

CICC member and affiliate activities in honor of International Women's Day (IWD), 8 March 2008 (listed in alphabetical order)

Association des Femmes Juristes de Côte d'Ivoire (Ivory Coast Association of Female Jurists)
Abidjan, Ivory Coast

This NGO will be co-organizing a series of activities around the IWD national theme of "Consolidating Peace by Women" from 3 March to 28 March. On 8 March there will be an event in Port Bouet with government representatives and NGOs. Other highlights include: an awareness-building event in Gagnoa on the rights and duties of women in terms of their legal status and their role in both the family and community at large, a debate on women's rights in Attécoubé, a judicial consultation in Vridi, and a visit to detained female prisoners in the Abengourou prison.

Association des Mamans Chrétiennes pour l'Assistance aux Vulnérables (Association of Christian Mothers for Assistance to the Vulnerable or AMCAV)

Uvira, Democratic Republic of Congo (member of the DRC Coalition)

This NGO which helps women who have been victims of sexual violence is organizing a number of activities throughout the month of March both in Uvira and in surrounding communities. They include: a theatre piece on impunity, a debate with local authorities and women's groups on amendment to national legislation with regard to gender-based crimes, and on a march for gender justice complete with signs on IWD.

Benin Coalition for the ICC

Cotonou, Benin

The Coalition will issue a release and participate in numerous radio and television interviews, both national channels and private ones.

Le Club des Amis du Droit du Congo

Kinshasa, DRC

There will be a conference titled "Investing in Peace and Justice for the Protection and Autonomy of Women and Girls" during which participants will address the issue of gender-based violence in DRC on 7 March at the Protestant University of Congo in Kinshasa.

Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI)

Kampala, Uganda

In conjunction with the Women of Uganda Network, EASSI, which monitors commitments made by Governments in the eight Eastern African countries to advancing women's concerns, is coordinating a massive "Womens' Day SMS Campaign" campaign (sms are short text messages between mobile telephone devices) in support of girls in Kenya that has suffered atrocities during the Kenya post-election crisis. The campaign which runs from 25th February to 14th March reflects on the girl child in Kenya and the region that has suffered unbearable atrocities as a result of the post-election violence. The messages will be daily updates of the peace progress and the organizations own affirmations and convictions concerning the girl child in Kenya.

The Egyptian Center for Women's Rights (ECWR)

Cairo, Egypt

As part of a campaign against sexual harassment, ECWR is holding a "Making Our Streets Safer for All" celebration on 6 March to mark the organization's call for a new law explicitly criminalizing sexual harassment. The event will include legal experts and NGOs representatives discussing the legislative situation and comparing sexual harassment laws in other countries. This

will be followed by a committee of parliamentarians and lawyers who support the campaign and will work on drafting a new law based on the outcomes of the discussion.

Faith and Ethics Network for the ICC (FENICC)

New York, New York

On 29 February, FENICC co-sponsored the panel discussion "Faith-based Responses to Gender-based Violence as an Atrocity Crime" which examined the role of faith-based communities in preventing gender-based violence and protecting survivors, and explored the partnerships that may be established with the International Criminal Court (ICC) in support of justice and reconciliation. Speakers included: Mr. Andre Laperriere, Executive Director, ICC Trust Fund for Victims, Ms. Kate Burns, Senior Policy Advisor for Gender, UN ACTION Against Sexual Violence; Ms. Karima Lanyero, Acholi Religious Leaders Women's Program in N. Uganda; and Mr. Michel Ngoy Mulunda, Chair, Youth of the Lutheran World Federation in DRC. Ms. Lanyero highlighted the strife that women experience in conflict areas, including the undermining of their dignity and privacy and enduring the blame for gender-based violations they incur. She also voiced many of the victims' personal questions and concerns about the TFV and ICC.

La Fédération Internationale des Droits de l'Homme (FIDH)

Paris, France

FIDH is organizing a number of activities to mark IWD this year. The "Ending discrimination against women in the Arab region: Equality without reservation!" meeting in Cairo from 5-6 March will bring together a delegation of prominent activists women's rights defenders from the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf to meet with representatives of the Arab League to call upon them to take a stronger role in promoting women's rights in their relations with member states. On 6th March, there will be a special event to mark IWD in solidarity with Egyptian women's rights groups. There will also be a letter of solidarity ("Women of Iran, we do not forget you!") from the President of FIDH to the women of Iran engaged in the campaign for the reform of discriminatory laws (the "One Million Signatures Campaign"). In addition, a tribune "Women: a force for change in Iran", by the President of FIDH, Souhayr Belhassen will be published in several anglophone and francophone newspapers. To view letter of solidarity, see:

http://iccnow.org/documents/FIDH_IWD_Iran_Letter_Campaign_08mar.pdf

And lastly, there will be a call to end impunity for crimes of sexual violence in DRC from 12th March to 3rd April. FIDH will accompany a delegation of human rights and women's rights defenders from DRC on a high-level advocacy mission. The delegation will meet with representatives at the UN HRC in Geneva, of the EU in Brussels, at the ICC in The Hague, and with representatives of the French government in Paris. A series of awareness-raising events aimed at the general public will also be organized.

Lima Bar Association

Lima, Peru

On the 5th of March, the association will hold a discussion with members of the State Departments and representatives of not-for-profit organizations on women rights. During this meeting, the association will read aloud from the CICC press release.