

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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Inclusive Security Brings Liberian Women Leaders to World Bank *Government and Civil Society Leaders to Present Women's Perspective on Liberia's Renewal*

WASHINGTON, DC – Rebuilding Liberia after 14 years of devastating civil war will be impossible if women are not included. Next week provides an important opportunity to ensure that reconstruction empowers Liberian women as full partners in the process.

On Monday, February 12, [The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#), in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the World Bank, will host approximately 15 Liberian women government and civil society leaders for a one-day Symposium on Gender. These distinguished women leaders will craft recommendations on ways women can help consolidate peace and lead reconstruction. They will deliver their agenda to the Liberia Partners' Forum held on February 13 and 14 at the World Bank. The Partners' Forum, along with the Liberia Private Sector Investment Forum on February 15, will bring together hundreds of high-level participants including representatives of major donor countries and private investors from around the world.

“We are honored to join President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf’s mission to empower Liberian women and ensure they have a voice at all levels of decision making,” **said Carla Koppell, director of The Initiative for Inclusive Security.** “Meeting the president’s goals for reconstruction requires all of Liberia’s human resources: not just the men. It is a testament to the Liberian government and the World Bank that attention to women and gender is a priority at the Liberia Partners’ Forum. We are pleased that the perspective of women leaders will be fully reflected in this important dialogue.”

Liberian women, including President Johnson Sirleaf, have been part of Inclusive Security’s [Women Waging Peace Network](#) since its creation in 1999. In 2006, Inclusive Security led two consultations in Monrovia where they convened diverse groups of leaders to analyze the role of women in reconstruction and formulate an agenda to enhance women’s participation in stabilizing Liberia. The Gender Symposium continues Inclusive Security’s commitment to work with this unprecedented coalition of Liberian leaders to deliver their agenda to policymakers at the United Nations, World Bank, US government, and other donors.

Later this month, Inclusive Security will bring five Liberian women parliamentary leaders to Rwanda to participate in a two-day international conference celebrating the 10-year anniversary of the Forum for Women Parliamentarians. Rwanda leads the world in women’s representation in government, and the conference will provide an opportunity for women leaders to share strategies on expanding the roles of women in government.

The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, Inclusive Security has connected more than 450 women experts with over 3,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit www.InclusiveSecurity.org.

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