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# Trimestral Magazine

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# Edito



Rev. Father Valens NIRAGIRE

Dear Esteemed CEJP  
NETWORK Magazine Reader,

Greetings of peace. I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support in taking time to read our quarterly magazine release figuring out our nationwide peace, justice and reconciliation actions implemented from April to June 2022. With our strategic actions, as CEJP RWANDA an umbrella network we continue to reaffirm our commitment in journeying, supporting and defending the dignity of human being. The articles contained in this magazine stress on the various issues that promote unity, peace and harmony in our society. In as much as we remember the ordeal with much pain, it remains the effort of each one of us to strive towards a peaceful society and togetherness as we build a resilient and safe nation for the present and future generation.

The articles contained in this magazine stress on the various issues that promote unity, peace and harmony in our society. In as much as we remember the ordeal with much pain, it remains the effort of each one of us to strive towards a peaceful society and togetherness as we build a resilient and safe nation for the present and future generation.

In this Second quarterly release of this magazine, a special mention has been focused on the 28th nationwide commemoration of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in 1994.

CEJP RWANDA as well as all belonging network structures at diocesan level namely CDJP KIGALI, CDJP NYUNDO, CDJP KIBUYE, CDJP BYUMBA, CDJP CYANGUGU, CDJP RUHENGERA, CDJP KIBUNGO, CDJP GAKONGORO, CDJP BUTARE, CDJP KABGAYI have joined under the guidance spirit of "Remember - Unite - Renew" all Rwandese from village to the cities to commemorate the innocent lives wiped out during the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Such an event invites all of us to reflect on the dangers of violence and the trauma left behind by any war against fellow human beings, and particularly also called us as peace actors to continue to develop preventive content aiming to better tackle hate speech.

As Peacebuilding institution, our voice remains united and strong in support of all initiatives towards a heal nation, free from violence against anyone. It is also our duty to address an appeal to all our magazine readers to continue to be fully part of every single behaviors and action which could contribute and lead to a nationwide and an international sustainable peace. Remember, it takes one step after another to accomplish a long journey. As a matter of fact, the change we desire in the mindset of all people begins with an individual. You are the change you desire.

On behalf of the editorial team, I wish you a reflective interaction with the colorful publication.

May God bless you.

Father Valens NIRAGIRE  
National Executive Secretary  
CEJP Rwanda

# WE ARE DETERMINED TO LIVE TOGETHER IN PEACE WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY

About 896 Perpetrators of the Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994,  
have been drawn into a Six-Month Unity and Reconciliation Rehab

*They said it on Sunday, April 3, 2022, at the end of a heartbreaking journey that taught them to apologize, and live happily ever after. Those who have received the first phase of spiritual education and social-psycho care support come from the Parish of Mugombwa and Muganza, of the Diocese of Butare in the district of Gisagara.*

*Abbé Valens NIRAGIRE, National Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace Rwanda, said that the process of their sympathy was not easy. "Thank you to those brothers who have completed this spiritual and social-psycho education path on Unity and Reconciliation because it is a great courage. It is a great path that requires dedication but it is a path that requires above all acceptance." He thanked their families and neighbors for their support, and thanked the priests who were nearby, noting that similar activities are common in other parishes in Butare Diocese, including Ruhango, Nyanza, Magi, Nyamiyaga and others. It was explained that since the end of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, the Catholic Church has been committed to helping Rwandans to promote Unity and Reconciliation.*



*The total number of participants in that journey of spiritual education and social-psycho care support was 1006, but 896 were completed as some had encountered difficulties and left. About 488 people apologized for committing the crimes of Genocide against the Tutsi in 1994 and apologized for the killings and looting. Mukamageza Bernadette, who spoke on behalf of the survivors, said the end-of-life journey helped them get along well with their traitors.*

*"Before the trip we had a lot of wounds, it was not easy but we came and started and found the good priests who taught us to be free because we met the one who mistreated us and healed him. treated like an animal. We accept and forgive them for what they did to us."*



*The bishop of the Diocese of Butare, Mgr. RUKAMBA Philippe, urged everyone, including the graduates to love each and live in harmony. "The main thing is the love we have for each other. I wish you God's blessing in your homes and that you get along well, parents and children and parents among themselves." The Vice Mayor of Gisagara district in charge of economic development, HABINEZA Jean Paul, called on the pardoned to continue to live in peace, assuring them that the administration will continue to be close to them and help them work together for the development. He also encouraged ordinary people to participate in solving this great task: "One of the things you and other people can do is keep up the pressure...there are going to be some tough decisions for the government". Those who have completed the sincere journey of Unity and Reconciliation have received the Bible as a symbol of transformation. Another phase of emotional unity and reconciliation in Gisagara district is expected to begin in May 2022.*



# CEJP RWANDA AND CDJP KIGALI PAID TRIBUTE TO THE VICTIMS OF 1994 GENOCIDE AGAINST THE TUTSIS IN SHYORONGI PARISH

Spiritual and Social Emotional teachings provided by the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission of Rwanda have helped 1994 Genocide against the Tutsis Survivors to reconcile with the families of the perpetrators and rekindle their love for the Church

*Friday, April 22, 2022, CEJP Rwanda and CDJP Kigali joined the Christians of Shyorongi Parish to commemorate the 28th Anniversary of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Some of the survivors of the parish have been given Spiritual and Social Emotional healing journey by the Justice and Peace Commission of Archdiocese of Kigali, which they said to be helpful to them in a healing process.*

*MUKANSANGA Athanasie one of the Christians of Shyorongi Parish, in her testimony said that after the Genocide, all her relatives were killed and herself also was seriously injured, and felt that attending Christian meetings in the Church was of no use. After being educated on conscience, forgiveness and reconciliation with her perpetrators, she regained the confidence. "It simply came to our notice then. and reconciliation with God was the first thing I did to serve the Church, to pray from the heart. It was only when I became reconciled to God that I realized that God healed me first, which is the most important thing, then I began to have peace of mind."*



*In his address to the gathering preceded by a Mass of Burial in the Shyorongi Parish Church, His Excellency Antoine Cardinal KAMBANDA, Archbishop of Kigali and Chairman of the Episcopal Commission on Justice and Peace at the Catholic Bishops' Conference in Rwanda said that during the visit to combat the effects of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda and to rebuild it, the Catholic Church in Rwanda encourages Christians and Rwandans in general to take steps towards unity and reconciliation, the perpetrators of the Genocide apologize to the families they killed for, and those who were killed to offer their condolences and it helps people and they get along again. He noted:*



Father Valens Niragire, National Secretary of the Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission noted that Justice and Peace Commission has a responsibility to instill a culture of peace, justice, unity and reconciliation in all. Father Valens said: "The life of man must not be taken away from him. The man who was created by God in his image should find it only by calling on him and walking according to God's will." The Justice and Peace Commission at all levels has a responsibility to inculcate in the Rwandan community a culture of peace, unity, reconciliation and Justice as well, a culture of coexistence, a culture of respect and respect for life." in general, to make Rwandans more reconciled and united in their daily lives.

"It is God who determines our roots, and where to be born. No one has the rights to kill people for their race or ethnic classifications. If so, this qualifies as the unhuman behaviors" As we embark on this journey of rebuilding and coping with the aftermath of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi in Rwanda, the Catholic Church in Rwanda continues to urge Christians and Rwandans in general to take steps towards unity and reconciliation, remembering to apologize and give it our all because it liberates our hearts and it helps people. "We urge the perpetrators of the Genocide against the Tutsi and its allies to continue the process of apologizing to those who betrayed them; to be corrected by God, to be corrected with their heart and to be corrected by their history [...]. Genocide Survivors. We urge them to have the courage to forgive those who have betrayed the survivors, even if it is difficult". Antoine Cardinal KAMBANDA added.



The commemoration was held at the Genocide Memorial in Rusiga Sector of Rulindo District where Cardinal KAMBANDA and others who attended the event laid flowers at the memorial to the 6,414 Tutsi victims of the 1994 Genocide.



**IN OTHER DIOCESAN JUSTICE AND PEACE COMMISSIONS, THEY  
JOINED ALSO RWANDANS IN COMMEMORATION OF THE  
GENOCIDE PERPETRATED AGAINST THE TUTSI IN APRIL 1994  
FOR THE 28TH TIME**

## **CDJP Butare**

*On April 20, 2022, CDJP Butare staff actively participated in the commemoration activity of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in April 1994 for the 28th time in Mugombwa Sector, Mugombwa Parish. More than 1000 people from the three sectors of Mugombwa, Mukindo and Muganza, the delegates at the Gisagara district level, the various guests from the government down to the local level, the families of the victims of the genocide committed against the Tutsi in Mugombwa in 1994 joined the Commission.*

*The testimonies that were given left lessons for those present, also the speeches taught people to remember by fighting for resilience.*

*Again, on May 24, 2022, the staff of CDJP Butare paid a visit to remember the victims of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis at the Murambi memorial site (Gikongoro) where the staff was interviewed on the history of bad politics which led to the genocide, and commemorated the great promoters of the genocidal ideology in history.*



## **CDJP Byumba**

*During the month of the Commemoration this year, the CDJP Byumba organized awareness-raising meetings on tolerance and the granting of forgiveness with the victims of crimes and their families where 3620 prisoners, 906 people including 373 men or 41.17 % and 533 women or 58.83% were affected by the sensitization carried out. The sensitizations mainly took place in the prison of Miyove, then in 3 sectors located as places of origin of the prisoners who will be released during the year 2021-2022.*

These sensitizations have enabled members of the community to develop attitudes favorable to asking for and granting forgiveness. Members of the community are committed to facilitating the reintegration of ex-prisoners and to playing a visible role in improving social relations, particularly between the executioners and the victims of their crimes. Again, the commission carried out sensitizations in the community on the request for forgiveness, and reconciliation where 116 people who were victims of the crimes committed, including 64 men and 52 women, were affected by awareness-raising activities on tolerance, demand and the pardon agreement and psychological support. The victims of the crimes committed and the family members of the prisoners met resolved to join the other members of the unity and reconciliation clubs working in their cells.

In the context of facilitating the socio-economic integration of people newly released from prisons in the unity and reconciliation clubs in place bringing together the families of ex-prisoners and the families of victims, the commission has tried to build trust between the prisoners and the victims of the crimes are gradually restored depending on the level of injuries of the concerned. The sessions carried out in the various Cells which brought together the members of the unity and reconciliation clubs, the psychosocial guides and community animators,



the basic administrative authorities and the former prisoners released have borne tangible fruit, in particular:

the request and the agreement of forgiveness between the victims of the crimes committed and the former prisoners, the official reception of the former prisoners in the clubs of unity and reconciliation, the integration of the former prisoners in the activities of economic self-promotion of the clubs of unity and reconciliation, the donation of small livestock has some ex-prisoners in extreme poverty.

In psychological support activities for victims and released persons, 68 ex-prisoners and their families were made aware. Sensitizations in the prisons and in the community have had the following positive effects: Prisoners show a willingness to participate in the planned sensitization sessions.



# CDJP Cyangugu

For the 28th time of the Commemoration of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in April 1994, the Diocesan Justice and Peace of Cyangugu commission has retrained 38 psychosocial animators on trauma and counseling in the framework of deepening the subject so that they can help the community that they support. The commission also sensitized the community to actively participate in the commemoration activities of the 28th anniversary of the Genocide against the Tutsi. 57 visits to unity and reconciliation associations which bring together 1,971 members with the aim of sharing Kwibuka's messages, which allowed them to further strengthen their unity.

During the 28th time of the Commemoration of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in April 1994, the commission accompanied people in traumatic crisis during the period of commemoration of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, of which 37 victims were supported and accompanied during the period of commemoration of the Genocide in all the parishes of the Diocese of Cyangugu.



# CDJP Kabgayi

On April 11, 2022, all CDJP Kabgayi staff participated in dialogues based on the historical context before, during and after the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi in April 1994. The commission learned about the impact of bad ideology and how fight it in the current situation to prevent those who need it from influencing the unity and peace of Rwanda. On May 21, 2022, the activity of commemoration of the Tutsis killed during the Genocide from the Diocese of Kabgayi also took place. Activities began with mass celebrated at the Basilica of KABGAYI, followed by a commemorative march to the KABGAYI Genocide Memorial site.



During this period, the commission organized an exchange of 100 animators from different parishes for the exchange of behaviors that could define a justice and peace commission animator especially during the commemoration. It was also recalled what an animator can do for a traumatized person, so that he can help and accompany him, especially during this period of 100 days of commemoration in particular. And finally, in the period of commemoration, each parish organized a mass of mourning for the victims of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis. A total of 91 people were assisted in agriculture by justice and peace facilitators. 9 people with disabilities received food aid and another homeless person, through a plea from Justice and Peace, received metal sheets for his house.

## CDJP Kigali

During the Commemoration of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi for the 28th time, members of the community of the Archdiocese of Kigali were encouraged by the justice and peace animators to participate in the commemoration events of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. In some parishes, the memorial sites were cleaned by the animators before the start of the week of national mourning and this was a good testimony in the community and even to the local authorities. Visits to memorial sites have been organized and the animators are engaged in charity activities, home visits, consolation and active listening to survivors.



The 7 unity and reconciliation groups in parishes were active in commemoration activities.<sup>23</sup> Genocide survivors were helped in the rehabilitation of their houses and one person was supported in the reconstruction of his house by the community of the parish, 50 people of -



The Bishop of the Diocese of Ruhengeri, the Pastor of the Cathedral Parish, the priests and Christians of the Cathedral Parish of Ruhengeri joined other members of the community for the inauguration of the Musanze memorial site and the dignified burial of the Tutsis killed during the Genocide.

the Shyorongi sector have access to health care because they benefit from the mutual health insurance for 2022-2023.

The traumatized people were accompanied by the 638 psychosocial animators and were helped to recover and resume their normal life. In some parishes, the animators organize home visits, support and support for survivors who often show signs of trauma in the context of accompanying them.



All these activities were started with a Novena from 04/28/2022 to 05/06/2022 across all the parishes as part of the 28th commemoration of the Genocide and the Celebrations of the masses in memory of the victims of the Genocide.

## CDJP Ruhengeri

During the national week of commemoration of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi, Christians joined other members of the community in the commemoration of the Genocide perpetrated against the Tutsi. The parish priest of the Cathedral parish, the priests and Christians of the Cathedral parish of Ruhengeri participated in the vigil to pay homage to the victims of the genocide perpetrated against the Tutsis whose bodies were to be buried the next day in the new memorial site of Musanze.



## WHEN IT COMES TO YOUTH EMPOWERMENT, CEJP RWANDA ALWAYS SUPPORTS THE INITIATIVE "BUSINESS FOR PEACE"

Friday, May, 27, 2022 in Rubavu District, Rwanda Episcopal Commission of Justice and Peace through the MUPAKA SHAMBA LETU - RUBAVU project has organized Youth Competition in creative artistic, music, peace based drawings and poems that aims to eradicate conflicts but at the same time promote Peace Practices through business for peace initiatives.

The activity was finally organized to meet the project objective "In the targeted border areas, economic actors - including women cross-border traders and small and medium-sized enterprises - interact more through networking and more cooperation, and work together in order to promote greater social cohesion, regional cooperation and peace in the region"

Among the talents that have competed there include peace songs, poems, drawings, traditional and modern dances, theatres, etc. where all were showing how cross-border businesses and peace practices have to be interdependent in a bid to build social cohesion and multicultural relationship. In his remarks, Father Valens NIRAGIRE, the National Secretary of the Episcopal Commission of Justice and Peace has urged the competing youth to be more realistic entrepreneurs and believe in the opportunities that the country is creating for them on daily basis.



He noted: "you need a different way of thinking if you need to empower yourself positively, thinking that will always push you to be more realistic and trust the opportunities that the country is always creating for you". Father Valens has backed the importance of backing peace practices as one of the ways to build a safe and good reputable nation where as Christians we all need to respect laws.

The MSL project aims to support the initiatives of young people carrying out the Business for Peace program by setting up opportunities through which they actively participate in peace building

# **CDJP KABGAYI: A JOINT MONITORING OF THE FUNCTIONING MEETING OF ALL THE PARISH COMMISSIONS OF JUSTICE AND PEACE IN DIOCESE OF KABGAYI HAS CONCLUDED TO RAISE EFFORTS IN THEIR ACTIVITIES DESPITE COVID-19 CONSEQUENCES**

*A meeting was held on Wednesday 05/25/2022 in the Diocese of Kabgayi which brought together the Diocesan Commission for Justice and Peace of the diocese, the Chaplain Priests of the Parish Commissions for Justice and Peace and their coordinators for joint monitoring of the functioning of the commissions within parishes.*

*The meeting took place in the presence of the National Secretary of the Episcopal Commission for Justice and Peace Rwanda, Father Valens NIRAGIRE, which yielded results after a joint review of the functioning of parish committees, particularly in light of the challenges posed by Covid 19. He called on all participants to participate in the activities of the Justice and Peace Commissions, such as promoting a culture of peace for the people, fighting against conflicts and various other activities. At the official opening of the meeting, the President of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Kabgayi, Father Innocent MUTABAZI, called for the establishment and functioning of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Parish.*



*In each case, they seized it, despite obstacles that one can hardly imagine. These included focusing on reconciliation and peace building in conflict-torn communities, forming justice and peace groups and clubs, conducting various training sessions on how to improve, to educate in family law, to fight and reduce the violence of children, especially when they are not given parental rights where some find themselves uneducated, grouping together the perpetrators of the Genocide and the victims, establishment of institutions for the Justice and Peace Commission, establishment of various groups where they are not, commemoration of the victims of the 1994 Genocide against the Tutsi, charitable activities such as helping the hungry to obtain food, clothing and even medical aid.*



## CAPACITY BUILDING OF MESSENGERS OF JUSTICE AND PEACE, THE PRIORITY OF CDJP RUHENGERI DURING THE THIRD QUARTER OF THE PASTORAL YEAR 2021-2022

*Since March 2022, the Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Ruhengeri has started the program to strengthen its decentralized bodies. Indeed, in March 2020, follow-up visits by the decentralized bodies of the CDJP were paralyzed following the covid-19 pandemic and the restrictive measures taken to protect against it. As the measures allowed meetings of members of the community, the parishes reorganized their bodies, including the parish justice and peace commissions. Thus, during the first quarter of the pastoral year 2021-2022, the Parish Justice and Peace Commissions carried out the process of restructuring the bodies in the Basic Ecclesial Communities, at the level of branches, centrals and at the level of the parish.*



*This restructuring has led to the entry of new figures into the organs of the parish justice and peace commissions. This automatically translates the need for capacity building of new entrants but also the recycling of old ones which constitutes one of the strategies for the sustainability and efficiency of CDJP Ruhengeri. The protective measures against the covid-19 pandemic having been reduced, the CDJP organized one-day training sessions for the benefit of the members of these bodies.*

*During this quarter, 6 parishes were covered. These are Murama, Kampanga, Bumara, Rwaza, Kanaba and Butete parishes.*

These trainings mainly focused on two themes: the organs of the Justice and Peace Commission in the parishes of the Diocese of Ruhengeri and their attributions as well as the social teaching of the Church.

As a reminder, the CDJP Ruhengeri has organs from the Diocese to the level of the Basic Ecclesial Communities. At the level of the Diocese, there is the General Assembly which is a decision-making body, the Diocesan Committee which is an advisory body and the Permanent Bureau which is an executive body of the CDJP. The CDJP Ruhengeri Permanent Office operates through two components: the Social Justice Promotion Component and the Culture of Peace Promotion Component.



**Father Narcisse NGIRIMANA**  
CDJP Ruhengeri President



**HABIMANA Alexis**  
CDJP Ruhengeri Coordinator

To conclude, with the participants, we agreed that as Christians, messengers of justice and peace, are called to implement the content of the Social Teaching of the Church. They have the duty to animate society in the social doctrine of the Church and in the rights and duties of the human person in the organization of the . this will contribute to awakening the conscience of the population to establish respect for the rights and duties of the human person. They also have the mission to promote the culture of peace.

The participants undertook to ensure advocacy in favor of people in difficulty such as people neglected by others, the poor, expelled single mothers, abandoned patients, victims of violence, victims of human rights violations. Indeed, they wanted to recall that it is written that on the day of judgment, we will be judged on the basis of what we have done in favor of our brothers and sisters in need.

# WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

Exchange sessions between couples on the sharing of responsibilities and family decisions as well as the initiation of written budget planning and the organization of an advocacy campaign at the sector level

As part of the W.E project, the CEJP Rwanda carried out during April-June 2022 the various activities in its area of intervention, particularly in the Janja and Mataba Sector of the Gakenke as well as in the Base and Cyungo sector of the Rulindo district. Among the activities carried out: The organization of exchange sessions between couples on the sharing of responsibilities and family decisions and to initiate written budget planning and the organization of an advocacy campaign at the sector level to discuss the problems related to gender that affect women's participation in decision-making.



The objective of these sessions was to improve the level of perception of men and women on gender equality and violence against women in the context of reducing family conflicts. 153 participants including 86 women and 67 men were targeted. The Executive Secretaries of the sectors mentioned above were invited as speakers of the day on the theme related to the legal framework in terms of family responsibilities as well as the management of assets and the family budget in the context of sensitizing couples to share duties and responsibilities within the household and to help each other.

During these sessions, issues related to gender, on the sharing of responsibilities and family decisions as well as on socio-cultural norms were addressed. In addition to this, the speakers also tackled the points on the written planning of the budget where they insisted on the management of the patrimony of the spouses married under the regime of the universal community saying that the spouses married under the regime of the universal community manage their heritage by mutual agreement and have the same power to monitor and represent this heritage. The rights and obligations of spouses arising from marriage was also one of the topics covered in these sessions where explanations on the types of matrimonial regimes to future spouses were given. This exchange allowed the participants to understand the advantages of making a family budget and concerted management.

Among the recommendations and commitments that were made during these sessions, we can mention among others:

- Mobilization and awareness sessions for men should be organized by local authorities so that men can adopt the habits of listening, hearing and involving their wives more in the management of family assets; the concept of "gender" should be well explained to both men and women so as not to sow unnecessary conflicts between spouses.



# THE CDJP CYANGUGU HAS UNDERTAKEN THE PROCESS OF HEALING INJURIES AND SELF-KNOWLEDGE FOR THE PRIESTS OF THE DIOCESE OF CYANGUGU

The CDJP Cyangugu in partnership with AGJAMONDO, works so that the human person is just, at peace and reconciled. This is done through the various interventions in favor of its beneficiaries. In these interventions, the CDJP Cyangugu thought of the priests who are key actors in the process of community healing.

With this in mind, a series of trainings have been organized: the first, which took place in November 2022, focused on raising awareness among priests about the wounds of life in which they were able to identify the various wounds, their causes and consequences. through working groups. In addition, with the various exercises and explanations of the facilitator, the participants were able to discover them and be aware of them. In addition, the awareness was like a point of support to know the reasons for his difficulties to change, to grow and the opening to oneself, to others and to God.



The second series, which began with April 2022, focused on the follow-up to the previous workshop, which made it possible to take the time to look back and recognize the path traveled since the closing of the workshop of awareness to date. It was also an opportunity to appreciate the achievements, the resources and the weaknesses, the difficulties and the challenges that are in the course of each other, to finally determine the needs that remain to be satisfied as well as the ways and means that prove necessary and appropriate to get out of them.

# PROJECT SECOURS CATHOLIQUE – CEJP Rwanda

Violence against women is one of the violations of human rights.

“The most and recent widespread these days in the world”

*One in three women has experienced violence in her lifetime. Whether physical, psychological, sexual or economic violence: the consequences are destructive for the victims and for societies. Today, violence against women is one of the most widespread human rights violations in the world. Deprived women are, more than others, victims of this violence, most often intra-family. And above all, these keep women in a state of poverty.*

*The Episcopal Justice and Peace Commission (CEJP Rwanda) in partnership with Secours Catholique Caritas de la France (SCCF) is implementing a project to combat domestic and professional violence against women.*

*In this context, a report on domestic violence against women was twisted and field actions were reinforced in the Great Lakes, but also the Diocesan Justice and Peace Commissions of Cyangugu and Gikongoro were targeted while the other partners were interviewed remotely (CEJP Burundi, Caritas Goma and CDJP Bukavu).*



*This report focused on the contribution of the justice and peace network of Rwanda (CDJPs cyangugu, Gikongoro and CEJP Rwanda) in reducing violence against women and changing mentalities on the gender issue.*

*To support its beneficiaries, the justice and peace network favored “group therapy”; collective adjunct approach, which uses the exchange of emotions and experiences of several people in a group. It is based on different techniques than those used in couple therapy or family therapy.*

*During this report, it was noted that domestic violence is on a large scale despite the efforts made by the government and its partners:*

1. Laws often remain "letter" and are not properly implemented by the preponderance of culture (patriarchy).
2. Legal and institutional measures do not bring rapid changes due to the extent of sexual violence (misunderstanding of the concept of gender)



In our report, it was testified that psychological violence ranks first, followed by physical, economic and sexual violence.



This report highlighted the influence of the patriarchal system on the prevalence of domestic violence.

It has been found that most victims do not dare to file a complaint on the pretext that they are becoming marginalized in the community and the misunderstanding of the concept of gender is the basis of violence in the community.

Violence against women has intensified due to the Covid 19 pandemic. UN Women shows in a report entitled "Measuring the pandemic from the shadows" that one in two women has experienced some form of violence since the start of the pandemic, and that these victims were more likely to report increased mental or emotional stress. "Domestic violence has been exacerbated with Covid 19, in particular because women have been confined and locked up with their attackers



# GRATITUDE

**We want to express our deep and sincere gratitude to all our Technical and Financial Partners who assist CEJP Rwanda at the National and Diocesan level. Your assistance is of great value for the implementation of the mission of the CEJP Rwanda.**



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