

Wahu Kaara

Ecumenical Millennium Development Goal Programme Coordinator

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Wahu Kaara is a renowned Kenyan educationist and a Global Social Justice Activist of international repute. She taught History and Kiswahili in numerous High schools in Kenya, rising to the position of a Principal in a Girl's High School before she retired to devote her time and energy to civic engagement.

Today, she is the Ecumenical Programme Coordinator for the Millennium Development Goals at the all Africa Conference of Churches.

Over time she has been involved in numerous processes around Debt, Trade, Aid, Human Rights and Sustainable Development. She has been a central figure in the formation of numerous civil society organizations and entities in Kenya, around Human Rights, Governance, Economic Policy, Democratization and Gender serving in various capacities on numerous boards.

As founding Coordinator of the Kenya Debt Relief Network, she has played an instrumental role in shaping and deepening the understanding and debate around economic policy, good governance and constitution making at the local levels with specific focus on how these impact on women.

A gender trainer and community mobilizer, she has been at the lead of integrating local communities in the decision making process. Her participation and contribution as a delegate during the National Constitutional Conference, has greatly informed the character of the much sought after separation of powers and devolution of power as enshrined in the Draft constitution. Her immense contribution is also recognized in the drafting of the Bill of Rights.

She serves on the council of the Africa Social Forum and the Africa Women Economic Policy Network. She is also involved in the creation of the Africa Mother's Foundation, a continental body that will serve to document the richness of women's contribution in the development of Africa. Breaking the global mediatic silence usually visited on them. She has played a central role in bringing the World Social Forum to Nairobi in January 2007.

With Brazilian President Lula'd Silva, she launched the Global Call to Action against Poverty in Porto Alegre, Brazil in January 2005.

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Wahu was born in 1952 at the height of the Mau Mau war. She was brought up in the Rift Valley. Injustices in Kenya during her childhood years left a mark on her and provoked her current quest for social justice.

Though widowed at an early age, she is a committed Christian, the happy mother of four, and proud grandmother of one.

Wahu is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee for the year 2005.