

## **“PEACE IN THE MOTHERLAND” INITIATIVE**

### **1. BACKGROUND**

This proposal provides a distinct interpretation of what constitutes conflicts and offers practical strategies for achieving peace. The successful implementation of the peace initiative outlined in this proposal is an expression of my strong commitment to the ideals of education, peace, international understanding and responsible citizenship.

### **2. OVERALL OBJECTIVES**

1. To achieve socioeconomic progress and peace in the poor communities of Lagos through the creation of profitable small scale businesses for working class adults.
2. To contribute to the overall education and improvement of the quality of life of young women through enhancement of the community outreach activities of the Concerned Women’s Ministry.
3. To execute a successful initiative that will promote the contribution of Africans abroad towards achieving peace and development in the motherland.

### **3. WHAT -THE PROJECT**

“Peace In The Motherland” is a bipartite peace initiative designed to address conflicts arising from insufficient economic opportunities in poor urban Nigerian communities and to provide support for worthy efforts aimed at improving the overall profile of young Nigerian women.

#### **1. URBAN MICROCREDIT PEACE INITIATIVE (UMPI)**

As the name suggests will see to the creation of 5-6 new profitable Small Scale Businesses (hereafter referred to as **SSB**) by making credit facilities available to qualified applicants who would otherwise not have access to such resources from local financial institutions. This initiative hinges on the premise that improvements in the socio-economic status of an individual or a family fosters overall societal peace and progress. Conflicts in many households are usually tied to insufficient economic resources. Juvenile delinquency is generally higher in such poor communities. Since my findings during a recent trip to Lagos show that a well managed **SSB** with capital injection of over N100, 000 (approximately US\$787) could generate steady flow of income for a family, then it makes for a good peace project to implement the **UMPI**.

#### **2. THE CONCERNED WOMEN MINISTRY SUPPORT PROGRAM**

The Concerned Women Ministry (**CWM**) is a non-governmental organization committed to the development and welfare of young African ladies. This free outreach program is the brainchild of a burden felt by a group of mothers to educate and empower young Nigerian women some of whom are victims of certain negative traditional practices coupled with a societal system plagued by poverty and HIV/AIDS. I would contribute to fostering societal peace and progress by supporting the **CWM** through the provision of multimedia equipment to enhance its community outreach efforts. In addition, I shall participate in a special community outreach event organized by the **CWM** in the summer of 2007. This event will provide a unique platform to discharge my duties as a Cornell International Student Ambassador.

#### **4. WHO AND WHERE - TARGET GROUP AND LOCATION**

The **UMPI** targets unemployed or underemployed mothers around the Ikeja / Ogba / Ojodu / Isheri axis while the **CWM** Support Program reaches out to hundreds of young women in Lagos and the neighboring states.

#### **5. HOW - PROCEDURE FOR IMPLEMENTATION**

- Applicants for the **UMPI** will be required to complete and submit a simple application with a proposal for a profitable small scale enterprise. Successful applicants will be selected on the basis of demonstrated financial need and merits of the proposal.
- Application packets will be made available through a designated local women's association.
- Beneficiaries will receive credit which will be repaid at no interest. Repaid funds will be used to generate more **SSBs**.
- I shall volunteer my time and employ the skills I have garnered in my business management courses at Cornell to assist with the successful implementation of the business proposals.
- Through adequate record keeping and sound business practices the new **SSBs** are expected to grow and expand within relatively short time.
- Provision will be made to purchase multimedia equipments to enhance the community outreach efforts of the **CWM**.
- Funds will also be allocated to the **CWM** to organize a special community outreach event over the summer at which I shall give a presentation.
- Disbursement of funds for "Peace In The Motherland" shall be handled by a third party appointed by the Cornell Davis UWC Scholars office.

#### **6. WHEN- TENTATIVE IMPLEMENTATION DATES**

The project will be executed during the summer of 2007.

#### **7. EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

- Measurable increase of at least \$100 in monthly disposable income of beneficiaries.
- Enhanced outreach events organized by the **CWM**. Multimedia presentations will become a regular feature of **CWM** organized events.
- Local mass media showcase of 'Peace In The Motherland'.

#### **8. KEY PLAYERS & CONTACTS**

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