

## **RWANDA RECOMMENDATIONS**

*The following recommendations for leveraging women's skills and expertise in seeking to moderate extremism were developed by Rwandan women experts convened by The Institute for Inclusive Security in January 2010.*

### **TO INCREASE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN ALL EFFORTS TO MODERATE EXTREMISM**

#### **INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS, PARTICULARLY THE UNITED STATES, AND OTHER BILATERAL GOVERNMENTS AND MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS, SHOULD:**

1. Provide technical and financial support to establish an independent training institute for women's leadership. A feasibility study and a series of consultations should be conducted to determine the exact curriculum, structure, and leadership. It would research and document the contributions of women in preventing conflict, strengthening and sustaining democracy, increasing national reconciliation, and ending extremism. The institute would also offer leadership and management courses so that women increase their participation on the national and regional levels. In addition, the institute would:
  - a. Provide fellowships to women leaders in the region from government, civil society, and the private sector to capture their experiences for other audiences;
  - b. Lead training of trainers programs to increase the capacity of women at the grassroots level, as well as to systematize interactions through the mentoring and coaching of local and national women leaders.
2. Provide technical and financial support to government programs to economically empower women and youth, in particular through vocational training so that they can develop their own enterprises and create jobs.
3. Assist the government with ongoing efforts to increase security and stability in the region by disarming and stopping extremist individuals and groups from indoctrinating men, women, and youth in genocide ideology.
4. Provide funding to establish more schools, particularly schools for girls, thereby increasing teaching on reconciliation and peaceful co-existence.

5. Create opportunities for technical and financial support to civil society organizations, particularly women's organizations working on reconciliation and ending extremism, such as the Sisters Against Violent Extremism.
6. Provide technical and financial support to increase the capacity and professionalism of the media, especially women's organizations working in the field of media.

**THE GOVERNMENT OF RWANDA, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL UNITY AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION AND THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE FIGHT AGAINST GENOCIDE, SHOULD:**

1. Assess the impact of laws on terrorism and extremism, particularly their impact on women. Based on the findings of research, increase enforcement of the laws and introduce sensitization programs related to these laws at the community level.
2. Scale-up implementation of Parliament's recommendations to combat genocide ideology and other forms of extremism, particularly in the education system.
3. Increase the participation of women in monitoring early signs of extremism.
4. Ensure that the National Unity and Reconciliation Commission's Itorero curriculum has a distinct gender mainstreaming component and that all trainers are gender sensitive. [One of the purposes of Itorero is to combat extremism and cultivate support for tolerance and peaceful coexistence.]
5. Leverage the expertise and experience of women who have served as Gacaca judges by involving them in peace building and social cohesion efforts after the phasing out of Gacaca. [Gacaca Courts are community-based courts mandated to adjudicate genocide cases and promote reconciliation.]