

Archive No. 119

Non-Government Organisations Forum Beijing 1995

The fourth NGO Forum on Women was held in Huairou, China, 30 August – 8 September 1995 in conjunction with the UN Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing, 4 – 15 September 1995. While the Conference was where all the government sponsored delegates made the official decisions the Forum was where the women from NGO organizations got together to workshop, exchange ideas, give talks and network across international lines.

A reported 30,000 women from 181 countries attended the Forum including hundreds of lesbians from 70 countries. The program listed two hundred pages worth of workshops and activities on an eclectic range of diverse topics run by groups such as the Tanzania Gender Networking Program and Amnesty International with entertainment laid on from the Women's Circus show on a daily basis to Judy Small and Sweet Honey in the Rock in the evening.

There were dozens of issue-specific tents including old age, lesbian and Asia-Pacific. Participants were bussed out to Huairou every morning, to organise marches, read the daily bulletins, enjoy the multicultural food and above all to meet with like-minded activists to improve the conditions for women and girl children round the world.