



# GBOWEE PEACE FOUNDATION AFRICA

*Empower to Inspire*

# WHAT PROBLEM ARE WE SOLVING?

*Conflict. Poverty. Inequality.*

Liberia emerged from 14 years of civil conflict as one of the poorest countries in the world. Liberia's education system is in crisis. There are limited employment opportunities for women. The number of women enrolling to vote and participating in elections is going backward. The social, economic and political root causes of the civil war are yet to be adequately addressed.

This is where the education and leadership of Liberia's women and girls comes in.



2003

# WHY DO WE CARE?

**THE MOTHERS OF LIBERIA ENDED THE WAR**

*Now it's time to ensure a peaceful, sustainable future for all Liberians*



2017

Liberia has not gone back to war. But Liberia is a long way from being a peace-building success. To build a long-term, sustainable peace in Liberia we must prioritize access to education for women and girls and mobilize women and girls for peace, human rights and democracy.

# GBOWEE PEACE FOUNDATION AFRICA

Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa was established in 2012 as a way to ensure that younger generations in Liberia are peaceful, reconciled, and empowered.

We provide outstanding education and leadership opportunities to women and youth in order to shape the next generation of peacemakers and democracy builders.





# PEACEFUL. POWERFUL. PROSPEROUS.



# WHAT WE DO

## EDUCATION

- Scholarships and financial aid
- Psychosocial support
- Tutoring and homework support
- Intergenerational mentoring
- Networking
- Internships and work placements
- Regular gatherings of scholars

## LEADERSHIP

- Peace education and conflict resolution skills building
- Leadership training
- Personal development
- Sexual health and reproductive rights education
- Civics education
- Community mobilizing re: peace, democracy and human rights

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

- Empower women as community leaders and decision-makers
- Public health radio station
- Public lectures and dialogue on the role of women and girls in Liberian society
- Respond to emerging issues through convenings and community mobilizations

# ACHIEVEMENTS

## **1. SUSTAIN THE PEACE CAMPAIGN**

Women and youth-led campaign, which connected with tens of thousands of Liberians to ensure Liberia's Presidential elections were conducted peacefully.

## **2. OVER 490 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

Since 2012, more than 490 girls and women have received local and international scholarships to pursue primary, secondary and university education and transform their lives.

## **3. MORE THAN 2,000 YOUNG PEOPLE TRAINED IN PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Through Health and Rights Officials peer education program, Peace Through Fair Play peacebuilding camp, PeaceJam Liberia and more.

## **4. PEACE HUB BUILD COMPLETED AND PLANNING UNDERWAY FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER**

Ensuring access to mainstream and vocational education for women and girls.

# AN IMMEDIATE NEED AND OPPORTUNITY

GPFA-USA Emergency Relief Fund will address the Coronavirus pandemic in Liberia through a public health approach that links peace, health and education. Our goal is to raise \$300,000, with \$250,000 granted directly to our Liberian partner organization, Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa.



# CONTEXT FOR CORONAVIRUS IN LIBERIA

- Liberia was at the epicenter of the West African Ebola outbreak in 2014 and 2015, resulting in more than 4,800 deaths that exposed Liberia's weak health infrastructure.
- Before the outbreak, Liberia had fewer than 300 doctors to care for the entire population. Today, Liberia's health care system lacks both modern equipment and trained doctors.
- Liberia is currently experiencing significant fuel shortages, and many communities are without water (to wash, sanitize and drink), as it is the end of the dry season.
- Access to public health information remains a major challenge, especially for people living in rural communities.



Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa took on a key leadership role in the civil society response to the Ebola crisis by engaging urban and rural community-based organizations, religious groups, and local media to build the capacity of local leadership to provide truthful and easy to understand messages to prevent the spread of Ebola.

**AND WE WILL DO THE SAME AND MORE NOW TO FIGHT THE CORONAVIRUS.**



*As with Ebola, the first phase of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa's Coronavirus response will focus on public health communications to ensure that Liberians are aware of the risk of Coronavirus and how to keep themselves safe.*

## **A gift to the GPFA-USA Emergency Relief Fund will support:**

- Emergency health training and grants for community-based organizations
- Awareness raising activities (radio jingles, press releases, distribution of printed materials describing the symptoms, modes of transmission and hygiene protocols)
- Distribution of sanitation items like buckets and soap
- Drama performances on the symptoms and prevention of Coronavirus in both English and the local dialects
- Educational campaigns designed for social media and radio
- Liberian peacebuilding and education programs, like grants and scholarships for youth that empower recipients and promote their health and well-being.



# LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

There is a cyclical relationship between poverty and conflict. To break this cycle, interventions in education, public health, and poverty reduction must go hand-in-hand with peacemaking and democracy building.

We know this is work that takes time. And we are committed to bringing long-term, sustainable peace to Liberia by investing in the skills, knowledge and leadership of the next generation (and future generations) of women and girls.

We are currently building our permanent home on the outskirts of Monrovia. The campus will be the site of our future vocational training center, Liberia's first public health radio station, and a Peace Hub (opened December 2018) that houses our education, leadership and community development programming.



# PUBLIC HEALTH RADIO STATION

*Learning from the Ebola crisis has heightened population demand for public health information and channels for community engagements to gather information on potential public health threats from communities*

- So far only two radio stations currently consistently broadcast one-hour health programs once weekly in English, leaving out the large illiterate population who do not read, write or speak English.
- Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa will build and run Liberia's first public health radio station on its campus in Margibi County, Liberia.
- \$225,000 will help build Liberia's first public health radio station.
- \$125,000 will be needed to operate the Radio Station annually.



# VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTER

*There are no vocational education providers in Liberia that focus on equipping women with the skills they need to enter the formal economy and build a sustainable livelihood.*

\$500,000 will help build and furnish Liberia's first educational center to equip women with the skills they need to enter the formal economy and build a sustainable livelihood.

\$100,000 will be needed to staff the center annually to provide an excellent vocational education experience for women.

- Vocational education focused on skills that are most in demand (carpentry, machinery, and heavy-duty driving) to a cohort of 30 students per year
- Soft skills development (entrepreneurship, banking and finance, marketing, establishing cooperatives etc)
- Work placement
- Flexible (night classes, childcare offered etc)
- Access to Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa's leadership, peacebuilding and community development programs



# Gbowee Foundation Launches Peace Hub to Empower Women and Girls

By Judoemue Kollie - December 4, 2018

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## PEACE HUB

- Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa offices
- Liberia's first public health radio station
- Student computer lab and resource center
- Training rooms
- Hub for education, leadership and community development programming

