



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



**University for Peace
Université pour la Paix**



Short Course on Gender and Conflict: Human Rights and Transitional Justice

CONCEPT PAPER

Place: Mbodiène, Sénégal

Dates: 9-13 April 2007

Deadline for Letter of Application: 8 March 2007

Organisers: FAS and UPEACE

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

The mandate of UPEACE is to promote peace and security worldwide through education, training and research on peace-related issues, 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 wider mission of the University should be seen in the context of the worldwide peace and security objectives of the United Nations. 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. 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 Africa Programme is to strengthen African capacity for education, training and research on issues of peace and security, including the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. It is hoped that the University will act as a catalyst in mobilising an international network on the definition and implementation of cooperative activities in the fields of education and research for peace in Africa. The linking of African scholars into a knowledge network is imperative and as such, a programme that facilitates linkages between institutions of higher learning is of a high priority. 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 perspectives from other regions of the world.

As a complement of the graduate studies, UPEACE welcome participants in short courses, which frequently are part of the graduate programmes.

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. The training courses offered by the Centre will target experienced individuals such as civil society representatives, researchers and key decision-makers in order to consolidate their expertise in their related fields. 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 well, the training programmes of the Centre will be primarily centred on 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 scope of support of this innovative program is highlighted by the support of the Regional Program for Gender in Africa of UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF and UNITAR in its first preparatory phase which permitted the convening on numerous occasions since January 2005 of a Coordinating Committee composed of experts.

In order to avoid the risk of duplicating the efforts of existing structures and training programmes whose governance, conflict prevention and peace objectives can conflict with those of the Centre, the content of the Centre's programmes will incorporate FAS's experiences of the last 10 years in the Mano River and Great Lakes regions. In this regard, FAS initiated an evaluation study through which it entrusted four external consultants with expertise in peace and security issues to undertake field missions in each country in which FAS intervened in order to gather testimonies of women from local to the decision-making levels. In addition, one consultant was assigned the task of designing case studies to

correspond to each country visited. These case studies will be used to illustrate, through practical experience, the concepts that will be developed by the Centre.

The Centre's programmes will be defined by institutional partnerships from which FAS has benefited in order to encourage the collective production of knowledge as well as the exchange of expertise, resources or methodology. The Centre will also be able to function as an interface between different institutions or serve as a source for information for certain programmes of the UN. It has received technical assistance from the Programme in Peacemaking and Preventive Diplomacy of the UN Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in Geneva, allowing it to realize its original vocation.

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 harmonization seminar held in March 2006 worked on the harmonization of programmes by FAS and UPEACE before the launching of the Centre's courses.

Primary responsibility for acceptance of participant applications will be borne by FAS, in consultation with UPEACE Africa Programmes. FAS will take principal responsibility for receiving, sorting, evaluating and grouping the applications.

It will also hold primary responsibility for expediting of arrangements and logistics.

Purpose of the workshop

This short course will bring together, practitioners, researchers, people working with Regional and International Institutions and NGO's for five days workshop to provide participants to improve their skills on gender and peacebuilding.

The approach will be interactive and participatory in order to bring participants to share experiences, knowledge and to create a network for addressing gender issues on peace agenda.

Specifically, the aims of this workshop are:

- To present and discuss specific aspects of gender and conflict management and transformation
- To clarify terms, definitions and key concepts of human rights and transitional justice
- To examine the gender dimension in transitional justice and violations of human rights during conflict and its transformation
- To empower women as actors of change
- To examine the use of video and materials facilitators trainers
- To share experiences and lessons learned

Expected Outcomes

At the end of the course, participants will:

- Be aware of different aspects of Gender and Conflict management
- have a better understanding of terms, definitions and key concepts of gender, human rights and transitional justice
- have an understanding of gender relations during conflict management and transformation
- be empowered as actors of change
- Be aware of the use of video and materials facilitators
- be able to create a forum for discussion of experiences

Participants' profile

Thirty participants will be finally invited to attend from among those nominated by their institutions.

The organisers of the workshop invite interested institutions, research institutes/Centres and civil society organisations (CSOs) to nominate a representative to submit an application. The final invitations will be extended by Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) and UPEACE as the result of institutionally nominated applicant writing a letter of purpose. Nominee's letters of application will be entertained from African practitioners, researcher, members of CSOs and individuals intervening on the field of gender and peacebuilding or those who show a strong commitment to work on the field of Gender and peace.

Process of Application

An announcement will be electronically posted through the websites of FAS and UPEACE inviting institutions, institutes and CSOs to nominate qualified participants to submit letters of application by 20 February 2007. The short course workshop will take place on 9th to 13 April 2007.

Nominee's letter of application deadline: 8 March 2007

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 the responsible of the Institution
- an updated biographical indicating professional and educational background

Letters should reach FAS not later than Sunday, 7 March 2007 by fax: (00221) 860-20-47 or by mail: fas-ong@sentoo.sn or panafricancentre@fasngo.org (on the subject of workshop application)

Notification will be made by Monday, 19 March 2007 electronically or by fax 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.

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS)
Stèle Mermoz, Immeuble Rose
Apart. No 31 C- PO. Box: 45077- Fann- Dakar
Tel: (00221) 860-20-48

Fax: (00221) 860-20-47
Email: fas-ong@sentoo.sn