



The world's deadliest war. Imagine what you can do.

# RUN FOR CONGO WOMEN

## Talking Points

❖ **Are you familiar with what's happening in Congo?** Militias from many countries are pillaging villages and attacking civilians. Women as old as 80 and as young as 5 have been victims of rape and other forms of sexual violence.

❖ **Despite the country's enormous mineral wealth**, several years of war, on the heels of thirty-two years of corrupt, dictatorial rule under Mobutu Sese Seko, (1965-1997), has shattered the country's infrastructure, economy, and ability to provide basic services such as health and education.

❖ **More hope than ever** has arisen, with a peace treaty in 2003, and recent elections. And yet...

❖ **More than 5.4 million people have died.**

- 38,000 continue to die every month, 1200 a day.
- Half of these deaths are children under the age of 5 years.
- Most children don't reach their 5th birthday.
- Women are targeted daily for gang rape, torture, and sexual slavery.

❖ **THIS IS THE DEADLIEST WAR SINCE WORLD WAR II.**

❖ **And yet we don't talk about the Congo.** Never heard of this conflict? You aren't alone. Most people haven't. It receives almost no news coverage.

❖ **The Congolese people know they have not been worth the effort** in the eyes of the world. When 5.4 million people have died, and no one cares, we don't feel human anymore."- Jean Paul, Congolese man.

❖ **Run for Congo Women was created by everyday women like us** to send a message of hope and dignity to women living through this conflict. This year, I'm doing \_\_\_\_\_. Here's why it's important to me:\_\_\_\_\_.

❖ **We are raising awareness and sponsorships through Women for Women International's Congo program.** For \$27/ month we can sponsor a war affected woman with support groups, rights awareness, job training, literacy, and other training, as well money to use at her discretion, and we can exchange letters with her. The goal is self-sufficiency within 1 year.

❖ **Here's what I'm asking:**

- Support my efforts by signing up to sponsor a woman in Congo through Women for Women International.
- Host a Congo Care Gathering, to educate your circle about what is happening in Congo.
- Can't sponsor? Donate a flat amount to Women for Women International's Congo Program.

❖ **We hope you will join the statement that is Run for Congo Women**, however you chose to get involved. In fact, by taking the time to listen, you already have!

**OUR STATEMENT**

**Congolese lives matter. The lives of Congolese women are significant. The lives of Congolese children are precious. They have waited far too long. They are worth our effort. We are running to help**