

“The Political Implication of Congolese Women for change and good governance in DRC”

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The panel organized by WILPS-DRC included two Congolese NGO members and a female member of the Congolese Senate. The discussion focused on several sub-topics related to women’s role in Congolese governance. The role of women in conflict was discussed at length because of the uneven burden that they and their children share as compared to men actually engaged in combat. Women’s groups have been gaining prominence through demonstrations and increased involvement in politics at all levels of Congolese society. Several different initiatives are also being undertaken by women’s NGOs to remove the stigma of inferiority that plagues Congolese society and drives gender based violence. They also discussed victims of sexual violence resulting from war and the programs they are developing to reintegrate these women back into society.