



Femmes Africa Solidarité

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PRESS RELEASE

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Recipient of Dr Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship announced

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is pleased to announce that the recipient of the 2008 Dr Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship is Ms Beatrice Kizi Nzovu from Nairobi, Kenya. This is an all expenses paid for, 12-months fellowship which is supported by a private donor. She will work with FAS at its international secretariat in Geneva, Switzerland and regional office in Dakar, Senegal.

Ms Nzovu was selected out of a total of 23 applicants from various African countries including Africans living in the first world. She was chosen because of her exceptional experience and work on peace building initiatives, which is closely related to the objectives of FAS.

Ms Nzovu is a young dynamic African woman who holds a Master of Arts in Peace Studies and Conflict Transformation and a Bachelor of Arts (Hons.) in Sociology. She is a trained and certified Peer Counselor as well as a Facilitator on Gender mainstreaming and gender frameworks. She has skills in Proposal, Monitoring and Evaluation, Report Writing, Research and Marketing and initiation of community based projects. She currently works for an organisation called Peace and Development Network in Kenya where she is the Programme Officer (Training and Capacity Building). She hopes to utilise the new skills she acquires in the fellowship in her organisation.

Her background in peace building and working at the community level is an added advantage because it provides a great opportunity for her to deliver on the fellowship's objective which is to contribute to the next generation of African women leaders who are dedicated to utilizing their voices and experience to further women's central role in peace building and development work in their country, region and continent.

The Fellowship aims to attract applicants who have substantial experience in local community work and who wish to gain international experience to enrich and enhance their skills. Having gained experience at FAS, it is the intention of this fellowship that the beneficiary would return home, to continue their work and to participate in building peace on their own continent. This was demonstrated in Ms Nzovu's application.

In this one year fellowship, she will spend 9 months with the FAS office in Geneva, working on various programmes including covering the United Nations organs such as the Human Rights Council and the UN Commission on the Status of Women where FAS has interest. After the 9 months, she will move to Dakar, Senegal where she will work helping to implement the organisation's plans.

The Wanjiru Kihoro Fellowship was born out of a gap that FAS saw in its internship programme at offices in Geneva. Interns at FAS are expected to meet their own expenses and as a result this has proved to be out of reach for any African working at the grassroots level in Africa. This Fellowship bridges this gap by providing the financial support needed to conduct a 12-month internship at FAS.

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For more details about FAS, please visit our website www@fasngo.org

FAS is an international organization of women enjoying consultative status with ECOSOC, which works to strengthen the capacity of African women so they can assume a leadership role in peace building and conflict resolution. FAS programs particularly apply in countries ravaged by wars and in the regions of the Mano River and Great Lakes. Similarly, FAS works closely with subregional and regional bodies such as ECOWAS and the African Union to ensure greater involvement of women in decision-making processes for peace and development

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