

FEZANA UN-NGO COMMITTEE REPORT

**Compiled by Afreed Mistry,
Behram Pastakia and Homi Gandhi**

**Presented at the 22nd FEZANA Annual General Meeting
Orlando, Florida, May 22-24, 2009**

We are happy to report that FEZANA UN-NGO Committee had another great year in 2008-2009. During the early part of this year, Afreed Mistry, joined us as a Co-Chair of this Committee.

PARTICIPATION - a brief summary.

In the USA:

The team representing FEZANA at the 53rd Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) included Kamalrukh Katrak, Farah Minwalla, Deena Patel and Trity Pourbahrami. They were assisted by Mantreh Atashband, Homi D. Gandhi, Afreed Mistry and Behram Pastakia. This year's theme was "The equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including care giving in the context of HIV/AIDS" and FEZANA's panel discussion was on "Success stories in care giving for HIV/AIDS: South Asia." This panel discussion, attended by 20 representatives from other NGOs, covered the Bel-Air Hospital located in Panchgani, India, and its advanced care facility for AIDS and TB patients. The mission of the hospital is to provide affordable, nondiscriminatory care to people with TB and HIV/AIDS-- Compassion and Care For All. To be the hospital and community center that provides charity care when needed, without depending solely on charity itself. Bel-Air Hospital has been successful in creating an environment free of stigma and discrimination in the hospital. International schools in Panchgani send their students for treatment to Bel-Air. Students mingle with patients regularly and there has been an increase in HIV awareness in the community.

Homi D. Gandhi had the opportunity to visit Bel-Air Hospital in Panchgani in February 2009. He met with Father Tomy who manages the Bel-Air Hospital. Homi also met with Mrs. Homai Modi, Secretary, Indian Red Cross Society, Maharashtra Branch, which is responsible for running the Bel-Air. FEZANA UN-NGO Committee thanks both Father Tomy and Mrs. Modi for their co-operation throughout this presentation.

Ervad Pervez Patel and Homi Gandhi represented the Zoroastrian community at the Interfaith prayer service

at St. Peter's Church in New York City, prior to the 2008 United Nations High Level Meeting on Aids. This meeting was to evaluate the time-bound targets agreed on in 2001 and to move towards universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support by 2010. All citizens of the world demand accountability of the member states to their agreed promise.

International:

The 61st Annual Conference for Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) associated with the UN Department of Public Information (DPI) was held at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris from September 3-5, 2009. The theme of this conference was "Reaffirming Human Rights: Universal Declaration of Human Rights at 60" in order to celebrate 60th Anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration, which was signed in Paris in 1948. The theme of the presentations covered an increase in awareness and education of human rights amongst the world's most vulnerable populations. FEZANA was represented at this conference with delegates from Canada (Mickie and Diana Katgara), USA (Homi D. Gandhi, and Naheed Vatcha), and India (Armene Modi). For details of this, please refer to FEZANA Journal; Spring/March 2009 issue. For the FEZANA Press Release of this event, please refer to FEZANA Journal; Fall/September 2008 issue.

SUBMISSION OF REPORT TO THE UN

Homi Gandhi submitted FEZANA's report about the information program relating to the United Nations activity during the last four years. It gives us a great pleasure to inform the FEZANA community that the United Nations has, after the receipt of our report, renewed FEZANA's standing as a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). The next quadrennial review will be required in 2012. For details of this, please refer to FEZANA Journal; Fall/September 2008 issue.

FINANCIALS:

Our budget for 2008 was fixed at \$3,000. Out of this, the Committee has spent the following:

\$1,823.35	One-half of the cost of printing of 1575 copies of the JudChrist booklet *
174.30	Printing/Copying of materials for CSW and UN-NGO meetings
100.0	Cost of Projector rental for CSW presentation*
\$2,097.65	Total Expenses

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CONTACTS:

Zarathushtis interested in joining the FEZANA UN-NGO team should contact:

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