

# IFOR/WPP Africa Desk

## Training of Trainers in Gender and Active Non-violence

4<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009

Coconut Grove Regency Hotel

Accra, Ghana

The Africa Desk of the *Women Peace Makers Program* (AWPP), a Program of the *International Fellowship of Reconciliation* (IFOR) is committed to amplifying the voice of Africa women in Peacebuilding through capacity building and the promotion of Gender-sensitive Active Non-violence.

The Africa Desk of WPP seeks to achieve this through *Training of Trainers* (ToT) in Gender Sensitive Active Non-violence to enhance the skills of women's organizations working on Women's rights, Gender, Peacebuilding and other relevant Gender issues.



EUPHEMIA AKOS DZATHOR - REGIONAL COORDINATOR OF THE WPP AFRICA DESK

The trainings 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 which are linked to regional networks of women trainers to replicate the work of WPP and ensure the transfer of knowledge at community levels throughout Africa. The IFOR / WPP Africa Desk has held sub-regional *Trainings of Trainers* (ToTs) for **Central Africa** (held in Burundi in April 2008), the **Greater Horn of Africa** (held in Kenya in November 2007) and the just-ended **West Africa** training (held in Ghana in May 2009).



PARTICIPANTS AT THE WEST AFRICA ToT (4<sup>TH</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> May 2009) – ACCRA, GHANA

The 2-week **West Africa** sub-regional *Training of Trainers* in Gender and Active Non-violence was held from the 4<sup>th</sup> to the 15<sup>th</sup> of May, 2009 at the Coconut Grove Regency Hotel in Accra, Ghana, with the 1<sup>st</sup> week facilitated by Jane Maina (Kenyan Lawyer and Regional Coordinator of "Pax Christi Greater Horn of Africa Network") and Seconde Nyanzobe (Senior trainer at "Search for Common Ground" and vice president of the NGO "Fontaine Issoko"), and the 2<sup>nd</sup> week facilitated by Joana Opare (Executive Director of "Gender Planning Consults Limited") and Hilary Gbedemah (Rector of the Ghana Law Institute).



In all, there were 20 participants (19 women and 1 man) representing 11 West African countries namely Ghana, Liberia, Senegal, Nigeria, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry, Mali, Sierra Leone, Togo, Cote d'Ivoire and Benin. Participants, who were chosen from conflict-ridden or conflict-prone countries, were required to have prior experience in Gender and Non-violence work and be willing to replicate the training in their organizations and with other women groups.

The objectives of the Training were as follows:

1. To assist African Women peacemakers in integrating Gender-sensitive Active Non-violence as a strategy for conflict transformation and peace building on the continent.
2. To develop the capacity and skills of African women peacemakers in order to build strong and efficient organizations to sustain peace in Africa
3. To enhance the capacities of African women peacemakers to transfer Peacebuilding skills to the grassroots.

Topics discussed included Concept and philosophy of Active Non-violence, Non-violence and culture, Environmental Non-violence and Peacebuilding, Reconciliation and healing, Non-violence and Gender, Facilitative training skills, Fundraising and Proposal writing skills, and Women in leadership.

International Bills and Conventions on the women's rights such as *CEDAW* (Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women), UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820, *The Beijing Platform of Action* and *The Maputo Protocol* were also discussed. Comparisons on country-by-country ratifications and applications of relevant declarations such as UNSCR 1325 also took place.



AT THE WEEKEND, PARTICIPANTS VISITED THE ELMINA CASTLE - A UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE SITE

The climax of the training witnessed participants' presentations on individual replication-projects of the training within their respective countries.

