



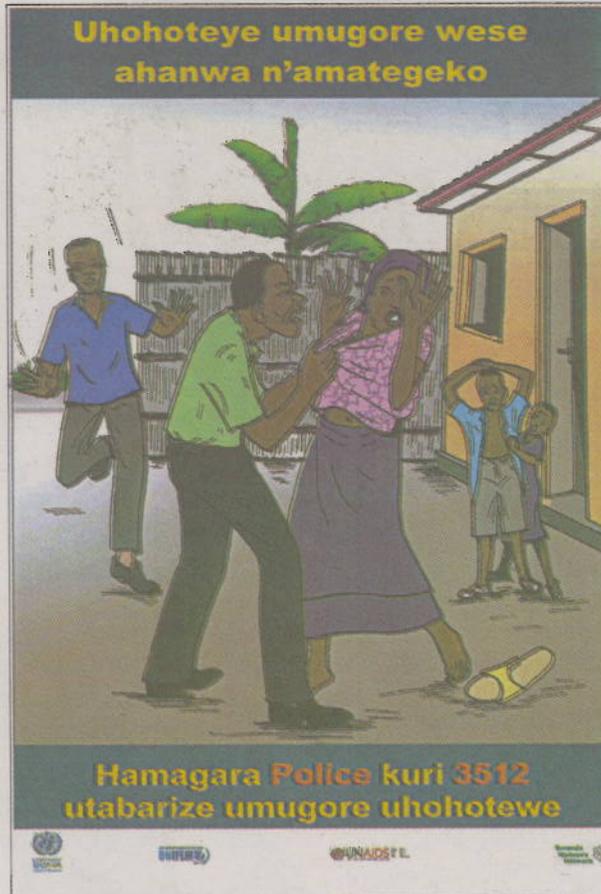
Editorial

Women Today

WOMEN TODAY magazine is a bright, compelling and educative read for today's modern woman. Today we celebrate International Women's Day and tackle some of the factors that hinder or upgrade women around the world. From celebrating women, to their empowerment, to the importance of educating the girl child, *Women Today* covers it all. There is emphasis on the girl child because she is the future of the nation. Starting today, March 8, 2012 as we celebrate International Women's Day, to April 5, 2012, Rwanda has dedicated these days to women and girls. Imagine what we as women can do with a whole month dedicated to us? Today is the day for women around the world to celebrate. Kick back, relax and simply commemorate being who you are. Spoil yourself - go get a manicure or facial. Treat yourself to a fancy meal with your girl pals and simply observe being you! There is nothing greater than being a woman. We are the glue that holds the world together.

Women Today is here to give a voice to the voiceless women, those hindered by domestic violence and traditional practices that deem them as 'second class' citizens. Luckily, being born a girl in Rwanda is such a privilege that many women in underprivileged societies admire. We have the choice and freedom to

Rwanda Women's Network scoops international award



Award Winning poster by Rwanda Women's Network. Courtesy photo.

By Correspondent

THE Rwanda Women's Network (RWN) made history by being among the winners of the inaugural Avon Communications Awards at the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters that ended on March 1, 2012 in Washington, D.C.

ing upon the community to take responsibility by responding to the problem.

"This recognition tells us that we are doing the right thing, and we are indeed encouraged to continue the struggle until women live in a world free of violence," said Mary Balikungeri, RWN Director and Founder, when accept-

"This recognition tells us that we are doing the right thing"



Mary Balikungeri, RWN Director and Founder speaks at the Avon Communications Awards in Washington D.C. Courtesy photo.

work is a national humanitarian non-governmental organization dedicated to promotion strategies that empower women. The organization works with survivors of the 1994 Genocide

be who we are, thanks to the leadership.

Women Today, greatly wishes all women a wonderful IWD and may God continue to bless 'the woman'.

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The conference, organised by the Global network of Women's Shelters and the US National Network to end Domestic Violence, discussed the innumerable ways that women are victims of domestic and gender-based violence, including how the problem could be addressed.

The Avon Communications Awards for Speaking Out About Violence Against Women provided some of the major highlights at the conference by recognizing award-winning campaigns against gender-based violence on women.

The Rwanda Women's Network won the "Break The Silence Award" with their poster depicting domestic violence, while call-

ing the Award.

The Award, which was in four categories, is an initiative of the Avon Foundation for Women whose Ambassador is the actor Reese Witherspoon. The four categories included Storytelling; Innovative Campaign; Break the Silence; and Global Excellence in Communications.

A citation on the impact of the award winning poster shows, "... a man physically abusing a woman with children witnessing the assault, and a neighbour running to her rescue demonstrating that violence against women is a societal problem and encouraging community responsibility and victim assistance."

Rwanda Women's Net-

against the Tutsi, victims and survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), as well as other vulnerable groups including poor and vulnerable women, children and people living with HIV/Aids.

Balikungeri expressed her gratitude to the Avon Foundation, and its partners on the particular campaign project, the One UN (UN-AIDS and UN Women), the women and communities working with RWN for making it possible.

The RWN is a previous recipient of two other international awards; the 2007 UN-Habitat Dubai International Award and the 2006 UNDP/UNAIDS Red Ribbon Award.