

**THE GBARNGA DECLARATION**  
**June 18, 2005**

**Whereas** we, the Members of the Coalition of Political Parties Women in Liberia (COPPWIL) and Representatives of the Participating Institutions;

**Recognizing** the need for continuous engagements and dialogues between and among women and women leaders;

**Aware** also the absence of results-oriented and qualitative leadership in Liberia as being the major contributing factor to the long period of political instability, abuse and violation of fundamental human rights including women's political rights:

**Cognizant** also of the growing waves of opportunism, deceptions, lies and hypocrisy in our Society;

**Mindful** still of the potential danger in the glaring lack of self-awareness and self-realization among women;

**Convinced** further that envy, wrongful assumptions, hypocrisy and misperceptions breed disunity and thus undermine the pursuit of the goal of equal political participation;

**Satisfied** however that three full days of deliberations in Gbarnga has further reinforced women's resolve and determination to pursue the goal of political equality more vigorously;

**Now**, therefore, we, the fifty Participants at the Three-Day Workshop on Gender Awareness and Equality;

... / ...

*Do* hereby resolve as follows:

1. That heretofore women's perspective of leadership deemphasize personal greed and henceforth focus on the pursuit and provision of qualitative leadership at all times;
2. That women seek to fill the existing leadership gaps in Liberia by promoting and pursuing result-oriented leadership at the national, county, district and local levels;
3. That women and women leaders encourage, promote, facilitate, pursue and epitomize truth, honesty, transparency and justice at all times and under all circumstances;
4. That women seek, at all times, to foster peace, unity, support and uphold fellow women holding leadership positions, since the failure of one woman in leadership is likely impact negatively on the struggle for political equality;
5. That henceforth frank and sincere efforts be made to increase awareness and sensitization among women to close existing knowledge gaps and to reinforce and restore women's self-confidence;
6. Promote the aforesaid sensitization and awareness through Information, Education and Communications (IEC) and via messages in print, electronic, billboards, flyers, placards, handbills, T-shirts, etc.;
7. That a Reconciliation Forum for Women Leaders be held as a strategy to help erase and allay suspicions, apprehensions and also help to dispel wrong perceptions among women;
8. That also henceforth, as an effective mobilization strategy, women Legislators and Political Leaders employ the skills of advocacy and speaking out on issues and always seek to expose acts that inhibit women's political participation;

9. That the present generation of women politicians, advocates and leaders seek to arouse the interests of other women by making politics attractive through positive attitudes;
10. That to enhance the pursuit of the goals of political equality and societal transformation women's capacity be strengthened in lobbying;
11. That women and women leaders encourage, promote and pursue understanding, tolerance and mutual respect at all times;
12. That women seek, promote and uphold integrity, which is crucial for winning public trust and confidence, remaining resolute and consistent in the pursuit of truth, justice and transparency in their endeavors;
13. That women pursue the goal of political participation by canvassing for and seeking to occupy public positions including elective offices and assuming leadership roles in political parties; and
14. That we, the Women in Politics, henceforth undertake a periodic review, assessment, monitoring and evaluation of ongoing programs, actions, projects and activities with a view to seeking an in-depth understanding into the issues and problems affecting women's empowerment and increased participation the political decision-making process.

**Done this eighteenth day of June, 2005 in the city of Gbarnga in Bong County,  
Central Liberia, by fifty participants at a three-day conference on**

***“Gender awareness and equality”***

**sponsored by the Project**

***“Support to the National Assembly in Liberia”*,**

**implemented by the Konrad Adenauer Foundation**

**and funded by the European Union (EU).**