

## **Open Letter to the International Criminal Court**

Dear Presidency, Prosecutor and Registrar,

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 activists from north and north eastern Uganda attending the Women's Human Rights Workshop in Lira, August 22-24, 2006, call upon the ICC to:

- Be mindful of the on-going peace dialogue and allow time for this to reach a successful peace agreement and an end to all hostilities. However the ICC should have a time limit for the peace talks to be concluded. Should the peace talks fail, we urge the ICC to take immediate action to arrest and prosecute those charged with war crimes and crimes against humanity in Uganda;
- United Nations Peace Keepers should play an active role in arresting those charged with crimes by the ICC;
- Act expeditiously and bring those responsible for atrocities in north and north eastern Uganda to trial as quickly as possible;
- Demonstrate impartiality and fully investigate the crimes within the Court's jurisdiction committed by all parties to the conflict;
- Conduct effective investigations and prosecutions of gender based crimes committed in north and north eastern Uganda;
- Investigate the governments and individuals financing, arming and facilitating the conflict and the proliferation of small arms in north and north eastern Uganda;
- Immediately open offices in the conflict area specifically north and north eastern Uganda and initiate effective outreach programmes (workshops, consultations, material) to disseminate information about its mandate, activities and functions;
- Do more to domesticate information about the ICC and its activities for local communities particularly women to be able to understand and participate in the international justice process including publicising trial proceedings once they begin;
- Monitor the process of reparations and compensation to ensure the victims for whom they are intended directly benefit;
- Ensure there are women on the List of Legal Counsel so that women victims/survivors from Uganda have the opportunity to be represented by Ugandan women lawyers during ICC proceedings.