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# WOMEN'S WORLD



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



## Tracing 'Feminist Peace'

From Beijing to MDGs and Beyond

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## About Isis-WICCE

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

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

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

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

This edition of Women’s World reflects on how Isis-WICCE has contributed to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action specifically in the aspects of the Beijing Platform for Action mentioned above.



*Twenty years on, it is a hard truth that many of the same barriers and constraints that were recognized by the Beijing signatories are still in force globally. There are bright highlights where progress has been made. But no country has achieved gender equality.*

*Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, United Nations Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women*

The Fourth World Conference on Women held in 1995 resulted in the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (BDPfA) by 189 member states of the United Nations. The BDPfA has twelve critical areas of concern to guide the mainstreaming of gender in policies, strategies and programmes; it also called upon member states to commit to the advancement of the goals of equality, development and peace for all women while reaffirming the fundamental principal that the rights of women and girls are an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights. It was at this conference that the women of the world gave significant recognition to the situation of women in armed and post conflict. It was also at this time that Isis-WICCE carved her niche on women, peace and security.

However, the nature of conflict has evolved since the fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing. Twenty years after, as the world and most importantly the global women's movement reflect on the achievements and challenges that remain with the implementation of the Platform for Action, the issues raised in the preamble of the Women and Conflict plank of the Beijing Platform for Action remain very true today, signifying that not much has changed for women in conflict and post conflict situations -

*"Armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world. Aggression, foreign occupation, ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality affecting women and men in nearly every region. Gross and systematic violations and situations that constitute serious obstacles to the full enjoyment of human rights continue to occur in different parts of the world. Such violations and obstacles include, as well as torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment, summary and arbitrary executions, disappearances, arbitrary detentions, all forms of racism and racial discrimination, foreign occupation and alien domination, xenophobia, poverty, hunger and other denials of economic, social and cultural rights, religious intolerance, terrorism, discrimination against women and lack of the rule of law"*

*Beijing Platform for Action, 1985<sup>1</sup>*

The above statement is a reflection of the impact of conflict on the achievement of the development goals which is significant as at least one fifth of the population of the world live in countries experiencing extensive instability, violence, political conflict, insecurity and social fragility. For the first time in history, the majority of the world's poorest now live in a small group of conflict-affected and fragile states (act alliance, 2013). This share is projected to increase from 30% in 2000 to 70% by 2025<sup>2</sup>.

The accountability framework for the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action requires member states of the United Nations to meet on a five-yearly basis to review their implementation, at both regional and global levels, of the Platform for Action with a view to fine-tuning, remapping progress and reactivating commitment, taking into account prevailing global and local conditions<sup>3</sup>. The review of Beijing+20 takes place at a strategic moment at the crossroads of accelerated efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, review progress and gaps in MDGs, and during the elaboration of the post 2015 development agenda and sustainable development goals. The confluence of these processes provide a once in a generation opportunity to position gender equality, women's rights, and women's

1 The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, 1995

2 Act for Peace 2012.

3 The Forum Society for International Development, <http://www.sidint.net/content/beijing-platform-action-bpfa-challenges-and-ways-forward-african-countries>



empowerment front and center on the global agenda.

Review of the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action have been carried out in the various regions of the World; the reviews in Africa and Asia found that government implementation of various global and continental commitments on gender equality and women empowerment had led to positive changes in the lives of women. The 20 years review indicates significant improvement in women's participation in decision making; near achievement of gender parity in primary education; notable reduction in maternal mortality by 45% for Africa; increased domestication of various global and regional legal frameworks aimed at promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls.

Globally, increasing educational attainment and rising participation in the labour market have not been matched with better employment conditions, prospects for advancement and equal pay. At the current pace of progress it would take more than 75 years to reach equal remuneration for work of equal value<sup>4</sup>. Too many women remain without access to decent work, are denied equal rights to inheritance and property and are vulnerable to poverty. Women's disproportionate share of unpaid care work continues to limit their enjoyment of human rights in several areas. Violence against women and girls persists at alarmingly high levels in many forms in public and private spaces. Unacceptably high levels of maternal mortality persist in some regions<sup>5</sup>.

The progress has been unacceptably slow with stagnation and even regress in some contexts. Change towards gender equality has not been deep enough; nor has it been irreversible. Discrimination in the law persists in many countries, particularly in the area of family law. In nearly all countries in Asia and the Pacific have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), gender inequality and violence against women continue to be a daily reality for women in the region women remain consistently and systematically excluded from participation and decision-making at all levels, starting at home and extending to the highest level of government. The region just like the rest of the regions of the world is far from achieving gender parity<sup>6</sup>.

The major challenges in achieving the BDPfA in Africa include persistent gender inequality at secondary and tertiary education levels; perennial under-resourcing of national gender machineries thus curtailing their efficiency and effectiveness; reversals in the progress towards gender equality and women's empowerment fueled by the Ebola outbreak in West Africa; persistent poverty with differential impact on women; increase in the number of countries experiencing conflict and crises and ineffective implementation of legal and normative instruments on women's rights; exacerbated by existence of plural legal frameworks – statutory, customary and religious<sup>7</sup>.

For the European Union some of the challenges highlighted were the gaps between legislation and implementation in all areas of the Beijing Declaration, the prevalence of violence against women, insufficient sex-disaggregated data, lack of funding for action plans and other initiatives, the low participation of women in the labour market and the disproportionate and negative effect of the financial crisis on women.

The challenges from most of the regions are similar and are compounded by emerging issues such as climate change, terrorism, conflicts, global economic and financial crises and increasing inequality. More needs to be done to tackle poverty and violence, trafficking in women and girls, inequality in employment and economic activities, unequal access to social and economic resources; women's participation in political decision making<sup>8</sup>; including identified emerging issues.

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4 UN Women 2015, Report of the Secretary-General on the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3)

5 UN Women 2015, Report of the Secretary-General on the 20-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (E/CN.6/2015/3)

6 Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development, 2014; Submission Beijing+20 Asia Pacific Regional Review: Progress in the Asia Pacific Region

7 Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA): Challenges and ways forward for the African countries. <http://www.sidint.net/content/beijing-platform-action-bpfa-challenges-and-ways-forward-african-countries>

8 Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA): Challenges and ways forward for the African countries. <http://www.sidint.net/content/beijing-platform-action-bpfa-challenges-and-ways-forward-african-countries>

Despite the slow progress, it is a well-known fact that most of the efforts towards achieving the BDPfA are as a result of the work of the global women's movement. Isis-WICCE is a strong member of this movement, and has contributed substantially to key aspects of the Platform for Action and to the implementation of the UNSCR1325 on women, peace and security. Isis-WICCE's focus of working towards gender equality and sustainable peace remains relevant considering the current realities of existing gaps in the implementation of the BDPfA and the impact of violent conflict on development and women's empowerment.

This edition of Women's World presents Isis-WICCE's achievements in two major areas; Feminist Action Oriented Research and Women's Political Leverage for Peace.

## 1.0 Feminist Action Oriented Research

The Beijing Platform for Action Strategic Objective E on Violence Against Women, Action 129 a & b emphasized the need to promote research, compile statistics .... and disseminate the findings widely, as one of the strategies for achieving women's empowerment and gender equality. Isis-WICCE thus committed herself and prioritized her programming to be informed by research. In 1996, Isis-WICCE embarked on the journey of documenting women's experiences in armed conflict, with Uganda as the starting point. To date, Isis-WICCE has been to South Sudan, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Nepal, Kashmir and many more countries.

The Isis-WICCE research model is empowering and centers the survivors of armed conflict as knowers and generators of knowledge. The model takes a consultative and participatory approach with the community in identifying the priority issues, developing the tools for investigation, trains women to research, and positions them to engage at different platforms discussing the priority concerns emerging from the research. This serves as a training ground that enables women to reflect on their personal experiences as well as to engage fellow women to share their own stories. To date, a total of 4966 women and men have participated in researches which have further enabled them to improve practice and build peace in their communities.

*"during the documentation, we saw and heard a lot. I came across so many women who were violated. They were brutalized and raped. I was highly traumatised because those stories were almost similar to mine and it made me very sad ... My own violator, who killed my family was boasting about it ... the things I saw during the documentation process made me thank God for my own life however bad it may be. It changed my attitude about development work and I realized the need to help others. I came back from the research with a feeling of wanting to do more and reach out to more women. Isis-WICCE changed our way of doing things, our attitude and our work with communities. I began to know why people do the things they do. I am now in touch with the female survivors I interviewed". Female research team member, Liberia. April 2007.*

*"It was such a wonderful training for me. I was not aware of the self-documentation process. As a counselor, I acquired new skills on how to enable women tell their stories. I have also learnt how to use the new technology to tell stories especially combining audiovisual and still pictures. I can now get information from clients through self-documentation by making them write their own stories other than depending on only social counseling. Christine Jaravaza, Zimbabwe. May 2009.*

Working with women from these communities, we have together conducted 150 researches in 29 countries in post conflict Africa and Asia on an array of themes including sexual violence, displacement, transitional justice, women's health, women's participation in post conflict reconstruction, economic empowerment, among others. Isis-WICCE has provided a listening ear and catalyzed discussion around sex, sexual violence, torture, trauma, health and governance.

*"Twangaise" comes from the Swahili word "KUTWANGA" which means to pound or crush. This phenomenon started in Mwenga territory just after the looting and destruction of the "SOMINKI" (Mining Company of Kivu) in 1996. The owners of mining sites commonly called "PDG" have replaced the crusher machines by women. These women crush stones all the day and receive \$ 17.5 for every 10 kgs of gold they get. Without any mechanism for protection, these "Twangaise women" are exposed to lung diseases due to dust. They are also exposed to sexual exploitation. And in the latter case, it is the boss who decides and picks whom he wants. This has also led to*

another problem known as “child mothers “. Female participant, June 2012, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo

*“I am 15 years old, and living with foster parents. I came from Jongole state when we were attacked. I do not know where my parents ran to. I ran with neighbours and we crossed to Uganda. The Red Cross attached me to a foster parent who is my neighbour at home, she has been a good woman. She tries to care but with all the problems of her 6 children, she first caters for her children and then me. I was helped to put up a shelter but it has no shutter and therefore it is not safe. Someone can even come and steal my blanket and the few clothes I have. It is worse at night for all of us who are unaccompanied. One day I was sleeping in my shelter then I heard something. I woke up, it was during day. I saw a man next to me putting off his trouser. I could not see him very well and therefore I could not tell who he was. I screamed.....he ran away.... I got so scared I could not sleep anymore I went to an old woman’s shelter that is where I now sleep. I am so sad because I am not safe. I cannot go to school since there is no secondary school here in the camp and I do not have parents to take me to secondary school in Arua like some of my friends who have parents. I pray to God that the war ends and I go back home..... I want to go back to school”. (South Sudanese Refugee girl; Uganda- Rhino camp, December 2014)*

From all these interactions, Isis-WICCE has generated a body of knowledge and created room for different stakeholders to openly engage in critical conversations regarding issues of sex, sexuality and women’s bodies in communities where sex is hardly discussed openly. By providing a platform for them to speak for themselves – using their own personal experiences, insights and knowledge of their bodies to explain what happened to them, the collected evidence of women’s human rights has remained a resource material for mobilization, programming, policy review and academia in many countries.

### 1.1 Healing the Wounds, Restoring Hope

In fragile states, particularly those that have experienced extended periods of conflict, health systems and infrastructure have typically been eroded, damaged and destroyed, or are not functional. Financial resources become scarce and as public finance for health declines, private spending on health increases, and unpaid health workers shift to private practice. Better-off citizens may still be able to pay for health care, but the poor and marginalized have fewer options, obtaining care wherever they can. The health system suffers a loss of human resources as medical personnel and management staff flee for their safety, are killed, or even if they remain are unable to provide services due to lack of medical supplies and ruined facilities.

Through research and documenting women’s experiences, Isis-WICCE has confirmed that armed conflicts have turned women’s bodies into a battle ground with debilitating effects on their bodies. Our conversations with women and girls revealed that sexual violence and other forms of violence have resulted into multiple sexual and reproductive health including psychological and physical health effects. Unfortunately, most post conflict reconstruction programs have eluded prioritization of women priority health needs which are central in rejuvenating their energies to contribute to personal, community and national development. With poor resourced health systems and infrastructure, women have continued to live in pain.

Isis-WICCE research model thus incorporates a unique approach to provide quality health care to women survivors of war to enable them have peace. The health interventions are organized in a credible manner working with health professionals, government ministries, religious institutions, the media, and civil society organizations. This model has been tested in Uganda, Liberia, South Sudan and Kashmir, and a number of achievements have been registered;

- \* A total of 50,000 women, girls, boys and men have accessed free medical treatment and counselling on physical, sexual and reproductive health ailments within their reach.
- \* 709 women and men have undergone successful surgery for urgent and previously hidden sexual and reproductive health related complications, often due to stigma. The conditions include vesico vaginal fistulae, uterine fibroids, ovarian cysts, prolapse of the uterus, infertility, hernia, lipoma, hydroceles.

*“I had a growth in the stomach and had high bleeding for 2 years. I could not go and interact with other people*



*and therefore stayed in-doors. I went to MERCI for check-up and was told to go to J.J Dossen Hospital but I had no money. Wherever I sat, the blood flowed and I was wet all the time. I was advised to go to a country medicine man but it didn't work. I used to sell palm wine but had to stop because of this problem. I became too thin and emaciated. During the surgical camp, my fibroids were removed and I was healed. See me now, after 8 months, I have put on weight, I look good and am happy. I can do my own housework and I will soon start some small income generating project". Lucy Wallace, 63 years; Liberia.*

*"I got married at the age of 18 and had a baby with my husband. I got this problem of fistula which I have had for about 2 years. I was rejected and went back to my parents. I have never gone back to my husband neither has he appeared. Now that I have been treated, I am no longer interested in getting married. I will stay home happily with my parents". Dudu Adam. South Sudan. May 2011.*

*"I am happy with the solidarity between Isis-WICCE, her partners and the Liberian government ... this intervention is an empowering effort since health is wealth and when a nation has a healthy population, the people become productive and contribute effectively to economic and political development" Regina Sampson, Mayoress, Harper - Liberia. May 2009.*

- \* 21 health facilities were strengthened with equipment and medical supplies to ensure that health systems are friendly to women and that access continues.

*"We received 20 mattresses which we just placed on the floor for the patients who had undergone surgery to sleep on. We were inspired but also challenged given that non Liberians had got the inertia to support us. We therefore bought beds and more mattresses for the surgical ward". Mr. Adolphus Gborlic, Physician Assistant, C.RC, Pleebo, Liberia. April 2011.*

*"We were given gloves, antenatal kits which we are using to examine and attend to women who are in labour. We use the gloves to protect ourselves from infections. Before Isis-WICCE gave us the kits, we would just use our bare hands during delivery. We knew it is not a safe practice but we had no choice". Keji, Lobonok, South Sudan.*

- \* Working with a team of 17 medical consultants (specialized in obstetrics and gynecology, anesthesia, psychiatry and psychology), Isis-WICCE provided hands on training for 437 health workers in Uganda, Liberia, South Sudan, and the Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. Cognisant that health workers too are survivors of conflict and bear a burden of psychological trauma, an aspect that is neglected in many post conflict reconstruction programmes, the training prioritised the health needs of health workers first and then the general community of women and men. Three training manuals entitled "Management of Medical and Psychological Effects of War Trauma: A Training manual for Operational level health workers in Southern Sudan and Liberia" were customized to the context of each country and utilized as a basis for the training and a reference tool for health workers and other practitioners. We have oriented and raised their consciousness on the special health needs of women and approaches of working with women in post conflict settings, thus improving their practice.

In South Sudan, health workers have had additional training in management of fistula; and in Uganda training in cervical cancer screening has been introduced to health workers.

The trained health workers have been able to improve on their mode of supporting the patients as well as addressing the trauma and reproductive health needs of women.

*"I am grateful that we got helpers (teachers) from Uganda and Kenya to help us know how to help ourselves as we help those (Patients) who have been traumatised. Before the teachers arrived, I had a big problem in my heart, particularly on how we nurses were not relating or supporting each other well.*

*Again I was getting overwhelmed with work when I saw the agony of women who had been gang raped. But after sharing in the group therapy the positive things about the work we do and the staff retreat which I participated in, I feel so relieved and empowered. Infact I have started helping a colleague who has been exhibiting PTSD symptoms.*

*She is now able to understand herself and the symptoms she has been experiencing. I am also very grateful to our director Dr. Mukwege and VVF project bosses for their courage and support in getting us psychologists to help us be stronger and better caregivers". Health Worker, Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo. August 2011.*

*"Having participated in the medical camp enabled me to see beyond Monrovia and was an eye opener for me. I was able to sympathize and empathize and have been an advocate for women's rights and needs. I used to see about 10 women only everyday, but now I see more than this. I now even spare some more time to see women on Saturdays. The costs here at John F. Kennedy Hospital here in Monrovia are very high. Am advocating for change and review of strategy". Dr. Jallah Wilhemina, Liberia.*

- \* South to south exchange of skills contributed to building the health workers clinical and surgical skills as well as exposure to adjust and practice in an environment that has limited tools and facilities yet yielding great results and satisfaction for them as practitioners.
- \* In Central Equatoria State in South Sudan, leadership committed land for the construction of a Fistula hospital.
- \* Peter C. Alderman Foundation<sup>9</sup> opened 9 mental health clinics in Uganda, Liberia, Kenya and Cambodia and provides trauma treatment to more than 15,000 patients annually since 2005. The foundation has also provided skills to 2,837 healthworkers through annual conferences on trauma management since 2008.
- \* Isis-WICCE catalysed the formation and has provided leadership for the growth of networks; African Partnership for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights of Women (AMANITARE), African Institute for Integrated Responses to Violence Against Women and HIV/AIDS (AIR)
- \* Working with other partners in Africa, Isis-WICCE strengthened the economic status of women living with HIV and AIDS in Uganda, Liberia and Zimbabwe as a healing mechanism. A total of 22 groups of women living with HIV and AIDS were empowered with financial resources to engage in initiatives of their choice around agriculture, access to treatment and information, and income generating activities. As a result, fear and stigma among women living with HIV was reduced and their confidence restored. They were transformed into assets and enabled to take charge of their lives and realize their full potential.

*"When we eventually opened up an account, accessed the money and facilitated members to set up small businesses, we realized a new experience in our lives. We also set up group managed businesses ... our lives have greatly changed since then because we can look after ourselves, get appropriate medication and take our children to school..." Josephine Godoe. Buchanan – Liberia. March 2010.*

*"This initiative enabled me to conquer stigma. My family accepted me and I have regained self-esteem in the community ... no one looks at me as if I am going to die tomorrow. I am pleased that through our awareness programmes, some people have started to realize that HIV and AIDS is real ... Cynthia Gonley, Liberia".*

## 1.2 Research Triggering Policy Shifts

Isis-WICCE's engagement with women and men survivors during research has proved that they have a clear direction on what their priorities are. As a form of accountability to the women that their voices matter and are central in redefining the development agenda, Isis-WICCE has organized platforms at community, national and regional levels and ensured that women survivors take a central role in the dialogues and debates. These are spaces where women have boldly engaged and challenged policy makers on the shortfalls and blind approach to women's specific concerns in post conflict development programs. It is through these spaces that policy makers have been awakened and challenged to take action.

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<sup>9</sup> a Foundation that establishes mental health clinics in war torn countries to help heal emotional wounds of victims of terror

- \* In 1998, the Minister in Charge of Luweero Triangle requested for a field visit to Luweero (Uganda) to ascertain the gaps that survivors had presented. After the visit, the Ministry released an assortment of building materials for women and men and their housing status was improved.

In 1999/2000, at the peak of the Lord's Resistance Army conflict in Northern Uganda, the United Nations Security Council requested for and utilized Isis-WICCE's reports on the conflict<sup>10</sup> to inform its debate and discussions that resulted to the enactment of the UNSCR 1325. The UNSCR 1325<sup>11</sup> is a landmark international framework that addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management; conflict resolution and sustainable peace building.

- \* In 2006, during the Government of Uganda and Lord's Resistance Movement peace negotiations, Isis-WICCE packaged 4 video clips for the negotiation team that positioned the voices of women at the center of the peace process.
- \* Following the International Peace Exposition organized by Isis-WICCE<sup>12</sup> in Kasese district in South Western Uganda in 2011, the Rwenzururu King Omusinga Charles Wesley Mumbere was outraged by the magnitude of the problem and outlawed child marriage in the Kingdom.
- \* In Kashmir, India; the "Ulema" (religious leaders) made a declaration in 2014 in support of the "Half widows" and emphasized that; the disappeared person/husband should be treated as alive thus giving half widows the right to own marital property; and for the case of re-marriage, the disappeared husband should be treated as dead after the mandated timeframe thus giving half widows the right to re-marry." This was a follow up of the Isis-WICCE and Jammu/Kashmir Voluntary Health and Development Association<sup>13</sup> research on the experiences of women in the Kashmir region.
- \* In Nepal, Isis-WICCE and her partner WOREC, engaged policy makers based on the research evidence<sup>14</sup> in preparation for the 10th Session of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Working Group held at the United Nations Human Rights Council in Geneva; as well as the CEDAW Committee 2011. This enabled country delegates present to ask pertinent questions on the situation in Nepal. As a result the recommendations proposed and accepted by the Nepal government prioritized response mechanisms to curb violence against women. As a result, one stop crisis centers were established in 5 hospitals to support rape survivors.
- \* In Liberia, the senators representing Maryland and Grand Kru counties, where Isis-WICCE undertook the medical evaluation, committed to intensify policy efforts and engagements necessary to address reproductive health and psychological trauma. These issues were further discussed in the Grand County Councils Forum in September 2009. One of the key issues resolved was to ensure that the road networks were improved to facilitate effective health delivery. The road network was henceforth improved.

Isis-WICCE has continued utilizing the research findings in different spaces and has been recognized as one of the leading institutions championing "Women, Peace and Security". In July 2009, Isis-WICCE was acknowledged and awarded "Best Oral Presentation" for her outstanding presentation on Women in Armed Conflict at the Sexual Violence Research Institute (SVRI) International Forum in Johannesburg, South Africa. In 2014, Isis-WICCE was nominated to the High Level Advisory Group for the Global Study on UNSCR 1325. The global study was commissioned by the United Nations Secretary-General, through UN Women in preparation for the 2015 High-level Review on the implementation of Resolution 1325. The study will highlight examples of good practice, implementation gaps and challenges, and priorities for action. The results will be included in the Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council in 2015 and will be made available to all Member States.

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10 Isis-WICCE, 2000. Women's Experiences of armed conflict in Uganda; Gulu district, 1986-1999.

11 31st October 2000

12 Isis-WICCE, 2012. The Abused Generation; My child, My Age mate – Ending Child Marriage: A Focus on Kasese district/ Isis-WICCE, 2011. Child Marriage and its impact on Development: the case of Kasese District, Uganda.

13 Isis-WICCE and JKVHDA, 2013. Kashmiri Women: The Burden of Conflict, Half Widowhood and its Psychological Health Effects

14 Isis-WICCE and WOREC, 2011. Unveiling Justice: Rape survivors speak out.



Table 1: Researches Undertaken

No.	Title	Year
1	Women's experiences of armed conflict in Uganda, Luweero district 1980 – 1986	1998
2	The short term intervention of the psychological and gynecological consequences of armed conflict in Luweero district	1999
3	Women's experience of armed conflict in Uganda, Gulu district 1986 – 1999	2001
4	Medical interventional study of war affected Gulu district, Uganda	2001
5	Documentation of Teso women's Experiences of armed conflict; 1987-2001	2002
6	Medical interventional study of war affected Teso region, Uganda	2002
7	Women, armed conflict and food security in Uganda: An exploratory study of four district	2004
8	Nurturers of Peace, Sustainers of Africa: African Women's Unique Peace Initiatives	2005
9	Medical interventional study of war affected Kitgum district, Uganda	2006
10	Women's experiences during armed conflict in Southern Sudan, 1983 - 2005: The case of Juba county -Central Equatorial state	2007
11	A situation analysis of the women survivors of the 1989-2003 Armed Conflict in Liberia	2008
12	Addressing the intersection between gender based violence and HIV&AIDS in conflict and post conflict situation in Africa	2009
13	Touching the unreachable: a Medical intervention in Liberia	2009
14	Unveiling justice: Rape survivors speak out, Nepal	2011
15	Child marriage and its impact on development: the case of Kasese district, Uganda	2011
16	Fistulae: the unending war on Women's Bodies in South Sudan.	2011
17	Helping the helpers : A report on the psychosocial programme for Health workers, Panzi hospital, Bukavu, Eastern DRC	2012
18	Kashmiri Women: The Burden of Conflict, Half Widowhood and its Psychological Health Effects	2012
19	Making Gender-Just Remedy and Reparation Possible: Upholding the Rights of Women and Girls in the Greater North of Uganda	2013
20	Pushed to the Periphery: The necessity of women's innovation in Activating post-conflict reconstruction (Liberia, Burundi and Sierra Leone)	2013
21	Making A Difference: Towards Substantive Engagement of Women in Parliament and Local Council Decision Making in Uganda	2013
22	Forced to Flee: Voices of Congolese Women Refugees in Uganda	2013
23	Towards an Anti-Sexual and Gender Based Violence Norm in the Great Lakes Region of Africa: A Civil Society Review of the Implementation of the 2011 ICGLR Kampala Declaration	2014

## Case Studies

Isis-WICCE has 134 case studies on sexual and gender based violence, genocide experiences, right to shelter, blood feuds, violence against women human rights defenders, food security among survivors of conflict, rights of female combatants, formerly abducted women and girls, female genital mutilation, refugee women, women and land, impact of landmines on war survivors, sexual harassment in schools, violence against LGBTIs, trafficking in women, impact of terrorism, impacts of missing persons and half widowhood to families.

Table 2: Medical Interventions undertaken.

Year	Location	General Treatment and Counseling	Surgery
1998	Luweero, Central Uganda	237	20
2001	Gulu, Northern Uganda	1077	68
2002	Teso, Eastern Uganda	2012	110
2006	Kitgum, Northern Uganda	992	116

Year	Location	General Treatment and Counseling	Surgery
2009	Maryland and Grand Kru counties; Liberia	1158	207
2010	Soroti, Uganda	200	
2011	Kasese, Uganda	601	
2011	Juba; South Sudan	N/A	26
2012	Lira, Uganda	2078	162
2012	Kashmir, India	254	
2013	Kotido, Uganda	3,002	
	Overall Total	11,611	709

## 2.0 WOMEN'S POLITICAL LEVERAGE FOR PEACE

### Introduction

In 1945, the United Nations was established to

*'...save succeeding generations from the scourge of war; to reaffirm faith in the dignity and worth of the human person and in equal rights of men and women; and to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom'* (Preamble to the UN Charter).

Critical to this commitment is that peace education was developed as the means to achieve these goals towards social transformation. Peace education promotes understanding, tolerance and friendship among nations, racial and religious groups and furthers the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace (Article 26, UDHR).

Aware of the gendered inequalities in peace and conflict times that are rooted in patriarchal systems, Isis-WICCE made a conscious choice to build a movement of change agents, fostered through political consciousness raising. Isis-WICCE's peace education platform has enhanced women's political leverage for peace, through tailored training, context specific curriculum. This wave of change was further articulated in the Beijing Platform for Action (146), which called for an increase in women's participation in decision-making in conflict resolution processes, seeking to recognize women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.

### Theatre of militarized violence: documented voices from institute participants in the field

*"When the rebels raided Allen town in the east end of Freetown on January 6th 1999, everybody ran for their life. I ran towards Waterloo. I remained in the bush together with other girls from our area for nearly two weeks. When rebels were retreating from the city, we were unfortunate that the SLA's renegade soldiers discovered us hiding. One of my friends Hawa, 15 years old was the first to be raped by 5 men under gun point. Then it was Mariatu's turn, then mine. I shouted that I had never known a man. One of them immediately dragged me and dropped me on the ground and scattered my legs. "If you have never known a man then you will know a knife today". He drew a knife from his side, still holding my legs apart with the help of another rebel. Then he stabbed me in my private parts three times. I became unconscious, I woke up later and found myself in the same location. I don't know whether they gave me up thinking I was dead, but they abandoned me. Later when I was able to go to Allen town, my parents took me to a doctor who said my urinary gland had been destroyed. To this day a tube is connected inside me to channel urine to a bag attached under my dress. I feel so uncomfortable carrying the tube and bag."*  
*Institute Participant, Sierra Leone*

*I am 8 years old, I have 2 sisters and 3 brothers. One day as we were sitting with our parents, father went out and never came back, my mother tried to approach police when we did not receive any information about our father.*

*Suddenly and after five days, a dead body was found from a corner of the road near our home. It was shocking news for us as a family since our father who was the sole bread winner of the family was cut in many pieces and nobody knew who, how, when and why he was killed. My mother works in the homes of others to earn bread for us, she feels so insecure and never wants us to go out of home. We live in fear and our future is very bleak.*  
Saleema, Baluchistan, Pakistan

## 2.1 Women's leadership Development

The cross-cultural Leadership Institute on peace develops human capital to address the deficit of women's leadership in armed and post-conflict settings, builds a vanguard of women leaders who are able to manage the issues and dynamics of conflicts in their settings, and that they continue working towards eradicating violence against women (VAW). The Institute provides women with knowledge and skills that enable them to lobby and advocate, envision and build peace. The institute relies on both content (what) and process (how), thereby building knowledge and skills as tools for long term change. Gender inequality fuels VAW, yet the power imbalance that it creates is not easily rectified. Although women are less likely than men to be combatants, women are more likely to form the greatest proportion of adult civilians killed in war, in displacement and targeted for abuse.

The need for ongoing training and education is premised on the need to build a critical mass of women to address development challenges from the perspective of women; the realization that trained women are not permanent categories as some move up the career ladder, others burn out and leave the movement while others die; furthermore, women are crucial to peace building as their presence in decision making positions brings unique value to post conflict governance, through their new perspectives and models to leadership.

As a result of its engagements, Isis-WICCE's Institute has responded to realizing international and regional commitments and contributed to longer term change. Some of the successes are: Shift in the level of consciousness to women's rights as human rights; enhanced women's leadership for peace and security; strengthened feminist movement through building local capacities for peace and forging partnerships; a new awareness through international exchange visits and cross-cultural learning; and radicalizing change through evidence-based advocacy and giving back to communities.

## 2.2 Shift in the level of Consciousness to Women's Rights as Human Rights, globally:

Isis-WICCE has advanced peace education by linking its ideals with research and practice. The Second Phase of the Institute is committed to participants replicating the skills of the institute to ensure that they have grasped the theories and test their applicability to their home communities. The case studies have enriched the participants' organizations as well as Isis-WICCE's policy advocacy and discourse of peace, human security and participation, through the different forums that the participants and Isis-WICCE have engaged. Isis-WICCE facilitates participants with technical competencies and financial assistance to enable them to undertake realistic plans of action in their home countries. In setting the peace and development agenda, Isis-WICCE ensures that participants undertake scientific research which analyses the conflict, identifies violations that women and girls are made vulnerable to in armed and post-conflict settings, identify perpetrators and develop recommendations, but with a value-added possibility to making the research action-oriented. The studies were on women's experiences in situations of armed conflict, covering different thematic areas with findings that prompt action for change. Thematic areas of research were: sexual violence, food security, post conflict resettlement, trafficking, life of refugee women, female genital mutilation, sexual orientation, migrants and refugees, post conflict reconstruction. Study findings on the impact of conflict on women from participants' include trauma, feelings of anger, powerlessness, lost self-esteem, ignorance,



disease and underdevelopment. After undertaking her field study, Rama Dhakal of Nepal stated that:

*..I have done a lot of advocacy work in the past, I have read many cases of violence in the newspapers but I had never interacted with survivors directly. When I went to interview survivors in the Institute documentation process, I saw pain and anger in the survivor's eyes because they are not getting justice. I was totally unknown to their miserable pain...*

The Institute training has led to a huge shift in definitions, as the women leaders began to realise that many of the cultural practices in their communities that they had taken to be normal, were actually negative, violent and abused women's human rights. Participants went further to understand that these negative cultural practices were a cause for advocacy and campaigning to end violence against women. The women leaders mentioned negative cultural practices such as: exchanging girl-children to compensate for a death in another family/ resolve community dispute. being confined to a cowshed for menstruating girls, prioritizing boys over girls for education, using red pepper to ease birth pains by placing pepper in vaginas of birthing mothers, female genital mutilation, HIV+ men raping virgin girls as a form of disease cure, new mothers having to eat dog vomit as part of welcome home from hospital; and not having sex with the husband until the baby crawls (where the husband can in the interim seek a new wife).

Other forms of violations in war settings became the focus of participants' research studies and interventions. The research studies conducted on the ground as part of field practicum have enabled women to test the human rights instruments and use them for their advocacy work. Issues of protection of Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) also took center stage during the institute, with women dialoguing on their personal safety and burn out and how these issues affect movement building.

### 2.3 Women's Leadership for Peace and Security:

With over 1520 women leaders exposed to practical and theoretical peace building skills, the Institute provided opportunities for women leaders to enhance their competences to engage and take lead in conflict transformation and peace building. Isis-WICCE has tracked 44 of its alumni who hold leadership positions in national politics and in the corporate sector after training. They are Members of Parliament, Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Resident District Commissioners, serve on Human Rights Commissions and Local Councils, others have up-scaled to be leaders of civil society groups, thereby playing increasingly important roles in promoting gender perspectives in peace building and stabilization programs. Developing human capital addresses the deficit of women's leadership that is able to manage the issues and dynamics of conflicts in their settings, and that they continue working towards combating violence against women.

For instance, the women leaders from South Sudan on the Institute participated in the national election process of 2010 as well as the referendum for self-determination of South Sudan in 2011. From the group on the South Sudan leadership training, 24 offered themselves for political leadership, where 15 of the candidates became Members of Parliament at Government and State-level Parliaments. Hon. Hannah Lorna B. Nimaya has utilised the Leadership Institute skills to engage Parliament in Western Equatorial State, South Sudan:

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

Further more, in 2012, Hon. Nimaya updated us that:

*I have taken on the position of Deputy Speaker for Western Equatorial State-Legislative Assembly, Yambio. I took oath of office on 15/08/2012. I am grateful for Isis-WICCE's work. Your efforts are not in vain, ... and I want to use the office to make a difference'.*

The Leadership Institute has enabled women break from the private domain and get to the center of policy formulation, to sustain political commitment to legislate over war challenges and make women safe. Investment into women's political leadership has dividends into significant gender equality gains. Women's leadership has brought unique value to peace building through their new perspectives and models to leadership in post-conflict governance. In the case of South Sudan, the skilled women leaders became central to the visioning and development of women's priorities in the new country ahead of independence celebrations, moving women away from tokenism to action and activism, challenging patriarchal norms in a subtle and meaningful way.

Nazia Taj Abbasi from Pakistan on the 2011/12 institute reported that,

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

Leadership enhancement as reflected in the case of Nazia, strengthens the support base and alliances formed through exchanges of knowledge and experiences; heightens the resolve to resist and ultimately transform power from private to public in all relations, structures, forms, spaces and places; and makes messages louder and more acceptable to wider audiences so that there is more appreciation of gender justice and equality.

## 2.4 Strengthened Feminist Movement through Building Local Capacities for Peace and Forging Partnerships:

As part of its social transformation, the Leadership Institute on peace and security has garnered, twenty-one community based organizations (in Kenya, Liberia, Nepal, South Sudan and Uganda). The new groups have come up with home grown approaches to peace, thereby providing innovative alternative visions for peace and security. These new groups/collectives have become new engines of social change, mobilizing grassroots participation in leadership and governance processes, with multitudes of community watchdogs, animation committees, activists committed to peace and human security. Areas of focus in these initiatives are: gender responsive post-conflict reconstruction, cross-gender dialogues, women's access to technology, HIV/AIDS and poverty eradication. There is growing recognition of these home grown initiatives, with:

*Pauline Yao Affoue (alumni, FCIEX, Cote d'Ivoire 2009/10) receiving an award from the ECOWAS Committee on Social Affairs, Education and Training for being an actress in repositioning the socio-economic status of women in 2012. She dedicated the award to all her partners including Isis-WICCE for the support given to her.*

Teso Women Peace Activists (TEWPA) one of the new CBOs initiated after Isis-WICCE's leadership training in Uganda, presents a model of the multiplier effect of local peace building capacities after leadership training.

*TEWPA replicated institute skills in 2002, training over 550 activists in the form of peace animators, peace committees and peace clubs in Teso and Karamoja sub-regions in Uganda. The constituents that form TEWPA's lobby group are women, men, elderly, youth and those living with HIV; TEWPA has engaged in key policy advocacy spaces for a gender responsive peace and reconstruction framework for Uganda; and part of the lobby group of the Women's Coalition for Peace during the deliberations of the Juba Peace Process between Government of Uganda and the Lord's Resistance Army. TEWPA has become a role model to many, and hosts peer learning and exchange visit, the recent one being in 2014, where the visit had over 390 participants from two sub-regions in Uganda.*

In the various countries where Isis-WICCE has run its over 40 leadership institute intakes in Africa and Asia, they have been run in partnership and strategizing with strong civil society groups and national gender machineries. The coalescing of multiple professions to address gender inequality concerns has been critical to ensuring that the knowledge and leadership positioning of women permeates through different institutions and sectors. The CSOs on the ground acquired leadership, organizing and strategy development skills for wide-scale community responses, while Isis-WICCE has also learnt from the strong movement building approaches of Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC Nepal), National Association of Women Human Rights Defenders (NAWHRDs), Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET), Women's Peace Center of the Search for Common Ground (WPC-WfCG). Pooja Bhattarai of WOREC-Nepal appreciated these mutually reinforcing partnerships, mentioning that:

*....I am proud to have sisters from different corners. The bond among us has strengthened, as Isis-WICCE and WOREC Nepal brought us together on the common platform back again. We share a common feeling of womanhood irrespective of where we come...*

## 2.5 Unique value of the International Exchange Visits and Cross Cultural-Learning:

Different people react to war-related stress, shock and trauma in different ways. Some survivors have chosen-pain, where they constantly regret the past and blame their lived circumstances on their atrocious past,, while others have chosen-glory, where despite their negative experiences; survivors want to have a life of pride and self-reliance. But as learning beings, the transformative processes employed can support individuals to seek change that makes them more useful contributors to development. The cross-cultural and peer learning visits were designed as a strategy of Isis-WICCE's institute, with the above realities in mind, and with community voices such as this.....

*...Many of us were born here, lived here, had our little education here, this has remained the only world we know...*

Cultural exchange visits are a catalyst for social change, being a space of unlearning, unwinding and making informed choices. In the past, Isis-WICCE has run 10 exchange visits to Burundi (2004), Eritrea (2005), Kenya (2003), Liberia (2005), Nepal (2011), Tanzania (2003), Somalia (2003), South Sudan (2009), Sudan (2005) and Uganda (2011), which exposed women activists and leaders to new possibilities. Cross-cultural activities for Isis-WICCE include exchanges across language, food, dress, practices, dances, ideologies, experiences, survival strategies and resilience mechanisms.

The exchange forum enhanced participants' experiential learning, opened minds to new possibilities, acquired best practices, learnt why women from certain cultures do what they do, and how these different experiences impact on women's self-determination. Through these exchanges, Isis-WICCE affirmed the value of experiential learning as well as sisterhood and solidarity across continental, racial and lingual divides, as a way of promoting and building a movement for peace and security. Institute participants acknowledged commonalities that bind women from Africa and Asia. The visit of Asian participants to Liberia (1998), African participants to Nepal (2009/10) and Kasese in Uganda (2011), and those from Cote d'Ivoire to Uganda (2011) offered life turning opportunities for interaction, appreciation and acquisition of practical skills.

Cultural exchange visits remain practical learning sites for Isis-WICCE's Institute to complement theory with practice. For instance, the exposure of African participants to Nepal, Asia, brought new perspectives of mass mobilizing, with people's movement that strike to action on violations as soon as they arise, in ways that inform the Nepali government and local leaders of community demands. This was a unique approach to advocacy for the African participants on the institute. Leonie Gomis of Senegal marvels at the cross-continental learning and exposure:

*I sincerely want to thank Isis-WICCE and WOREC for setting-up a bridge between nations, countries and continents through this cross-cultural exchange. It brings along different women from different social-cultural backgrounds. These women have experienced conflict in diverse manners, and sharing their experience is also a healing process...*



*I realize that each person is unique, filled with series of quality that emerges according to needs... Now my hands are wide open to embrace the world, my feet are firm and ready to carry me wherever need arises.*

## 2.6 Radicalizing Change through Evidence-Based Advocacy and Giving Back to Communities:

The institute premises its curriculum on human rights standards that must be maintained during peace and violent situations. A core institute module is 'Human Rights Mechanisms', where leaders familiarize themselves with instruments such as CEDAW, Vienna Declaration and Program for Action, Beijing Platform for Action and UNSCR 1325, and their translation into national level mechanisms. The shift in level of consciousness to women's rights as human rights is a powerful force for women to appreciate that communities have rights, must be protected at all times, and that human rights frameworks are useful for seeking protection, participation, justice and peace.

Women leaders have been motivated to act on the gaps in their communities with 258 initiatives in Africa and Asia in the form of: video advocacy tools, closure ceremonies through decent burial, livelihoods support, trauma counseling, change makers and interaction programs, health camps, being neighbors keeper, citizen participation in governance processes (national elections & self-determination through referendum), sanitation campaigns and environment protection activities. Through the home grown initiatives of the institute participants, women have given back to communities with initiatives ranging from political, economic, socio-cultural oriented changes.

Giving back provides an opportunity for participants to understand what transformative leadership is all about. As they organize, they appreciate that it is not about power or mere accomplishment; but it is about creating a domain in which human beings continually deepen their understanding of reality and become more capable of unfolding the world. It is about creating new realities through advocacy and change actions as innovative forms of power, leadership and organizing.

It is however, important to note that 'giving back to communities' and evidence based advocacy does not necessarily mean that it is done in an easy context, there are risks and there could be some repercussions. The women organize against a background of violence, economic breakdown, political paralysis, crime, trauma, despair, resentment and corruption. They organize in countries where roads, bridges, water and sanitation facilities were destroyed and where nearly every family incurred some losses and where many are suffering from psychological stress and trauma.

The community engagements have further prompted international and regional level advocacy work by Isis-WICCE, partners and alumni. For instance:

- The Institute alumni ran a three-year campaign on Peace, Empowerment, Accountability & Reclaiming women's bodies (PEAR Campaign). The campaign (2009-2012) is a movement of anti-rape campaigners, committed to accountability and justice for sexual violence survivors. The Campaign in six countries<sup>15</sup> focused on different forms of SGBV, with national level policy engagement on gender responsive HIV/AIDS policy, sexual violence in colleges, ending child marriages, protection mechanisms for women by peace keepers and combating sexual violence in internally displaced people's camps. In Uganda the campaign has continued through annual international peace expositions that bring decision makers and communities to a common ground to challenge themselves on accountability and combating violence in the numerous forms that are native to the communities.
- In 2011, Isis-WICCE enabled women leaders to envision and identify 6 priority areas for South Sudan's post-referendum phase. The thematic areas that were developed have formed the basis of engagement in South Sudan. The areas are Peace and Security; Elimination of Gender based violence, Basic Social Services in Health and Education; Good governance; Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction and Institutional Building.

After a resurgence of political violence in South Sudan in December 2013, Isis-WICCE and World Young Women's Christian Association (WYWCA)<sup>16</sup> assisted South Sudanese women to identify their needs and priorities, and to engage with the African Union's efforts to negotiate a cease fire. They later shared their concerns with the then Chief Negotiator Ambassador, Seyoum Mesfin and stakeholders influencing the peace process.

- Juba peace process – northern Uganda: Isis-WICCE and its alumni groups participated as members of the Uganda Women's Coalition for Peace<sup>17</sup> during the Juba Peace Process between the Government of Uganda and the Lord Resistance Army (LRA). The Women's Peace Caravan traversed through different districts along the corridor to Northern Uganda, raising awareness and mobilizing Ugandans to support the peace process and to strengthen solidarity with the communities in northern Uganda. Isis-WICCE played a key role in ensuring that, over 2000 women survivors were consulted and their recommendations contributed to the peace talks, and one woman was nominated to the government negotiation team.
- The Institute alumni have formed the basis for Isis-WICCE taking lead of the Women's Task Force (WTF) for a gender responsive Peace, Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP). The WTF tracks the extent to which the PRDP<sup>18</sup> addresses gender equality. Because of the intensive awareness raising and advocacy work of the Women's Task Force (WTF), the advocacy group was accredited to two PRDP governance structures<sup>19</sup>. Furthermore, the advocacy efforts of the WTF yielded results, with the PRDP II recognizing SGBV and land wrangles as conflict triggers and major factors that undermines women's participation and empowerment. The PRDP II program areas recognize the need to deal with trauma and mental health issues, train the police and sensitize communities on SGBV, address land rights problems and invest more in reintegration and resettlement activities.

Our work to end violence against women must be a conscious part of efforts towards empowerment of women. As articulated by various actors, training and education remain a critical form through which violence against women can be combated.

*....Go to the people, Live with them, learn from them, love them. Start with what they know. Build with what they have. With the best leaders. When the work is done, the task accomplished the people will say, we have done this ourselves.*

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16 in collaboration with ICCO and Cordaid

17 Living Earth Uganda; FIDA-U; Women of Uganda Network (WOUGNET); Uganda Women's Network (UWONET); Action for Development (ACFODE); Law & Advocacy for women; National Association of Women Organizations (NAWOU); Anti Corruption Coalition Uganda (ACCU); EASSI; Uganda Gender Research Centre; Centre for Domestic Violence (CEDOVIP); Bahai Faith; United Nations Department of Political Affairs (UNDP); Disable Women Network and Resource Organization (DWNRO); CRDN; MIFUMI; DENIVA; Slum Aid Project (SAP); Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI); Akina Mama wa Africa (AMWA); Lira Women Peace Initiative (LIWEPI); FAWU; HURINET; UGANET; National Union of Disabled Persons (NUDIPU); TERREWODE; Youth Environment Network Uganda; Empower Children & Communities Against Abuse (ECCA); Teso Women's Peace Association (TEWPA); Luwero Women Development (LUWODA); Pan African Movement; Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)

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

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

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# MONDE DES FEMMES



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



## Tracing 'Feminist Peace'

From Beijing to MDGs and Beyond