

THE ABUSED GENERATION

My Child, My Age mate



Ending Child Marriage:

A focus on Kasese District



Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange
Linking Women Internationally



Isis-WICCE 2nd Peace Exposition

Challenging Militarism and Violence Against Women

Kasese District

A Report

Supported by;



EDITORIAL TEAM

Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng
Executive Director, Member

Helen Kezie Nwoha
Programmes Manager, Member

Harriet Nabukeera-Musoke
Exchange Programme Coordinator, Member

Juliet Were Oguttu
Research & Documentation Coordinator, Member

Bedha Balikudembe Kirevu
Information & Communications Coordinator, Editor

How to reach us
Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural (Isis-WICCE)
Plot 23, Bukoto Street, Kamwokya
P.O. Box 4934
Kampala, Uganda
Tel: +256 41 543953
Fax: +256 41 543954

program@isis.or.ug
www.isis.or.ug

ISBN: 978 9970 29 005 5
© Isis-WICCE, 2012
All rights reserved.

Requests for permission to reproduce or translate this publication for education and non-commercial purposes should be addressed to Isis-WICCE.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	4
BACKGROUND	5
Why Kasese?	6
CHILD MARRIAGE IN KASESE	7
THE PEAR CAMPAIGN	8
Welcome Remarks and peace March	9
Handover of the Peace Flag:From Soroti to Kasese	10
Opening Remarks	11
Coordinator Kasese War Widows Network	11
Chair –Organising Committee	11
Executive Director, Isis-WICCE	12
Woman MP, Serere District	13
Woman MP -Kasese	14
Chairperson UWOPA, MP oyam District	15
Deputy Prime Minister, OBR and Women Activist	16
Isis –WICCE President	17
The PRIME MINISTER, Rwenzururu Kingdom	18
The King of Rwenzururu Kingdom	19
LAUNCH OF THE PEAR CAMPAIGN	21
TESTIMONIES OF BEING A CHILD MOTHER	24
Testimony of a Child father	26
POEM ON CHILD MOTHERS	27
RESPONSES FROM LOCAL LEADERS	28
DIALOGUE ON EXPERIENCE OF CHILD MOTHERS	32
Opportunities and challenges	32
Child mother's comments, questions and answers session	33
LAUNCH OF RESEARCH REPORTS	34
CECORE REPORT	34
CEWIGO REPORT	35
CECORE REPORT	36
PRESENTATIONS AND KEY MESSAGES	37
Way Forward	43
HAND OVER OF HOUSE TO MELIKA	45
EXPOSITION SIDELINE ACTIVITIES	46
THE EXHIBITION	48
POST EXPOSITION ACTIVITIES	57
APENDIX	59
UNCR 1325 Theme Song	62
SONG; Women Demanding For Peace	63
Poem	64

INTRODUCTION



Challenging Violence against Women

The Peace Exposition is an annual Open Forum organized by Isis – Women International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) to enable grassroots communities to dialogue and deliberate with policy makers on outstanding issues affecting women and girls.

It is an opportunity for the women at the grass roots rural communities to interface with their leaders and demand for immediate updates on the delivery of key public obligations.

The exposition is also a celebration of culture. It is a unique opportunity for partners under the women's movement from all over the world to converge and share best practices, experiences and challenges facing women from their areas of operation.

The Peace Exposition therefore becomes that space where women come to unwind and put into perspective what is working or not working for them as they endeavor to create a world where women's voices are listened to, respected and their bodily integrity respected.

The exposition also coincides with many other International activities, particularly the 16 days of activism against Gender Based Violence. The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women's Global Leadership Institute that was sponsored by the Center for Women's Global Leadership in 1991.

Participants chose the dates November 25 - International Day Against Violence Against Women and December 10 - International Human Rights Day - in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a violation of human rights.

This 16 - day period also highlights other significant dates including November 29, International Women Human Rights Defenders Day, December 1, World AIDS Day, and December 6, which marks the Anniversary of the Montreal Massacre.

The 16 Days Campaign has been used as an organizing strategy by individuals and groups around the world to call for the elimination of all forms of violence against women. Isis-WICCE therefore uses the Peace Exposition as a creative space for dialogue on the continuing cases of Violence Against Women, while at the same time mobilizing local and national leaders to commit themselves towards the elimination of any form of Violence Against Women and children.



Women Leaders marching through Soroti Town during the 2010 Peace Exposition.

Isis –WICCE organized the first Peace Exposition in Soroti, Eastern Uganda. The celebrations took place from October 29th – 31st 2010. The occasion coincided with the global celebrations to mark 10 years since the United Nations Security Council enacted Resolution 1325 that calls for the involvement of women as active participants in the reconstruction of their communities.

The Exposition in Soroti provided time and an effective platform for women's groups in the area of peace and security in Uganda to share successful strategies they used to implement UNSCR 1325 and to review the extent to which the government of Uganda has implemented the resolution as well as influenced the government's implementation of its National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and the Goma Declaration.

The activities included a peace march, dialogues, exhibitions, dramas, songs and the launch of the 1325 theme song including a Cervical cancer screening camp.

The Exposition was also a learning space where women groups from various parts of the country displayed various skills and activities they were undertaking in income generation. For example, women from Luwero displayed home made laundry soap, liquid soap, juice and candles; all made from locally available products.

The Exposition also managed to highlight the various gaps in government's health programmes while also providing a space to some of the survivors of Violence Against Women and children, especially during the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) war, to speak out and demand for action.

BACKGROUND

KASESE PEACE EXPOSITION

Making UNSCR 1325 a Reality

Soroti 2010

WHY KASESE?



The 2011 Peace Exposition was held in Kasese District from 28th November -1st December 2011. Isis-WICCE chose Kasese because past conflict programs that could have been embarked on soon after the conflict were overshadowed by the long conflict of the LRA in northern Uganda. Government has hitherto not undertaken any major post conflict program in the region to address the effects of war. It was also chosen because the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) conflict had adverse effects on the population, specifically the women and children.

Failure to deal with the post conflict situation has resulted into a lot of untold suffering, misery and poverty that have culminated into early marriages, prostitution, child and teenage mothers and high levels of domestic violence in the district. In short, generations of children in Kasese have been denied their childhood; becoming nothing but an abused generation. Hence, Isis-WICCE dedicates this report on the Kasese Expo 2011 to the untold story of *the abused generation*.

THEME

The exposition was run by Isis-WICCE in collaboration with Uganda Women's Parliamentary Association (UWOPA), Kasese War Widows Network (KWWN) and the Kasese District Administration under the theme "Challenging Militarism and Violence Against Women".

OBJECTIVES

The objectives under the theme "Challenging Militarism and Violence Against Women" were the following:

- a) To popularize the need for post conflict intervention among survivors of armed conflict, particularly young girls in Kasese district.
- b) To open doors to different stakeholders including government, bilateral agencies and civil society to direct their interventions to the critical needs of young girls in Kasese district.
- c) To provide space to engage and advocate for policy change to address women's post-conflict needs and concerns in the district toward effective implementation of the NAP and UNSCR 1325.
- d) To enhance sharing of best practices, information and challenges as well as develop new approaches to peace building and post conflict reconstruction.
- e) To generate ideas for the protection and participation of women in decision making and promotion of women's rights.



CHILD MARRIAGE IN KASESE

A Form of Violence against Young Girls in the Area

Isis – WICCE decided to use this Peace Exposition to speak out strongly against the practice of marrying off young girls before the age of 18 that has for long existed in Kasese district. It is a practice that has cast a dark shadow over the future and lives of many young girls.

Child marriage is a reality and a crisis that calls for immediate action and responsive mechanisms. Parents and leaders have not lived to their responsibilities largely because to a certain extent, this is a practice that has been considered normal because it has its root causes in some of the cultural practices.

It is therefore not surprising that almost every home in Kasese has a young girl who has been defiled, had an early pregnancy or married off at an early age. Isis- WICCE therefore decided to use this strategic space of the peace exposition to get local leaders from Kasese, Culturalists, Church leaders, Parents and Community Organisations to interface directly with some of the child mothers in an effort to bring this harmful practice to an end.

Isis-WICCE specifically used the space to amplify the following observations about child marriages.

- Child marriage is a human rights violation,
- There is always delayed justice on sexual related offences,
- Men have resorted to alcoholism as a result of poverty,
- There is absolute poverty that forces many families to trade young girls into early marriages for dowry,
- Girl children are therefore used as a form of currency,
- Young married women are exposed to hard labour, sexual violence and marital rape to recover the cost of dowry,
- Because of poverty, there are High rates of separation in search for partners who will provide means of livelihood
- The Land tenure system is fragmented and too small to sustain required food production quotas,
- Because of poverty and the associated burden of looking after a family, many child fathers end up abandoning their families hence the growing trend of run away fathers.
- Due to the long periods of conflict in the region and lack of meaningful post conflict interventions, many communities cannot engage in worthwhile commercial activities, which as a result has eroded the tax base and revenue collection. Because of poverty and the topographical nature of the area, many people can not access newspapers or radio hence limiting their ability to access information.
- Young marriages have denied the young mothers the opportunity to grow into resourceful women thus croding the leadership base of women in the area.



Some of the child mothers with their babies at the exposition, Giving birth at tender ages leaves them susceptible to obstetric Fistula, a common condition in Kasese district.

THE PEAR CAMPAIGN

As part of its overall campaign on Violence against Women, Isis-WICCE embraced the PEAR Campaign model to act as a framework of realizing sustainable and useful interventions against all acts of abuse towards women.

It is on this basis that Isis-WICCE launched the Peace building through Empowerment, Accountability and Reclaiming of Sexually Abused Survivors in Africa: (PEAR) Campaign

The overall goal of the PEAR campaign is to ensure respect of the bodily integrity of women in post conflict situations through prevention, protection and rehabilitation for women survivors.

The major objectives of the PEAR campaign are the following

- A. Advocate for rehabilitation of survivors of sexual violence in six countries in Africa (Uganda, South Sudan, DRC, Kenya Liberia and Cote de'voire) by 2014.
- B. Increase by 10% the member states that will ratify and domesticate the African Union Protocol on women's rights in three years.
- C. Build a movement of anti-rape campaigners in six countries by 2014.
- D. Disseminate information to the African Union on the impact of rape on women in the next three years

Isis-WICCE believes that Peaceful settlement of conflicts needs to be promoted over militarism. The campaign proposes that all post conflict efforts must be geared towards empowering women, holding those responsible for crimes Accountable and Reclaiming the survivors of rape and any other forms of gender based violence.



A PEAR campaign poster at the Peace Exposition in Kasese.



*Mr. Bedha Balikudembe Kireju
Information and Communications Coordinator,
Isis -WICCE*

Welcome Remarks

Expressions on Women's Rights

Mr. Bedha Kireju, the Communications Coordinator at Isis-WICCE welcomed the participants and the people of Kasese District to the exposition and thanked them for taking part in organizing and participating in the exposition.

He took off time to help participants understand the concept of the Peace Exposition while also linking it to the first Exposition that was held in Soroti in 2010.

Bedha said that the Peace Exposition was a Forum that Isis-WICCE envisioned to enable people's voices at the grassroots to be heard. He said the space provided a forum for them to freely express themselves especially regarding issues of women's rights, women's participation and representation in governance, skills building and accountability.

He called upon participants to make full use of their stay in Kasese by networking and learning from each other, ways in which they can make their lives much better.

He specifically made reference to the previous exposition in Soroti and said that women used it as an opportunity to dialogue and identify people who were serious about improving the lives of rural women.

After his welcome remarks, he invited participants to be part of the peace march that was meant to draw awareness amongst Kasese district residents and the general public to be part of the event.



Some of the Institute participants joined other women in a Peace March through the streets of Kasese town.



School children participating in the Peace March through the streets of Kasese town



Handover of the Peace Flag: From Soroti to Kasese

Hon. Winnie Kizza Women MP, Kasese District raising the Peace Flag after receiving it from Hon. Alice Alaso, Women MP, Serere District at the start of the Kasese Peace Exposition

Symbolism of the Peace Flag

The handing over of the Peace Flag is a symbolic activity that signifies the transfer of leadership in spearheading the campaign against Violence Against Women. Hon. Alice Alaso formerly Woman Member Parliament (MP), Soroti District and now Woman MP Serere District has been the flag bearer since the end of the First Peace Exposition that was held in her home district in 2010.

As the lead woman leader in the area, she was duty bound to take leadership in mobilizing other leaders and activists to ensure that the country's agenda for gender sensitive legislation is not forgotten. This is a role she performed so well. It is on the basis of her good performance that the people of Serere District decided to vote her back into parliament to continue with her efforts.

During the 2011 Peace Exposition in Kasese, Hon. Alaso passed on the Peace Flag to Hon. Winnie Kiizza, the Woman MP for Kasese district, to take over the responsibility of ensuring that all forms of violence against women like child marriages are rooted out of the area and the country at large.

Hon. Winnie Kiizza later handed over the flag to His Majesty the King of Rwenzururu, Wesley Mumbere signifying the strategic importance of the Rwenzururu Kingdom in ensuring that some of the harmful cultural practices like child marriages are brought to an end in Kasese District.

OPENING REMARKS

TEDDY KISWAHILI

Coordinator Kasese War Widows Network (KWWN)

Kasese War Widows Network wishes to thank Isis-WICCE for identifying us and have one of us Ms. Teddy Kiswahili to participate in the training on documentation of violence against women in 2000. This training sparked off the formation of this network. Isis-WICCE has also sustained the relationship for the period of not less than 10 years. By involving KWWN in the exposition that was held in Soroti last year where the venue of the next exposition was discussed, this years' exposition was decided to be held in Kasese District after we shared experiences and knowledge about the situation here. These expositions have exposed the network on the globe.

We thank the team that conducted research on child mothers in Kasese district. They tirelessly worked hard to climb the mountains and despite the terrain, they managed to reach all the corners of the district to identify the problem. It is their finding that we are basing on today in this function and that will give us a go ahead in the implementation of the activities to support the child mothers.

We appreciate you for accepting to hold this exposition in Kasese District this year. This means that you have opened the door to work in Kasese District and the western region at large. KWWN wishes to extend her thanks to the King "Omusinga" Wisely Charles Mumbere Irema-Ngoma for accepting the invitation to officiate at the function and launching the PEAR campaign. This was a great mark on our side indicating that the Kingdom will support the implementation of this project.

I thank the district leadership, the organizing committee that was headed by the district Chief Administrative Officer, the security that was headed by the District Police Commander and all the supporters of this function - CARE International, HIVOS, BARROW CADBURY TRUST and the main donor, the Norwegian embassy in Uganda.

I thank you for all what you did and for your input. We are looking forward to see a change and to work hard in challenging militarism and end violence against women.



Rt Hon ENOC MUHINDO

Chair - Organising Committee

Rt. Hon. Muhindo, the Deputy Speaker of Obusinga Bwa Rwenzururu (OBR) welcomed the participants on behalf of the organizing and steering committee. As the chairperson of the committee, he thanked Isis-WICCE for the work of supporting the local organizations in Kasese District and making the function a success. He said that the district local government and OBR will make sure that they embrace the implementation of the project of early marriages activities until the problem is reduced.

The Mayor of Kasese Municipality who was represented by Ms. Odongokara Monica welcomed the participants on behalf of the Kasese Municipal Council. She assured the visitors for security and thanked the Members of Parliament from Western Region especially the women members of parliament under UWOPA and Isis-WICCE for deciding to hold such an international function in Kasese Municipality.

She emphasized the need for economic empowerment such that women do not live as dependants to men. She noted this subjects them to violence. She thanked all the donors for supporting the function.



“PLAN FOR QUALITY POPULATION BY ENDING CHILD MARRIAGES”

RUTH OJAMBO OCHIENG

Executive Director, Isis-WICCE



Ms. Ruth Ochieng the Executive Director of Isis-WICCE welcomed everyone from Uganda and beyond saying that it was an honour for her to officiate on this day to celebrate the lives of women. She introduced Thelma Owori noting that it was her insistence together with that of Hon. Loyce Bwambale that helped Isis-WICCE make the decision to hold the exposition in Kasese District. She condemned the high rates of early marriages and multiple forms of gender based violence in Kasese District that has dehumanized generations of children's rights and led to underdevelopment.

“As far as we are concerned, that's violation of rights.”

Ruth Ochieng said they were shocked at what they had seen in Kasese after the Peace Expo in Teso the previous year. One of the key issues here that was identified was early marriages. She called for concerted efforts to ensure that the situation be urgently reversed, if Kasese District is to have any quality population. She informed participants that one of the main activities the exposition would cover is cervical cancer screening, which is in line with Isis-WICCE's objective of healing women affected by conflict as a core concern of the organization.

Addressing herself to His Majesty the King “Omusinga” of Rwenzururu Kingdom, Ms. Ochieng requested that the Peace Flag should fly high at His Majesty's Palace, to signify his commitment to participate in the campaign to end all forms of sexual and gender based violence in his Kingdom.

Ms. Ochieng thanked and recognized all the women groups that participated in the Kasese Peace Expo from Uganda, institute participants, as well as partners who were at the fore-front of organizing and funding the exposition. They included the Norwegian Embassy who initiated support for the Expo, HIVOS, Barrow Cadbury Trust and Care International. She specially thanked UWOPA and KWWN for the fruitful local partnership and for working tirelessly around the clock to make the exposition a success.



“THE PEACE EXPOSITION IS OUR PLATFORM”

Hon. Alice Alaso

Woman MP, Serere District

Hon. Alaso expressed gratitude at being allowed to formally pass on the Peace Flag to the people of Kasese District. She said the act of passing on the flag conveyed special regards from the people of Teso, to all women abused under conditions of conflict.

“We are in solidarity with you,” she told the women of Kasese. “We have been challenged to keep talking about conflict resolution, and post conflict reconstruction and are proud to be here for that task today.” The Honourable MP appreciated Isis-WICCE and partners.

“We needed a platform and we needed it badly,” Alaso said. She told the women of Kasese District that they (Teso women) learnt that the engagement goes beyond the exposition. She challenged the Kasese women to continue with this commitment. The Serere Women MP strongly demanded that government fund the planned action on UNSCR1325, saying it was not enough to sign and ratify these UN treaties and not implement them.

She added that post conflict reconstruction must be aligned with gender equity. “What’s the point of having a plan of action that leaves out women?” she asked. Hon. Alaso called for decreased government expenditure, especially on the military, and said the money should instead be put into social action programs. She emphasized that women should be involved at the heart of social recovery programmes because “women suffer most in conflict.”

She said that there was need for a policy to reintegrate girls that drop out of schools back into either the main educational system or into technical schools to allow them lead a decent life. She concluded by quoting Mathew 5:9; “blessed are the peace makers because they shall be called daughters of God”.

Hon. Alaso reiterated her confidence in Kasese women to be able to do a greater job as she passed on the Peace Flag to Kasese woman MP and to the Guest of Honour, the Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere of the Rwenzuru Kingdom.



“SAY NO TO WAR BY KEEPING THE PEACE FLAG FLYING HIGH”

Hon. Kiiza Winnie
Woman MP -Kasese District.

Hon. Winnie Kiiza welcomed the guests from all regions and parts of the world to Kasese District and said that the beauty of the district is what accorded the entire country the name 'Pearl of Africa'.

She recognized the people that have done a great job in passing on the values of peace in the district, among them Frank Judith Akello (Agago district), Hon. Betty Amongi (Chairperson UWOPA), Hon. Achen Joy Ruth (Kore district), Hon: Yokas Bi-hande (MP Bukonzo East), Hon. Alice Alaso, Hon. Jane Alisemera (former Vice Chairperson UWOPA) among others.

She noted that holding the Peace Exposition in Kasese was not a mistake because the district was badly affected by the Allied Defence Forces (ADF) rebels.

“We must all say no to war, especially the women because it is us that suffer most in war, We always end up as child mothers and widows”, she said.

She thanked the Kasese War Widows' Network for pushing hard to ensure the Expo was held in Kasese and also saluted the veterans that were supportive of this cause. The Woman Member of Parliament pledged to maintain the peace that the district is enjoying presently.

She made a commitment to keep the Peace Flag flying high and requested that it be flown in the King's palace, since the King “Omusinga” is the head of all the people of Kasese district. She also acknowledged the efforts of the Queen's involvement in women's affairs in Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu which she said gives hope on achieving the issues raised in the Exposition.



“THIS IS THE RECOMMITMENT TO PEACE”

Hon. Betty Amongi

Chairperson UWOPA, MP Oyam District

Hon. Betty Amongi, MP Oyam District who is also the chairperson UWOPA said that she was speaking both as a victim of conflict but also as an advocate for peace. “This is a mission that we must accomplish as Members of Parliament,” the honorable Member of Parliament asserted.

She said that the peace exposition was a recommitment for peace because the post conflict problems were still significant.

She highlighted the importance of involving the people at grass root levels in past conflict programmes to make them relevant.

“All this regional and international commitment are fruitless unless the grassroots are playing their part.”

The chairperson further remarked that in times of war, both the government and the rebel groups must stop violence against women and drop rape as a tool of war. She urged government to ensure that regional and international efforts are integrated into local programs to ensure that women are effectively represented.

“No legislation and policy can work without the involvement of women,” she stated.

She pledged as a member of parliament to ensure that the international and regional frameworks are translated into a national legal framework that protects girls and women from violence. She also expressed UWOPA’s commitment towards translating advocacy and available information into law.

“RAISE THE VOICES OF THE VOICELESS”



Hon. Loyce Bwambale
Deputy Prime Minister, OBR and
Women Activist

"I feel a special type of joy in my heart," she said. "The Expo is a reminder for all of us to celebrate the peace attained in Kasese and the world over. For the past five decades, I have known nothing but war, nothing but conflict," Hon. Bwambale told the delegates in her opening remarks. These conflicts which started way back in 1962 affected development in the Kingdom up to areas of Democratic Republic of Congo which are part of the Kingdom.

She welcomed and thanked the King of Rwenzuru Kingdom for gracing the occasion with his presence. She said that this demonstrated his personal commitment to the cause. Hon. Bwambale noted that it was sad that the district has generated very many cases of young mothers who had been raped, defiled and undergone all manner of suffering.

She thanked Isis-WICCE for raising the voices of the voiceless and appealed to other partners to support this initiative. She encouraged the young girls who deliver to be ready to return to school. "Delivering a child is not the end of the road," she counseled. She recommended that the programme be expanded to the sub county levels and the grassroots by the district leadership and the cultural leadership in order to support as many girl children as possible.



“RESPECT THE BODILY INTEGRITY OF WOMEN”

Dr. Thelma Awori Isis –WICCE President

Dr. Thelma Awori, The Board President of Isis-WICCE welcomed the people and thanked them for having responded to the call for ending Violence Against Women. 'I thank and welcome the peace activists and the child mothers'.

This peace exposition was started to have the messages go down to the grass roots people and talk the leaders to look into women's issues'. She said that the PEAR campaign which the "Omusinga" was going to launch at the Peace Expo aims at respecting the bodily integrity of women in conflict and post conflict situations through prevention and reclaiming lives of women survivors.

This campaign has started in this region and the Omusinga will lead this campaign and present it to the other leaders in the African Union summit so as to have it expanded for advocacy.

Addressing herself to the issue of early marriage and child mothers, Dr. Awori called upon all leaders and key stakeholders to be accountable to the young girls. 'It has been observed from the research that almost 90% of the homes in Kasese district have an underage girl or a child who has been defiled and nobody has taken bother. The Omusinga should talk to the men and make special efforts to have them change, which will also change the region', she counselled.

"Isis – WICCE envisages a community where women and young girls are at peace with everyone else and are free to express themselves as they wish without fear of any form of sexual and gender based violence", she noted.

On the PEAR campaign, Dr. Thelma Awori explained that it is on this basis that Isis-WICCE is launching the "Peace building through, Empowerment Accountability and Reclaiming of sexually abused survivors in Africa" (PEAR) Campaign. She defined the underlying key concepts as follows:

Peace:

A state of security and freedom that provides for the enjoyment of women's bodily rights

Empowerment:

Increasing the social and economic strength of survivors of SGBV

Accountability:

Local leaders and governments owning up in terms of policies and resources to support survivors of SGBV

Reclaim:

A reconstruction effort and support system to help survivors of SGBV be able to live normal and happy lives again.

The PEAR MODEL

“MEN SHOULD BE CHANGE MAKERS”

The Prime Minister, Rwenzururu Kingdom
Rt. Hon. COSTA BWAMBALE



The Prime Minister of Rwenzururu Kingdom, Rt. Hon. Costa Bwambale welcomed all the people to the function and in the Kingdom of Rwenzururu (Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu). He welcomed the King “Omusinga” to the Peace Exposition and thanked the organizers for choosing and holding the function in the Obusinga Bwa’ Rwenzururu.

“Today’s function is for preparing to have a real woman and help her to educate her child. It is said that educate the women and save the nation. We are today looking at reducing issues that degrade the women” He declared.
He concluded by calling on men to “come and be change makers” in society.



“SPEAK UP LOUDLY ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN; TOGETHER WE SHALL END MILITARISM”

The OMUSINGA CHARLES WESLEY MUMBERE
The King of Rwenzururu Kingdom

The King, “Omusinga wa” Rwenzururu Kingdom, Charles Wesley Mumbere in defining violence against women said that the UN defines Violence Against Women (VAW) as any violence that results in any harm that is physical, mental or psychological.

He explained that VAW is a global problem. He said that In Europe, the World Health Organisation estimates that VAW is the leading cause of death and injury to women aged above 16-44, He said that it results in more deaths than road accidents and disease combined. He further quoted Kofi Annan, the former Secretary General of the UN that “domestic violence knows no bounds and is perhaps the most pervasive and shameful form of human rights violation.”

He explained that VAW is a big problem in society and a primary cause of many physical problems. In a brief overview of VAW, he said it goes beyond beating and also includes forced marriage and abortions, dowry-related violence, harassment at work, economic violence, trafficking and forced prostitution among others. The king said police are often uninterested in domestic violence unless the woman can show evidence of the violence suffered, which he said has led to the continued perpetuation of the vice.

He highlighted some key causes of VAW in the Kasese region as unemployment and poverty, substance abuse, landlessness, lack of family planning, poor upbringing, sickness, inheritance issues, early marriages and unequal opportunities.

“Banyarwenzuru have experienced violence for very many years,” Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere said, “Rwenzururu fought for many years, lost land and some people have never been resettled.” He said that the Rwenzururu liberation struggles were overshadowed by other conflicts such as those of the National Resistance Army, Lord’s Resistance Army, and the Allied Defence Forces, which diverted efforts from the needs of the Rwenzururu population. This he said, created a generation of dispossessed people.

“When men cannot provide for their families, they resort to violence as a cover for their inadequacies” he said. He clarified that In order to address this problem; the Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu is strengthening its Clan systems to restore moral values to rehabilitate men who drink alcohol in a bid to reduce VAW.

To this end, he said that he has appointed Chiefs to whom Clan Heads could seek advice from to ensure that they arbitrate on issues of VAW in their immediate and respective communities. He added that the Kingdom is undertaking a constitutional review process to include articles that support women’s rights and generally restore good morals.



The King moving to inspect the Exhibition.

He however acknowledged that the Kingdom cannot go it alone. He appealed to the police and other law enforcers to take VAW more seriously, and prosecute offenders.

"I assure you of my full support in challenging militarism and ending violence against women," the Omusinga said.

He asked government to resettle victims of the Rwenzururu conflict, and all the floating population that have been due to the long periods of conflict.

"It's my hope that together we shall end militarism, and end violence against women in the Rwenzururu kingdom, and the women of the world at large," he stated.

He appealed to men to be more patient with their women, adding that: "a man is measured by his wisdom and not just by his muscle." He appealed to the central government to settle the evicted people by government and ensure that others are given back their land because most conflicts that affect women are land conflicts.

He pledged that the Kingdom will continue to advocate for peace and reduction of domestic violence.

The King thanked all the "Banyarwenzururu" people for participating in the exposition.

"We are privileged to host such a big exposition. This is an important exposition because it's on protecting the women," Who do not only suffer during times of war, but also at the hands of unrealistic men who batter their wives," he observed.

He condemned violence against women as absurd, especially in this era, "men should stop mistreating their wives because together with women, they were created as equals".

"It's my hope that if women can speak up above the abuse, then government would support them," King Mumbere said. He urged women to always tell the truth and not cover up for their husbands.

"As long as you tell the truth, you will be assisted, instead of looking for excuses for the swollen faces. There are laws and procedures in place to help you. The onus is on you to speak up!" he told the women.

He appealed to parents to cooperate with the authorities to end the practice of child marriages which among many other issues hinders development in the kingdom.



The King flanked by Isis-WICCE Board President inspecting Exhibition stalls during the Exposition.

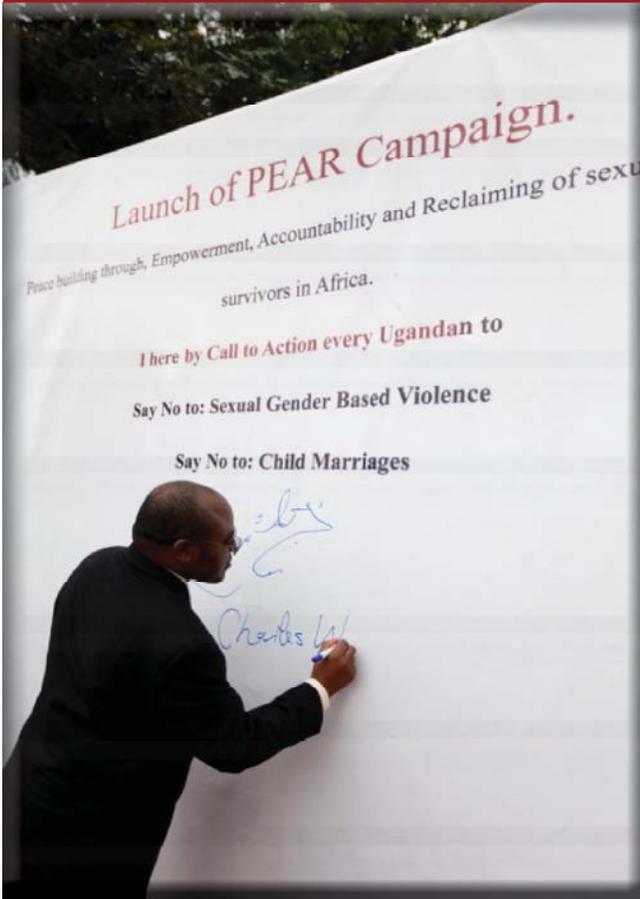


The King of Rwenzururu Kingdom Charles Wesley Mumbere launching the PEAR campaign.

The King's Pledge

The King also launched the PEAR Campaign and called upon everybody to join hands in fighting the bad practice of child marriage. He then made the following pledges:

- He promised to use his clan heads and other cultural leaders in the area to start a campaign of ending child marriages
- He said that his Kingdom was putting in place bye laws meant to help in curbing the practice
- He promised to work with his people in the Kingdom to ensure that all forms of Violence against Women are stopped.
- He said that his Kingdom was open to all partners ready to work together in ensuring that these practices are stopped.
- He called for closer collaboration and linkages to enable his kingdom grow and prosper, economically, culturally and in all other sectors.



Signatories and commitments towards the Pear Campaign

The King, Charles Wesley Mumbere signs onto the PEAR Campaign Board committing himself to end SGBV and Child Marriages in his Kingdom.



Hon. Winnie Kiizza, Woman Member of Parliament, Kasese District led fellow Members of Parliament to fight SGBV and Child marriages.

Hon. Winnie Kiiza <i>Woman MP - Kasese</i>	Total commitment to ending sexual and gender based violence
Hon. James Mbahimba <i>MP - Kasese</i>	Lets all commit ourselves towards ending SGBV
Akello Judith Franca <i>Woman MP Agago</i>	Let us all respect girls; Do not defile them, Fight SGBV
Nyakikongoroo Rosemary <i>Woman MP Sheema</i>	Speak out when you see defilement and Rape. Do not Keep quiet
Ruth Achieng <i>Woman MP Kole</i>	Government, respond to victims of rape and abuse in conflict; stop SGBV
Olum Alex <i>Chairman LCV Lira</i>	To forward the fight against child mothers to the Local Government Association plenary session.
Kasese War Widows Network	Its all our responsibility, Lets all work to end SGBV
TEWPA	Please keep girls in school, Fight Child marriages for national growth
UWOPA	Journey against SGBV in Kasese starts here; We shall accomplish it
TAKS & CARE	
ICCO	Men and Women, lets all commit to ending SGBV
TEWPA, Gertrude	Child marriage is a short term Project, Lets fight to keep our Children safe from it
LWODA	Girls and Boys should all be treated equally; let us put resources in fighting SGBV
Gertrude, F <i>South Asia</i>	African Feminists Forum, fight patriarchy and Violence Against Women and Children
Jane Kamashamba	Education is power, Do not invest in Child marriages, invest in Education for the girl child
UWOPA, Sylvia K	Become change makers today. We are all responsible for fighting SGBV

TESTIMONIES OF BEING A CHILD MOTHER



Degan Muhindo, 14 years old and Pregnant

I was in Senior I (S.1) when I got pregnant. I am now out of school, and living with my step-mother. I don't know where the person who made me pregnant is. My father committed suicide three months ago. He hanged himself when he found out that I was pregnant.

My mother had already separated from my father then. I don't have anyone to help me at home. Sometimes, it's even hard to get a meal. I am now seven months pregnant. I want to go back to school after giving birth but I don't know where the school fees will come from



Jovial Biira 17, Mother of Two and HIV Positive

I was in Primary six, in Kamasasa Primary School. When my father realized I was going to P.7, he decided to get a job in a cotton shamba to be able to get my school fees. While there, war broke out and he was killed. After that, I didn't have anyone to take care of me because my mother had divorced him long before and was not living with me.

A man came and offered me a place at his house and I accepted. He took me with him to Masaka where I was supposed to work for him as his house-help. This man was not from Kasese. Then he asked to marry me because he claimed I was not safe in an area that was not my home. I accepted. I gave birth to my first child and soon after gave birth to a second child. But by then, he had started neglecting me. When I realized this, I asked him that we should take an HIV test. He refused. Then I asked for transport to go back home but he also refused. I lied to him that my mother had died and I needed to go for the funeral. He gave me money to take me and bring me back.

At home, they told me to go back where I had been. I went to a relative. But life was hard. I couldn't find enough food for my children. After some time I fell sick. When they took me to Kagando hospital, they found out that I was HIV positive. Right now, my energy has gone down but I need to look after my children. I am requesting you to take care of my children because I don't know how to take care of them.



Betty Kasulenge got pregnant at 14.

I am a student of Cardinal Nsubuga Secondary School. I was brought up by a single mother after I lost my father to cancer. The biggest problem was that it was a polygamous family and our land was sold off leaving us landless and helpless.

When my father died, I got a man that promised to educate me. I went with the man and he took me to his house. All his promises did not come to pass. I was trapped in his home because I didn't have any means to get out of his home since I didn't even have a single coin to help me escape.



Maria Chantal Masika 18, 2 Children

I got pregnant and later gave birth. My husband then promised to take me back to school. In the process of waiting for his promises, I conceived and bore the second child. I tried to get money to sustain myself but things didn't work out. I went back home and pleaded with my mother to help me go back to school but she too was helpless like me.

I am trying to help my mother, my children and myself. We dig in other people's gardens to support the family. I live one day at a time; I am worried about the future I do not know what is there. I am back to school and now I am in Senior Three. I hope to be a nurse one day.

Maria Chantal Masika 18, 2 Children

My name is Marie Chantal Masika. I have two children. I was raped when I was 14, and had my first child. To get the second one, I was deceived by a boy we used to go to school with. I was 17 then. Shortly after that he ran away. I now stay with my grand-mother. My mother separated from my father and I don't know where she is. I am in S.3. I don't have help from anybody.

Kasiuki Asia, 17

I am a student of Holy Dove secondary school. I am seventeen years old. I dropped out of school in primary seven when I discovered that I was pregnant. I was fourteen at the time. Once I was out of school, life was extremely difficult. I had no money to take care of my needs when I was pregnant. In all this, I managed to give birth and return to school. I sat for my PLE examinations and thank God I passed.

When I told my mother that I wanted to join secondary school, she objected because she didn't see any source of income and suggested that I go in for handwork. I tried to explain but the explanation fell on deaf ears. So I decided to get another man that promised to take care of me and my child.

The second marriage was worse than the first. I sought solace from my grandmother who was very supportive. She took me back to school although obtaining school fees is still a challenge but I am assured of a bright future.

Biira Sarah

I am a student at Maliba secondary school. I was impregnated at the age of fourteen and the boy suggested that I go back home. My parents chased me away. "You are my parents where do you expect me to go?" I asked them. I pleaded with my father but he could not listen to me. I met a man that promised to take care of me no matter what. The man was a primary school teacher. After a few months, I realized that I was pregnant with the second child. He sent me to his parents' home while he was working in town. His parents soon got tired of me and started mistreating me. They told me that they couldn't stay with me anymore. So I went to his place of work.

When I had given birth, I asked him to take me back to school but he suggested that he wanted to pay dowry first. My father said that the dowry should instead be used to pay for my school fees. He agreed to stay with me and he indeed took me back to school. Then he asked me to give birth to another child. I agreed and said as long as he promised to keep me in school, I would comply. I am now in school but school fees continue to be a problem. So I thank Isis-WICCE for remembering the girls of Kasese. I am advising fellow girls to stay away from free gifts because usually after the men have got what they want, they take off. Please girls stay in school.

Juliet

I am 16 years old from Maliba secondary school. I got pregnant when I was fourteen. At that time, I was in senior one. I was walking long distances to school. On many occasions, boys offered to give me lifts to take me to school. I looked at it as an opportunity because I would make it to school on time.

One day, the boy who used to take me most of the time demanded that I should pay him for the services that he had offered. I paid in kind because I didn't have the money. As a result, I got pregnant. Parents please do not take your children to schools far away from school.

Testimony of a Child father

Bithi Jacknus, S.3, Child Father, Maliba S.S

"I was influenced by my older brothers. They never went to school." My father is very old, about 90 years. I am the last born. I come from a polygamous family, so my father could not afford to pay for all his children. My brothers would force me to go with them. They would seduce women for me. I learnt to lie to my girlfriends that I don't eat and I don't sleep so they would accept me.

I am the only one in school now. When I heard of USE, I decided to go back to school. But now am suffering. I have to take care of my daughter while attending school but I don't have the money. Even as I am here, the mother of my child keeps calling that I should buy clothes for my daughter!

"I want to tell all the young men to abstain from sex, to wait for their time." When you have a girl, she will keep disturbing you even when you are in class. For me I was lucky that the girl I made pregnant got married to another man because he had already paid bride price at the time she became pregnant with my child.

POEM ON CHILD MOTHERS written by Amos Bwambale

Recited by Christine Mirembe, S.3 St. Theresa Girls Senior Secondary School, Kasese



So many times in my life
I wandered and asked
Why, why, why?

Treated with contempt, abuse, marginalization
and neglect
But why?

Men! Men! Men!
You divert our purpose
Our career is abused and diverted
And all we become
Oh doormats
Bins for all rubbish
Laughing stocks!

Now, with all hope lost
I stare in the distance
To fight for the invisible, slippery future
Yes, it's spilt milk

Now child my age mate
Two children we are
On the streets

I painfully remember
My mother's and teachers' words
With regret
The voice still lingers in my smoke infested mind
"Stay in school and complete school"
Those were the words
But the monster
Came with this phone
Yes
With sweets that have turned a bitter pill
Yes
With high heeled shoes that have turned a shapeless
"jorojoro"
Yes
With these once modern clothes
That have now faded
And turned cream
With urine and excrement

My eyes were then blinded
I saw no sense
In my teachers' and mother's words
How can I stand the sight of scorn?
And derisive laughter
From my once school mates?

Are you my new hope?
I doubt Your hope is lost in my own
Your father is a dream to both of us
But child,
We have nothing to look up to
Our life went down the drain
That day your father
Threw away my book and pen

Shall I search the trenches?
And rubbish heaps to find them again?

Now driving happy couples
Sometimes stop
To sympathize
Or just to wave to me
To spare and save their crutches and brakes
The dust greets me

Isn't there redemption out there?
Are my books thrown forever?
Can't I find them at the rubbish heaps and dust them
Will the sun ever shine on my side again?
Will these cream teeth become white and afford a
smile?
Oh God help my lot

RESPONSES FROM LOCAL LEADERS

James Mbahimba

MP Kasese Municipality

"I think it's timely that you have brought this workshop to Kasese. The men also have to be involved. Kasese is a commercially vibrant town and there's a tendency for parents to be a bit reluctant about their young girls" Stated Mr. Mbahimba, MP.

The area MP attributed the high incidence of child mothers to the unique nature of Kasese district. He explained that during the harvest and cultivation of cotton, people leave the mountains and come to the lowlands, and live in shelters which are not safe for the young girls.

He called for peer education to solve the problem, and added that parents too need to be sensitized on proper parenting. He pointed out three things that need to be addressed; permissiveness, livelihoods security and need for more research, and data collection.

Amos BwambaleTeacher, St Theresa Girls
Secondary school.

He called for a multi-dimensional approach to end the scourge of child mothers in Kasese. He stressed the need to talk to the boys as well. "They are a menace to our young girls," he said. He asked Isis-WICCE to come up with a program to talk to the boys as well. We should not look at the effects but clearly focus on the root causes of the problem to solve it completely.

Martin Maseruka

LC3 Chairman,

Karambi Sub County

He urged fellow local leaders to incorporate the concerns of child mothers into local government programs. He blamed all the havoc on the poor attitudes to women issues. He also appealed for more funds to be allocated to women programs, at local government level.

He committed on behalf of his local council that the issues discussed would be reflected and said that he would for example mobilize students during school holidays for sensitization.

Kasese Municipality

MP James Muhindo

His first concern was that the men who are perpetrators of the problem had been left out of this exhibition. But also the parents have neglected their duties. He said that during the cotton harvesting season, there is transit from homes to farms and the shelters they people stay in including young girls are makeshift with limited security. During that time, there is no school. So there is need for the parents to be sensitized.

Prof. Victoria Mwaka

Isis-WICCE Board

The problem of child mothers comes from many issues. Some of them are poverty and culture which do not look at child marriage as a taboo. Those cultural programs have destroyed the girls. She appealed to cultural leaders to handle this matter, and ensure that when the child mothers are in school, they should stay and complete their education. There is need to carry out an orientation campaign on peer education so that the girls understand who they are. She asked parents to talk to their children when they are still young.

George BwambaleLC3 Chairman
Munkunyu Sub-county

We thank Isis-WICCE and KWWN for this initiative. If they did not undertake the research, we would not have known the gravity of the problem. What is needed is to undertake serious mobilization of people who can empower these girls through sensitization programs as well as providing them with skills for self empowerment and development.

Sana from Pakistan

Domestic Violence is experienced in all forms in my country. For example, when a woman produces a female child, she is less considered. Even small young girls are married to old men and sometimes girls are sold off and money taken by the sellers. We have tried to sensitize them on the need to respect norms in addition to ensuring that the country's policies are made to work in close coordination with NGOs, private sector and government.

Olemu Alex

Lira District LC5 chairman

The issue of Kasese is not a unique one because this is also a problem in Northern Uganda. When the children were in the camps, these sorts of marriages became rampant because there was no sort of demarcation. The leaders therefore came up with protection ordinances in 2008 which the Attorney General enacted with clauses that covered defilement and early marriages. This was passed on through sensitization of the local leaders on the problem of child mothers. We as leaders identified that there was inadequate reporting of the child pregnancy cases. As a result, the LC1 was tasked to take the responsibility. But because there was need for logistics to facilitate the action plan, there was a call for collective responsibility to share information about the problem of early marriage without being paid.

Popo Rita

Arua

All stakeholders in this matter of child marriages need to acknowledge that there is a problem and that this problem affects all of them either directly or indirectly. This can be done immediately or in future but it will happen. Secondly, leaders that are elected or appointed and those who are cultural need to commit resources to sensitize the people they lead about the importance of values and the constitution of Uganda and their various institutions not only verbally but practically by being role models for the children. Lastly, all the vulnerable girls, women and men must stop agonizing but organize themselves to take up the mantle to stop this problem of child marriages.

Joyce Santa Lakeri, 60, from Gulu

"We must not keep silent!" Joyce Santa Lakeri who hails from the northern Uganda district of Gulu said emphatically, after listening to the heart-wrenching testimonies the girls had given. She further urged the mothers to live positive lives, no matter what they are going through. She criticized the trend of broken families as the root cause of child marriages in Kasese.

"Almost every girl who stood here to give a testimony comes from a broken family; with either the parents separated or living with one parent, or living with grandparents while parents go to make new families elsewhere!" Santa said bitterly.

She said that the moment fathers and mothers don't develop a culture of love that their children can emulate in future, that's when things start falling apart. She urged parents to be role models to their children, as well as nurturers. She appealed to all stakeholders to strive to solve the underlying issues of child marriages.

Mama Theresa Alanyo from Teso

Addressing herself to the girls, she told them to take responsibility for their lives, and "stop misbehaving." She called on the district leadership to get more involved.

She said that all was not lost, but child mothers need to be supported to stop the cycle; so that the children they are carrying can lead better lives. She called for a Social Action Fund for the Rwenzori region, just like the one established in northern Uganda following the LRA conflict.

Sophia Juuko, Woman MP (People with Disabilities)

The Honorable Member of Parliament (PWDs) said the situation must be worse than is apparent. She said that there was need for more data in the Rwenzori region, regarding gender based violence and related issues.

"For example, what's the incidence of HIV/AIDS in Kasese?" or "How many child mothers are infected with HIV in the process? And then "At what age do disabled girls get pregnant in Kasese?" she demanded.

She noted that if able-bodied girls got pregnant this early, the situation had to be worse for disabled girls. She appealed to leaders to play their roles to "stop this evil."

Prof. Samson James Opolot, CBR

Professor Opolot observed that sociologically, SGBV should be assessed from three critical levels; the structural - which concerns our cultures and beliefs, the institutional - which relates to providers and quality of service delivery and impacts on beneficiaries, and the inter personal level - that relates to individual people's knowledge, attitudes ... and outcomes. However for best programming outcomes to address SGBV, it is best to address the different levels as intertwined.

At the structural levels, for example, negative cultures have promoted early marriages in disregard of its damaging effect as a violation of the rights of generations of girl children and children as a whole. Both traditional and formal institutions have directly or indirectly; knowingly or out of ignorance made this possible. Ultimately, many families and elders and children alike in them have joined the focal audience of this Expo - the Abused Generation of Child Mothers.

At institutional level, Prof. Opolot said formal institutions were key agents in ending child marriages and other forms of sexual and gender based violence affecting children. For example, "Schools should educate and nurture instead of providing avenues for abusing the girls", he said. "Health practitioners should advise against and not wait to treat the abused girls. On their part, security organizations like police should not intimidate girls who try to report sex related crimes or associated threats." He challenged the children to always report the cases.

To have less SGBV, it is important to respect have for individual rights and freedoms. There is need for proper parenting. According to Prof. Opolot, it was the role of communities as much as that of parents to do so for the struggle against SGBV to work. "Parents please, learn to care for your children; desist from privileging boys over girls and balance families in numbers and care" he said. Children should be good too: they should listen to their parent. He in turn urged parents, particularly the men to be responsible to ensure they attain gainful education for the children.

Martin Maseruka, LC3 Chairman, Karambi Sub-county

He started with a concern: "For example, the powerful men of Kasese are not here today. This shows that the attitude of men towards women is a serious problem. Women also need to believe in themselves." He also appealed for more funds to be allocated to women programs at local government level. Maseruka said local governments have failed to take into account women's issues in their day-to-day programs and budgets. He added that the interaction gave them serious concern to reinvigorate women programs.

George Bwambale, LC3 Chairman, Munkunyu sub county

He decried the state of things in his sub county regarding child mothers. "Actually it's a calamity there when you see these babies carrying other babies. But we didn't know that this situation was so widespread. Bwambale said. He condemned the practice of the parents who connive with the offenders and cases are never reported to police.

DIALOGUE ON EXPERIENCE OF CHILD MOTHERS

Opportunities and challenges



The District Police Commander Mr. Kafeero takes questions from the child mothers during the plenary.

The Dialogue session provided a special opportunity for Child Mothers to interface and share their experiences with the audience of stakeholders at the Kasese Expo. In a special way, the Child Mothers were able to directly address the Officials of Rwenzururu Kingdom, Members of Parliament, District and local government leaders, representatives of civil society, the police and other security organs, religious leaders, parents and fellow youth and children. This section highlights some of the discussions held.

The District Police Commander, Kasese Mr. Kafeero was challenged by Child Mothers about Police's reluctance to fully investigate cases of defilement and rape that are high in the area.

Other child mothers came up and testified of having been disappointed by the police when they reported their cases. DPC Kafeero pledged to investigate those cases that had been reported but were never investigated to their full conclusion. He also said that in many cases, victims like young girls who have been defiled fail to come up to press charges against the defilers because they were willing partners in the offence. In other circumstances, it's the parents who frustrate police efforts because they usually receive bribes and dowry to give up their daughters.



Child mothers in the plenary session

Honorable Namayanja, the Woman Member of Parliament from Masaka district spoke passionately about the need for a joint effort to root out the problem of child mothers in the area. She challenged local leaders especially at the sub county level to be more vigilant in identifying cases of defilement.

She appealed to the leaders in the area to consider the children as the foundation on which the future of Kasese is hinged.



Hon. Namayanja, Woman MP, Masaka district on child mothers

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION

Child mother's comments.

Hungo Zonet, 19, mother of three

"I am asking Isis-WICCE to assist us as child mothers and give us sewing machines or some money for us to start small projects so as to be able to look after our children. Many times when we ask for money from our parents, they don't give us. We then resort to boys and that's how we end up pregnant. As girl children, we need special care and our parents should take special note of that. Our needs are always difficult from those of boys."

Jessica Kabuho, 15, mother of one

"I reported the boy who defiled me to police. He was arrested, and detained. After two days, I met this same boy walking around freely in the village, apparently after giving the police a small bribe. What's the problem? Where do the police want us to turn to?"

Masika Franklin, 19, mother of one

"If for example, as a young mother I am neglected by the father of my baby, and he is not giving me any help to look after the baby and I feel I cannot manage, what am I expected to do? If then I decide to take the child to the father's home and leave the baby there, why is it that you charge me with child abandonment yet the father is never charged? Why do you do this?"

Police's response

Representatives of Uganda Police spearheaded by the District Police Commander Mr. Kafeero, pledged to follow up personal cases like that of Jessica's and SGBV cases in general. He said that if it is found out that police arrested and released a defiler immediately, then the officers on duty would be charged.

In response to Franklin's case, the police Superintendent said that according to the law, the mother of the child would be charged with child neglect and abandonment. He explained that what such a mother should do in that situation is to report the father of the child to the Police Child and Family Protection Unit, who would then advise on due process.

Officer, Joseph Musana, Kasese Community Liaison Officer

He defended the police that sometimes cases delay or are thrown out because they (police) fail to get witnesses.

"Clans use the police form to negotiate for payments and claim they are no longer interested in the case," Musana said.

He added that defilement cases in the district have been commercialized, with parents failing to report cases or failing to testify. He also noted that some girls usually lie about their age; claiming that they are older and of age. In a place where people do not have birth certificates, police is left with no choice but to release the offender.

Musana also argued that police does not have enough logistics to follow up and investigate cases properly.

Joseph Kirabo, Chief Investigation Officer, Kasese district

He explained to the child mothers the differences between simple and aggravated defilement. When the defiled child is below the age of 12, or when the defiler infects the victim with HIV/AIDS, it is aggravated defilement. He however stressed that both these acts are very serious crimes that may carry the maximum sentence of life in prison or even death.

Kirabo also said that fighting crime was not the sole responsibility of the police. For example, the community may report the case, police investigates and the judiciary (courts) makes the ruling.

LAUNCHING OF RESEARCH REPORTS

Isis-WICCE REPORT

Early Marriage and its Impact on Development



Juliet Were of Isis-WICCE presenting the findings of the study.



Prof. Mwaka hands over a copy of Isis-WICCE report as the vice Chairperson LC5 Kasese look on.

The research "*Early Marriage and its Impact on Development: The case of Kasese District*" was conducted by Isis-WICCE with the overall objective of establishing the impact of early marriage on development in Kasese district.

The specific objectives of the study were: to examine the conditions and factors that sustain early marriage in Kasese; to document the experiences of early marriage among affected girls and how it impacts on their rights and to establish the extent to which early marriage has impacted on economic and social development in Kasese.

The study areas were Busongora North –Maliba and Bugoye sub counties in parishes of Bikone, Isule, Buhunga, Nyabisusi, Mubuku, Nyangorongo, Bugoye, Katooke, Ibanda, Kibirizi and Muhambo. Other areas were Bukonzo East in Kisinga and Munkunyu sub counties in the parishes of Nsenyi, Kisinga, Nyabirongo, Rwenghuyo, Kajwenge, Munkunyu, Kacungiro, Katojo, Kayanja, Kicucu, Kinyamaseke and Nyakatozi in Bukonzo East Sub County.

The study findings show that early marriage was a reality and a crisis that calls for immediate action. Parents and leaders have not lived up to their responsibilities, with the result that almost every home in Kasese district had a girl that had been defiled, had an early pregnancy or got married early.

Other observations were that justice was always delayed, men have resorted to alcoholism as a result of poverty, and absolute poverty has forced many families to trade young girls into marriage for dowry.

Young women and girls are therefore forced into hard labour, sexual violence and marital rape to recover the cost of dowry. Poverty also causes separation in search of partners that can provide a means of livelihood.

The land tenure system is fragmented and too small to sustain required food quotas. Young fathers abandon their families because of poverty. Early marriages have denied young mothers the opportunity to grow into resourceful women hence eroding the leadership base of women in the region.

The study concluded that on the whole, early marriages had a negative impact on development in Kasese District.

CEWIGO REPORT

Monitoring the UNSCR 1325 in Uganda.

The report presented an assessment of the government of Uganda's progress towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 since the last monitoring report that was produced in August 2010. The report showed the gaps that still exist, challenges and recommendations. Uganda has made good progress regarding increasing the number of women in parliament and in politics. The provision for a woman MP for each district and for 30% women's representation in Local Councils has brought many women into positions of leadership. However, the same level of progress has not been achieved and obstacles still remain in other areas mainly at senior levels of public and professional life, as well as in decision making positions including government, diplomacy, the judiciary, and public administration, mainly.

Women's representation in judiciary top leadership stands at 50%. However, when it comes to non-executive level, the number of women dwindles. In the UPDF, women's representation is less than 10%. The study noted the establishment of the Directorate of Women Affairs in the UPDF to address women issues. This is part of the effort to attract more women in the military. In the Police department, women are 14%, while in Prisons Department; they are 26%, with the majority at the lower ranks.

A glaring challenge remains especially on the impact of women in political and executive positions. While for example the 9th parliament comprises 375 members with 129 (34.4%) women MPs, a 3% increase from the 8th parliament, only 2 out of the 25 parliamentary committees are chaired by women. The number of women directly elected to represent constituencies has dropped from 16 in 2006 to 11 in 2011.

This shows that despite years of training and exposure, not many women have the courage to compete with men for political positions at such a level. While affirmative action should be viewed as a temporary springboard to bring more women into politics in Uganda, this has not been the case.

Most women MPs, including long serving women such as the speaker of Parliament have been standing on the affirmative ticket for more than four terms. Therefore, it is really not clear how much affirmative action has worked for Uganda. In addition, while many women get into parliament and district councils with each election, not much has changed for the ordinary rural woman in Uganda in terms of service delivery. This is despite the fact that in the 8th parliament, women held key ministries of Finance and Planning, Agriculture and Education. In the current 9th Parliament, women still hold key positions of Finance and Planning, Health, Education, Water and Environment and Energy. It remains to be seen what will be achieved for women security.



In the local councils, women have achieved over 40% of the positions, but their impact is still minimal. In addition to the same age long issues of lack of assertiveness, low education levels, lack of confidence, there are emerging issues of women giving in to the agenda of male dominated political parties rather than addressing the needs of women. Women in politics must prioritize women's strategic needs.

Gender Based Violence (GBV) remains widespread and occurs at alarming rates throughout the country. Arrest and conviction of perpetrators remains negligible. Studies show that about 60% of women experience physical violence from the age of 15. In all districts, SGBV is actually on the rise. While reporting cases of SGBV has slightly increased, the level of investigation, prosecution and penalizing perpetrators remains low. Likewise, the denial of inheritance rights persists as does early marriages, polygamy and bride price.



Institute participant Henda from Tunisia receiving a copy of the CEWIGO Report on Monitoring Implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Sexual assaults, frequently triggered by negative cultural attitudes and practices are common, as well as perceptions and religions that negate women's rights. Finally, traditional harmful practices including sexual assault as part of courtship, and female genital cutting also continue to undermine the fundamental rights of women and girls in Uganda.

Even in the aftermath of the UNSCR 1325, women's inclusion in the formal peace process remains peripheral despite the crucial role women have played in conflict transformation through associations, coalitions and networks.

The report notes that Uganda has some of the most gender responsive laws for preventing and responding to SGBV, but utilization by survivors remains inadequate. The most notable legislation includes the Penal Code Act 2007, the Domestic Violence Act 2010, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act 2010, and the Anti-trafficking in Human Persons Act 2010. Nonetheless, access to justice still eludes victims and survivors of SGBV, as a number of legal processes continue to work against women.

For example, the requirement to show proof of penetration in a rape case, is something that can embarrass and intimidate most women; and the requirement for a qualified medical practitioner to confirm rape, in a country where the doctor patient ratio is 1:15,000 is unrealistic. The effect is that many women choose not to report SGBV cases at all.

CECORE REPORT

Conflict on Natural Resources



Rose Othieno of CECORE launching the Report.



Kasese has for long experienced a protracted natural resource conflict between the Basongora pastoralists and Bakonzo cultivators mainly over land and water. When Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) under its "preventing Inter-community Conflicts" project conducted a situational analysis in Kasese in 2009, it revealed simmering conflict between Basongora pastoralists and Bakonzo cultivators.

The findings of the situational analysis prompted CECORE to conduct this research in Kasese district in May 2011 to further analyze the conflict. The main objective of this study was to identify existing and potential conflict between the Basongora pastoralists and Bakonzo cultivators in Kasese District with specific focus on land, and water-related conflicts. The study aimed at providing information for an Early Warning Policy Brief on addressing the rising tension between the two groups.

The findings indicate a fragile relationship between the Basongora pastoralists and Bakonzo cultivators. Although physical violence has reduced, the simmering tensions like that of the disputed Rwehingo land ownership whose case is now in court, is likely to exacerbate violence if it is not resolved pro-actively. The study reveals that the main conflict between the two main rival groups is over natural resources, especially land. The community responses demonstrate that most of the previous attempts to address the conflicts have been conflict insensitive thereby escalating the conflict. Although the conflicts have affected both men and women generally, women and children suffer heavily its long-term consequences.

Based on the analysis of the findings, the study recommends that the disputed Rwehingo land between Basongora and Bakonzo be amicably resolved, preferably out of court, in order to promote harmonious co-existence. The study also recommends that government fulfills its promise of agricultural modernization as agreed upon in the inter-ministerial Committee on Resettlement of Basongora.

Furthermore, there is need for capacity enhancement of the local community structures in conflict resolution, conflict-sensitive approaches, and community policing in order to strengthen structures in handling conflicts.

For effective implementation of the above recommendations, CECORE advises active participation of communities in all intervention programmes, especially through a conflict Sensitive Approach in order to ensure that they resolve the existing conflicts without escalating or causing new ones.

“HANDLE ISSUES RAISED IN REPORTS TO AVOID FUTURE CONFLICTS”

Hon. Loyce Bwambale Launches the Reports



Hon. Loyce Bwambale launching the three reports at the Peace Expo

On the occasion of launching the reports that will be part of the PEAR campaign, Hon. Loyce Bwambale said that there was need to understand and handle the identified conflicts to avoid future conflict.

“Mishandling these causes identified in the reports will perpetuate the conflicts,” she said.

She noted, however, that there was a gap in skills needed to handle such conflicts hence the need to train and support the systems to address these conflicts.

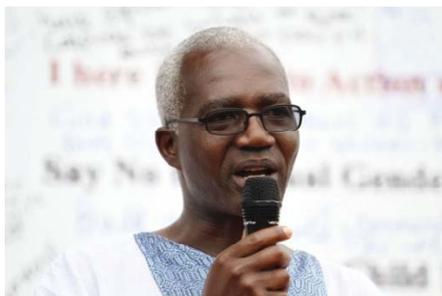
She committed on behalf of the Rwenzuru Kingdom to facilitate trainers in conflict resolution. She noted that Kasese district has already started the campaign through the radio stations and communities by mobilizing men to be change agents through the “we can campaign”.

She called for reconciliation in the Rwenzuru kingdom, and urged religious leaders, media and communities to unite for this cause. Hon. Bwambale called upon every one to invest efforts in the prevention of violence against women.

Copies of the three reports were then given to delegates representing the different countries including Canada, Zimbabwe, Tunisia, India, and Cote de' voire

PRESENTATIONS AND KEY MESSAGES

Keynote Address – “Global Sexual and Gender Based Violence”



Prof. Samson James Opolot - CBR

Prof. Opolot, a Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Basic Research (CBR), defined SGBV as any form of violence which targeted victims because of their sex. He said that it was a common misconception to stress that SGBV was only violence against women and girls which isn't the case.

But he noted that it is true that women constitute the majority of the victims. He stressed that SGBV is a global challenge only changing form and content in different settings.

Prof. Opolot said SGBV has a negative impact on lives of those affected. Top on the list is deformity and disability, psychosocial torture, street children, early marriages and young mothers and ultimately lack of development. According to the World Health Organization, SGBV is anything related to forceful sexual acts, including thinking about committing violence as constituting a violation. SGBV goes as far as trafficking which is exploiting sexuality for commercial reasons. He said perpetrators are usually people known to the victims.

He identified the trends of SGBV as being prevalent in poverty and conflict stricken areas. He also said that SGBV was present in liberal industrialized as well as in conservative religious societies. He noted that in most societies, monolithic sexist cultures such as patriarchy have elements that perpetuate sexual hierarchies, downgrading and using women and disrespect of their freedoms and sexual rights.

“This transforms easily into SGBV during times of conflict as people will use rape as a method of intimidation and settling scores.”

Closer to home, in Kasese district, he said violence takes many forms including coercion, desertion, high rates of defilement and rape, wife and child battering, denying women rights to control and own resources, trauma and child mothers/child fathers.

The drivers of the vice include among others; militarized societies or conflict areas. Poverty has also been a chronic challenge because it is the reason some parents give away their children. Other drivers that were identified include substance abuse, alcoholism, the culture of early marriages, and having women who are overburdened with responsibility.

Key perpetrators of SGBV in Kasese include husbands, step parents, male relatives, teachers and cultural leaders who condone early marriages.



"The culture of silence perpetuates the vice of SGBV"
Opolat Samson.

In addition, Professor Opolot decried the high levels of SGBV in Kasese district. Nevertheless he acknowledged that of late, the response to SGBV has been good, as evidenced by the growing number of good initiatives in place.

Among them are the respect and enforcement of the Uganda Constitution, which criminalizes SGBV and supported the emergence of successful local initiatives like the Kasese War Widows Network.

He also noted that the structure of the Obusinga bwa Rwenzururu in their constitution denounces SGBV and takes women's rights into account, which is commendable for a cultural institution. The district local government, although aware of the problem, still needs a pat on the back by partners such as Isis-WICCE to become more proactive.

However, he said there were a number of challenges to these initiatives to combat SGBV.

"The culture of silence has perpetuated the vice. SGBV is viewed as a taboo in society and survivors prefer to keep quiet," he said.

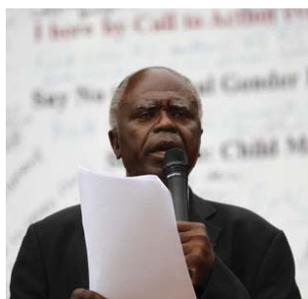
The other obstacle is corruption, where there's a lot of collusion among mediators at both police and family level. This is made worse by the inability of most women to afford litigation costs.

Prosecution of offenders is difficult because of lack of national birth certificates and yet parents lie about their children's age in order to get money from the perpetrators.

Maternal Health and Mortality in the OBR

Hon. Enoc Muhindo Minister of Health

Rwenzururu Kingdom



Mr. Muhindo said that Maternal mortality is an aspect of maternal health, which itself is an aspect of the wider phenomenon of reproductive health. Reproductive health is the totality of concerns surrounding sexuality. It is the complete physical, mental and social wellbeing of the human being, including the reproductive systems, processes and functions at all stages of life.

Reproductive health is gender neutral. Maternal mortality is the loss of a female due to the child bearing process. It is the death of a mother that occurs during pregnancy and delivery or soon after delivery.

The importance of maternal health

1. Life is a fundamental human right. Termination of life is therefore a violation of that right.
2. Mothers are the progenitors of life. Their life is therefore a very important component of the quality of life of the newborn. Mothers are the receptacles where new life begins and they provide the initial environment in which the quality of life is determined.

Maternal health issues of concern in the Kingdom.

He noted that maternal mortality and infant mortality rates are very high. He said that this is because maternal health facilities are insufficient. There is only one government referral hospital at district level. Its location at the border of Uganda and DRC at Bwera means that it serves more than Kasese district as it gets an overflow from DRC.

This puts a strain onto the maternal health service providers. Maternal health care providers are few. There is only one gynecologist in the district and midwives are also scanty. Many people in the district are very poor and live below the poverty line. There is a high incidence of early marriage /early motherhood.

The Drivers of high maternal mortality rates in the kingdom

The most common causes of maternal mortality include; hemorrhage (excessive bleeding during or after delivery), abortion /miscarriage, high blood pressure, obstructed labor and infections.

Mr. Muhindo noted that whereas the above causes are controllable, they are aggravated by lack of antenatal care, delivery care, and postnatal care.

In turn, these drivers are determined by limited infrastructure. There is only one government referral hospital (Bwera). The other two hospitals (Kagando and Kilembe) are private and commercial.

The human resource and landscape challenges,

There is only one specialist gynecologist at Kagando Hospital and few qualified midwives. This strains the few available midwives, who because they serve for long hours and get fatigued, they are many times rude to mothers. This leads to many mothers preferring the services of traditional birth attendants (TBAs). While the TBAs have done and continue to do a lot of good work in the kingdom, they are not be able to handle some of the complicated cases.

The landscape is another factor in the high incidence of maternal mortality. There are some difficult slopes that are cumbersome to a pregnant mother to climb to and from the health units. The inaccessibility of some of the areas (no roads, no telephone network etc) stand in the way of trained personnel as well. In case of emergencies, rushing the patients to the nearest health centre in the mountains which are inaccessible remains a challenge.

The long history of conflicts has affected production and displacement of people. During the wars, there had been discontinuation of certain economic activities. But the social demands and costs continue to escalate making it hard to address reproductive health issues.

A recent research conducted in two of the sub-counties in the district by Isis-WICCE has revealed that girls as young as 12 can get pregnant here. This has led to the scourge of early motherhood and sometimes early marriage. Early marriage was a tradition embedded in the Rwenzuru cultures where young girls would serve as baby-sitters for their aunts. But as soon as the girl 'became a woman', the aunt's husband would take her on.

This was preferred to sharing a husband with a stranger. There were other traditional factors that led to early marriage; including the false belief that carnal knowledge with a young girl rejuvenated blood circulation in old men.

Today these factors have been exacerbated by, among other factors like wars, behaviors that accentuate sexuality like provocative dressing, pornography and substance abuse.

Nutrition is another cause of maternal deaths in Kasese district. Rwenzuru kingdom as a whole is endowed naturally and in terms of food. Today, however, man is extremely selective as to what to eat and many a time, man eats what is "tasty" but not necessarily health-building. Pregnant mothers may develop complications related to nutrition. Many become anemic and too weak to deliver unaided, which because of other factors may lead to maternal death.

Way Forward

Mr. Muhindo said that the peace exposition in the district should be used as an eye opener. The exposition is a positive step in creating awareness about the early marriage scourge and child motherhood. He recommended that the Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs) that still attend to over 50% of the mothers should as a matter of priority, be brought on board.

Existing facilities (health centers, roads and communication systems) should be improved and new ones put up to enable accessibility especially in the highland areas. The OBR and local leaders should not wait for government funding; they should put wood bridges across the Mountain Rivers.

As a long term project, the local exploitation of the high velocity streams as they cascade down the mountains should be considered to encourage the construction of Hydro Electric Power stations. This will encourage qualified personnel to be willing to work at the mountain health facilities.

TRADITIONAL BIRTH ATTENDANTS



*Gertrude Kanuge, TBA from Munkunyu
Sub county*

Traditional birth attendants are very important in the lives of people in Kasese. Majority of the people live in the villages without access to proper health facilities. They also cannot afford the cost of going to a hospital for delivery.

Traditional birth attendants therefore remain a major option for most of the residents. During the exposition, the TBAs called upon government to officially recognize them and provide them with the facilities to enable them carry out their supportive role in these communities.

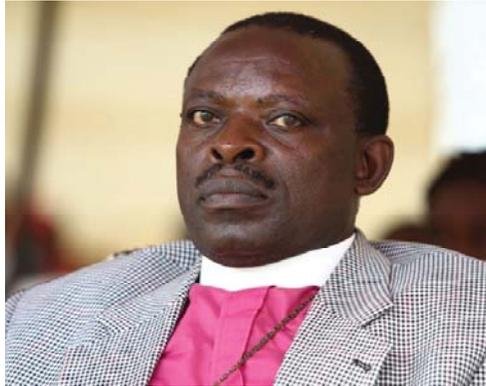
"We have been assisting mothers to deliver. I was trained as a birth attendant about 30 years ago. Our skill follows through the family line because my mother was a traditional birth attendant and I got a lot of training from her. Today, the situation is almost like in the past. We help those expectant mothers who are poor and cannot manage to travel to hospital or even afford the costs that are charged. Although mothers must provide their own gloves and polythene paper necessary to protect ourselves from HIV and AIDS, our charges are modest and affordable by many.

I believe that as long as the conditions of health in the mountains remain as they are today, then we are still relevant. Therefore, we need to be supported by all means;" noted Gertrude.

“TAKE THE ISSUE OF CHILD MOTHERS SERIOUSLY AND PREVENT CRIMES THAT LEAD TO GBV.”

The Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese

Rt. Rev. Bishop Jackson Nzeberende



The four day exposition was officially closed by the Bishop of South Rwenzori Diocese Rt. Rev. Jackson Nzerebende. In his closing remarks, the bishop appraised the efforts of Isis-WICCE and sponsors of the program and the function that has lasted for four days in Kasese district and the Rwenzori region at large. He recognized the presence of Mgr. Landus Bwambale of Kasese catholic diocese.

The Bishop recognised the problem of child marriages in Kasese district. He said that what these girls did was not good noting that in some cultures, they would have been killed. He said the groups of young mothers are of two categories, the forced and those who willingly gave in. He said that as members of society that have come together and learnt their problems, there is need to unite and look into the issues that are at the base of the problem. He noted that those issues should be prioritized which may lead to the prevention of the occurrence of the situation.

He appealed to the girls to reconcile with their parents and, not to add more children on what they have, but to commit themselves to Jesus Christ, get saved and go back to school. The bishop appealed to the men who go for young girls to stop as it has a major negative impact on the young girls health and affects their future.

He requested the key stakeholders to design projects that will help these girls live better lives and have hope in the future. The Bishop urged all stakeholders to take the issue of child mothers seriously in addition to preventing crimes that lead to GBV.

From (R-L) Ruth Achieng, Isis-WICCE, Rt. Rev Nzerebende, Lillian Mpabulungi, CARE, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Soroti at the closing ceremony.



RESPONDING TO NEEDS OF POST-WAR SURVIVORS

Hand Over Of House To Melika



Melika lived in this shack until she came in contact with Isis-WICCE.



A newly constructed house by Isis-WICCE for Melika Biira.



Ruth Ochieng (left), Hon Rosemary Nyikongoroo, Melika Biira, Teddy Kiswahili, Naome Mbambu assisting Hon. Loyce Bwambale while cutting the tape to open the new home for Melika Biira

Melika Biira is a war widow who lost her husband during the peak of the ADF war that started in 1996. Her family was displaced and two of her children were also abducted by the rebels and have never resurfaced up to today. Today, she also looks after three of her grand children who remained when her children were abducted. She has since been living a difficult life in a temporary shelter that sympathisers donated to her in Kamaiba Ward in Kasese town. When the Isis-WICCE team first came in contact with her during the verification exercise in preparation for the expo, they were moved by her story and condition.

Isis-WICCE decided to mobilize resources to help the old lady secure a plot of land and a new home from where she can continue rebuilding her life and look after her grand children; Bwanbale Steven in P.5, Kambale Geoffrey in P.5 and Kabugho Gorretti in P.3. Isis-WICCE went on and procured a plot for her in Katodoba village, Nyakabingo II Central Division in Kasese town where a modest three roomed house was constructed for her.

The new home sits on 1/8 acre of land, where she will also have enough space to grow some food.

DIALOGUE ON CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS

Before the official handover, Hon Loyce Bwambale, Hon Rosemary Nyakikongolo of Shema and Hon. Jane Alisemera former woman MP Bundibugyo together with the director of Isis-WICCE Ruth Achieng and other local leaders took off time to deliberate on the question of rights and citizenship.

They pondered about the absence of a proper system of governance that provides for the needs of all its citizens especially those in need of help like the elderly and those displaced by war and conflict. Local leaders around like the Deputy Chairperson LCV Ms Naome Mbambu were challenged to come up with elaborate policies that take into consideration the needs of such people like the elderly and war widows. They all commended Isis-WICCE for the initiative of giving the shelter to the war widow.

Ms Mbambu pledged to oversee that the old lady Melika Biira settles well and is protected while at her new home. In her remarks in Lukonjo about her new home, Melika thanked Isis-WICCE and KWWN for the greatest prize in her life. "God comes in these different forms. There is no way I can explain this other than relating it to God. I am so happy because my grand children and I have been given new life and a new beginning. God bless you", she said.

EXPOSITION SIDELINE ACTIVITIES

CERVICAL CANCER SCREENING



Women from Kasese who turned up for the cervical & Breast cancer screening.

Isis WICCE partnered with a team of two experienced gynecologists; Dr. Tom Otim from Mbale hospital and Dr. Kapuru from Kagando hospital to carry out a cervical cancer screening camp during the 2nd peace exposition. The two doctors were assisted by 7 midwives from Mbale Hospital, Fort Portal hospital, Kagando hospital and St. Paul's health centre 4 in Kasese district.

Cancer is among the growing health disasters affecting women in Uganda as well as other countries of the world.

"In Uganda, most of the women that come for cervical cancer screening come when it is too late. Just like most cancers, cancer of the cervix gets the person silently and the victims are unaware until the symptoms start showing. Therefore, the earlier the woman reports to the hospital, the better." Dr Tom Otim said.

A total number of 601 women turned up over the four days of the Expo for cervical and breast cancer screening and other ailments. Some women were checked for other gynecological problems as well. Some referrals were made to Kagando Hospital. One special case that was referred was that of a woman who had cancer of the cervix and had been earlier operated upon at Kilembe Hospital but the cancer had recurred.



Midwives screening one of the women who turned up for the cancer screening.

"I saw the announcement on the TV yesterday. An old woman told me that they were carrying out cervical cancer screening. I therefore decided to leave work early and come here. I haven't heard of any screening in Kasese, so I think this is a great opportunity," Sharon Biira, NAADS employee.

Even if most of the women were from poor socio-economic class, a good number of them were working women as well. They said they had never got the opportunity to get cervical cancer screening in Kasese district, and therefore had to use this chance.

Over the four days of the exposition, hundreds of women would show up at sunrise, and endure the hot Kasese sun throughout the day as they awaited their turn for checkup. "At one point we ran out of testing kits that we had prepared for the day", "We had to get more kits." Dr. Kapuru of Kagando hospital said.

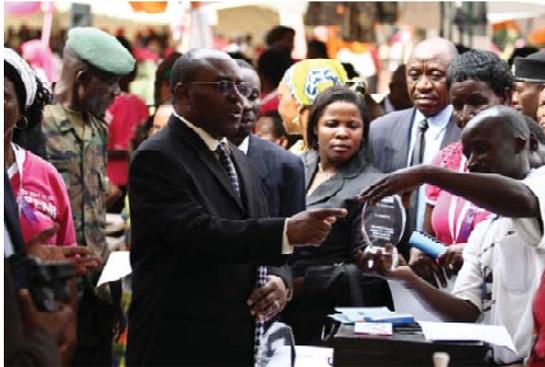
BUILDING A MOVEMENT OF GRASSROOTS WOMEN ACTIVISTS

This session was facilitated by Hope Kigudu of Hope Africa based in Zimbabwe. The participants were grouped into three categories according to the languages they spoke; Nepali, French and English. The different groups were given case studies on movement building and were requested to analyze them. This was intended to portray how in each case, movement building could be done. Group one of the English speaking, were tasked to find out what has struck them most about the way grassroots were organized. The group noted that there was need for psycho social support, reconciliation of offenders and their families, the collective actions of communities and linking leaders and the people. The case study indicated the spirit of voluntarism among the groups that had to source for funds. Another lesson learnt from the case study was the need for clear vision that is strong and compelling to building commitment so that the objectives of the organization are not quickly forgotten. The group also noted that community participation was paramount and were challenged not to think for the people but rather involve the people in the planning for what is beneficial for their community. Reconciliation of families even after a case has been won was yet another important tip for movement building. The presenter concluded by indicating that collective action was a pillar to movement building.

The second group was French speaking. They analyzed reasons why grassroots in Kenya were formed. This group identified the critical objectives that led to the editing of the land Laws of 1980 and these were to; work on the failures contained in this Law because the law was based on patriarchal norms. This worked with the interpretation of laws, which was mainly by men, yet men were not ready to work on gender issues. These were therefore not favorable for women's autonomy. The case study indicated that because of HIV, women were being disinherited. Therefore, the woman and her children were left without any inheritance. The third group was Nepali speaking. They analyzed strategies to protect women. From the text, they identified that there was need for; arbitration to ensure that disinherited women were protected, organizing the community to meet with members of different groups; those in agriculture (tea plantation), and fundraising at family level, including having women in the community who were keeping an eye and reporting cases of violence against women. "If one doesn't have people at community level, they will not know what to do", Having paralegals to help women with minor cases was yet an important strategy that was raised.

A case study was given to show how the land and property tenure was handled. The example of Kenya would be very helpful. Women need to work together only if there was a strong foundation where they were encouraged to carry out activities that would help build trust. The women were advised that once they got home, there was need to establish alliances. "But it will be very difficult to work together if you do not have power," the facilitator cautioned. She also pointed out the various sources of power; and noted that there is need for visibility, "If your work is not visible, chances of getting known for support are minimal". She pointed out the need for a clear vision, an organized community that they will be working with, communication, and self care to avoid unnecessary stress. There is also need to identify organizations that have money and can support the cause. She urged the women to always be on the look out of what is happening globally concerning women issues. She concluded by saying that "when you are a genuine activist you use any available funds".

PEACE EXPOSITION EXHIBITION



The King of Rwenzururu Kingdom, Charles Wesley Mumbere visiting the exhibition stands.

Some of the Exhibitors

RUCID (Rwenzori urban community development) - this group exhibited 'tie and die' dresses. 10 women who started as a saving and credit scheme were taught how to make tie and dye. This has helped them to earn a living. Through this, women are being empowered to get over the ravages of conflict.

DYERO- Devoting Yourself to Die - This is a post test club that helps women living with HIV. These women have been empowered to use their hands to create items from locally available items. Among the items that they exhibited were Jewelry (Necklaces, earrings), winnowing trays, and baskets. "We joined hands as women in Kitgum and in 2009, Isis WICCE trained us as paralegals. We have since carried out sensitization on conflict mediation, GBV, children's rights & land issues. Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI) - This group exhibited table cloths, necklaces, bags, dresses and trousers. The organization was an answer to the women's suffering caused by the LRA in Northern Uganda. "As mothers this initiative came in to empower the afflicted".

Gulu Women for Peace, Reconciliation and Resettlement (GUWOPAR) - This group exhibited groundnut paste, sweaters, bags, winnowing trays (odero). They said that their efforts came from a desire to empower child mothers and orphans economically. According to Betty Acan Tino, 'After the training by Isis WICCE in 2009, which focused on post conflict, peace building, management and conflict resolution, trauma management and counseling, we realized that poverty is a source of conflict. Therefore, we came up with income generating activities to promote peace at a personal and family level.'

Through At Keep Smiling (TAKS) – GULU- This group exhibited baskets, disposable and reusable sanitary towels, pots, and a variety of art antiques. 'It is only creativity that brings life; art is therapy for trauma, reconciliation, and above all peace. Thanks to the training we received from CARE in 2004.'

More on Exhibition

- Dyero-Kwo Post Test Club – Soroti. Items included baskets, necklaces, head nets
- Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI). Items include; wall hangings, paintings, art and crafts, ear rings, stools.
- Kole Women's Peace Initiative; poultry products, purses, bags
- Kasese Mushroom Farmers' Group; mushrooms
- Kasese Women in Development

Showing case of Women's Initiatives



The King together with the Board President of Isis-WICCE Thelma Awori inspect the various exhibitors at the Exposition.

The Exhibition is an important part of the Peace Expo because this is where the various women groups get an opportunity to showcase the various skills in industry and production. It is also an opportunity for the various expo participants to learn from each other and share experiences.



Some of the art work and items by grassroots women on display during the peace exposition.



Telling the story through drama

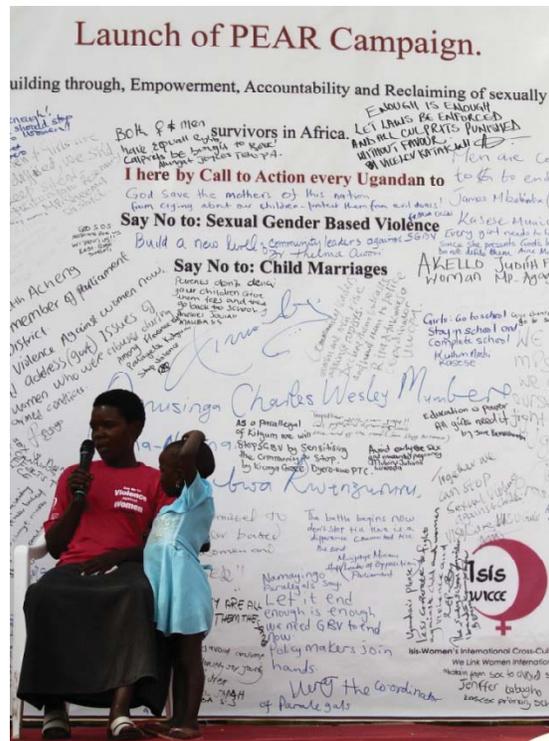
Students from Base Camp in Kasese Municipality staged a play about Domestic Violence. Various schools and community based groups used various forms of communication to pass on the message against Violence and abuse of women.

EXPOSITION AT A GLANCE



Participants from the International Exchange Institute provided a unique cross cultural experience for the Exposition. They shared their own experiences and case studies in managing Violence Against Women from their countries.

A young mother testifies at the podium next to the PEAR Campaign Poster. Several participants at the Peace Exposition wrote statements pledging their support towards eliminating Sexual and Gender Based Violence



Members of the International Exchange Institute wave their peace flags during the Peace March through Kasese Town on the opening day of the Exposition.



A Young Mother take off time to share her experiences during the Open Forum at the Exposition



Child mothers performed songs concerning their lives and requested for support. They appealed to government and civil society to help them go back to school. This was a presentation by Munkunyu sub county young mothers



A play on causes of girls dropping out of school was acted by the young mothers from Maliba sub county



Many women were happy as local female artists performed on the theme. Masika Happy with the Mirror Band led a song that brought many women to dance.



Many people committed themselves to the PEAR Campaign, to end SGBV, peace building through, empowerment, accountability, and reclaiming of sexual abused survivors in Africa.



The Deputy Mayor Kasese Municipality officiating at the handing over of collected items for war survivors of Padel District.

During the Peace Exposition, women groups organized solidarity support especially for those women and girls who were affected by conflict in Northern Uganda. The Kasese Catholic Workers Movement collected items that were given to the people of Pader. They included; clothes, and shoes for both children and old people



Items collected by Kasese Catholic workers Movement for the people of Pader



Bishop Nzerebende together with officials from Isis-WICCE and CARE International in Uganda in a group photograph with some of the child mothers.



Consolidating partnerships with faith based organizations.

Director of Isis-WICCE Ruth Ochieng with Mgr. Landus Bwambale of Kasese catholic diocese hold a discussion on the role of the church in reclaiming child mothers and other victims of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.



Students of St Theresa SS perform while launching the UNSCR1325 Theme Song of the Peace Exposition



Women from Luwero Women Development Association present their song on empowerment of women to the expo participants



Child mothers present for guests during the peace exposition



Time for every one to join the dancing. Peace Expo participants all swang up to the rhythm of the Peace Expo during Some of the major performances

POST EXPOSITION ACTIVITIES

Cross Cultural Linkages between Rwenzururu and Buganda Kingdom.

One of the strategies that Isis-WICCE intends to adopt is to establish linkages between the Buganda Kingdom specifically the office of the Nabagereka (Queen of Buganda kingdom) and the Rwenzururu Kingdom.

For quite some time now, the Buganda Kingdom under the Nabagereka's office has been running a children holiday camp famously known as the "Ekisakate".

The Ekisakate model targets young children with an effort geared towards instilling good morals, self esteem values, highlighting good cultural values, building self-confidence and etiquette among other aspects.

The Ekisakate model is very similar in terms of values and aspirations with the Isis-WICCE's PEAR campaign model of engaging in post war communities like Kasese.

Through the goals listed above, the Ekisakate is Empowering young children especially girls with the power and confidence to be in charge of their lives while being able to make decisions confidently.

It is also helping to reclaim children who suffer from lack of self-esteem and confidence by giving them life long skills and knowledge.

Isis-WICCE therefore believes that bringing the two kingdoms together will provide a unique opportunity that will help in building a generation of young girls and boys in Kasese who are able to stand up against the problem of child mothers.

Painting of Melika Biira's House

During the Peace Expo, Isis-WICCE handed over a house to Melika Biira an elderly war widow who was rendered homeless by the ADF rebels in 1996.

Isis-WICCE travelled back to Kasese to finalise with last arrangements of construction like painting and ensuring that Melika is carrying on well in her new home.

Handover of T-shirts and other Expo materials

During the expo, Isis-WICCE was overwhelmed by the number of people that attended. They came in large numbers and therefore as a result some school children missed out the T-shirts.

Isis-WICCE returned to Kasese and delivered more T – shirts to the school children of Maliba Senior Secondary School.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX ONE

Peace Expo Programme

Theme: *Challenging Militarism: End Violence Against Women*

Dates: *November 28 – 1st December, 2011,*

Venue: *Kasese*

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2011

Whole day Arrivals and Registration

MONDAY 28th NOVEMBER, 2011

08:30 - 09:00 Registrations

09:00 - 09:10 Handing over Peace flag – Hon Alaso & Kiiza

09:10 - 11:00 Peace March (led by Special Guest of Honor)

Entertainment – Traditional Group –Kasese/Karamajong

OPENING CEREMONY

11:00 - 11:30 Welcome Remarks:

- Kiswahili Teddy [Coordinator of Kasese War Widows Association]
- Prime Minister – Rwenzururu Kingdom
- The Mayor
- Ruth Ojiambo Ochieng: [Executive Director, Isis-WICCE]
- Hon Betty Amongi [Chairperson of UWOPA]

11:30 - 12:00 Key Note presentation on: Global, Regional and National trends of SGBV with specific reference to militarism (Prof. Samson James Opolot)

12:00 - 12:30. Interactive session and Plenary, Question and Answer session
Session Managers -Hon Rosemary Nyakikongolo, -Enoch Muhindo

12:30 - 1:00 Launch of PEAR Campaign. Call to action moment

- Ruth on PEAR Campaign
- Civil Society Rep on PEAR Campaign and ICGLR Intersection
- Ruth invites President of Isis
- President of Isis escorts Guest of Honor

1:00 - 2:30 Lunch break Traditional Music

2:30 - 3:00 Good will messages: , The LC5 Chairman, RDC , The Norwegian Embassy
Representative of CSOs, ..ICCO Message

3:00-3 10 Theme song: Presentation of theme song. By Divine & St Thereza S.S

3:10 - 4 00 Official Opening: Special Guest of Honour: , Opening the Peace Expo ,Launch of
CEWIGO UNSCR 1325 Report

Launching the Isis-WICCE Early Marriage Research Report, Remarks by THE KING

4:00 - 5 00 TOUR OF EXHIBITIONS

End of day/ travel back to hotels

Peace Expo Programme

TUESDAY 29 TH NOVEMBER 2011

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS ONLY

09:00-1:00

...Sexual and Gender Based Violence, a Global Trend

Hon Betty Amongi introduces this session within the context of Reclaiming survivors of SGBV and Policy
Hon Winnie Kiiza

Introduces and Invites Institute Participants to share Global Trends on SGBV

1:00 – 2:30 *Lunch break*

2:30 – 5pm

Expo participants to participate in three Separate Activities Below

Activity 1	Activity 2	Activity 3
Building Women Movement	Rights Based approach on citizenship	Poems, Songs, Drama
Movement Building session	Critical insight and discussion	Other Expo Participants
Hosted by: Hope Kigudu	Hosted by DR Kinyanda	Hosted by – MC
Venue: Centre Hall	Venue: Isis WICCE Elderly House	Venue: Expo Ground
Participants: Institute Members only	Participants: Selected Participants Special Guest. PM Lois Bwambale	All other expo participants

WEDNESDAY 30TH NOVEMBER 2011

INTERACTIVE SESSIONS

9:00 – 12:00

Moderated discussion on Militarism & Sexual Gender Based Violence, Child Marriage, Child mothers in Kasese.

Hon Dr Crispus Kiyonga

Muhindo

Hon William Nzoghu

12:00 – 1pm

Drama on Sexual & Gender Based Violence

1:00 – 2:30 LUNCH

2.30 – 5:00

Patriarchy and Promotion of Women's Rights

Moderators

Hon Salaam Musumba

Hon Banyezaki

Hon. Hamson Obua

Eriya Kandere

Plenary session

5pm

End of Day

THURSDAY 1ST DECEMBER 2011

Expo participants to participate Movement Building Session

9:00 – 12:00

Activity 1	Activity 2
<p>Building a Women Movement</p> <p>Movement Building session</p> <p>Hosted by: Hope Kigudu</p> <p>Venue: Social Centre Hall</p> <p>Participants: Selected Alumni, PRDP, Women groups</p>	<p>Role of Church, Family and Culture in ending Child Marriage</p> <p>Plenary Session The Queen Talks</p> <p>Hosted by: The Queen</p> <p>Venue: Expo Grounds</p> <p>Participants: All other expo participants Hon James Mbahimba shares and Other MPs</p>
<p>12:00 – 1:00</p> <p>The queen visits the Exhibition stalls</p>	
<p>1:00 – 2:30 LUNCH</p>	
<p>2:30 – 3:00</p> <p>Recognition and Prizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Mayor hands over prizes - Best in Poetry, Essay writing - Best Exhibitor 	
<p>4:00 – 5:00 Closing</p>	

UNCR 1325 THEME SONG

Never again	We've overcome trauma	From nothing to something
Never again are women of war	The painful memories	We've overcome trauma
But matching forward to peace as	Of pain and torture	The painful memories
leaders of change	And domestic violence	Of pain and torture
Never	From the anthills	And domestic violence
Never again are we women of war	And wattle houses of Tubur To the	From the anthills
But matching forward to peace as	district councils of Soroti	And wattle houses of Tubur
women of change	And Gulu	To the district councils of Soroti
	We can now celebrate	And Gulu
	And be part of those that govern us	We can now celebrate
<i>Verse 1</i>	We are not turning back	And be part of those that govern us
Gone are those days of torture	Now we are women of change	We are not turning back
Gone are those days of turmoil	Verse three	Now we are women of change
Gone are the days	World leaders	<i>Verse 3</i>
When we were women of war	Let us make 1325 a reality	
When we used to suffer	It is time for our government to re-	World leaders
When we used to have pain	vises its systems	Let us make 1325 a reality
Painful memories in this land	Let us have drugs in hospitals	
Centuries and generations of war	Let us support safe motherhood	It is time for our government to revise its
Internal displacement	Improve maternal health	systems
Oh what a life	Oh yah	Let us have drugs in hospitals
We are not going back	Making 1325 a reality	Let us support safe motherhood
We are matching forward	For all women	Improve maternal health
Now as women of change	<i>Verse 2</i>	Oh yah
From war		Making 1325 a reality
From pain	1325	For all women
From nothing to something	You've given us the power to shine	
	From war	
	From pain	

APENDIX THREE

SONG; WOMEN DEMANDING FOR PEACE

By Luwero Women Development Association LUWODA

We are the mothers of the nation
The pillars of the nation
The brains of the nation
Demanding for peace

We are craving for peace
Peace in Uganda
We are craving for peace
Peace in Africa

The women of Luwero are saying
Enough is enough
No militarization we demand peace
The Kasese women are saying enough is enough
No militarization they are demanding for peace
The Soroti women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violence against women
They are demanding for peace
We are demanding for peace, peace in Uganda
We are demanding for peace, peace in Africa

The Gulu women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violence against women. They are demanding for
peace
Apac women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violence against women. They are demanding for
peace
Lira women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violating the rights of women. They are demanding
for peace
We are craving for peace. Peace in Uganda
We are craving peace. Peace in Africa

Involve the women in dialogue for peace
For peace in Uganda, in restoration of peace
Protect the women
Provide the necessities
Protect their rights
And peace will prevail
The Gulu women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violence against women. They are demand-
ing for peace
Apac women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violence against women. They are demand-
ing for peace
Lira women are saying
Enough is enough
Stop violating the rights of women. They are de-
manding for peace
We are craving for peace. Peace in Uganda
We are craving peace. Peace in Africa
Involve the women in dialogue for peace
For peace in Uganda, in restoration of peace
Protect the women
Provide the necessities
Protect their rights
And peace will prevail

APENDIX FOUR

POEM

Base Camp Primary School	Oh my age mates
My age mates, my age mates, my age mates	Don't wait up
Why are you panicking?	The time is now not tomorrow
Winds blow from the east	Rise up for your rights
Winds blow from the west	Speak up your truth
Should we follow all its directions?	Believe in your self
Oh my age-mates, a wrong decision	Cope up with the problems
What a miserable tomorrow	It is not your parent to decide
When you follow the wind	For your marriage
Following the wind then blown to suffering	They are not your peers to decide for you
You choose so rightly, you choose steadily; the future shines	Neither the seducers to decide for your marriage
Frustrations befall you	Nor the situations to decide for you
Your decision today is tomorrow's life	Oh my age mates
My age mates my age mates	Bright tomorrow; Bright tomorrow
Sugar daddies have set a trap for you	Shinning like stars
You look so pretty	Glittering like gold
You look so admirable	Humbled like a baby
You are so nice	Kick off early marriage
Only to seduce for early marriage	To meet your age's smiles
Remember, remember, remember	
Early pregnancy, a betrayal of your smiles	
Worries day and night	
Grandma at the age of your smiles	
Heavily loaded with parenthood	
At the age of smiles	



Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange

Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural (Isis-WICCE)

Plot 23, Bukoto Street, Kamwokya

P.O. Box 4934, Kampala, Uganda

Tel: +256 414 543953

Fax: +256 414 543954

program@isis.or.ug

www.isis.or.ug

