



Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
(Re)creating Peace Internationally

Tracing 'Feminist Peace';

From Beijing to MDGs and Beyond

Preface

Isis-WICCE derives her name from Isis the Egyptian goddess of wisdom, knowledge and creativity. We are a transnational, vibrant well-established international feminist organization that values justice, fairness and mutual respect for humanity. We were founded in Geneva, Switzerland in 1974 by three feminists, and relocated to Kampala, Uganda in 1993, to bring African women's voices to the debates and campaigns taking place at national, regional and international levels, and enhance their capacity and potential to participate in decision making, good governance and development processes. After the Beijing conference we sought to ignite women's leadership, through amplifying women's voices and deepening their activism in the face of insecurity and militarism, so as to (re)create peace.

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Since 1996, Isis-WICCE had demonstrated an impressive alternative to the world's limited responses to situations of armed conflict particularly in addressing women's dire needs. We have had extensive experience and expertise working with women organisations, strategic partners and survivors of armed and post conflict, globally. Therefore, twenty years of Beijing is significant to Isis-WICCE's transformative journey of tracing feminist peace, which has been a solution in itself because it emerges out of the necessity to respond to challenges and barriers women in conflict communities face and enable them become change agents. We have challenged the mainstream model of post conflict reconstruction. We have moved women from victimhood to resilience.

Isis-WICCE in 1996 chose to conduct feminist action-oriented research on 5 of the 12 critical areas of concern as stipulated in the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA). These include: violence against women; women's participation in post conflict reconstruction; women and the economy; women and political leadership; and the human rights of women. By drawing on women's everyday experiences of survivors of armed conflict, Isis-WICCE has generated critical contextual interpretations of feminism and peace.

Based on the reflections and stories shared by predominantly female survivors of armed conflict, we learnt that the fulfillment of women's bodily integrity and political power is central to achieving commitments made in Beijing in 1995. Isis-WICCE realized that in war-ravaged contexts, Millennium Development Goals (3) on gender equality and women's empowerment required an explicit focus on women's leadership capabilities and their political leverage in fostering peace.

This paper therefore, summarizes Isis-WICCE's contribution to the achievement of the key aspects of the Beijing Platform for Action. Working in post conflict settings has been a challenging and fulfilling experience too. It also provides recommendations that will contribute to the post 2015 sustainable development goals.

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Feminist Action Oriented Research

The Beijing Platform for Action Strategic Objective E on Violence Against women, Action 129 a & b emphasized the need to promote research, compile statistics and disseminate the findings widely. This call became Isis- WICCE's command and since 1996, through research, we have generated cutting-edge knowledge on the situation of women in armed conflict, and created room for different stakeholders to openly engage in critical conversations regarding issues of sex, sexuality and women's bodies in communities where sex is hardly discussed openly. The stories that tell their perspective of wars have shaped theory, practice, and policies, which to some extent have contributed to gender transformational changes. Some of the generated information has been packaged in research reports, training manuals, biannual magazines; documentaries and video clips, which are being used by different institutions such as universities, women organisations, donors and bilateral agencies, among others.

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The Isis-WICCE research model is empowering and centers the survivors of armed conflict as knowers and generators of knowledge. We have trained women survivors to research, this has given them power to write their own realities, and as the space where they have reclaimed their voices and demanded for accountability of their rights. Our model takes a consultative and participatory approach with the community in identifying the priority issues and collectively developing the tools for investigation. After the research, we have positioned them to engage at different platforms discussing their priority concerns emerging from the research. Together we have conducted 150 research studies in 29 countries in post conflict Africa and Asia; on an array of themes including sexual violence, displacement, transitional justice, women's health, women's participation in post conflict reconstruction, economic empowerment, among others.

The research conducted in the late 1990's revealed startling information on women's experiences of war in Uganda¹. Over the last 14 years, similar researches have been conducted in South Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Nepal, and Kashmir. To date, a total of 4966 women and men have participated in our various research studies, which have contributed to locally driven peace building initiatives. Similar work has been carried out in Africa's Great Lakes region (Burundi, DRC, Uganda, South Sudan); West

¹ In Luweero (central), Gulu, Kitgum, Lira, Kotido, Pader, Agago, (north) Teso, and Bugiri (east) and Kasese, Mbarara (west) districts of Uganda.

Africa (Liberia, and Sierra Leone), and Asia (Nepal and Kashmir). The feminist approach to research and documenting women's stories has strengthened survivors' voices, and increased the visibility of their issues. Research has also enabled women to work collectively, which has enabled some of them overcome injustices and hence engage in peace building and reconstruction processes. The findings have shifted policy and practice to address some of the gaps found, and has responded to post war needs of communities.

In Uganda, the Ministry of Health strengthened the mental health services in the Health Sector Strategic Plan 2001/02 – 2005/2006, as a result of the advocacy using the findings from the research. To date, government integrated mental health in all its services from Health Centre I to regional referral hospitals.

The Rwenzururu King in Kasese districts outraged and outlawed child marriage in the Kingdom after Isis-WICCE's study on girl child marriage and its impact.

In Kashmir, India; the "Ulema" (religious leaders) made a declaration in support of the "Half widows" and emphasized that; the disappeared person/husband should be treated as alive thus giving half widows the right to own marital property; and for the case of re-marriage, the disappeared husband should be treated as dead after the mandated timeframe thus giving half widows the right to re-marry."

In Nepal, One-stop crisis centers were established in 5 hospitals to support rape survivors after the research conducted in Nepal.

Healing women's minds and bodies

Isis-WICCE has provided a listening ear and catalyzed discussion around sex, sexual violence, torture, trauma, health and governance. This has enabled us to realize that a woman's body is her primary means of participating socially, economically, politically, spiritually and creatively in society. Her body is the entry point to the practical application of rights; the place where the same rights are most often violated (through rape, mutilations, etc), is also where the rights can be exercised. Over the years we have confirmed that without knowledge of and control over a woman's body, including her sexuality, a woman's rights can neither be fully exercised nor enjoyed. Hence our Theory of Change: If we provide healing for women's bodies, mind and spirit; train more women leaders with concrete peace education, equip the women with skills and tools; and provide opportunities for them to utilize their potential, they will consistently advocate for responsive interventions and policies. Then, will the movement of women peace activists take charge and consequently, contribute to a peaceful world.

Our conversations with women and girls reveal that sexual violence and other forms of violence have resulted into multiple sexual and reproductive health effects including psychological and physical health effects including trauma. With the dilapidated health systems and infrastructure many governments had fallen short in their reconstruction approaches by marginalizing the resourcing of addressing women's reproductive health needs. Isis-WICCE thus designed a unique creative model (developed in alliance with health professionals), to provide the quality health care women survivors yearned for in Uganda, Liberia, South Sudan and Kashmir. The successes are immense; we share some of them as we commemorate Beijing @ 20.

- * Over the years a total of 50,000 women, girls, boys and men have accessed free quality medical treatment and counselling on physical, sexual and reproductive, and mental health.
- * 709 women and men have undergone successful surgery for urgent and previously hidden sexual and reproductive health related complications, often due to stigma. The conditions include vesico vaginal fistulae, uterine fibroids, and ovarian cysts, prolapse of the uterus, infertility, hernia, lipoma and hydroceles for men.
- * 21 health facilities in war torn communities were strengthened by providing the centres with equipment and medical supplies to ensure that health systems remain friendly to women after Isis-WICCE intervention.
- * Supported 437 health workers in Uganda, Liberia, South Sudan, and the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo to understand and manage their own trauma, an issue that is usually neglected. We have oriented and raised their consciousness on the special health needs of women from war situations, by providing them guidelines on the health needs of health workers, and as well as patients, thus improving their practice.
- * South to south exchange of skills contributed to building capacities of health workers in the affected communities. It also exposed them to new learnings, which also improved thier theories and practice.
- * After Isis- WICCE held a medical intervention in Central Equatoria State in South Sudan, the Governement of SS committed land for the construction of a Fistula hospital, which is yet to be embraced by donors and investors.
- * The Uganda health workers who collaborated with Isis-WICCE sought partnership with Peter C. Alderman Foundation² and opened 9 mental health clinics in Uganda, Liberia, Kenya, and Cambodia

2 a Foundation that establishes mental health clinics in war torn countries to help heal emotional wounds of victims of terror

where, more than 15,000 patients annually have received trauma treatments since 2005. The foundation has also provided skills to 2,837 health workers through annual conferences on trauma management since 2008.

- * Isis-WICCE partnership with health professionals developed three training manuals entitled "Management of Medical and Psychological Effects of War Trauma: A Training manual for Operational level health workers in Southern Sudan and Liberia", customized to the context of each country and utilized as a basis of the training, and as a reference tool for health workers and other practitioners.
- * Isis-WICCE catalyzed the formation and has provided leadership for the growth of networks such as the African Partnership for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women (AMANITARE), African Institute for Integrated Responses to Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS (AIR)
- * Some of the healed women became part of the 2,000 women activists and women human rights defenders (especially from Africa).

In-depth and case study research reports by Isis-WICCE

No.	Titles of in-depth studies	Year
1	Women's experience of armed conflict in Uganda, Luweero district 1980 - 1986	1998
2	Women's experience of armed conflict in Uganda, Gulu district 1986 - 1999	2001
3	Documentation of Teso women's Experiences of armed conflict; 1987-2001	2002
4	Women, armed conflict and food security in Uganda: An exploratory study of four districts	2004
5	Nurturers of Peace, Sustainers of Africa: African Women's Unique Peace Initiatives	2005
5	Women's experiences during armed conflict in Southern Sudan, 1983 - 2005: The case of Juba county - Central Equatorial state	2007
6	A situation analysis of the women survivors of the 1989-2003 Armed Conflict in Liberia	2008
7	Addressing the intersection between gender based violence and HIV/AIDS in conflict and post conflict situation in Africa	2009
8	Unveiling justice: Rape survivors speak out	2011
9	Child marriage and its impact on development: the case of Kasere district, Uganda	2011
10	Helping the helpers : A report on the psychosocial program for Health workers, Panzi hospital, Bukavu, Eastern DRC	2012
11	Kashmiri Women: The Burden of Conflict, Half Widowhood and its Psychological Health Effects	2012

No.	Titles of in-depth studies	Year
12	Making Gender-Just Remedy and Reparation Possible: Upholding the Rights of Women and Girls in the Greater North of Uganda	2013
13.	Pushed to the Periphery: The necessity of women's innovation in Activating post-conflict reconstruction (Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone)	2013
14	Making A Difference: Towards Substantive Engagement of Women in Parliament and Local Council Decision Making in Uganda	2013
15	Force to Flee: Voices of Congolese Women Refugees in Uganda	2013

Case studies:

Isis-WICCE has 134 case studies in the thematic areas of: sexual and gender based violence, genocide experiences, right to shelter, blood feuds, violence against Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs), food security among survivors of conflict, rights of female combatants, formerly abducted women and girls, female genital mutilation, refugee experiences, women and land, impact of landmines on war survivors, sexual harassment in schools, violence against LGBTIs, trafficking in women, impact of terrorism, impact of missing persons and half widowhood to families

2. WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEVERAGE FOR PEACE

Aware of gendered inequalities in peace and conflict times that are rooted in patriarchal systems, Isis-WICCE set out to build a movement of change agents, fostered through political consciousness raising. Isis-WICCE's peace education platform has enhanced women's political leverage for peace. This wave of change responded to Action (146), of the BPPA, which called for an increase in women's participation in decision-making in conflict resolution processes. It also sought to recognize women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.

Isis-WICCE's feminist institute, commonly known as the international Cross Cultural Exchange Institute has enhanced women's leadership for peace and security; strengthened the feminist movement through building local capacities for peace and radicalized change through evidence-based advocacy and giving back to communities.

Women's Leadership for Peace and Security: About 1520 women leaders have gone through the institute over the years, where they have been exposed to practical and theoretical peace building skills. Among these, over 100 have taken up leadership positions in national politics positions such as members of parliament, speaker of parliament, governors, as well as in local government systems. For example Hon. Hannah Lorna B. Nimaya from south Sudan has utilised the Leadership Institute skills to engage Parliament in Western Equatorial State, South Sudan:

...I was elected the Chairperson of Information, Culture, Youth and Sports but I realised marginalization of women representation in the Assembly leadership. There is no article in our Conduct of Business Regulations to give power and mandate to us women to raise issues concerning women and children. I made use of the institute training on lobbying, building networks and advocacy. I raised the issue, and was supported by the Speaker to create a Committee, although I don't yet have a budget.

Furthermore, in 2012, Hon. Nimaya was elected to the position of Deputy Speaker for Western Equatorial State-Legislative Assembly, Yambio, in South Sudan. She attributes her capacity to perform this role to the skills she acquired through the International Exchange Program Institute. In her words: 'I took oath of office on 15th August 2012. I am grateful for Isis-WICCE's work. Your efforts are not in vain, ... and I want to use the office to make a difference'.

While Nazia Taj Abbasi from Pakistan reported that,

...For me the Institute was a journey of self-discovery. People around me say you can be a good leader. And I would always say- how can I be? I realized the skill and potential in myself, as well as the weaknesses that I needed to address... the Institute enabled me to have a clear understanding of the interrelatedness of development issues and issues themselves as single identity. I am now convinced that yes, I am a leader.

Strengthened the feminist movement through building local capacities of women leaders for peace and forging partnerships: As part of its social transformation the Leadership Institute on peace and security has garnered, 21 community based organizations (in Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda). The groups have developed home grown approaches to peace building, thereby providing innovative alternative approach to peace and security. These groups have become new engines of social change, mobilizing grassroots participation in leadership and governance processes. In Uganda over 900 local women in war affected communities have become watchdogs, peace animation and committees, and activists committed to peace and human security. Areas of focus in these initiatives include: gender responsive post-conflict reconstruction programmes; cross-gender dialogues, women's access to

technology and issues of HIV/AIDs, and poverty eradication. There has been recognition of these home grown initiatives, with Pauline Yao Affoue (alumni, FCIEX, Cote d'Ivoire 2009/10), receiving an award from the ECOWAS Committee on Social Affairs, Education and Training, for her being a key player in repositioning the socio-economic status of women, in 2012.

Some of the alumni replicated the training by establishing community based organisations such as the Teso Women's Peace Activist (TEWPA), in North Eastern Uganda, where they mobilized over 550 activists as peace animators, peace committees and peace clubs in sub-regions. TEWPA also engaged in key policy advocacy spaces for a gender responsive peace and reconstruction framework for Uganda. It is part of the lobby group of the Women's Coalition for Peace in Uganda that engaged in the Juba Peace Process between Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. TEWPA has become a role model to many, and hosts peer learning and exchange visits. In 2014 over 390 participants from two sub-regions held exchange visits to TEWPA

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In partnership with strong civil society groups and national gender machineries, Isis-WICCE has run over 40 leadership institute intakes in Africa and Asia. The institute has ensured that the knowledge and leadership positioning of women permeates through different and sectors.

Radicalizing change through evidence-based advocacy and giving back to communities:

The institute premises its curriculum on human rights standards that must be maintained during peace and violent situations. A core institute module is 'Human Rights Mechanisms', where women leaders familiarize themselves with the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the BPfA and UNSCR 1325. These are translated, into national level mechanisms. The shift in level of consciousness to women's rights as human rights is a powerful force for women to appreciate that communities have rights, and must be protected at all times. Women leaders have acknowledged human rights frameworks being useful for seeking protection, participation, justice and peace.

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Since 2000 over 258 initiatives in Africa and Asia have been implemented by the alumni.

The skilled women leaders have been motivated to act on the gaps in their communities after armed conflicts. Since 2000 over 258 initiatives in Africa and Asia have been implemented by the alumni. These include conducting closure ceremonies of the victim of the violent conflicts to have decent burial; supporting communities to improve their livelihoods through economic activities, support trauma counseling, citizen participation in governance processes (national elections and self-determination through referendum), sanitation campaigns and environment protection activities, among others. The alumni have initiated advocacy campaigns on these issues regional and international and regional levels. For example;

- * Institute alumni ran a three-year campaign on Peace, Empowerment, Accountability and Reclaiming women's bodies (PEAR Campaign). The campaign (2009-2012) was a movement of anti-rape campaigners, committed to accountability and justice for sexual violence survivors. The Campaign in six countries³ focused on different forms of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). The campaign also run national level policy engagement on gender responsive HIV/AIDS policy, sexual violence in colleges, ending child marriages, protection mechanisms for women by peace keepers and combating sexual violence in internally displaced people's camps.
- * In 2011, Isis-WICCE facilitated women leaders in south Sudan to identify their 6 priority areas for the post-referendum phase. The thematic areas that were developed have formed the basis of engagement in South Sudan. The priorities included; Peace and Security; Elimination of Gender based violence, Basic Social Services in Health and Education; Good governance; Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction; and Institutional Building.

After a resurgence of political violence in South Sudan in December 2013, Isis-WICCE and World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA)⁴ facilitated South Sudanese women to engage the African Union to respect the international instruments that call for women to be part of the ongoing peace negotiation. The advocacy opened doors for the south Sudanese women to engage a cross section of decision makers including the Chief Negotiator Ambassador, Seyoum Mesfin.

- * Juba peace process – northern Uganda: Isis-WICCE participated in the Uganda Women's Coalition for Peace⁵ during the Juba Peace Process between the Government of Uganda and the Lord's

3 Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, South Sudan, Uganda

4 in collaboration with ICCO and Cordaid

5 Living Earth Uganda; FIDA-U; Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET); Uganda Women's Network (UWONET); FIDA Uganda Action for Development (ACFODE); Law & Advocacy for women; National Association of Women Organizations (NAWOU); Anti-Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU); EASSI; Uganda Gender Research Centre; Centre for Domestic Violence

Resistance Army (LRA). The Women's Peace Caravan traversed through different districts along the corridor to Northern Uganda, raising awareness and mobilizing Ugandans to support the peace process and to strengthen solidarity with the communities of northern Uganda. Isis-WICCE played a key role in ensuring that, over 5,000 women survivors are consulted. Their recommendations contributed to the peace talks, resulting into one of the most gender sensitive agreements; which was later adopted by government of Uganda peace and recovery road map – the PRDP.

- * The Institute alumni later became part of the 21 women leaders Task Force (WTF) for a gender responsive Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP). The WTF tracks the extent to which the PRDP6 addresses gender equality. Because of the intensive awareness raising and advocacy work of the Women's Task Force (WTF), the advocacy group was accredited to two PRDP governance structures⁷. Furthermore, the advocacy efforts of the WTF yielded results, with the draft PRDP II recognizing SGBV as major factor that undermines women's participation and empowerment. The PRDP II program areas recognized the need to deal with trauma and mental health issues; train the police and sensitize communities on SGBV; address land rights problems, especially among women; and invest more in reintegration and resettlement activities.

Women and the media

One of the major reasons Isis-WICCE moved to Africa was to tap the voices of African women and link them to the discussions and campaigns at the regional and international levels. Isis-WICCE utilizes different creative information and communication technologies to generate and share information and knowledge, to enhance women's leadership potential and participation in decision making processes.

(CEDOVIP); Bahai Faith; United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA); Disable Women Network and Resource Organization (DWNRO); CRDN; MIFUMI; DENIVA; Slum Aid Project (SAP); Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI); Akina Mama wa Africa (AMWA); Lira Women Peace Initiative (LIWEPI); FAWE-U; HURINET; UGANET; National Union of Disabled Persons (NUDIPU); TERREWODE; Youth Environment Network Uganda; Empower Children & Communities Against Abuse (ECCA); Teso Women's Peace Association (TEWPA); Luwero Women Development (LUWODA); Pan African Movement; Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

⁶ Strategic objective 4 of the plan makes specific commitments to peace building: "A major outcome of the PRDP is to ensure the continuous prevalence of peace in the region. The peace building and reconciliation process requires increased access to information by the population, enhancing counseling services, establishment of mechanisms for intra/inter communal and national conflict resolution, strengthening local governance and informal leadership structures and reinforcing the socioeconomic reintegration of ex-combatants." A copy of the PRDP is available online, see [http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/%28httpDocuments%29/F9933A32534907A8C12573B700779C11/\\$file/PRDP+Sep+2007.pdf](http://www.internal-displacement.org/8025708F004CE90B/%28httpDocuments%29/F9933A32534907A8C12573B700779C11/$file/PRDP+Sep+2007.pdf), accessed on 13 May 2013.

⁷ the PRDP monitoring Committee (PMC), the PRDP Technical Working Group (TWG);

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In response to this objective and Action 242.b that calls for the training of women to make greater use of information technology and the recognition of the gaps in connecting women across the globe Isis-WICCE established the first ever women public internet access space in Kampala, Uganda in 2000. The Internet café for women and girls' initiative aimed at demystifying information technology and bridging the digital divide between men and women. The café offered public internet services and training in word processing, basic internet applications, and provided space for women and girls to utilize the potentials of information technology in a free and safe environment for their own empowerment. The Café also provided free access for women refugees living in Uganda. This enabled some refugees' link up with different decision maker when they read their stories that the café enabled them to relay. The café gave such survivors of violence to relocate and leave more decent lives. To ensure effective use of the Café by women, Isis-WICCE developed short training courses to provide women and girls with skills in information technology use.

It was important to reach out to the rural women who leave in areas where they could not access power and hence the new technology. Isis-WICCE, between 1997 and 2000 established four Rural Women's Information Units in Luweero, Iganga, Mubende and Soroti in Uganda that enabled over 20,000 women leaders to have spaces for enhancing their knowledge base and leadership potentials. The Women's Information Units in addition to providing resources for improved knowledge, also organized sensitization seminars on themes ranging from "Women and Leadership in a post conflict community" to "Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights"; as requested by the women in these localities. The Rural Women's Information Units were also used to operationalize Isis-WICCE's objective of tapping the voices of rural women. The Unit in Mubende used the information unit as a communication hub where women came to receive information as well report any abuses in the community. The unit amplified the voices of women and girls who experience sexual violence, by linking up with the Police Department where it accelerated the search for perpetrators of sexual violence as well as improved on the methods of deterrence and prosecution of perpetrators. This prompted the community to pass a by-law on defilement that paid particular attention to quick response to survivors instead of focusing so much on punishing perpetrators.

Another strategy that was used to share information with local communities is the use of theatre for development. Isis-WICCE trained over 150 women in the use of theatre as a strategy for peace building in Luweero, Iganga and Gulu. These groups exist to date and have further developed their drama methodology to campaign against sexual and gender based violence, and promotion of women's participation in post conflict reconstruction, given that issues of women remain marginalized in most post conflict plans and programs in Africa.



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In 1998, Isis-WICCE initiated another innovation - Monthly Gender and Development Forum that provided space for the women's movement in Uganda to discuss issues that are relevant to promoting women's rights and gender equality. These platform enabled women to develop strategies that addressed issues of concern. These were published in newspaper as articles for further dissemination.

The Know-how Conference- linking women internationally

The conference concluded with a very strong political declaration – the Kampala Declaration that resolved that; Information and communication as a human right; National Information and Communication Policies that are not engendered to be challenged in order for women information providers to achieve their goal; Urgent need to provide women in rural communities with appropriate tools for access to relevant information for their empowerment;

It is this unique and strategic approach to using ICTs that earned Isis-WICCE recognition by different institutions for creatively using ICTs to document and profile voices of women in post conflict settings for policy advocacy. These awards are; Civil Society Exhibition Award by State University of New York, 2000 and Gender and ICT Ward by the Global Knowledge Partnership (GPK),2003.

Women's Connect Center (WCC)

Having generated an array of data and knowledge on women, peace and security, Isis-WICCE saw the need to expand its sharing and communication outreach aimed at strengthening the integration of grassroots, national, regional and global voices in the sharing of information as well as improve advocacy capacity to match the current global trend, through the establishment of a Women's Connect Center.

The WCC is a platform that facilitates the generation, exchange and sharing of Isis-WICCE's knowledge and information globally. The WCC provides an avenue for women and activists to reflect and make informed decisions about critical issues of concern to women especially survivors of war and provide solutions and alternatives to existing approaches on Women, Peace and Human Security. The WCC operates through physical online dialogues using a state of the art multimedia auditorium located at Isis-WICCE's offices in Kampala, Uganda. The conversations and ideas generated are shared through online social platforms, radio and television to further share the experiences of women.

3. Recommendations

There is evidence that most countries in armed and post conflict situations will not achieve most of the Millennium Development Goals. This is mainly because the MDGs did not consider the development challenges that conflict and post conflict countries face and the fact that most wars end without addressing the root causes of the conflict, which in most cases include poverty, corruption, marginalization, discrimination and unequal distribution of resources. It is strategic for SDGs to have a standalone goal on peace and security in order to bridge the existing gaps in the MDGs. Given what we have explained above hundreds of thousands of survivors of armed conflicts would have lost their lives, as well as failed to take up decision making positions if it was not the efforts of the women's movement globally. Therefore, efforts to include women in peace building and post conflict governance must this time round be considered so that women's voice determine the direction of reconciliation and post war recovery.

Isis-WICCE aligns with the Common African Position (CAP) on the post-2015 development agenda (31 January 2014) that represents the collective views of 54 African Member States that emphasize the "crucial role of women in conflict prevention and resolution, mediation and peace-building efforts." The same document calls on the post-2015 framework to promote a preventative approach to conflict, addressing issues of exclusion and social and economic inequalities, as well as called for civil society involvement "to ensure better ownership, implementation and accountability" through the provision of predictable financing for women's work on women, peace and security.

Isis-WICCE calls for strategic response to women's bodily integrity and holistic approach to healing women survivors of sexual violence This requires that the current women, peace and security architecture be revised to prioritize women's needs and concerns and put women's voices as drivers of change. Information and Communication Technologies are still out of reach of the poor who are the majority in developing countries. There will be no peace in the world when the poor do not see themselves as part of the global community.

