



**Panafrican Centre for  
Gender, Peace and  
Development**



University for Peace  
**Université pour la Paix**



July 18, 2006

## **SHORT COURSE ON GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING**

July 16-21, 2006 Mbodiène, Senegal

### **INFORMATION NOTE**

#### **Giving Women the Tools to Negotiate Peace**

During the first day of the Short Course on Gender and Peacebuilding co-organized by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and the University for Peace in Mbodiène, Senegal, participants discussed and debated the concepts of negotiation, peacebuilding, mediation and dialogue in the context of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

The course officially opened last Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> with an address by the Cabinet Director of the Prime Minister of Senegal, and was followed by a presentation on Monday, July 17<sup>th</sup> by consultant Sherrill Whittington of the United States entitled, “Gender and Peacebuilding”.

The principal points raised by the presentation centered around the participation of women in peace negotiations, the necessity to consider the needs specific to each party, the necessity to assist women in finding adequate strategies for taking part in negotiations for peace, and the necessity to reinforce women’s capacities throughout all processes.

Ms. Whittington’s presentation was followed by a rich discussion raising several pertinent issues including the dissemination, appropriation, application and use of the Security Council Resolution 1325 in countries which are not currently in conflict.

The example of Sudan – where women were present at the negotiation table even though the final report failed to mention it – was particularly noted by participants. Specifically, one Sudanese participant stressed that a group of women comprised of academics, refugees and leaders took part in the Abuja peace talks on Darfur, whereas the women who took part in the armed rebellion were excluded from them. The participant emphasized the priorities of Sudanese women which included the need to address the lack of experience, financial resources and organization that are necessary to participate fully in negotiations for peace.

In addition, participants discussed the importance of reinforcing and promoting implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of all the Forms of Discrimination Against Women and to put in place adequate mechanisms for advocacy.

For further information, please visit the Femmes Africa Solidarité and the University for Peace at: [www.fasngo.org](http://www.fasngo.org) & [www.upeace.org](http://www.upeace.org)  
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