

# 'Women Peacemakers Programme' launched

**A PROGRAMME committed to empowering women through non-violent activities to promote the culture of peace, tolerance, inclusion and equality was launched on Thursday to showcase Africa as a symbol of hope and peaceful co-existence.**

The programme, dubbed; Women Peacemakers Programme (WPP) is a sub-programme of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, a Netherlands-based peace organisation.

The theme of the WPP is: "Without peace, Development is Impossible and Without Women, Neither Peace nor Development Can Take Place."

Ms Euphemia Akos Dzathor, Co-ordinator of WPP in Ghana, said in the next three years the programme would educate and train selected people in Africa in gender sensitive active non-violence activities to enable them to serve as peace trainers on the continent.

"Over the past year, the Africa Regional Office of WPP has promoted gender sensitive non-violence activities in eight countries considered to be in dire need because of conflict situations in those regions," she said.

Other activities and programmes to be undertaken by the WPP Africa office based in Ghana would include supporting women civil society organisations to promote peace in the rural areas as well as exchanging and sharing best practices to lobby and advocate peace in various African countries.

Hajia Alima Mahama, Minister of Women and Children's Affairs, who launched the programme pointed out that gender equality was an integral part of achieving a peaceful society, and commended WPP for complimenting the governments' efforts at ensuring peace and security in Africa. — GNA