

***THE WORK OF WOMEN IN  
PEACEBUILDING NETWORK (WIPNET)  
OF WEST AFRICA NETWORK FOR  
PEACEBUILDING (WANEP)***

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**The Women in Peacebuilding Network (WIPNET) is one of the programmes of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding (WANEP) aimed at integrating a gender perspective in its peacebuilding work**

**It was launched in November 2001 with the primary objective to build the capacity of women**



**Grassroots women are able to use the tool to determine the impact and level of vulnerability of conflict on women and men**

**8 Perhaps the most innovative initiative is the establishment of **Peace Huts** in Liberia which is also being replicated in Cote d'Ivoire and Sierra Leone and is gradually spreading to Senegal and other countries. The Peace Hut provides a safe space for the empowerment of grassroots women while getting some of their issues resolved. The hut is operated by professionals like lawyers, doctors and clinical psychologists who provide pro bono services for women and girls survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV). Some of the services provided include legal representation and following up on cases of rape and defilement in court and making sure that perpetrators are duly convicted. The Hut also serves as psychotherapy and healing centre for traumatized women and girls who are victims and survivors of GBV.**

**The hut also serves as grounds for creating awareness on the rights of women and grassroots women who come there to acquire skills such as bead making, sewing and other handicrafts to get them economically empowered in order to enhance their living standards and reduce their vulnerability. In 2019, out of the 163 rape cases recorded, 75 were effectively prosecuted. Members of the Peace Huts are regularly trained on Adult Literacy and Numeracy activities including strategies for tackling GBV with emphasis on psychosocial support services. In 2017, a total of 105 women were trained in Liberia on psychosocial support and are currently providing trauma counselling and psychosocial support to survivors and victims of SGBV in their respective counties. Through the Peace Huts facilitated by WANEP in Liberia, the women have been monitoring SGBV cases to ensure that victims get speedy justice. As a result, there has been a significant increase in the understanding of SGBV among community members.**

**Despite all these efforts, there are still some hurdles in the way of women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacebuilding processes which continue to militate against**



**CSOs in all countries should be encouraged to produce shadow reports annually to assess the level of Women's involvement in peace processes at all levels. The best practices and challenges faced should be enumerated and action-oriented recommendations put forward to enhance government's implementation of National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325**

**Documentation and dissemination of women experiences on community peacebuilding showcasing women peace interventions across West Africa to encourage women's involvement and participation**