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Durham Regional Hospital

Quality Health Care. Our Personal Commitment and Our Business.

Words of Wisdom

Worry causes small problems to grow big in our imagination.

What one does makes a noble life more than the circumstances of birth.

Relish the antagonisms. They may irritate beyond all measure, but they will force you to become better at your work than you suspected you could be.

The smaller the mind, the bigger the mouth.

In order to change the world, you must change people — one at a time.

Sometimes people are judged by the company they avoid.

Nations Recognizing A New Reason For Asylum: Gender Persecution

By Jill Lawrence

WASHINGTON (AP) - Lydia Oluloro is waiting this month, waiting to see if she'll be ordered back to Nigeria. Her choice could come down to this: leave her young daughters here, or put them at great risk of genital mutilation in her homeland.

It's an ancient truth, that women are victimized in ways men are not. They are subjected to bride-burning in India and genital mutilation in Africa, the Middle East and Southeast Asia. They are forced to have abortions or be sterilized or get married. They are victims of politically motivated rape in places like Bosnia.

But only recently has the world begun to recognize that such gender-based persecution may be a violation of human rights and legitimate grounds for asylum.

In the past, the types of harms that women faced were not viewed as serious enough to amount to persecution," said attorney Deborah Anker, head of the immigrant and refugee program at Harvard. "They were trivialized, looked at as personal choices and cultural things." Spurred by the United Nations and a handful of activists, notably in Canada, sensitivity toward violence against women is increasing. Still, there is palpable anti-immigrant sentiment in Europe and the United States.

Just this month, Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., introduced a bill to admit 175,000 fewer immigrants a year and limit asylum to 80,000 refugees - down from the current annual rate of 100,000 to 150,000.

Given the climate, U.S. immigration officials are moving slowly to study gender-based persecution and how this country should approach it.

Gregg Beyer, director of asylum for the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service, said his agency's "consciousness is being raised" as interest groups press the issue. But he added: "A whole new legal category of people eligible to apply (for asylum) obviously makes people very nervous." The United Nations defines a refugee as someone with a well-founded fear of persecution on the grounds of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion.

Most countries aren't ready to add "gender" to that list. But feminists and human rights activists are managing with some success to fit oppressed women into the "social group" category.

Canada has pioneered this concept with year-old guidelines on how to elicit relevant information from women and which experiences may qualify them for refugee status.

In a widely publicized case last year, a Saudi Arabian woman known as "Nada" was granted permanent residence in Canada after arguing that because she is of her gender, she was unable to work, study, travel or dress as she pleased in her Islamic homeland. She said she had been stoned and beaten for refusing to wear a veil.

In the United States, "traditionally asylum law has disregarded harm that's inflicted on women because they're women," said Harvard law professor Nancy Kelly.

She and Anker, hoping to change that, are drafting Canadian-style guidelines and fielding 20 to 30 calls a week from American lawyers trying to develop gender-based persecution cases.

The most prominent current case involves Oluloro, 32, a Portland, Ore., janitor and former restaurant manager. She joined her Nigerian husband in this country in 1986 but he never filed papers to legalize her residency. Now she is divorced and threatened with deportation to Nigeria.

Oluloro claims her daughters, aged 5 and 6, both U.S. citizens, would be forced to undergo genital mutilation in Nigeria. Just as she did. "That is what we do to all the females in my family," she said. "They say if you come back home we will do it." The procedure involves cutting away the external sexual organs and sewing the girl shut except for a pencil-sized

hole for urination. The tradition is often compared to amputating a penis; it's meant to make sure girls stay virgins until they marry.

The consequences include painful sex, infections, complicated childbirth and sometimes death. Oluloro has witnessed or experienced them all.

"I don't like sex. I don't even believe in sex apart from having babies," she said. She couldn't walk for a month after her children were born. She bleeds and itches and aches from infections.

Her older daughter glimpsed part of a videotape of the procedure and said, according to Oluloro: "Why do they do that? They are crazy. I would never go to Nigeria." Few dispute that genital mutilation constitutes "extreme hardship." But the judge in Oluloro's case once denied asylum to a woman in similar straits because the claim was based on fear of injury to someone else. Oluloro is also pursuing residency and has a better shot at that; a decision is due March 23.

Aminata Diop of Mali is seeking asylum in France in another closely followed genital mutilation case. The procedure killed her best friend and she resisted it on the eve of her own marriage.

Diop claimed she was consequently mistreated by her family and forced to flee.

She has appealed a rejection by French officials, who said she was an adult not bound by her parents' wishes and had failed to properly document her claim.

Documentation problems are at the core of several cases that women have lost, even though their failed bids created important precedents.

The latest, in December, concerned a woman who left Iran in 1978 and said she would be persecuted for expressing feminist views or refusing to wear a veil if she were forced to return.

The U.S. appeals court in Philadelphia said she did not build a strong enough case. But the opinion was a landmark anyway; the first time a U.S. court said feminism qualified as a political opinion and recognized a potential social group of Iranian women who refuse to conform to their government's gender-specific laws and social norms.

Advocates say cases are often weak because interviewers don't know what to ask and women are too intimidated or embarrassed to explain what they've been through.

Even under ideal circumstances, "these are difficult cases to win," said Tilman Hasche, Oluloro's lawyer. "Are we going to grant asylum to all of sub-Saharan Africa if we let Lydia stay here? I don't think so."

DIABETES STUDY

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Jeanne Kimpel, R.N.
681-4453

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NOTICE OF PARTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS

Primary elections for the Democratic and Republican Parties will be held in Durham County, State of North Carolina, on Tuesday, May 3, 1994. The polls will be open from 6:30 A.M. to 7:30 P.M. Those registered voters affiliated with the Democratic and Republican political parties will be choosing candidates of their respective parties for Federal, State, and County offices.

The Durham County ballot will have candidates in the DEMOCRATIC PARTY PRIMARY for U.S. Congress, 2nd District; N.C. Supreme Court; N.C. Court of Appeals; District Attorney; 14th Judicial District; N.C. Senate, 13th District; N.C. House of Representatives, District 23; N.C. House of Representatives, District 63; Sheriff; and County Commissioner; and candidates in the REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY for U.S. Congress, 2nd District; N.C. House of Representatives, District 92.

Unaffiliated registered voters may vote in the REPUBLICAN PARTY PRIMARY upon request at the polling place.

Qualified unregistered residents wishing to vote in the primary must register by Monday, April 11, 1994. Change of party affiliation or address, by registered residents, must also be done by Monday, April 11, 1994. Any information regarding registration, location of polling places, absentee voting, or other electoral matters may be obtained by contacting the Board of Elections office at 560-0700.

If called for, a second primary will be held on Tuesday, May 31, 1994. The registration information stated above also applies to the second primary.

Ronald A. Gregory, Chairman
Durham County Board of Elections

The Durham County Board of Elections in its regularly scheduled meeting of January 18, 1994, adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Durham County Board of Elections that effective on or after the 18th day of January 1994 midnight, the voting place of Precinct #43 shall be and the same is changed from the Durham Academy Upper School to the Forest View Elementary School, 3007 Mt. Sinai Rd.

The Durham County Board of Elections in its regularly scheduled meeting of March 15, 1994, adopted the following resolution:

BE IT RESOLVED by the Durham County Board of Elections that effective on or after the 15th day of March 1994 midnight, the voting place for Precinct #47 shall be and the same is changed from the R.N. Harris Elementary School to the I.R. Holmes Sr. Recreation Center at Campus Hill, 2000 S. Alston Avenue.



City of Durham Weekly Calendar

WEEKLY CALENDAR: MARCH 28, 1994 — APRIL 7, 1994

The DURHAM CITY COUNCIL holds its regular meetings on the FIRST and THIRD MONDAYS OF EACH MONTH at 7:30 p.m. in the City Council Chamber, located on the first floor of City Hall. These meetings are open to the public.

City Government meetings scheduled during the next week include the following:
MONDAY, March 28, 1994
3:00 p.m.

PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE (Committee Room/2nd Floor)

TUESDAY, March 29, 1994
8:00 a.m.

JOINT CITY COUNCIL & BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS MEETING at the invitation of DURHAM DOWNTOWN, INC. SUBJECT: TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE FROM DDJ AND ANY OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY BE BROUGHT BEFORE THE MEETING (Oml Durham Hotel & Civic Center 201 Foster Street)

6:00 p.m. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION (Theatre Room/1st Floor)

WEDNESDAY, March 30, 1994
NO MEETINGS SCHEDULED
THURSDAY, March 31, 1994
8:30 a.m.

COMMITTEE-OF-THE-WHOLE (Committee Room/2nd Floor)

FRIDAY, April 1, 1994
CITY HOLIDAY — MOST CITY OFFICES CLOSED
All Meetings are held in City Hall, 101 City Hall Plaza, unless otherwise indicated. Additional meetings may be scheduled after this list is submitted for publication. Free parking is available during the Council Meeting in the Chapel Hill Street Parking Garage, located across Mangum Street from City Hall.

Any citizen wishing to be heard on agenda matters, please call the City Clerk's Office at 560-4166 to place your name on the speakers' list.

Interpreters for the Deaf and the Hearing Impaired are available by giving a 48-hour notice. If needed, please telephone 560-4180 or T.D.B. No. 560-4649.

CITY LIFE PROGRAM will be on Cable Channel 23 every Wednesday from 7:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Visibly Committed



The work of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), the Opportunities Industrialization Centers (OIC) of America, the National Urban League, and the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) is essential to the communities they serve. That's why R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company is committed to their continued growth. No where is this support more visible than in the R.J. Reynolds Public Service Billboards Program.

This program makes available to these organizations hundreds of high visibility locations in dozens of cities coast to coast.

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