

# Gifts of Speech News

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## Featured Product



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## 1. ONLINE Day of Conversation



**Women in the Lead** at the Global Dialogue Center has a mission to create a warm, welcoming virtual gathering place of distinction for women around the

world --- a community of friends --- a place to learn, develop new skills, participate in conversation, meet new friends, find valuable resources and get inspired in ways that will help them strengthen their leadership in work, community and life. In an effort to fulfill that mission they recently announced their **2nd Annual ONLINE Day of Conversation** to commemorate [International Women's Day 2009 \(March 8th, 2009\)](#) for women throughout the world.

Click [here](#) to listen to a personal audio invitation from Debbe Kennedy and Pat Lynch. This special online day of conversation is free and open to women across the world brought to you by [Women in the Lead at the Global Dialogue Center](#) in partnership with the [Women's Online Media and Education Network](#).

## It's a New DAY! Renewing Ourselves; Changing the World An online dialogue for women everywhere . . .

### **Date and Time:**

Friday March 6 from 1:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m. ET  
(10:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. PT)

**This is an ONLINE event!**

### **Registration:**

Online at the Women in the Lead at the Global  
Dialogue Center

[https://www120.livemeeting.com/lrs/0000011799/  
Registration.aspx?pageName=fj56g81t7lbj242g](https://www120.livemeeting.com/lrs/0000011799/Registration.aspx?pageName=fj56g81t7lbj242g)

### **Brochure:**

See It's A New Day! Brochure (3-Page PDF) to learn  
all about this day for women everywhere

<http://www.globaldialoguecenter.com/itsanewday.pdf>

Link: <http://globaldialoguecenter.blogs.com/women/>

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## 2. National Young Women's Leadership

**The Feminist Majority Foundation** says SAVE THE DATE: THE NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE IS COMING SOON!

Join young feminists, national leaders, and elected officials from across the country at FMF's 3rd annual National Young Women's Leadership Conference on March 21-22, 2009 in Washington, DC! The conference is an opportunity to share in open dialogue about major feminist issues and gain valuable organizing skills. More information is on the way, but please contact [campusteam@feminist.org](mailto:campusteam@feminist.org) with any questions!

To learn more, visit the link below.

Link: <http://www.feministcampus.org/leadership/>

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### 3. Future Female Leaders in the Middle East

From the National Democratic Institute website - See link at bottom of this article.

Despite daunting cultural and institutional obstacles, women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) continue to make strides in politics. Initiatives that help empower the next generation of women leaders are a cornerstone of the National Democratic Institute's programs in the region.

In July 2008, NDI organized the inaugural MENA Regional Young Women Leaders Academy in Doha, Qatar. Thirteen undergraduate and graduate students and activists from Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar and Yemen participated in the Young Women Leaders Academy. Most of the women had never participated in any type of formal training and some had never travelled outside their country or had an opportunity to interact with like-minded peers from neighboring countries. The program was designed to provide young women with the intellectual tools, comparative knowledge and practical skills necessary to become leaders in their communities, gain practical political work experience in parliament, political parties and civil society organizations, and actively network with other young women engaged in politics in the region.

They are up against some of the most pervasive ignorance on the globe. Take for example Yemeni Muslim cleric Abd Al-Majid Al-Zindani. You can read about [him](#) and his [Commission on Scientific Signs in the Quran and Sunnah](#) at Wikipedia. Al-Zindani recently gave an interview on Iqra TV in which he

claimed to have [scientific proof that women cannot talk and remember simultaneously.](#)

With this kind of culturally entrenched opposition to women's agency in Muslim countries, programs like this one from the National Democratic Institute are vital to the women who must live there.

Link: <http://www.ndi.org/node/15106>

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#### 4. Iran Police Shut Nobel laureate's Office

From Google News:

On December 21, 2008 Iranian police shut down the office of a human rights centre headed by Nobel peace laureate and lawyer Shirin Ebadi on Sunday, in a sign of a toughening crackdown against rights campaigners.

"They have sealed off the office and are telling us to leave the premises without resistance," the deputy head of Ebadi's Human Rights Defenders Centre, Narges Mohammadi, told AFP. "We have no choice but to leave."

Ebadi, who won the Nobel peace prize in 2003 for her campaigning, was in the office at the time of the raid and condemned the police action but vowed that human rights advocates in Iran would be unfazed.

Read more at the link below. You can read Ms. Ebadi's Noble Lecture [here](#).

Link: [http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h2RW4bBDIcAUGe8w4f3EHX\\_wgNsg](http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h2RW4bBDIcAUGe8w4f3EHX_wgNsg)

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## 5. February Website of the Month



**The  
International  
Knowledge  
Network of  
Women in  
Politics (iKNOW**

**Politics)** is an online workspace designed to serve the needs of elected officials, candidates, political party leaders and members, researchers, students and other practitioners interested in advancing women in politics. It is a joint project of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance (International IDEA). The goal of iKNOW Politics is to increase the participation and effectiveness of women in political life by utilizing a technology-enabled forum.

Learn more at the link below!

Link: <http://www.iknowpolitics.org/>



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--Liz Kent

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