



Women from family associations attending Computer training course

The program hopes to achieve the following goals:

- 1) Members of Family Association will attain basic knowledge in computers, hence becoming computer literate
- 2) Contribution to the United Nations Millennium Development Goals on Women empowerment and Gender equality, hence fulfilling IFFAMPAC's mandate on its consultative status in the United Nations Economic & Social Council.
- 3) Consolidating IFFAMPAC's networking and collaboration with the families on the quest for sustainable transformation and wellbeing of families.

IFFAMPAC COMPUTER TRAINING EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

24th May, 2012, Lusaka-Zambia-Africa. IFFAMPAC has embarked on the assignment to empower families to undergo Computer training empowerment program. The first phase is pilot testing of the program to ascertain program outcomes. In the first phase IFFAMPAC has selected about fifteen (15) from Family Association Called the Great Lakes Women Association in Zambia GLWAZ general membership. Five (05) women have already started learning the Introduction to computers.

The initiative shall go a long way in motivating family association members especially women and female youths to take the program has a stepping stone to realizing their potential for formal education and replicate the skills attainment in their respective family association and communities.

Phase two of the program shall compose of another fifteen (15) families. The program is focused on sponsoring families to undergo computer training with registered computer schools, so that there can keep on the learning process in a formal way even after the training is completed.

The families in the first phase is undergoing training at Everest Computers and we hope to identify several computer schools where we can send more families for training.

IFFAMPAC programs also aims at creating a foundation upon which families especially women and youths can stand and discover more opportunities of education in Information and Communication Technology ICTs. Further, creating opportunities for jobs in near future and also entrepreneurship skills because, there can choose to start up a business centre for secretarial services, as a fundraising venture for their programs in their respective family associations.

IFFAMPAC believes that changing one's life in positive way through knowledge provision can change society and change the world positively. Our cause is human rights for all!

The Seminar to Commemorate International Women's Day

On 9th March, 2012 IFFAMPAC participated in the Seminar to commemorate International Women's Day under the theme: "CONNECTING GIRLS INSPIRING FUTURES" The seminar was held at Alliance Francis, Lusaka-Zambia-Africa.

The seminar attracted women, youths and Men refugees who are also families of the missing persons from armed conflicts. Among the invited Guests was Mrs Sakeni, wife of Home Affairs Minister, Mrs Lungu, wife of Deputy Minister in office of Vice President and Bishop John Osmer, Anglican Bishop.

The family association Great Lakes Women Refugees Association in Zambia GRWAZ lead women and girls in the commemoration of international women's day .



Women singing in local African Language



The President of GRWAZ, Mrs macumi Rosalie expressed the families gratitude to the Zambian people for hosting them in the country as their brothers and sisters. She further reaffirmed the family association's commitment to defending the rights of women, girls and children without compromise. Further, she stated that women and girls in the conflict zones have suffered sexual abuse, slavery and child labor and that it was for this reason that well meaning society should continue protecting the rights of the victims and also ensure that girls are not exposed to early marriages especially refugees.

Mrs Macumi urged stakeholders to help prioritize girl Child education both in urban and refugee camp settlements. She stressed the importance of recognizing gender equality in terms of affording women opportunities to undertake training skills which is predominately for men. She stated that women can also be trained in automotive mechanics.

The family association leader also appealed for local integration of families or refugees who have stayed in Zambia longer periods. She also expressed their interests in affording them an opportunity to accessing micro financing as a sustainable measure to empower them so that there may look after themselves.

Mrs Sakeni who was also the guest of honor for the event expressed her disappointment on gender violence and abuse and defilement of young girls. She described the vice as criminal and against human rights. She also expressed the need to protect women and girls by reporting the vice to the police and relevant authorities. She also stated that despite our different cultures and countries of origins we still remain one people. Hence the need to unity.



IFFAMPAC Representative Mr Lombe speaking at the seminar



Anglican Bishop John Osmers expressed his gratitude and happiness towards the Zambian government for continued support and commitment to hosting refugees and exploring the best alternatives on the issue of local integration.

He stated that the statement that no Refugee would be forced to be repatriated was encouraging and inspiring. Bishop John Osmers also applauded women and girls for their commitment in realizing their potential to engage in positive activities.

IFFAMPAC Africa Representative Mr Lombe, informed all participants at the event how IFFAMPAC has successfully worked with family associations such as GRWAZ and how the association has grown in attracting their fellow women and youths from Rwanda, Burundi and Congo DRC.

The Guest of honor Mrs Sakeni with youths at the women seminar

Mr Lombe stated that women in the family associations such as GRWAZ have expanded their network and collaboration and that there are now becoming an inspiration to other women refugees and girls in various communities in Zambia and in the Region.

Mr Lombe also observed that women and girls through family association have attained a high level of recognition and their voice is strong than ever. Further he expressed IFFAMPAC's continued solidarity with women, girls and youths in quest to protect and raise awareness on their rights. He thanked women and girls for their unity and wished them all the best in their endeavors to continue to grow.



Bishop John presenting his speech at the Women Seminar



The Coordinator for Refugees in Zambia Mr Emile expressed his sadness that some victims of gender violence and defilement are withdrawing cases. He stated that perpetrators of gender violence and defilement should be made to account for their immoral act and that the offence should be unbailable with harsh punishment. He urged girls and women to remove self petty attitude if there are to achieve gender equality and continue to aim higher in life.

The seminar was also characterized with the poems, traditional dance and culture and preparation of local African foods to show case refugees cultures from their respective countries.

Youths performing with African Drums at the women Seminar

IFFAMPAC END OF THE YEAR LUNCHEON

Lusaka- Zambia. On 23rd December, 2011 IFFAMPAC held a successful End of the year Luncheon to commemorate the festival season with families among them; women, youths and volunteers. The Luncheon was a cornerstone to promote the continuous co-existence among families of the missing, the organization, family association and volunteers as we enter in the year 2012.

The IFFAMPAC Luncheon symbolizes the upholding of unity, family values, reconciliation, love and togetherness among families, so as to help set stage for the 2012 programs.



IFFAMPAC Africa Representative with Children at the luncheon

IFFAMPAC Africa Representative Mr. Lombe also took advantage to share with the families how IFFAMPAC intends to structure youth programs in the family associations. Among the programs which was discussed with participants from family associations were; youth human rights awareness, computer literacy trainings, campaign against early marriages and any form of social abuse. This process will help youths to participate in the activities of family associations and be able to report any form of abuse to the relevant authorities once it occurs. It is a safety strategy for the youths to secure a sustainable future.



IFFAMPAC Volunteer Mr Willy Chikwemba talking to families

At the luncheon women also suggested that the 2012 International Women's Day shall be commemorated through training workshops in conjunction with the youths.



Through initiatives of IFFAMPAC families feels a sense of belong and get back on the right track of healing and reconciling with their past. It is for this reason that IFFAMPAC shall continue to serve as a shoulder were families can rein on and see the bright future ahead of them.

IFFAMPAC was Represented by Mr Evans Lombe also assured the family associations to help them secure a computer from well wishers in the year 2012, as a way of promoting capacity to the family associations.

IFFAMPAC Volunteer Mr. Willy Chikwemba encouraged the families to remain united and work hard towards securing their goals. He also stressed the need to consolidate on the current gains and successes of the family associations.

The luncheon was also an opportunity to eat together as a large family with the aim of closing the chapter of 2011 and opening another chapter of 2012 as a united family. Because Unity is a sign of greatness and strength to achieve more.

OUR DEDICATION & PHILOSOPHY OF WORK

Our dedication towards the safety and wellbeing families is our concerned reason of our existence as IFFAMPAC. We have to better their present and future through what is called family associations. IFFAMPAC president and founder Ms Jane Durgom-Powers has dedicated her life towards families of the missing persons from armed conflicts around the world. Her experience in dealing with victims of armed conflicts spans from over 30 years. It is for this commitment that IFFAMPAC is the only international organization in the United Nations Economic and Social Council that deals with families of missing persons from armed conflicts.

Our track record is a clear testimony of our solidarity for the wellbeing of our fellow human beings the families of the missing. Because to change the way we live we have to change the way others live in a positive way, as this creates a greater society of harmony and human values. This is a key for the Better World and our philosophy.

SUPPORT OUR WORK

IFFAMPAC welcomes donors to become part of the project implementation team. Our organization cannot work in isolation. As a team we can realize success. We welcome volunteers, and other organizations to affiliate with us. We also welcome in-kind donations.

For Donations and any other assistance please contact the following persons:

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2. Ms Alanna at: alanna@iffampac.org
3. Mr. Evans Lombe at: africa@iffampac.org

A BRIEF HISTORY OF IFFAMPAC

Below is a brief list of the history and accomplishments of IFFAMPAC.

1970s: Our President first became involved with the issue of people who have disappeared and their families. She worked directly with families around the world, helping them to set up Family Associations. She began drafting national laws and reforms to assist surviving family members.

February 2003: The ICRC conference on The Missing recognized the need to unite and co-ordinate the work of the numerous associations of affected families in many parts of the world. Our President addressed the conference.

April 2003: IFFAMPAC was incorporated in the USA.

March 2006: IFFAMPAC was appointed to the United Nations Working Group on Persons who are unaccounted for in Connection with Events in Kosovo.

May 2006: The United Nations Economic and Social Council granted IFFAMPAC Special Consultative Status.

December 2007: IFFAMPAC was approved for association with the United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI).

March 2008: IFFAMPAC opened a Kosovo branch office in Pristine.

April 2008: IFFAMPAC opened an African branch office in Lusaka, Zambia.

September 2008: IFFAMPAC is chosen by the UN to conduct a workshop on families of missing persons from armed conflicts at the UN prestigious meeting in Paris, France celebrating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights

DO YOU NEED MORE INFORMATION?

If you would like more information on the issue of missing persons from armed conflicts or if you can help us continue our work by assisting us to obtain further funding, to make a donation, or to volunteer— please contact us at:

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