



KONRAD ADENAUER FOUNDATION (KAF)

EU-Project



Support to the Legislative Assembly in Liberia

funded through
9th European Development Fund (EDF)
- 9.ACP.LBR.03 -

OBSTACLES INHIBITING INCREASED WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Following two days of deliberations, the thirty Participants were able to identify many of the key issues that are of concern to women. Consensus was unanimous that these issues so far constitute the *main obstacles that inhibit increased women's participation in power and decision-making*.

Consensus on these obstacles is of critical and crucial necessity if the goal of empowering women and ensuring their equal political participation is to be attained. The obstacles identified thus include:

- **Lack of focus on *qualitative leadership* even among women themselves;**
- **Lack of financial resources;**
- **Growing waves of *opportunism* in society;**
- **Lack of *self-awareness and self-realization* among women;**
- **Growing levels of *envy, disunity and hatred* among women;**
- **Absence of potential women politicians from women-focused meetings and initiatives;**
- **The level of deceptions, hypocrisy, lies, intolerance and existing gaps between urban women and rural women;**
- **Failure of women to seek memberships in existing political parties;**
- **The disproportionately limited number of women in policy-and decision –making positions;**
- **Defeat of the 30-% Affirmative Action Bill by the overwhelmingly male-dominated National Transitional Legislative Assembly (NTLA). (There are only four women in this 76-member Body.)**

Excerpts: Workshop Report page 7:

Gender Awareness and Gender Equality in Liberian Politics

Work shop in collaboration with COPPWIL, (Coalition of Political Parties Women in Liberia)
Gbarnga, Bong County, 16 – 18 June 2005