

## Letter from the Chair

I am delighted to report on another successful year for FPWP/Hibiscus. As can be seen from the Director's report, the charity has again worked extremely hard to offer hope, support and practical assistance to large numbers of very vulnerable foreign national prisoners and to their families. We have also continued to expand our innovative and hugely influential prevention campaign, which has proved very effective in informing women overseas about the real risks of drug smuggling, and reduced the numbers of women attempting this in the countries where we have worked.

Last year, as well as undertaking our charitable work, we put a lot of effort into strengthening our organisational base, so as to make sure that our infrastructure could support continued growth and expansion. This has really paid off, and we now have a robust strategic plan, an annual business plan, and clear financial management information with which to review and plan the charity's work. Next year, we plan to seek improved office premises, review and further develop our relationship with Hibiscus Jamaica, and further extend our charitable work to support foreign national women in prison here, develop further prevention campaigns overseas, and develop partnerships to offer support and practical assistance to the children and families of children of women in prison in Britain.

We also plan to expand our policy influencing role as much as is practicable within our resources. We are all too aware that sentencing policy in Britain does not act as a deterrent, but causes trauma and threatens the life chances of very vulnerable children in the developing world. It also clogs up prisons in this country. We would like to see the needs of foreign national prisoners taken account of in all prisons policy, and we would like to see a real debate about the efficacy of current sentencing policy for overseas nationals. Hibiscus has a unique contribution to make

to these debates, because of our daily contact with the reality of these women's lives, and our insight into what this means for their children.

I would like to thank all our funders for continuing to support our work; without their financial assistance and belief in the charity and its' work, Hibiscus could not operate. I would also like to thank our staff and volunteer team, whose dedication, skill, expertise, commitment and hard work in very challenging circumstances have made all the difference to the women and their families. Also thanks to the management committee, whose efforts to support the charity have continued to be marked by skill, commitment and vision? And, of course, a special thanks to Olga Heaven, our founder and Director, whose very special brand of vision, leadership, wisdom and entrepreneurship make it all possible.

Dorit Braun  
Chair.