

Four Rwandan Women to visit Slovenia

March 2009

Four Rwandan women have been selected to travel to Slovenia for a study visit in May 2009, two from the Nyamirambo Women's Centre (NWC) Jackline Murungi and Jacqueline Uwamwiza and two from the Rwanda Association of University Women (RAUW), Dinah Musindarwezo and Elise Uwase.

The program was announced in Kigali by Dr Jasminka Dedic, Peace Institute Slovenia who is currently on a visit to the NWC as part of a two-year project action *Empowering NWC* being carried out by the Peace Institute (Slovenia-European Union) and the two Rwandan partner organisations, NWC and RAUW.

“This study visit is part of the joint NWC/RAUW project's education and networking activities”, Dr Dedic said. “Its main objectives are to establish contacts between Rwandan and Slovenian civil society organisations involved in the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, to exchange experiences and various practices in working with vulnerable groups of women, and to encourage Slovenian non-governmental organisations to get involved in development projects”.



Dinah Musindarwezo, Elise Uwase, Dr Jasminka Dedic, Jacqueline Uwamwiza, Jackline Murungi

The Acting President of RAUW, Ms Odette Mutanguha, welcomed the initiative and said that the visit will introduce Rwandan people and culture to the Slovenian media and the public, and sensitize them to gender and development issues.

During the visit, various social and cultural events will be organized in cooperation with the Slovenian African Center, in which Rwandan participants will represent the situation of Rwandan women and girls, and the recent developments in the promotion of gender equality in Rwanda.

RAUW's Convener of International Relations, Dr Shirley Randell said that the study visit is an excellent example of cooperation between Rwanda and another European country, and part of RAUW's mission to provide opportunities for RAUW members and other women in Rwanda to continue their learning.

According to Dr Dedic, the purpose of the project is to achieve the 'double empowerment' of NWC, which aims to strengthen the center's capacities so that members can initiate their own activities and promote gender equality by reaching out into the local community of Nyamirambo.

“Empowerment and educational trainings and courses in entrepreneurship, tourism management, public relations, literacy and English language will be organized for the center's members and women from the local community”, Dr Dedic said.

The *Empowering NWC* project began in January 2009 and has been financially endorsed by the Delegation of the European Commission to Rwanda and the Peace Institute from Slovenia. Contact persons for further information about the project action and the study visit are:

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