

Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022

*"No, my brother! she cried ... Don't do this to me! ... Where could I go in my shame?"*  
(2 Samuel 13:12-13)

Today, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022, the world is involved in the commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Conflict Related Sexual Violence.

On 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 19<sup>th</sup> June of each year as 'the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict'. The aim was (i) To raise awareness of the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), (ii) To honor the victims and survivors of sexual violence around the world and (iii) To pay tribute to all those who have courageously devoted their lives to and lost their lives in standing up for the eradication of these crimes.

Marking the *International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict*, the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) would like to call, appeal and request all Churches and faith communities across South Sudan to include some of the following messages during religious services held on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2022 or issue a statement in support of survivors of sexual violence and condemning all such acts perpetrated against them.

**South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC) recognizes that:**

1. Sexual violence in conflict remains an area of concern in South Sudan, with acts such as rape, sexual slavery, abductions and forced marriage are rampant, all of which are inconsistent with teachings and principles of Christian faiths and against the laws of the country.
2. Survivors of conflict related sexual violence should not be stigmatized. Their families, the communities they live in and the various institutions must acknowledge their suffering and not victimize them further. Those who have children born as a result of the sexual violence must be supported and their innocent children not discriminated against.
3. It is the responsibility of the Governmental authorities to provide to the survivors of sexual violence, all possible assistance, from legal support and protection, to services such as health and livelihood options for them to be able to sustain themselves and live with dignity.
4. Commitments made by parties to the conflict specially with regards to prohibition of committing, commanding or condoning acts of sexual violence by the forces, need to be respected and upheld.
5. The past year has seen an increase in sexual violence in areas such as Greater Equatoria and Unity during conflict by various armed groups. Such incidents need to be condemned and authorities need to prosecute the perpetrators and hold them to account.

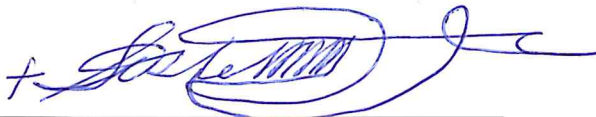
And, therefore would like to emphasize all stakeholders,





1. To urge the Government to keep the implementation of the Joint Communiqué on prevention and response to sexual violence as a priority. We urge all parties to the conflict to implement the various commitment that they have agreed upon to prevent conflict related sexual violence in South Sudan, including the Joint Action plan for the Armed Forces on addressing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan and the South Sudan National Police Services Action Plan to address Conflict Related Sexual Violence.
2. To urge religious leaders of all faiths to promote acceptance of survivors within communities and assist them in reintegrating within their societies and communities with dignity and respect without further stigmatization and shame.
3. To reiterate that there is no shame in being a survivor of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The shame and responsibility lie with the perpetrators of such abhorrent crime.
4. To recognize the role that Youth, Civil Society Organizations and Community Leaders can play in supporting survivors, addressing the stigma faced by them and creating awareness on their rights.
5. To urge all Churches and Church Leaders to extend their support and assistance to survivors of sexual violence, raise awareness for their rights and against stigmatisation faced by them and their families.

SIGNED:



**The Most Rev. Dr. Stephen AMEYU MARTIN MULLA**  
Metropolitan Archbishop of JUBA &  
Apostolic Administrator, Catholic Diocese of TORIT.



**The Most Rev. Dr. Justin BADI ARAMA**  
Archbishop and Primate, Province of the Episcopal Church of South Sudan &  
Metropolitan Archbishop of JUBA Diocese.



**Bishop Dr. Isaiah MAJOK DAU**  
General Overseer, Sudan Pentecostal Church (SPC).



**Bishop James LAGOS ALEXANDER**  
Presiding Bishop, Africa Inland Church (AIC).



**Rev. Thomas TUT PUOT MUT**  
Moderator, South Sudan Presbyterian Evangelical Church (SSPEC).



**Rt. Rev. James MAKUEI CHUOL**  
Moderator of the 34<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Presbyterian Church of South Sudan and Sudan (PCSS/S).

**Fr. James OYET LATANSIO PhD**  
General Secretary  
South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC).

