



## Justice for Women Forum Forum Justice pour les Femmes

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**Uganda, 6-8 October 2008**

### Introduction

From 6-8 October, the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is hosting the *Justice for Women* Forum, an historic 3-day meeting for women's rights and peace activists from conflicts in Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and the Central African Republic. In addition, a small number of advocates from around the world, partners, allies and donors will also participate and contribute to this exciting event.

Uganda, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Darfur and the Central African Republic are the conflict situations currently under investigation by the International Criminal Court (ICC). They are also the conflicts where the Women's Initiatives works with local women's rights organizations and partners to advocate for justice for women, accountability and reconciliation, an end to these conflicts and a future where women's legal and human rights are recognized, respected and secured.

### The Organization

The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's rights organization advocating for the inclusion of gender based crimes in the investigations and prosecutions of the ICC and promoting the rights of women victims/survivors of armed conflict to participate in, and benefit from, the justice process including through reparations and the Trust Fund for Victims. We promote the use of international instruments and bodies to advance women's rights, specifically the domestic implementation of the Rome Statute of the ICC to address violence against women and enhance the legal and human rights of women around the world. For more information on our Organization, advocacy, country-based programmes and publications please see our brochure and visit our website <http://www.iccwomen.org/>

**Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice**



## The Forum

### *Its aim*

The Forum aims to provide an international event for women most affected by armed conflicts<sup>1</sup> to:

- Demonstrate solidarity with each other as women activists surviving and advocating for women's rights in conflict situations;
- Discuss regional perspectives, analysis and potential solutions regarding these intersecting conflicts in the Great Lakes area;
- Participate in skills exchange and skills-building sessions to support strategies for justice for women and advancing women's rights during conflict situations;
- Draw international attention to the regional nature of these conflicts and the overlapping interests of governments, militia groups and other actors;
- Further build an international constituency of women advocating for gender justice (through international and regional mechanisms); and
- Assess the impact of the ICC towards accountability, reconciliation and gender justice.

The Justice for Women Forum will be an event where women can analyse, plan, strategise and envision an end to conflict, accountability for those who have committed violent crimes, reconciliation for communities at war with each other and sustainable peace.

The Forum will also be a celebration of women's rights, our determination to demand and shape justice and a better world for ourselves, our communities and our children.

### *Format*

The Forum will include panels, presentations, workshops and strategy sessions. The emphasis is on skills building for women activists/victims/survivors in conflict situations; awareness raising regarding opportunities for justice-seeking and accountability including through the ICC, the African Court and Commission on Human and People's Rights and domestic strategies as avenues for justice; information and training on specific aspects of the ICC including victims participation and

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<sup>1</sup> DRC, CAR, Darfur and Uganda.



reparations; surfacing a regional analysis of the conflicts given the overlapping actors and interests underlying each of the conflicts; and the chance to build a network of women from conflict situations in support of each other and justice for women in their countries, in the region and internationally.

The Forum is structured to allow time for the exchange of views, experiences and strategies with free time for spontaneous networking and relaxation.

A marketplace will be set up for organizations to sell and share their products – another great opportunity to learn more about each others activities, strategies and cultures.

## ***Celebration***

The Forum will also be an occasion for celebrating. We are hosting a celebration party on the second evening of the Forum to relax and have fun together, with great food, a live band and DJ.

## **Yoga and Massage**

Living and working in conflict situations can be very stressful. We are therefore providing yoga every morning at the hotel for your relaxation. Bring your leisure wear and comfortable clothes for stretching and relaxing. There is also a fully equipped gym and swimming pool.

In addition we are providing **a free 45 minute massage** for each participant from conflict situations. You will need to sign-up for the massage when you register at the Forum. For other participants the Hotel has a Health and Leisure Centre where you can also book massages.

## ***The venue***

The Forum will be held at Hotel Africana. Situated 40 minutes from Entebbe Airport and 3 minutes from Kampala's centre, Hotel Africana is considered Uganda's premier luxury hotel. The hotel's gym, swimming pool and shopping mall will be available for participants during the Forum. For more information about Hotel Africana visit the website at <http://hotelafricana.com/index.htm>

Most participants will be sharing rooms with others from your country. Transportation to and from the airports (Entebbe and the airport in home country), cost of visas, accommodation and meals during the Forum will all be covered by the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.

**Please note**, items such as room service, laundry, bar tab, telephone calls and other incidentals will **not** be paid for by the Women's Initiatives and will be the personal responsibility of each participant.

The Hotel is safe and quiet, with modern facilities and comfortable rooms, wireless internet connection, a business centre, beautician and hairdressing services. It also boasts two restaurants, a café and bar.



Hotel Africana Address: Plot 2-4 Wampewo Ave, Kampala. Tel:+256 414 777500 or +256 414 348080, Fax: 256 41 348090.

## ***Strategy meetings***

For participants coming from Northern Uganda, Darfur, Democratic Republic of the Congo and Central African Republic , the Forum will be followed by two days of strategy meetings (9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> October) at Hotel Africana. The meetings will be organized to develop country-specific plans and strategies for gender justice.

## **Kampala**

Near the banks of Lake Victoria, Kampala, the capital of Uganda, is a lively city with a long history. Kampala is built around seven hills and is a busy cosmopolitan city with modern facilities and a population of over a million people.

Entebbe International Airport, lies 40km from the capital Kampala. Foreign exchange and ATM facilities are available at the airport, which is also serviced by several shops and restaurants. Most midrange to upmarket hotels in Kampala and Entebbe will arrange airport transfers by request, as will any tour operator based in or around the capital.

## ***Visas***

On arrival you should proceed to the customs and immigration desks for your visa. We have submitted the names of all Forum participants to Immigration Officials and they will assist you in the visa process. All participants from the DRC, CAR, and most others can get a visa on arrival at the airport. Participants coming from Sudan will already have your visa from the Ugandan Embassy in Khartoum.

## ***Transportion to Hotel Africana***

Once you have collected your luggage you will be met at the airport by a member of our team and guided to buses to bring you to the Hotel. Please look out for a sign saying Justice for Women Forum.

## ***Weather***

Uganda has tropical weather tempered by altitude. The rainy seasons in Kampala's area go from March to May and from October to November. Daytime temperatures are warm to high, so bring light clothes, but do not forget a sweater for night time.



## **Health**

A certificate of yellow fever is required and it is suggested all visitors should also take malaria tablets. It is advisable to drink bottled rather than tap water.

## **Money**

The unit of currency is the Uganda shilling. The US dollar is traditionally the hard currency of preference, but Euro and Pound Sterling are also widely accepted.

1 USD = 1,600 Uganda shilling

1 Euro = 2,300 Ugandan shilling

1 UK Pounds = 3,000 Ugandan shilling

## **Contacts**

Participants coming from Sudan, DRC, CAR and Uganda should refer to the co-ordinators for enquiries in the lead up to the Forum. They will then liaise with us to resolve any problems and provide clarifications on travel, visas and other issues. The Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice's team in Kampala will be always available to help you during the Forum.

We look forward to welcoming you at the Justice for Women Forum.

### **Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice**

**Brigid Inder, Executive Director**

**Vanina Serra, Associate Programme Officer**

**Kate Orlovsky, Legal Officer**

**Diane Tourell, Legal Officer**

**Jane Adong Anywar, Legal Officer**

**Lalaine P. Viado, Communications Officer**

**Frank Horsman, Finance and Administration Officer**

**Margaret Abalo, Local Logistics Co-ordinator for the Forum**

**Astrid de Vries, Consultant**

**Kristin Gallagher, Intern**

**Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice**

