

Rwandan Women Genocide Survivors Retreat

I. Background

In 1994 the genocide against Rwandan Tutsi killed an estimated one million or 70% of the Tutsi population in the country at that time. It took one hundred days to kill all these people; the killing only ended when the Rwandan Patriotic Front, led by His Excellency Paul Kagame, took control of the country. During the genocide, there was also a targeted campaign of raping Tutsi women. It is estimated that between 100 to 250 thousand genocide women survivors were raped. A number of them contracted HIV/AIDS, while others were impregnated and are now dealing with raising children born from what can only be the worst experience of their lives.

II. The project

The Rwandan women Genocide Survivors Retreat aims to bring together 30 women survivors from different background, in a safe and nurturing environment where they can freely share their journeys and experiences, and help each other heal, over an all-inclusive 3 days retreat.

The retreat will be facilitated, but the participants will set the pace. The idea is to allow the participants to hear from others who are related to their own experiences, learn from and encourage each other. This is a pilot project, if successful, it will turn into an annual event. This is a SURF (Survivors' Fund) project, in collaboration with AVEGA Agahozo but it will be voluntary managed by Liliane Pari Umuhoza who is also a genocide survivor (see PM Statement) and who came up with this project.

III. Project cost

The project is estimated to cost roughly USD 4500.00 in total or \$150 per participant. This will fund transportation, meals, accommodation, facilities and facilitation. The funding will come exclusively from individual sponsors, who will be recognized as the program pioneers, even in subsequent retreats.