

WOMEN AND AC(W)

Main Consensus Points from Discussion

2. Consensus was reached that women in Liberia, including those in urban areas, do not access information at the same rate as men and that this is a critical problem which must be addressed particularly if women are to receive information that could lead to greater economic empowerment.
3. There was agreement that the obstacles identified in the "Women and Access to Information in

4. Establish a civil society managed hotline for women to call with questions about accessing information, assuring that the operators of the hotline have received appropriate gender sensitization training.
5. Consider creating a "ATI Defenders" network or seek to include the right of access to information in existing human right defenders networks, in order to provide support and protection for any women threatened for seeking information or fearful to make requests. Additionally, thought should be given to developing legal aid mechanisms for women who are denied information.

Stakeholders jointly should:

1. Embark on a large awareness raising campaign on women's right of access to information. The campaign might include:
 - a. Use of national and local influential voices, such as respected political, social activists, sports and entertainment figures, traditional leaders, etc., to encourage women to access public information and to seek men's support
 - b. Community radio to increase the reach of the awareness campaign
 - c. Development of jingles, slogans, and dramatizations for radio and community meetings
 - d. Messages that reinforce why giving information to women is good for both men and women
 - e. Use of local languages
2. Establish a Stakeholder Committee, including key Government ministries and agencies and civil society organizations, to encourage shared commitments, reflect on continuing challenges facing women, and develop joint activities to promote women's right of access to information.
3. Develop monitoring systems to determine whether efforts to increase women's access to information are bearing fruit and to gauge the intensity and ongoing affect of the identified challenges facing women.

The participants of the meeting on women and access to information in Liberia committed themselves to promoting equitable access of information for all Liberians. The proposed recommendations serve as a potential plan of action to further assure a meaningful right to information for the women of Liberia.

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