

GLOBAL PEACE INITIATIVE OF WOMEN

Awakening the Healing Heart:

Transforming Communities through Love and Compassion

Kenya, March 2012

The overarching theme of this GPIW gathering is healing conflict, social tensions and environmental degradation by tapping the spiritual resources of love, compassion and forgiveness, and by knowing the underlying interconnection that binds together Earth's many communities of life. There will be a special focus on the power of collective prayer and how spiritual practice can awaken the healing heart. Human society has focused exclusively on developing its external resources, without developing the necessary wisdom and compassion which will enable us to use Earth's finite resources wisely. This gathering is meant to highlight the need to balance outer development with an accompanying inner development so that economic and social progress will be guided by a deeper spiritual awareness.

We will bring together 30-40 civil society leaders from places of conflict and trauma in Africa, i.e. Congo, Sudan, Libya, Ivory Coast, etc., with about 20 leaders from the international community to explore how to draw upon these spiritual resources in times of great need. The process of forgiveness and the understanding of interconnection go hand-in-hand. The more we realize our connection to the "other" the greater is the capacity to forgive. This gathering is aimed at deepening the understanding and experience of interdependence among those working in the field, to share best practices and to develop guidelines that can be applied to communities in need of social or collective healing.

This program is organized by the Global Peace Initiative of Women in partnership with the Gallmann Nature Conservancy in Laikipia, Kenya, with support from Shinnyo-en and the Fetzer Foundation.

Dates: March 3 to 6, 2012

Location: Gallmann Africa Conservancy in Laikipia, Kenya

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