



CEFAP/ LADIES CIRCLE

Cercle des Filles et Femmes Actives pour l'amélioration des conditions socio-économiques des jeunes filles et des femmes



International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Cameroon : 25 November 2015



16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

" From Peace to home to Peace Around the World : Good Education for all "



The Orange Day in Cameroon, 25 November 2015

All united to end violence against women:

- Government
- United Nations Agencies
- and Civil Society



By **Anne Pelagie YOTCHOU**
 Coordinator of LADIES CIRCLE
 Member of the **IAW/Genre en Action**
 Director of the **WIN Conference Cameroon**

Cameroon joined this morning the International Community for the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women with the launching of the Campaign for 16 days of activism against gender violence.

Cameroon has focus this year on the theme : **“From Peace to home to peace around the around”** regarding the context of the fighting against the Islamist Group BOKO Haram that has been killing innocent people in the name of the religion through suicid bombing in the Far North Region of Cameroon.

We all agree that, women and children are always the main victim of war and instability. Amongst the vulnerable community host in refugees and internal displaced persons camps in the Far North Region of Cameroon, we have 75% of women and children. That why, it is urgent to put in place last strategies to stop violence by starting in our home to give a culture of non violence to our children who are used now for suicide bombing. The worst thing is that, those terrorist are using even women and girls to kill. Most of the recent terrorist attacks perpetrated by the Boko Haram Islamist Group had young girls and boys as suicide bombers.... It is TERRIBLE.

The Ministry of Women Empowerment and the Family in collaboration with the UN agencies in Cameroon and Civil Society Organization a conference where we had presentations on what has been doing so far to eradicate violence against women and girls in our country. It was also an interactive platform where Government, Un agencies and civil society organizations such as

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« When people struggle together, what was once unimaginable, suddenly becomes possible »

LADIES CIRCLE which I am leading, had a space to share their experience, best practices and discuss on what to do more in order to prevent gender based violence and to teach a culture of peace within our families where every education starts.

I had the Opportunity to share our experience on what we are doing in our organization to help women and girls victims of violence. We have for instance in our organization a specialized unit for battered and vulnerable women where they are welcome and assisted judiciary, economically and psychologically. We have launched several advocacy campaigns against early/forced marriage, female genital mutilation that is common the Far North, East and South West regions in Cameroon, harmful practices against widows in the name of tradition, sexual trafficking, Girl labor and child trafficking, physical violence amongst which we have rape,... We are keeping on having data collection on the field on several issues concerning the social and economic empowerment of women.

At the end of the conference, I had an interview with media that requested me to share my experience as a women's rights defender since 2003 in preventing gender based violence and empowering victims. It was an opportunity for me also to call on all goodwill people to get involved and help us to set up a shelter for battered women in Yaounde. We really hope that that dream will come true by next year 2016.

We were also dressed according to the "ORANGE day" as you can see on the pictures below. This Orange Day, the UNiTE campaign is calling on partners all over the world to start planning and preparing together with your communities to Orange the World' for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence from 25 November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, to Human Rights Day on 10 December.

Let's watch the issue at a global level

Prevention is the 2015 theme of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November and of the UNiTE to End Violence against Women Campaign's 16 days call for action.

From 25 November through 10 December, Human Rights Day, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence aim to raise public awareness and mobilizing people everywhere to bring about change. This year, the UN Secretary-General's UNiTE to End Violence against Women campaign invites you to "Orange the world," using the colour designated by the UNiTE campaign to symbolize a brighter future without violence.

The United Nations Secretary-General's Campaign *UNiTE to End Violence against Women* has proclaimed the 25th of each month as 'Orange Day', a day to raise awareness and take action against violence against women and girls. As a bright and optimistic colour, orange represents a future free from violence against women and girls, for the UNiTE Campaign. Orange Day calls upon activists, governments and UN partners to mobilize people and highlight issues relevant to preventing and ending violence against women and girls, not only once a year, on 25 November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), but every month.

Yaounde, Cameroon : 25/11/2015

Some photos of the launching of the 16 days of activism against gender violence in Yaounde; Celebration of the ORGANGE DAY

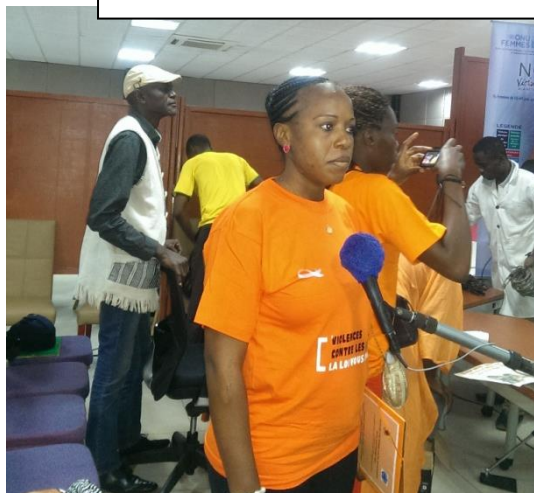
LADIES CIRCLE's 16 days of Activism

25 November -10 December 2015

- Workshops
- Interactive talks in local communities on the prevention of violence
- Exhibition fair
- Interactive program on Radio, TV and papers on the topic in newspapers
- A public judicial clinic for battered women from 28 November to 10 December
- And many other funny activities that aims to sensitize the entire community about the issue
- A special door to door communication in the Yaounde neighborhood rural areas with Men involved in the fight against gender based violence "He speaks for SHE" Program.



Civil society Organizations mobilized and committed to end violence against women and girls and to teach a culture of peace and non violence within our families in local communities
Here, with the Minister of Women's empowerment, the Minister of Communication and the others authorities



Anne Pelagie Yotchou Tendong : Interviews with media (Radio/Television/Newspapers) after the conference

