

## Democratic Republic of Congo - From Genocide to Recovery

Robin Marsh  
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Universal Peace Federation - UK's Headquarters in London, together with Mothers of Congo, hosted an event to update and harness the passion to improve the human rights position of people in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. A number of the Congolese diaspora were present to share their experiences and to encourage each other to work for a better future.

### **Pauline Long**

Pauline Long is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, fashion designer, motivational speaker, music video director with over 25 awards.

Addressed the lack of human love as the cause of the endemic of rape in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.

### **Justina Mutale DRC: From Genocide to Recovery - Speech**

Justina Mutale is the African Woman of the Year 2012, Honorary Ambassador for Gender Equality, Founder of Positive Runway - Global Catwalk to Stop the Spread of HIV/AIDS

'I would like to start by quoting Edmund Burke, who once said, "The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men (and good women) to do nothing." The issue of the genocide in the Congo is not just another African story. It is a global issue. The lives and deaths of millions of innocent Congolese people, the death of these innocent men, women and children are directly linked to each and every one of us gathered here tonight. In fact, in this age of modern technology, the lives and deaths of our Congolese brothers and sisters and their children are linked to each and every person on the planet who uses modern technology or benefits from its advantages.' (For More Genocide in the Democratic Republic of Congo: Blood Rubber To Blood Metals)

**Stuart Mackensie** recited three poems full of passion and anger at the injustice in our modern world. Stuart had been very active in preparing for this event. He had invited three musicians who entertained the

audience during the evening.

**Robin Marsh:** Secretary General, Universal Peace Federation - UK

'Conflict Minerals and the International Response'

Gave an update on the effort to establish a legal framework for multi-national companies to work in areas of weak governance. There is a growing recognition for the need to prevent natural resources from being used to fund conflict, militias or rebellions. This is coupled with the UN initiative to establish guiding principles for multinational companies to confirm standards of human rights within their supply chains. The role of a National Contact Point for these issues is in its infancy but has a significant future.

**Mulumba Kabongo: UPF member from the DRC**

Mulumba emphasised the need for sacrificing for the other as a basis for development in DRC. That includes sacrificing for the sake of the nation and for the good of the future. He also explained that without God there could not be long term healing and peacebuilding. He explained that prayer was very important for finding the way forward.

**Charlotte Simon - Speech**

Founder of Mothers of Congo - from Eastern DRC

FROM GENOCIDE TO RECOVERY

A WOMAN HAS ALWAYS BEEN A PILAR OF A SOCIETY. SHE IS A WIFE, A MOTHER AND A CARER. I ALWAYS BEEN AMAZED BY THE LOAD A WOMAN CAN CARRY. IN AFRICA, I HAVE SEEN WOMEN CARRY SUCH A BIG LOAD ON THEY BACK COMING FROM THE FIELD, A LOAD BIGGER THAN THEIR NORMAL HEIGHT JUST SO THEY COULD CATER FOR THEIR FAMILIES. IN EUROPE I HAVE SEEN WOMAN WORK SO HARD JUGGLING BETWEEN THEIR JOBS AND HOME TO KEEP THEIR FAMILIES HAPPY. THE EXAMLPE OF MY FRIEND MARGARET EVEN WHEN SHE IS AT WORK, SHE ALWAYS MAKES SURE EVERYTHING IS PERFECT AT HOME. ON THE 11TH OF JULY 2009 IN ACCRA, GHANA PRESIDENT OBAMA DELIVERED A SPEECH. I QUOTE, "AFRICA DOESN'T NEED STRONGMEN IT NEEDS STRONG INSTITUTIONS ", BUT I AM SAYING THAT AFRICA NEED STRONG WOMEN. HUMMM...MAYBE MEN? (I WILL THINK ABOUT THAT ONE.) (FOR MORE)