



ILLINOIS

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

College of Agricultural, Consumer, and Environmental Sciences  
Office of International Programs

109 Mumford Hall, MC-710, 1301 West Gregory Drive | Urbana, IL 61801

---

Release Date: June 8, 2011

News Source: Kyla Kruse, 217-244-5373, [kekruse@illinois.edu](mailto:kekruse@illinois.edu)

### **Rwanda Minister of Gender and Family Promotion Speaks at U of I**

URBANA – On Wednesday, June 8, 2011, the Honorable Minister Inyumba Aloisea from Rwanda spoke on the role of women in nation building as part of the College of ACES distinguished international lecture series at the University of Illinois.

Minister Aloisea discussed Rwanda's history, including the 1994 genocide against the Tutsi, in which 1 million people were lost in 100 days. She said, "the genocide destroyed the country's social fabric."

She explained that everyone in the country—including women and youth must be active agents of change to help stabilize the country. Rwanda's efforts in nation building are "sustained by political will and transformational leadership that is committed to mainstreaming gender," she said. "Traditional roles of women had to change. Women are the foundation of a family, and families are the foundation of a nation."

Currently, women serve active roles in the government of Rwanda. In fact, women make up 56 percent of Parliament and 61 percent of their Supreme Court.

Minister Aloisea is visiting Illinois as part of a trip that includes Rwanda Day 2011 in Chicago June 10 and 11. President Kagame of Rwanda is the guest of honor, and it provides an opportunity for others to hear of Rwanda's growth during the last two decades. More information about this event is available at [www.rwandaday.org](http://www.rwandaday.org).

*The ACES Office of International Programs at the University of Illinois promotes the most effective use of faculty, department, college, and external resources to support and strengthen the international dimension of the College's research, teaching, and outreach activities.*