



Friday, May 15th, 2026

COMMUNIQUE PRESENTED AT THE MARGINS OF THE 87TH ORDINARY SESSION OF THE AFRICAN COMMISSION ON HUMAN AND PEOPLES' RIGHTS

Banjul, The Gambia | May 2026

We, the participants from thirteen countries across West and Central Africa, at the ACT Africa Regional Capacity Building and Advocacy Workshop on “*Building Evidence-Informed Violence Against Women (VAW) Prevention and Response Resilience through Coalition Strengthening, Shared Leadership and Advocacy*,” convened in Banjul, The Gambia from 13–15 May 2026 under the leadership of Women Aid Collective (WACOL) and the West and Central Africa Women Rights Coalition (WAWORC), with funding support from UN Women and the European Commission, reaffirm our collective commitment to ending all forms of violence against women and girls (EVAWG) across Africa.

Drawing on the *Her Voice* regional research covering Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria and Togo, we recognize the growing intersection of climate change, digitalisation, resource scarcity and violence against women and girls. The evidence shows that climate shocks, displacement, resource scarcity, economic insecurity, online abuse, weak justice systems, and limited accountability mechanisms are increasing the vulnerability of women and girls across West and Central Africa. It also underscores the importance of cohesive feminist actions through coalition building as a critical driver of transformative and structural change.

We are deeply concerned that, despite increasing digital access, women continue to face widespread cyberstalking, technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and barriers to reporting abuse. We further note the severe underinvestment in gender-responsive climate action and the continued invisibility of women’s lived realities in national data systems.

Accordingly, we call on African States Parties to:

- Fully implement the decisions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Maputo Protocol, and all regional and international human rights obligations relating to women’s rights, particularly those concerning the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls.;
- Integrate gender-responsive and survivor-centred approaches into climate adaptation, disaster response, digital governance, and national development frameworks;
- Establish accessible, adequately funded, and community-based systems for prevention, reporting, protection, and redress for survivors of violence;
- Enact and enforce laws addressing technology-facilitated sexual and gender-based violence, and strengthen digital governance and online safety protections for women and girls;
- Invest in harmonized national data systems and feminist, gender-sensitive research that generate credible evidence for policy reform and accountability;
- Protect women human rights defenders, feminist movements, and civil society actors from backlash, reprisals, and shrinking civic space.

We further urge the African governments, Regional Economic Communities, development partners, and the international community to strengthen collaboration with women-led organizations and feminist coalitions in advancing accountability, shadow reporting, strategic litigation, and policy advocacy.

As participants from across West and Central Africa, we commit to sustaining cross-border feminist solidarity and action, strengthening coalition networks, advancing evidence-based advocacy, and amplifying the voices of women and girls across our respective countries.

We reaffirm that ending violence against women and girls requires urgent, coordinated, intersectional and transformative action.

Adopted in Banjul, The Gambia, this 15th day of May 2026.

Signatories (by Countries)

Burkina Faso

Cameroon

Central Africa Republic (CAR)

Cote d'Ivoire

Gabon

The Gambia

Ghana

Liberia

Mali

Nigeria

Senegal

Sierra Leone

Togo



Signed for and on behalf of WACOL and WAWORC:

Professor Joy Ngozi Ezeilo (OON, SAN & Life Bencher)

Convener, West and Central African Women's Rights Coalition (WAWORC)

1997- 2022

WOMEN'S AID COLLECTIVE
(WACOL)
Tamar SARC
25+
Defending Human Rights & Advocating
Gender Equality
Making Women's Rights a Reality in Africa



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