

Honorific Speech for Elke Jonigkeit

**on the occasion of the presentation of the Honour Award by the
Film Festival „Women'sWorlds“ of TERRE DES FEMMES for
„Committed support in
Defence of Human Rights of Women“**

20th November 2010 in Tuebingen, Germany

**The speech is held by Christa Stolle,
Executive Board Member of TERRE DES FEMMES**

Elke Jonigkeit gave up her job as an art educator in 1979 to found the production company Circe-Film. Since then she has been working as a free film maker and artist. She has won numerous awards for her documentary films at international festivals.

From 1986 onwards she has worked in Pakistan and Afghanistan on an Afghanistan cycle, which consists of several television documentaries and two documentary films, as well as an exhibition about women in Afghanistan. Several of these films have been shown over the years at our festival and accompanied by Elke with discussions with the audience and other directors. The exhibition has also been here in 2003.

This year her new documentary film shows us how the life of the women she filmed continues. For us it's also a new encounter with the guests of the film festival 2005 that came with Elke from Afghanistan and whose talks became part of the film fest book with the focus on Afghanistan. In the film we even meet the second generation, the daughter of Parwin and the other admirable women who have been with Elke for years and for a now even bigger project with extreme difficulties.

Parallel to her film work Elke started an aid project together with her protagonists with literacy, training and education programmes for war widows and their children in Afghanistan, an Afghanistan that is more and more regressing to the conditions of the Taliban time. To do this she founded the organisation NAZO and is doing important publicity work with her films and exhibition in Germany. In the mean time her project has grown and developed very positively, the women are engaged in income generating projects and are always developing their skills.

Dear Elke, we would like to present you also with our Honour Award today, with thanks for your never exhaustable willingness to come here and present your films at the film festival. Same as your willingness to reflect with us about ways in which we can support the women in Afghanistan together. As well as your personal relationship of solidarity with the film festival director Irene Jung and your personal advice, that have always been positive for the development of the festival.

I would therefore like to thank you from the heart and to present you with this certificate together with this statue to remind you of our successful cooperation.