

South Sudan Women's position on the Current Humanitarian Crisis and Political Turmoil in the Country - South Sudan Humanitarian Conference
19 - 20 May 2014; Oslo - Norway.

WE ARE TIRED OF WAR - GIVE PEACE A CHANCE

Since December 15th 2013, the most vulnerable citizens of the Republic of South Sudan have continued to suffer savior impact of the current crisis. Statistics indicate that more than one million South Sudanese citizens have been forced out of the comfort of their homes, over 900,000 are internally displaced and almost 300,000 have fled to neighboring countries: Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Kenya. Yet more millions of South Sudanese citizens are already at risk of severe food insecurity and could face famine in the nearest future.

The threat of famine, communicable diseases and other public health concerns among the displaced population is real; and women, children and the elderly are often most hit by such catastrophe. It is indeed a grime reality that as the fighting between the two parties intensify, the magnitude of human right violations and atrocities committed against civilians population by forces form both sides continues to escalate; as the Cessation of Hostilities agreement between the two parties fails to hold, more innocent live are being lost, more women a raped and many children defiled and robbed of their innocence and childhood.

This conference comes at a time when citizens of South Sudan (women) need the support and meaningful intervention of our international friends. As we expect different actors and states represented in this conference to pledge their support for humanitarian assistance in South Sudan and brainstorm on how to create a conducive environment for better access to humanitarian assistance and protection, as South Sudanese women we call for the following;

- I. Respect the signed re-commitment on Humanitarian access in the cessation of hostilities agreement signed on 6 May 2014 and give necessary protection and facilitation to ensure access to Humanitarian Aid.
- II. Commitment of the two conflicting parties to the agreement to resolve the crisis signed by the principals on 9 May, 2014 to a substantial peace process.
- III. Protection of women and children both within and outside the PoCs; and provision of decent social amenities for IDPs, Refugees and survivors. This can only be realized through facilitation and support to local efforts and initiatives.
- IV. Provision of adequate funding for civil society organizations and women organizations in particular for programmes designed to provide psychosocial support for women and children affected by the crisis and survivors of rape and defilement
- V. Strengthen local protection mechanism and plan a comprehensive security sector reform, monitoring human rights violations and enhance aid delivery to help restore livelihood and development programs in the states which are relatively calm
- VI. Funding should be provided for women organizations to ensure their effective participation in the ongoing peace process
- VII. Broad based support for healing and reconciliation initiatives, justice, accountability and protection for survivors/witnesses must be given priority in any quest for accountability Support

For more details contact the focal persons: Ms. Rita Martin, Director of EVE Organization for Women Development at infor@evesouthsudan.org or +211955572888 and Ms. Lona James Elia, Executive Director, Voice for Change at llowillal2000@yahoo.co.uk or +211955022367