



HERvoices: Wajir's Peace Group
The Women-Led Peace Group in Wajir, Kenya

In the northeast corner of Kenya, where the majority of Kenyan citizens are ethnically Somali Muslims, three tribes engaged in violent warfare over sparse resources and controversial geographical boundaries throughout the 1990's. In the small town of Wajir, in the predominantly nomadic Wajir district, a group of women emerged as the leaders of a successful, nonviolent, and collective peace movement. "When the fighting began to affect the women's marketplace and restrict trading between the women, we knew we couldn't wait for the men to stop the conflict," explains one of the members of the cross-clan movement.

**"If your house is on fire, do you wait for someone else to put it out?
No, you move quickly and do what you can."
Dekha, Founder, Wajir Peace Group**

Wajir's movement is a remarkable story of a group of women, normally-marginalized from political leadership, who directed their community through an inclusive and effective peace movement in the late 1990's and early 2000's. "At our first Peace Festival, which far preceded our Peace, we honored some of our most violent clan leaders as "Peace-Makers" -- so they hiked up their boot-straps and started acting like Peace leaders!"

HERvoices is currently accepting funding for the production of this presentation.

*Sometimes, just speaking about your life can inform you of your own importance; and,
Often, hearing about her life can resolve something in you and remind you of your humanity.*