

**CICC Member Activities in honor of International Women's Day (IWD)  
8 March 2009**

The **Sierra Leone Coalition for the International Criminal Court** is holding a forum on gender justice laws vis-à-vis domestic violence in the entire southern region of Sierra Leone in collaboration with the country's Gender Ministry and other civil society groups.

**Solidarité pour la Jeunesse Asbl-ONGD (Youth Solidarity Asbl/ONGD)**, a Congolese NGO, is jointly organizing a conference- debate in the township of Kinkole to highlight the plight of women, particularly orphans and widows, who have been unjustly afflicted by the more than ten years of war that has ravaged DR Congo. The conference's underlying theme is the role of the Rome Statue in addressing gender and sexual crimes. The event will also feature poem readings, drama skits and a film projection.

The Congolese NGO **Juristes Sans Frontières**, a Brazzaville-based member of the Coalition since 1998, is holding two activities to mark IWD: the first is a press conference on the theme "Women and the Right to Dignity"; the second event is a public awareness campaign on the rights of girls in Brazzaville's secondary schools. The underlying messages for these events is that women's rights must be upheld by legal dispositions in order to guarantee equal rights and banish all forms of discrimination against women. The secondary message: serious crimes against women are considered serious crimes under international humanitarian law and the laws governing war; those responsible for these crimes must be brought before the ICC.

The **Entishar Charity Society** is planning a day of celebration in the state of Kassala in the eastern part of Sudan in collaboration with its Community Empowerment program which focuses on women and children empowerment, gender equality, gender-based violence (female genital mutilation, in particular). There will likely be some form of a public declaration and perhaps some mobilization activities.

**Civil Liberties Committee (CILIC)**, a Malawi-based NGO, will take part in a public march on 7 March 2009 in collaboration with the Ministry of Women & Child Development and other civic groups. The march will begin from the town hall in the capital of Lilongwe. CILIC boasts a grassroots membership of more than 200,000 registered individuals in more than 11 districts so a high turnout is expected.

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