

# The African Union Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa

## Not yet a force for freedom



Edited by: Gichinga Ndirangu  
Shereen Karmal



**CREDO**  
Centre for Research,  
Education & Development  
of Freedom of Expression  
and Associated Rights





•Velenca•venia papa•philip burnett•Lauri Kubuitsile•Carmen Cupido•Jennifer Mufune•Anisa Abdi•Prince Ukaegbu•Rachel Tyler•Djibril Saidou•willie pronk•B Houbion•Fahreen Mawjee•amanya wafula•Elena Valenciano•oyeniji bolaji•deko jide•Joanne Kabiru•NATHANIEL MOLEFE•Cait Baum•Marcia Manong•Michael Greenberg•Liz Mwambi•CAROLINE Muthoni•BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights•MARTIN KIMANI•patrick mutahi•Leonard Hooks•Emilio Santucci•Ngukwase Surma•de riz teresa•Gianmarco Accarpio•Kelda Remington•oriella callegari•Lee Albert•sibanze simuchoba•Manuela Davanzo•Jessica Srader•Dejo Olowu•Faye Epstein•Michelle Culverwell•Harry MASSELE•Wanjira Gitau•Tommy Hayden•Lynsey Skliros•wahida badrodien•Aggie Kalungu•Banda sandy okkers•Tshipinare Marumo•judith libaisi•Esther Lartey•Sarah James•Dinah Kayumba•Scholastica Phili•Rosemary Ekosso•Ted Donlan•okwa morphy - enebeli•Jannie Malan•Nandini Patel•Tony Karbo•Umurenwa Blondine•Muna Sikaulu•Emebel Kebede•Dr Bernadette Lahai•Shedrack Best•Martha Matuli•Connie Geerhart•Babalwa Mantame•Michael Picq•Mahdi Hauwa•Anna Workman•Edouard Kabazimya•Ingrid Ermanovics•Steven Cayford•Nancy Stafford•Oliver Wonekha•Saa Blama•liette benayad•cherif•Elirini Charalambidou•Maria Stuttaford•Chardiya Ahmad•Asma'u Joda•A H Kinabo•our org We support KIBORE M LUMONA secretary general box no 4114 dar es salaam Tanzania E mail lumbe•Olive Ejang•Saija Ohionan•Razia Parker•wahida Badrodien Parker•Annette Gartland•Margaret Matthew•Nasila Rembe•Markos Nikolopoulos•Juana Kweitel•Julie Littwin•Laraine Lippe•Suzi Faye•Nita Wink•Filio Fouska•sasha greenspan•Jesse Greenspan•jennifer radioff•Nguyen Hong Vu•Kostas Pavlou•kenya womens political caucus•Sandra Pitchers•Moira Faul•John Dada•Ursula van Rensburg•Vivian mollel•Fatmata Seye Sylla•Montse Claros Gimerio•g Kissell•ChiChi Anigbolu•shant Mcwilliam•elizabeth kamau•INIRIDA CURIEUX DIAZGRANADOS•Claudette Lowery•faize bedirhan•Angus Baden Martens•Vail Qyryci•Jessica DiCamillo•Aijalon Rios•Nellie Kamau•Ripple Patel•celia michau•Angel Carter•Emma Reeve•promise unwene•Rachel Mertz•Dana Lowery•Murhambo chihaliwira•Konjit Gifawossen•Kathambi Kinoti•David Idele•Dominique•Mariam Nakisekka•Chris Aziz•Emily Rosdeltcher•Terry Schaanman•robinson rider•Claire Hamel•Jamie Balfour•Paul•Ahmed Malah•Helen gilbert•Peris Wakesho•inez schade•Rommy Nweke•Takayama Lisa•Beth Henry•Polly Erickson•Aminu Usman•Esther Ainyo•Forum for Democracy and Good Governance National Assembly Nigeria•Mariam Nakisekka•Ivonia horton•The Rev Sam Fatoyinbo•Lindy Wright•Franck KINNINVO•Meqdes Mesfin•E. Ndiaye•Fatima Seedat•Hope Ogbeide•Ana Carolina•Ezekiel Pajibo•Jennifer Lentfer•Eugenia Ameyaw•Gyarko•Jama Abdullahi•Mahadi Mopeli•Tisetso Mopeli•Karl Miller•Amanda Lugg•Lyn Woods•Malaka Nelms•Aminu Usman•Rita Kaburanaga•Saidou Aji•Joy Gregory•Taina Bien•Aime•Antonia Kirkland•Jacqueline Hunt•Bérangère Nzamiba•Amanda Sullivan•Vladislav Povorniznic•Nkiri Obioma•Wairara Mbugua•REV JAPHET NDHLOVU•Sarah Maguire•Mark Chadwick•BWAMBALE M.P. LOICE BIIRA•TRAM THIEN THU•raphael ogali•Zubeda omer unhcr•brigitte nossek•Joseph D Njau•tz•Monica Mbari Mwangi•GRAEME ARENDESE•Barbara NOST•Natalia Jolier•Wimi Wittwer•Anthonia Igwe•Frances Ogwo•Hannatu Hammajam•Vicki Edwards•MBEKAR DANIELL•Okechukwu Kalu•nifqah roomaney•Osaro Odemwingie•Chongsi Ayeah•Joseph•Ornowale Ifeyinwa•Nguyen Van Sang•CECILE YONG•Roger•sarah mairden•Yemisi Ransome•Kuti•UDOGWU EZE AGU•Ali Ibrahim•Oludare Odumuyi•Lowrika Vaandrager•Dr. Uzodhima A. Adrieje•Cathy Scott•Bunmi Onanuga•Kristina Stockwood•OLUBUNMI ADEYINKA•shellina begum•Kennedy Mukwindidza•Leila Dzaferovic•Melaku Kifle•Wandia African leader•Walk the talk on women's rights Ratify and implement•Nguyen Thi Trang Dai•Sanja Gotre•MAGGIE NGALZA•S A SADDIKH•Hilda Mawanda Kenya•libby cantor•Shirley Love•Layla Evans•GRACA MACHEL•Evelyn Mwangi•Carmita ERNEST•PhanTheHien•Victoria Maloka•PHUONG HONG HANH LUCKY•jonathan ruta•Matty brachael scottiem•Ravishankar•alasdair mitchell•Craig Munden•PHONG LAN•NGUYEN DINH QUOC HUNG•Minh What Duong•Charlynn Boucher•Alastair Calderwood•alokua•MERCY JOE NTEKIM•HAO VO•DINH VIE•NguyenHongLien•howard price•Mary•NGUYEN VAN PHUONG•My Linh Duong•NGUYEN•le thi minh thu•NHAN NGUYEN HIEU•Nguyenchinh•Nana Ama Buckman•Do Van Minh•Ewan James•Tr n Le Thanh•PHAM XUAN LAN•Phan tuan kiet•BUI THANH TUAN•Nguyen Ngoc Thu Ha Nol•nguyen quang minh•VU HUONG GIANG PHAN THIET BINH THUAN•Nguyen Thi Diem Ha•Nguyen mai hieu•kien nghi la trung•Tran Duy•nguyen kim long•Tran Quang Thai•Thu•MAI THI ANH THU•nguyen thanh Binh•MACH NGUYET MINH•sam menh va•NGUYEN KHANH THANH HOANG•Cam Tu•Andy O•Tung Tran Thanh•Nguyen Huy Phan•TRUYEN TRAN THANH•Nguyen Quang My•Phuongpaula•kiaty•TRAN THANH HAU•JOYCE WONG•Lieu Ich Sang•CHAU NGOC LUU GIANG•JOYCE WONG•TRAN CHAU BICH THUY•NGUYEN THI HUONG•THANG VAN TO•Nguyen Tuan Anh•creevy bj•NGUYEN XUAN TIEN•Kevin O'Brien•EVA OWEN•nneka chikeobi•BOIMA JALEIBA•Anne fernando•LAMIE KROMAH•Qona Carrington•MUAMER NOAH BAJRICA•Yaw Opoku•hilary curls•Bartek Nitka•lyanda Najeem Uthman•Jason Piper•Peter Schotsman•Francesco Cond•Maxwell Nwazue•Eugenio Bordogna•Fabrizio Achilli•JOSPHAT RONO•karl scollan•Brent Carvalho•Michel Judie Lynn•Adrian Rodgers•elize retz•Akinyi•ali mohamed•Ewan McGerty•Christer Johansson•Robin Breslin•Eddie James•sheena kelly•David Smith•martin lester•Callum McGerty•Gerard McGerty•Debbie Whitley•ALBERTO LUPI•Pamela Kamujuni•Rashid Sesay•hannah tempest•Clarice Dlamini•Gillian Addison•Musabi Muteshi•Dr Fred Amegashie•beatrice shallukindo•KEN MBAERI•AM FAITH MAZYOPA•CLIFFORD A AKRONG•wasye Musyoni•LLAFOR ASANJI•MR ANTHONY J D GBOMINA•b m hassan•Emmanuel Ali Adoga•Deo Mutchwa•Eric Sency Kamara Accra I•Sarah Mukasa•JusticeT Chizumila•LEVISON•engoni patrick•Abdi Latif•Tangeni Amupadhi•Raymond MUZAAYA•JOHN SENSELE•Ajuga Christopher•Dr Nelly•Norman Lawrence•amimo kwambo michelle kwambo and Janet mayani•waiswa James Gulu•Mahmoud E Yousif Nairobi•Adrawa Charles Adjumani•Signed Mumbi Kalwa•Daniel otunge•Dr David Mugabi•Pagan amum okechi•TIBETEISA ABEL•Ebi Braimah•Margaret Miwa•Kenneth Makunga•Ken Koray•Bernice Cassidy•stefan andreasson•dan•elize deipori•Rob Ives•anicia laig•Esther Nakkazi•pamela mudhune•Nancy Kanyago•Shirley Moulder•Tommy Hayden•Sylvia muthoni•Zainab Bangura•Rebecca Arnold•Beth Chikwe Bili•ZABDIEL KIMAMBO•Michael Ochieng Odhiambo•nilesh bhugwandeen•PATSY KOEPPEN•annabel meere•SANDRAHERMINETTE•dominiquegolot•paul chappell•MSAFIRI KWEBA•Mark Rogerson•patrick burnett•elizabeth onyango•Irungu houghton•rose gawaya•rene loewenson•Adugna Kebede•Bev Clark•Joseph YAV Katshung•Augustine Lombe•carol bower•tajudeen abdulfateem•anil naidoo•moses kachima•MATIAS CAPELO•gerry SALOLE•kizito mushizi•lucy gilson•breyten breytenbach•Ngaba Bucwa•munirah osman•firoze manji•salman khan•seganeng pelesa•godfrey woelk•Mwajuma Masaiganah•charley lewis•annabel•MARIA KANGONI•afifat agboola•michelle Kagari•AGNES NG ANGA•Sian Long•Irungu houghton•Barbara Schreiner•jojo sand•Michelle Parlevliet•ARJANNE RIETSEMA•judy oder•Charlotte Allen•Emily Kroes•noreen ramsden•tom davis•JOSEPHINE NAMUSISI•George Manyika•Jackie Dugard•Tim Halvey•ELIZABETH KHARONO•Arlene Jeannot•Taily palmer•alexandre chan kive•Jahan Rohman•nidimathieu•leilahurgobin•annabel meere•yousouf nowring•Albaz Khan•stephanie chimier•leavengta•Christian de Cazanove•kavish bhoonah•Jean marc JULIEN•Margaquel adolphe•thybuccus shah•emilie clair•FRANCOISE LABELLE•FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS•I JOIN U TO SAY NO TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN HOW CAN I B YOUR MEMBER M AN ACTIVIST FOR T SAME IN KEN•amboka wameyo•Jinty Jackson•Jennifer Sharpe•Helene Passtoors•Asia Sheik•caroline fuseau•Theresa Chewe•Christine Atieno•Estelle Jobson•Idoye Zabala•Elizabeth Gwadi•jim anderson•Bente Brandt•Rosemary Barber-Madden•Karissa Silver•Dr Paul T.Sangija•Abiodun Adekoya•Shebiotimo•Marie Chantal•Walter Omariba•Kristina Althoff•Kerry-Ann McLean•Hilde Bergsma•Nejat Nuru•Agnes Kabajuni•Gregory Reiser•Stephanie Masker•Jane Madden•Bello kemi•Sarah Muzaki•Cindi Katz•Meg Griffiths•Aref Mohamed AREF•Yadankush Getinet•Zoe Titus•Isobel Acquah•Nina Inamahoro•Abiodun Adekoya•Shebiotimo•MAMA KOITE DOUMBI•Patsy Robertson•Patsy Robertson•Catrina Pickering•Sheila Mwanga•Harmony Bobga•Mbuton•Jean-Paul Amey•ifeoma nwokolo•onwunji•Lesley Agams•Catherine Miller•Wanjiru Kamau•Nerea Craviotto•Seema Shah•Belay Gebremedhin•Chineme UGBOR•Laurel Adams•Othman Mahmood•Victor Synott•Matt Ginn•Tess Finch•Lees•SHIVANJANI Naidu•Gregory Goldgo•Andrew McVicar•Barbara Bonsu•Barbara Bonsu•Felix Edwards•Ayesha Kajee•Fiona Dodd•Ade Shokoya•Aleta Cooper•Addisu Ayalew•sonja zimmermann•Andrew October•lony warner•Craig Stuart Waggett•Eric Friedman•Tim White•gertrud moser•Derrick Snelson•Elizabeth Guillen•Alnehi edoro•Adrian Buchan•Dorothy Hodgson•IMALI GEMBE•Zebene Ayele•Anne Turner•Tureti Martha•Frank Harrison•Steve Vosloo•chantal SIX•Philippa Steward•Maeva Fryday•Marianne Lena Faye•Chris Tierney•Myrtle Looby•Gisèle Yonli•George-Hill Anthony•Jennifer Wagman•Diane Croombe•Muyoyeta Simu•Mark Waite•Shukria Dini•Jing-ling Chan•Paula Tavrow

# About the campaign

---

The pan-African campaign to mobilise support for the ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa was initiated by the women's rights organisations Equality Now and FEMNET, together with Credo for Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights, Oxfam GB and Fahamu, publishers of Pambazuka News.

By August 2004, over one thousand of citizens, civil society groups, community-based organisations, women's rights activists and national coalition groups had joined the campaign and were actively mobilising support for early ratification. The campaign seeks to pressure African governments to ratify the protocol and thus facilitate the enactment of enabling laws and policies at national level. In turn, this will consolidate and deepen the rights articulated under the protocol.

The women's rights protocol was adopted by the African Union Heads of State summit in Maputo in July 2003. The adoption was the outcome of eight years of negotiating an empowering text – a process in which civil society groups and women's rights movements, working closely with the African Union, played a prominent role.

---

**Published** jointly by Equality Now, African Women's Development and Communications Network (FEMNET), Oxfam GB, CREDO for Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights and Fahamu.

First edition August 2004, print run of 1,500 English copies and 500 French copies.

This publication is based on the special issue of Pambazuka News 162 of 24 June 2004 titled "Unfinished business – African leaders must act now to ratify the protocol on the rights of women" (<http://www.pambazuka.org>). It is based on a collection of articles published in the special issue which were written by civil society activists and academics rallying support for the protocol's ratification.

Extracts from this book may be reproduced by non-profit organisations and by magazines, journals and newspapers with acknowledgement of the authors.

---

**Cover caption:** Faiza Jama Mohamed (left), Africa Regional Director, Equality Now, and Rotimi Sankore (centre), Coordinator, CREDO for Freedom of Expression & Associated Rights present a copy of the special issue of *Pambazuka News* on the AU Protocol to Gertrude Mwangela, Speaker of the Pan African parliament during the AU Heads of State Summit convened in Addis Ababa between June 30 - July 8, 2004.

**Cover photo:** Irungu Houghton

**Cover and Design:** Noel Creative Media

**Typesetting and printing:** Noel Creative Media

**Edited by:** Gichinga Ndirangu & Shereen Karmal

---



For further information on how you can join or support the pan-African campaign to mobilise support for the ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa, please contact:

### West Africa

**Hannah Forster**, Executive Director  
African Centre for Democracy And Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), Banjul, The Gambia  
Tel: 220 462 340/220 462 266  
Fax: 220 462 338/220 462 339  
Email: [acdhrs@acdhrs.org](mailto:acdhrs@acdhrs.org)  
Website: <http://ace.acadiau.ca/polsci/conley/ACDHRS>

**Saudatu Mahdi**  
Secretary General,  
Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Plot 792, House No.6,  
Off Ademola Adetokunbo Crescent, Behind Rock view Hotel, Wuse 11, FCT, Abuja, Nigeria  
Tel: 234-9-4131438, 4131676, Fax: 234-9-4132932  
Email: [info@wrapa.org](mailto:info@wrapa.org), [wrapa@wrapa.org](mailto:wrapa@wrapa.org),  
website: [www.wrapa.org](http://www.wrapa.org)

**Dr. Morissanda Kouyate**,  
Director, Cellule de Coordination sue les Pratiques Traditionnelle Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE), Guinea Conakry  
Tel: 224 11 21 3444  
Email: [morissanda@yahoo.fr](mailto:morissanda@yahoo.fr)

**Soyata Maiga**,  
Vice-présidente, Association des Juristes maliennes  
Tel.: (223) 221-01-46 / 673-89-89  
Email: [cabinetsoya@afribone.net.ml](mailto:cabinetsoya@afribone.net.ml)  
Website: [www.justicemali.org](http://www.justicemali.org)

### East Africa

**Sarah Mukasa**,  
Programmes Manager-East and Horn of Africa, Akina Mama wa Afrika, Plot 30 Bukoto Street, Kamwokya, P.O. Box 24130, Kampala, Uganda.  
Tel: 256 41 543 681  
Fax: 256 41 543 683  
Email: [sarah@amwa-ea.org](mailto:sarah@amwa-ea.org)

**Anne Gathumbi**  
Coordinator, Coalition on Violence Against Women  
Tel: 254 20 574 357  
Email: [info@covaw.or.ke](mailto:info@covaw.or.ke), Website: [www.covaw.or.ke](http://www.covaw.or.ke)

**Degmo Issack**  
Secrétaire Generale, Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti, BP 127 Djibouti, Email: [unfd@intnet.dj](mailto:unfd@intnet.dj)

**Zeinab Kamil Ali**  
Member, National Committee on Human Rights  
BP 127 Djibouti, Tel: 253 355 287  
Email: [zeinab70@yahoo.com](mailto:zeinab70@yahoo.com)

### Southern Africa

**Liz Frank**  
Executive Director, Sister Namibia  
Tel: +264 61 230618, Email: [sister@iafrica.com.na](mailto:sister@iafrica.com.na)  
Address: PO Box 40092, Windhoek, NA

**Rose Gaway**  
Regional Gender Advisor, Oxfam GB, Southern Africa  
Regional Office, One Hatfield Square, 1101 Burnett Street, Hatfield, Pretoria, South Africa, 0083  
Tel: +27 (0) 12 362 2098, Fax: +27 (0) 12 362 2236  
Website: [www.oxfam.org](http://www.oxfam.org)  
Email: [rgaway@oxfam.org.uk](mailto:rgaway@oxfam.org.uk)

**Elize Delport**  
Gender Unit, Centre for Human Rights,  
University of Pretoria  
Tel: +27 (0) 82 928 0028; Fax: +27 (0) 12 362-5125  
Email: [illisd@mweb.co.za](mailto:illisd@mweb.co.za), Website: [www.chr.up.ac.za](http://www.chr.up.ac.za)

**Gladys Mutukwa**  
Acting Regional Coordinator, Women in Law and Development in Africa  
P O Box 4622, Harare, Zimbabwe  
Tel: (263-4)-752105/751189, Fax: (263-4)-781886  
Email: [msodzi@consultant.com](mailto:msodzi@consultant.com), [wildaf@mango.zw](mailto:wildaf@mango.zw)  
Website: [www.wildaf.org.zw](http://www.wildaf.org.zw)

**Muchimba Sikumba-Dils**  
Program Officer, Foundation for Community Development  
Ave. Eduardo Mondlane, 1160, 1170, Maputo, Mozambique  
Tel: +258 (1) 430-430/1, 302-609/10  
Fax: +258 (1) 322-595  
Email: [msikumba@fdc.org.mz](mailto:msikumba@fdc.org.mz)  
Website: [www.fdc.org.mz/auwps](http://www.fdc.org.mz/auwps)

### Africa wide

**Dr Firoze Manji**  
Director, Fahamu, Unit 14, Standingford House, Cave Street, Oxford OX4 1BA, Tel: 0044845 4562442/3  
Email: [info@fahamu.org](mailto:info@fahamu.org), Website: [www.fahamu.org](http://www.fahamu.org)

**Faiza Jama Mohamed**,  
Africa Regional Director, Equality Now,  
Africa Regional Office, Bishop Garden Towers, Bishops Road, Nairobi  
Tel: 254-20-2719832/2719913, Fax: 254-20-2719868  
E-mail: [equalitynow@kenyaweb.com](mailto:equalitynow@kenyaweb.com) website: [www.equalitynow.org](http://www.equalitynow.org)

**Mary Wandia**  
Programme Officer,  
African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Réseau de Développement et de Communications des Femmes Africaines  
P.O. Box 54562 - 00200, Nairobi, Kenya.  
Tel: +254 20 3741301/20, Fax: +254 20 3742927  
E-mail: [admin@femnet.or.ke](mailto:admin@femnet.or.ke)  
Website: <http://www.femnet.or.ke>

**Rotimi Sankore**  
Co-ordinator/Joke Babington Ashaye  
Women's Rights Co-ordinator  
CREDO for Freedom of Expression & Associated Rights,  
73-75 Newington Causeway London, SE1 6BD, UK  
Tel: +44 (0) 20 7787 5501  
Fax: +44 (0) 20 7787 5502 Website: [www.credonet.org](http://www.credonet.org)  
E-mail: [womensrights@credonet.org](mailto:womensrights@credonet.org), [info@credonet.org](mailto:info@credonet.org)

# Contents

---

Acknowledgements ..... iv

Acronyms ..... v

Making your voice count ..... vi

Africa’s trail blazers ..... 1

Ratification beckons ..... 5

Campaign highlights ..... 6

A first for Africa’s women ..... 9

The unfinished task ..... 11

Our collective resolve matters ..... 12

A right of Africa’s women ..... 14

Status of women’s rights ..... 15

Petition on ratification ..... 19

**Appendix 1:**  
Protocol to the African Charter on Human and  
Peoples’ Rights on the rights of women in Africa ..... 21

**Appendix 2:**  
List of Members of The Pan African Parliament and their contacts .. 31

---

## Acknowledgements

**The coalition wishes to thank** all those organisations and committed individuals whose actions continue to inspire, move and touch us – the women and men campaigning at national level under the auspices of the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (Gambia), Akina Mama wa Afrika (Uganda), Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (Nigeria), Cellule de Coordination sue les Pratiques Traditionelle Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants (Guinea Conakry), Coalition on Violence Against Women (Kenya), Centre d’Etudes et de Recherche en Droits de l’Homme et Demcoratie (DRC), National Committee on Human Rights and the Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes (Djibouti), Association des Juristes de Mali (Mali), Foundation for Community Development of Mozambique and in particular, Dr. Graca Machel, the Women’s Legal Centre of South Africa and Dr Angela Melo, the Special Rapporteur on the Rights of Women

**The coalition acknowledges the leadership of the African Union Commission** in encouraging our actions to rally support for the protocol and by sustaining a conversation on gender equality at the heart of the union in this important phase of its development.

**Special thanks are also due to the contributors** for voluntarily offering articles namely: Mary Wandia, Faiza Jama Mohamed, Zeinab Kamil Ali, Dr. Sylvia Tamale, Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson, Dr. Morissanda Kouyate, Patrick Burnett and Gichinga Ndirangu.

**Lastly, the coalition thanks** one of its members, Fahamu, for allowing their special issue (Pambazuka News 162) to be re-produced in this form.

# Acronyms

---

<b>ACDHRS</b>	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies
<b>ACHPR</b>	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
<b>AJM</b>	Association des Juristes de Mali
<b>AJS</b>	Association des Juristes Senegalaises
<b>AMWA</b>	Akina Mama wa Afrika
<b>AU</b>	African Union
<b>CEDAW</b>	United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CERDH</b>	Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche en Droits de l'Homme et Democratie
<b>COVAW</b>	Coalition on Violence Against Women
<b>CPTAFE</b>	Cellule de Coorination sue les Pratiques Traditionelle Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants
<b>CREDO</b>	Centre for Research, Education and Development of Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights
<b>DRC</b>	Democratic Republic of Congo
<b>EWLA</b>	Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association
<b>FDC</b>	Foundation for Community Development
<b>FAS</b>	Femmes Afrique Solidarite
<b>FEMNET</b>	African Women's Development and Communications Network
<b>FGM</b>	Female genital mutilation
<b>ICCPR</b>	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
<b>MP</b>	Member of parliament
<b>SMS</b>	Short text message
<b>UNECA</b>	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
<b>UNFD</b>	United Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes
<b>UNIFEM</b>	United Nations Fund for Women
<b>WHO</b>	World Health Organisation
<b>WiLDAF</b>	Women in Law and Development in Africa
<b>WRAPA</b>	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative

## Make your voice count on the ratification of the women's protocol

Dear reader,

One year ago, Africa's heads of state, at their annual summit in Maputo in July 2003, took the important decision to adopt the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa.

This was an important step in recognising the rights of women and in committing themselves to a legal and rights framework through which these rights could be realised.

The African Union is now faced with the challenge of the next crucial step – ratification and then domestication of the protocol. To enable the protocol to come into force, a minimum of 15 countries must ratify it. As of August 2004, only four – The Comoros, Libya, Rwanda and Namibia – have taken this vital step.

Collectively and individually, we can help ensure that the protocol takes effect sooner rather than later. Because the primary responsibility for ratification lies with national governments, our efforts must target them. Concerned civil society groups have launched a campaign to mobilise African governments to ratify and popularise the protocol so that it can come into effect. This campaign includes a petition, which you can sign on today.

**We encourage you to sign the petition either on-line at <http://www.pambazuka.org/petition> or by sending a short text message (SMS)** with the words "petition your name". So Ms. Thandiwe Diop would type in "petition thandiwe diop" and send it to +27-832-933934. Sign-on today and join our campaign for early ratification.

In addition to signing the petition, there are many other things that you can do in support of this process. You could choose to take at least four actions;

1. **Petition your local member of parliament** to pressurise the government to ratify the protocol. Your MP could, for instance, raise a question in parliament to challenge government inaction.
2. **Write to your members** of the recently inaugurated Pan African Parliament seeking their support in applying pressure on their respective governments



to hasten ratification. A complete list of members of the Pan African Parliament is available on page 31 of this book.

3. **Share this publication with the media** and encourage individual journalists and media houses to publicise the articles and highlight the call for rapid ratification.
4. **Rally the support of** women's groups, community-based organisations, religious and civic groups to send postcards and petitions to the relevant government ministries or departments responsible for ensuring an early and speedy ratification. In most countries, this may include the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Attorney General's chambers or the ministry responsible for gender and culture.

The more petitions sent and postcards delivered, the stronger the call to action will become. Your collective voice will go far in building that much-needed momentum for urgent action.

All across Africa, concerned activists, women's groups and civil society groups are daily making their voices heard on the campaign for speedy ratification of the protocol. Governments are being urged to ratify the protocol so that enabling laws and policies can be put in place at national level.

It is important to add your voice to this effort and endeavour. Ratification of the protocol will guarantee women equal status with men and secure the protection of their basic rights. It will reinforce commitment towards ending discrimination and violence against women and lastly, it will also provide an opportunity to end impunity for any form of violation of the human rights of women in Africa.

These are important goals that we must not tire in working towards. Our individual and collective actions count. Let us commit ourselves to an action today and every day until this protocol is ratified and comes into force.

## In solidarity,

Mary Wandia,	African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET), continental organization, Kenya.
Rotimi Sankore,	Credo for Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights, UK.
Faiza Jama Mohamed,	Equality Now, Africa Regional Office, Kenya
Firoze Manji,	Fahamu, publishers of Pambazuka News, UK.
Rose Gawayo,	Oxfam GB, South Africa
Hannah Forster,	African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), The Gambia.
Sarah Mukasa,	Akina Mama wa Afrika, Uganda
Saudatu Mahdi (Mrs.)	Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA), Nigeria.
Dr. Morissanda Kouyate,	Cellule de Coorination sue les Pratiques Traditionelle Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants, Guinea (Conakry).
Anne Gathumbi,	Coalition on Violence Against Women(COVAW), Kenya.
Gladys M'Sodzi Mutukwa,	Women in Law and Development in Africa, Zimbabwe
Zeinab Kamil Ali,	National Committee on Human Rights, Djibouti
Liz Frank,	Sister Namibia
Soyata Maiga,	Association des Juristes Maliennes, Mali
Muchimba Sikumba Dils,	Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique
Elize Delport,	Centre for Human Rights at University of Pretoria, South Africa
Nairobi, London, Oxford, Pretoria, Kampala, Conakry, Abuja and Serrekunda, July 2004	
And over 1000 others.	

# Trail blazers:

## The Comoros, Libya and Rwanda lead the way on ratification

*By Mary Wandia*

The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, of which the protocol on women's rights is an integral part, recognises the importance of women's rights through three main provisions. Article 18(3), covering the protection of the family, promises to ensure the elimination of all discrimination against women and protect the rights of women. Article 2, on non-discrimination, provides that the rights and freedoms enshrined in the charter shall be enjoyed by all irrespective of race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or any other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status. Article 3, the equal protection clause, states that every individual shall be equal before the law and entitled to equal protection.

However, the above provisions are not adequate to address the rights of women. For example, while Article 18 prohibits discrimination against women, it does so only in the context of the family. In addition, there is a lack of explicit provisions guaranteeing the right of consent to marriage and the equality of spouses during and after marriage.

These omissions are compounded by the fact that the charter emphasises long-established African values and traditions without addressing concerns that many customary practices, such as female genital mutilation, forced marriage and wife inheritance, can be harmful or life threatening to women. By ignoring critical issues such as custom and marriage, the charter fails to adequately defend women's human rights.

The history of the protocol's development is instructive and bears testimony to the active lobbying and advocacy of civil society groups.

In January 2003, African women's organisations from across the continent met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, at a meeting convened by Equality Now, FEMNET and the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association (EWLA). The meeting sought to develop strategies to lobby the AU and individual governments and encourage their participation in the experts' and ministerial meetings on the draft protocol. Other organisations represented at the meeting included ACDHRS, Akina Mama wa Africa, Association des Juristes de Mali (AJM), Association des Juristes Senegalaises (AJS), Femmes Afrique Solidarite (FAS), Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (WRAPA) and Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF).

---

These organisations pooled comments in a collective mark-up to strengthen the document and bring it in line with international standards on women's rights. The second AU experts' and ministerial meetings on the draft protocol were held in March 2003, in Addis Ababa. Both meetings amended and adopted the draft protocol and recommended it for adoption by the Executive Council and Assembly of the AU. African women's organisations attended the meetings as observers and lobbied the experts and ministers to strengthen the draft protocol to the level of regional and international human rights agreements on women.

The second ordinary summit of the AU adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa on 11 July 2003 in Maputo, Mozambique<sup>1</sup>. The assembly appealed to all member states to sign and ratify the protocol in order to ensure its speedy entry into force. The protocol will enter into force 30 days after the deposit of the 15th instrument of ratification. It will complement the African Charter in promoting and protecting the human rights of women in Africa.

## **Content and meaning for women in Africa**

Mainstream international human rights standards are defined in terms of discrete violations of rights in the public realm even though most violations of women's rights occur in private. This distinction between private and public is detrimental to women.

In many African countries, constitutional provisions that guarantee gender equality also allow exceptions in the so-called 'private law' areas of customary, personal and family law. Serious violations of women's human rights such as violence against women and provisions that discriminate against them are found in this private sphere.

Human rights guarantees in the legally binding human rights conventions – such as those on the right to life, bodily integrity, and freedom from torture, cruel and degrading treatment – have not been interpreted to include such acts as domestic violence, rape, female genital mutilation, forced sterilisation, forced childbirth and numerous other forms of violence against women and girls in Africa.

---

<sup>1</sup> Assembly/AU/Dec.19 (II)



---

The AU protocol<sup>2</sup> primarily complements the African Charter and international human rights conventions by focusing on concrete actions and goals to grant women rights. It further domesticates the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in the African context.

The protocol falls into three sections. The first section covers the rationale behind its elaboration, making reference to both regional and international commitments regarding women's human rights. The second section outlines the rights to be upheld under the protocol. The final section covers implementation, addressing the manner in which it is to be adopted and monitored, and outlines the process for its amendment. The protocol affirms four broad categories of rights: civil and political rights; economic, social and cultural rights; the right to development and peace; and reproductive and sexual rights.

### **Status of ratification**

To date, only four member states of the AU, The Comoros, Libya, Rwanda and Namibia have signed and ratified it. Thirty-one member states had signed as at 19 July 2004<sup>3</sup>. Eleven more countries must ratify it before it can come into force.

Its entry into force is critical because it will commit governments to, among other things, submit periodic reports to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) on legislative and other measures to realise the rights recognised under the protocol;

Further, governments would be required to integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans and other activities to ensure the overall well-being of women. The fundamental principles of the protocol would need to be included in national constitutions and other legislative instruments supported by implementation. Besides, governments would be obligated to eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women in Africa and promote equality between men and women.

---

<sup>2</sup> See full text of the protocol at [www.africa-union.org/home/Welcome.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/home/Welcome.htm)

<sup>3</sup> See full list of countries that have signed/ratified at [www.africa-union.org/home/Welcome.htm](http://www.africa-union.org/home/Welcome.htm)

---

## Advocacy needs and initiatives

African civil society organisations must step up their campaign to lobby governments to sign and ratify the protocol as soon as possible. Ratification, before the end of 2004, would be a gesture of commitment.

Once it enters into force, the protocol will usher in a new and significant era in promoting and protecting the rights of women in Africa. It will also help end impunity for all forms of violations of the human rights of women in Africa.

As Dr Angela Melo, the special rapporteur on the Rights of Women says, "the women of Africa have suffered for long and their efforts at building our beloved continent have for long gone without acknowledgement. The urgent need to work towards the ratification and effective implementation of the protocol is a great challenge, yet a duty, we all owe to posterity and to Africa".

*\***Mary Wandia** is the Advocacy Officer with the African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET)*

*E-mail: [wandia@femnet.or.ke](mailto:wandia@femnet.or.ke)*

# After hard bargaining, ratification beckons

*By Faiza Jama Mohamed*

Since its inception eight years ago, the protocol on the rights of women in Africa has been the subject of drawn out deliberations by African leaders. Last year, consensus was finally reached and the African Union adopted the protocol during its second summit in Maputo.

The protocol is a legal document that protects the economic, social and political rights of women and calls for gender equality in all spheres of society. While this is a tremendous breakthrough, the protocol is no more than a noble idea until ratified by a minimum of 15 countries.

Countries that ratify it are required to adhere to and enforce all its provisions. At present, 31 countries are signatories to the protocol but only four – The Comoros, Libya, Rwanda and Namibia – have ratified it.

Rampant and serious women's rights violations in Africa are a pressing reality; the protocol must be ratified urgently to secure the rights of African women, who constitute over 50% of the continent's population. The deficiency of laws in African countries protecting women's rights not only facilitates the perpetuation of human rights violations against women but also constitutes a significant impediment to the optimal participation of women in the development of their countries and the continent as a whole.

The protocol offers an invaluable framework for safeguarding the human rights and dignity of African women. It is a creative and powerful new tool that could serve as a model for the rest of the world. The protocol explicitly mandates African governments to reaffirm their international commitments to the principle of gender equality and its implementation. Among other things, it calls for affirmative action to promote equal participation in policy formulation, political decision-making processes and in the judiciary and law enforcement agencies.

It is unacceptable that women's human rights groups have had to press so hard for these rights to be adequately codified when in fact it is the obligation of all governments to protect the rights of all their citizens – men and women.

In this regard, I welcome women's and human rights organisations that are vigorously campaigning for the ratification of the protocol through campaigns and advocacy at both regional and national levels.

---

## Highlights from national campaigns

The campaign for ratification of the women's protocol has continued to gather momentum at different national levels. In **the Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) and **Malawi**, activists have lobbied their governments on ratification. In the DRC, for instance, the Executive Director of the Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche en Droits de l'Homme et Democratie (CERDH) Joseph Yav Katsung petitioned the President and the National Assembly to ratify the protocol. In Malawi, the Women Lawyers Association has initiated an awareness raising campaign as part of its ongoing activities.

**Djibouti** – The National Committee on Human Rights and UNFD (Union Nationale des Femmes Djiboutiennes) plan to continue with awareness raising activities and to intensify their lobbying of officials before parliament reconvenes in September. An interview with the country's First Lady, in which she voiced support for the protocol's ratification, appeared in the *La Nation* on 8 July 2004 giving a boost to the national campaign.

**The Gambia** – The African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS) has continued to lobby government officials and parliamentarians. Hannah Forster, the Executive Director of the ACDHRS, has indicated her determination to continue lobbying the Gambian Government and parliamentarians on ratification. At the Addis Ababa summit in June, Hannah Forster took time to lobby the Gambian delegation and others on the protocol.

**The Republic of Guinea** – CPTAFE has stepped up its campaign for early ratification, which has included lobbying various political, administrative and judicial authorities. An awareness and sensitisation workshop organised for members of the National Assembly helped highlight the importance of early ratification of the protocol. As a result of the workshop, 75 MPs committed themselves to supporting the ratification process. A nationwide sensitisation campaign was also launched through the radio, television and print media to popularise the protocol. CPTAFE is working closely with several non-governmental organisations and government departments on this sensitisation, which has helped enhance awareness on the protocol. In various public debates, women and children have delivered poignant messages on the situation and role of women in Africa.

**Kenya** – The Coalition on Violence against Women (COVAW), has intensified its lobbying of relevant government ministries and in particular, the office



---

of Vice President and Ministry for Home Affairs, the Ministry of Gender, Sports and Culture, Ministry for Justice and Constitutional Affairs and Ministry for Foreign Affairs. COVAW is collaborating with its partner organisations in this process.

**Mali** – Civil society lobbying resulted in the Minister for Promotion of Women presenting a bill seeking the government’s ratification of the protocol. The cabinet has since approved a decree for the National Assembly to initiate the ratification process and the eventual adoption of the protocol into law. The Association of Malian Women Lawyers (AJM) plans to intensify its lobbying of parliamentarians to add momentum to this cabinet intent. Lobby sessions targeting the different commissions of the National Assembly, particularly the legal commission and the social affairs commission, are already planned. Media advocacy is also part of this broad lobby strategy. The AJM plans to popularise the protocol by translating it into local languages in order to reach a greater number of Malian people once it is ratified.

**Mozambique** – The Foundation for Community Development (FDC) continues to lobby for ratification of the protocol. The Foreign Ministry has already indicated its intention to table the protocol for ratification at the next session of parliament early next year. FDC, in collaboration with Commissioner Angelo Melo, is preparing popularisation activities to market the protocol to both the ruling and opposition parties.

**Namibia** – The protocol was debated in parliament without any major resistance. The next stage was set for the National Council to meet to pave way for ratification. Sister Namibia and other civil society groups remained optimistic that the protocol would sail through. They were not disappointed after Namibia ratified in August 2004 - the fourth country to do so.

**South Africa** – A training course focusing on gender equality in Africa is due to take place at the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria in September 2004. The protocol will be a key focus at the workshop due to be attended by several organisations in South Africa supporting the ratification campaign. Already, the Women’s Legal Centre based in Cape Town has begun mobilising NGOs and MPs on ratification, working in collaboration with Oxfam GB.

**Uganda** – Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA) hosted a strategic meeting on 19 July 2004 to create awareness on the protocol among women’s groups and define a strategy for its ratification.

Two of Uganda's MPs to the Pan-African Parliament, Hon Miria Matembe and Hon Loice Bwambale, attended the meeting and lent support for the campaign. Hon Irene Ovonji-Odida, a MP of the East African Parliament, who chaired the meeting, also voiced support for the campaign. Aside from the women's organisations, officials from the Ministries of Gender and Foreign Affairs were also present. The meeting agreed to petition for a meeting with President Yoweri Museveni on ratification. Media campaigns using the women's media association were also suggested as one way of popularising the protocol and winning public support.

All the ongoing campaigns in various countries build on the tremendous work and effort of civil society groups and women's rights activists who have toiled for the protocol to this point. Sustaining this momentum is critical in securing broader support for ratification, which would facilitate the protocol's entry into force sooner rather than later.

### **Highlights of the campaign for the ratification of the protocol at the third ordinary session of the assembly of the African Union**

Activists campaigning for ratification of the AU protocol drawn from Equality Now, FEMNET, Oxfam GB, Credo, ACDHRS and AMWA raised concern over the slow pace of ratification of the women's rights protocol and highlighted the need for speedy ratification at the recent AU Heads of State summit in Addis Ababa. The following highlights key activities undertaken during the summit.

- Several governments were lobbied over ratification with indications that certain countries including Botswana, Lesotho, Ghana, Mauritius and Tunisia were seriously considering an early ratification.
- Libya and Rwanda deposited their instruments of ratification following in the steps of The Comoros. Following Namibia's ratification, a total of four countries have ratified.
- A special issue of Pambazuka News, an initiative of the campaign, highlighting the AU protocol on women's rights, was presented to the president of the Pan African Parliament and AU commissioners calling on them to support the campaign to ensure that the protocol comes into force soon. Two hundred copies were circulated to national delegations and Addis- based ambassadors.
- The AU Assembly approved the adoption of a gender declaration, which included a unanimous commitment to ratify the protocol by the end of 2004.

***Faiza Jama Mohamed*** is the Africa Regional Director of Equality Now.  
E-mail: [fmohamed@equalitynow.org](mailto:fmohamed@equalitynow.org)

# It's a first for Africa's women

*By Zeinab Kamil Ali*

The AU is leading by example in affirming the rights of women. The consecration of the concept of gender parity in the Constitutive Act of the African Union governing the recruitment of commissioners and all other technical personnel has highlighted its conviction and concern for improving the condition of African women. The Constitutive Act reaffirms the principle of equality and non-discrimination.

As a regional instrument, the Protocol on the Rights of Women flows from the African Charter on Human and People's Rights adopted in 1981. The provisions of the protocol protect the rights of African women. These rights are recognised and guaranteed by other international instruments on human rights namely the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its optional protocols and the African Charter on the rights and welfare of the child. Beyond these, several other conventions and international treaties establish women's rights as human rights – inalienable, interdependent and indivisible.

## **The rights protected under the protocol**

The protocol affirms the principle of equality and its corollary, the principle of non-discrimination. It is noteworthy that the principle of equality is recognised in all African constitutions.

Significant rights guaranteed under the protocol include the right to life, integrity, security, elimination of all harmful practices, access to justice and equal protection before the law. The need for practical application runs through the entire protocol. Women's economic rights, including the right to social protection are equally recognised.

The ratification of the protocol will stir into action the constitutional mechanisms to protect women's rights and where absent, facilitate the establishment of such mechanisms.

It is significant that African states are mandated to allocate enough budgetary resources for the protocol's implementation. In the past, budgetary allocations on women's issues have been limited.

---

## Rights protected

The protocol also offers special protection to women in situations of distress, women in prison and pregnant and lactating mothers. The recognition of the rights of widows is important because they suffer most in the hands of tradition and from blatant disregard of their rights upon the death of their spouses. The rights of women to political participation and decision-making are equally recognised.

Article 9 recognises the importance of gender parity, which paves the way for affirmative action in national legislation. It notes that women must benefit from equal opportunities with men in decision-making processes and on policy formulation.

Equally significant is the protocol's recognition of the right to peace and the right to development. A significant development is the protocol's attempt at harmonising different systems regulating the rights of the family and the woman.

The existence of plural African judicial systems that are sometime in conflict with one another has been noted as often leading to substantial breaches of the principles of equality and non-discrimination. The protocol seeks to reconcile these opposing and fundamental differences in legal systems by giving courts and the judicial system a duty to arbitrate over personal and family laws.

Under article 6, the protocol addresses the issue of marriage and highlights the important objective of harmonising conflicting laws to safeguard the rights of women in marriage.

***Zeinab Kamil Ali*** is a member of the National Committee on Human Rights, Djibouti. E-mail address: [zeinab70@yahoo.com](mailto:zeinab70@yahoo.com)



# The unfinished task

---

**Dr Sylvia Tamale**

The adoption of the protocol on the rights of women was a landmark development in Africa's struggle to liberate women – who constitute more than half of the continent's population.

What now remains is to garner a minimum of 15 ratifications before this Africa-specific version of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) – adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly – becomes legally enforceable.

Given that 53 countries on the continent have already ratified the parent treaty of this protocol – the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (the Banjul Charter) – ratification of the protocol should not be a problem.

The Banjul Charter was adopted in June 1981. One year later, in June 1982, only Mali and Guinea had ratified the charter. In other words, we should not panic over what appears to be a slow process in ratifying the protocol. It is not out of step with the bureaucratic red tape that normally guides these processes. The protocol echoes and reaffirms obligations elaborated under various international declarations and conventions protecting the rights of women.

Women's movements on the continent should spend more energy developing strategies for the implementation of the protocol's provisions. Attention needs to focus on turning the protocol into a real instrument for enhancing the accountability of governments on women's rights. It is our duty to make our governments more accountable.

This calls for increased advocacy at the national level to challenge national governments not only to ratify the protocol but in addition, review and align national laws and policies to reflect the spirit and rights articulated under the protocol. Such policy and legal review will be mark important step forward and open a new phase in championing women's rights. But a new legal and policy dispensation is not enough unless women organisations and all those committed to the protocol monitor its implementation at national level. This will be the next frontier in the fight for women's rights.

**Dr Sylvia Tamale** is a feminist activist and Dean of the Faculty of Law at Makerere University. E-mail address: [stamale@muklaw.ac.ug](mailto:stamale@muklaw.ac.ug)

---

## Why our collective resolve matters

*By Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson*

For African women, the entry into force of the protocol, once ratified, will mark an essential step in recognising their rights and guard against their violation. Alongside the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the protocol will represent an important legal reference in securing effective respect of women's rights.

Its key strength lies in its recognition of specific violations of the rights of women and the need for a legal framework that addresses such violations. Its preamble recognises that continued discrimination against women and the existence of harmful traditional practices highlights the need for a legal framework of protection, which the protocol provides.

In addition to these declarations, the protocol contains provisions seeking a response to specific problems such as the multiple violations of rights in marital relations, violence and grave risks to the life, physical and moral integrity and security of women and girls. These are pressing realities in our societies.

The coming into force of the protocol would therefore offer an invaluable framework in ending violations against civilian, refugee and combatant women and children, particularly girls, during periods of conflict. It would help uphold peace in Africa – an important prerequisite in supporting development.

The fight against traditional practices harmful to the health of women and girls will be tremendously facilitated under the protocol, which provides useful guidelines on their elimination.

Further, economic and social rights such as the right to health, including reproductive health, right to education and inheritance rights for widows and girls, will be better protected if measures proposed under the protocol are implemented.

There is no doubt that the protocol's early ratification would benefit Africa's women and girls. Until then, though, Africa's womenfolk will continue being denied the benefit of a legal framework that safeguards their rights from continued violation. That makes early ratification a pressing and compelling priority.

---

Once ratified, the credibility of the AU, which has demonstrated its commitment to promoting women's participation and gender equality, notably through parity in the AU Commission and in ensuring equitable representation of judges on the African court for human and people's rights, will be further tested. The protocol's implementation will mark a decisive step in entrenching a culture of respect for the human rights of women in Africa.

For this reason, every human rights defender, man or woman, should feel sufficiently concerned to lobby governmental and parliamentary authorities in urging them to ratify the protocol and take steps in support of its effective implementation. Our mothers, our daughters and our sisters, including those who are rarely accustomed to demand their rights, cry for help in a meaningful silence – one that demands our action.

***Kafui Adjamagbo-Johnson*** is the Coordinator of Women in Law and Development in Africa, West Africa. E-mail address: [wildaf@café.tg](mailto:wildaf@café.tg)

---

# It's not a gift but the right of Africa's women

## ***Morissanda Kouyate***

The step taken by the African Union in adopting the protocol is significant and one which has helped fill a gap cruelly felt by women and those concerned about the violation of women's rights.

It is unfortunate that many important international instruments, enthusiastically adopted, have quickly vanished from collective memory because states that adopted them were reluctant to ratify them. This sad lesson from history should keep us on guard in protecting the protocol on the rights of women in Africa.

By adopting this protocol, the African Union opened room for significant progress to be achieved in the protection of women and recognition of their rights. It now behoves us to translate this political will into concrete action through ratification.

The protocol addresses many sensitive and important issues which are deeply anchored in African societies and are not being sufficiently tackled at national levels.

It is a social, political, economic and legal instrument which protects African women and which by its title, supplants pathetic political discourse for the benefit of women. The ratification of the protocol opens opportunity for member states of the African Union to prove their political will in restoring women's rights.

States that fail to ratify the protocol should not expect to win any recognition of their commitment to gender equality through token gestures such as appointing a few women to ministerial positions.

The protocol is not a gift to offer to women, it is their right. African countries must therefore demonstrate their will to restore these rights through ratification and implementation of its provisions.

***Dr Morissanda Kouyate*** is the Secretary-General of CPTAFE (*Cellule de Coorination sue les Pratiques Traditionelle Affectant la Sante des Femmes et des Enfants*) in Guinea and Director of Operations, Inter African Committee  
E-mail address: [morissanda@yahoo.fr](mailto:morissanda@yahoo.fr)

# The reality facing the protocol

In this article, we review some of major violations of women's rights in Africa and what the protocol says about them.

## **Armed conflict, violence and the right to peace and safety**

African women are increasingly playing a critical role in peace building efforts and conflict resolution in Africa. In conflict flashpoints such as Darfur in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) among others, women and girls are vulnerable to all forms of violence including sexual violence and exploitation, torture, rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution and trafficking.

In many parts of Africa, violence against women is shocking. A survey by the Kenyan Women Rights Awareness Program revealed that 70% of the men and women interviewed were aware of neighbours who beat their wives. In South Africa, it has been estimated that a woman is raped every 83 seconds, while in Zimbabwe, domestic violence accounts for more than 60 per cent of murder cases at the Harare High Court.

*What the protocol says:*

- Every woman is guaranteed the right to peace.
- Women refugees must be accorded full protection and benefits guaranteed under international refugee law.
- States parties are required to reduce military expenditure significantly in favour of spending on social development in general and the promotion of women in particular.
- States must ensure the full participation of women in processes for conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.
- The protocol calls for education to end harmful practices and stereotypes that negatively impact on women.
- States should introduce measures to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against women including the provision of budgetary and other resources to prevent violence against women.

## **Economic disempowerment and the right to a livelihood**

In sub-Saharan Africa, women comprise 60 per cent of the informal sector, provide about 70 per cent of total agricultural labour and produce about 90 per cent of the food. However, they receive less than 10 per cent of total credit to farmers. In addition, women in Africa on average work 50 per cent

---

longer than men. Yet despite this contribution, women live in situations of acute insecurity with weak ownership over land and lack of access to resources such as credit and education.

*What the protocol says:*

- Women will be guaranteed the freedom to choose their occupation.
- States will adopt measures to promote equality of access to employment; promote the right to equal remuneration for jobs of equal value for women and men; ensure transparency in recruitment, promotion and dismissal of women and punish sexual harassment in the workplace.

### **Disease, HIV/AIDS and sexual and reproductive rights**

Poor health infrastructure, loss of control over women's sexuality and the right to choose impacts on millions of African women daily. Financial and material dependence on men means that many women in Africa cannot control when, with whom, and in what circumstances they have sex or conceive.

Women account for 55 percent of adults in sub-Saharan Africa with HIV/AIDS. Poor women affected by HIV/AIDS are less economically secure and are often deprived of their rights to housing, property, inheritance and access to adequate health services. In rural areas, AIDS has resulted in the collapse of coping mechanisms that have for long helped women feed their families during times of difficulty and natural catastrophes.

More than 90 million African women and girls are victims of female circumcision or other forms of genital mutilation. Doctors in Cote d'Ivoire, for instance, estimate that female genital mutilation (FGM) causes 25 percent of infertility cases amongst Ivorian women. Less than five percent of women in Burundi, Central African Republic, Chad, Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Niger and Sierra Leone have access to modern contraception. While many countries in Africa have restrictive abortion laws, 11,000 unsafe abortions occur each day (4 million unsafe abortions each year) in Africa.

*What the protocol says:*

- States are required to prohibit and condemn female genital mutilation.
- Women and men must have equal rights in relation to marriage.
- Governments must guarantee women a right to adequate and paid pre- and post-natal maternity leave.



- The reproductive rights of women must be protected through access to abortion in certain circumstances.
- Women must be guaranteed the right to protection against sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS.

## **Right to education**

Accelerating efforts to get more girls into school is key in meeting the global goal of poverty reduction. Illiteracy rates are still far higher among women than men. At least 9 million more girls than boys are left out of school every year in sub-Saharan Africa, where the number of girls left out of school each year has risen from 20 million in 1990 to 24 million in 2002.

*What the protocol says:*

- States will be required to guarantee women equal opportunity and access to education and training.

## **Marginalisation and the right to freedom**

Some countries still have laws that perpetuate discrimination on the basis of personal status, marital status and violence against women. These include Algeria, Mali, Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Lesotho, Cameroon, Madagascar, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Morocco. Certain customary laws and practices facilitate harmful practices such as FGM, early childhood marriages, forced marriages, inheritance of widows, slavery and trafficking in women, child custody and maintenance and burial laws. In several African countries, women are still regarded as second-class citizens, minors or the property of their husbands.

*What the protocol says:*

- It seeks to highlight the human rights of women in Africa and promote the principles of equality, peace, freedom, dignity, justice, solidarity and democracy.
- It covers broad issues including employment, education, voting rights, nationality laws, rights in marriage and divorce, health care, reproductive rights, and equality before the law.
- State parties to the protocol will have to adopt legislative, institutional and other measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.
- It recognises the need and seeks the protection of elderly women.

- 
- It mandates that any woman whose rights have been violated is entitled to a remedy determined by a competent judicial, administrative, legislative or other competent authority provided for by law.

### **Right to participate in government and public affairs**

Between 2000 and 2002, the number of women parliamentarians increased in 17 out of 23 elections held in sub-Saharan Africa. For instance, South Africa's parliament this year registered a 10 per cent increase in women representation from 120 to 131. Rwanda, with 49 per cent women representation, has the highest number of women parliamentarians in the world. Although Africa is one of the world's poorest regions, women's representation in parliament is now higher compared to many developed countries.

*What the protocol says:*

- Governments are obliged to promote the participation of women in governance.

# **Petition on the ratification of the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa**

To African Union Heads Of State

Your Excellencies:

Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa

We the undersigned write to you regarding the ratification of the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by member states of the African Union and urge your Excellencies to ensure the fast tracking of its ratification by your respective governments by December 2004.

As you will recall, the protocol was adopted in July 2003 during the Second Ordinary Session of the Heads of States held in Maputo. Its adoption was celebrated by African women, women's and human rights organizations in Africa and the diaspora as a major step towards finally securing a legal and rights framework for the protection and advancement of the human rights of African women.

However, one month after its first anniversary only 29 of the AU's 53 member states have signed the Protocol and only four (The Comoros, Libya, Rwanda and Namibia) have ratified it. This record undermines the stated intention of African governments to protect and promote the rights of all their peoples.

Many women and their families experience social, cultural and economic rights abuses and political discrimination on a daily basis. Physical violence, vulnerability to life-threatening diseases most notably HIV/AIDS, poor educational opportunities and legal barriers around rights to property combine to keep women in Africa as second class citizens as well as inhibiting their ability to contribute fully to the prosperity of the continent.

Our call for the urgent ratification of the protocol by all countries of the African Union deserves your serious consideration. Ratification will send a clear signal that women and men can and should enjoy equal rights and responsibilities. This enjoyment, in turn, will realise benefits to the whole of the continent.

We in civil society share the dream of the Heads of States that Africa's social, economic and political well-being rests on enabling women's resourcefulness at this time. We trust therefore that you will recognise the urgency of the situation and will facilitate

the speedy ratification of the protocol thereby completing the good work that your Excellencies began in Maputo last year.

Yours sincerely

Mary Wandia, African Women's Development & Communication Network (FEMNET) – continental organization, Kenya

Faiza Jama Mohamed, Equality Now, Africa Regional Office, Kenya

Rotimi Sankore, Credo for Freedom of Expression and Associated Rights, UK

Firoze Manji, Fahamu, UK

Rose Gaway, Oxfam GB, South Africa

Sarah Mukasa, Akina Mama wa Afrika, Uganda

Mourissanda Kouyate, CPTAFÉ Guinea (Conakry)

Saudatu Mahdi, WRAP, Nigeria

Anne Gathumbi, COVAW, Kenya

Hannah Foster, ACDHRS, Gambia

Gladys M'Sodzi Mutukwa, WiLDAF, Zimbabwe

Zeinab Kamil Ali, National Committee on Human Rights, Djibouti

Liz Frank, Sister Namibia

Soyata Maiga, Association des Juristes Maliennes, Mali

Muchimba Sikumba Dils, Foundation for Community Development, Mozambique

Elize Delport, Centre for Human Rights at University of Pretoria, South Africa

Nairobi, London, Oxford, Pretoria, Kampala, Conakry, Abuja and Serrekunda  
August 2004

And over 1000 others

### **How to sign on the petition on the Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa**

1. Send an SMS to +27-832-933934, with the word 'petition' and your name in the message. You will be charged the cost set by your network for sending an international SMS. If you wish to subscribe to free SMS alerts, sign up at [www.pambazuka.org](http://www.pambazuka.org). The campaign runs until December 2004.
2. The online petition can be signed at: <http://www.pambazuka.org/petition/petition.php?id=1>

## **Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of women in Africa**

### **Article 1: Definitions**

For the purpose of the present Protocol:

- a) "African Charter" means the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- b) "African Commission" means the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights;
- c) "Assembly" means the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union;
- d) "AU" means the African Union;
- e) "Constitutive Act" means the Constitutive Act of the African Union;
- f) "Discrimination against women" means any distinction, exclusion or restriction or any differential treatment based on sex and whose objectives or effects compromise or destroy the recognition, enjoyment or the exercise by women, regardless of their marital status, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in all spheres of life;
- g) "Harmful Practices" means all behaviour, attitudes and/or practices which negatively affect the fundamental rights of women and girls, such as their right to life, health, dignity, education and physical integrity;
- h) "NEPAD" means the New Partnership for Africa's Development established by the Assembly;
- i) "States Parties" means the States Parties to this Protocol;
- j) "Violence against women" means all acts perpetrated against women which cause or could cause them physical, sexual, psychological, and economic harm, including the threat to take such acts; or to undertake the imposition of arbitrary restrictions on or deprivation of fundamental freedoms in private or public life in peace time and during situations of armed conflicts or of war;
- k) "Women" means persons of female gender, including girls;

### **Article 2: Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

1. States Parties shall combat all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative, institutional and other measures. In this regard they shall:
  - a) include in their national constitutions and other legislative instruments, if not already done, the principle of equality between women and men and ensure its effective application;
  - b) enact and effectively implement appropriate legislative or regulatory measures, including those prohibiting and curbing all forms of discrimination particularly those harmful practices which endanger the health and general well-being of women;
  - c) integrate a gender perspective in their policy decisions, legislation, development plans, programmes and activities and in all other spheres of life;
  - d) take corrective and positive action in those areas where discrimination against women in law and in fact continues to exist;
  - e) support the local, national, regional and continental initiatives directed at eradicating all forms of discrimination against women.
2. States Parties shall commit themselves to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of women and men through public education, information, education and communication strategies, with a view to achieving the elimination of harmful cultural and traditional practices and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, or on stereotyped roles for women and men.

### **Article 3: Right to Dignity**

1. Every woman shall have the right to dignity inherent in a human being and to the recognition and protection of her human and legal rights;

2. Every woman shall have the right to respect as a person and to the free development of her personality;
3. States Parties shall adopt and implement appropriate measures to prohibit any exploitation or degradation of women;
4. States Parties shall adopt and implement appropriate measures to ensure the protection of every woman's right to respect for her dignity and protection of women from all forms of violence, particularly sexual and verbal violence.

#### **Article 4: The Rights to Life, Integrity and Security of the Person**

1. Every woman shall be entitled to respect for her life and the integrity and security of her person. All forms of exploitation, cruel, inhuman or degrading punishment and treatment shall be prohibited.
2. States Parties shall take appropriate and effective measures to:
  - a) enact and enforce laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women including unwanted or forced sex whether the violence takes place in private or public;
  - b) adopt such other legislative, administrative, social and economic measures as may be necessary to ensure the prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women;
  - c) identify the causes and consequences of violence against women and take appropriate measures to prevent and eliminate such violence;
  - d) actively promote peace education through curricula and social communication in order to eradicate elements in traditional and cultural beliefs, practices and stereotypes which legitimise and exacerbate the persistence and tolerance of violence against women;
  - e) punish the perpetrators of violence against women and implement programmes for the rehabilitation of women victims;
  - f) establish mechanisms and accessible services for effective information, rehabilitation and reparation for victims of violence against women;
  - g) prevent and condemn trafficking in women, prosecute the perpetrators of such trafficking and protect those women most at risk;
  - h) prohibit all medical or scientific experiments on women without their informed consent;
  - i) provide adequate budgetary and other resources for the implementation and monitoring of actions aimed at preventing and eradicating violence against women;
  - j) ensure that, in those countries where the death penalty still exists, not to carry out death sentences on pregnant or nursing women.
  - k) ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights in terms of access to refugee status, determination procedures and that women refugees are accorded the full protection and benefits guaranteed under international refugee law, including their own identity and other documents;

#### **Article 5: Elimination of Harmful Practices**

States Parties shall prohibit and condemn all forms of harmful practices which negatively affect the human rights of women and which are contrary to recognised international standards. States Parties shall take all necessary legislative and other measures to eliminate such practices, including:

- a) creation of public awareness in all sectors of society regarding harmful practices through information, formal and informal education and outreach programmes;
- b) prohibition, through legislative measures backed by sanctions, of all forms of female genital mutilation, scarification, medicalisation and para-medicalisation of female genital mutilation and all other practices in order to eradicate them;
- c) a woman shall have the right to retain her nationality or to acquire the nationality of her husband;



- d) a woman and a man shall have equal rights, with respect to the nationality of their children except where this is contrary to a provision in national legislation or is contrary to national security interests;
- e) a woman and a man shall jointly contribute to safeguarding the interests of the family, protecting and educating their children;
- f) during her marriage, a woman shall have the right to acquire her own property and to administer and manage it freely.

#### **Article 6: Marriage**

States Parties shall ensure that women and men enjoy equal rights and are regarded as equal partners in marriage. They shall enact appropriate national legislative measures to guarantee that:

- a) no marriage shall take place without the free and full consent of both parties;
- b) the minimum age of marriage for women shall be 18 years;
- c) monogamy is encouraged as the preferred form of marriage and that the rights of women in marriage and family, including in polygamous marital relationships are promoted and protected;
- d) every marriage shall be recorded in writing and registered in accordance with national laws, in order to be legally recognised;
- e) the husband and wife shall, by mutual agreement, choose their matrimonial regime and place of residence;
- f) a married woman shall have the right to retain her maiden name, to use it as she pleases, jointly or separately with her husband's surname;
- g) a woman shall have the right to retain her nationality or to acquire the nationality of her husband;
- h) a woman and a man shall have equal rights, with respect to the nationality of their children except where this is contrary to a provision in national legislation or is contrary to national security interests;
- i) a woman and a man shall jointly contribute to safeguarding the interests of the family, protecting and educating their children;
- j) during her marriage, a woman shall have the right to acquire her own property and to administer and manage it freely.

#### **Article 7: Separation, Divorce and Annulment of Marriage**

States Parties shall enact appropriate legislation to ensure that women and men enjoy the same rights in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage. In this regard, they shall ensure that:

- a) separation, divorce or annulment of a marriage shall be effected by judicial order;
- b) women and men shall have the same rights to seek separation, divorce or annulment of a marriage;
- c) in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage, women and men shall have reciprocal rights and responsibilities towards their children. In any case, the interests of the children shall be given paramount importance;
- d) in case of separation, divorce or annulment of marriage, women and men shall have the right to an equitable sharing of the joint property deriving from the marriage.

#### **Article 8: Access to Justice and Equal Protection before the Law**

Women and men are equal before the law and shall have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure:

- a) effective access by women to judicial and legal services, including legal aid;

- b) support to local, national, regional and continental initiatives directed at providing women access to legal services, including legal aid;
- c) the establishment of adequate educational and other appropriate structures with particular attention to women and to sensitise everyone to the rights of women;
- d) that law enforcement organs at all levels are equipped to effectively interpret and enforce gender equality rights;
- e) that women are represented equally in the judiciary and law enforcement organs;
- f) reform of existing discriminatory laws and practices in order to promote and protect the rights of women.

#### **Article 9: Right to Participation in the Political and Decision-Making Process**

1. States Parties shall take specific positive action to promote participative governance and the equal participation of women in the political life of their countries through affirmative action, enabling national legislation and other measures to ensure that:
  - a) women participate without any discrimination in all elections;
  - b) women are represented equally at all levels with men in all electoral processes;
  - c) women are equal partners with men at all levels of development and implementation of State policies and development programmes.
2. States Parties shall ensure increased and effective representation and participation of women at all levels of decision-making.

#### **Article 10: Right to Peace**

1. Women have the right to a peaceful existence and the right to participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the increased participation of women:
  - a) in programmes of education for peace and a culture of peace;
  - b) in the structures and processes for conflict prevention, management and resolution at local, national, regional, continental and international levels;
  - c) in the local, national, regional, continental and international decision making structures to ensure physical, psychological, social and legal protection of asylum seekers, refugees, returnees and displaced persons, in particular women;
  - d) in all levels of the structures established for the management of camps and settlements for asylum seekers, refugees, returnees and displaced persons, in particular, women;
  - e) in all aspects of planning, formulation and implementation of post conflict reconstruction and rehabilitation.
3. States Parties shall take the necessary measures to reduce military expenditure significantly in favour of spending on social development in general, and the promotion of women in particular.

#### **Article 11: Protection of Women in Armed Conflicts**

1. States Parties undertake to respect and ensure respect for the rules of international humanitarian law applicable in armed conflict situations which affect the population, particularly women.
2. States Parties shall, in accordance with the obligations incumbent upon them under the international humanitarian law, protect civilians including women, irrespective of the population to which they belong, in the event of armed conflict.
3. States Parties undertake to protect asylum seeking women, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, against all forms of violence, rape and other forms of sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such acts are considered war crimes, genocide and/or crimes against humanity and that their perpetrators are brought to justice before a competent criminal jurisdiction.

4. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure that no child, especially girls under 18 years of age, take a direct part in hostilities and that no child is recruited as a soldier.

### **Article 12: Right to Education and Training**

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
  - a) eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and guarantee equal opportunity and access in the sphere of education and training;
  - b) eliminate all stereotypes in textbooks, syllabuses and the media, that perpetuate such discrimination;
  - c) protect women, especially the girl-child from all forms of abuse, including sexual harassment in schools and other educational institutions and provide for sanctions against the perpetrators of such practices;
  - d) provide access to counselling and rehabilitation services to women who suffer abuses and sexual harassment;
  - e) integrate gender sensitisation and human rights education at all levels of education curricula including teacher training.
2. States Parties shall take specific positive action to:
  - a) promote literacy among women;
  - b) promote education and training for women at all levels and in all disciplines, particularly in the fields of science and technology;
  - c) promote the enrolment and retention of girls in schools and other training institutions and the organisation of programmes for women who leave school prematurely.

### **Article 13: Economic and Social Welfare Rights**

States Parties shall adopt and enforce legislative and other measures to guarantee women equal opportunities in work and career advancement and other economic opportunities. In this respect, they shall:

- a) promote equality of access to employment;
- b) promote the right to equal remuneration for jobs of equal value for women and men;
- c) ensure transparency in recruitment, promotion and dismissal of women and combat and punish sexual harassment in the workplace;
- d) guarantee women the freedom to choose their occupation, and protect them from exploitation by their employers violating and exploiting their fundamental rights as recognised and guaranteed by conventions, laws and regulations in force;
- e) create conditions to promote and support the occupations and economic activities of women, in particular, within the informal sector;
- f) establish a system of protection and social insurance for women working in the informal sector and sensitise them to adhere to it;
- g) introduce a minimum age for work and prohibit the employment of children below that age, and prohibit, combat and punish all forms of exploitation of children, especially the girl-child;
- h) take the necessary measures to recognise the economic value of the work of women in the home;
- i) guarantee adequate and paid pre and post-natal maternity leave in both the private and public sectors;
- j) ensure the equal application of taxation laws to women and men;
- k) recognise and enforce the right of salaried women to the same allowances and entitlements as those granted to salaried men for their spouses and children;

- l) recognise that both parents bear the primary responsibility for the upbringing and development of children and that this is a social function for which the State and the private sector have secondary responsibility;
- m) take effective legislative and administrative measures to prevent the exploitation and abuse of women in advertising and pornography.

#### **Article 14: Health and Reproductive Rights**

1. States Parties shall ensure that the right to health of women, including sexual and reproductive health is respected and promoted. This includes:
  - a) the right to control their fertility;
  - b) the right to decide whether to have children, the number of children and the spacing of children;
  - c) the right to choose any method of contraception;
  - d) the right to self protection and to be protected against sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS;
  - e) the right to be informed on one's health status and on the health status of one's partner, particularly if affected with sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS, in accordance with internationally recognised standards and best practices;
  - g) the right to have family planning education.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
  - a) provide adequate, affordable and accessible health services, including information, education and communication programmes to women especially those in rural areas;
  - b) establish and strengthen existing pre-natal, delivery and post-natal health and nutritional services for women during pregnancy and while they are breast-feeding;
  - c) protect the reproductive rights of women by authorising medical abortion in cases of sexual assault, rape, incest, and where the continued pregnancy endangers the mental and physical health of the mother or the life of the mother or the foetus.

#### **Article 15: Right to Food Security**

1. States Parties shall ensure that women have the right to nutritious and adequate food. In this regard, they shall take appropriate measures to:
  - a) provide women with access to clean drinking water, sources of domestic fuel, land, and the means of producing nutritious food;
  - b) establish adequate systems of supply and storage to ensure food security.

#### **Article 16: Right to Adequate Housing**

Women shall have the right to equal access to housing and to acceptable living conditions in a healthy environment. To ensure this right, States Parties shall grant to women, whatever their marital status, access to adequate housing.

#### **Article 17: Right to Positive Cultural Context**

1. Women shall have the right to live in a positive cultural context and to participate at all levels in the determination of cultural policies.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to enhance the participation of women in the formulation of cultural policies at all levels.

---

### **Article 18: Right to a Healthy and Sustainable Environment**

1. Women shall have the right to live in a healthy and sustainable environment.
2. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
  - a) ensure greater participation of women in the planning, management and preservation of the environment and the sustainable use of natural resources at all levels;
  - b) promote research and investment in new and renewable energy sources and appropriate technologies, including information technologies and facilitate women's access to, and participation in their control;
  - c) protect and enable the development of women's indigenous knowledge systems;
  - d) regulate the management, processing, storage and disposal of domestic waste;
  - d) ensure that proper standards are followed for the storage, transportation and disposal of toxic waste.

### **Article 19: Right to Sustainable Development**

Women shall have the right to fully enjoy their right to sustainable development. In this connection, the States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:

- a) introduce the gender perspective in the national development planning procedures;
- c) ensure participation of women at all levels in the conceptualisation, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes;
- d) promote women's access to and control over productive resources such as land and guarantee their right to property;
- c) promote women's access to credit, training, skills development and extension services at rural and urban levels in order to provide women with a higher quality of life and reduce the level of poverty among women;
- d) take into account indicators of human development specifically relating to women in the elaboration of development policies and programmes; and
- e) ensure that the negative effects of globalisation and any adverse effects of the implementation of trade and economic policies and programmes are reduced to the minimum for women.

### **Article 20: Widows' Rights**

States Parties shall take appropriate legal measures to ensure that widows enjoy all human rights through the implementation of the following provisions:

- a) that widows are not subjected to inhuman, humiliating or degrading treatment;
- b) a widow shall automatically become the guardian and custodian of her children, after the death of her husband, unless this is contrary to the interests and the welfare of the children;
- c) a widow shall have the right to remarry, and in that event, to marry the person of her choice.

### **Article 21: Right to Inheritance**

1. A widow shall have the right to an equitable share in the inheritance of the property of her husband. A widow shall have the right to continue to live in the matrimonial house. In case of remarriage, she shall retain this right if the house belongs to her or she has inherited it.
2. Women and men shall have the right to inherit, in equitable shares, their parents' properties.

## **Article 22: Special Protection of Elderly Women**

The States Parties undertake to:

- a) provide protection to elderly women and take specific measures commensurate with their physical, economic and social needs as well as their access to employment and professional training;
- b) ensure the right of elderly women to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on age and the right to be treated with dignity.

## **Article 23: Special Protection of Women with Disabilities**

The States Parties undertake to:

- a) ensure the protection of women with disabilities and take specific measures commensurate with their physical, economic and social needs to facilitate their access to employment, professional and vocational training as well as their participation in decision-making;
- b) ensure the right of women with disabilities to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on disability and the right to be treated with dignity.

## **Article 24: Special Protection of Women in Distress**

The States Parties undertake to:

- a) ensure the protection of poor women and women heads of families including women from marginalized population groups and provide them an environment suitable to their condition and their special physical, economic and social needs;
- b) ensure the right of pregnant or nursing women or women in detention by providing them with an environment which is suitable to their condition and the right to be treated with dignity.

## **Article 25: Remedies**

States Parties shall undertake to:

- a) provide for appropriate remedies to any woman whose rights or freedoms, as herein recognised, have been violated;
- b) ensure that such remedies are determined by competent judicial, administrative or legislative authorities, or by any other competent authority provided for by law.

## **Article 26: Implementation and Monitoring**

1. States Parties shall ensure the implementation of this Protocol at national level, and in their periodic reports submitted in accordance with Article 62 of the African Charter, indicate the legislative and other measures undertaken for the full realisation of the rights herein recognised.
2. States Parties undertake to adopt all necessary measures and in particular shall provide budgetary and other resources for the full and effective implementation of the rights herein recognised.

## **Article 27: Interpretation**

The African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights shall be seized with matters of interpretation arising from the application or implementation of this Protocol.

## **Article 28: Signature, Ratification and Accession**

1. This Protocol shall be open for signature, ratification and accession by the States Parties, in accordance with their respective constitutional procedures.
2. The instruments of ratification or accession shall be deposited with the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU.



### **Article 29: Entry into Force**

1. This Protocol shall enter into force thirty (30) days after the deposit of the fifteenth (15) instrument of ratification.
2. For each State Party that accedes to this Protocol after its coming into force, the Protocol shall come into force on the date of deposit of the instrument of accession.
3. The Chairperson of the Commission of the AU shall notify all Member States of the coming into force of this Protocol.

### **Article 30: Amendment and Revision**

1. Any State Party may submit proposals for the amendment or revision of this Protocol.
2. Proposals for amendment or revision shall be submitted, in writing, to the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU who shall transmit the same to the States Parties within thirty (30) days of receipt thereof.
3. The Assembly, upon advice of the African Commission, shall examine these proposals within a period of one (1) year following notification of States Parties, in accordance with the provisions of paragraph 2 of this article.
4. Amendments or revision shall be adopted by the Assembly by a simple majority.
5. The amendment shall come into force for each State Party, which has accepted it thirty (30) days after the Chairperson of the Commission of the AU has received notice of the acceptance.

### **Article 31: Status of the Present Protocol**

None of the provisions of the present Protocol shall affect more favourable provisions for the realisation of the rights of women contained in the national legislation of States Parties or in any other regional, continental or international conventions, treaties or agreements applicable in these States Parties.

### **Article 32: Transitional Provisions**

Pending the establishment of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights shall be the seized with matters of interpretation arising from the application and implementation of this Protocol.

**Adopted by the 2<sup>nd</sup> Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the Union, Maputo, 11 July 2003**

#### **Members of the African Union**

Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, The Comoros, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

# Notes

## List of Members of The Pan African Parliament and their contacts

(as of 15 March 2004 )

1. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Ms Baleka Mbete, Mr. M. J. Mahlangu, Ms Fatima Hajaig, Adv. Swelethu Madasa, Ms Suzanne Vos.
2. REPUBLIQUE DU CAMEROUN  
M. Essomba Tsoungui Elie Victor, M. Imbia Sylvester Itoe, Mme Silikam née Manamourou Isabelle, M. Mbonda Elie, M. Mbah Ndam Joseph Njang.
3. REPUBLIC OF UGANDA  
Hon. Mike Kennedy Sebalu, Hon. Jachan Mandir Omach, Hon. Abdu Katuntu, Hon. Miria Matembe (Mrs), Hon. Loyce Biira Bwambale (Mrs).
4. REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA  
Hon. Mr Fabakary T. Jatta Hon. Mr. Halifa Sallah Hon. Mr Kalifa Kambi Hon. Mrs. Bintanding Jarju, Hon. Mr Mamma Kandeh.
5. REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA  
Mrs O Nkumbula-Lieventhal, Ms B. H. Jere, Mr. C. M. Shumina, Mr. M.K. Mubanga, Mr. P.M. Daka.
6. ARAB REPUBLIC OF EGYPT  
Dr. Abdel Ahad Gamal ElDin , Mr. Monir Fakhri Abdel Nour, Dr Faeka AlRefai, Mr. Heshmat Fahmi, Dr. Mohammed Ragab Ahmad.
7. REPUBLIC OF THE SUDAN  
Mr Sayed Angelo Beda, Professor Ibrahim Ahmed Ghandor, Dr Idris Yousif, Professor (Mrs) Suad El-Fatih El-Bedawi, Dr Malik Hussain Hamid.
8. REPUBLIQUE DU MALI  
M. Ibrahim Boubacar Keita, Me Mountaga Tall, Madame Ascofaré Oulématou Tamboura, M. Moustapha Dicko, Madame Sidibé Korian Sidibe.
9. REPUBLIC OF SIERRA LEONE  
Hon. Sheik I. Kamara, Hon. Dr Princess Baba-Jigida, Hon. Dauda Kamara, Hon. Ibrahim Kemoh Sessay ,Hon. Paramouth Chief Abu Mbawa Kongobah.
10. REPUBLIQUE DU TOGO  
M. Ouattara Fambaré Natchaba , M. Solitoki Magnim Eso, M. Ptomsoouwé Batchassi, M. Loumonvi Fombo Mme Améyo Adja.
11. THE GREAT SOCIALIST PEOPLE's LIBYAN ARAB JAMAHIRIYA  
Mrs Amal Nuri Safar, Dr. Aragab Muftah Abudabus, Dr. Mohammed Lutfi Farhat, Mr. Mohammed Elmadani El-hadhiri.
12. REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA  
H.E. Domingos Manuel Njinga, H.E. Efigénia Mariquinhas do Santos Lima Clemente, H.E. Fernando José de França Van-Dunem, H.E. Jeronimo Elavoko Wanda, H.E. Abel Apalanga Chivukuvuku.
13. REPUBLIQUE DU RWANDA  
Sen. Higiros Prosper, Sen. Iyamuremye Augustin, Député Somayire Antoine, Député Mukabaranga Agnès, Député Kantengwa Juliana.
14. REPUBLIC OF KENYA  
Hon. Wycliffe Oparanya, Hon. Ms Njoki Ndungu, Hon. Zaddock Syongoh, Hon. John Koech, Hon. Kenry O. Obwocha.

15. REPUBLIC OF GHANA  
Hon. Abraham Ossei Aidooh, Hon. Malik Al-Hassan Yakubu Hon. Andrews Adjei Yeboah, Hon. John Dramani Mahama, Ama Benyiwa-Doe.
16. REPUBLIQUE DU GABON  
Madame Henriette Massounga, Monsieur René Radembino Coniquet, Monsieur Simon Boulamatari, Monsieur Pierre Claver Zeng Ebome, Monsieur Séraphin Moundounga.
17. REPUBLIQUE DU BURUNDI  
Hon. Pierre Claver Nahimana, Hon. Jean-Bapistes Manwangari, Hon. Schdrack Niyonkuru, Hon. Christian Sendegeya, Hon. Marie-Thérèse Toyi.
18. REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE  
Mr. J. M. Gumbo, Mr. C. Majange, Mrs. M. Mpariwa, Mr. S. Kasukuwere, Mr. P.T. Nyathi.
19. REPUBLIQUE DU TCHAD  
Dr Idriss Ndele Moussa, Mme Loum Ndoadoumngue Neloumsei Elise, Mr Ngarindo Milengar, Mr Mbaydoum Simeon, Mr Nouradine Delwa Kassire Coumakoye.
20. REPUBLIQUE ISLAMIQUE DE MAURITANIE  
Maître Habib Ould Diah, M. Diop Hamady Khalidou, M. Mohamed El Moustapha Ould Bedr Eddine, M. Bakar Ould Ahmedou, Mme Diye Ba.
21. UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA  
Hon. Dr William F. Shija, Hon. Athuman S.M. Janguo, Hon. Remidius E. Kissassi, Hon. Getrude Ibengwe Mongella, Hon. Dr Amani W.A. Kabourou.
22. REPUBLIC OF BOTSWANA  
Hon. Matlapeng Ray Molomo, Hon. Ronald Koone Sebego, Hon. Shirley Itumeleng Tiny Segokgo, Hon. Phandu Tombola Chaka Skeleman, Hon. Nehemiah Mmoloki Modubule.
23. REPUBLIQUE DE MADAGASCAR  
M. Rajemison Rakotomaharo, M. Lahiniriko Jean, Mme Rasoanirina Méline, M. Raberson Jeannot Emilien, M. Philippson Gérard Aimé.
24. REPULIQUE DU BENIN  
Mme Rosine Vieyra Soglo, M. Théophile Nata, M. Orou Gabé Orou Sego, M. Jérôme Sacca Kina Guezere, M. Ismaël Tidjani Serpos.
25. KINGDOM OF LESOTHO  
Hon. Mr. Oziel Hlalele Motaung, Hon. Mrs. 'Malebaka Flory Bulane, Hon. Mr. Letuka Nkole, Hon. Mr. Thabang Nyeoe, Hon. Mrs. Khauhelo Deborah Raditapole.
26. REPUBLIQUE DU NIGER  
Mme Mounkaïla Aïssata, M. Maïdagi Allambèye, M. Hassoumi Massoudou, M. Alhousseïni Algoubass, M. Mahamane Saley.
27. REPUBLIQUE DU SENEGAL  
Mme Emilie Diatta, M. Babacar Gaye, M. Ibra Diouf, M. Abdoulaye, Mme Aminata Mbengue Ndiaye.
28. REPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUE  
Mrs. Veronica Nataniel Macamo, Mrs. Maria Angelina Enoque, Mrs. Isabel Manuel Nkavadeka, Mr. Sousa Salvador Munhawa, Mr. Jose Manteiga Gabriel
29. REPUBLIC OF MAURITIUS  
Hon. Premnath Ramnah, Hon. José Arunasalon, Hon. (Mrs) Marie Noelle Françoise Labelle, Hon. Ashit Kumar Gungah, Hon. Arvin Boolell.

- 
30. REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA  
Hon. Ben Amathilia, Hon. (Mrs) Ella Kamanya, Hon. (Mrs.) Lydia Kathita, Hon. Carlos Shinohamba, Hon. Tsudao Gurirab.
31. REPUBLIQUE ARABE SAHARAOUÏ DEMOCRATIQUE  
Mr. Ouaddadi Ahmed Heiba, Mr. Abd Mohamed Yahia, Mme Mohamed Kaid Salem Souelman, Mr. Brahim Salem Zarug, Mlle Mohamed Habib Mamia.
32. REPUBLIQUE DE GUINEE EQUATORIALE  
Hon. Pilar Buepoyo Boseka, Hon. Vicente Ehate Tomi, Hon. Francisco Garcia Gaetjens, Hon. Fidel Marcos Mane Ncogo, Hon. Carmelo Mocong Onguene.
33. FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA  
Senator Danboyi Sule Usman, Senator Lee Ledogo Maeba, Rep. Mohammed Kumalia, Rep. Bankole Dimeji, Rep. Patrica N. Ndogu.
34. FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA  
Hon. Speaker Dawit Yohannes, Hon. Mr. Haile-Kiros Gessesse, Hon. Mr. Mubarek Sani, Hon. Mrs. Aster Bekele, Hon. Mr. Mulualem Bessie.
35. REPUBLIQUE ALGERIENNE DEMOCRATIQUE ET POPULAIRE  
M. Boudina Mustapha, M. Draoui Mohamed, Mme Kara Baya, M. Chara Bachir, M. Hammi Larouiss.
36. REPUBLIC OF CAPE VERDE  
Dr José Manuel Gomes Andrade, Dr. Orlanda Maria Duarte Santos Ferreira, Dr. Mario José Carvelho de Lima, Dr. Joao Baptista Ferreira Medina, Engineer Eva Verona Teixeira Ortet.
37. REPUBLIQUE DE DJIBOUTI  
M. Aden Robleh Awaleh, M. Ahmed Mohamed Hassan, Mme Hasna Mohamed Dato, M. Mohamed Abdoukader Mohamed, M. Souleiman Miyir Ali.
38. BURKINA FASO  
M. Oubkiri Marc Yao, M. Larba Yarga, Mme Marie Blandine Sawadogo/Ouedraogo, M. Bénéwendé Stanislas Sankara, M. Gilbert Noël Ouedraogo.
39. REPUBLIQUE TUNISIENNE  
M. Sahbi Karoui, M. Mohamed Salah Zaray, Mme Saida Agrebi, M. Badreddine Missaoui, M. Jalel Lakdar.
40. REPUBLIC OF CONGO  
Jean Pierre Thystere Tchicaya, Jean Claude Siapa Ivouloungou, Mélanie Komzo, André Obami Itou, Pierre Indozoungou Massanga Zelly
41. REPUBLIC OF MALAWI \*  
Hon. R.T.C. Munyenembe, Hon. Mrs. Callista Chimombo, Hon. Louis Chimango, Hon. Steven Malamba, Hon. (Ms) Lovenes Gondwe.

**Contact of African Union Secretariat:  
Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,  
P. O. Box 3243,  
Telephone: +251 - 1 - 517700  
Fax: +251 - 1 - 517844**

**For details on how to contact your Pan Africa Member of Parliament,  
please check below:**

Country	Organisation	Telephone No	Fax No	E-Mail
<b>Algeria</b>	Parliament of Algeria	+21321 746031/ 746085	+ 21321 746075/ 746079	majliselouma@majlis.dz
<b>Algeria</b>	Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria	+213 2173 8600	+ 21321 74 0389	assoul@apn.gov.dz
<b>Angola</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Angola	+2442 334 021/ +2442 332 641/390 336	+ 2442 33 1118	dadpr.parlamento@ebonet.net
<b>Benin</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Benin	+229 2122 19 / 214346	+ 229 213091/ 215161 / 212748	assemblée.benin@syfed.bj.refer.org
<b>Botswana</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Botswana	+267 3616 808/ 71310763 (Spekaer's cell)	+ 267 391 4376 / 313103	mrmolomo@gov.bw/ dkebonyethebe@gov.bw
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Burkina Faso	+226 316 091/332 404/05/31 4449/ 314684	+ 22631 4590	an@assemblee.gov.bf
<b>Burundi</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Burundi	+257 23 5572/ 257 241415	+257 23 26 22	
<b>Burundi</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Burundi	+257 245170 / 257 2451151245113	+257 2451 14	
<b>Cameroon</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Cameroon	+237 223 2044 / 237 222 8071/ 222 4212	+237 2236040 / 237 223 6040	
<b>Cape Verde</b>	Parliament of Cape Verde	+238 60 8000/6080 31/6226 77/8/622898	+238 622 898 / + 238 623 161	ajmsilva@mail.cv.telcom.cv
<b>Central African Republic</b>	Parliament of Central African Republic	+236 619583 / +236 61 9430	+236 619583 / + 236 619430	assemblee@intnet.cf
<b>Chad</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Chad	+235 53 0095/ 6604	+235 530021 / +235 530095	
<b>Comoros</b>	Parliament of Comoros	+269 74 4004/74 4012/744013	+269 744 011/ + 269 730596	sec.presidence@snpt.km
<b>Congo</b>	Parliament of Congo		+242 814128/ +242 81 1128	Assemblée nationale@hotmail.com
<b>Congo (DRC)</b>	Parliament of Congo	+242 8118 70 / 242 621423	+8 871 762 545 516	
<b>Côte d'Ivoire</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire	+225 2020 8200	+ 225 202 08233 / +225 202 27043	
<b>Djibouti</b>	Parliament of The Republic Djibouti	+253 352037 / 09253	+253 353303	assntdj@intnet.dj
<b>Egypt</b>	Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt	Telex: 20054 EGYAS UN	+202 794 8977/ 795 0589	
<b>Egypt</b>	Parliament of the Arab Republic of Egypt	Telex: 20054 EGYAS UN	+202 794 8977/ 795 0589	



Country	Organisation	Telephone No	Fax No	E-Mail
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Equatorial Guinea	+2409 2539	+240 94586 / + 2409 2122	
<b>Eritrea</b>	Parliament of the State of Eritrea	+2911 119701	+2911 125123	
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia	+2511 555 111	+2511 553 000	fspeaker@telecom.net.et
<b>Ethiopia</b>	Parliament of the FDR of Ethiopia	+2511 555 111	+ 2511 553 000	fspeaker@telecom.net.et
<b>Gabon</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Gabon	+241 76 0930	+241 749 522 / +241 726 196	an_gabon@hotmail.com
<b>Gabon</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Gabon	+241 749 520/762264	+241 749 522 / +241 726 196	assemblee.gabon@yahoo.com
<b>Ghana</b>	Republic of Ghana	+23321 668 514/ 233 21 664181/662084	+ 23321 678288/233 21 665957	Speaker@Parliament.gh
<b>Guinea</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Guinea	+224 41 1118/ 412804/411078	+224 412804/ 412848/451700	
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	Parliament of Guinea-Bissau	+245 201991/214741	+245 201172 / +245 201992	
<b>Kenya</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Kenya	+254 20 221 291	+254 20 336 589	bunge@swifkenya.com
<b>Lesotho</b>	Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho	+266 223 23035/ +266 223 17056	+266 223 10438	
<b>Lesotho</b>	Parliament of the Kingdom of Lesotho	+266 223 23035/ 22317056	+266 223 10438	
<b>Liberia</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Liberia	+231 227 802/226 584/ 227 350	+231 226 000	
<b>Liberia</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Liberia	+231 227 802/ 226 584 / 227 350	+231 226 000	
<b>Libya</b>	Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	+21821 606700	+21821 606703	
<b>Madagascar</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Madagascar	+26120 536+/9/ +2632 0713989	+261 2022 53624	calvin@assemblee-nationale.mg
<b>Madagascar</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Madagascar	+26120 22 21637	+26120 22 32436	calvin@assemblee-nationale.mg
<b>Malawi</b>	Republic of Malawi	+2651 773 566	+2651 774196	parliament@malawi.net
<b>Mali</b>	Republic of Mali	+223 221 5724	+223 222 8321	madou@blonba.malinet.m l/ass-nat@blonba.malinet.ml
<b>Mauritania</b>	Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	+222 52 51 130/51 131	+222 52 57078	
<b>Mauritania</b>	Parliament of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania	+222 52 56877	+2222 57078	
<b>Mauritius</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Mauritius	+230 201 1414/201 2306/ 201 1565	+230 212 8364	mruasby@intnet.mu

Country	Organisation	Telephone No	Fax No	E-Mail
<b>Mozambique</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Mozambique	+2581 400 838	+2581 400 711	cdi-adm@sortmoz.com / cdi@sortmoz.com
<b>Namibia</b>	Republic of Namibia	+ 26461 288 9111/ 264 811 246947 (Speaker's Cell)	+26461 231 626	parliament@parliament.gov.na
<b>Namibia</b>	Republic of Namibia	+26461 288 9111	+26461 247 772	parliament@parliament.gov.na
<b>Niger</b>	Parliament of Niger	+227 724229/724230	+227 724308	an@niger.assemblee.ne
<b>Nigeria</b>	Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	+2349 0393	+2349 0303	speaker@speaker-nass-nig.org
<b>Nigeria</b>	Parliament of the Federal Republic of Nigeria	+2349 234 0080 / 234 2269 / 234 0630	+2349 4131193 / 234 2157	rahilajb@yahoo.com / rahilajb@hotmail.com
<b>Rwanda</b>	Republic of Rwanda	+250 583 980	+250 586 275	presse@rwanda1.com
<b>Saharawi</b>	Parliament of the Saharawi National Council			
<b>São Tomé &amp; Príncipe</b>	Democratic Republic of São	+239 222 764/ 239 903 357	+239 222 835	sganstp@cstome.net
<b>Senegal</b>	Republic of Senegal	+221 823 109 / + 221 823 3472	+221 823 9402	assnat@gouv.sn
<b>Seychelles</b>	Republic of Seychelles	+248 321 333	+ 248 321 404	parlsg@seychelles.net
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	Republic of Sierra Leone	+ 2511 710 033	+ 2511 711 911	sleone.et@telecom.net
<b>Somalia</b>	Somali Republic			
<b>South Africa</b>	Republic of South Africa	+2721 403 2911	+2721 403 2604	mmasiza@parliament.gov.za
<b>South Africa</b>	Parliament of the republic of South Africa	+2721 403-2321	+2721 461 9460	mmasiza@parliament.gov.za
<b>Sudan</b>	Republic of the Sudan	+ 24915 557 840	+ 24915 560 950	info@sudan-parliament.org/ sudanipg@sudan-parliamen
<b>Swaziland</b>	Kingdom of Swaziland	+ 268 41612 86/7/8	+ 268 416 1603	
<b>Swaziland</b>	Parliament of the Kingdom of Swaziland	+ 268 41612 86/7/8	+ 268 4161603	
<b>Tanzania</b>	United Republic of Tanzania	+ 25526 42 756	+ 25526 232 4218	bunge@intafrica.com
<b>The Gambia</b>	Parliament of The Gambia	+ 220 228 305	+ 220 225 123	assemblyclerk@yahoo.com
<b>Togo</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Togo	+228 221 2361 / +228 222 2762	+ 228 222 1168	assemblee.nationale@syfed.tg.refer.org
<b>Tunisia</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Tunisia	+ 21671 510 200 / +21671 510 289	+ 21671 514608 / 518 999	
<b>Uganda</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Uganda	+ 25641 341 038/ 347438/9	+ 25641 231 296/ 346826	clerk@parliament.go.ug
<b>Zambia</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Zambia	+ 2601 292 425	+ 2601 292 252	nazambia@zamnet.za
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	Parliament of the Republic of Zimbabwe	+ 2634 700 181/9	+ 2634 252 935	clerk@parlzim.gov.za

•KANE Thimo•Emma Naylor•Selina Ade-Williams•beatrice Shellukindo•FATIMATA AIDA DEM Mme SOW•Daraniijo temitayo•Emmanuelle RAVAT•Mariam DEM•SYLLA DIEGUI•BA Aminata•Danse salifu-samson•Tandia Aliou•Susan Wangeshe Musembi•Phoebe Kung'u•FESTUS FESTY•Fatou Jagne•Senghore•Gladys Nyabundi•FLORICA MUTURI•Lilian Nyangaya•Charles Deyi•Peter Kuthan•SAINABOU JAYE•Tony Downing•Alais morindat•Boryana Litova•Thioudi Abdoul aziz•Zainab Bangura•Florence Auma Apuri•Ocheng cen•Elma Doelman•Anthony Tukai•Miranda Johnson•Bronwen Thomas•IKUMA Nelly•Glenda Johnson•festus festy•Linda Radecki•Prisca Mellilei•emilia ADRIANO•Stef Wilson•khalil abdelhamed•Louis Nuyens•Kimberly Lowe•Becky Faith•Joseph M. Lamb•NOGI IMOUKHUEDE IMOUKHUEDE•Kodonnay Idjessi ODAH•Charley Lewis•Isabelle Dupuis•Amelia Kendall•Lata Narayanaswamy•Mary Tumaini•Wendy C Hamblet•Tanja Kisserli•Cristiana Scoppa•Monique Buckner•Signe Amfred•Karen Stefiszyn•Baibonn Sangid•George Abang Tawoh•Diana Stauffer•Lise Engel•Amanda Gledman•Sally Fisher•Nish Matenjiwa•Cheryl L. Frances Sanchez•Simon Colley•Stephen Campbell•SANGWA JOHN•Mrs Juli Ngozi Okeke•Natalie Leon•Liam Campling•OTTO JAMES•Deborah Sharp•Peter Merckx•Joy Olivier•JENNIFER OPIYO•simla Nulliah•Swami•josephe clotilde ngo innack•Armand Amelle•Vanessa von Struensee•Denise Combaz•Emilie Combaz•Ezekiel Mwenzwa•Kenneth Chaplin•Maren Coniglione•cecile diguet•BAEZA Cecilia•Debos Marielle•ACHIM CHIAJI•TEREZA KYEYUNE•Abu Rayhan Al-Beeroonee•Laura Grattan•Bernad Eckhardt•Baglo Gabriel•Mame Seyni LABOU•Nicole Spencer•Chiedza Kimberly•charlotte wezi mesikano•Carluccio Giannini•AYO SANDIUS•Charlotte Utting•Francesco Njagi kaburu•Sarah Martin•MARIETOU MAKALOU•BERTHE•Lien De Brouckere•Morissanda KOUYATE•Louis Buckley•Gugu Mdiafiose•Harmony Africa•Tracey Ross•Dominique Ralfin•Bokari Moyo•Khedija ARFAOUI•Julie Kingsland•Soraya BELGHAZI•caroline van Dullemen•Jessica Horn•Marguerite Mossa•Deborah Flapan•Malcolm Barrett•Amanda El-Khoury•Patricia Davies•Katherine Gould•Martin•Iumumba Shabaka•Katherine Salahi•Angelique Shofar•Emmanuelle YABANDA•Hafwen Kail•Eugenia Date•Bah•Elisabeth Pfeife•Duncan White•Cécile Gréboval•URSULA OWUSU•Helen Olatunji•Dani DAN•Rada GUNGALOO•Sarah Kuller•Fiona Pettitt•Lethea Erz•Freddy NKURIKIYE•Benedicte Walter•Peggy Sower Knoepfle•james lee•Janah Ncube•Judith Hoch•Aisha Yousafzai•Sandra De Moura•Rose INNACK•Eno Deborah•aurel Baldwin•Ragaven•ESTHER KANDUZA•Birgit Michaelis•Tim Symonds•Cécile Meta Kasanda•Thomas Baumann•zainab mwatawala•Lori Michau•OKE TOKUNBO•Siyabonga Ndahezitha•anthony lemon•Maria Romero•Patrick Bond•Denise Kenny•Vicki Vogel•Beatrice Parwallkar•GODFREY RADJENG•BRIGITTE TENGAME TENKAME•David Mozer•Valeda Mackey•Ezra Mbogori•Mabel Simwanda•DIENGO NZUZI•FELLY•Malaka Hamken•AMINATA DIEYE•Daniel Rezene Mekonnen•kapinga ntumba•Ingrid Kocpmann•Tulvesson•John Bhend•Rosaling Hackett•Kell Dorstenia•Kevin Hickson•Chiara Lombardi•Althea Anderson•Marie-Sofie Villeneuve•Arsène METINHOUE•Anne Kawuki•Saskia Bakker•Bernadette Yadi Sukho•Filatriau•Mary Wahilo•Margot Alberi•Wanjiku Mwangi•Janice Ogonji•Moire O'Sullivan•Claudia Cochina•Loan Ngo Thanh•Maria Verónica Arteaga Molina•Marina Quindigian•Ms. Seblewengel Deneke•Sekhou Camara•Barbara Murray•Gichuhi Loise•Inga-Lena Alfsaker•Raashied Galant•phosile tracy sichinga•Tessa Alexander•finoa neville•Minke Valk•Ashley Dunlop•Anna Miller•Cheryl Boon•Vinodh Jaichand•Alex Edgar•Mieke Peters•charles obeno•Anneke van Luijken•charlene ingrid•Caitriona Lee•Meena Jagannath•Bubelwa Kaiza•Andrea Loi•Saranga Jain•Suad Ibrahim•Faiza Mohamed•Tina R.T•Rahseemat Momodu•Nadir Haji•Duncan Drury•Kerry Rochester•Moses Chege•Brooke Schoepf•Gail Taylor•Andrew Allimadi•Patricia Fourie•Joseph Msafiri•Greenville Ivan•HABONIMANA Solange•Rony Mathys•Colleen McFadden•Waweru Mujo•vaughan meizer•CH Mwandigili•Mohamed Osmo•BAUDOUIN SCHOMBE•Kersty McCourt•Charly Wakaba•Mailda Moyo•Christine Bode•Agatha Thompson•Margherita Williams•Robyn Skube•Esperance Karwera•Amie Joof•Cole•ABDULLAH IDDRISU•KATE YOUNG•Julie Koretz•Alexandra Massam•Hilda Mawanda•Akwe Amosu•Issa SADOU•Jose Maria Dimaandil•Gihan Hassanani•Maria Victoria Whittingham•Rachel Iscover•Anne Bithorel•Faris Sabeti•Joanne Frazier•Zakia N/A•Mary DeSilva•Olga Garrido•Roberta Silvín•Marianne Szulcowsky•Charmaine Wendy•Hanlie Pretorius•Morgan Mitchell•Paulette Kennedy•Joseph Aiello•Taddese Asmellash•Akoué Akakpo•Vidah Polly Davison•darrell wilks•Suzanne Ouellet•Miles Litvinoff•Kadidia SIDIBE Aoudou•Lauryn Oates•Chris McGlone•Michèle Olivier•Karin Andersson•S. Elizabeth Dill•Colleen Cameron•Silke Weinlich•Robin Nunn•Ghislaine Alleyne•Tinu Odugbemi•Abena Dadze•Arthur•Gancho Slavov•Sara Thorpe•Eva Vergles•Nana Odoi•Jehan Jarrar•Hasaan Bakri•Mahdi Saudatu•Deborah Gomes•Elise Domingues•Prabha Khosla•Dega Ibrahim Musa•Angela Nyamu•Sandrine Ricci•Vicky Hollenbeck•Ana Teresa Santos Pereira•Margaret Richardson•David Moisi•Paule Kekeh•Chipo Nyambuya•Monica Mazariegas•Kafui ADJAMAGBO•JOHNSON•Tola Olujuwon•sally clarke•Cynthia Karlton•Hannah Forster•Terna Tilley•Gyado•Isabelle Hachette•Karin Bakhit•Kelly Foster•Gloria Ogunbadejo•Collette Lelièvre•Vicky Wilkins•Matt Brown•Caroline Nenguke•Pat van Rensburg•Iram Haider•Sheila Mbiru•Elaine Hooper•George Richards•Juan Pensamiento•Vivian Lopez•Brian Ormston•Vanessa Castro•Byron Loker•Dina Badri•Nellie Oduor•Patrick Mpedzisi•Michael Williams•Anne Galthumbi•Maria Begofa De Agustin•Myrli Gonzalez•Odemira Helena Fonseca•Oluwatoyin A Ibrahim•Igbu•Esteban Manteca•Alice Macharia•Stacey Mitchell•Peter Caborn•Marise Josefina R. A. Fonseca•Alex Dove Bangura•Dorota Rzyzy•Doreen Horan•Nezir Akyesilmen•Brenda Burrell•Ransom Mahaka•Carlos Cordourier•Real•Rebecca Rickard•Lydia Grigoreva•Judith Charlton•Irene Sattarzadeh•Helen Ralph•Jenny Weinkopf•Nicole Gvalda•Nicki Mockridge•Jennifer Geer•ANTONIA PAPADOPOULOU•Victoria Kennedy•MacFoy•Bandana•Shrestha•Cristina Santillan•Idoate•Gail Lewis•Des Gordon•Riccardo Clerici•Derek Michael•seima alrasheed•Anne Muhlethaler•Cyrus MacFoy•Wendy Gichuri•Ali Hassan Bah•Amay Abouzeid•Sara MacLagan•serena dankwa•Mukami Rimbiera•Lisa Anderson•madeleine kennedy•macfay•Amanitara, the African Partnership for the Sexual An Initiative of RAINBO•Graca Machel•Muchimba Sikumba•Dils•Rose Nyawira•Arabi Beshir•jenny francis•Monica Gil•Olga Bayon•Lisa Pharoah•Ellen Alem•Nyambura Maina•Namusi Josephine•Godfrey Odongo•Lanre Obafemi•Mary Grant•patricia NOLAND•Jennifer Hole•Modikoe Thomas•Benedicte Muthien•Faresa Dangor•Roberto Wohlgenuth•Mauro Guarinieri•Mahsa Shekarloo•Sharon Sichilongo•GLORIA OKEMUO•Veronica Fynn•Tsholofelo Khalema•Mary Ormston•Kerrie Thornhill•Yvonne Brown•Elizabeth Barad•Ruth Ormston•André du Toit•Sanjay Basu•Nicole Venter•Toby Bloom•Ali Askouri•maria del mar correa garcia•Jennifer Dreher•Adedoyin Onasanya•Andrea Purdon•Zophie Landahl•Nicola Irvine•Jo Trelfa•Hilary Isaac•Licinio Antonio M. BRANCO•Alpina Patel•Erin Kelly•Emma Bell•Rosita Scarborough•Michelle Crincoli•Alice Welbourn•LYDIA MUNGERHERA•Charley Lewis•CAROLINE MURIITHI•LUGEDE CHIUMYA•Carole AGENG'O•Paula Fairbanks•Monde Zaza•Rosemary Ekosso•Shella Hanna•Ceri Hayes•Sharonann Lynch•Mary Wall•C. Manion•Catherine Garcia•Jamie Everett•Adekunle AKintayo•Christine Johnston•Lou Clifton•Owen Davies•ann bown•Mica Lindsey•Hossam Bahgat•anno mitchell•Nano Johanna•Catherine Barber•Gavin Lockhart•Mirams•Catherine Vignon•Muge Dolun•Anna Lindley•Rutendo Kambarami•Mae Gracey•Jaynie Stevenson•Tom Davies•Jeanine Tsoigny•Naoussi•Clifford Singer•Songul Arslan•Wanjiku Gachugi•Asmara Sium•Karem Roitman•Jane Drapkin•Anne Ogbigbo•Nahid Toubia•Christina Clark•marlene martin•Kathryn McCormick•Bridget Ubocchi•patrick mulvey•Susan Grace•Obiagali Adaure•Richard Buckner•Vuyiswa Keyi•Annabel Meere•Adejoke Babington•Ashaye•Patrick Burnett•Lea Gomez•Kim Bird•Karen Sihra•linda parsons•Eileen Wittevaal•Flora MacDonald•Meredeth Turshen•andrea finkelman•David Melville•amaka anetanya•Greg Regaignon•Robert Varekamp•Momo Kanneh•Dzodzi Tsikata•Cinke Njora•Sarah Shiundu•jean-yves violette•Godfrey Tweve•GLORIA OKEMUO•Amisha Parbhoo•Virginia Muwanigwa•Martha Lyimo•Fataye Aderonke•Cornelius Hamadzi•Annick Nzambimana•Jennifer Georgeson•Lithur Nana Oye•Jennifer Herron•YAV KATSHUNG JOSEPH•Esther Wangui•Vidyaratha Kissoon•Philip Costa•NDI JOHNSON•MAWULI DAKE•Ajira Darch•Sharp•Hajhamad alhajhamad•Ulf Halldin•Virginia Velez



... the only name missing is yours!



The Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa is beyond doubt the missing link in the African Charter's protection of women. Its adoption not only anchors into the African soil the message and recognition that the injustices plaguing African women will no longer be tolerated, but it also affirms that human rights are women's rights too. I thank the pioneers of this initiative, for their efforts on behalf of the larger half of humanity.

*Obiagali Adaure, Nigeria*

The need to uphold African women's human rights is now or never. We must at all costs strive to win the war, even if that means fighting certain aspects of our culture for the sake of our mothers, sisters and daughters.

*Ezekiel Mwendwa, Kenya*

A guarantee of women's rights in Africa is urgent. Ratification of this Protocol will enhance not only the social, political and economic well-being of women in Africa, benefitting entire populations, but will in the process also provide an important model for the protection of women's rights in other countries.

*Gail Taylor, Canada*

It is vital for African leaders to show their commitment to advancing women's rights through ratification of this protocol. This will also reflect on the attitude of each country towards women's issues in general, especially in a continent where women suffer oppression.

*Charlotte Wezi Mesikano, Malawi*

Africa and the world would be better off if women's rights were given their rightful place on the continent. The African woman has so much to contribute to the development effort of this beautiful continent.

*Rebecca Nyarkoa Anim, Appiah, Ghana*

The respect and observance of the rights of women is key to the development of Africa. The Protocol does make some progressive provisions and together the men and women of Africa will take the bold step forward. It is high time we own and implement the Protocol. As partners in development we urge States to ratify as soon as possible to confirm their commitment to the cause for the development of Africa.

*Hannah Forster, The Gambia*

Ratification of the Protocol on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa by member states of the African Union will prove that our governments are willing to fulfill their promises on making sure that women issues are taken care.

*Mary Tumaini, Tanzania*

Women's rights are human rights and require urgent action if we are to collectively improve the lives of all on the African continent.

*Deborah Sharp, Japan*