

## CONFERENCE FOR STUDENTS AND YOUNG ACTIVISTS ATTRACTS 1,000 PARTICIPANTS

*“This was the most intense two day learning period I ever experienced”*

Over 1,000 students and young activists from campuses and communities across the country participated in the 2006 reproductive rights conference of the Civil Liberties and Public Policy Program (CLPP). In this time of conservative gains on so many political fronts, CLPP’s high energy annual conference provided much-needed support and inspiration for young reproductive rights advocates and supporters nationwide. The event also celebrated the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CLPP’s founding and the program’s new generations reproductive rights education, leadership, and movement building work.

The weekend-long April 7-9 gathering at Hampshire College in Amherst, Massachusetts, featured an abortion speak-out where women of different generations, cultures, and economic circumstances shared their abortion experiences; conference sessions which described the vital connections between reproductive freedom and LGBTQ issues, youth liberation, disability rights, economic justice, eugenics, environmentalism, sexuality education, and women’s health; and a closing plenary focused on building bridges between progressive movements to advance effective collaborative work.

Conference speakers, presenters and trainers came from cities and towns nationwide and from Mexico, Ireland, England, the Netherlands, Nigeria, and South Africa. Workshops and trainings included: –organizing for reproductive rights in religious communities, –media training, –careers in the movement, –gynecological self-help, –environmental activism, –reproductive rights and queer rights, –abortion access, –comprehensive sex education, –HIV/AIDS, –midwifery and empowering birth, –health care for all, –immigrants’ rights, –the impact of contraception on women’s health, safety and autonomy, –population control, –how the Right took power, and –strategy sessions on how to take ideas for reproductive rights and related social change action back to our campuses and communities.