

GBA On-Line Discussion

Gender-based Analysis (GBA) On-Line Discussion

Canadian Congress of Learning Opportunities for Women (CCLOW) (January–April 2001)
Relais-femmes and le Réseau national d'action éducation femmes (RNAÉF) (February–April 2002)

A good example of a best practice, this two-phase project was sponsored by Status of Women Canada as part of its GBA Implementation Strategy to ensure a uniform sharing of knowledge, concepts, definitions and mechanisms and a general sensitivity to GBA.

The objective of the project was to create an on-line dialogue with women's organizations to further a common understanding of GBA and to help correct myths about GBA and its implementation throughout the Government of Canada. Plain language materials were produced for use by various stakeholders in the hopes of improving communication and partnerships between NGOs and government departments.

The first phase of this project, an English on-line discussion managed by the CCLOW, took place from January to April 2001. The second phase of this project, a French on-line discussion, took place from February to April 2002, and was managed collaboratively by two francophone women's organizations, Relais-femmes and RNAÉF.

In both phases, groups were responsible for:

- co-ordination and moderation of a GBA on-line dialogue of women's organizations and individuals in Canada;
- preparation of a plain language background paper defining GBA;
- research and distribution of available electronic resources on GBA;
- summary of dialogue results; and
- a fact sheet on GBA.

A total of 187 people registered to participate in the dialogue. The first phase, managed by the CCLOW, received 60 registrations, while the second phase, managed by Relais-femmes and RNAÉF, received 127 registrations.

The overall approach used to establish and moderate the GBA dialogue was to:

- be as inclusive as possible given budget, technology and time limitations;
- target national women's organizations but leave room for individual participation;
- assume that some academics would be included as members of the women's organizations targeted;
- announce the three main discussion topics in both the invitation to participate and the on-line postings;
- post main discussion topics with related questions on a weekly basis and allow threaded discussions to develop from the theme; and
- use the dialogue to:
 - establish participants' understanding of GBA;
 - explore participants' experience with GBA;
 - identify weaknesses, objections and recommendations for changes to GBA to enable participants to use it more frequently and more effectively.

For more information on this initiative, please contact the Gender-based Analysis Directorate of Status of Women Canada by telephone at (613) 995-7835, or by e-mail at gbad@swc-cfc.gc.ca