

WORKSHOP 4 REPORT

Theme: The role of civil society organisations in armed conflict

Respect for women's rights and political governance in safer cities for women

Question 1: The appraisal of acts of violence perpetrated against women in times of armed conflict or post-conflict

- * During the conflicts: violation of international humanitarian law
- Violence of an economic nature: destruction of property and poverty.
- Violence of a social nature: child soldiers, displacement and massive population exodus, loss of human lives, incidences of rape, family breakdown, etc.
- Physical violence: kidnapping, torture, false imprisonment, etc.
- Psychological violence: trauma.
- * Post-conflict
- Large number of children orphaned.
- Exacerbation of the school dropout rate, prostitution, stigmatisation, increase in sexually transmitted diseases, etc.

Question 2: Strategies to combat impunity

- Need for the effective enforcement of legal instruments which foster the protection of women.
- Heighten the awareness of women's rights among the general public.
- Encourage female victims to report the perpetrators of violence against them through campaigns and by ensuring their protection.
- Organise and facilitate victims' access to the justice system.
- Step up advocacy efforts to combat gender-based violence.
- Guarantee reparation for women that are victims of acts of violence.

Question 3: Critical analysis of the cooperation between the government and civil society

- Need for a platform for cooperation between the government and civil society to advocate women's rights.
- Networking among civil society organisations to achieve greater effectiveness in the protection of women's rights.

To this end, women must:

1) Take advantage of their numerical superiority in order to exert an influence on voters' choices. In this regard, it is worth mentioning the database of women's skills developed by the Ivorian authorities in order to create an inventory of women's skills and place them at the service of the nation.

2) Call for equal representation within governments, public administrations and the public sector.

3) Force governments that have not yet done so to set up ministries responsible for women, children, young people and vulnerable populations and allocate substantial budgets to them.