
CSiW co-applicant Erin Baines, Pilar Riano Alcala and Sheryl Lightfoot co-hosted an International Roundtable at the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies in February 2017 on questions of memory and responsibility in the aftermaths of mass violence, with papers presented by graduate students Omer Aijazi, Juliane Okot Bitek, Alison James, and Ketty Anyeko on conceptual frameworks for thinking about transitional justice. Erin Baines and the Women’s Advocacy Network (WAN) also received a Solutions Grant from the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies to create a Best Practices Guide on reparations and working with grassroots survivor groups.

Uganda – In partnership with the Justice and Reconciliation Project and UBC, Evelyn Amony and CSiW collaborator Grace Acan of WAN launched their books I am Evelyn Amony: Reclaiming my Life from the LRA (University of Wisconsin, 2016) and Not Yet Sunset: A story of Perseverance and Survival (Fountain Press, 2017) at the Churchill Courts Hotel in Gulu in the presence of local leaders and civil society.

Rwanda – As part of its ongoing work to support those affected by the genocide SEVOTA held a workshop with 50 couples where the women have been victims of rape or forced marriage resulting in pregnancies. Children born to these women are unwanted and sometimes subject to abuse or neglect.

Sierra Leone – In continuation of their advocacy activities for victims of sexual violence during the war, Women’s Forum Sierra Leone visited the War Wounded Camp in Grafton, Freetown where they met with twenty-six affected women.

As part of International Women’s Day Celebrations, WFSL organized an advocacy event on the theme “socio-economic gender parity for victims of sexual violence during the war and their children”. The IWD theme aimed at promoting the inclusive participation of women as a means of enhancing socio-economic gender parity by 2030. The main objective of the event was to highlight the plight of victims of sexual violence during the war and their children; to advocate on their behalf for additional assistance by the Government, donors and partners; and to provide opportunities for the victims to articulate their concerns.

The meeting also explored possibilities for a new window of registration to be opened for women who did not initially register in the reparations programme.

DRC – Inauguration on March 31, 2017 of the new medical center KARIBUNI WA MAMA by our partner SOFEPADI. The new center will provide five types of services, namely Holistic Support to survivors of sexual violence; STI treatment; Voluntary counseling and testing for HIV/AIDS; Family planning; and Advocacy. The center will soon also provide Maternity and Surgery services as part of a wide range of medical services provided to women and girls victims of sexual and gender-based violence in the region.