



**Panafrican centre on
Gender, Peace and
development**



University for Peace
Université pour la Paix



Short Course on Gender, Media and Conflict

CONCEPT PAPER

Place: Mbodiène, Sénégal

Dates: 15th-19th December 2008

Deadline for Letter of Application: 30th November 2008

Organisers: FAS and UPEACE

Africa Programme, University for Peace (UPEACE), affiliated with the UN

The University for Peace (UPEACE) was created as a Treaty Organization within the framework of the United Nations, pursuant to Resolution 35/55 of the General Assembly in December 1980 to support the central peace and security objectives of the United Nations. Its mission is to “*provide humanity with an international institution of higher education for peace with the aim of promoting among all human beings a spirit of understanding, tolerance and peaceful coexistence, to stimulate cooperation among peoples and to help lessen obstacles and threats to world peace and progress*”.

UPEACE provides an international focus for high quality education, training and research on all issues related to peacebuilding and conflict prevention, , including on human rights, gender equity, economic development and peace, environmental security, peace education, international law and settlement of disputes, disarmament and non-proliferation, and the media and conflict. The implementation of the activities focuses on three main components: Face-to-face teaching, UPEACE presence worldwide through regional programmes; and the Sharing Knowledge for Peace Programme, designed to use e-technologies and distance learning to disseminate educational packages and knowledge to partner institutions.

The wider mission of the University should be seen in the context of the worldwide peace and security objectives. The central importance of education, training and research in all their aspects to build the foundations of peace and progress and to reduce the prejudice and hatred on which violence, conflict and terrorism are based is increasingly recognized and the Charter of the University calls for UPEACE “*to contribute to the great universal task of educating for peace by engaging in teaching, research, post-graduate training and dissemination of knowledge fundamental to the full development of the human person and societies through the interdisciplinary study of all matters related to peace*”.

The overall goal of the African Programme and the collaboration with FAS is to strengthen African capacity for education, training and research on issues of peace and security,

including the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It is hoped that the University will act as a catalyst to mobilise an international network to implement cooperative activities in the fields of education and research for peace in Africa.

The need to relate African scholars to an international educational network is imperative and as such, a programme that facilitates relations between institutions of higher learning is a key priority.

The added value brought to this initiative by UPEACE lies in the unique advantage it holds in offering a genuinely international, multicultural and multidisciplinary orientation of its academic programme, which builds on the efforts of bringing together the different perspectives from all regions around the world.

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)

FAS is a women organisation founded by African women leaders representing different nationalities and professions. It was created in response to the explosion of violent conflicts currently tearing apart the fabric of society in Africa and to advance the implementation of the Beijing Platform of Action, Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality made by African Heads of State.

FAS works to foster, strengthen and promote the leading role of women in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts on the African continent. It does so through advocacy to bring women's concern to the attention of national, regional and international bodies, and through the implementation of tangible programmes to enhance African women's capacities to assume and maintain their role in leadership and decision-making, especially in the spheres of conflict resolution and peace-building.

To capitalize the work done during several years on peacebuilding, FAS created the Panafrican Centre on Gender, Peace and Development, as one of the Centres for Excellence in Africa providing advanced training and research in peacebuilding and development issues with an emphasis on gender. By concentrating its activities on the dialectic between gender, peace and development and underlining the link between these priorities and the necessity of understanding the gender perspective, the Centre will be the first of its kind.

Building from the experience of FAS, the Centre will enable the promotion of greater gender equality between men and women in peacebuilding, governance and development efforts. As In addition, the training programmes of the Centre will be primarily centred on conflict prevention, the establishment of early-warning mechanisms, the management and resolution of conflicts, mediation techniques, the management of post-conflict phases and the implementation of reconstruction programmes. The programmes will address the role required of women in each of the above-mentioned areas.

The importance of this innovative program is highlighted by the support, during the initial preparatory phases, of the Regional Programs for Gender in Africa of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNITAR that subsequently allowed the set up of a Coordinating Committee which since January 2005 has regularly met to contribute to the development of the Centre.

The content of the Centre's programmes will have an innovative feature as they will incorporate FAS's practical experiences of the last 10 years in the Mano River and Great

Lakes regions. In this regard, FAS initiated an evaluation study to gather testimonies of women from grassroots to decision-making levels in each country where FAS intervened. Case studies will also be developed and used as training material in the courses of the Centre.

The Centre's programmes will be endorsed by the institutional partnerships of FAS in order to encourage the collective production of knowledge as well as the exchange of expertise, resources or methodologies. It has already received the technical assistance of the Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva in order to fulfil its goals.

The Centre will function as an interface between different institutions and serve as a source for information for the development of UN programmes. It is foreseen that, in addition to conducting up to fourteen programmes a year, the Centre will also organize seminars and workshops.

The training modules of the Centre will focus on three programmatic areas: Gender and Peacebuilding; Leadership and Governance; and Economic Empowerment of Women and Development. The first concept is being developed with the support of the University for Peace (UPEACE) with whom FAS signed a Memorandum of Understanding in November 2005. A seminar held in March 2006 granted the harmonization of programmes by FAS and UPEACE before the launching of the Centre's courses.

The primary responsibility for participants' selection lies with FAS, in consultation with UPEACE Africa Programmes. FAS will in fact be in charge of receiving, sorting, evaluating and grouping the applications, as well as budget expenditure for organizational and logistics needs.

Purpose of the workshop

The main focus of the course is the role of Media in conflict prevention and conflict transformation, Media coverage of women in conflict and feminist media. It will also tackle how the media perpetuates patriarchal behaviors in different cultures and critical analysis and debates on Media and its role in and influence on concepts of Power and Gender will be fostered.

The Course will provide a dynamic and open space for academic and intellectual enrichment as well as for the exchange of practical knowledge and experience from the different environments of the participants. Concepts of gender-sensitive intervention methods will be organized around real-world application of theoretical debates. Special attention will be paid to contemporary case studies on Media and Conflict and the role of Media in peace processes.

The main objective of the project is to recruit 30 women and men working in the field of peace and Media, including Media and communications professionals (in civil society organisations, women's grassroots organisations, and other institutions), to reinforce their skills and allow them to refine their approach to issues of Media coverage during and after conflict.

The objectives of the project are the following:

- To clarify concepts, terms and definitions of Gender, Media and Conflict;
- To strengthen the capacity of participants in the areas of Media coverage before, during and after conflict with a focus on Gender;
- To empower Media professionals and people working in communication;
- To create a critical mass on gender issues among Media professionals.

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the course, participants will:

- Gain a better understanding of gender issues during conflicts;
- Gain a better understanding of Media in different stages of conflict and how to handle information;
- Develop skills on integrating gender in Media reporting.
- Create a functioning forum of discussion

Participants' profile

The target beneficiaries are women and men from across African countries working on issues of Media and peace. They will be Media and communications professionals, academics, women in grassroots organizations, members of civil society organisations, in decision-making positions or leading projects in the field of peacebuilding.

Process of Application

Application forms will be posted on the FAS and UPEACE websites and sent to FAS and UPEACE networks in Africa to recruit candidates that are most likely to make efficient use of the newly acquired skills.

Participants must submit a resume, letter of recommendation from their superior and a motivation letter by 30th November 2008.

A first selection of candidates will be conducted by FAS and a second by FAS and UPEACE.

Participant's letter of application deadline: 30th November 2008

Each nominee must file **the data form** attached and submit the following:

- a letter of application showing why she/he wants to attend this short course
- a letter of recommendation from their supervisor
- an updated biographical indicating professional and educational background

Letters should reach FAS not later than 30th November 2008 by mail: fas-ong@sentoo.sn or panafricancentre@fasngo.org (on the subject of workshop application).

Notification will be made electronically if the nominated candidate has been accepted. An administrative note including practical arrangements (transportation details, formal acceptance, visa instructions, etc.) will be sent once candidate has acknowledged the acceptance letter and confirmed participation.

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