



African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET)

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REGIONAL WAR VICTIMS' CONFERENCE ON TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

The Government of Uganda has developed a national transitional justice policy, with a plan to instate the policy as an overarching framework designed to address justice, accountability and reconciliation needs of post conflict Uganda. The policy is intended to provide the holistic intervention mechanisms to achieve lasting peace and justice in Uganda. The framework provides an important opportunity for implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. To that extent, it serves justice, accountability, reparations and reconciliation in Uganda.

However, the success of Transitional Policy remains subject to the public understanding and ownership, as well as their willingness to participate in the processes.

AYINET therefore would like to announce the first of the regional consultative victims' conferences to be held the four the regional divisional divisions in the country, i.e. (North, East, West and South). The objective of these regional conferences is to promote community and victims' engagement and debate on the TJ policy on the one hand, and allow interaction between victims and policy and decision makers on the other. This will be followed by the national war victims' conference to be held in Kampala in May 2014. This conference will provide a platform for dialogue to ensure that transitional justice processes reflect the interests of the victims; and should be conducted in a manner that takes into account; victims' needs, promotes their sense of dignity and supports their rehabilitation.

We reckon that our country should be free violations and serious crimes perpetration. However, in situations where these occur and bearing in mind the inhuman and degrading treatment, abductions and kidnappings, torture, use of children in hostilities, sexual violence including rape and forced marriages, etc that many victims have been subjected to during most armed conflicts. It is high time that the victims of war and many of the above crimes take lead and ownership of the transitional justice processes.

AYINET is thus privileged to take initiative and leadership in this area and has invited the **Honourable Ministers of Internal Affairs and Justice and Constitutional Affairs of the Government of Uganda** to grace the occasion as a commitment from government to recognise the victimised communities and provide support to the policy and mechanisms for legal redress. AYINET is working together with both local and international bodies to organise this victims TJ conference and is honoured to invite the public to attend and participate at the conference.

For over 7 years, African Youth Initiative Network (AYINET) has been making a difference in the lives of victims of armed conflict in greater northern Uganda, providing them health and psychosocial rehabilitation; as well as providing different platforms for victims and conflict affected communities to realise their human rights. We are a Ugandan national NGO with a vision of communities with credible leadership that represents the culture of human rights. Our mission is to mobilise youth and communities in promoting healthy, peaceful and just society.

This Greater North War Victims' Conference is slated for 28th to 29th November 2013, in Lira Hotel

This event is made possible with funding from



And the Technical Support from

