



## Mediation on Human Rights Violation Cases

### What is it about?

Mediation on human rights violation cases in order to improve family and community relationships and promote respect for human rights, peace and sustainable development.

### Why an intervention?

Increased human rights violations with no lasting solutions from different government bodies resulted in the need of a program to intervene in these cases that were breaking many families apart. Alternative strategies had to be found to handle these problems holistically by collective ideas and mediative ways of dealing with the involved parties. For sustainable development, peace must prevail.

### What does it change?

This experience is different from the justice system where one is accused of wrong doing and punished according to the law. In this process, in contrast, one is made to understand the wrong that he/she has done and is able to ask for forgiveness, enabling the possibility to re-establish harmony and peaceful coexistence in the community. Due to the practice, more than 1000 families have been reconciled through family mediative sessions. Additionally, the reporting of rights violation cases has increased because of higher awareness, human rights violations were reduced due to a constitutional understanding of human rights, and the accessibility to property ownership by women has improved, as they were incited to fight for their financial provisions and political positions.

# KNOW-HOW 3000

## Experience AT A GLANCE

### How does it work?

- When cases are reported to the human rights office, summon letters are sent to both parties involved. Mediation begins when all parties report to the office and are informed of the case.
- The mediation process involves notifying the clients of constitutional provisions and violations, handling the case and offering solutions.
- At times, referrals are necessary, whenever the case involves criminal offences that require legal attention beyond the capacity of the office.
- In addition, awareness raising activities are conducted, for example in schools.

### Who are the beneficiaries?

Women, children, marginalized people and the whole community - whole families benefit through reconciliatory talks, children benefit through the promotion of children rights.

### Who could use that approach?

Any organization working with communities affected by human rights violations such as domestic violence, neglected children and family conflicts over land ownership.

### Who is already using it?

- DECESE - Development Education Services For Community Empowerment
- Catholic Justice and Peace Commission of the Diocese of Kisii, SOLWODI Solidarity With Women In Distress and Hequeendo CBO have made similar experiences.

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AUSTRIAN ORGANISATION FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

**Sector:** Human Rights – Civil Society  
**Period:** since 2010  
**Organisation:** DECESE - Development Education Services For Community Empowerment  
**Further material:** [www.deseceorganization.org/](http://www.deseceorganization.org/)  
 Most significant change stories  
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