

## **Participation in a potential UN presentation about RAT**

On August 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> we attended, participated in, and presented at the S.M.A.R.T. conference in Connecticut, sharing that since 1993 we have been involved in processing the reality of ritual abuse-torture (RAT). To say that this experience turned out to be a major highlight in our lives is an understatement ... to be in the company of so many caring persons who have survived atrocities, who are speaking reality with glowing activist spirits was awesome!!

At the conference we shared one of our dreams—to have RAT discussed at the UN ... to have the global community recognize RAT as involving acts of torture. Sitting in the audience was Dana Raphael PhD, Director of the Human Lactation Center, Connecticut, a Non-governmental Organization (NGO) in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN. She is now working diligently to have us, along with Jeanette Westbrook, who also presented at the conference, present the information we presented at the S.M.A.R.T. conference as a side presentation at the 48<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, at the United Nations Headquarters, New York!

We have been wondering how can we share this possibility with others? Maybe a few people would donate their art work (or copies) and/or journaling-artifacts<sup>1</sup> really. Art work ought to be accompanied by a brief written explanation and all donations ought to indicate a way that we could connect with you if necessary. With this in mind we would agree to receive the art works, see about having them enlarged and/or mounted to use at the presentation. Journaling donations, an idea suggested by Lynne Moss-Sharman from ACHES-MC, could be used as attachments to the presentation, for example. Donating artifacts would be considered giving consent for their use. We could not ensure donations could be returned so you may opt to send copies.

Artifactual evidence is vital to documenting the reality of RAT—historical and present day ... just as important as the artifactual evidence used to tell of the holocaust or other human rights atrocities. We hear of many RAT artifacts being destroyed. Maybe it is time to think of these artifactual items as invaluable and priceless to the movement of exposing the truthful reality about RAT and promoting a safer world—a way to break the legacy of RAT victimization for all infants, toddlers, children, and youth and captive adults.

We cannot, at this time, give definite assurance that the UN will open its door to learning about the reality of RAT ... however; we are full of hope because we realize Dana is working hard to make this happen. We want to be ready when the opportunity presents itself. Donating artifactual evidence, we realize, can feel like a journey into the unknown ... a journey of trust and hope ... a risk. However, the best we can do at this time is simply

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<sup>1</sup> From <http://dictionary.reference.com> artifact meaning a product of human workmanship (*Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary*. (1998). MICRA, Inc) or something viewed as a product of human conception or agency (*The American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language*. (2000). (3th ed.). Houghton Mifflin.

share this UN possibility with others, opening the door for others to decide if and how they might choose to participate.

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Looking forward to working together ...

Jeanne & Linda