



UNITED NATIONS
GHANA



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PRESS STATEMENT

AFRICAN WOMEN LEADERS NETWORK (AWLN) GHANA NATIONAL CHAPTER APPEALS FOR INVOLVEMENT OF MORE WOMEN IN PEACE BUILDING IN AFRICA.

DATE: 21ST SEPTEMBER 2023

CITY: ACCRA

As the global community observes the International Day of Peace today, September 21, 2023, under the theme: "**Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals,**" the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN), Ghana National Chapter, is appealing to African leaders to involve more women in the peace-building processes in Africa. The Network believes that the world be a more peace world if more women are involved in peace processes. In a statement signed by the Chair of the Network, Dr Charity Binka, the Network noted with concern, the conflicts particularly in the West African Countries, many of whom are currently under military rule.

The statement pointed that political instability, violence, and insecurity have profound and often disproportionate impact on women and children, who are particularly vulnerable during times of conflict and political upheaval. Unfortunately, women continue to be absent from conflict prevention, mediation and peace processes. decision making. Women, the statement noted embody the essence of resilience, determination, and untapped potential, particularly in Africa. "Their capabilities extend far beyond traditional roles, as they stand as architects of peace and agents of change", the statement stressed.

AWLN believes that by providing more women opportunities to actively participate in peace-building initiatives they can bring fresh perspectives and innovative strategies to solving the conflicts on the continent of African and the world at large. Women also bring a deeper understanding of the unique challenges they faced during times of conflict.

AWLN notes that despite several UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) shows the importance it attaches to the issue. However, the women's engagement in peace-building processes has remained below 15% despite the numerous resolutions.

As the world marks the mid-point in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, AWLN calls for the inclusion of many more actors, including women and the youth, in the fight for a violent free society. Without the buy-in and contribution of a wide range of actors, the goals will not be achieved, the statement.

The statement explained that one of the pillars on which AWLN is anchored is Peace and Security. It is therefore calling on African governments to take the following actions:

1. Create more opportunities for women to assume leadership roles in peace negotiations, governmental bodies, and civil society organisations.
2. To enact policies that promote gender equality and women's participation in peace processes, as well as ensuring these policies are implemented effectively.
3. Provide training and resources to women in conflict-affected regions to enhance their skills in conflict resolution, negotiation, and peacebuilding

Africa cannot have peace without the inclusion of women in the peace-building processes. It is time to join hands in the pursuit of a better, more peaceful, and sustainable future for our global community!!!!!!

ABOUT AWLN (GHANA NATIONAL CHAPTER)

African Women Leaders Network is a transformative movement and a powerful platform, that was launched in New York in June 2017. It is a joint initiative launched of the UN and AU which seeks to unite pan-African women leaders in their collective endeavours to create a more equitable Continent that aligns with the ideals of Agenda 2063 of the **Africa We Want**. The Network is anchored on six pillars including **Political Participation, Peace and Security, Financial Inclusion, Young Women Leadership, Empowering Rural Women, and Social Mobilization**. The Ghana chapter was launched on November 2022 as the 31st Chapter of the Network.

SIGNED: DR CHARITY BINKA

CHAIR,

STEERING COMMITTEE

AWLN GHANA NATIONAL CHAPTER

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