

PRESS RELEASE

GAMCOTRAP



Protect the Girl-Child

11th July, 2023

GAMCOTRAP Honored with Prestigious Award for Unwavering Solidarity in Advancing African Women's Rights

GAMCOTRAP, one of the leading feminist and women's rights organizations in the Gambia, is a recipient of the **20 for 20 Solidarity Awards in Nairobi, Kenya. Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR)** is a regional network of over 80 national, regional, and international civil society organizations based in over 30 African countries. SOAWR works to ensure that the Protocol to the African Charter on the Rights of Women in Africa remains on the agenda of policy makers and to urge all African leaders to safeguard the rights of women through ratification and implementation of the **MAPUTO Protocol**- a protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, that aims to guarantee and protect the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all African women. It is the first legally binding instrument in the world to explicitly recognize a range of economic, social, and cultural rights for women.

The 20 for 20 Solidarity Awards seeks to recognize and celebrate twenty champions who have made exceptional contributions towards the promotion and uptake of the MAPUTO Protocol at national, regional, and continental levels.

The awards recognize those who have gone before us and those who continue to steer the numerous complexities that come with advocating for women and girls' rights in Africa. It is also an opportunity to celebrate those organizations and individuals that have taken bold steps in advocating for the adoption, ratification, and domestication of the MAPUTO Protocol using various platforms of change. The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition launched the 20 for 20 Solidarity Awards to commemorate Africa Day and the 20th Anniversary of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol). Over the years, **GAMCOTRAP** has been instrumental in the advocacy using the Maputo Protocol in the Gambia, working with different actors to advance gender equality and women's human rights.

Established in 1984 and registered in 1997, **GAMCOTRAP** is a feminist grassroots women's rights organization that works to improve the health and well-being of women and girl-children and to address harmful traditional practices. **GAMCOTRAP** is committed to the promotion and

protection of women and girl-children's political, social, educational, and sexual reproductive health rights.

In recognition for the advocacy and leading the enactment of the bill prohibiting FGM, the Women's Act in 2010 and Children's Act in 2015, and other relevant bills and acts that promote women's and children's rights, **GAMCOTRAP** has been nominated for the 20 for 20 Solidarity Awards. From 2007 to date, 1056 communities have abandoned the practice and specifically, 208 circumcisers have dropped the knife and now are part of the campaign against FGM and providing sexual and reproductive health services advocacy to women of reproductive age, such as deliveries, access to family planning services, and advice against FGM and early marriage.

The Awards gala and dinner will be held in Nairobi in the presence of global and regional high-level actors, civil society organizations, and the media. The awarding ceremony is slated for 11th of July 2033. The Awards will recognize the contribution of 20 state actors and non-state actors, including organizations, key institutions, civil society organizations, corporates, policy makers, media, and individuals. **GAMCOTRAP** would like to appreciate all the actors who have been actively involved in the promotion of the MAPUTO Protocol in the Gambia.