

## **Open Letter to the Government of Uganda**

In August 2006, ISIS-WICCE and the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice in collaboration with the Ugandan Women Lawyers Association, the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and local women's organizations, held a workshop on Women's Human Rights in Lira, Uganda.

We the 45 women's peace and human rights activists from north and north eastern Uganda attending the Women's Human Rights Workshop in Lira, August 22-24, 2006, call upon the Government of Uganda to:

- Include women civil and community leaders in the peace negotiations, given the scale of the atrocities committed against women and girls during the conflict and the work of women peace activists at the grassroots level promoting justice and peace;
- Fulfill its responsibility to ensure peace, stability and the rule of law in north and north eastern Uganda;
- Develop and implement an effective strategy to ensure the safe return and resettlement of all people and communities in north and north eastern Uganda;
- Establish effective law enforcement and security in north and north eastern Uganda to address and control the widespread availability of arms and ammunitions;
- Develop specific policies to improve the economic and social infrastructure in the north and north east;
- Provide increased funding to establish urgently needed services and education opportunities for every community in north and north eastern Uganda;
- Establish specific health centres to treat and support women victims of gender based violence;
- Fund and support human rights education to assist in the establishment of peace, the promotion of human rights and an end to all forms of violence against women;
- Find ways to compensate those who have suffered loss of life and property, and those injured, disabled or maimed as a result of the conflicts;
- Fund and strengthen human rights and legal institutions in north and north eastern Uganda to promote reconciliation, access to justice, equality before the law and accountability;
- Increase funding for women's community based organizations in north and north eastern Uganda to strengthen our work for peace, development, justice and human rights;
- Provide an effective Police Force in north and north eastern Uganda to ensure gender based crimes can be effectively investigated and prosecuted to end impunity for rape and other forms of sexual violence;
- Fund stakeholders (including FIDA, women's NGOs, CBOs, CSOs, FBOs) to promote women's legal rights and access to justice.