



## **Resolution on Atrocities Committed Against Women in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo**

**15<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference Nairobi, Kenya 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007**

The Commonwealth Lawyers' Association is a pan-Commonwealth professional association of lawyers which includes representatives from all 53 countries of the Commonwealth.

The 15<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 9<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and was attended by over 1200 lawyers, judges and other legal professionals from a total of 49 different countries, 18 of which are in Africa.

The Council of the Commonwealth Lawyers' Association:

**Expressed support** for a greater external presence, such as a United Nations peacekeeping force, in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo, tasked *inter alia* with the responsibility of eliminating sexual violence;

**Agreed** to forward the text of the Keynote Address delivered by Stephen Lewis at the 15<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007 in Nairobi, Kenya to the Secretaries General of the United Nations and the Commonwealth;

**Agreed** to bring the matter to the urgent attention of the Commonwealth Heads of Government that are due to meet in Kampala, Uganda in November 2007;

**Urged** delegates to bring the contents of the Keynote Address to the attention of their respective governments with a request that the atrocities being committed against women in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of Congo be brought to the attention of the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, the African Union and other relevant international organisations;

**Undertook**, with the support of other partner and responsible organisations, to monitor the response of Member Governments and to urge the Commonwealth to ensure that there is an effective response and regular reporting by Member Governments and, ultimately, by the United Nations General Assembly and Security Council, the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights, the African Union and other relevant international organisations;

**Recommended** that the Security Council of the United Nations or a State Party to the Rome Statute refer the situation in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the Prosecutor at The International Criminal Court for investigation and prosecution of crimes against humanity being committed in the Eastern Region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, specifically acts of sexual violence;

**Agreed** to establish a working group to be appointed from delegates present, having regard to regional representation, to liaise with the Association and other related organisations in ensuring that action be taken in fulfillment of the resolution passed herein; And to report at the 16<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference in Hong Kong 2009.

Commonwealth Lawyers' Association  
15<sup>th</sup> Commonwealth Law Conference  
13<sup>th</sup> September 2007