

Hon. Mrs Phoebe Asiyo UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador

Activities

- On 30 July 1998, Hon. Phoebe Asiyo opened the Campaign to Stop Violence against Women for UNIFEM's East and Horn of Africa Regional Office. This was preceded by a procession in which she took part within the city of Nairobi. The objective of the campaign was to raise awareness of issues leading to violence against women and find ways to address the problems.
- On 8 March 1999, UNIFEM organized a global video conference, "A World Free of Violence against Women," linking the United Nations General Assembly to Mexico City, Nairobi, New Delhi, and the European Parliament in Strasbourg. Speakers included women who had survived personal experiences of violence, advocates, judges, police officials, media personalities, and UN officials.

"You cannot even imagine the sort of impact the messages heard in the video conference had on the minds of policy makers. In my country it has started to move people into action and saying we have to make things right." —Hon. Phoebe Asiyo, Member of Parliament, Nairobi
- On 24–26 June 1999, UNIFEM, in partnership with El Taller Africa, together with women's human rights groups in Africa, held a series of workshops on violence against women that led to the Africa Court of Women that was held in Nairobi in June 1999. The main issue focused on by this Court was poverty and the feminization of poverty. The Court was heard in five sessions. Session one heard testimonies from women on social and cultural violence including abduction, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, rape, sexual slavery and widow rights. The second session focused on war, racism and ethnic violence. Session three focused on structural violence and feminization of poverty. Session four focused on movements and resistance of women. The final session heard the voices of the Council of Wise Women, the members of the jury, who included Gertrude Mongella, from the Fourth World Conference of Women, Tanzania, Faouzia Hachim, the Minister of Justice from Eritrea, Julienne Ondziel, the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights from Togo, Nozizwe Madlala Routledge, the Deputy Minister for Defence, South Africa, Inonge Lewanika from the Federation of African Women Peace Network, Zambia, and Hon. Phoebe Asiyo, the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador from Kenya.
- In 2003, under UNIFEM's project for "Engendering the Political Process in Kenya" (EPPP), which essentially focused on civic education, training and capacity building of women aspirants, election monitoring and media advocacy, the Kenya national elections ushered in an increased number of women in parliamentary positions, the first ever appointment of 6 women to the cabinet (3 ministers and 3 assistant ministers), as well as the establishment of a Ministry for Gender, Sport and Culture. The victory celebration dinner, organized by UNIFEM partners, Kenya Women's Political Caucus and Women's Political Alliance, was graced by the veteran politician and committed long-time gender advocate as well as UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, Hon. Phoebe Asiyo.
- In 2003, through its African Women for Conflict Resolution and Peace Program, UNIFEM (East and Horn of Africa Regional Office) continued its deepened support to promoting a gender-sensitive and gender-inclusive response to peacebuilding and conflict resolution, grounded in its objective of ensuring women's empowerment, gender equality and women's enjoyment of all rights, which values are buttressed by UN Security Council resolution 1325. The four strategic planning meetings for Sudanese and Somali women provided women in these conflict countries with an opportunity to

articulate their concerns, demands and recommendations as inputs to the peace talks of the IGAD. Building on these in-country dialogues, UNIFEM and the IGAD Gender Desk organized a seminar for women delegates to the Somali Peace Conference. About 45 women representing different sides of the conflict participated in the seminar and developed strategies for addressing the gender dimensions of the peace process and its implementation. Hon. Ruth Perry, Former Interim President of Liberia, shared her practical experience from her role in the peace process in Liberia. Hon. Phoebe Asiyo, the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador, gave her support and commitment to continue to advocate for issues raised by the Somali women. Recommendations emerging from the seminar included the cessation of hostilities, the disarmament of armed groups and the need for 50 per-cent representation by women at the peace talks.

- On 10th April 2005, Sudanese women delegates from all regions, comprising representatives from the Government of Sudan, the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army (SPLM/A), civil society and academic institutions, met in Oslo with the objectives of defining their priorities in advocating for donor support for gender equality and women's rights in post-conflict Sudan. They met under the auspices of the Government of Norway, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM). This effort was also supported by the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), the African Union, South African Women in Dialogue, the UNIFEM Goodwill Ambassador for Africa, Hon. Phoebe Asiyo and other United Nations agencies.

Other Documents, News Items

- Sudanese Women's Recommendations to the Oslo Donor Conference, 11–12 April 2005.
http://www.unifem.org/news_events/event_detail.php?EventID=7
- UN launches campaign to stop violence against women: 31 July 1998:
<http://www.africa.upenn.edu/Hornet/irin470.html>
- African Court of Women, June 1999:
<http://www.eltaller.org/eltaller/cafrica.html>
- Women in Leadership, 2001:
<http://www.unifem-easternafrika.org/Women%20Leadership.htm>
- Protection of Women in Conflict:
<http://www.unifem-easternafrika.org/Protection%20of%20Women%20in%20Conflict.htm>