CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Master II Degree in Gender and Peacebuilding
LOCATION: Faculty of Law and Politics (FSJP)
Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD)-Senegal

I. Overview

Armed conflicts in Sub-Saharan Africa are adversely impacting on human rights and state stability. These conflicts result in increased stigmatization and violation of women's rights within a context of vulnerability and already existing social and economic inequalities. Rape of women and girls has become a weapon of war. Impunity is one of the visible and dramatic effects of the observed limits for women's security. The Security Council of the United Nations adopted the Resolution 1325 on October 2000, as well as Resolutions 1988, 1989 and 1820 calling for the protection of women's rights and women’s participation in all national and international peace processes.

Nearly 16 years after the adoption of Resolution 1325, only very few actions have been implemented. The participation of women in conflict resolution is still relatively reduced and limited. Yet, the resolution of armed conflict is not limited to the cessation of hostilities, but goes beyond; indeed, it is part of a process consisting not only in establishing and securing institutions, but also in promoting participatory governance and respect of fundamental human rights, especially women’s rights. This involves both at security and strategic levels mainstreaming gender issues in conflict resolution, as well as greater participation of women in peacebuilding processes through the removal of the political and legal barriers that are intensifying the feminization of poverty.

The professional-oriented bilingual Master II in Gender and Peacebuilding (GECOP) was designed to address training gaps and meet the need for protection of women’s rights during armed conflicts. To achieve such goal this programme undertakes to train highly qualified African specialists in gender, conflict resolution and peacebuilding by enabling them to gain awareness of the correlation between the issues relating to gender, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. This Master was developed as a result of an innovative partnership between Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar (UCAD), the UN Mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) of Costa Rica, and the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS).

For its third edition, the Master is open to 60 students from all African countries, including 30 Senegalese students. The programme is hosted by the Faculty of Law and Politics of UCAD and administered by the Pan-African Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (PAC) of Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS). The teachings will be taken on by professors from both UCAD and UPEACE. The teaching staff includes professors from UCAD and UPEACE and the civil society, as well as high-level professionals.
II. Organization of teachings
The course consists of 600 hours of instruction organized into 14 teaching units. The first semester is organized in a core curriculum focused on the teaching of basics (law, sociology, history, economics, philosophy, psychology, communication, and languages). The second semester is oriented on the acquisition of theoretical knowledge and specific tools for field works and training courses resulting in the defence of a Master dissertation. The quality of the teachings is compliant with the requirements of the regulations governing higher education in Senegal.

III. Objectives
The overall objective of the Master in Gender and Peacebuilding (GECOP) is to train women and men participating in social, economic and political processes and who are interested in gender and peace issues in Africa. It aims at providing future students with the needed tools for gender mainstreaming in armed conflict prevention and peacekeeping operations in Africa.

IV. Targeted audience and conditions for admission
May register in the Master II students who have completed 60 credits of any Master I or Master’s Degree and who wish to pursue a career in the fields of gender and peacebuilding, or professionals working in such fields and holding degrees accepted as equivalent to 60 credits of Master I. Admission is granted on proposal of a selection committee whose members are appointed by the Dean of the Faculty of Law and Politics of Cheikh Anta Diop University of Dakar after careful review of applications and validation of degrees by the African and Malagasy Council for Higher Education (CAMES). No other body is authorized to accept candidates outside the committee established for this purpose. The annual cohort of students is made up of 60 students, including 30 of Senegalese citizenship and 30 of other African nationalities.

V. Required Profiles
This Master II is opened to applicants of all African countries, holders of a high school diploma + 4 years of higher studies (Master’s degree or Master I) in the following fields:
- Law and Politics
- Economics or Management
- International Relations
- Conflict Resolution
- Arts and Human Science
- Sociology
- Anthropology
- Philosophy

Proficiency in both English and French in oral and written communication is required. To this end, face-to-face or remote interviews will be conducted to assess the applicant’s technical skills. Intermediate level in the second language is a requirement for admission to the training.
VI. Scholarships
The students will be granted scholarships that will partly cover registration fees and housing, transportation and food allowances. The amount of the scholarship will be communicated at the time of announcing successful applicants. Successful applicants are encouraged to find accommodation in Dakar on their own. They are strongly recommended to undertake the necessary steps prior to beginning of the courses. It is up to the students to look for an accommodation in Dakar.

Application File
Applicants are requested to provide:
- A cover letter
- A copy certified true at the police or with any other competent authority of all degrees
- A copy of duly authenticated identity (identity card, passport)
- A birth certificate
- Two recent passport-sized pictures
- Two self-adhesive envelopes, labelled with your name and address and stamped at the current rate
- For professionals, a certificate indicating you availability for attending the training and signed by your authorities.

Submission of Applications
Applications marked "Application for the Master II in Gender and Peacebuilding" must be sent no later than 8 October 2016 at 18.00 by email to the following three contacts:
- yaya.ndiaye@ucad.edu.sn
- academicpac@fasngo.org
- africangender@fasngo.org

And by post, in a sealed envelope to the attention of Mr Yaya Ndiaye, Secrétaire Général de la Faculté des Sciences Juridiques et Politiques de l’UCAD (FSJP) – BP. 5005 – Dakar-Fann – Sénégal. Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted. Successful applicants will be invited to provide further documents and their Skype contact where necessary.

Note: Applications from women are strongly encouraged and parity will be promoted.