

**Ken Wollack Remarks
NDI's Win with Women Luncheon
May 4, 2005**

We have assembled here to recognize great strides women have made in the political arena and to honor a unique organization that has made remarkable contributions to women's political empowerment in the world's largest Muslim country and third largest democracy. That is the celebratory side of our gathering. But there is different side as well: the hard reality that the struggle for broader involvement of women in politics—at all levels, and everywhere—goes on against tremendous odds. We are assembled here because we desire change: a sea change. An attitudinal change. A generational change.

Since its inception over 20 years ago, NDI has worked with women in over 100 countries to serve as effective leaders at all levels of government, to advocate on public policy issues, to participate in election as voters, election monitors and candidates, and to help them gain leadership positions in their political parties.

This event is part of a larger global campaign, the Win With Women Global Initiative, which was launched in 2003 and designed to promote the kind of political party reform that will provide real avenues for women's political leadership and elective office.

NDI is not alone in this mission. We are part of a global network that includes governments, intergovernmental organization and other nongovernmental groups. And we have benefited from our cooperation with them: the International Republican Institute, UNIFEM, the IPU, International IDEA, the OAD, the British Council, the UNDP, the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Women for Women International, the State University of New York/ Albany, Vital Voices, Women Waging Peace, the Council of Women World Leaders, ABA/CEELI, the Liberal International, World Learning, the Women's Environmental and Development Organization and the Council of Europe.

I want to thank our chairman, Madeleine Albright and board member Geraldine Ferraro for their leadership of the Win With Women Campaign, as well as their leadership at NDI. I want to recognize NDI Vice President Jean Dunn, who is, in addition to her day job of running the day-to-day operations of NDI, has conceived, designed and managed this effort. Jean was ably assisted by Kristin Haffert, who coordinate our women's programs, and many other NDI staff members. I wanted to also recognize those seated in the balcony and to inform you that oxygen tanks are strategically placed at designated stations. We take no responsibility for nose bleeds.

I would like to express our thanks to the supporters of this event who are listed in your program and acknowledge with great appreciation those who have supported the Institute's women's political leadership programs worldwide—the National Endowment for Democracy, USAID and the Department of State. We are deeply grateful for the support we have received from four administrations, Republican and Democratic alike, and from the U.S. Congress.

Finally, we are most proud of our partnership with tens of thousands of women in every regions of the world who are, or seek to be engaged in politics because of the things that touch their lives, that invade their hearts, that seize their minds.

You know Geraldine Ferraro as a former Congresswoman, ambassador to the UN Human Rights Commission and a political trailblazer whose run for the vice presidency of the United States transformed American democracy—forever and for the better. We at NDI know Gerry in a more personal way—as a 20-year board member of our Institute who has helped guide our work year in and year out. It gives me great pleasure to someone who is very near and dear to our hearts—Geraldine Ferraro.