

Dear Friends

We are coming to the end of another very busy year for the Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice. Some of the highlights for us have included an expansion of our global outreach work, the production of information and publications in multiple languages, furthering our support and advocacy for the participation of victims/survivors in the justice process offered by the International Criminal Court, and advocacy regarding reparations and assistance to women survivors of gender based crimes in each of the conflict situations before the ICC.

In addition our country-based work has grown with our ongoing documentation of sexualized violence committed against women by a range of militia groups and armed forces in eastern DRC, and our advocacy with the ICC to investigate gender based crimes in every situation where there is evidence such crimes have been committed. One of the most significant developments this year has been our work with local women's rights and peace activists in North and North Eastern Uganda on the current Peace Talks. Together we participated in the Government meetings on the Peace Talks and consultation series held by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA) throughout the Greater North. The women of north and north eastern Uganda are advocating for accountability, reconciliation and permanent and sustainable peace to end the 21 year conflict. We have held meetings with members of both the Government and LRA Negotiation teams and provided medical and humanitarian support to communities in the north.

There have been many more highlights which can be found on our website. We particularly draw your attention to recent developments and updates now posted on the site <http://www.iccwomen.org/>

We wish you all a peaceful and restful end to 2007. Most of all we wish for peace for all those currently living in conflicts around the world and for all those in violent situations, homes and communities. We will continue to work towards justice and peace, especially for women, in the coming year.

Warm wishes
Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice