

NGO Working Group on Northern Uganda

The NGO Working Group on Northern Uganda consists of international NGOs who work collaboratively with partners on the ground in Northern Uganda. This group began working together in January of 2004 after a Human Rights Watch-sponsored delegation of civil society members from Northern Uganda visited New York. During this visit, Angelina Atyam, co-founder and President of the Concerned Parents Association, issued a plea for the international community to help Ugandans ease the suffering from 18 years of conflict in the Northern part of the country. This plea inspired the group's formation and its mandate to help quell the growing insecurity and humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict.

The working group focuses on the coordination of advocacy efforts at the UN to raise awareness of the conflict and help close the gap between discussion and action at the international policy level. The two main advocacy issues are : 1.) the peaceful resolution of the conflict in Northern Uganda, which we believe must become a priority for the UN and the international community and, 2.) increasing civilian protection and ending the humanitarian crisis, which has had devastating affects on the people of Northern Uganda, especially children and women. As NGOs with representation in New York, we are particularly interested in action that can be taken through the United Nations. Our members continue to meet with ambassadors and expert staff of the key donor governments with an interest in Northern Uganda.

This group is also concerned with the services being delivered to the people of Uganda by UN agencies operating on the ground. Thus our members meet with high level officials from UN agencies active in Uganda and we participate in interagency discussions with UN experts to discuss our concerns and specific steps that can be taken to help end the crisis.