

## *Advancing Women's Rights Globally*



### **Project Partners:**

**Georgetown University Law Center's International Women's Human Rights Clinic  
Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa - Ghana  
Law and Advocacy for Women - Uganda  
Nigeria Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative  
Tanzania Women's Legal Aid Centre**

**Consolidated First, Second, Third, and Fourth Quarterly Reports  
November 1, 2004 – October 31, 2005 (USAID Extension)  
November 1, 2004 – December 31, 2005 (Anonymous Donor Grant  
Awards: VCEP, 1321.01, 775.01, and 1576)  
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**Consolidated First, Second, Third, and Fourth Quarterly Reports  
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**INTRODUCTION**

This is the grant extension's consolidated first, second, third and fourth quarterly reports (November 1, 2004 – October 31, 2005) for USAID under the “*Advancing Women’s Rights Globally*” project. This report includes the activities of the Georgetown University Law Center’s (“GULC”) International Women’s Human Rights Clinic (hereafter, “the Clinic”) and its four partners: LAWA-Ghana, WRAPA, WLAC, and LAW-Uganda<sup>1</sup> under an extension of Grant Agreement #GEW-G-00-02-00001-00. Under this grant, the partners worked on various projects to advance women’s rights, including legislation, litigation, strengthening civil society, and public education.

This report also includes work performed under related grants from an Anonymous Donor. The grants were designed to complement the USAID grant goals as set forth in the USAID grant proposal and supported NGO activities such as litigating cases, working in coalitions, planning public events, editing human rights reports, and researching relevant issues to advance equality for women. The Anonymous Donor Grant Agreement VCEP supported personnel, operating, and advocacy (five Parliamentary roundtables and a legislative consultation) expenses for the NGOs in November and December 2004. Grant Award 1321.01 provided funding for NGO project expenses from January through December 2005 and the fact-finding mission to Tanzania in Spring 2005. Per agreement with the donor representative, funds remaining from Grant Award VCEP at the end of the grant period (\$8,806) were rolled into Grant 1321.01 to fund a legislative consultation for WRAPA and additional costs for the Spring 2005 fact-finding mission. Anonymous Donor Grant Award 775.01 provided support for a research assistant in November and December 2004 and the salary and benefits for the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst position for two months in Summer 2005. Finally, Grant Award No. 1576 provided funding for the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst position from September 19, 2005 to December 31, 2005.

Because the activities under both the USAID and Anonymous Donor grants support the objectives of the USAID grant, they will both be reported on herein. Headings throughout the report specifically denote which donor paid for which event, e.g. **USAID-Funded Work** or **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**.

Both donors’ grants contain funds for attorneys’ time. The Principal Investigator requires that all NGO partners submit detailed time sheets, from each attorney for whose time payment is sought, allocated to a specific donor. This report describes attorney time reflected in those time sheets, whether spent on litigation, research, work with Clinic faculty and staff, participation in broad civil society coalitions or conferences, or in holding the specific

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<sup>1</sup> The acronyms stand for: Leadership and Advocacy for Women in Africa – Ghana (“LAWA-Ghana”); Women’s Rights Advancement and Protection Alternative (“WRAPA”) in Nigeria; Women’s Legal Aid Centre (“WLAC”) in Tanzania; and Law and Advocacy for Women – Uganda (“LAW-Uganda”).

USAID/Anonymous Donor-funded legislative consultations, public education sessions, and parliamentary roundtables.

In many cases, other donors also fund similar work by the same NGO partner. This report reflects the events funded by, or attorney work described in the time sheets relating to, the USAID or Anonymous Donor grants, unless otherwise noted. For example, related NGO civil society activities directed at advancing women's rights may be noted as "Other-Funded Work."

All of the project work is consistent with USAID's SSO3 objectives, which will be discussed separately below in Parts II through V. In addition, Part VI discusses the Clinic's work to advance women's human rights, plan and administer the program, and success with the Leland Initiative. Part VII discusses how the work supports USAID's regional and country mission objectives.

## **I. Goals for Each NGO and the Clinic and Summary of Accomplishments**

### **A. Ghana**

**1. Goals: Legislation and Education Initiatives on Human Trafficking, Equality for Traditional Female Leaders, Equality for Women Through the Registration of Marriages, and Division of Marital Property at Divorce; Educational Activities on the Rights of Women Under the Labour Bill, Participation of Women in Politics, and Rights of Domestic Assistants; Civil Society Activities on Domestic Violence Legislation, Women's Rights Protocol to African Charter, Poverty and Gender Equity, and Young Women's Leadership (with the Ark Foundation)**

### **2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

LAWA-Ghana's accomplishments are summarized here in bullet form for the reader's convenience. Detailed explanations of each are provided in the sections of the report covering Ghana. This format will be used for each NGO partner. In sum, LAWA-Ghana did the following:

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

- Conducted a public education session on trafficking in persons in Kumasi (November 9, 2004)
- Secured passage of legislation on anti-human trafficking on July 21, 2005, legislation supported by LAWA-Ghana since Fall 2001 when a joint project with the Clinic produced a draft bill on the topic
- Held a legislative consultation on equal representation for traditional female leaders in Accra (November 30, 2004)
- Organized a public education session on the topic of equal representation for women in traditional government positions (December 13-14, 2005)
- Held meetings with the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill throughout the reporting period to develop and implement plans to pass a comprehensive domestic violence law
- Made a presentation on the Domestic Violence Bill to government officials and NGO representatives
- Held a public education program on the "Rights of Women Under the Labour Act 2003 (Act 651)" on August 16, 2005 in Accra
- Conducted a legislative consultation entitled "Ensuring the Protection of Women's Rights in Enacting Laws on the Registration of Marriages in Ghana" on September 6, 2005 in Accra
- Held a legislative consultation on October 25, 2005 on "Ensuring Increased Participation of Women in Politics in Ghana"
- Organized a parliamentary roundtable on "Enacting Legislation on the Division of Marital Property at Divorce" on October 28, 2005

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

- Described women's concerns and the need for a Human Trafficking Bill to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gender and Children on June 17, 2005
- Prepared and submitted a memorandum regarding the Human Trafficking Bill on July 12, 2005, to the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gender and Children
- Presented LAWA-Ghana's memorandum on the Human Trafficking Bill on July 14, 2005, at a public hearing held by the Select Committee
- Held consultations with members of Parliament on the Human Trafficking Bill
- Secured passage of a bill to prevent Human Trafficking on July 21, 2005, a NGO project which grew out of a collaboration with the Clinic in Fall 2001
- Met with the Minister for Women and Children's Affairs regarding educational programs and strategies for passage of the Domestic Violence Bill
- Made presentations on the Domestic Violence Bill to members of the Rotary Club and at a stakeholders meeting
- Held meetings with the Women's Rights Coalition to strategize about Ghana's ratification of the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, implementation of the demands in the Women's Manifesto, and passage of the Domestic Violence Bill
- Conducted a public education session on human trafficking, a public education session on the rights of women under the Labour Act, and a legislative consultation on equal representation for traditional female leaders (details noted under USAID section)

### **Other-Funded Work**

- Participated as resource persons at a training workshop on the Domestic Violence Bill
- Made presentations on the Domestic Violence Bill to the Councilors Committee of the Christian Council of Ghana
- Participated in a two-day conference of the Ark Foundation on July 27-28, 2005 which addressed economic issues for women in Ghana
- Participated in a reception held by the Ark Foundation in conjunction with the Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference
- Participated in a workshop on "Law and Poverty Reduction - Gender Equity and Increased Production" held by the Law Reform Commission on September 8, 2005
- Made a presentation at the National House of Chiefs in Kumasi regarding the need to consider the concerns and rights of women when allocating land
- Participated in activities as part of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence
- Participated in training sessions, a sensitization workshop, and a capacity-building session for a British-funded project on the rights of domestic assistants, a project that grew out of collaborative work with the Clinic in Spring 2003

## **B. Nigeria**

- 1. Goals: Education on Reform of Inheritance Laws, Legal and Social Issues in Rape Cases, Women in Political Parties, and Women's Rights Protocol to African Charter; Legislative Advocacy on Violence Against Women, Discriminatory Inheritance Laws, Harmful Widowhood Practices, and the Codification of Islamic Personal Law; Litigation on Discriminatory Inheritance, Freedom to Marry, Divorce and Child Custody, Child Custody for Mother with HIV/AIDS; Civil Society Activities on Women's Political Participation, Harmful Traditional Practices, Fair Elections, Violence against Women, Women's Role in Managing Religious Conflicts, Women's Participation in National Government Dialogue, Promoting Women's Rights Through Shari'a**
- 2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

Nigeria WRAPA engaged in the following this reporting period:

### **USAID-Funded Work**

- Held a public education session in Kwara State on the inheritance issues and the need to write wills (November 3, 2004)
- Provided support for WRAPA Secretary General to participate in a legislative consultation on electoral reform to increase women's political participation (November 3, 2004)
- Conducted a legislative consultation in Ibadan Oyo on the Violence Against Women bill (November 18, 2004)
- Held a public education session on the "Increasing Prevalence of Rape and Impunity of Offenders: Legal and Social Implications" on August 18, 2005
- Held a parliamentary roundtable on May 19, 2005, in Abuja to address the Violence Against Women bill
- Held a public education session on rape in conflict situations on September 15, 2005
- Held a legislative consultation on October 18, 2005 to harmonize various versions of the bill on violence against women
- Prepared a strategic litigation case with the Clinic challenging the use of sex and HIV status in divorce and custody decisions (Ene Oduh Onuh)
- Argued litigation case involving dissolution of marriage and sex discriminatory laws governing custody of children (Hadiza Garba v. Ali Garber)
- Worked with the Clinic to prepare a strategic litigation case on adult woman's freedom to marry man of choice without her father's consent (Maryam Yau Maigwanjo)
- Participated in a meeting with the House Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development to advocate for passage of the Violence Against Women bill
- Collaborated with the Clinic to prepare a strategic litigation case to challenge sex discriminatory inheritance laws (Francisca Aguocha)

- Participated in a Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of Optional Protocol to CEDAW on August 27-30, 2005
- Participated in a strategy workshop, "Moving Towards Gender Equality: Balancing Political Participation in Nigeria" on September 5-7, 2005
- Participated in a one-day awareness campaign with media on the topic of harmful traditional practices and other forms of violence against women on October 7, 2005
- Participated in a conference on "Gender Inclusiveness in Managing Religious Conflicts in Nigeria: The Role of Nigerian Women" from October 10-12, 2005
- Participated in a consultative meeting with Nigerian civil society organizations and the National Democratic Institute entitled "Towards Effective Efforts to Ensure Full Participation in Free and Fair 2007 Elections" on October 16-18, 2005.
- Participated in a stakeholders meeting with the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women on December 6, 2005
- Participated in a consultative workshop for Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa on Nov 18-22, 2004
- Meeting on December 2, 2004 with Special Assistant to a member of the National Assembly from Benue State to discuss bill on harmful widowhood practices

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

- Held a parliamentary roundtable on affirmative action for women in political parties in Nassarawa State (December 16, 2004)
- Held a Parliamentary roundtable in Kogi State on the issue of women's inheritance and HIV/AIDS (December 7, 2004)
- Held a legislative consultation on harmful widowhood practices in Benue State (December 16, 2004)
- Conducted a legislative consultation in Jos Plateau on the protection of women's rights in conflict situations (December 10, 2004)
- Held a legislative consultation in Abuja on the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights (December 16, 2004)
- Conducted two parliamentary round tables on the Codification of Islamic Personal Law in Sokoto State (December 7, 2004) and Zamfara State (December 8, 2004)
- Provided support for attorney work related to the public education session on rape in conflict situations on September 15, 2005
- Held a parliamentary roundtable on "Violence Against Women From a Constituency Perspective and the Role for Women Parliamentarians" on October 13, 2005
- Prepared strategic litigation case relating to divorce and denial of custody because of HIV/AIDS status (Ene Oduh Onuh)
- Argued litigation case relating to dissolution of marriage and custody of children (Hadiza Garba v. Ali Garber)
- Prepared strategic litigation case on an adult woman's right to marry a man of her choice without her father's consent (Maryam Yau Maigwanjo)
- Prepared strategic litigation case to challenge sex discriminatory inheritance laws (Francisca Aguocha)

### **Other-Funded Work**

- Participated in the Women's Organization for Representative National Conference to argue for women's issues in the federal government's Political Reform Conference
- WRAPA Secretary General, upon invitation, provided a book review on "Promoting Women's Rights through Shari'a in Northern Nigeria" at an event on November 22, 2005

### **C. Tanzania**

**1. Goals: Legislation Initiatives on Polygamy, Brideprice, Age of Marriage, and Male Guardianship Laws; Education on Discriminatory Inheritance, Unequal Marriage Laws, and Domestic Violence; Media Session on Domestic Violence and Discriminatory Inheritance Laws; Strategic Litigation on Discriminatory Inheritance Laws; Research on Marital Rape and Division of Matrimonial Property at Divorce**

**2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

WLAC engaged in the following this reporting period:

### **USAID-Funded Work**

- Completed one on-going project in collaboration with the Clinic by drafting a lawsuit to challenge discriminatory inheritance laws (Fall 2004)
- Conducted a legislative consultation in Maktaba Kuu on issues relating to inheritance rights and marriage laws (January 24-25, 2005)

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

- Held two public education sessions on inheritance and domestic violence, one in Kisarawe (January 25-26, 2005) and one in Dar es Salaam (January 26-27, 2005)
- Held a session for members of the media in Dar es Salaam to regenerate interest in the domestic violence and inheritance campaigns (January 28, 2005)
- Completed four combined legislation/fact-finding/human rights projects with the Clinic, including a draft human rights report, legislative memorandum, and proposed legislation to end discrimination in the areas of (i) polygamy, (ii) brideprice, (iii) age of marriage, and (iv) male guardianship of adult women (Spring 2005)
- Conducted research on marital rape and the division of matrimonial property at divorce for use in legislative initiatives

## D. Uganda

**1. Goals: Strategic Litigation to Challenge Discriminatory Inheritance Laws, Female-Only Criminal Adultery Laws, and Polygamy; Legislation and Education Initiatives on the Domestic Relations Bill or DRB (addresses Polygamy, Marital Rape, Brideprice, and Adultery), Sexual Offenses, and Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation; Education on Reproductive Rights and Maternal Mortality; Civil Society Activities on Human Trafficking, Gender Violence, Persons with Disabilities (focus on women), Women's Participation in Politics; Media Initiatives on DRB; Research to Support Strategic Litigation**

### 2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period

LAW-U engaged in the following activities this reporting period:

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

- Participated in bi-monthly radio talk show to bring attention to women's rights issues
- Held media conference on the Domestic Relations Bill with other NGOs (March 18, 2005)
- Addressed clauses of DRB that had been misperceived by the public in a one-hour radio talk (March 17, 2005)
- Completed three on-going projects in collaboration with the Clinic by drafting lawsuits to challenge: (i) discriminatory inheritance laws; (ii) polygamy; and (iii) female-only criminal adultery laws
- Conducted research to aid in the strategic litigation cases on adultery and inheritance
- Filed the lawsuit on criminal adultery (Note: The lawsuit on discriminatory inheritance laws was filed following the end of the grant period.)
- Established the DRB Coalition in Parliament to push for consideration of the bill without weakening its provisions for women and conducted educational sessions on the DRB with religious groups
- Drafted principles for a bill to ban female genital cutting/mutilation, principles which were based on prior work conducted by the Clinic and LAW-U
- Met with Ministry of Health Officials on July 15 and October 3, 2005 to discuss high maternal mortality rates
- Met with the Commissioner for Gender, Labour and Social Development on December 5, 2005, to discuss Uganda's compliance, and failure to achieve compliance, with the Beijing +10 Platform of Action.
- Met with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament to discuss the problems for women resulting from female genital cutting/mutilation
- Drafted a Sexual Offenses Bill to share with members of Parliament
- Planned activities to assist with 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence
- Worked in coalition on women's rights issues, including HIV/AIDS

- Met with the President of Uganda on the DRB
- Participated in a workshop supported by the Uganda Women's Network aimed at retaining the Equal Opportunities Commission

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

- Completed three on-going strategic litigation projects with the Clinic pertaining to discriminatory inheritance, female-only criminal adultery, and polygamy
- Filed a lawsuit to challenge the female-only criminal adultery laws on September 14, 2005 [On March 9, 2006, following the end of the grant period, a lawsuit on discriminatory inheritance laws was filed.]
- Drafted an anti-trafficking law (additional support provided by the American Bar Association)
- Participated in a workshop organized by the Uganda Law Society to review anti-human trafficking laws from other countries (November 7-8, 2005)

### **Other-Funded Work**

- Invited to discuss the experience of women in multi-party politics in Kenya
- Spoke on topic of "Women's Rights in Politics" at a workshop organized by the Uganda Law Society (November 5, 2005)
- Worked to maintain provision on affirmative action for women in the new multi-party political system
- Presented a paper to the Gender Donor Group on the Status of the Domestic Relations Bill (December 2005)

## **E. The Clinic**

### **1. Goals: In Collaboration with the NGOs, Complete Four On-Going Litigation Projects and Two New Legislation Projects/Fact-Finding Investigations/Human Rights Reports; Initiate Four New Litigation Projects; Administer Grant Activities, a Clinic Fact-Finding Mission, and the Leland Initiative**

### **2. Summary of Activities and Accomplishments During Reporting Period**

The Clinic engaged in the following activities this period:

- Completed three on-going projects in collaboration with LAW-Uganda in the fall semester 2004, by drafting lawsuits to challenge: (i) discriminatory inheritance laws; (ii) polygamy; and (iii) female-only criminal adultery laws
- Completed one on-going project in collaboration with WLAC in the fall semester 2004, by drafting a lawsuit to challenge discriminatory inheritance laws
- Completed four combined legislation/fact-finding/human rights projects with WLAC in the spring semester 2005, including a draft human rights report, legislative memorandum, and proposed legislation to end discrimination in the areas

of (i) polygamy, (ii) brideprice, (iii) age of marriage, and (iv) male guardianship of adult women

- Planned and conducted fact-finding investigation in the Spring semester 2005, in collaboration with WLAC
- Completed four new litigation projects with WRAPA in the Fall 2005 semester addressing (i) inheritance laws that discriminate against girls, (ii) an adult woman's right to marry without her father's consent, (iii) sex discriminatory custody laws at divorce, and (iv) divorce and denial of custody because of HIV/AIDS status
- Continued to provide legal and administrative guidance to the partner NGOs
- Administered system for quarterly reports, time sheets and invoices
- Obtained approval for a one-year \$100,000 grant from an Anonymous Donor to support the NGOs and the fact-finding mission to Tanzania
- Drafted new contracts, budgets and work plans for each subgrantee
- Obtained approval to roll over remaining funds in VCEP grant to support programmatic activities, and obtained approval to reallocate funds in Grant 775.01 from support for a Research Assistant to support for the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst position (approximately two months salary and benefits)
- Developed a new proposal and secured funding to cover the salary and benefits of the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst position for one year

## **II. Supporting Improved Legislation that Protects and Advances Women's Rights**

In an effort to achieve legislative reforms, the African NGO's :

- conducted nine Parliamentary roundtables (division of marital property at divorce – 1, violence against women – 2, codification of Islamic family law – 2, affirmative action for women in politics – 1, inheritance – 1, harmful widowhood practices – 1, women's rights during conflict situations – 1)
- organized nine public education sessions (human trafficking – 1, equal representation for traditional female leaders – 1, rights of women under the Labour Act – 1, inheritance – 1, rape – 2, domestic violence and inheritance – 2, equal divorce rights granted by Constitutional Court – 1)
- conducted seven legislative consultations (equal representation of traditional female leaders – 1, increasing women's participation in politics – 1, violence against women – 2, Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter – 1, inheritance – 1, and equal rights through the registration of marriages – 1)
- completed four new human rights reports in collaboration with the Clinic (polygamy; brideprice; age of marriage; and male guardianship of adult females)
- held two media conferences (domestic violence and inheritance; Domestic Relations Bill)

## **A. Gender-Based Violence**

### **1. Nigeria**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

Throughout this period, WRAPA continued its work with the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women to pass a bill prohibiting this form of violence. As part of this work, the Coalition met with the House Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development. The meeting focused on identifying and addressing issues that would hinder passage of the bill in both the House and Senate. The new bill will provide protection for women that current laws do not and will also address new forms of violence against women such as acid baths. Using the draft bill, some states within Nigeria began pushing for legislation at the local level.

WRAPA also joined with the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women to hold a Parliamentary roundtable on May 19, 2005, in Abuja. The purpose was to engage Parliamentarians in dialogue about the Violence Against Women bill, harmonize provisions of the bill with CEDAW guarantees of equality for women, discuss changes to the bill to improve its chance of passing, and strategize about domestication of CEDAW. Twenty-one female Parliamentarians from 21 states attended the event.

At the state level, WRAPA held a legislative consultation for 40 participants on November 18, 2004, in Oyo, in collaboration with FIDA-Nigeria. Forty persons attended, including members of the Oyo State House of Assembly and members of civil society. The purpose of the consultation was to facilitate discussions between Parliamentarians and members of civil society to work towards passage of a bill in Oyo State entitled *A Bill for a Law to Make Provision for the Prevention, Protection and Prohibition of Violence Against Women and Other Related Matters*. In opening remarks, the Commissioner of Women Affairs in Oyo State expressed the government's commitment to issues affecting women. She also noted that despite various efforts to address violence against women, the laws and cultural practices must change to protect women. Another speaker, a law professor, stressed the need for further public education on the issue of violence against women.

On December 2, 2004, Saudatu Mahdi of WRAPA met with the Special Assistant to a member of the National Assembly from Benue State to discuss WRAPA's proposed bill on Harmful Widowhood Practices in Benue. It was agreed that women's groups in Benue would prepare a separate bill to be presented to state legislators.

To draw attention to the problems of rape, WRAPA held a public education session entitled "Increasing Prevalence of Rape and Impunity of Offenders: Legal and Social Implications" on August 18, 2005 in Abuja. The session resulted in calls for reform of the rape prosecution laws. Also discussed was the difficulty in addressing consent – an issue that is addressed in the Violence Against Women bill advocated for by WRAPA and other NGOs.

One hundred one people participated including parents, students, eleven media representatives, two survivors of rape, and five resource persons.

In a Legislative Consultation on December 10, 2004, WRAPA addressed the need for legal reform to protect the rights of women in conflict situations. Forty participants, drawn from a range of civil society organizations, attended. The Coordinator of the Centre for Conflict Management and Peace Studies at the University of Jos described the increasing rate of violent conflict in Nigeria over the past two decades and its relation to the increased rape of women. She also explained that the economic situation and problems in education are contributing to the increased violence.

On September 15, 2005, WRAPA held a similar public education session in Jos Plateau. This session addressed the increasing prevalence of rape and the impunity of offenders in conflict situations. WRAPA described the need for legal reforms to hold accountable the violators of women's and girls' fundamental rights. Presentations addressed the legal constraints in rape trials (e.g., no witnesses) and the need to protect the identity of the victim (i.e., rape shield laws).

A legislative consultation was held on October 18, 2005 in Abuja. The purpose was to harmonize versions of the Violence Against Women bill. Twenty persons participated.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

On December 10, 2004, WRAPA held a parliamentary roundtable on the protection of women's rights in conflict situations. This session, which had 40 participants and six media people in attendance, discussed issues relating to violence against women in the Plateau State. In addition to violence against women, the session discussed other conflict-related problems faced by women, namely widowhood, forced labor, displacement, and land disputes. WRAPA called for the Plateau State House of Assembly to protect the rights of women in conflict situations starting with adopting the bill on domestic violence.

WRAPA attorneys and other staff were involved in planning and organizing a public education session on the increase in rape during conflict situations. The session was held on September 15, 2005, in Jos Plateau, an area which had seen much community upheaval over the past several years. The speakers addressed both legal and social implications of the increased incidence of rape and noted the need for reform in legal and social areas to address the problem.

WRAPA also organized a Parliamentary Roundtable on "Violence Against Women from a Constituency Perspective and the Role for Women Parliamentarians." The Roundtable was held in Abuja on October 13, 2005 and conducted in collaboration with the British Council. The goal was to encourage Parliamentarians to communicate with female constituents about problems of violence so they will have data to support changes in the law which disadvantage women and to improve the linkages between women's groups, Parliamentarians, and members of government. Forty one people participated in the event.

Staff of WRAPA organized a legislative consultation for forty participants in Benue State on December 16, 2004. The theme of this consultation was harmful widowhood practices. A representative speaking for the Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice for Benue State assured WRAPA that the ministry is ready to give the Bill on Widowhood Practices all of its support when it comes before the ministry for a vote. Continuing efforts to build a coalition of supporters, WRAPA Secretary General Saudatu Mahdi met with the Special Assistant to a member of the National Assembly from Benue State to discuss the proposed Bill on Harmful Widowhood Practices in Benue. The Special Assistant and WRAPA agreed that women's groups from Benue State should prepare a bill and one of the Benue State legislators would present it.

### **Other-Funded Work**

WRAPA participated in a Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women Stakeholders Meeting on December 6, 2005. The meeting was attended by 35 coalition members. The primary goal of the meeting was to present the harmonized version of the Violence Against Women Bill and solicit final inputs before the bill is resubmitted to the National Assembly Committee on Women and Children.

## **2. Tanzania**

### **USAID-Funded Work**

WLAC organized and facilitated a legislative consultation for 33 participants in Maktaba Kuu on January 24, 2005. Four media personnel were in attendance to report on the event. The goal was to gain support from the public to change discriminatory laws, build a network between the WLAC and policymakers at the local level, and raise awareness about women's legal rights. WLAC leaders discussed the ongoing campaign on inheritance and domestic violence. Participant discussions also included marital rape, safer sex practices, poverty, and the patriarchal system which plays a role in oppressing women. Participants were drawn from the Ukonga and Sinza A wards.

To supplement its legislative activities, WLAC used fact-finding methods to collect and analyze data on marital rape. Seven hundred people were questioned about their knowledge of the laws and their experiences. As a result of this research, WLAC can more effectively advocate for legislative change and conduct awareness campaigns with the public. Specifically, the data on marital rape will be used to advocate for a provision in the Sexual Offenses Act to criminalize rape in marriage. This effort is a noteworthy example of the effectiveness and sustainability of the Clinic-NGO partnership, especially in WLAC's use of skills associated with collecting data during fact-finding missions.

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

On January 25, 2005, forty people attended a WLAC public education session on discriminatory inheritance and domestic violence in the Kisarawe district. The participants were paralegals who work primarily in the agricultural area and were drawn from each of the

Kisarawe wards. A primary objective was to train those who could train others in addressing their legal problems. According to WLAC, this was the first education session of this type for most participants and served an important educative function.

On January 26, 2005, a public education session was held in Dar es Salaam in order to generate interest in the inheritance and domestic violence initiatives. Thirty-three people attended. WLAC described the laws on marriage and the activities surrounding the inheritance and domestic violence bills. To expand the message among the public and reenergize the press, WLAC also held a media training workshop in Dar es Salaam on January 28, 2005.

In Spring 2005, the Clinic and WLAC conducted a human rights fact-finding mission to address discriminatory laws and practices on: polygamy, brideprice, age of marriage, and male guardianship of adult women. The mission results were used in two human rights reports, as well as accompanying legislative bills and memorandums.

WLAC's extensive research to enhance legislative and education efforts related to marital rape and the division of marital property at divorce were supported by Anonymous Donor funds as well.

### **3. Ghana**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana was an active participant in meetings of the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill, an organization developed to strategize and implement plans for passing a comprehensive domestic violence law. As part of these activities, the LAWA-Ghana Co-Director Sheila Minkah-Premo made a presentation on Part 1 of the Domestic Violence Bill at a workshop for stakeholders. These stakeholders included NGO representatives, as well as government officials from the National Council of Women and Development, Ghana National Commission on Children, and the Labour Department.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

Members of LAWA-Ghana met with the Minister for Women and Children's Affairs to discuss educational programs that could be implemented to increase awareness of the need for the Domestic Violence legislation and to discuss issues related to the passage of the bill. The educational effort included presentations made by LAWA-Ghana's Co-Director Ms. Minkah-Premo to the Rotary Club and stakeholders. Meetings with the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill to move the legislation forward were also funded under the Anonymous Donor grant.

#### **Other-Funded Work**

Members of LAWA-Ghana worked in other capacities to support passage of the Domestic Violence Bill. Specifically, two LAWA-Ghana members served as resource persons at a training workshop on the bill which was organized by the Domestic Violence Coalition

and sponsored by ActionAid, and Sheila Minkah-Premo made a presentation on the bill to the Councilors Committee of the Christian Council of Ghana.

#### **4. Uganda**

##### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAW-U drafted principles for a bill on female-genital cutting/mutilation with funding from USAID. The work draws upon earlier work conducted by the Clinic and LAW-U. In addition, LAW-U is working in collaboration with others to obtain funding from the United Nations Population Fund to support continued development of legislation in this area. The UNFPA-Uganda agreed in principle to assist in evolving the legislation and getting it tabled (introduced) in Parliament.

LAW-U also renewed efforts to pass a Sexual Offenses Bill. Although the Uganda Law Reform Commission conducted the initial research on the bill some time ago, the bill has not been introduced in the last five years. To facilitate movement on the bill, LAW-U prepared a simplified draft of the bill to share with members of Parliament.

##### **Other-Funded Work**

LAW-U spearheaded the establishment of a Domestic Violence Coalition in December 2005. The goal of the Coalition is to get a specific law on domestic violence enacted in the next three years.

#### **B. Equal Rights for Traditional Female Leaders**

##### **Ghana**

##### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana held a legislative consultation on November 30, 2004, to discuss the constitutional rights of queenmothers (female traditional leaders). Seventeen participants attended including nine female traditional leaders. Additionally, eight members of the press were in attendance. LAWA-Ghana explained the legislative changes needed to give women equal treatment in the traditional government system and described a legislative proposal to rectify the discrimination. The proposal is the result of a joint LAWA-Ghana/Clinic project in the Spring 2003 semester which resulted in an advocacy report and draft legislation, as well as subsequent work by a Clinic summer intern in 2003.

## **C. Inheritance Discrimination**

### **1. Tanzania**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

On January 24-25, 2005, WLAC held a legislative consultation for thirty-three participants and four members of the media in the Makataba Kuu section of Dar es Salaam. WLAC described the ongoing campaigns for equal inheritance laws (as well as domestic violence prevention).

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

WLAC organized two public sessions to address the need to reform discriminatory inheritance laws: one in the Kisarawe district (held January 25-26, 2005) and one in Dar es Salaam (held January 26-27, 2005). Forty people attended the first session, and thirty-three members of the public attended the second event.

### **2. Nigeria**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

WRAPA organized a Public Education Session on November 3, 2004 in Kwari State, entitled "HIV/AIDS Focusing on Women's Inheritance Rights." The session highlighted problems that widows face after losing their husbands to HIV/AIDS, including being disinherited by relatives. The session described the need for husbands to write wills as one means for prevent hardship for widows. Over eighty people attended the event.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

A parliamentary roundtable focusing on the need for equality between men and women in inheritance rights and the special problem for women when their husbands die of HIV/AIDS was held by WRAPA on December 7, 2004, in Kogi State. Forty people, including members of the state House of Assembly, civil society, NGOs, police, and the judiciary attended the event. In addition, ten members of the media were there to report on the roundtable. The session facilitated a discussion between Parliamentarians and members of civil society on the passage of a bill to protect widows from disinheritance. This is especially a problem when a husband dies of HIV/AIDS, as the wife is often considered responsible for his death.

## **D. Human Trafficking**

### **1. Ghana**

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana engaged in numerous Parliamentary activities to raise awareness about the need to pass a bill prohibiting trafficking in persons, as proposed in a joint legislative project with the Clinic in the Fall 2001 semester. On June 17, 2005, Co-Director Sheila Minkah-Premo met with members of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gender and Children to explain the need for the Human Trafficking Bill. In addition, in response to a call by the Committee for interested parties to submit memoranda on the bill, Ms. Minkah-Premo prepared a memorandum for the Committee which was formally submitted on July 12, 2005. Finally, on July 14, 2005, LAWA-Ghana's Co-Director presented the memorandum on the Human Trafficking Bill at a public hearing organized by the Select Committee. Parliament enacted the Human Trafficking Bill into law on July 21, 2005.

### **2. Uganda**

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

Working in Coalition with other organizations, LAW-U developed an anti-human trafficking bill. The bill was based in part on research conducted by a Clinic intern. LAW-U also participated in a workshop to review laws from other countries aimed at stopping human trafficking. The workshop was organized by the Uganda Law Society and held on November 7-9, 2005. Anonymous Donor funding provided support for staff time to participate in the event. [Note: Because of its work in the area, LAW-U has become a partner with the American Bar Association to stop human trafficking in the East African Region.]

## **E. Increasing Women's Political Participation**

### **1. Nigeria**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

On November 3, 2004, WRAPA's Secretary General, Saudata Mahdi, participated in a legislative consultation on the Electoral Act of 2002. USAID provided support for her participation. The goal of the session was to discuss ways in which the Act could be made more gender sensitive, including the addition of provisions to the Act that would expand the number of reserved positions for women in the political parties. Participants also discussed the need to mobilize women on this topic and reduce the influence of money in electoral processes so that female candidates will have more opportunities to participate at all levels.

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

A parliamentary roundtable on Affirmative Action in Political Parties and Constituencies was held on December 16, 2004, in Nasarawa State. The forty participants consisted of members of the House of Assembly, civil society organizations, police, female political leaders and the judiciary. Discussions included gender diversity among the party executives and establishing a minimum of thirty percent women in elected positions.

### **2. Ghana**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

On October 25, 2005, LAWA-Ghana held a legislative consultation entitled "Ensuring Increased Participation of Women in Politics in Ghana," as proposed in a joint legislative project with the Clinic in the Fall 2001 semester. The workshop was held in Accra, and thirty-one persons participated.

## **F. Improving Women's Rights Through Treaties**

### **1. Nigeria**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

WRAPA participated in a Global Consultation on the Ratification and Use of the Optional Protocol to CEDAW. The event was organized by the International Women's Rights Action Watch – Asia Pacific and held on August 27-30, 2005. A paper presenting a strategy for Nigeria's ratification of the Optional Protocol was delivered by WRAPA Secretary General, Saudata Mahdi. The event was held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and USAID provided support for staff time to participate.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

On December 16, 2004, WRAPA held a legislative consultation, in Abuja, on the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights. The objective of the consultation was the ratification and domestication of the protocol in Nigeria. Forty people attended, including members of civil society groups and local legislators. A speaker from Global Rights International explained that gender inequality is still prevalent in Africa. The legal advisor to the Ministry of Women Affairs emphasized that the fundamental principles in the protocol are required to be included in national constitutions and legislation. The Protocol, which Nigeria has ratified, went into effect on November 25, 2005.

## **2. Ghana**

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

With funding from the Anonymous Donor, LAWA-Ghana attended meetings with the Women's Rights Coalition to discuss Ghana's ratification of the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights.

### **G. Human Rights Fact-Finding (polygamy, brideprice, age of marriage, male guardianship)**

#### **Tanzania**

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

During the spring 2005 semester, WLAC and the Clinic began legislation projects on (i) polygamy, (ii) bride price, (iii) age of marriage, and (iv) male guardianship of adult women. The projects included a one-week (March 7-11, 2005) fact-finding mission to investigate human rights violations and concerning discriminatory laws and practices in these areas. The Clinic students drafted human rights reports and proposed legislation on each of these issues with supervision from Clinic and Tanzanian attorneys.

These reports addressed the following:

- (i) Polygamy: Polygamy laws allowing men to marry as many women as they like (under customary law) and up to four wives (under Islamic law) discriminate against women, increase women's risk of HIV/AIDS infection, and adversely affect women's economic situation.
- (ii) Bride-price: Bride-price laws allow a man to "purchase" a wife from her father, essentially converting a woman to chattel in her husband's eyes.
- (iii) Age of marriage: Early marriage for women — as young as 9 years under Islamic law, puberty under customary law, and 14 years under the Marriage Act — inhibits their ability to complete their education and often results in health issues related to early childbearing, such as increased infant and maternal mortality. The minimum age of marriage for males is 18 years under the Marriage Act.
- (iv) Male guardianship of adult females: If a man leaves his family for an extended period, he can appoint a guardian for his wife, his children and the marital property. Moreover, if a man dies, another member of his family - not his wife - or a person appointed by the clan council becomes guardian of her and her children. These laws assume that a woman is unable to care for her family's well being and deny her maternal as well as property rights.

WLAC used these reports to advocate for replacing the discriminatory laws with laws giving women equal rights.

## **H. Equal Division of Property at Divorce**

### **Ghana**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

A parliamentary roundtable on "Enacting Legislation on the Division of Marital Property at Divorce" was held by LAWA-Ghana on October 28, 2005, in Accra. The goal was to highlight the continuing problems women face because the laws allow for the unequal distribution of property between men and women at divorce (the topic of an earlier Clinic project with LAWA-Ghana). Twenty-one Parliamentarians and secretaries from three committees (Subsidiary Legislation, Constitution and Legal, and Gender and Children) attended the event.

## **I. Domestic Relations Bill (brideprice, polygamy, adultery, marital rape)**

### **Uganda**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAW-U was part of a "strong and vigilant" Coalition whose goal was to pass the Domestic Relations Bill without weakening its provisions for women; the DRB was the subject of a joint legislative project with the Clinic in the Fall 2001 semester. Executive Director Dora Byamukama met with the President of Uganda to discuss the bill, especially his concerns regarding the impact of the legislation on customary practices. In addition, meetings were held with two religious groups which had questions or concerns about various clauses in the DRB such as marriage without the consent of parents, property sharing among spouses, and divorce.

#### **Other-Funded Work**

As part of LAW-U's activities to advance the Domestic Relations Bill, the organization was invited by the Gender Donor Group to present a paper on the status of the DRB in December 2005. At the time, the bill was scheduled for debate after its Second Reading. [As of May 12, 2006, the 7<sup>th</sup> Parliament ended, and the DRB was not debated. A government Minister asked for more time to hear from Muslims about their concerns (e.g., restrictions on polygamy). The bill will have to be re-introduced in the 8<sup>th</sup> Parliament.]

## **J. Ensuring Equal Rights in Marriage**

### **1. Ghana**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana organized a legislative consultation on "Ensuring the Protection of Women's Rights in Enacting Laws on Registration of Marriages" in Ghana. The program was held on September 6, 2005, in Accra, and twenty-five persons participated. The presentation focused on the legal regimes for marriage in the country (including polygamous marriages) and the impact of these laws on women's legal rights. Participants discussed various legislative proposals aimed at providing equality to women in marriage.

### **2. Nigeria**

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

WRAPA held two parliamentary roundtables on December 7, 2004, and December 8, 2004, in Sokoto and Zamfara States, respectively, on the codification of Islamic personal law to give women equal rights in marriage. The sessions grew out of a Clinic-WRAPA project in the Fall 2002 semester. Presentations were given by two WRAPA members. The Secretary General of WRAPA, Saudatu Mahdi explained that while Islam protects the rights of women, advancing women's rights was hindered by bad customs. Further, without codification of Islamic personal law, women would continue to suffer due to these customary practices. Barrister A.M. Yauri presented a paper entitled "*Islamic Family Law: The Imperatives of Codification, Context and Methodology*." The general consensus was that there is a need for the codification of Islamic personal law because it would harmonize the laws and prevent chaotic interpretations by the judiciary. Judges were seen as hampered in their work because the literature was primarily in classical Arabic.

## **III. Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation in a Gender-Equitable Way**

### **A. Uganda: Litigation on Discriminatory Laws Relating to Inheritance, Criminal Adultery, and Polygamy**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

In November and December, 2004, LAW-Uganda and the Clinic completed drafting three strategic litigation cases challenging laws that discriminate against women in (i) inheritance; (ii) criminal adultery prosecutions; and (iii) polygamous marriages. Subsequently, LAW-Uganda used funds for attorney time to review the draft petitions addressing inheritance and criminal adultery and prepare them for filing. LAW-U also used funds to conduct additional research to aid in the strategic litigation cases and continued to obtain affidavits from relevant parties to support the cases.

On September 14, 2005, LAW-U filed the criminal adultery case in Constitutional Court. After the grant completion date, LAW-Uganda also filed the intestate succession case (March 9, 2006). Both lawsuits are awaiting court dates. The lawsuit on polygamy has not been filed pending the outcome on the DRB which addresses the issue in part.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

Funds from Anonymous Donor supported attorney time during the development of the legal briefs with the Clinic on inheritance and criminal adultery. In addition, grant funds supported LAW-U affiliated attorneys as they reviewed, revised, and filed the lawsuits in these areas. Court dates will be scheduled soon.

### **B. Tanzania: Litigation on Discriminatory Inheritance Laws**

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

In November and December, 2004, the Clinic and WLAC completed a strategic test-case lawsuit challenging Tanzania's discriminatory inheritance laws. On September 16, 2005, WLAC filed the suit with the High Court of Tanzania (Constitutional Case No. 82 of 2005). The suit built upon knowledge gained from the 2002 intestate succession fact-finding mission and corresponding human rights report. Funds from the Anonymous Donor were used for attorney time to conduct legal research and prepare the petition for filing.

### **C. Nigeria: Litigation on Discriminatory Laws Relating to Inheritance, Marriage, Divorce, and Child Custody**

#### **Work Funded by Both USAID and the Anonymous Donor**

Both USAID and the Anonymous Donor provided funding for the WRAPA lawyers' time in preparing and working on the cases below.

In the Fall 2005 semester, a WRAPA-affiliated attorney and the Clinic prepared legal briefs in defense of Maryam Yau for the federal Court of Appeal, seeking to protect her right to marry the man she chose. Ms. Yau is an adult divorced woman who remarried and had a baby with her husband. She appealed from a ruling of the Katsina State Sharia Court of Appeal finding her post-divorce marriage invalid because her father had not consented to the marriage as required by Islamic law and ordering her to leave her husband and return to her father's home. The ruling violated her human rights to marry and found a family and to dignity and equality.

During the Fall 2005 semester, WRAPA attorneys and the Clinic also worked on strategic litigation relating to sex discriminatory customary inheritance laws on behalf of five minor girls orphaned by AIDS. When the girls' mother, Francisca Aguocha, was still alive she

filed a probate action under her husband's will, which left everything to her and their daughters. Her brother-in-law (her husband's oldest brother) then brought a suit to prevent probate and win the property, claiming that under customary law only men could inherit and that the will was invalid. He also seized control of all the property and provided nothing to support the widow and her daughters. Although WRAPA had taken the case to build precedent against the sex-discriminatory customary law barring women from inheriting, the wife died during the case and the lawyers were unable to proceed because the children were minors.

During the fall semester, the Clinic worked with the WRAPA attorney on two separate projects related to the Aguocha case. The first established WRAPA's right to be appointed guardian ad litem (guardian for the purposes of litigation) for the children. The Clinic worked with the attorney to prepare the court papers, and the attorney filed, argued, and won the High Court decision appointing WRAPA as their guardian in November. This enabled the attorney to continue the litigation. The second project consisted of a counter-petition and supporting brief asking the High Court to declare the customary law unenforceable as a violation of women's and girls' rights to equality, property, protection as children, and dignity. It also asked the court to award restitution of all properties stolen by the uncle and to require him to pay damages for the harms the girls suffered as a result. [Following the end of the grant period, the parties agreed to settle the case out of Court on the basis that the deceased man's will, which granted all property to his wife and daughter, was valid and should be enforced.]

In a third joint project, the Clinic and WRAPA attorneys prepared test-case appellate litigation papers on behalf of a woman, Enu Oduh Onuh, concerning issues of sex discriminatory customary law on custody and bias against persons with HIV/AIDS. The court below had granted Mr. Onuh a divorce on the sole ground that his wife was HIV positive, but had awarded custody and some maintenance to Ms. Onuh. Her husband appealed the custody award to a Customary Court of Appeal on the ground that customary law automatically awarded custody to the husband because of his sex. He also appealed that decision on the ground of her HIV status. She cross-appealed contesting the divorce judgment because it discriminated against her on the basis of her status, and for an increase in maintenance if she lost the divorce appeal. The Clinic and WRAPA attorneys prepared two briefs. One opposed the husband's custody appeal on the ground that human rights law prohibits both sex discrimination and status discrimination. The second brief supported Ms. Onuh's argument that the divorce illegally discriminated against her on the basis of her status. In the event she lost, that brief also argued that her maintenance should be increased in order to grant her equal rights with her husband at divorce.

In another case, *Hadiza Garba v. Ali Garba*, WRAPA pursued work on behalf of Ms. Garba, against a lower court decision that subjected her to discriminatory custody provisions. The lower court granted her custody of her two children, but required that she lose custody if she remarried and that the father must be informed before she took the children to a hospital. WRAPA is researching the issue of whether to file an appeal because the conditions deprive Ms. Garba of her rights to marry, equality with men, and dignity.

#### **IV. Strengthen Civil Society Organizations to Advocate Women's Legal Concerns**

##### **A. Ghana: Activities on Gender-Based Violence, Poverty, and Domestic Assistants**

###### **USAID-Funded Work**

USAID provided funding for LAWA-Ghana's staff to participate in civil society activities aimed at passage of the domestic violence bill. On December 10, 2004, Barbara Ayesu represented LAWA-Ghana at the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Legislation (the "Coalition") meeting to plan for activities to move the domestic violence bill forward. On June 23, 2005, Sheila Minkah-Premo participated in the meeting on behalf of LAWA-Ghana. The Coalition represents over one hundred individuals and civil society organizations.

###### **Other-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana staff participated in a number of civil society initiatives drawing attention to the problems women face. Co-Director Barbara Ayesu represented the organization at a workshop on "Law and Poverty Reduction – Gender Equity and Increased Production" organized by the Law Reform Commission. The workshop was held in Accra on September 8, 2005.

LAWA-Ghana staff member (Eric Adem) and a legal intern in the office (Leona Johnson) participated in a two-day conference beginning on July 27, 2005. The conference was organized by the Ark Foundation and focused on economic issues such as Ghana's poverty reduction strategy, sound investment and savings for women, gender budgeting and starting a business enterprise in Ghana.

Sheila Minkah-Premo assisted the African Women Lawyers Association by preparing a training manual on victim empowerment for the police, medical personnel, and social workers. Other LAWA-Ghana members participated in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.

Barbara Ayesu represented the organization at three training programs sponsored by the Rights and Voice Initiative (RAVI), a British government funded project. The training addressed a Rights-Based Approach which focuses on building the capacity of citizens to claim their rights and of the state to meet their obligations. With funding from RAVI, LAWA-Ghana will work on a project targeting the rights of Domestic Assistants, including regional trends in employment. This project grew out of earlier human rights and legislative work with the Clinic on the rights of domestic assistants in 2003.

With funding from RAVI, LAWA-Ghana also participated in a one-day sensitization workshop where draft regulations to protect the rights of domestic workers (prepared previously by the Clinic and LAWA-Ghana) were discussed extensively with stakeholders.

LAWA-Ghana also participated in a two-day capacity building workshop for domestic assistants and another meeting with key stakeholders.

## **B. Nigeria: Activities on Democracy-Building, Political Participation, Peace Building, Harmful Cultural Practices**

### **USAID-Funded Work**

From November 18-22, 2004, WRAPA's Secretary General participated in a consultative workshop for Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa at Dakar, Senegal, and the forum on the Participation of NGOs in the 36<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights organized by the African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies. These activities enhanced the knowledge and capacity of WRAPA staff, especially relating to expanding networking among women's rights groups in Nigeria.

The Secretary General of WRAPA, Saudatu Mahdi, represented WRAPA at three other civil society events and delivered remarks at each. USAID funding provided support for her time to give presentations at:

- (1) Moving Towards Gender Equality: Balancing Political Participation in Nigeria, a Strategy Workshop on Constitutional Reforms, Political Party Manifesto & Increasing Women's Representation and Participation (September 5-7, 2005, in Malaysia)
- (2) A One-Day Awareness Campaign with Media Executives and Correspondents on Harmful Traditional Practices and Other Forms of Violence Against Women (October 7, 2005, in Ogun State)
- (3) Annual Lessons Learnt Conference of West Africa Network for Peace Building Nigeria (October 10-12, 2005, in Abuja)

Elsewhere, WRAPA was represented by two staff on a project to strengthen Nigeria's democracy through credible elections, voter education, and voter mobilization. WRAPA's focus was voter education to increase women's political participation. As part of the three-year project supported by the National Democratic Institute, WRAPA participated in a consultative meeting on October 16-18, 2005: "Towards Effective Efforts to Ensure Full Participation in Free and Fair 2007 Elections." The program indicated that the consultative meeting was "made possible by a generous grant from USAID – From the American People."

### **Other-Funded Work**

WRAPA was involved in the formation and organization of a civil society group named Women[s] Organization for Representative National Conference (WORNACO). The creation of the organization grew out of the frustration that women were underrepresented in the federal government's Political Reform Conference, a conference developed for the purposes of holding a national dialogue on important political issues. WRAPA was involved in a mass mobilization, a march to the Minister of Women[s] Affairs Office, and the establishment of a

committee that would collect and harmonize the views of stakeholders and share them with government officials. The areas targeted by the group included: constitutional reform, political party reforms, electoral reforms, judicial/legal reforms, civil society reforms, consultation and consensus building, economic reforms, and social reforms.

On June 7-10, 2005, WORNACO held its own conference to mobilize action in response to the exclusion of women in the political reform discussions. The meeting was attended by over 60 NGOs and a diverse group of representatives from every state in Nigeria, including women leaders from the executive, legislature, and judiciary. The conference produced a Charter of Demands for Nigerian Women, a list for government bodies to urgently address in twelve thematic areas.

WRAPA attorney, Mariam Imhanobe, attended a regional strategy meeting on women's political participation and gender mainstreaming in the African Union. The meeting was widely attended by African Union member states that had ratified the Women's Rights Protocol.

### **C. Uganda: Activities on Domestic Relations Bill, Gender Violence, HIV-AIDS, Human Trafficking, and Political Participation**

LAW-Uganda members participated in several meetings, workshops, and conferences to strengthen civil society's commitment to women's right advocacy.

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

For these civil society events, USAID provided support for attorney time to participate. LAW-U worked with the DRB Coalition to prepare a new booklet summarizing the bill. At the invitation of the Center for Prevention of Domestic Violence, LAW-U Executive Director Dora Byamukama represented LAW-U at a workshop on the 16 Days of Activism and presented a paper entitled "The impact of domestic violence on the Ugandan community."

A member of LAW-U, Dora Mirembe, participated in two workshops during this period on behalf of LAW-U. One workshop was hosted by Uganda Women's Network (UWONET) and addressed the issue of retaining the Equal Opportunities Commission, a government organization required by the Constitution but not yet created, to protect marginalized groups such as women. She also attended a workshop hosted by the Women Lawyer's Association on the topic of the rights of people living with HIV/AIDS.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

Building upon the research conducted by a Clinic legal intern, LAW-U continued to conduct research to build the basis for a law addressing the problem of human trafficking. [Additional support was provided by the American Bar Association.]

### **Other-Funded Work**

LAW-U engaged in a number of other activities with other civil society organizations to ensure women's participation in the political system remained strong. First, LAW-U worked with other civil society groups to advocate for maintaining affirmative action for women in politics during the country's transition to a multi-party system. Second, LAW-U Executive Director Dora Byamukama participated in a workshop on women in the political system. The event was organized by the Uganda Law Society and held on November 5, 2005. She presented a paper on "Women's Rights in Politics." Finally, the Honorable Dora Byamukama was invited to share Uganda's experience involving women in multi-party politics with others in Kenya.

## **V. Increased Knowledge of and Receptivity to Women's Legal Rights**

### **A. Ghana: Education on Human Trafficking, Equality for Female Traditional Leaders, Labour Rights, and Land Rights**

#### **USAID-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana participated in a number of activities to raise awareness about women's issues. The organization held a public education session on Trafficking in Persons on November 9, 2004, in Kumasi. This session was organized in collaboration with another women's NGO, FIDA. Twenty-one people attended, including representatives from government, academia, and NGOs. The session outlined recommended amendments to the Ghanaian government's draft Human Trafficking Bill and requested input from the participants. Initial work in this area was based upon a LAWA-Ghana/Clinic project in the 2001 Fall semester and follow-up work by a Clinic intern. As mentioned previously, Ghana passed legislation addressing the problem of human trafficking on July 21, 2005.

Expanding their outreach, on December 13-14, 2005, LAWA-Ghana held a public education session on the topic of equal representation for female traditional leaders, a topic addressed in a Spring 2003 human rights and legislation project with the Clinic. This session was held at the request of the Tradition and Modernity in Ghana's History and Development Project of the Institute of African Studies at the University of Ghana. Thirty-one participants took part in the session which focused on the current roles of female traditional leaders and how to expand them to be equal to chiefs (male traditional leaders).

LAWA-Ghana also held a public education session entitled "Rights of Women under the Labour Act 2003 (Act 657)" on August 16, 2005 in Accra; the Labour Act gave women new protections and was influenced by LAWA-Ghana's test case litigation on nightwork filed in December 2001 and developed earlier with the Clinic. Twenty-seven people attended the event. The presentation focused on Ghana's Labour Act and women's new rights under the Act

and numerous international and regional human rights instruments. In particular, four areas were identified as having new protections for women in the workplace concerning limitation in the scope of women's work; pregnancy-related discrimination; sexual harassment in the workplace; and equal pay for equal work.

### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

Funding from the Anonymous Donor provided support for LAWA-Ghana's attorneys in the preparation of all three public education activities on trafficking in persons, equal representation for female traditional leaders, and women's rights under the Labour Act.

### **Other-Funded Work**

LAWA-Ghana Co-Director Sheila Minkah-Premo made a presentation at the National House of Chiefs in Kumasi as part of the national Land Administration project. She highlighted the problems women face because they cannot use or own land except through their husbands or male relatives. As a result, women are evicted from the marital property and pushed into poverty when a marriage ends or at divorce. Ms. Minkah-Premo described the need for Chiefs to consider the rights of women and other vulnerable persons when making decisions about the allocation of land.

In addition, Sheila Minkah-Premo was joined by Barbara Ayesu in representing LAWA-Ghana at a welcome reception for female Parliamentarians and other leaders in Parliament. The reception was organized by Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF) and was well attended by advocates of women's rights, as well as representatives from government and other NGO's.

In an effort to support young women's development, LAWA-Ghana members Sheila Minkah-Premo, Barbara Ayesu, and Hilary Gbedemah attended a reception for the Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference held by the Ark Foundation on July 26, 2005.

## **B. Nigeria: Education on Discriminatory Inheritance, Harmful Cultural Practices, Rape, Gender Violence, Women's Rights under Shari'a, Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter, and Affirmative Action in Political Parties**

### **USAID-Funded Work**

To increase awareness of women's issues, WRAPA held a public education session on November 3, 2004, in Ilorin, Kwara State to inform the public of the problems faced by widows. Over eighty participants attended the session including five members of the media. The session highlighted that fact that when a man dies of HIV/AIDS, the widow is disinherited under the laws as having caused the death of their husband.

The Secretary General of WRAPA, Saudatu Mahdi, was invited to present a review of the book "Promoting Women's Rights through Shari'a in Northern Nigeria on November 22,

2005. A joint project with the Clinic in the Fall 2002 semester had produced a proposed code to promote equal rights in Muslim family law. With funding from the UK Department of International Development a group of scholars at the Centre for Islamic Legal Studies engaged with women's groups such as WRAPA to promote women's rights through Shari'a in northern Nigeria, an area that saw twelve states expand Shari'a law since 2001. USAID provided support for her time to attend.

To expand its research and advocacy activities, WRAPA secured a three-year grant from the MacArthur Foundation for a project on "Islamic Family Law and Practices in North Western Nigeria: Documentation and Intervention Strategies." The project will document actual practices that affect women's rights and will examine disparities between Islamic jurisprudence and practices. Receipt of the grant award suggests that USAID funds and the project with the Clinic have assisted in building the capacity of WRAPA concerning Islamic family law and in sustaining the movement on women's rights issues.

WRAPA is seeking funding from the Sigrid Foundation/Fahamu to support a project that would generate visibility for the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. WRAPA seeks to raise awareness among the public, civil society groups, government leaders, and the media about the need to enact legislation to domesticate international law as stated in the Nigerian Constitution.

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

In order to facilitate dialogue, WRAPA held a parliamentary roundtable on Affirmative Action in Political Parties and Constituencies on December 16, 2004. The dialogue was held in Nassarawa State in the capitol of Lafia, and forty people participated. Participants were drawn from the state assembly, civil society, police, and judiciary. The program was aimed at enhancing democracy in Nigeria through the meaningful participation of women in politics. Participants were asked to consider gender diversity as a factor in the composition of party executives at all levels. Speakers also addressed the need for legal reform and sociocultural change to facilitate progress in this area.

WRAPA's development of a parliamentary roundtable on Violence Against Women from a Constituency Perspective and the Role for Women Parliamentarians was also supported with funds from Anonymous Donor. As noted above, the goal was to raise awareness among female Parliamentarians regarding the importance of communicating with their female constituents about issues of violence.

### **C. Tanzania: Education on Discriminatory Inheritance and Domestic Violence**

#### **Anonymous Donor-Funded Work**

WLAC facilitated two public education sessions that addressed the topics of domestic violence and inheritance. Together the sessions educated over 70 members of the public from the Kisarawe and Dar es Salaam regions. In an effort to increase the reach of their message,

WLAC also held a training session on these issues for 23 media representatives. All sessions were conducted in late January 2005.

In order to more effectively advocate for legislative change, WLAC conducted extensive research on the division of marital property at divorce. Seven hundred people were questioned about their knowledge of the law and experiences with this issue. Data on the division of matrimonial property will be used to educate members of Parliament regarding the need for a provision in the Marriage Act that will regulate the division of property at divorce.

#### **D. Uganda: Education on the Domestic Relations Bill, Beijing +10 and Female Genital Mutilation**

During this reporting period, LAW-U was invited on several occasions to share information on the successful Constitutional Court case on divorce developed with the Clinic in the Fall 2001 semester (see Consolidated Quarterly Report for November 1, 2003 - October 31, 2004). Both USAID and Anonymous Donor funds (prior reporting periods) were used to conduct research, develop the legal briefs, and argue this historic case.

##### **USAID-Funded Work**

To bring attention to women's rights issues, the Honorable Dora Byamukama, LAW-U Executive Director, participated in a bi-monthly radio talk show. On March 17, 2005, she specifically addressed controversial clauses in the Domestic Relations Bill ("DRB"). This program tried to clarify some of the misperceptions the public had about certain provisions of the DRB. A follow-up media conference on the DRB was held on March 18, 2005. Ms. Byamukama, representatives from FIDA-Uganda, UWONET (Uganda Women's Network), and Akina Mama wa Afrika - Uganda ("AMwA - U") were in attendance.

LAW-U lawyers engaged in other targeted educational efforts. Specifically, Dora Byamukama met with Ministry of Health officials to discuss the increased maternal mortality rates and policies that may be impacting it. On December 5, 2005, LAW-Uganda member Zamu Kaboneke met with the Commissioner for Gender, Labour and Social Development to discuss Uganda's compliance, and failure to achieve compliance, with the Beijing +10 Platform of Action.

Finally, on March 11, 2005, LAW-Uganda Executive Director and Member of Parliament, Dora Byamukama, met with the Deputy Speaker of Parliament regarding the issue of female genital cutting/mutilation. Using information developed in the Spring 2004 human rights project on this subject, she explained the grave consequences that can occur from this practice.

## **VI. The Clinic's Accomplishments: Litigation, Legislation and Human Rights Reports that Advance Women's Human Rights; Planning and Administration; the Leland Initiative**

### **A. Advancing Women's Rights: Clinic Work**

For the work described below, the Anonymous Donor provided support for the human rights fact-finding mission to Tanzania which led to the development of two human rights reports and draft legislation (see below). In addition, two Anonymous Donor grants provided salary and benefits for the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst for approximately two months in summer 2005 and again from September 19 through December 31, 2005. No USAID funds were used for Clinic expenses during the reporting period. The Georgetown University Law Center funded all other Clinic expenses, including the salary and benefits for the Director, Attorney Fellow, and part-time office administrator.

The Clinic completed work on seven test case litigation projects and finished human rights reports and bills on four key topics. A fuller description of the projects can be found in Parts II and III which describes the joint work of the Clinic and NGOs on litigation, legislation, and human rights reports. The projects covered the following subjects:

- Gender discriminatory inheritance laws (test case litigation in Uganda developed in Fall 2004 and currently before the Constitutional Court)
- Female-only adultery crime (test case litigation in Uganda developed in Fall 2004 and currently before the Constitutional Court)
- Polygamy (test case litigation in Uganda developed in Fall 2004)
- Gender discriminatory inheritance laws (test case litigation in Tanzania developed in Fall 2004 and currently before the Court)
- Freedom of adult woman to marry person of her choice (test case litigation in Nigeria completed in Fall 2005)
- Discriminatory customary inheritance laws based on the daughters' gender (test case litigation in Nigeria completed in Fall 2005 and currently being settled out of Court)
- Sex discriminatory customary law on child custody and bias against persons with HIV/AIDS (test case litigation in Nigeria completed in Fall 2005)
- Polygamy and brideprice (legislation and human rights reports for Tanzania completed in Spring 2005)
- Minimum age of marriage and male guardianship of adult women (legislation and human rights report for Tanzania completed in Spring 2005)

### **B. Planning**

During the period under review, the Clinic organized a human rights fact-finding mission to Tanzania. One hundred eight interviews were planned and conducted with a broad cross-section of the public (including government officials, members of the judiciary, NGOs and women who wished to speak about the impact of discriminatory laws on their lives). As a

result, the Clinic-WLAC partnership produced human rights fact-finding/advocacy reports on: (1) polygamy, (2) brideprice, (3) minimum age of marriage, and (4) guardianship. Draft legislative bills and legislative memorandum were also prepared to accompany these reports.

The Clinic also worked with partner NGOs in Uganda, Tanzania, and Nigeria to plan strategy and prepare legal briefs on seven test-case litigation projects (described above). Although a number of these cases are before the courts now and one is currently being settled, the Clinic Director and Senior Legal Research Analyst continue to be available to discuss strategy on the cases as the need arises.

### **C. Administration**

The Clinic Director oversaw all program components including: the fact-finding trip to Tanzania in Spring 2005; the development of legislation and advocacy reports on four topics for Tanzania; and the preparation of legal briefs on seven cases in Uganda, Tanzania, and Nigeria. The Director and Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst also provided feedback to the NGOs regarding the litigation or legislative strategies as needed.

The Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst continued to work with NGOs on financial and programmatic reporting responsibilities, including administering a system for quarterly reports, time sheets, and invoices. In addition, the Analyst handled administrative activities related to rolling over and reallocating funds in two Anonymous Donor awards. The Analyst also addressed questions related to human rights law, practice, and law reform projects in these and other countries as relevant to the particular projects of the NGOs.

The Clinic and Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst worked together to secure approval for a one-year \$100,000 grant from Anonymous Donor to support the NGOs' activities and the fact-finding mission to Tanzania. As a result of the new grant award, new contracts, budgets, and work plans were developed for each NGO. In addition, the Director and Analyst developed a new proposal and secured funding to cover the salary and benefits of the Grants Administrator/Senior Legal Research Analyst position.

One of the project priorities was to focus on institution-building necessary for the long-term managerial and financial sustainability of the NGOS. NGO action showed effective working methods, efficient resource management, professionalism, and implementation of human rights programming. The project continued to build the monitoring, analysis, and reporting skills of the organizations' personnel; institutionalization of financial management capacities; and knowledge of human rights law and procedures.

### **D. Leland Initiative**

With continued support from USAID, all of the African NGOs continued to maintain high speed internet connections throughout the USAID grant period. Access to high speed

internet improved communication among NGOs and between the NGOs and the Clinic. The biggest hurdle remains the cost of the service.

## **VII. How Our Work Helps Support USAID's Regional and Country Mission Strategic Objectives**

In this Part, we discuss the partners' contributions to supporting the regional USAID objectives (human rights, democracy and broad-based sustainable economic development) and each country's USAID mission objectives (see Part VI.A-D below).

Across the board, the activities of the NGOs advance human rights and help to build sustainable democracies. Working in collaboration with other civil society organizations, these NGOs use national, comparative, regional, and international law guaranteeing women's equality with men to make the case for legal reform. The activities target legislative, judicial, and executive branch officials, as well as the media and the general public.

A central concern is economic development, and the NGOs activities aimed at helping women achieve greater access to economic resources helps to build families and stable societies. Sustainable economic development is only possible when women participate fully in the development of their national economies.

Below we show how each NGO's projects, in addition to the above, advance the USAID Country Goals and Objectives.

### **A. Ghana**

**Country Objectives: Democracy; Human Rights; Work with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Children, Ministry for Women's Affairs, and Women's Caucus; Family Health; Private Sector Growth to Alleviate Poverty; Primary Education; Civil Society; Objective that Public Policy Better Reflect Civic Input – And (Specifically for this Project) Send Mission Copies of Draft Bills; and Insure Participation of Other NGOs, including FIDA and Ark Foundation**

*a. Democracy; Human Rights; Work with Parliamentary Standing Committee on Gender and Children*

LAWA-Ghana engaged in numerous activities to promote human rights and democracy in the country. The organization held a public education session to highlight the problem of human trafficking and the need to pass legislation on the topic. LAWA-Ghana prepared a memorandum on the draft human trafficking bill and presented it at a public hearing of the Parliamentary Select Committee on Gender and Children. Both efforts promote human rights and demonstrate the role that NGOs can play in building stable democracies. In addition, LAWA-Ghana's legislative consultation, "Ensuring Increased Participation of Women in

Politics in Ghana" held October 25, 2005 and public education session on equal representation for women in traditional government held December 13-14, 2005 directly addressed the issues of democracy and human rights.

LAWA-Ghana also sought to raise awareness about human rights issues for women through a public education session on the "Rights of Women under the Labour Act" and a legislative consultation concerning the rights of women in marriage. Organizational leaders also spoke to traditional leaders regarding the inherent rights of women and made an appeal to include these concerns in the national Land Administration project.

*b. Work with Ministry for Women's Affairs and Women's Caucus; Family Health*

Another central theme in LAWA-Ghana's work over the last year dealt with the problem of domestic violence. Through its work with the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill, presentations to civic groups, work as resource persons in training programs, and a meeting with the Minister for Women and Children's Affairs, LAWA-Ghana promoted the efforts of civil society to effect change and, in turn, improve the health of women and children in families. The organization's participation in the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence also advanced these goals.

*c. Private Sector Growth to Alleviate Poverty; Primary Education*

Improving the lives of women also means developing ways to bring them out of poverty. LAWA-Ghana organized a parliamentary roundtable on October 28, 2005, which addressed the division of marital property at divorce, a time when women and their children are often left with little means to support themselves. Promoting economic well-being for women was also the theme of a workshop in which LAWA-Ghana's staff participated on September 8, 2005, as well as a two-day conference sponsored by the Ark Foundation on July 27-28, 2005.

LAWA-Ghana's advocacy work to pass a comprehensive domestic violence law, secure change in the distribution of marital property at divorce, and increase awareness about the rights of women under the Labour Act promote the welfare of women, including mothers of young children. With the proper social and economic support, mothers can provide a safe environment for their children and the needed resources to keep them in school. In addition, Ghana's passage of the anti-human trafficking bill in 2006 will enable a more stable environment for families, allowing children to stay in school and complete their primary education.

*d. Civil Society; Objective that Public Policy Better Reflect Civic Input; Insure Participation of Other NGOs, including FIDA and Ark Foundation*

Throughout the period, LAWA-Ghana collaborated with a number of NGO's, including FIDA, the Women's Rights Coalition, and the National Coalition on the Domestic Violence Bill. These organizations advocated for passage of the Domestic Violence Bill and human trafficking bill, and strategized about ratification of the Women's Rights Protocol of the

African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Further, with an eye toward building leaders for tomorrow, LAWA-Ghana participated in a reception organized by the Ark Foundation for the Annual Young Women's Leadership Conference.

*e. Send Mission Copies of Draft Bills*

Along with this report, the Clinic is sending the local mission copies of the draft bills and regulations concerning trafficking, political participation, the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs, domestic assistants, and domestic violence.

## **B. Nigeria**

**Country Objectives: Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation in a Gender Equitable Way (Judicial Reform Program); Increase Women's Access to Justice (Civil Society Program) – And (Specifically for this Project) Include Nigerian Judges in Training Efforts Concerning Human Rights and Women's Rights; Work with USAID Partners to Help Build a More Responsive Judiciary to Women's Rights; Maternal and Child Health; Decrease HIV Transmission; Education Reform; Sustain Transition To Democratic Civilian Government**

*a. Enhance Judicial Sector Capacity to Interpret and Enforce Legislation in a Gender Equitable Way (Judicial Reform Program)*

WRAPA, alone and in cooperation with the Clinic, initiated several strategic test litigation cases in order to set precedent in the judicial sector for interpreting laws in a gender equitable manner. Specifically, WRAPA was engaged in litigation addressing discriminatory laws on divorce and child custody, inheritance, and freedom to marry to name a few. Taking these cases also increases women's access to justice and aids in building a judiciary that will consider and respond to complaints regarding women's rights.

*b. Increase Women's Access to Justice (Civil Society Program) – And (Specifically for this Project) Include Nigerian Judges in Training Efforts Concerning Human Rights and Women's Rights; Work with USAID Partners to Help Build a More Responsive Judiciary*

WRAPA engaged in other efforts to increase access to justice for women. The organization held two parliamentary roundtables in December 2004 -- one in Sokoto State and one in Zamfara State -- aimed at codifying Islamic personal laws that grant women equal rights to men. In efforts to increase awareness among the judiciary, WRAPA included judges in a Parliamentary roundtable describing the discriminatory laws allowing for unequal inheritance between widows and widowers and the special problem created when a husband dies of HIV/AIDS. The session was held in Kogi State on December 7, 2004.

The ratification and domestication of the Women's Rights Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights was also part of WRAPA's agenda to increase access to justice for women. To advance these goals, WRAPA organized a legislative consultation on the topic in Abuja on December 16, 2004. Global Rights International, a USAID partner, participated in the event, addressing the problem and prevalence of gender inequality in Africa.

*c. Maternal and Child Health; Decrease HIV Transmission*

The organization was also active in educating the public and members of Parliament about the bill on violence against women. Such legislation can lead to reductions in violence and injuries and help increase maternal and child health. They can also help decrease HIV transmission acquired through forced sex. WRAPA held a legislative consultation in Ibadan Oyo on November 18, 2005, and a parliamentary roundtable in Abuja on May 19, 2005 to address this topic. In addition, WRAPA met with the House Committee on Women Affairs and Youth Development to advocate passage of the violence against women bill. To increase communication among Parliamentarians and their constituencies on this issue, WRAPA held another parliamentary roundtable in Abuja on October 13, 2005. Throughout the reporting period, WRAPA served as secretariat to the Legislative Advocacy Coalition on Violence Against Women and worked with this group to advance domestic violence legislation. Together these efforts raise awareness, improve the linkage between members of the public and government representatives, and advance women's rights.

WRAPA also developed programs to demonstrate how discriminatory laws perpetuate practices that affect the health of women and girls. Specifically, they held a legislative consultation on harmful widowhood practices (December 16, 2004 in Benue State); a parliamentary roundtable on the increased prevalence of rape in conflict situations (December 10, 2004, in Jos Plateau); and two legislative consultations on the legal and social implications of the increase in rapes (August 18, 2005 and September 15, 2005). In other sessions, WRAPA described how discriminatory inheritance laws disadvantage women (a public education session in Kwara State on November 3, 2005, and a parliamentary roundtable in Kogi State on December 7, 2005). WRAPA's programs on FGM, rape, and domestic violence promote awareness regarding the problem of gender inequality in Nigeria. As laws and practices change, women will have more social and economic power and be in a position to protect themselves and their children from harmful or illegal practices that contribute to HIV.

*d. Education Reform*

WRAPA's efforts to raise awareness about the problems of domestic violence, rape, and unequal inheritance, and promote changes in the law that disadvantage women and girls will help to improve their welfare both socially and economically. With the needed resources and a safe environment, mothers will be able to keep their children in primary school.

*e. Sustain Transition To Democratic Civilian Government*

WRAPA staff were centrally involved in creating mechanisms to enhance and sustain the transition to a representative, democratic government through projects designed to involve

women as key stakeholders in the political process. Because women were underrepresented in the federal government's political reform discussions, WRAPA and other NGOs created the Women Organization for Representative National Conference. This organization continues to mobilize groups to advocate for women's issues within the national political discussion. WRAPA's parliamentary roundtable in Nassarawa State on December 16, 2004, was also aimed at getting women involved in the political process in Nigeria. Likewise, WRAPA's involvement with 36 other NGO's to ensure free and fair elections in 2007 through voter education and mobilization will build the capacity of NGOs to sustain the transition to a democratic civilian government. This topic is also a key issue for Global Rights, one of USAID's partners.

### **C. Tanzania**

**Country Objectives: More Effective Civil Society and Government; Stronger Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law; Human Rights; Maternal Health; Decrease HIV Transmission; Create Employment and Generate Economic Growth; Key Intermediate Results That Civil Society Organizations Effectively Present Women's Rights Issues to Government – And (Specifically for this Project) Send Copies of Quarterly Reports to Mission; Seek Mission Advice on New Opportunities, Directions, and Possible Future Mission Financial Support**

*a. Effective Civil Society and Government; Stronger Democratic Institutions; Rule of Law; Human Rights*

WLAC's comprehensive, multi-pronged work to reform Tanzania's discriminatory inheritance laws will contribute to almost all the country objectives. Through public education session sessions and a legislative consultation, WLAC is helping to build a more effective civil society, and in turn, stronger democratic institutions. Through strategic test case litigation challenging discriminatory inheritance laws, WLAC is helping to promote human rights for women and establish the rule of law.

*b. Maternal Health; Decrease HIV Transmission*

The human rights fact-finding mission in Spring 2005 examined closely the issues of polygamy, brideprice, age of marriage, and male guardianship of adult women. The results of the investigation will be used by WLAC to raise awareness about the problem of social and economic inequality for women in polygamous marriages as compared to their husband. One problem, in particular, is the inability of women in polygamous marriages to protect themselves if a new wife brings HIV/AIDS into the family. The advocacy report also highlights the problem of fathers' arranging for the marriage of young daughters to much older men. Because their young bodies are underdeveloped, having sex and bearing children at younger ages has a detrimental impact on their health. Further, WLAC's work on domestic violence and marriage law reform will help improve maternal health by preventing practices

that may inflict injuries, cause permanent disabilities, increase HIV/AIDS, and even result in death.

*c. Generate Economic Growth; Key Intermediate Results That Civil Society Organizations Effectively Present Women's Rights Issues to Government*

WLAC's work on inheritance reform clearly advances the country objectives. Pursuing reform, through legislation and litigation, will give women more economic resources and contribute to a more productive society. These resources will also be used to provide for the health and education of their children which will also contribute to the growth of a more stable society for generations. Advancing women's human rights in the legislative and judicial sectors will help build a stronger democracy by giving women more opportunities to participate in Tanzania's economy.

*d. Seek Mission Advice; Provide Reports*

While in Tanzania for the fact-finding work in March 2005, the Director met with Ms. Magdalena Hiza, Project Management Specialist for the Tanzania Mission to discuss the WLAC/Clinic work and seek advice on new opportunities and directions, as well as possible financial support. During that meeting, the Clinic Director provided copies of the Clinic's prior USAID reports. At Ms. Hiza's suggestion, the Director then met with Ms. Donna Bugby-Smith, Country Director for the State University of New York's Technical Assistance for the Strengthening of Tanzania's Union National Assembly (Parliament) Program. Ms. Bugby-Smith expressed interest in helping WLAC conduct parliamentary roundtables on equal inheritance rights for women through provision of the necessary meeting places, printing supplies and the like, sometime in 2006 after the new Parliament was installed.

During their meeting, the Director and Ms. Hiza also discussed the possibility of the Mission funding a portion of WLAC's work. On April 1, 2005, WLAC and the Clinic submitted a proposal to Mr. Thomas Bayer, the Democracy and Governance Team Leader, but it was not possible at that time. In August 2005, the Clinic sent the Mission copies of the third year consolidated USAID report.

## **D. Uganda**

**Country Objectives: Expand Civic Pluralism; Increased Use of Constitutional Checks and Balances; Increase Rural Household Income; Maternal Health (Increase Service Utilization; Change Behaviors); Increased Percentage of Children Who Receive Quality Basic Education; And (Specifically for this Project) Enhance Both Civil Society's and Parliament's Understanding of Women's Human Rights and also Their Capacity to Influence National Policy and Budget Policies in Coordination with Uganda USAID; Create New Clinical Education Component for Makerere University**

*a. Expand Civic Pluralism; Increased Use of Constitutional Checks and Balance; Increase Rural Household Income*

LAW-U has worked in coalition with numerous civil society organizations to achieve the country-specific objectives noted above. Specifically, LAW-U has taken the lead to organize a coalition to seek passage of a strong Domestic Relations Bill to improve the rights and status of women. In addition, LAW-U worked in coalition to advance legislation prohibiting trafficking, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and sexual offenses (the first two growing out of Clinic or Clinic intern projects).

To reinforce the legislative initiatives, LAW-U worked with the Clinic to draft test-case litigation to challenge discriminatory inheritance, adultery, and polygamy laws. To date, LAW-U has filed the lawsuits relating to the inheritance and adultery laws, and is awaiting final action on the DRB before determining whether the test case litigation on polygamy should go forward. LAW-U will use the legislative process as a first step to enact legal reform on polygamy, while seeking redress from the courts if Parliament fails to act. The court cases provide a means for Constitutional checks and balances. In addition, the test case litigation on inheritance and legislative or litigation efforts relating to polygamy will improve economic resources for women, especially those in rural areas.

*b. Maternal Health; Increased Percentage of Children Receive Quality Basic Education*

LAW-U has worked on legislation to prohibit trafficking, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and sexual offenses. Each of these practices has a detrimental impact on women and girls. This legislation to advance the rights of girls has the potential to dramatically improve their health status. Ensuring a safe environment for women and girls means that more girl children will be able to stay in school, increasing the percentage of children receiving a quality basic education.

*c. Enhance Both Civil Society's and Parliament's Understanding of Women's Human Rights and also Their Capacity to Influence National Policy and Budget Policies in Coordination with Uganda USAID*

LAW-U promoted the message of women's equality under the law through participation in a bi-monthly radio talk show, a media conference, and educational sessions on the successful Constitutional Court case on divorce. By raising public awareness through these venues, LAW-U both increases understanding around women's rights issues and demonstrates how civil society organizations can work to influence policy to improve the lives of women.

Finally, members of LAW-U participated in several workshops organized and attended by various civil society organizations, Parliamentarians, and other governmental officials. Covering a broad range of women's rights issues and attracting participation from both civil society and government, these workshops clearly strengthen civil society's understanding of women's human rights and their capacity to influence national policy.