Short Session Report

Session Title: People Power and Gender Rights
Date & Time: 03/12/2016 9h00
Report prepared by: Jean Brice Tetka, Transparency International Secretariat

Experts:
Jethlyn Burrows, International President, FIDA
Laura Nyirikindi, Director, PRO Initiatives
Ezinwa Okoroafor, International Secretary, FIDA

Moderated by: Lilian Ekeanyanwu, Head, TUGAR
Session coordinated by:

Main issues raised in kick off remarks. What’s the focus of the session?

The session presented how women (and children) pay a high price of corruption. Especially corruption happening pre and post-violence. Example of the cases of the 276 girls of Chibok, Nigeria and the case of Women after the 1987-2005 war in Uganda.

What initiatives have been showcased? Briefly describe the Game Changing strategies/ ideas (if applicable)
Mrs. Ezinwa Okoroafor, presented how corruption and poor governance foster the kidnapping of the 276 girls from the school of Chibok in Nigeria on April, 15 2014. When a Director of the school asks girls to come back to take their high school exams and the police failed to protect them despite the well-known high security risk. A multi-stakeholders group ran a number of demonstrations and actions around the World to pressurise the Nigerian Government to take the necessary steps to secure the release of the girls. If some girls were released, some carrying babies, they live with the stigma of being called “Boko Haram wives”.

As corruption on post-violence, Mrs. Laura Nyirikindi presented how women are victims of corruption after 18 years of war in Uganda. Women faced several injustice from the government part, where some fund for rehabilitation were stolen by public officials, as well as money for widows’ projects and primary schools. Civil servants, politicians and private sectors did land grabbing of victims of war, especially to women who lost their father/husband. The Army also did land grabbing while victims were in camps. Women face also injustice in their communities, where women returned with children were rejected, because father and clans were unknown. Male fighters/returnees who committed crimes underwent traditional cleansing ceremonies and were resettled, victims of rape had no recourse. No reparation was provided, FIDA found that the blanket amnesties shield perpetrators but not women.

FIDA, an international non-political, non-profit, Non-Governmental Organization, actively involved in the promotion, protection and preservation of the rights of women and children, is working to create and raise legal awareness to protect the rights of women.
Briefly describe the highlights including the thematically interesting questions and ideas that were generated from the discussion or from the floor, and session quotes.

Quote “When we amplify the voices of pain and mobilise people to take up the fight and spread the message, we empower not just the victims but also other concerned persons and enable them to take action.”

Laura Nyirikindi “Women are sacrificed on the altar of political expenditures”

What are the key recommendations, follow-up Actions (200 words narrative form)

The power lies with the people - When we amplify the voices of pain and mobilise people to take up the fight and spread the message, we empower not just the victims but also other concerned persons and enable them to take action. Justice at an international level did not take off and UGANDA did not address crimes against women domestically.
Key Insights that could be included in the IACC Declaration

Rapporteur’s name and date submitted

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