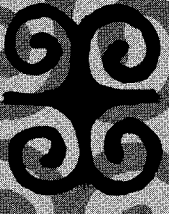
Gender Violence and Women's Human Rights in Africa



CENTER FOR WOMEN'S GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Gender Violence and Women's Human Rights in Africa

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Preface

The Center for Women's Global Leadership is pleased to publish this booklet as the second in its series of pamphlets on Women, Violence, and Human Rights. The series is intended to promote international discussion of critical conceptual and strategic questions regarding gender-based violence and female human rights.

The papers presented here are a formal rendering of the symposium "Gender Violence and the Human Rights of Women in Africa" held at the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, Rutgers University on April 7, 1993. The event, initiated by the Center for Women's Global Leadership, was co-sponsored by Rutgers University's Africana Studies, the Institute for Research on Women, the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies, the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, the Raoul Wallenberg Professorship in Human Rights, and Women's Studies—New Brunswick.

This event was possible because we had the privilege of having an unusual number of women from Africa concerned with women's rights at Rutgers University during the 1992-93 academic year. It grew out of a discussion with 'Molara Ogundipe-Leslie, the Laurie New Jersey Chair in Women's Studies at Rutgers for 1992-93. The panel itself was part of Asma Abdel Halim's project as an affiliate with the Center while she was a Hubert Humphrey Fellow at Rutgers. It was organized by her with Niamh Reilly and Tamara Xavier.

A number of people were involved in the publication of this booklet: Janet Evans, Sam Frost, Asma Abdel Halim, Cadence Giersbach, Cynthia Madansky, Lisa Morris, Niamh Reilly, and Tamara Xavier. I would like to thank them for making this publication possible. We hope that it will add to the growing movement for women's human rights, and particularly to an understanding of the struggle of women in Africa against gender-based violence.

Charlotte Bunch,
Executive Director

"African women, now and throughout history, have developed analyses and strategies for action to take control of our own lives in those areas that we have collectively determined for redress."

Abena Busia

New Jersey Newsphotos

Abena Busia, 'Molara Ogundipe-Leslie and Nahid Toubia at the "Gender Violence and the Human Rights of Women in Africa" symposium, April 7, 1993.