

The Mifumi Project Logo

CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENT

International Conference on Bride Price and development
February 16th – 18th, 2004 Makerere University, Kampala,
Uganda

This conference is sponsored by the generous support of GTZ – the German Technical Co-operation

The institution of bride price, dowry and other related marriage gifts constitute some of the major harmful traditional practices that contribute to the subordinate status of women, undermining their rights and the rights of their families, and communities, leading to a greater tolerance of gender violence and contributing to violent conflict, HIV/AIDS, poverty and disability.

Although the institution of bride price in Africa has far-reaching, health, economic, social and, human rights and legal implications in the countries where it is practiced, there is much silence in the way of bringing it to the forefront of public debate both as an issue whose values constitute a direct violation of human dignity and freedom, and whose social practice is a hindrance to the enjoyment of human rights.

This conference will bring together experts in the fields of harmful socio-cultural practices which contribute to gender violence and inequality, experts on reproductive health and rights, activists on the rights of women and children, politicians and other stakeholders from Governments, intergovernmental agencies, academia, the media, civil society organisations and educationists.

CALL FOR PAPERS

MAIN THEME:

**COALITION AND ACTION TO SAFEGUARD THE CHILD AND THE FAMILY:
*THE KAMPALA DECLARATION ON BRIDE PRICE AND DEVELOPMENT.***

Sub themes

Historical evolution of bride price (social, political and economic)

- Bride price and gendered identities
- Bride price, conflict and socio-cultural transformation
- Religious and cultural perspectives on bride price

The human, social and economic costs of bride price

- The political economy of bride price
- Bride price and the protection of children from neglect, violence and abuse

Health

- Bride price and improved sexuality
- Bride price and the improvement of sexual and reproductive health and rights
- Bride price and the fight against HIV/AIDS

Gender violence

- Bride price, gender violence and interpersonal relationships
- Bride price and improvement of family relations
- Bride price and the participation of youth

Human rights/legal

- The place of culture in human rights and development
- Review of national and regional laws relating to marriage and family protection
- Review of alternative approaches to legal framework intervention in Africa

Applicants wishing to submit a paper under one of the sub themes above should forward a 100-150 words synopsis by December 15th 2003 to:

The Conference Administrator
Po Box 274
Tororo
Uganda

Email: Mifumi@mifumi.org
Tel:00256 77 781122/3

You can also visit our website at: www.mifumi.org

FEEL FREE NETWORK MEMBERS

Members of the Domestic Violence and Bride Price Feel Free Network wishing to attend should contact the Conference Administrator indicating how they will contribute to the conference