



Film Script – Project Dignity: Empowering Liberia’s Women

0:00 – 0:22

FAWCO Target Program

Project Dignity: Empowering Liberia’s Women

Target Project Proposal submitted by American International Women’s Club of Cologne in cooperation with medica mondiale

Music starts: Tellavision „Permanent“

Quotation on slide:

“History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.”

Maya Angelou, U.S.–American writer and civil–rights activist

0:23 – 0:59

Voice 1

“My name is Mary. I grew up in a small village on the Liberian border, near to the Ivory Coast. During the war I saw my husband being killed in front of me. Not only that, I was raped along with my 12 year old daughter. Later on she died. I was raped not once but three times. I felt a lot of pain for months. I had no place to go for help and lived in pain for a long time.”

Music: (continued) Tellavision “Permanent”

1:00 – 2:18

Fade in with original sound of village community

Music: starts slowly in the background (Julia Goldsby’s “Close to Midnight”)

Voice 2

Women are treated as “spoils of war” in almost every military conflict. Soldiers and militia use rape, sexual humiliation and torture to demonstrate power over their opponents.

From 1989 until 2003 civil war raged in Liberia. Fifteen years of battles between government units and rebels have destroyed Liberia’s infrastructure, ruining family relations and communities, plunging the country into ceaseless turmoil.

It is estimated that hundreds of thousands of women and girls were subjected to violence – young and old. For women, sexualized violence is still extremely commonplace in post-war Liberia. Efforts to improve the living conditions and to secure the rights of women in the country are only slowly spreading to the more rural areas.

A few facts about Liberia

- Human Development Index (2009): 182 of 187 countries
- 83.8% of the population lives on less than US\$1.25 per day
- Maternal mortality rate (deaths per 100,000 live births):

Liberia: 770 of 100,000

USA: 21 of 100,000 (**not spoken**)

Thanks to the seeds of change planted by medica mondiale in 2006, FAWCO member clubs have a unique opportunity to help the women of Liberia lead empowered lives, free from violence.

2:54 – 4:00

Music : Tellavision “Permanent”

Voice 1 (Mary’s story)

“In 2011, I clearly remember meeting the medica mondiale women for the first time. They have worked with me to find peace. I too want to help other women with problems like mine.”

Music: Robin Meloy Goldsby’s “Mirage”

Voice 2

FAWCO funding for Project Dignity: Empowering Liberia's Women will ensure that the green shoots of dignity develop strong roots and continue to grow, promising the daughters of past generations a life of liberty, guided by the capable hands and hearts of Liberia's proud women.

For the past 20 years, medica mondiale has been supporting victims of rape and violence in many war ravaged countries. The consequences of sexual violence in war are far-reaching – for the affected women and their communities. medica mondiale has developed concepts and methods that support traumatized women.

Thousands of women have been helped by this women's rights organization.

4:00 – 5:21

Voice 2 (continued)

medica mondiale's women's center in Fish Town has become an important contact point in the impoverished south-eastern region.

medica mondiale Liberia promotes peace and works to end gender-based violence in Liberia. The staff help ease the passage of women, who are affected by sexualized violence back into society by securing shelter, medical treatment, counseling and legal services.

They train medical professionals, police and court staff to provide trauma-sensitive services, ensuring that women receive appropriate care by public health service providers and are able to exercise their rights in safety, according to legal standards.

In remote village communities, solidarity groups have been established and volunteer community advisers have been trained. The Support Groups help teach non-violent ways of living together and host public awareness events on the consequences of violence.

Music : Tellavision "Permanent"

Voice 1 (Mary's story)

"I am part of this group, because I want to help other women who like me suffered during the war. We are now asking the elders in our

community to make laws that will protect women. I know it will be hard but I will not stop.

5:22 – 8:01

Music (continued): Robin Meloy Goldsby's "Mirage"

Voice 2

As they have done before in Afghanistan, Kosovo and Bosnia, medica mondiale will hand over leadership to local women leaders in Liberia. Medica Liberia will continue serving Liberia's female survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

Project Dignity supports the establishment of Medica Liberia, a 100% Liberian-led Non-Governmental Organization for the empowerment of women.

Why should FAWCO clubs be involved?

Project Dignity promotes the UN third Millennium Development Goal:

To Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women.

Also Project Dignity addresses the three proposed target areas outlined by UN Women.

FAWCO is a member of UN Women

Project Dignity will ensure Medica Liberia's ability to provide survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence access to trauma-sensitive services, facilitate women's engagement in the reconstruction of their war-torn country, and ensure that women's human rights issues are high on the country's political agenda.

With support from FAWCO member clubs, Project Dignity will empower the Liberian organization's staff and board members. Through capacity building measures, leadership development, and training in sound financial administrative systems, its future success as an independent NGO will be ensured.

The transition will take place under the Head of Mission to Liberia, Caroline Bowah Brown. Her studies and work experience have given her

in-depth expertise in the areas of human rights, gender and transitional justice.

Ms. Bowah Brown will direct the staff and will guide the women as they step into in their roles as board members governing the newly established Medica Liberia.

These women will take over the advocacy work done on behalf of their Liberian sisters. The women stepping into these new positions have themselves experienced the terrors of civil war. They know firsthand the trauma and the basic needs of women in the rural regions. With tenacity, determination, and appeals for peace and justice, they have become leaders. They need support from women's organizations to realize the vision.

8:02 – 9:47

Fade out music, film with original sound of Caroline Bowah Brown's message

"Dear FAWCO members, Medica Liberia is calling upon you to support this important project. Please support us to become a vibrant independent women's NGO in Liberia. The funding that you will provide supports Medica Liberia staff and board members through capacity building measures, leadership development and financial management. Professionalism and accountability will guarantee our survival and encourage official donors. We believe that this will be an important beginning for us if you provide us this first funding. Project Dignity will support survivors of sexual gender based violence, but also supports the community, who cares for the survivors. We count on you to make the difference and we count on you to change Liberia. Thank you!"

Fade out

Fade in music (Robin Meloy Goldsby's "Mirage" continued)

Voice 2

Support for Project Dignity is an investment in the future of women's leadership in Liberia. When empowered Liberian women take positions of strength in their communities, conditions for women and girls will improve – an investment in Liberia's female population that will grow exponentially!

Fade out music, fade in original sound of Liberian women singing

Project Dignity: Empowering Liberia's Women (+ Logos, written only)

Credits

Fade out of original sound of singing

Fade out to black

Respectfully submitted by [AIWC Cologne](#) in cooperation with [medica mondiale](#).

