

*What Went Wrong? Prosecuting Rape at the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda*

Edmonton was privileged to have Doris Buss, Chair of the LEAF Board of Directors as keynote speaker for our 2009 Persons' Day Breakfast. In addition to her Chair duties, Doris is an Associate Professor of Law at Carleton University in Ottawa where she teaches and researches in the areas of international law, human rights, and social justice. In this role, Doris studied the outcomes of rape trials in Rwanda. Her talk explored why an international Criminal Tribunal failed to get significant numbers of convictions after tens of thousands of women and girls were raped, sexually assaulted and killed during the 100 day period of the Rwanda genocide.

Also present at the breakfast were representatives from Ubuntu (meaning humanity), a charitable organization originating in Edmonton, dedicated to improving the living conditions of women and children who were victims of the Rwandan genocide. Ubuntu's work generated much interest at the Breakfast, as did the jewellery and pajamas (yes, beautiful organic cotton PJs hand tailored by Rwandan women), which were being sold to support Ubuntu's endeavours. Ubuntu has a website if you are interested in their work, or their pajamas.

LEAF Edmonton took up National's suggestion and invited 80 (and plus) year olds to the Person's Day Breakfast. In celebration of LEAF's 80th year, they were heralded as foremothers whose lives spanned the crucial transition from "non-persons" to "persons".