



WHY WAS THE WAN CREATED?

JRP's field observations since 2006 have explored the unique challenges facing women in northern Uganda and the need for the inclusion of their voices in ongoing developments in transitional justice. A group of war-affected women, who were engaged in a storytelling project at JRP, proposed the establishment of an advocacy group to serve as a platform through which female leaders would be empowered to engage in advocacy for justice and peace. **The Women's Advocacy Network (WAN) was created with the goal of bridging the existing gaps in gender justice.**

OBJECTIVES

1. To advocate for the inclusion of war-affected women's reparations and accountability needs within the transitional justice framework in Uganda.
2. To empower and build the capacity of war-affected women so that they become effective leaders, community mobilizers and agents of change in their own communities.
3. To advocate for the promotion and respect of the rights of children born during the war and/or born from forced marriages while their mothers were abducted.

WAN ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- ✓ The WAN is comprised of over 200 members from Acholi sub-region.
- ✓ We have organized community sensitization workshops in Gulu, Nwoya and Amuru districts.
- ✓ We have expressed gender-specific concerns to a number of stakeholders, including the representative of the Paramount Chief of Ker Kwaro Acholi, the Mayor of Gulu, Minister Betty Bigombe, and the Gulu District Speaker, among other civil society groups (CSOs) and peace and justice stakeholders.

ISSUES FACING CONFLICT-AFFECTED WOMEN

- ✓ Economic and financial challenges
- ✓ Lack of education
- ✓ Physical injuries and diseases requiring surgery
- ✓ Lack of recognition and apology by perpetrators that returned from the bush
- ✓ Psychological trauma
- ✓ Stigma and abuse
- ✓ Limited access to land for themselves and for children born in captivity
- ✓ Victimization and marginalization from political discourse
- ✓ Children's identity questions

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Women's Advocacy Network

Seeking justice and reconciliation for war-affected women



THE WAN AT JRP SEEKS JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION FOR WAR-AFFECTED WOMEN

ABOUT

The Women's Advocacy Network (WAN) at JRP is a forum where war-affected women come together to advocate for justice, acknowledgment & accountability for gender-based violations inflicted upon them during war in northern Uganda. The network is an initiative of the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP), and it was formed in May 2011 with the aim of empowering women survivors to participate in post-conflict policy debates and to engage grassroots communities in gendered discussions on reintegration and reconciliation.

The WAN is currently comprised of 9 grassroots women's groups within Acholi sub-region and is in the process of widening its scope to include the voices of conflict-affected women from Teso, West Nile and Lango sub-regions. The WAN meets quarterly at JRP to discuss advocacy issues, work towards consensus, and develop strategies to ensure that issues of contention are addressed.

The Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) promotes locally sensitive and sustainable peace in Africa's Great Lakes region by focusing on the active involvement of grassroots communities in local-level transitional justice. To learn more about JRP's work, please visit www.justiceandreconciliation.com.



WAN members and JRP staff during International Women's Day in Gulu, 2012.

WAN ACTIVITIES

- **Advocacy and Lobbying-** We conduct community outreach activities, media engagements in newspapers and radio talk shows, and request that the Government of Uganda, policy-makers, leaders at all levels, religious and cultural institutions and civil society organizations (CSOs) address the WAN's advocacy issues.
- **Networking-** We engage in exchange visits with other advocacy groups, participate in different post-conflict debates and form lasting linkages with other advocacy networks.
- **Capacity-building-** We provide training to WAN leaders in areas such as communication, public speaking, advocacy, networking, decision-making, conflict resolution and leadership.
- **Peer-support and Storytelling-** Through storytelling, theatre, poetry, life/body/place maps and memory quilts, we promote memory-sharing, confidence-building, healing and restoration of dignity.

GET INVOLVED

To learn more about the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN), please contact the Gender Justice department at the Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) at +256(0)471433008 or email info@justiceandreconciliation.com.