tanzanian refugee camp.** 10-year-old Zawadi, a Congolese girl was raped by a 15-year-old boy while fetching firewood. A week later she went to the camp clinic complaining of abdominal pain. Through counseling and a physical examination, the clinic staff discovered that she had been raped and had contracted a sexually transmitted disease.

**A child-headed household in a Kitgum, Uganda displaced persons' camp.** Jennifer Angom, 18, cares for 5 siblings and her own 1 1/2 year-old daughter. She has no access to reproductive health services such as family planning, primary health care for her daughter, or to feminine hygiene products, which causes constant embarrassment as she has only one set of clothes.

**A brothel in Thailand.** On the promise of a waitress job to support her family, who are hiding from armed rebels in the Burmese forests, Maw Na Lu crossed the dangerous Thai/Burma border. Instead of a restaurant job, she found herself working in a brothel, indebted to the proprietor for one night's lodging and a meal. Unable to pay, she was forced into sex labor. Maw Na Lu is now at risk for sexually transmitted disease, HIV/AIDS and complications from rudimentary abortions.

A desperate need exists to address the reproductive health needs of 13 million adolescent refugees and internally displaced persons. In situations of armed conflict, the disruption of health and education services and a general state of chaos -- including the breakdown of family and community support and protection -- lead to increased sexual activity, sexual violence and an exchange of sex for goods and services. Refugee children aged 10 to 20 vitally need protection from sexual violence; treatment for sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS and complications arising from unsafe abortions; and information about family planning and culturally appropriate psycho-social counseling. The Women's Commission has found that adolescent refugees are the least likely of all displaced persons to have access to reproductive and other health care services and are typically timid about using such help when it does exist.

The EBP Fund for Reproductive Health Care and Rights for Adolescent Refugees honors the voice, resourcefulness, sensitivity and common sense of Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury, a pioneer in the struggle for reproductive rights and dignity for all.

Aware of this, Philip, Henry and Barbara Pillsbury approached the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children with the idea to establish a fund honoring Philip and Henry's mother, Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury.

Throughout her life, Eleanor Pillsbury fought for the dignity of newborn children and for increased availability of contraceptive counseling to women of childbearing age. As President of Planned Parenthood Federation of America (PPFA) in the 1950's, she spearheaded the transformation of PPFA into the prime U.S. proponent and provider of reproductive health care. As Vice-President of the International Federation of Planned Parenthood, Eleanor Pillsbury succeeded in bringing American medical know-how and wealth to reproductive health services around the world.

By focusing on reproductive services for young people in conflict situations, *The Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury Fund* is an ideal way to continue her work and honor her memory.

*The Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury Fund* will address the reproductive health needs of refugee and internally displaced adolescents by supporting a variety of activities. While maintaining flexibility to meet urgent and unforeseen needs, *The EBP Fund* will allow the Women's Commission to:

- Conduct field research on reproductive health issues of concern to refugee adolescents.
- Involve adolescents in peer-to-peer education projects, including role playing and puppetry.
- Support model projects providing innovative reproductive services by local groups.
- Produce and distribute materials, including short, easy to understandable manuals, addressing the reproductive health needs of refugee adolescents.
- Advocate for increased support and funding of reproductive health services among UN, governmental and non-governmental agencies that provide services to refugees.

Barbara and Henry Pillsbury, through their non-profit organization King's Fountain, have contributed initial funding for *The Eleanor Bellows Pillsbury Fund* and hope that you will consider helping any way you can.

Our goal is to reach \$100,000 by June 2002. Your gift will make it possible for the Women's Commission to address the problems of war-afflicted adolescents in this largely unrecognized, underfunded area.

Thank you very much for your generous support.

**Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children  
122 East 42nd Street  
New York, NY 10168-1289**

**Tel: 212-551-3111 or 3088**

**Fax: 212-551-3180**

**Email: [ellen@intrescom.org](mailto:ellen@intrescom.org)**