

SOUTHERN AFRICA TRAINING OF TRAINERS IN GENDER AND ACTIVE NON-VIOLENCE

MARCH 15TH -26TH 2010

JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

The Africa Women Peacemakers Program held its Southern Africa Training of Trainers (ToT) in Gender Sensitive and Active Non Violence from the 15th to the 26th of March 2010 in Johannesburg, South Africa.



The Desk's *Training of Trainers* (ToT) in Gender Sensitive Active Non-violence seek to enhance the skills of women's organizations working on Women's rights, Gender, Peacebuilding and other relevant Gender issues using a strictly Active Non-Violent approach.

The ToTs also seek to identify qualified women trainers, enhance their capacities and create a database of resource people. The trainings develop a network of local resource persons who are linked to regional networks of women trainers. This ensures a replication and transfer of knowledge at community levels throughout Africa.

The just-ended Southern Africa ToT brought together 17 women peace activists representing 9 countries namely Angola, Madagascar, South Africa, Malawi, Swaziland, Zambia, Lesotho, Namibia and Zimbabwe.



The cultural spread fostered a potpourri of diverse opinions and experiences

The **Southern Africa** ToT (held in South Africa) is the fourth of the Desk's sub-regional trainings; following those of **Central Africa** (held in Burundi in April 2008), the **Greater Horn of Africa** (held in Kenya in November 2007) and **West Africa** training (held in Ghana in May 2009).

The just-ended Southern Africa ToT resulted in an internalization of Gender-sensitive Active Non-violence as a strategy for conflict transformation and peace building on the continent. Participants expressed greater confidence in their capacity and skills as African women peacemakers, and their subsequent preparedness to build strong and efficient organizations that would sustain peace in Africa. Women peace activists at the training learned invaluable assets that would ensure efficient transfer of Peacebuilding skills to the grassroots.



NO TO INJUSTICE!!!!



WPP WOMEN – WE ARE TOGETHER, WE ARE ONE

Participants engaged in role play and simulation exercises that honed their abilities to respond to conflict with the aid of innovative Active Non-Violent strategies.



Role play, situation analysis and lessons to enhance practical problem solving skills

The role of solidarity in the women's peace movement was emphasized with group work and collective reasoning at the heart of the mutual learning sessions.



Lessons in Advocacy and Proposal Writing

Participants were guided in the writing of proposals aimed at enhancing the skills and capacities of middle-level women to ensure excellent execution of Gender, Rights and Non-Violent trainings and education at the grassroots in Africa.

Follow-up trainings would be held in all 12 participating countries; for which the trainees would be provided with mentorship and seed funding by the Africa Desk of the IFOR Women Peacemakers Program.



The ToT provided an excellent platform for experience sharing and project tailoring, set in a country rich in human rights precedents.



At the conclusion of the training, participants paid visits to historic sites such as Mandela House, the Apartheid Museum and the Hector Peterson Museum as a means to learn more about the human rights heritage of South Africa.