



MASTER'S PROGRAMME IN GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING

The professional-oriented bilingual Master's programme on Gender and Peacebuilding was initiated by Femmes Africa Solidarité and its PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development to address the shortage of skills among Africans to meet the need for protection of women's rights during armed conflicts. To achieve such goal this programme embarked on training highly qualified African specialists in gender, conflict resolution and peacebuilding by enabling them to be aware of the rapport between the issues related to gender, peacebuilding and conflict prevention. This Master's programme is a result of an innovative partnership between the University of Cheikh Anta Diop of Dakar (UCAD), the United Nations, mandated University for Peace (UPEACE) of Costa Rica, and Femmes Africa Solidarité's PanAfrican Centre for Gender, Peace and Development (FAS/PAC). The cooperation between FAS/PAC, UPEACE and UCAD is well placed for harnessing excellent experiences in leadership, good practices in utilizing research findings to minimize conflict as well as methodologies for resolving various forms of insecurity in Africa. The programme is open to 30 students from all African countries, including 10 Senegalese and is hosted by the Faculty of Law and Politics of UCAD. The programme was funded by the African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) and the World Bank (WB).

The first academic year 2012-2013 students graduated on the 18th January 2014 at UCAD II Amphitheater. The ceremony was chaired by the Minister of Gender, Family and Infancy of Senegal, Madam Anta Sarr in presence of eminent personalities, notably the Rector of UCAD, Professor Saliou Ndiaye, the representative of the Rector of UPEACE, Dr. Jean Bosco Butera, Director of UPEACE, Africa Programme based in Addis Abeba, Madam Bineta Diop, Founder and President of FAS, Madam Vera Songwe, Director of Operations of the World Bank for Senegal, Cape Verde, The Gambia, Guinea Bissau and Mauritania and many distinguished guests, including Diplomatic corps and regional, continental and international institutions representatives. 29 students from 14 African countries graduated with a Master's of Arts (M.A) Degree in Gender and Peacebuilding. This comes at the right moment when Africa is really in need of African experts, considering many actions of violence perpetrated to women and young girls has gone beyond imagination. The programme stretched on 9 months of intensive courses. 14 modules were dispensed by UCAD and UPEACE professors and professionals with renown expertise in the field of Gender Mainstreaming. The courses were divided into 2 semesters. Courses in the first semester were mainly on concepts and theories on gender, peace and security while courses on the second semester focused on practical studies that were enhanced through internship and research that yielded informed theses on the issues of gender mainstreaming in post-conflict and reconstruction phases. Students had also an opportunity to attend a special lecture by Madam Benita Diop, who shared her vast experience on violence committed to women in various conflict fields in the Mano River and the Great Lakes Regions, as well as the Horn of Africa, including the Sudan. Students were cheered and, especially women could not retain their willing to ask her to be their role model and mentor.

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