

Public Statement

June 19, 2026, **Location:** Juba, South Sudan

The Joint Consultation Forum Calls for Urgent Action to End Conflict Related Sexual Violence

To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict (IDESVC), the Joint Consultation Forum on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (JCF) convened in Juba under the theme *“Healing through Solidarity and Peace: Ending Conflict Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan.”*

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) remains a devastating weapon of war of conflict across South Sudan. Women, girls, men, and boys face heightened risks during periods of displacement and insecurity, and all survivors endure stigma, discrimination, as well as barriers to accessing rights and essential services. In addition, children born of conflict-related rape face challenges related to identity and civil status documentation.

A fragile justice system and entrenched patriarchal norms perpetuate impunity, undermining the sustainable peace envisioned in the Revitalized Agreement on the resolution of Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS).

We, members of the JCF and partners, reaffirm our commitment to:

- Strengthening accountability through survivor-centered justice pathways, investigations, prosecutions, legal aid services, and other measures that combat impunity for conflict-related sexual violence.
- Providing livelihood skills training and economic empowerment opportunities to foster resilience and sustainable recovery for CRSV survivors.
- Engaging traditional and religious leaders to challenge harmful social norms and foster the acceptance and reintegration of survivors.
- Promoting the rights, protection, and inclusion of children born of wartime rape, including access to identity documentation, services, and opportunities.

We call on the Revitalized Transitional Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) to continue leading efforts to prevent and respond to CRSV, with the support of international partners, civil society organizations, and communities. In particular, we call upon the Government to:

- Pass and implement key legislations that strengthen the protection of women, children, and survivors of violence, including the Anti-GBV Bill, Family Law Bill, Women’s Empowerment Bill, Gender Equality Bill, and laws that explicitly criminalize CRSV;
- Strengthen justice and accountability mechanisms to ensure that perpetrators of CRSV are investigated and duly prosecuted.
- Integrate CRSV survivor voices into peace dialogues and mediation processes.
- Embed protection measures and early warning systems into all peacebuilding efforts.
- Provide timely financial and logistical support for CRSV survivor-focused initiatives.
- Continue dialogue on strengthening the legal and policy framework addressing conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan, including consideration of measures that respond to the specific nature and consequences of CRSV.

We envision:

- A South Sudan where CRSV survivors are economically empowered, socially embraced, and actively contributing to peace and development;
- A nation where perpetrators are held accountable, survivors are recognized as agents of change and co-creators of peace, and communities are rebuilt on the foundations of justice, dignity, and equality.

Signatories

 	 	 	 	 
 	 	 	 	 
 	 	 <p>Human Appeal Development Organization "Rebuilding Peace in Our Communities".</p> 		