

UNITED WOMEN'S PEACE IN THE GREAT LAKES REGION, an initiative for real, lasting and comprehensive peace among women in the Great Lakes region.

#### Our coordinates

United Women for Peace in the Great Lakes Region, in acronym" FUP-GL", KIBENGA Hill, MUZINDA Zone, RUGAZI Commune, BUBANZA Province, BURUNDI,

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#### HISTORICAL

In 2005, 15 young women and girls and 5 young men and boys led by Mrs NTAKARUTIMANA Florence meet to discuss ways and means of direct local assistance to neighboring victims of sexual violence.

During the meeting, they realize that assistance can only be effective and effective with the participation of the victims and the solidarity of all the people in the area. This is where the idea came from to create an association that would unite young women and men in neighborhoods and avenues to prevent, combat and eradicate violence. Thus was born FUP / GL in 2005 and officially recognized in 2008 by Ministerial Order  $N^{\circ}$  530/972 of 22 September.

#### VISION

The FUP / GL organization's vision is to make the woman and girl strong by encouraging and supporting solidarity in the daily actions of self-promotion and self-protection of peace and human rights.

### **GOAL AND OBJECTIVES**

The goal of FUP / GL is to bring together and guide women's efforts to build and sustain lasting peace in the Great Lakes region of Africa.

# objectives:

- Bring the woman to fully deserve her place and her role in education for peace and in the socio sanitary promotion;
- Serve as a framework for sharing information and experiences among women peace builders in the Great Lakes region;
- Provide the woman with the means required for self-advocacy of her rights wherever and whenever needed;
- Prevent and fight the spirit of hatred in the Great Lakes region;
- Combating the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.

#### **ACTIVITIES**

- ✓ Training and animation in human rights and peace,
- ✓ Advocacy for the improvement of the legal conditions of women,

- ✓ Awareness-raising for cooperation and solidarity for the defense of women's rights between women as individuals and as a group,
- ✓ Inform the population about the misdeeds of small arms and light weapons.
- ✓ Socio-economic support and supervision of women who are more vulnerable socioeconomically.



MAIN FIELD OF ACTION

Our main field of action is peace and the human rights of women and girls in socio- economically and culturally disadvantaged areas.

#### TARGET POPULATION

- Women victims of armed conflict or insecurity;
- Women victims of sexual violence;
- Marginalized rural women and girls (widows, orphans, girl-mothers, disabled, illiterate, ...;
- Women infected or affected by HIV / AIDS.

#### **ACTIVITIES IN PROGRESS**

- Youth awareness campaign on peace and active non-violence in schools and youth groups in neighborhoods (peace letters, peace marches, capacity building for young drivers of change for peace);
- Campaign against the proliferation, easy access and misuse of small arms and light weapons;
- Campaign to prevent violence against women;

• Legal, psychological, economic and medical assistance program for victims of violence.

## **PAST ACTIVITIES**

FUP / GL has carried out several activities, among which:

- Organization, each year, in May, of the Global Week of Action against Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- Collaboration with the government in the disarmament process of the civilian population;
- Awareness campaign for the voluntary surrender of arms illegally held during the global weeks of action on small arms and light weapons;
- Organization of educational chat sessions on the prevention of domestic sexual violence using a firearm;
- Awareness campaign against sexual and genderbased violence during the 16-day campaign against sexual violence;
- Training of 35 young women trainers on peace building and reconciliation;
- Campaign "No place for weapons in love"
- Organization of the peace march in Burundi,

#### **FUTURE PROSPECTS**

- Creation of a digital exchange platform between young people on peace and active non-violence;
- Establishment of communal centers for meetings and exchanges between young people to promote the culture of peace and active non-violence;
- Creation of a training center for young artisans of peace and active non-violence.

#### **COLLABORATION**

# At the national level, FUP / GL is:

 Founding member of the Civil Society Initiative to Support Disarmament (ISCAD);

- Public awareness organization and dialogue frameworks on the community negotiation process for peaceful coexistence among young people potentially in conflict;
- Facilitation and organization of educational activities: training and awareness seminar on the misdeeds of small arms and light weapons;
- Awareness of youth about sexual violence using a firearm.
- Partner of the Commission for the Disarmament of the Civilian Population and the fight against Small Arms:
- Founding member of the Burundian Coalition to Combat the Use of Child Soldiers;
- Member of the Forum for the Strengthening of Civil Society, FORSC;
- Member of the Youth Promotion Association Collective, CPAJ;
- Member of the Collective of Burundian Human Rights Associations, CABDH;
- Member of the Burundian AIDS Alliance, ABS;
- Member of the Association for Solidarity and Social and Health Assistance, ASASSS-Burundi.

- Organization of quarterly awareness-raising rounds in households against the proliferation of weapons and their misuse in rural areas victim of war;
- Supervision of young veterans against violence, poverty and HIV / AIDS in rural areas victim of war;
- Advocacy for the socio-economic promotion of unemployed youth in post-conflict armed zones;

## At the international level, FUP / GL collaborate with:

- African Francophone Network on Small Arms (RAFAL);
- Human Rights Education Associates (HREA);
- International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA-RAIAL);
- International Coalition to Combat Abuse of Women and Girls (WWSF, Geneva);
- International Youth Peace Group (IYPG);

**Edited by FUP-GL's communication department** 

**March 2019** 

