



Isis-Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange  
(Re)creating Peace Internationally



# 2015 Peace Exposition

Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities

Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange (Isis-WICCE)

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# 2015 Peace Exposition

Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities

Aromo Sub County – Lira District  
7-8 December 2015

## Contents

Abbreviations and Acronyms	5
Foreword	6
Introduction	8
What and why the Peace Exposition	8
The core pillars of the Peace Exposition	9
Why Aromo sub-county	9
Participation and Activities	10
Way forward	10
Marching for Peace	11
Welcome to Aromo!	14
Status of Action against GBV in Uganda	
- Launch of the 1325 Monitoring Report by CEWIGO	17
Performing for Peace	19
Conversation Circles	22
Commitments made to prevent GBV	26
In their own words: determined women at the Health Camp	28
In their own words: a happy Community Activist	30
Farewell to Aromo - and hope for a peaceful future	32

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

<b>AIDS</b>	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
<b>CAO</b>	Chief Administration Officer
<b>CAs</b>	Community Activists
<b>CEWIGO</b>	Centre for Women in Governance
<b>CSOs</b>	Civil Society Organisations
<b>HIV</b>	Human Immune deficiency Virus
<b>HPV</b>	Human Papilloma Virus
<b>Isis-WICCE</b>	Isis-Womens International Cross Cultural Exchange
<b>LC</b>	Local Council
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NGOs</b>	Non-Governmental Organizations
<b>PEP</b>	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
<b>RDC</b>	Resident District Commissioner
<b>SGBV</b>	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
<b>SRH</b>	Sexual and Reproductive Health
<b>UNSCR</b>	United Nations Security Council Resolution
<b>WOPI</b>	Women Peace Initiative - Uganda

# Foreword

## Dear Reader,

The fifth annual Peace Exposition held in Uganda's Lira district, occurred at a particular time for women's efforts to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) following conflict. A national review revealed scanty progress in eliminating SGBV, improving survivors' access to legal and medical services or in applying the legal provisions of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and Goma declaration. 2015 was also designated by the African Union as the Year of Women's Empowerment and Development towards Africa's Agenda 2063, in addition to being the year Lira district leaders committed to draft and implement an anti-SGBV law.

With a long legacy of domestic violence and harmful social practices left unaddressed following up to two decades of war and displacement, local leaders focused on Aromo, Lira's most affected sub-county. The peace exposition hosted in Aromo, presented an invaluable opportunity to gather clan leaders, women, men, boys and girls to dialogue with policy makers and decision makers for a community-driven solution to ending SGBV.

Conversation circles allowed different community groups to share their experiences and perspectives on gender-based violence, ideas for prevention and their own commitment to end it in their homes and community. The peace march through Aromo town brought attention to key messages condemning SGBV and the peace flags were a visual reminder of the need to commit to 'Happy Homes and Peaceful Communities'. With the characteristic lack of access to sexual and reproductive health services in post-conflict communities such as Aromo, the expo included a health camp offering cervical cancer screening and voluntary HIV testing and screening. School children involved in the essay and poetry competitions leading up to the peace exposition, shared their voices and views on sexual and gender based-violence.

Ultimately, the resounding call was for leaders to ensure that post conflict reconstruction programmes prioritize women's needs- particularly their bodily integrity and dignity . The report shares the community and leaders' commitments to address child marriage, rampant alcoholism, improve reporting of SGBV to authorities, local access to mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms in addition to encouraging cultural practices that prevent violence and impunity. The fruitful discussion resulted in community group recommendations being taken on board by the Lira district leaders drafting the SGBV law.

The report lays out in more detail the key highlights and outcomes of the 5th Annual Peace Exposition and Isis-WICCE's efforts to contributing to endings SGBV in post-conflict Lira district. We acknowledge with gratitude the commitment of the leadership of Lira district and Aromo sub-county to protect women and girls from sexual and gender based violence. We also appreciate Isis-WICCE's partners WOPI-U, Lira district local government, Protestant Medical Bureau, CEWIGO and the Aromo Community Activists.

**Helen Kezie Nwoha**  
**Interim Executive Director**





# Introduction

## Defining the Peace Exposition

Isis-WICCE and its constituency of Peace Activists framed the idea of the Peace Exposition in 2010. The idea behind this process is to find community-owned solutions to post-conflict challenges such as poor service delivery from government, sexual and reproductive health issues among others. The Peace Exposition provides a space for the community to interact with their leaders to address these challenges. The Peace Exposition becomes a transformative space that engages, reflects and takes action on key needs of communities.

## The Core Pillars of the Peace Exposition

**1. Arriving at Community Driven Recommendations:** Due to the complex nature and roots of sexual violence within communities, it is important to facilitate dialogue to jointly understand the problem, and commit to a solution.

**2. Embracing Culture as a pathway to challenging negative attitudes towards SGBV:** Culture is what informs how people live, who they are, how communities relate and exist. The Peace Exposition uses culture as a key entry point by enabling communities to focus on embracing the positive aspects of their cultures while agreeing to stop negative practices that sustain sexual and gender based violence. It also uses drama and skits to communicate with communities

**3. Healing Body Mind and Spirit:** Healing the body mind and spirit of survivors of sexual violence is the foundation for real peace and active participation in any form of post-conflict reconstruction. The Peace Exposition provides healing opportunities for women to reclaim their dignity and power. Through the cervical cancer screening camps for women And health screening that also targets men other health related complications such as HIV/AIDS.

**4. Policy Influence:** The Peace Exposition is a space where communities- women, men and youth interface with their leaders and other policy makers to demand for response and implementation of post conflict reconstruction programmes with emphasis on women's dignity and bodily integrity.

### Why Aromo Sub-county?

Isis-WICCE has held five Peace Expositions in post conflict districts in Uganda namely Soroti (2010), Kasese (2011), Lira (2012), Kotido (2013) and Busia (2014). The Peace Expo in Lira district focused on preventing and responding to gender based violence (GBV) in the Lango sub region. During the discussions, GBV was identified as one of the key challenges hindering development in Lira district with the highest incidences reported in Aromo sub-county. In response, Isis-WICCE in partnership with the Women Peace Initiative-Uganda and Lira district local government introduced the SASA model of combating SGBV to the sub county. SASA is a violence prevention model aimed at mobilizing communities to inspire social change. In Aromo, female and male Volunteer Community Activists have been at the forefront of combating SGBV.

As a result, there have been shifts both at personal and community level in terms of attitude, behaviour and practice of power, gender roles and relationships towards improving women's status in the community. In order to galvanise these efforts and gains, Isis-WICCE decided to hold a peace exposition in Aromo Sub County under the theme "Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities".

## Participation and Activities

The expo was expected to bring together one thousand people from Aromo sub-county to dialogue and strategize on how to create and maintain happy families that love and support each other. However, almost 2,500 people turned up for the colourful event held at the Oketkwer Primary School sports field. The commitment of the community leaders to tackle GBV was demonstrated by the high turn up of administrative, political, cultural and religious leaders. The peace expo was also attended by women's groups from the neighbouring districts such as Nakere Rural Women Peace Activists (NARWOPA) from Kotido, Lira Palwo Women Peace Activists from Pader, Teso Women Peace Activists from Soroti among others.

Over two days (7-8 December 2015) Aromo sub-county community members and their leaders were able to discuss how to combat SGBV. Activities included a Peace March, a sexual and reproductive health screening/medical camp, conversation circles, music, dance, drama and poetry performances, an exhibition by CSOs, local women groups and individuals showcasing work related to SGBV. Radio talk shows were also held prior to the expo in order to raise awareness of the event and share information on the impact of SGBV.

## Way Forward

Community members made several commitments to take steps to prevent SGBV. Across the different social and age groups, there was consensus that alcoholism was a major cause of violence in homes. It was also widely agreed that the effects of GBV are especially damaging to children growing up in these environments.

Recommendations focused on the need to address rampant alcoholism and drunkenness; prevent child marriages; adopt alternative means of conflict resolution; jointly manage family finances; report GBV cases to authorities; community leaders mediating family conflicts; and the strengthening of cultural norms that prevent GBV. The recommendations would also inform the SGBV law that is being developed by Lira District Local Government



## Marching for Peace

As the marchers eagerly took their places in the bright morning sunshine, the large banner they lifted up proclaimed the message “Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities”. On the first day of the 2015 Isis-WICCE Peace Exposition, the community of Aromo sub-county gathered for a Peace March that would take them from Oketkwer Primary School to Aromo Primary School and back. They formed an enthusiastic procession that included men, women, school children, community activists, district officials, community crime preventers, partner NGOs and Isis-WICCE staff. The Chief Walkers were the Aromo Chairman LC III and the Sub-county Chief.

With a brass band playing, the marchers were dressed in t-shirts commemorating the occasion, and waved peace flags displaying the day’s theme. The placards they held up had compelling messages that left no room for guessing what the event was about: **Women of Uganda want peace; Violence is not my culture; Men are not born violent, they learn to be violent; Stop defilement now; Men, respect a woman’s decision when she refuses to have sex with you.** By the end of the march, the procession had had its intended effect and the grounds of the primary school had filled up with community members eager to participate in the day’s events. The Peace Flag which is a symbolic gesture and a commitment that leaders and the entire community pledge to prioritize responses out the peace expo was handed over to Lira district Chairperson.





Women waving Peace Flags during the peace march



## Welcome to Aromo!

“Tell your neighbour that today marks the last day for domestic violence!” urged the Aromo Subounty Chief Mr. Komakech Emmanuel as he welcomed the gathering. He noted that the Peace Exposition had been held in Aromo because of the high prevalence of SGBV and asked the community to ensure that another area hosts the event the following year. The **LC III Chairman David Elich** introduced a significant number of councillors at the event. The Chairman expressed his appreciation for the work that was being done to address the high incidence of SGBV, urging the community to especially protect girls during the on-going school holiday. He urged the community activists to continue their training and sensitisation activities so that there is peaceful coexistence in families.

Other welcome remarks at the opening ceremony were given by **Jennifer Opiyo, the Secretary for Community Based Services** who thanked Isis-WICCE for their work in Lira district. She was followed by **Helen Kezie – Nwoha, the Isis-WICCE Program Manager** who gave an overview of Isis-WICCE's work targeting conflict-affected women in Lira since 2001. Isis-WICCE had found that SGBV was a major concern and that many women lacked access to Reproductive Health Services. She explained that the peace exposition was part of the global 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence campaign. The Peace Expo would allow the community to discuss how best to prevent SGBV, provide an opportunity for the women to attend to reproductive health issues through cervical cancer screening, HIV counselling and testing. While thanking the leadership of Aromo sub-county and Lira district for their welcome and support, she also called on the Aromo community to take the messages on peace seriously. The aim of the event was not jubilation but to find ways to address the adverse effects of GBV on the development of Aromo.

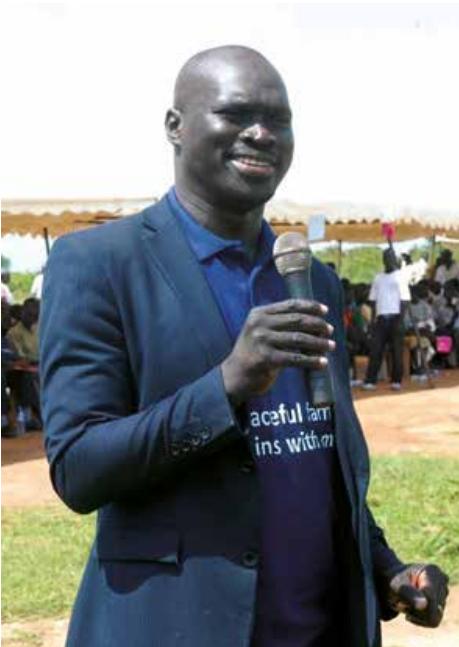


*Helen Kezie – Nwoha,  
Isis-WICCE Program Manager*

**Rashida Odong, the Acting Coordinator of Women Peace Initiatives - Uganda (WOPI)** explained that her organisation had partnered with Isis-WICCE and the Lira Local government to combat SGBV in Aromo in order to promote peaceful coexistence in the community. She expressed the hope that the training and awareness building that had been conducted would help to change the power imbalances between men and women that cause violence. She noted that violence is a learned behaviour and people can opt for more peaceful ways to resolve conflict.

**Isis-WICCE had found that SGBV was a major concern and that many women lacked access to Reproductive Health Services.**

... the local government would continue to plan and allocate resources to alleviate poverty which is a factor in GBV.



*Lira district Deputy Resident District Commissioner Emmanuel Mwaka Lutukumoi*

The Lira district **Deputy Resident District Commissioner Emmanuel Mwaka Lutukumoi** shared a personal experience of how GBV had affected his family, painting a grim picture of domestic violence, deaths from HIV, life on the streets, and abduction by the LRA. Emphasising that he hated injustice, he went on to express support for Isis-WICCE's call to reject GBV in all its forms. He was followed by the Lira District **Assistant Chief Administrative Officer Denis Otim Otto** who confirmed the commitment of the local government to work with partners on issues of domestic violence. He promised that the local government would continue to plan and allocate resources to alleviate poverty which is a factor in GBV. He noted that Aromo was the appropriate choice of venue for the Peace Expo and hoped that other sub-counties would learn from the best practices adopted by Aromo as it works to end its reputation for domestic violence. Likewise, the **Area LCIII chairman Ocet Peter Okello** urged the gathering to take heed of the messages from the Peace Expo. He implored women and men to maintain peaceful co-existence and protect their children.



## Status of Action against GBV in Uganda - Launch of the 1325 Monitoring Report by CEWIGO

CEWIGO's Prudence Atukwase presented the findings of a CSO Monitoring report on the implementation of the Uganda Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration 2014/15. Fifteen indicators were monitored to verify progress in the areas of legal and policy frameworks; improving access to services for GBV survivors; women's participation in leadership and decision making; elimination of GBV in society; and budget allocation for implementation of GBV.

In order to reach the target of 30% political representation by women that is provided for in the law, she called upon communities to support capable women leaders. She also urged the community to report cases of defilement or rape and access post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) to prevent the risk of HIV infection. Prudence called on leaders, stakeholders and everyone at the gathering to support the ongoing initiatives and choose at least one thing they could do to ensure family harmony.

... peace in families allows people to join development groups that address life's challenges.

The report was officially launched by the **Lira District LCV Chairman Alex Oremo Alot** along with CEWIGO and Isis-WICCE representatives. In his remarks, the Chairman expressed his appreciation for the collaboration with Isis-WICCE to ensure peace in people's homes which would contribute to the eradication of poverty. He noted that peace in families allows people to join development groups that address life's challenges. He urged communities to eliminate drunkenness and promiscuity which often lead to conflict. He further thanked the various partners that had contributed to the success of the Peace Expo including the Uganda Protestant Medical Bureau, Women Clan leaders, Catholic Women's Association, Women leaders and groups from neighbouring districts.



He concluded the opening ceremony by handing over a Peace flag to the leadership of Aromo sub-county. The leaders received the flag, amidst much ululating and singing from the gathering, and made a commitment to fight SGBV effectively. The Chairperson LC III declared

**“This is the last time we shall have a program on GBV, next time we shall be celebrating peace. At the next peace expo, we will hand over the flag to another region!”**

A man with a shaved head, wearing a brown jacket over a blue shirt and a brown wrap around his waist, is speaking into a microphone. He is pointing his right hand towards the right. The background shows an outdoor setting with a white cloth, a large bundle of green grass, and other people in the distance under a blue sky with some clouds.

## Performing for Peace

Any one sitting in the tents at the Oketwer Primary School playground could see enthusiastic groups of people gathered in different places, putting final touches to their performances. Many groups in the community had prepared songs, poems and skits on the Peace Expo's theme of Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities. Some songs focused on the community's gratitude towards Isis-WICCE for their work to support the fight against SGBV. However, most of the compositions were in-line with the purpose of the event – to decry SGBV and point out its effects on homes, communities, and the country. One song performed by a group of community activists urged the crowd gathered to **“change your ways in order to develop Uganda and fight ignorance and poverty. It is sad to see people torturing their wives, children not going to school, and children getting pregnant”**. They declared that they were committed to being a good example by showing how an ideal home should be, with husbands living in harmony with their wives. **“Isis-WICCE has taught us how to do it, and we shall teach the rest. Lira district has given us knowledge and we shall pass it on”**, they sang.



It was perhaps the performances on the effect of violence in the home on children that touched people the most. There was total silence as all eyes focused on a group of school children, shedding tears as they recited an emotional poem on domestic violence. **“The quarrelling stops at cock’s crow in the morning!” they cried. “Drinking messes up homes, children live unhappy lives and can end up orphaned”**. Another song called “When two elephants fight” brought the message home and the audience could not help but join the children as they danced to the traditional beats. A group of People with Disabilities (PWDs) brought yet another dimension to the messages. Their song called for the making of public services accessible for PWDs such as schools, health centres, places of worship, as well as access to customary land. “PWDs are also made in the image of God”, they sang. **“Protect women PWDs from men who abandon them after sexually exploiting them.”**



Several skits were performed, showing the causes and effects of domestic violence in homes. Drunkenness was a recurring theme in these portrayals of family life marred by domestic violence, with scarce resources being diverted from school fees and family welfare. The Community Activists had the most elaborate play, which demonstrated the characteristics of a model family versus one which was beset by drunkenness, wife beating, quarrels over proceeds from sale of agricultural produce, promiscuity, difficulty negotiating for safe sex, and HIV infection. The actress playing the harassed wife drew many nods of understanding from the audience when she tearfully advised, **“My daughter, I urge you to finish school, or else you will end up like me, forced as a young girl to marry a husband who takes us through so much trouble”**. This skit also showed the different roles that community members can play in addressing of GBV. On one hand negative peer influence can exacerbate violent behaviour while on the other hand the joint efforts of positive role models can bring about reconciliation and attitude change.



## Conversation Circles

Prior to the 2015 Peace Exposition Isis-WICCE had identified several causes of SGBV in Aromo sub-county. These include conflict over the use of proceeds from selling agricultural produce; alcoholism and drug abuse; high levels of household poverty; poor communication skills; extramarital affairs; cultural practices and norms like polygamy and widow inheritance; lack of access to family planning services by women leading to more children than the family can handle; the strains of providing for children born out of wedlock; the power imbalance and struggle between men and women; mismatch in levels of education and decision making power.

During the Peace Expo, community members were divided into groups based on gender, age and other characteristics in order to give the community members safe spaces to discuss what they feel are the causes of GBV in their communities. The groups formed were men, women, female youth, male youth and teenage mothers.

The **Conversation Circles** provided the community members the opportunity to suggest solutions for ending violence.

Due to the overwhelming numbers several groups (e.g. women) had to be further subdivided based on specific discussion points.

1. Perceptions of what constitutes Gender Based Violence.
2. What they believe to be the main causes of GBV in their community. How far poverty, HIV/AIDS and alcohol have promoted GBV.
3. How GBV can be prevented in their community. Who the most influential actors are when it comes to preventing GBV and what roles can they play. Has there been any observable reduction in GBV in their community?
4. Good practices that have worked to prevent GBV.
5. What commitments the group can make to prevent and stop GBV in their community.

The groups pointed out a wide range of forms of GBV, including wife beating, sexual violence, undermining spousal contributions or respect for dignity, giving 'silent treatment', denial of sexual relations, refusal to provide for the family, refusal to carry out domestic duties by wives, selling of food without consent.

All the groups pointed to alcoholism as a major problem. It was identified as a cause of promiscuity, fights, loss of dignity, and laziness. Other causes that were identified include; poor communication and use of insulting language, extramarital affairs and children born out of wedlock, lack of joint planning, to address the financial issues and early marriages.

The groups further identified several community leaders who are key in addressing GBV and resolving cases. They include; clan leaders, local councilors, family elders and parents from both spouses' sides, religious leaders, police, community activists, women's rights organizations, children affected by GBV, health workers and teachers.

**The Poor communication and use of insulting language was also identified as a cause of violence in homes.**

A cursory analysis of the feedback from the different groups revealed an interesting aspect of the Conversation Circles. It seems that much of the discussion was a chance to vent on the issues that women face in their homes. Much of the discussion in the four women's groups revolved around power imbalances between men and women in the home, with many pointing out how women's empowerment has upset the previously held status quo. While some noted that working women tended to disrespect their husbands, others pointed to discrimination at their work places, with opportunities for advancement denied to them because they are women. Women were concerned about the management of family property and finances without consulting them as well as being stressed when their husbands sought to take away the money they had earned. From this, one can conclude that the conversation circles did indeed provide a safe space for women of all ages to vent their frustrations, and perhaps even a measure of psychological relief from knowing they are not alone. But also to propose strategies to address such challenges.





# Commitments made to prevent GBV

CLAN LEADERS	MEN	WOMEN
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold regular meetings on GBV</li> <li>2. Report GBV cases to authorities</li> <li>3. Stop all child marriages</li> <li>4. Engage with clan members on GBV</li> <li>5. Counsel men to prevent extramarital relationships</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Hold family meetings to resolve conflicts and challenges</li> <li>2. Contribute to household expenses</li> <li>3. Avoid early marriages</li> <li>4. Plan together as a family</li> <li>5. Care for vulnerable people – orphans &amp; PWDs</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoid acting in anger</li> <li>2. Stop drinking alcohol</li> <li>3. Support enforcement of bylaws on drinking alcohol</li> <li>4. Involve men in GBV prevention programs</li> <li>5. Encourage community activists to behave as model families</li> <li>6. Adhere to religious principles of love and respect</li> <li>7. Strengthen cultural norms that prevent GBV</li> <li>8. Fight early marriages</li> <li>9. Maintain good hygiene</li> <li>10. Ensure kids do not sleep in same room with parents</li> </ol>



FEMALE YOUTH	MALE YOUTH	TEENAGE MOTHERS
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Avoid pregnancy before marriage</li> <li>2. Avoid going late to the market</li> <li>3. Be assertive – No means No</li> <li>4. Spend time with good peers</li> <li>5. Dress decently</li> <li>6. Mediate between parents</li> <li>7. Stay in school</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Build mutual trust in relationships</li> <li>2. Endeavour to know health status</li> <li>3. Fight poverty</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Discuss GBV as couples</li> <li>2. Mutual respect in the home</li> <li>3. Encourage men to reduce drinking</li> <li>4. Buy household items</li> <li>5. Maintain hygiene</li> <li>6. Trust and love their partners</li> </ol>



## In Their Own Words: Determined Women at the Health Camp

Molly and Jacinta Rose are two of the hundreds of women that attended the health camp at the Peace Exposition in Aromo sub-county. For the two days of the camp, long lines were a permanent feature at the classrooms block of the Oketkwer Primary School where Isis-WICCE set up facilities for cervical and breast cancer screening. The Uganda Red Cross Society and the Protestant Medical Bureau had also set up facilities for blood donation, voluntary counselling and testing for HIV. Such was the demand for these services that not even the call for lunch could lure away the women, many carrying babies and small children.

**Jacinta Rose (31) said** “I came here because I want to know my health status. I know the importance of knowing my HIV status because it will help me to keep healthy and remain safe. I have already had my HIV test and I now know how to prevent HIV infection. I am now waiting for the cervical cancer screening. While I did not clearly understand what cervical cancer is about, I know I will get more information during the screening.”

**Molly (36) had been waiting in line for two days.** “I would never have gotten the chance to be screened for cervical cancer. I hope I can access follow up services after the screening, I will find out when I get to the health worker. Definitely, I will advise more people to come for such a service next time it is offered, it is very important.”



Health workers registering women to be screened



Women sitting in the line, waiting to be screened



A healthy worker examining a woman



## In Their Own Words: a Happy Community Activist

**It was obvious that James Ogwal (23), a Community Activist (CA) against GBV was a happy man.** "The number of people who have attended this peace expo are way more than I expected. Yes, we CAs did go around sensitising the people around to come for the expo, but I guess the free health camp played a role in bringing so many women here. I am sure they also wanted to get more information about the topics we have been discussing with them. The people here are saying that this is the biggest event they have had in this area, and they are happy with the way they were catered for with everyone having equal access."

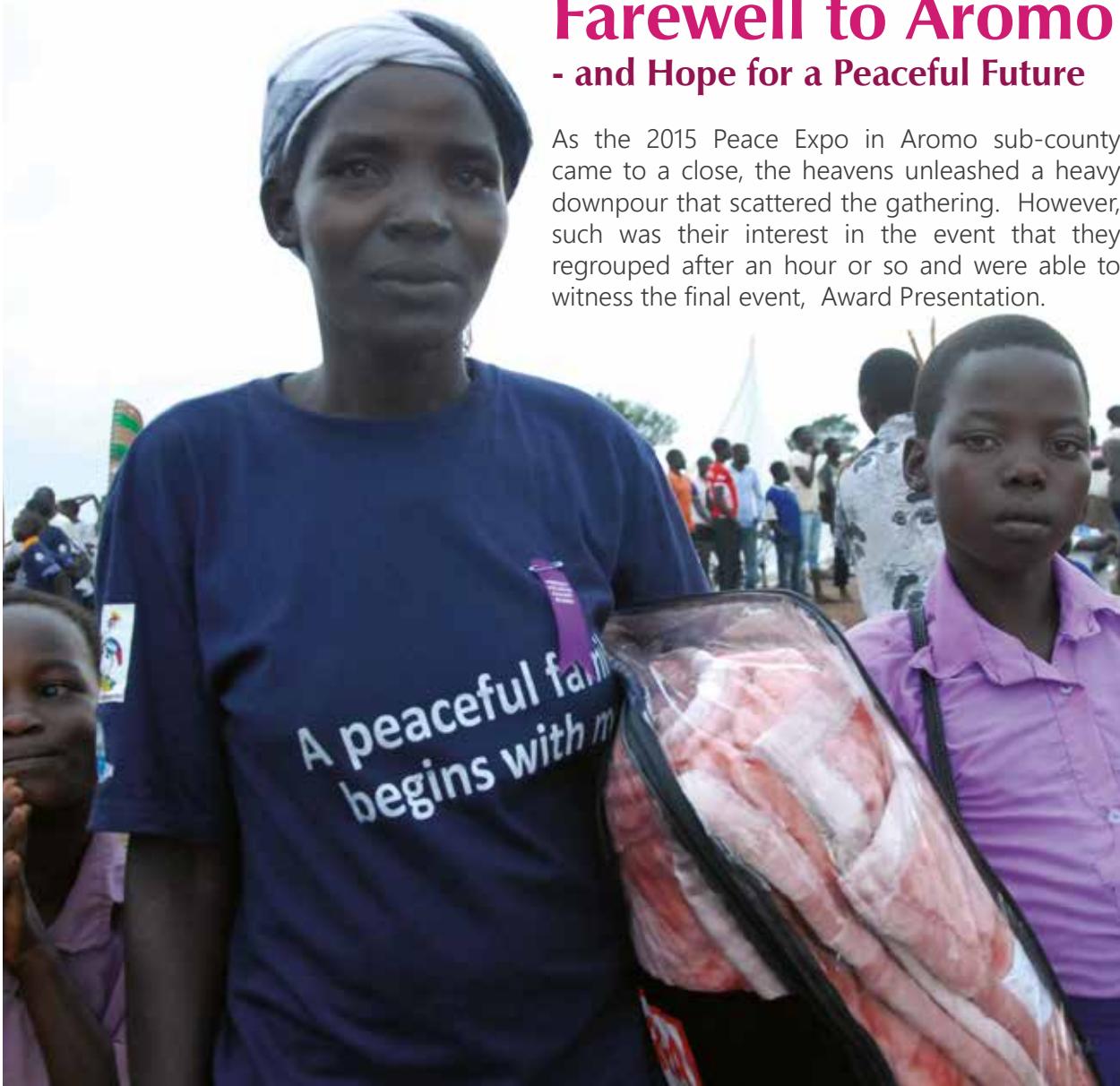
**Despite the relatively lower number of men in attendance compared to the women, he was still upbeat.** "The men are fewer than the women but the ones who came really appreciated the messages on preventing GBV. They are saying that they are now more aware of the different types of GBV compared to the ones they know of – wife beating, etc. Now they know that things like silent treatment and denial of economic provision can also oppress their spouses. In fact, some said that they did not know that they can help their wives with domestic duties and that this brings about harmony in the home. Others say they will spend less time at drinking joints."

**He concluded on a promising note, saying** "I am quite confident that the impact of our work as CAs and the lessons learned from the peace expo will have an impact on reducing GBV in Aromo. I am sure that at least young people like me will have happier homes."



# Farewell to Aromo - and Hope for a Peaceful Future

As the 2015 Peace Expo in Aromo sub-county came to a close, the heavens unleashed a heavy downpour that scattered the gathering. However, such was their interest in the event that they regrouped after an hour or so and were able to witness the final event, Award Presentation.



Various school children had submitted poems and compositions on the theme of Happy Homes, Peaceful Communities. As the winners came forward to receive the gifts handed to them by Isis-WICCE and the sub-county leaders, one could not help but admire their talent. It is hoped that for the future generation of Aromo and Lira district as well as the tales of SGBV will be a distant memory that will not have a place in their own adult lives.



Helen Kezi-Nwoha, Isis-WICCE Program Manager holding one of the winners in the essay competition for schools

# Poems

## She is Beautiful

By Daniel Odyek, 12 years, Apua Primary School

She is beautiful, she should be loved, and she should be treated with dignity and respect.

She is paid a visit by hurt and pain everyday of her life.

She should not be discriminated against because she is a woman not only is she a slave of misery but also gives her body to the devil of the world. HIV and AIDS has been with her from the beginning to the end. She wonders when will it stop? When will I be free from this misery and pain that is in my life? Her question was answered when she was found dead on the streets. Why must a woman life be so cruel and wicked? A life without happiness is not a life worth living at all. We have to stop these evils.

She is stroked and caned until to bed, her education is considered a waste.

When you were a teenager you were beautiful. In marriage daily beating she gets until she learns to submit. Scars and unhealed wounds cover her body. We must fight and show how tough and strong the girls and women of the world are. We are powerful and mighty. We can make it. It is time to mend this deep hole.

## What makes a Happy Family?

Akello Sandra, Otara Primary School

Oh Happy Family

Where are you?

Where do you live?

How old are you?

Are you tall, short, brown, black or white?

Oh Happy family

Yes, I have got you

What makes a happy family?

Is when you have good health, good balanced diet, love, clothing, enough land, good accommodation, clean water and good education not leaving out security?

Brothers, sisters relatives and leaders,  
let us make a happy family

## A Good Family

Atim Kevin, P.7 Aromo Primary School

Oh! What a good family? A good family?

Let me question myself; am I from a good family?

Oh no, not all are from good families. Others are not from good families.

The only reason being the presence of gender based violence which erupted into most families

Our families are not free from all forms of violence like physical and sexual violence.

Oh! Do we understand all these forms of violence and their causes? Under physical violence, we have things like slaps, pinches, kicks, assaults, name them. Leave alone that, come to sexual violence which includes rape, defilement, unwanted touches and many others

Are our families free from all these?

Oh! A good family, what a good family? Do you remember the causes of all these and their effects?

The causes are many but the most common ones are alcohol, drug abuse, laziness and ignorance. In our families, these have bad impact on our children and family members as well.

Oh! A good family, what makes a good family? What are the characteristics of a good family?

A good family is free from gender based violence

A good family is free from drunkardness and drug abuse

A good family is free from corruption

A good family plans for development in a family meeting such as education, health and security.

Oh Isis-WICCE! Oh WOPI, come to our rescue so that we have violence free families.

## What makes a Happy Family?

Omara Marconi, Otara Primary School

One time when I woke up in the morning, I began to think of how I can make my family happy. The family is an extended family where we have our mother, father, brothers, uncles, aunts and grandparents.

This thought was with me for several days and I was very hungry because we did not have enough food to eat at home. Whenever we could get visitors we only served them beans and we only eat meat during charismas time. That day is always cherished and we always look forward to it.

My mother and father always quarrel and one day my mother quarreled with my father. She was pregnant and did not have any cloth to wear to go for antenatal check-up since she was not feeling well. Our last born was also not feeling well because he was unlucky; he got HIV from our parents. All this put us in a very bad mood and we all ended up crying including our father. He also did not have clothes to wear. He was putting on a torn shirt and a trouser.

In all this, we were unable to go to school and we do not have enough land to cultivate food for our family.

So from very many thoughts, I concluded that to make a happy family, there should be good health, enough food with balanced diet, clean water good education, love and security for all family members and lastly, the family size should be controlled.

## What makes the family Happy?

Abalo Lucky, Primary Five, Akore Primary School

In our family, there is a father, mother and we the children both boys and girls. Our family also has grandfather and grandmother. They are very old but very Kind to us. Our mother prepares enough food for the whole family and we are always happy. Our family has ten members including our grandparents.

Our father is a peasant farmer and is well known in the village for growing crops like cotton, groundnuts, peas, beans, sorghum and many others. We always go to the garden in the morning to work with our parents and we enjoy it.

People from other villages always come to our home to buy crops and we always feel happy when we see our parents getting money. In the evening, our father tells us to go and fetch water and collect firewood and after, our grandparents tell us stories about Bua Atieno, Kintu of Buganda and King of heaven called Gulu. These stories are very interesting and after listening we ask questions.

To conclude what makes a happy family is how our parents treat us. They talk to us in a lovely manner and the language they use is good. We children also obey our parents and show good respect to them and other people.

# A Happy Family

Aketch Sandra, Aromo Primary School

My father and my mother got married and they stayed together. Near our home, we have other people with their families but the way they treat their children is not good. In our family, our father is always kind to us and does not quarrel and beat us. He instead talks to us softly and we all understand and feel happy.

In the morning, father always wakes us up to sweep the courtyard and clean our toilets. We do it willingly. He also tells us to go to school early in order to avoid punishment by the teachers. As a result, we love our father because he does not mistreat us. We also follow whatever he tells us to do.

Our mother is a well behaved woman. The way she talks to our father in our presence shows to us that there is happiness in our family. When mother calls me, she uses a soft voice. She has a smiling face, whenever she wants a child to do something, she demonstrates first.

To conclude, things that make a family happy are the ways of talking to people, the language used, good behavior, absence of corporal punishment and abusive words. Children also obey their parents and show respect to their parents and other people.





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