

Ruth Mitchell

IPPNW International Student Representative 2006-2008

**Speaking at the closing plenary
17th World Congress – Helsinki, Finland
September 10, 2006**

I cannot imagine a greater honor than to be asked to speak for the students of IPPNW. At this meeting we have seen a small part of the IPPNW student movement, and I wish to say thank you for the genuine inspiration of students known to us all, from Katmandu and Düsseldorf for example, but also those from Georgia, Iran and even Saudi Arabia. I have to say thank you for your courage to those who are working in difficult places – violent places – student and doctors.

In Helsinki students have been working very hard to sustain projects such as the NWIP and Target X, often in small groups late at night, but we also have seen students speaking in every plenary and symposium, and in most workshops. This shows the deliberate choice of IPPNW to include and involve students at every level of our collective proceedings.

We students are so grateful for the “established” doctors here, among whom we find role models, mentors, heroes who have no agenda, only principles.

It is not always easy for doctors and students to work together, but I urge you, I beg you, to do everything you can to work together with mutual respect. Our goals and our dreams of nuclear abolition, small arms education and peace through health are too important and too urgent for us to lack peace within our IPPNW family.

It only remains for me to thank a man from Germany [Alex Rosen, IPPNW ISR from 2004-2006] for his timeless efforts and his leadership, and his love for this work. Alex, we thank you, and we cannot wait to see what you will do next.
