

BUILDING PEACE IN DARFUR: THE VITAL ROLE OF WOMEN LEADERS

In November 2006, The Initiative for Inclusive Security convened a diverse group of 15 women leaders from Darfur for a consultation on increasing women's participation in the Darfur peace process. Together they identified the objectives below as critical to achieving women's inclusion.

Priorities for Increasing the Inclusion of Women in Peace Building

1. Advocate for women's inclusion in decision-making structures in camps for the internally displaced and refugees, especially in security committees.
2. Advocate to the African Union (AU), Sudanese Liberation Movement (SLM), and Government of National Unity (GNU), to include 50 percent women in mediation with non-signatories.
3. Advocate (through donors, the United Nations, and the Core Coordinating Group (CCG)) for a more inclusive Darfur Joint Assessment Mission (D-JAM) process (i.e., one that includes women and non-signatories).
4. Advocate to United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the World Bank, and the CCG for the inclusion of Darfurian (and other Sudanese) women experts (including those already working in the UN) in the D-JAM Track I and II technical teams.
5. Advocate for the AU and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) to acknowledge publicly the Gender Expert Support Team's contributions to the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) as a means for reinforcing and validating women's expertise and right to participate in all aspects of peace building.
6. Lobby for women's participation in the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation (DDDC), starting with the Preparatory Committee.
7. Advocate to ensure women are involved in decision-making about, and preparation for voluntary returns.
8. Advocate for 50 percent women's participation in all aspects of the disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration process.
9. Advocate to increase to 50 percent the representation of women in all levels of the Darfur Transitional Authority, including commissions, particularly the Compensation Commission.
10. Advocate for 50 percent women's participation in all delegations to a Darfur donor conference(s).
11. Lobby the GNU, SLM, and non-signatories for minimum 50 percent representation of women in all commissions and committees for DPA implementation, and support advocacy by providing a list of Darfurian women experts.
12. Advocate at the national level for legislation that differentiates between rape and adultery as crimes, and at the state level to reduce impunity by increasing the capacity of the courts.
13. Advocate to secure land and property ownership rights for women, locally-appropriate compensation rights, and compensation for victims of rape.
14. Lobby donors to increase funding for training and identifying new women leaders to increase the number of leaders and enhance their skills.
15. Lobby for a 50 percent nationwide quota for women's participation in all levels of government.

For More Information Contact:

Evelyn Thornton, The Initiative for Inclusive Security, +202 403 2000, Evelyn_Thornton@huntalternatives.org