

Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange

# ANNUAL REPORT



2017





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## Message from the Executive Director

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This year's annual report offers an the opportunity to reflect on the past 12 months including the strides made, challenges faced and our collective impact on women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings. Looking back at this year of growth and change, we are filled with gratitude for your partnership and support along our journey.

At the beginning of the year, we set out to strengthen our existing partnerships and make new connections to ensure women live in peace and recreate peace across Africa and in Asia. We affirmed our desire to make meaningful progress on behalf of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the sustainable development agenda and African Union's agenda 2063.

We are pleased to have made marked strides towards our goals and to share some of the year's highlights:

- Following months of internal reflection, conversations and feedback from partners as well as those less acquainted with Isis-WICCE, in 2017 we made the decision to change the name of the organisation to Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC). We are pleased with this positive change as the new name continues to reflect our important focus on women and peace without the negative association the name of the goddess Isis has attracted in recent years.
- The International Exchange Programme Institute trained young women from Burundi, South Sudan, Nepal, DRC and Uganda in support of their advocacy and action on peace and security including countering violent extremism.
- To continue promoting the inclusion of women and women's voices in the peaceful resolution of conflict in Burundi, we trained women and facilitated their strategizing for advocacy.
- We supported women's engagement in the DRC electoral process within Bukavu, in line with the Peace and Security Cooperation Framework, partnering with AFEM.
- To support efforts of Sudan women leaders in government, academia and civil society to develop and implement a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, we hosted a learning exchange visit with key actors in Uganda.
- To ensure the meaningful participation of women and youth in Uganda's upcoming national dialogue, we hosted countrywide consultations reaching diverse categories on behalf of the Women's Situation Room Uganda and the Office of the Prime Minister's Working Group of 6.
- We trained and provided tools to activists and human rights defenders on mediating collective trauma in post-conflict communities in Uganda.
- To strengthen the capacity of women with disabilities in post-conflict Northern Uganda to demand for inclusive sexual and reproductive health services, we trained the women, their leaders as well as service providers to support them including paralegals, police, health workers and local leaders.

## Message from the Executive Director

- To enhance the livelihood of women living with HIV in post-drought Amuria, we provided training on enterprise development and extended material support to the most affected elderly, widows and female household heads.
- Campaigns on conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in Bukavu, DRC and Amuria, North-eastern Uganda included the participation of students and teachers, partnering with musicians as champions, sensitising of communities and holding leaders to account.
- This year's health camp provided cervical cancer screening, HIV testing and counselling to women as well as hosting critical conversations between communities and leaders to tackle HIV and GBV in Amuria.
- To illuminate the often-silenced voices and leadership of women political actors in liberation struggles and post-conflict governance, we documented and produced a book, *Sheroes of Africa's Political Movements* featuring Uganda and Zimbabwe's Hon Margaret Dongo, Captain Gertrude Njuba, Hon Jesse Majome and Hon Alice Alaso.
- We also documented the experiences of women and girls affected by the November 2016 armed conflict in Kasese, Uganda and followed this up with a solidarity visit.
- We continued to amplify the voices and needs of conflict-affected women and girls through the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women and the High Level Forum on SDGs, the African Union Gender is My Agenda Campaign, ICGLR CSO Forum, AU ECOSOC Uganda Chapter and the National Peace Platform.
- To build a stronger organisation and strengthen internal systems in alignment with internationally accepted standards and practices, we conducted a systems audit and started to implement its recommendations.
- Staff members also benefitted from a valuable team building process which focused on working towards an organizational culture that best suits the vision, mission and being as Isis-WICCE. It also supported the team to work towards creating an enabling working environment that would support effectiveness and enhance the varied uniqueness of staff in contributing towards the common aspirations of the organization.

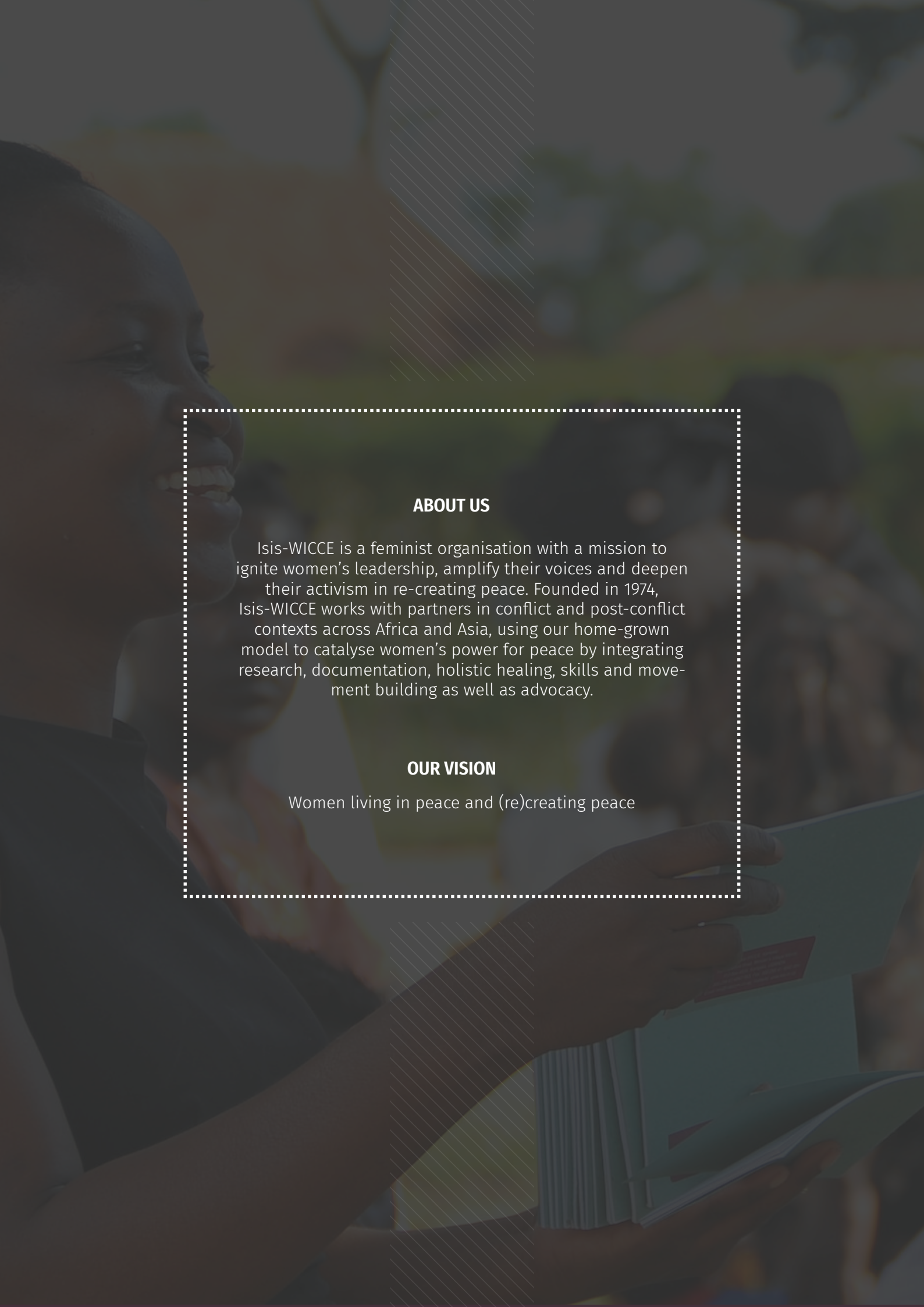


*Through this annual report we share our efforts to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in re-creating peace and we look forward to continuing this journey with you. We deeply appreciate your support, collaboration and continued interest in the work of Isis-WICCE.*

**Helen Kezie-Nwoha**

*Executive Director*





## ABOUT US

Isis-WICCE is a feminist organisation with a mission to ignite women's leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in re-creating peace. Founded in 1974, Isis-WICCE works with partners in conflict and post-conflict contexts across Africa and Asia, using our home-grown model to catalyse women's power for peace by integrating research, documentation, holistic healing, skills and movement building as well as advocacy.

## OUR VISION

Women living in peace and (re)creating peace



## How We Expect Change to Happen

In armed conflict and post-conflict situations, it is clear that power is exerted and women are targeted in ways that seek to devastate communities by robbing women of their power.



For this reason, Isis-WICCE works with women affected by conflict to nurture their dignity and self esteem (power within), enhance their personal agency (power to), harness their collective agency (power with), and develop their influence (power over) so as to advocate for and effect meaningful change while addressing women's issues, which would typically go unaddressed in conflict and post-conflict settings. The Isis-WICCE model is based on the realization that acts of violence against women in conflict and their effects are so ingrained in the social fabric and are multidimensional in their nature that it requires an equally multifaceted approach to address them. Our work then seeks to make a difference in women's lives through long-term engagement with a layer of actors with equally layered actions.

Our method is a delicate balance of documentation, healing and reconstruction, training, movement building and evidence-based advocacy. It is a holistic, full cycle approach based on the understanding that women's lives are not segmented.





## BOOK OF LIFE

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NAME:	ATINGO MARY
VILLAGE:	MISSION CELL
SUB-COUNTY:	MTC
COUNTY:	KWANA
DISTRICT:	MURU





## How we define impact

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The Isis-WICCE model goes beyond rhetoric and is focused on making real changes in the everyday lives of women in conflict and post conflict settings.

- Tell the story from a woman's point of view, ensure that women are not erased from history in post conflict countries and survivors are viewed as vital agents of change in reconstruction processes.
- Create safe spaces for women to share their stories and challenge the silence, stigma, and denial related to sexual violence in conflict.
- Use the stories to demand resource distribution in ways that advance women's rights and wellbeing.
- Mobilize and amplify women's political influence and demands for peace, freedom from violence, and gender-responsive post-conflict processes and realities.
- Add to the body of existing feminist knowledge on women, conflict and peace building.
- Lobby key stakeholders to change norms, policies and practices that perpetuate gender inequality

**Healing:** After conducting research we hold emergency medical interventions to respond to the unique impact of sexual violence and the trauma of war on women. Our medical interventions are impactful if;

- The health camps restore the psychological and physical wellbeing of women who are thereafter able to participate in peace building initiatives.
- Skills of local health workers are strengthened (through training and manuals) to continue providing gynaecological and mental health support to women in the targeted areas.
- Partnership with health ministries and related advocacy prompts prioritising of resources for women's post-conflict sexual and reproductive health needs.







## How we define impact

**Synergy:** We build the capacity of women as change agents in peace building and post-conflict recovery through leadership training, cross-cultural exchanges, research and 'giving back to the community' initiatives. Our leadership institute is impactful if it;

- Documents and highlights the priority concerns and specific realities of women along with the situation of conflict in each country.
- Women are able to define informed responses to a specific concern and achieve the goals of their community peace building initiatives
- Alumnae demonstrate an increase in knowledge and skills to engage in advocacy and action for peace in their contexts

**Radiation:** We contribute to building a women's peace movement through campaigns and sustained support to the activism of women peace builders. Our initiatives are impactful if;

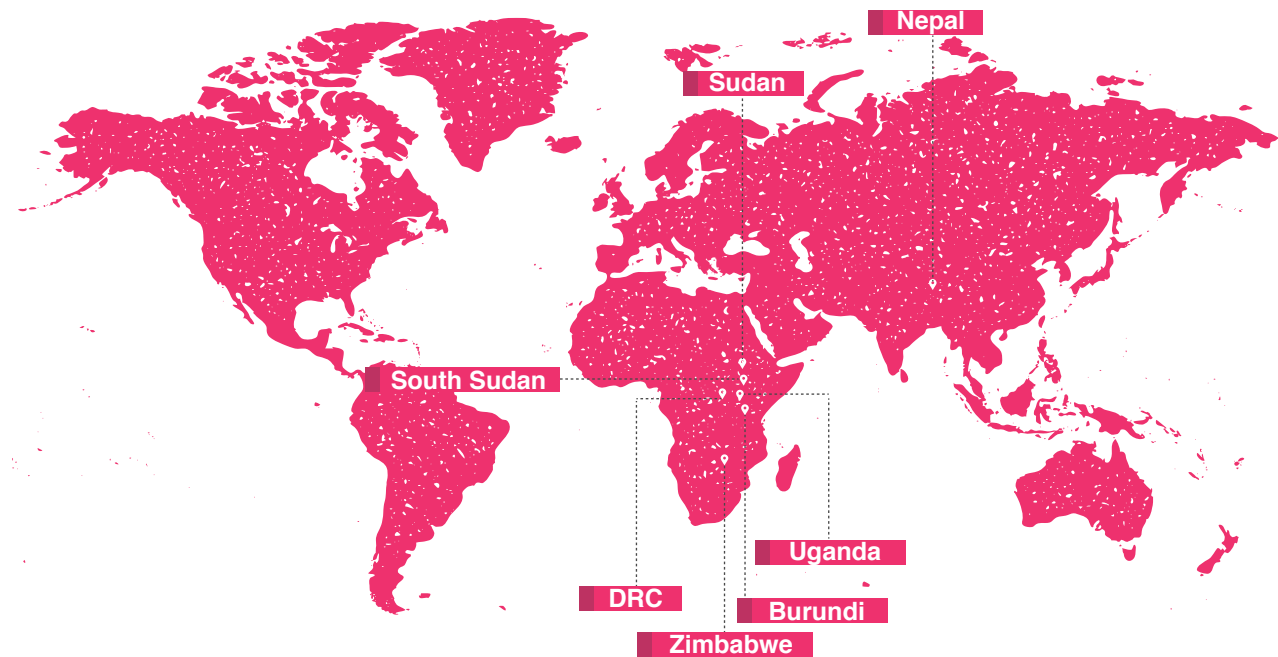
- Women's voices and agency are at the centre of calling and activating for change.
- We create the space for women to engage with key stakeholders and in political work while respecting their personal journeys.
- Women's groups and movements are supported to build trust, collaborate and exchange strategies for gender-responsive peace processes.

**Advocacy:** We challenge norms, policies, practices and institutions that perpetuate violence and gender inequality through lobby and evidence-based advocacy. Our advocacy is impactful if;

- There is a feminist voice (centring women, survivors' concerns, women's priorities and solutions) in decision-making processes on peace building and post-conflict recovery.
- Policies and their implementation reflect women's concerns, and are gender-responsive - include and benefitting all women.



## Summary of 2017 Impact



In 2017 we worked directly in 7 countries (Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Nepal, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda and Zimbabwe), regionally and globally. These are our highlights.





## I. Peace Building



### \* 2 Peace Processes

We supported women's groups and movements to strategise and participate in the Burundi peace talks, the South Sudan process to revitalise the agreement for conflict resolution and to contribute to implementing the DRC Peace, Security and Corporation framework.

### \* 3 Research Studies

We generated new knowledge on women's informal peace building strategies in South Sudan; on women's experiences of the November 2016 armed conflict in Kasese, South-eastern Uganda and; on Cash Transfer Programmes and Post Conflict Trauma Services for Economic Empowerment of Women in Northern Uganda to challenge old perspectives, influence policies and action.

### \* 1 International Cross-cultural Exchange Visit

15 ministers and MPs from Sudan exchanged knowledge, experiences and concrete strategies with activists, academics, civil society groups and the Ministry of Gender in Uganda to making a UN Security Council Resolution 1325 National Action Plan on women, peace and security a reality.

### \* 1 National Dialogue

Following the 2016 Women's Situation Room Uganda, an early warning and response mechanism to mitigate election violence, we consulted diverse categories of women (285) and youth (317) and defined a mechanism that ensures their inclusion in the planned national dialogue for long-term peace and stability in Uganda.

## II. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

### Support to Conflict-affected Women with Disabilities \*

We saw changes in service delivery in 2 parishes after 80 women with disabilities and service providers (including police, health workers, paralegals and local leaders) were trained to understand disability rights, sexual and reproductive rights and to advocate for improved access to sexual and reproductive health services in Gulu, Northern Uganda.

### 4 Anti-Sexual and Gender Based Violence Campaigns \*

We provide public accountability platforms to challenge the status quo and prompt action through the 7th peace exposition with families uniting to address GBV and HIV/AIDS in Amuria, Uganda; In Bukavu, DRC where artists, students and leaders took lead in tackling sexual violence; the Silencing the Guns campaign in South Sudan against increase in small arms and gun violence; the campaign for gender-responsive refugee responses in Uganda and regionally.

## III. Leadership Development

### 3 Skills Development Initiatives \*

15 trained young women leaders monitored and advocated for UNSCR1325 implementation in 5 countries; 16 development practitioners trained on applied drama for mediating post-conflict trauma; 49 women living with HIV were trained on entrepreneurship for livelihood enhancement strengthening their business acumen.

### 4 Women Politicians' Autobiographies \*

We published the book *Sheroes of Africa's Political Movements* to highlight the undocumented leadership journeys and contributions of women political leaders in militarized conflict and post-conflict settings of Zimbabwe and Uganda.









## Summary of 2017 Impact



Isis-WICCE partnered with the University of Khartoum to host a 3-day learning exchange on national action planning for UNSCR 1325 in Sudan to support efforts of 15 Sudan women leaders including Ministers and Parliamentarians seeking to learn from Uganda's best practices and successful strategies in translating the national action plan (NAP) into action.

State Ministers for Gender and Welfare from Blue Nile, Red Sea, South Kordofan, North Darfur, and South Darfur States shared experiences and challenges with Uganda's Ministry of Gender. Women's rights civil society organizations offered guidance based on the experience of defining, implementing and monitoring the NAP at national and district levels. Through roundtable dialogues, a workshop and a cross-cultural event, women leaders from Sudan also learnt from key actors at the Makerere University School of Gender and Women Studies, and the UN Women to define new ways to influence power players, address challenges and align policies with action.



We supported the 'Movement of Women and Girls for Peace and Security in Burundi (MFFPS) to ensure women's influence of and participation in the ongoing peace dialogue processes. Following an advocacy workshop and strategy session, MFFPS defined an advocacy agenda under the leadership of 18 key members, outlines measures to strengthen mutual understanding, and collaboration among the diverse members of the movement in the region and diaspora. Isis-WICCE continues to support their engagement and influence at national, regional and international level for peace.



The 'Women's Platform for Peace, Security and Corporation (PSC) in the Great Lakes Region' equipped and enabled women's organizations to contribute to implementation of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) PSC framework in South Kivu. In 2017, Isis-WICCE and AFEM supported 22 women in listening clubs to track adherence to commitments at community level as a basis for advocacy with local leaders and to amplify key women's issues on 10 weekly radio programmes (reaching 3,700 call-in listeners and received over 2,900 sms).

Women leaders from the listening clubs in Walungu, Kalehe, Kabare, Katana and Miti Murhesa were trained on strategies to advance women's involvement in the electoral process in line with the spirit and goals of the PSC. The 22 conducted step down trainings in 4 territories, reaching 80 women who also served as agents for peaceful pre-electoral processes, debunking myths about women's leadership and encouraging women to register to vote and support other women leaders.



*We sensitise women to register and stand for office but we are continuing our work with the Security Councils. In Walungu whenever there is a security issue like the threatening and rape of women in the market by military and police, we invited women to accompany us and we demanded for it to stop. In some cases we invite AFEM for important security meetings with the Territory Administrator"*

**Nabintu M**



We also supported South Sudan women's efforts to meaningfully engage in the High Level Revitalization Forum (HLRF) on the Agreement on the Resolution of conflict in South Sudan and generally in the ongoing dialogue and reconciliation processes. This included facilitating strategy sessions and technical support to the women's coalition. Isis-WICCE and the University of Wisconsin Madison also kicked off a Research on Women's Informal Peace Building Strategies as part of a larger study including Nigeria, Somalia, Sudan, Algeria to explore women's existing roles in African peacemaking and to see what lessons can be gleaned from their mostly informal local and national initiatives to bring about peace and confront extremism

To mark the global week against gun violence, we partnered with IANSA, Association of Media Women of South Sudan and Organization for Nonviolence and Development to hold a Multi-stakeholder Dialogue on the Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons on Women, Peace and Development in South Sudan in Juba, raising awareness and developing a joint action plan with 35 women leaders, State Parliamentarians, academia, peace activists, CSOs, media and the police. We also partnered with IANSA for the Wear Orange Campaign, an anti-gun violence campaign raising awareness on the problem globally and calling for specific action in the most affected countries.







In Uganda, the peace building and early warning efforts of the Women's Situation Room continued with the WSR taking the lead in defining the terms and laying the ground work for a national dialogue leading to sustainable peace, particularly around the election cycle. As a member of the working group of 6 under the leadership of the Prime Minister, Isis-WICCE conducted consultations with a wide range of women (285) youth (317) to define mechanisms for their participation as well as proposing a code of conduct for the planned National Dialogue.



2017 Uganda Women's Week hosted in the Rwenzori region focused on Advancing a Women's Movement: creating an inclusive culture, right before International Peace Day marked in neighbouring Bunyoro region under the theme 'together for peace: respect, safety and dignity for all'. Isis-WICCE hosted a multi-stakeholder discussion on the situation of refugee women and girls in the Rwenzori region their perceptions of peace, safety and dignity as well as the implications for gender-responsive implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF). The exchange, which took place on 7th September 2017, included representatives of the Office of the Prime Minister's Refugees Commissioner, the UNHCR South Western Region team, civil society partners including War Child Canada and refugees from DRC living in Rwamwanja settlement.

We also contributed to the Review and Design of the new Uganda National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration following consultations with (previously excluded) South Sudanese refugee women and girls on their peace and security issues and priorities.

Isis-WICCE and Center for Conflict Resolution (CECORE) partnered to document the

experiences of women and girls affected by the November 2016 armed conflict in Kasese, Rwenzori region, Uganda. Following this, to mark 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence Isis-WICCE partnered with Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and Oxfam- on behalf of the wider women's movement- to women in Kasese who were widowed or are currently single household heads (wives of the imprisoned) following the armed violence of November 2016. The visit was intended as an initial expression of moral and practical support and to reinforce our commitment to a world free from violence for all women and girls, while reaching the most underserved and marginalized, especially those affected by conflict. The team also offered the women food and hygiene items. The visit also included a dialogue with the 80 women from Bwesumbu, Buhuhira and Kyabarungira sub counties on their current situation, their thoughts for the planned National Dialogue as well as plans to form women's peace groups to address on-going challenges. The women selected a representative to attend future peace building engagements at national level, to convey their needs and priorities.



## REGIONAL AND GLOBAL

### \* **Influencing Policy and Practice**

During the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) civil society consultative meeting, prior to the 29th Session of the AU Heads of State Summit on the theme, Towards a Continental Policy Framework for Girls and Young Women: Gender Equality: A Human Right and Key Driver for Economic Transformation Isis-WICCE hosted a panel discussion on governance, peace and security to ensure inclusion of the unique perspective of conflict-affected girls and young women in discourse and recommendations to the Heads of State.

Isis-WICCE contributed to the Regional Review of the Implementation of the Peace, Security and Cooperation (PSC) in the Great Lakes Region providing information and recommendations on women's participation in peace and political processes in the region. We also continue to monitor implementation of the International Conference of the Great Lakes Region (ICGLR) Kampala Declaration on Sexual and Gender Based Violence nationally and regionally.

We also used the occasion of World Refugee Day to run a social media campaign using photo journals highlighting the gendered experiences and recommendations of refugee women from Burundi and DRC in Uganda, particularly SGBV issues. Following this, we partnered with Care International UK to look critically at the future UN Global Refugee Compact from a gender perspective, using a statement and video message informed by Isis-WICCE's documented findings on South Sudanese young refugee women and girls, to highlight vital recommendations during the Solidarity Summit.

These findings and policy recommendations were also used to call for action at regional level during the 28th African Union Heads of States Summit on Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investment in Youth. We organized a panel discussion on Peace and



Security during the Gender is My Agenda Campaign (GIMAC) pre-consultative meeting and highlight issues of and necessary action for young refugee women for input into the statement to the Gender Ministers Pre-summit meeting. Engagement was sustained as the Peace and Security Cluster Head of the AU ECOSOC Uganda Chapter; through the UN High Level Forum on SDGs as a member of the Women's Major Group; and as a member of the ICGLR CSO Forum

At the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women on the subject of Women's Economic Empowerment in the Changing World of Work we provided a written statement on the specific experiences, policy and programming needs of women and girls affected by conflict. Isis-WICCE also organised a side event to discuss the links between trauma healing and conflict-affected women's economic empowerment informed by the findings of an ongoing research on Cash Transfer Programmes and Post Conflict Trauma Services for Economic Empowerment of Women in Uganda conducted in Northern Uganda with University of Tilburg, Mbarara University, Makerere University.



## VI. Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

DRC

With the aim of contributing to durable solutions to the problem of sexual and gender-based violence in Eastern DRC, we worked with Karibu Jeunesse Nouvelle (KJN), to conduct a Study on the Status of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) in Bukavu, South Kivu as a basis for a campaign to curb and respond to persisting violence in the province. The campaign, which followed, sought to influence policy decisions to effectively respond to the needs of survivors of SGBV, to raise awareness on violence against women and rally community activism to curb SGBV in Bukavu.

25 musicians, comedians and media personalities (5 women, 20 men) were trained for the first time to understand SGBV causes, effects and how the arts can be used to rally for positive change. The Training of High-Profile Artists on SGBV included discussions of key issues to be tackled and possible solutions in the case of Bukavu culminating in composing a song and skit on SGBV that have since been aired on radio and TV. The conversation continued on mass media in 5 languages French, Swahili, Mashi, Kirega and Lingala to widen listenership using a press conference, 4 radio shows and 6 spots on 5 radio as a means to raise awareness of the problem of SGBV and the responsibility of each individual to curb the vice.



**25** musicians, comedians & media personalities were trained for the first time to understand SGBV causes



4 radio shows and 6 spots on 5 radio as a means to raise awareness

“

*In DRC we like to sing about love and ignore subjects that are important for our society like good governance or peace. I learnt a lot about the different kinds of violence and I have embraced the challenge to educate my fans and my audiences as an ambassador for change”*

**Papy Kerro,**  
2015 Vodacom Artist of the Year



To address silence and inaction on sexual violence in schools, students, teachers and administrators from 3 schools in Bagira and Ibanda, Bukavu were trained on sexual violence according to the law, legal consequences, individual and institutional duty to end and respond to SGBV. 3 school debates including training sessions reached and engaged 398 students (160 girls).



**3** School Debates



Including training sessions reached and engaged 398 students (160 girls).

“

*I learned that many of these issues are against the law and now that girls know this they can speak out against teachers who [commit sexual harassment]. Government should also manage the sale and use of alcohol because it encourages men to be reckless and rape girls*

**Marie Chantal, 15**

This was followed by a public dialogue to start the conversation and break the silence on SGBV in Kadutu, one of the most populated territories that experienced mass rape during the war. This targeted about 100 commune leaders, CSO members (including women NGO, political parties, people with disabilities) students, and community members to discuss the problem and possible solutions. The Kadutu Chairperson committed to work with local KJN members to sensitise community members and follow up on punitive actions proposed by actors during the dialogue to reduce sexual violence incidence.

## UGANDA

This year's international peace exposition was held in Northern Uganda and focused on engaging families as the public accountability platform offered the opportunity to reflect, seek answers and prompt action under the theme Families United against GBV and HIV/AIDS in Amuria. We partnered with Amuria District Local Government, Akwenyutu People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAS), National Union of Women with Disabilities (NUWODU), health care providers and civil society actors who focus their efforts on addressing sexual and gender-based violence and HIV/AIDS related concerns of women and girls in Amuria. The 7th peace exposition allowed community members, local government and civil society to discuss HIV/AIDS and its links to GBV in the district while proposing solutions and committing to action for a peaceful Amuria.

Activities of the exposition included an Essay writing competition and debate for school students; a Peace March; Exhibition for local women's groups; Radio talk shows and media engagement on SGBV and HIV/AIDS; Music, Dance, Drama and Conversation Circles closing with open discussions including all for accountability and advocacy. Through the health camp 521 women were screened for cervical cancer and individual cases referred for treatment while 565 received HIV testing and counselling.

To translate the conversations into action, the Amuria District Local Government received the Peace Flag from Kotido district as a symbol of the district's commitment to promote and sustain peace, to protect women and girls from SGBV, to protect women living with HIV/AIDS and to support women to access, control and own land.

In Gulu, Northern Uganda, Isis-WICCE and National Union of Women with Disabilities (NUWODU) collabo-

rated to strengthen the capacity of women with disabilities to demand for inclusive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services. To this end, we trained 80 women with disabilities in 2 sub-counties, their leaders (10) as well as service providers (83) including paralegals, police, health workers and local leaders to support efforts to translate improved understanding of SRHR and disabilities into improved access to information and SRH services for girls and women with disabilities.

In Lira, 32 community activists (15 women) against SGBV in Aromo sub-county received drama training as a tool to raise awareness on nonviolence and influence community members. We engaged the sub-county leaders and secured a Peace Hut, as a safe space for counselling and mediation. In 2017, 27 cases were handled there or referred to the clan leaders and police.





## VII. Leadership Development

### ZIMBABWE & UGANDA

Immortalizing the Sheroes of Africa's Liberation Movements in print: By writing this book we shine a light on four women political leaders from Uganda and Zimbabwe, to learn from their historical experiences as key actors in liberation struggles as well as the new breed of post-conflict political women leaders that emerged. The book traces how these women negotiated, contested and subverted experiences they encountered and perceived as gender inequities all while contributing to crafting nations, building citizenship and political independence. Women, girls and leaders of any gender can be informed and inspired by the herstories and reflections of Captain Gertrude Njuba, Hon Alice Alaso (Uganda) Hon. Margaret Dongo and Hon. Jessie Majome (Zimbabwe).



### BURUNDI, DRC, NEPAL, SOUTH SUDAN AND UGANDA

Strengthening the Women's Peace Movement by building the skills of young women peace activists, women in civil society and government institutions (aged between 18 and 35) to advance gender-responsive peace and security policy and practice in Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda. This is especially important for African countries where the youth form the majority and there is a significant need for knowledgeable and skilled young women leaders.

The 2017 International Exchange Programme Institute was co-hosted with partners World YWCA and Inclusive Security who have a common goal of building young women's transformative leadership capacity for sustainable peace. Participants were trained to understand key women, peace and security policy frameworks, assess the extent of their implementation and encouraged to exchange strategies for ensuring that policies translated into concrete change that serves women. This included a specific session on women's role in countering violent extremism as well as its linkages to implementing UNSCR 1325. Trainees then analysed their UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs) and the status of implementation, following which they put together advocacy plans to be implemented in country groups. The institute also included self-care and wellbeing sessions for the WHRDs including yoga, dance fitness classes and play activities in between training sessions.





## UGANDA

Isis-WICCE also conducted Skills Building for Women Living with HIV/AIDS through which 56 (49 women and 7 men) of Akwenyutu People Living with HIV/AIDS (APHAS) in Amuria district were trained for livelihood enhancement with a focus on agricultural production including entrepreneurship, marketing, value addition and collective marketing. Following the prolonged drought, which affected which affected access to food and drug adherence, 36 of the most vulnerable (including the elderly, widows, young former abductees and child household heads) identified by APHAS in 7 parishes in Orungo sub-county received necessary food and non-food items as short-term emergency support.

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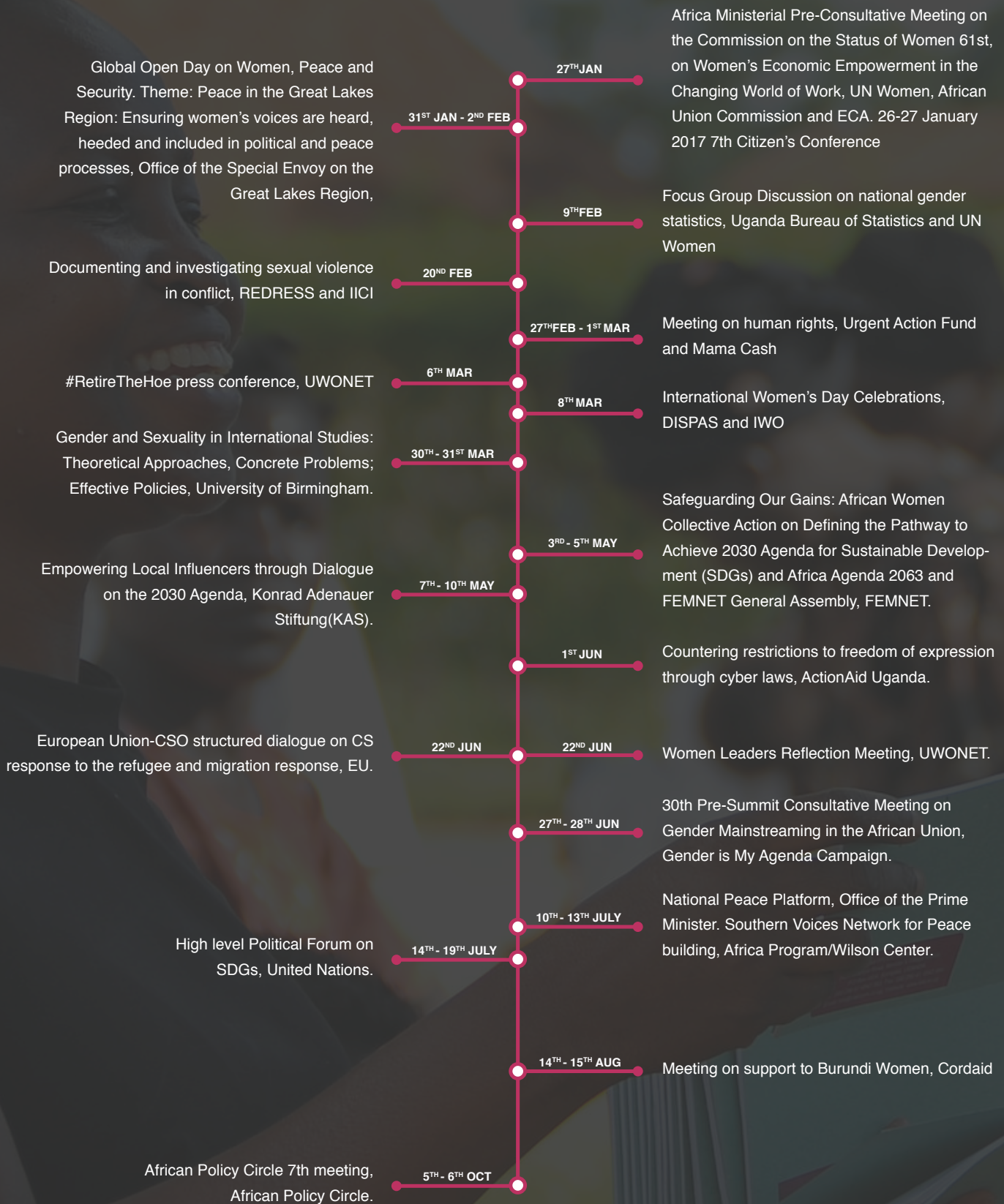
*I was abducted from Orungo and returned after 7 years but I didn't find my parents. I have a 2 year old and I try to dig but it has not been working and when the child is sick you look for money like a mad person*

**Alaso Esther, 18**

To contribute to increasing conflict and gender-sensitive programming as well as applying the Isis-WICCE model that prioritizes healing and a holistic response, we partnered with the University of Turku in Finland to hold a Training of Trainers on Applied Drama as Tool for Mediating Trauma in Post-conflict Communities in Kampala, Uganda. The training equipped 16 practitioners (10 women, 6 men) working with traumatized communities or in post-conflict communities with methodology to incorporate collective trauma relief into development practice and pass on the skills to actors dealing with women and men affected by conflict.



## Networking and Partnerships



## Our Key Challenges and Lessons Learnt

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2017 was not without unexpected changes, challenges and new lessons. Some of our striking challenges and lessons learnt include;

- The space for deepening women's activism for peace was challenged as civil society and dissenting voices are increasingly repressed and in some cases targeted by state actors with threats or bureaucratic hurdles across the board. For women peace activists, this often took a gendered angle, thus limiting their capacity to speak out and act in communities in addition to limiting freedom on social media.
- The context of our work presented specific obstacles for instance, our research efforts in South Sudan were delayed by the outbreak of armed violence and the tenuous security situation in specific states made access a challenge. In Uganda, the timing of our work with widows of royal guards imprisoned or killed during the armed violence in Kasese raised suspicions of state actors, causing a delay which was resolved following dialogue with police and the military.
- In documenting the stories of women's leadership in militarised conflict and post-conflict settings, aside from amplifying their voices and stories, we learned the importance of taking a closer look at women's transgressive experiences and ways of 'doing politics' while transferring those lessons and underlying principles to our leadership development programming.
- While supporting women with disabilities to demand for improved access to sexual and reproductive health services as well as their rights, we appreciated the importance of centring individual and group trauma relief capacity as a prerequisite for women's activism on any issue within a post-conflict setting.
- Through our work in DRC, we learnt to appreciate the value and contributions of progress towards set goals despite the absence of an ideal outcome. While there were no direct changes in the status of implementation of the peace framework, the efforts helped to amplify women's voices and agency as central peace and security actors whose meaningful participation is necessary for nation building and peace.



Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange  
Amplifying women's voice and power



## Changing Our Name

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44 years into our journey of amplifying women's voice and power, we are pleased to share this important news in the evolution of the organisation. Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE) is changing name to Women's International Peace Centre (WIPC).

Isis-WICCE –named after the Egyptian goddess of wisdom and justice- started out in 1974 as a global women's resource centre documenting and disseminating women's ideas, concerns and experiences with the aim of ending gender inequality. This organically resulted into physical cross-cultural exchanges, bringing together women human rights defenders from diverse countries to discuss topical gender equality issues, share experiences and strategies to dismantle patriarchy and advance women's empowerment across the globe.

With the move to Uganda in 1994, the organisation carved out its niche with a focus on women, peace and security. The international cross-cultural exchange morphed into the feminist leadership institute on peace building and human security; the resource centre focused on conducting research and generating feminist knowledge on women's experiences and specific needs in conflict and post-conflict which also

formed the evidence base for women's advocacy for peace and gender-responsive post-conflict recovery in 27 countries. Isis-WICCE also focused on healing women war survivors - addressing their psychological, physical and gynaecological needs - and mentoring women leaders and women's groups to continue their peace building and conflict transformation efforts.

With the move to a more holistic approach (of research, advocacy, healing, skills building and mentorship for peace), it has become increasingly recognized that the organisation is no longer solely a platform for women's international cross-cultural exchange. As such, we deemed it necessary to adopt a name that reflects our core focus on igniting women's leadership, amplifying their voices and deepening their activism in recreating peace.

The name Women's International Peace Centre reflects our commitment to create an incubator for women seeking to re-create peace and live in peace across the globe. The change in name is also timely as the name Isis has been adopted by other actors with views and actions antithetical to ours.

We are excited about this positive change and look forward to sharing our new look and new contacts in the coming months.

## Our Finances

### Isis-WOMEN'S CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (Isis-WICCE) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

#### STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 Actual USD'000	2017 Budget USD'000	2016 Actual USD'000
<b>Income</b>				
Grant income	2	657,634	755,478	654,211
Other income	3	4,705	4,705	212,064
<b>Total income</b>		<b>662,339</b>	<b>760,183</b>	<b>866,275</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Exchange Programme	4	104,010	197,000	101,832
Research, Monitoring Evaluation	5	156,017	219,206	367,474
Information, Communication & Technology	6	104,213	241,901	19,399
Programme Development	7	291,986	249,879	476,487
<b>Total expenditure</b>		<b>656,226</b>	<b>907,986</b>	<b>965,192</b>
<b>(Deficit)/ surplus for the year</b>		<b>6,113</b>	<b>(147,803)</b>	<b>(98,917)</b>
Balance as at 1st January		65,025	65,025	65,025
<b>Total Surplus / (Deficit)</b>		<b>71,138</b>	<b>(82,778)</b>	<b>65,025</b>



## Our Finances

### Isis-WOMEN'S CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (Isis-WICCE) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

#### STATEMENT OF FUND BALANCE AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 Actual USD'000	2016 Actual USD'000
Non-current assets			
Property and equipment	8	86,267	92,616
Current assets			
Receivables	9	29,260	7,353
Cash and bank balances	10	276,279	152,924
Total current assets		305,539	160,277
Total assets		391,806	252,893
Funds and liabilities			
Capital fund		86,267	92,616
Sustainability fund		71,138	65,025
Accumulated fund		157,405	157,641
Current liabilities			
Payables	11	234,401	95,252
Total current liabilities		234,401	95,252
Total funds and liabilities		391,806	252,893

## Our Finances

### Isis-WOMEN'S CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (Isis-WICCE) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

#### STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN ACCUMULATED FUND FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Capital Fund USD'000	Sustainability Fund USD'000	Total USD'000
Balance as at 1st January 2016	137,556	163,942	301,498
Depreciation charge for the year	(13,479)	-	(13,479)
Write off of assets	(31,461)	-	(31,461)
Deficit for the year		(98,917)	(98,917)
<b>At 31 December 2016</b>	<b>92,616</b>	<b>65,025</b>	<b>157,641</b>
Depreciation charge for the year			(6,349)
Surplus for the year		6,113	6,113
<b>Balance as at 31 December 2017</b>	<b>86,267</b>	<b>71,138</b>	<b>157,405</b>



## Our Finances

### Isis-WOMEN'S CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (Isis-WICCE) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

#### STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2017

	Notes	2017 Actual USD'000	2016 Actual USD'000
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
(Deficit) /surplus for the year		6,113	(98,917)
Adjustments for capital expenditure		-	(8,590)
Depreciation		-	13,479
Cash flows from operating activities		<b>6,113</b>	<b>(94,028)</b>
<b>Working capital changes</b>	10		
Decrease/ (Increase) in receivables		(21,907)	43,277
(Decrease)/Increase in payables		139,149	(26,726)
<b>Net cash (used)/ generated from operating activities</b>		<b>117,242</b>	<b>(77,477)</b>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
Purchase of fixed assets		-	(4,889)
<b>Net cash used in investing activities</b>		<b>-</b>	<b>(4,889)</b>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
Decrease in deferred income	12	-	(150,000)
<b>Decrease in cash and cash equivalents</b>		<b>123,355</b>	<b>(232,366)</b>
Cash and cash equivalents as at 1 January		152,924	385,290
<b>Cash and cash equivalents as at 31 December</b>	10	<b>276,279</b>	<b>152,924</b>



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## Independent auditors' report

### TO THE MEMBERS OF ISIS WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (ISIS – WICCE)

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

##### Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Isis-Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, ("the Company"), which comprises the statement of fund balance as at 31 December 2017, and the statements of income and expenditure, accumulated fund and cash flows for the year then ended, and notes comprising of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information set out on pages 9 to 23.

In our opinion, the financial statements of Isis-WICCE are prepared in all material respects, in accordance with the accounting policies as set out in note 1.1.

##### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements* section of our report. We are independent of the company in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)* together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in Uganda, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

##### Other Information

The directors are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the company information, report of directors', the statement of directors' responsibilities and unaudited project information but does not include the financial statements and our auditors' report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

##### Emphasis of matter- Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Use and Distribution

We draw attention to note 1.1 to the financial statements which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to assist Isis-WICCE in complying with its financial reporting guidelines. As a result, the financial statements may not be suitable for another purpose. Our report is intended solely for Isis-WICCE and should not be distributed to or used by parties other than Isis-WICCE. Our opinion is not modified in respect to this matter.

##### Responsibilities of Directors for the financial statements

The directors are responsible for the preparation of financial statements that present in all material aspects the affairs of the organisation in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1.1, and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the directors are responsible for assessing the organisation's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the directors either intend to liquidate the organisation or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Directors are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.





## Independent auditors' report

### TO THE MEMBERS OF ISIS WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL CROSS CULTURAL EXCHANGE (ISIS – WICCE)

#### Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements (continued)

##### *Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the financial statements*

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs, we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the directors.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of directors' use of the going concern basis of accounting and based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditors' report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditors' report. However, future events or conditions may cause the organisation to cease to continue as a going concern.

We communicate with the directors regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

The engagement partner on the audit resulting in this independent auditors' report is CPA Asad Lukwago - P0365.

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Date: 15 November 2018





TRACING "FEMINIST PEACE"

From Beijing to Beyond MDGs

Mission  
to  
Achieve  
the  
MDGs  
by  
2015







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