

African Women will go to Zimbabwe to be in Solidarity

A women's solidarity mission is planned to go to Zimbabwe to support the women. Betty Makoni, founder and director of the <u>Girl Child Network</u>, had to flee from Zimbabwe after the March 29th elections. This is a magnificant mission the women are doing. Let's hope many others join them and all eyes are on the leaders of Zimbabwe who can choose peace. **African Women to Send a Mission of Solidarity to Zimbabwe after Elections**



African women attending Femmes Africa Solidarité's 12th Consultative Meeting on gender mainstreaming in the African Union held in Sharm el Sheikh, Egypt, from 20 to 23 June 2008, agreed to send a Women Solidarity Mission to Zimbabwe to support women of that country after the Presidential Run-Off election scheduled for June 27, 2008. For more info, visit: http://www.fasngo.org

This 12th Pre Summit was organised by the "Gender is My Agenda" network, composed of 40 members and coordinated by FAS, with the support of the <u>African Union Commission</u> (AUC), <u>AU Gender Directorate</u> (AUGD), <u>United Nations Economic Commission for Africa</u> (UNECA), <u>Suzanne Mubarak Women's International Peace Movement</u> (SMWIPM), <u>Egyptian Women Business Association</u> (EBWA), <u>Open Society Initiative for West Africa</u> (OSIWA), <u>ActionAid International, Department For International Development</u> (DFID), <u>African Development Bank</u> (ADB), <u>African Women's Development Fund</u> (AWDF), and the <u>Ministry</u> of Foreign Affairs of Finland.

In the outcome document of the meeting called Solemn Statement and Recommendations, the women also undertook to take measures to protect Zimbabwean women and girls affected and displaced by violence after the March 29 Presidential and Parliamentary elections. There was also a call to facilitate their access to humanitarian resources such as food, shelter and medical services. In this regard, the women called on the Government of Zimbabwe to reconsider its ban against humanitarian organizations operating within the country and to ensure the safety and protection of all its citizens.

The women called on 'all leaders in Zimbabwe, and all other actors involved from the regional and the international community to commit themselves to a peaceful resolution of the crisis in that country.'

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