

A woman with dark skin is the central figure, wearing a vibrant pink dress with a floral pattern and a gold-colored collar. She is looking upwards and to the left with a slight smile. The background features a complex pattern of red, yellow, and blue geometric shapes and intricate white designs.

The Role of South Sudan Women in the Peace Process

**A Report by:
Eve Organization For Women Development
Juba South Sudan**

Submitted to: Cordaid

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1. Basic Data

Project Title: The Role of Women in the Peace Negotiations in South Sudan

Project Nr: 111048

Name of the Organization: EVE organization for Women Development

Project Starting Date: April 2014

Reporting Period: 31 August 2014

2. Summary:

2.1. Background

After the consultative meeting of South Sudan Women Leaders in Kampala from 19 – 21 January 2014 on women, peace and security in reaction to the outbreak of conflict on the 15 December 2013 and a subsequent follow up in Addis Ababa to meet with the South Sudan peace negotiation and mediation team; a number of recommendations came out from the consultations and most important is the follow up on some of the key outcomes to ensure that Women of South Sudan continuous engagement and participation in the peace processes.

Cordaid committed to provide some funds for a follow up on the peace process while South Sudan women come up with a longer-term project. EVE Organization as a lead women's Organization on UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security took the lead to develop a proposal on the role of women in the South Sudan peace negotiation process as well as supports the development of a longer term proposal.

This project was developed to support South Sudanese women come up with a coordinated voice and advocacy strategy, and build a common approach to issues in order to get women involved and influence the peace process.

2.2. Objectives

1. To continuously and consistently present South Sudan women's position on the current peace process and ensure women and gender issues are included in the negotiation agenda
2. To advocate at relevant regional and international bodies who are influential in the negotiation process
3. To ensure coordination with other South Sudanese women groups from the Diaspora including women refugees and other General South Sudanese CSOs in Addis Ababa and make necessary synergies

2.3. Activities covered under this project

1. *Meet with the two negotiating parties' delegates privately and feed in South Sudanese women position into the peace negotiation agenda:* The women CSO representatives will follow up with the two negotiating parties and request for meetings with both groups separately and share the South Sudan women positions and priorities to feed into the peace negotiation agenda
2. *Establish reliable contacts with the two negotiating teams:* The representatives will ensure they establish reliable contacts especially with the women delegates in both parties and ensure follow up to influence the process.
3. The representatives will schedule at least three meetings with the main regional and international bodies who are influential and also mediating the process namely IGAD, Troika and the AU Special Envoy on women peace and security
4. Consult and coordinate with other South Sudanese women groups in Addis if any and share agreed positions
5. Make necessary synergies with other South Sudan CSOs and faith based organizations that are present in Addis Ababa

2.4. Important Outcomes

- ***Objective 1. To continuously and consistently present South Sudan women's position on the current peace process and ensure women and gender issues are included in the negotiation agenda***

Outcomes:

- South Sudan women were able to engage and form strong and reliable connections with the two warring parties as well as the other stakeholders in the peace process in Addis Ababa
- Women became courageous and were able to come out in peaceful demonstrations and vocal enough to face the media to air out their views
- Women were able to develop the women's position paper on the political framework which was shared with all stakeholders and some of the points were actually considered in the thematic committee

- ***Objective 2. To advocate at relevant regional and international bodies who are influential in the negotiation process***

Outcomes

- Women Advocacy efforts yielded positive feedback and a representative from the SSWPP is granted a seat among the CSOs delegate representing women.
- Women advocacy efforts led to the increase of women representation in the Civil Society Delegation. Out of 18 representatives, there are seven (7)

women representatives

- ***Objective 3. To ensure coordination with other South Sudanese women groups from the Diaspora including women refugees and other General South Sudanese CSOs in Addis Ababa and make necessary synergies***

Outcomes

- The women organizations agreed that unity is key and jointly agree for a common goal which is peace as a result the ***South Sudan women platform for peace (WPP) was formed***
- Women are ready to engage more and expand the network to the other states in South Sudan to encourage other women to stand up and call for peace
- Women were able to coordinate and create linkages with other women in Addis and diaspora as well as the Young women Christian Association of South Sudan

2.5. Linkages to UNSCR 1325

The aim of this project intervention is that South Sudanese women participate in the peace process and ensure that women issues are adequately reflected and addressed in the peace agreement. This will guarantee that local women grievances get the attention of decision makers and eventually be part of the agenda of the transitional government. This will also set the stage for a better advocacy of the implementation of the South Sudan UNSCR 1325 national Action plan, which shall be launched in October 2014. Issues of adequate women's representation in decision-making, gender based violence to inflict pain and humiliation during the conflict, rampant impunity, reparations and special funds to support women programs were all raised during the different thematic committee discussions in peace negotiation process. Eventually these should shape part of the reforms that are aspired for South Sudan during the transitional period and this will immensely be in line with the implementation of the Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 and 1889 (2009). These resolutions affirm conflict's differential impacts on women and girls, acknowledge the importance of women's contributions to sustainable peace, and recognize the value of their full and equal participation in decision-making processes Security Council Resolution 1889.

2.6. Way Forward

- WPP members resolved to continue with advocacy on peace-building through media as well as reaching to the grassroots to strengthen women participation in peace-building and conflict mitigation through trainings
- As part of the bigger CSOs engagement in the peace process, there is a need to also include **women and gender experts as part of the CSOs technical group that will be set up in Addis Ababa to continuously provide backup and insights** that will feed into the process through the women and CSOs representatives at the table.
- It is important to continuously disseminate information flow from Addis to South Sudan to allow women to follow up and keep them updated of the progress made and this can help them maintain pressure to the warring parties
- Continuous national and grassroots linkages on women, peace and security issues
- WPP to launch in-country pressure on decision makers at both National level and state level through the office of the first lady.
- Full engagement of the media (FM Stations and the national TV) to pass messages of peace, forgiveness and reconciliation including awareness of the UNSCR 1325 and keep women informed about the peace process. This will ensure information flow to and from the grassroots.

3. Context

3.1. The Current Conflict in South Sudan and its impact on Women

South Sudan, the world's newest country came into existence amidst great challenges. During its first years of independence, an oil standoff with neighboring Sudan, inter-communal violence, persistent rebellions by splinter militia groups, increasingly constrained political space, corruption, and limited economic opportunities troubled the young nation.¹

On 15 December 2013, violence broke out between soldiers loyal to South Sudan President Salva Kiir and others loyal to the former Vice President Dr. Riek Machar in the country's capital of Juba and violence quickly spread to Unity, Upper Nile and Jongolei states. The conflict has devastated communities, stretched people's resilience and has claimed the lives of thousands of people. Violence and fear have forced over 1.3 million people from their homes. More than 325,000 have sought refuge in Ethiopia, Kenya, Sudan and Uganda.² Majority of these are women and children who were caught in the middle of warring factions.

¹ Conflicts in South Sudan <http://www.enoughproject.org/conflicts/sudans/conflicts-south-sudan>

²<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/20%20May%2014%20USG%20Osl%20CAD.pdf>

²<https://docs.unocha.org/sites/dms/Documents/20%20May%2014%20USG%20Osl%20CAD.pdf>

The situation of South Sudanese women during this period deteriorated dangerously: more women and girls got engaged in transactional sex to gain access to food or water for their families; parents are encouraging their daughters to marry early in order to gain access to bride price, reduce the number of mouths to feed, and as a means of protection for their girls in a conflict situation. Rape and sexual assault has become a weapon of war.³ Women are being raped to inflict pain and humiliation. During a focus group conducted by EVE Organization in Rubkona in April 2014; women reported cases of extreme violence; some women were reportedly raped then executed in their hospital beds, some were forced to have sex with their biological sons at gun points. The women movement in South Sudan had barely started to strongly pick momentum before the December 2013 events, however the current situation is a setback on women and their role in effective participation in peace building and nation building process in the country.

3.2. The Status of the Peace Process

The South Sudan peace talks started in January 2014 in Addis Ababa; Ethiopia and is mediated by the regional leaders of Inter Governmental Authority for Development (IGAD). Three IGAD envoys appointed to lead the mediation were Ambassador Seyoum Mesfin from Ethiopia, General Mohamed Ahmed Al Dabi from Sudan and General Lazarus Sumbeiywo from Kenya. The first deal; the Cessation of Hostilities (CoH) and the status of the detainees was signed on the **23 January 2014**; a **Re- commitment to the CoH signed on 9 May 2014** to open humanitarian corridor and one month tranquillity to allow preposition of food and civilians to move to safety and inclusion of the other stakeholders namely the former detainees, political parties, church leaders and civil society organizations (CSOs) to the peace process. A **Re-dedication to the CoH** signed on the 09 June 2014 calls for the formation of transitional government within 60 days. The two warring parties never adhered to all the signed agreements and there had been continuous violations to the signed agreements. Fighting still continues especially in the oil rich states

At the time of this reporting; another re-dedication to the CoH was signed on the 25 August 2014, which many analysts believe will never be adhered to. The peace process so far had been dragging and still requires a lot of advocacy and pressure on both sides.

The **status quo** syndrome practiced by most of our leaders limits the role of the ordinary citizen and women in peace building and decision-making.

3.3. South Sudan Women's engagement in the search for peace

In an effort to call for peace amidst the conflict, South Sudanese women from different walks of lives both within South Sudan (Juba) and in the diaspora (Kenya, Uganda and the US) met and issued several statements calling for peace. A number of women organizations and groups met in Addis Ababa at the verge of signing of the cessation of hostilities agreement and held several meetings with

³ ibid

IGAD mediation team, the Troika, AU and the conflicting parties calling for peace. The advocacy role did not only end in Addis Ababa, but women groups and Organization visited the different POCs in the three most affected states of Bentiu, Malakal and Bor to provide support and solidarity to the women affected directly by the conflict. In April 2014 and upon the visit of the AU commission of inquiry on South Sudan crises, Eve organization for women development organized a meeting with the commission, which was attended by more than 60 women activists and groups. During the meeting, South Sudanese women called on the AU Commission to investigate violations against women including sexual and gender based violence cases including rape, which is rampant during this crisis. Women also called on the AU to ensure that the government of the Republic of South Sudan ratifies CEDAW, the African protocol on women's right and complete the process of the development of the UNSCR 1325 NAP for South Sudan. A group of women also attended the Commission on the status of Women (CSW) in New York and at an event organized by UN Women, Cordaid and the Global Network of Women Peace builders for South Sudan, called for peace and an end to the ongoing conflict. They also called for an inclusive peace process with the participation and inclusion of women in the peace process. Towards the end of the CSW, the African women caucus at the CSW wrote a statement in support of the South Sudanese women quest for peace. It was addressed to IGAD with a copy to the African Union and UN Women.

3.4. Statistics of Women Represented at the Peace Table

The below table reflects the percentage of women participating in the South Sudan peace process

Percentage of women in peace negotiating teams				
Stakeholders to the South Sudan Peace Process	Men	Women	Total	% of women in the peace negotiation
Government Delegation	13	3	15	20%
SPLM/A in Opposition	12	3	15	20%
Other Political Parties	11	0	11	0%
SPLM Leaders – Former Detainees	11	0	11	0%
Faith Based Group	12	2	14	18%
Civil Society Organizations	11	7	18	38%
Women's Block (observers)	0	7	7	100%

3.5 The South Sudan Women Platform for Peace (WPP)

On 26 April 2014, and in a bid for continuous engagement and follow up on Addis Ababa peace process, 37 different women organizations/groups and individual activists met in Juba for a one day consultation on how the women organization should work together in a collective manner and to ensure that all the views, opinions and concerns of the women in the 10 states are collated and consolidated into a one unified voice to be presented and reflected in the peace agreement being discussed in Addis. The women jointly agreed to call themselves South Sudan Women Platform for peace (WPP).

WPP is a broadbased coalition basically formed to engage in the peace process and work towards durable peace through social, political and economic transformation. WPP's mandate is to foster peaceful coexistence, national unity and an active women's participation in the peace process to ensure inclusivity and meet the aspiration of the women of South Sudan of a durable and a lasting peace in the country..

The purpose of establishing the WPP is to provide a space for South Sudan Women from all walks of life and with all their diversity to come together for a common goal, which is peace. The Platform strives to promote the culture of peace among South Sudanese Women as well as the South Sudanese communities. This can be seen in the diversity in the group. WPP will continue to do everything within their capacity to contribute to peaceful resolution of this senseless war.

3.6. Development within EVE Organization during the project Period

During the project period, EVE Organization had taken the lead to coordinate the activities of the WPP and this had exposed the organization and the staff to more networks both at National and Regional level. This project had strengthened the capacity of the staff of EVE Organization and it had also tested the capability of the organization to stretch and still remain focus in pursuing women, peace and security issues and also become resilient to some threats. EVE's staff have also during this period developed more passion for the work with women and all have become so confident and are at the forefront in media and in general advocacy. All these are in line with the vision of the Organization, which is a *“peaceful, empowered and developed women in South Sudan”*. EVE organization strives to be at its best in addressing women issues on the basis of UNSCR 1325 and renews its commitment to that.

4. Objectives

The objectives set for this project was all met beyond expectation. While the aim was to continuously advocate and ensure women's positions were reflected in the peace process. Great and reliable contacts were established not only with the two warring parties but also with the former political detainees, the faith Based Groups, the other political parties and the women's block⁴. This was also taken further to deliberate on how to strategize and further improve the situation of women and girls during the transitional period and beyond. WPP delegates to Addis were also able to get a seat for their representative at the table. At an international level; great contacts were created with troika and the AU commission for peace and security. WPP was also able to jointly work with the Young Women Christian Association of South Sudan in coordination with the World Young Women Christian Association. These synergies will continue to be strengthened to ensure women issues remains as a relevant agenda.

5. Activities Implemented

5.1. One-day consultation meeting with different women's groups. Juba Grand Hotel - April 26, 2014

5.1.1 The Consultation Meeting:

EVE Organization for women Development in collaboration with Voice for change with funding from Cordaid organized a one-day consultation meeting on the follow up of the South Sudan peace process.

More than 36 participants from different women organizations/groups and individual activists were present at the meeting. A representative of Cordaid Nicolien Wassenaar was also present.

5.1.2. Objectives

- To brief the different South Sudanese women groups of other initiatives that women had taken since the outbreak of the December 15 conflict
- To practically discuss what South Sudanese Women can do together to keep up the momentum of engaging in the current peace process and contribute effectively in bringing lasting peace in South Sudan
- To come up with a way forward

5.1.3. Overview of the day's program

- Opening prayer
- Briefing on what South Sudanese women had done so far in contribution to the ongoing peace process

⁴ Women's block is formed of seven women who were given the status of observers in the peace process. Four of the seven are from the government side and three from the SPLM/A in opposition

- Group discussions on what can South Sudanese women practically do in the next six months
- Development of a press release
- What's next

5.1.4 Important Outcome:

The women organizations agreed that unity is key and jointly formed the ***South Sudan women platform for peace***. Nine participants were nominated to form an ad-hoc committee to lead the work.

5.1.5 The following were the activities that SS women practically think they could do jointly in the next six months in contribution to the current peace process.

A brief introduction to UNSCR 1325 was given and participants were requested to base their activities on the four pillars of UNSCR 1325.(Participation, Prevention, Protection and Relief and Recovery)

- Continuous participation and engagement of South Sudan women in the ongoing peace process by establishing a base in Addis Ababa to keep on monitoring the peace process and at the same time follow up both in Addis Ababa and South Sudan with IGAD, AU, the UN, the Troika and other actors to ensure continuous pressure is exerted on both conflicting parties and ensure women's agenda is included in the peace process. This is to be done through meetings with the different stakeholders, press releases and letters addressed to specific actors.
- Conduct a National day of prayers (Juba and state level) for women to come together and pray for peace and healing then prayerfully march for peace involving church groups and leaders
- Organize prayer meetings with the parliament and other govt institutions.
- Appeal for humanitarian Assistance for the IDPs
- Visit to the IDP camps in the conflict affected areas (Juba, Bor, Bentiu and Malakal, Kakuma and UG) sharing charity and humanitarian assistance
- Continuous networking with govt. institutions, church groups, women caucus in the parliament and other CSOs

5.1.6 Timeframe for the activities

All activities were implemented from April – August 2014

5.1.7 The Nominated Adhoc Committee

1. Adeng Deng – South Sudan Women Leaders for peace
2. Jane Keji – Pita Organization
3. Dr. Julia Duany – Activist
4. Rita Martin – EVE Organization
5. Lona James Elia - VFC

6. Veronica Lucy – AMWISS
7. Hilda Alisi – COP/CES
8. Rosa Bol Weet - South Sudan Women Leaders for peace

5.2 South Sudan Women Platform for Peace Advocacy Trip to Addis Ababa Report - 09 – 18May 2014

5.2.1 Background

As a follow up of the South Sudan Women Lobby and Advocacy in Addis with regards to the ongoing peace process; a delegation of four (4) South Sudanese women travelled from Juba to Addis Ababa on the 9th – 18th May 2014 to engage and establish contacts with the two delegations of the government and the opposition as per the below objective which was stipulated in the project.

5.2.2 Objectives:

- Brief delegations on women activities on the peace process
- Establish linkages and connection with different stakeholders to the peace process
- Seek accreditation from IGAD

Initially the plan was to have a delegation for three (3) women to travel to Addis, however due to regional representation, the women agreed that the delegation should be raised to four (4) to ensure a balanced representation. Therefore the four delegates were two representatives from both EVE Organization and Voice for change



and one woman from the Nuer community and another from the Dinka community to avoid suspicions and ensure equal representation.

The following are the meetings held in Addis Ababa.

5.2.3 Meeting with the Mr. Aly Verjee – Senior Researcher at Rift Valley Institute and working for the Office of the Chief Mediator; Amb. Mesfin Seyoum - IGAD

The women delegation briefed Mr. Aly of the mission and objective of the trip and also shared with him the letter addressed to IGAD with regards to the accreditation of women CSOs to participate in the peace process. Mr. Aly in turn received the letter and promised to hand it to the right people. He also briefed us on how far the peace negotiation had gone. He said So far the committees of security and political have already been formed and had their first meeting on Thursday 8 May 2014. The committee will start their separate meetings from Monday 12 May 2014. The thematic areas of focus are, security, political arrangements and constitution, currently the focus is on humanitarian and cease-fire.

IGAD mediators will be facilitating the processes of the committees, however so far there are no clear structures on how the committees will be working and said it is a good intervention time for CSOs to develop position papers to influence the process.

He advised that Women should have a clear strategy and state what is it that they need beyond the accreditation i.e. women should have a clear agenda and a position paper. IGAD is positive about the inclusivity, but women should present a clear agenda.

He also talked about the Oslo donor conference and women involvement, to remind donors on the peace process and the inclusion of women in the process.

5.2.4 Meeting with the Government delegation

Present at the meeting were Hon. Nhial Deng Nhial the chief Negotiator, Hon. Michael Makuei, Hon. Peter Bashir Bandi, Hon. Mary Nyawulang, Hon. Beatrice Aber and the media team of SSTV.

The chief negotiator appreciated our gesture to meet with them and said that despites are common, but what is important is that peaceful ways should be used to solve the problem. He said the government is fully committed to peace but the only challenge is the operationalization of the cessation of hostilities and the inability of the IGAD monitoring and verification team who are not well capacitated to monitor the cessation of hostilities. He called on IGAD and the international communities to re-double their efforts to ensure that the troops are deployed to allow the monitoring and verification team to effectively conduct the monitoring. For example the current incident of May 11, 2014 in Rubkona was reported and confirmed that it was the rebels that attacked the government,

however the incident of Manyiel was not verified since there were no monitoring teams on the ground and accountability becomes an issue.

He also stressed that this is one of the points that the CSOs need to advocate and lobby for to ensure that the monitoring and verification mechanism is implemented and teams are deployed ASAP. The international communities should not relax, but ensure that even when there are no gunshots, the teams should be deployed.

He mentioned that the guns need to fall silent for a better political negotiation. Political negotiations are complex and it takes time, however stopping the fight is paramount to dialogue and also to solve the current humanitarian crisis. Our message is clear and it is the translation of the commitment into a reality.

Hon. Makuei called for women to organize themselves and mentioned that the next phase of negotiation allows inclusivity. He mentioned that when a call is made, women should be able to provide their list. He also emphasized that a conducive environment is required for the negotiation to proceed, therefore urged that the rebel needs to commit for peace.

He also confirmed that the next phase of talks have two committees

- Politics
- Security and humanitarian

5.2.5. Meeting with the women negotiators of the government

We briefed the Government women negotiators on what women in South Sudan had been doing in a continuous effort of calling for peace and also the objectives of our coming to Addis Ababa, which is mainly establishing linkages with the women negotiators at both conflicting parties.

Hon. Beatrice thanked us for the step we had taken to step out and meet them and said that it is the women of South Sudan who are in a dire need of peace. She said peace is a collective responsibility. She strongly emphasized the need of South Sudanese women to harness their voices together by ensuring that all women are together and not to see different women groups. She strongly called on women to tirelessly lobby and knock on all doors and intensify the advocacy with all the stakeholders. She also mentioned that the international community is so bias towards the government and sees the government as the devil, which is something that needs more mobilization and call on the international community to be neutral.

She raised the issue of the G7+ group who are having a negative influence towards the ongoing peace process. She insisted that women should have a clear position paper.

Hon. Mary urged the CSOs to also talk to the nuer communities in Addis and call them to participate in peace building. She also called that prayers is important and that we need to kneel down for peace. She said women need to Strategize as women to come up with a common agenda and also mobilize within the country for peace building.

5.2.6. Meeting with the Women Delegation on the SPLM/A in Opposition.

The Opposition women delegation were pleased to meet with us and to also hear what our agenda is. We briefed them on our mission.

Madam Mary William Nyoun said they knew everything that happened in Juba, but wondering why women in Juba did not come out to demonstrate to call for peace or why women did not visit the IDPs in the POCs within UNMISS. We need to address all the issues that led to the collapse of the state.

Hon. Banguot said that the root causes of the problem needs to be addressed, we need to look into what went wrong, why were women and children targeted; and why the SPLA loyal to the government were using the term "keep Juba clean" to map and kill Nuer in Juba. She said if there are people who need peace, we are the first ones, but we will not accept a bad peace...Nuers is the very disadvantaged in both ways.

Hon. Sophia said whether it is Nuer or Dinka dying at the end we are all mothers. Women in Juba should not be the ones fuelling the war, but should call for peace; we have noted that some women on SSTV call names at us and that is not a spirit of women. We are mothers and are not for violence, we should continue to dialogue. CSOs should contribute effectively in the next phase of talks. The moment of truth is very important for healing and reconciliation.

Madam Angelina Teny appreciated us for the initiative, but said she is skeptic when it comes to women's participation, she said, it shouldn't be about calling for peace, but rather women should have a clear agenda otherwise it will be difficult for anyone to take us serious. However she said women should support peace and the IGAD agenda and address issues that led to the collapse of the government systems. She said the case of killing nuers in Juba is genocide and should be treated separately. The president used state powers to target an ethnic group. He has used Dinkas for that purpose. Madam Angelina also cautioned that there is a dangerous group in Juba called the dinka council of leaders, which is composed of 40 members. This group sits as dinkas and not elders of the nation; they do not have the interest of the nation in their hearts. She said "***this war is my own personal story and not a report***". We will support your initiative and women need to contribute to the IGAD Agenda. You need to concentrate on solutions, the system of governance, political agreement and lobby.

The parliament in Juba is so intimidated and they could not take decisions. She said root causes should be addressed first; there are serious grievances in South Sudan, governance issues, constitution, security and land issues in Juba. The transitional government will then be a tool to implement policies.

"Women's opinion in this matters a lot and should not only be lip services...this time round; it is not business as usual" she said. All South Sudanese need to reckon and talk the truth.

Women need to advocate, lobby the Troika and contribute to the issues of accountability and reconciliation, restructure of the state and some parameters of the constitution e.g. the 25% women's quota, is it really useful? What we need this time round is a lasting solution.

She said 1991 was a political agenda; you should refer to the report from Amnesty international on the 1991 events. Dr. John Garang and Dr. Riek Machar reconciled...why should it be brought up now by the president? She said a research had been done on the 1991 events and it has actually a chapter that brought reform.

She ended by saying women should make some serious contribution to be taken seriously.

5.2.7. Meeting with Dr. Lam Akol – Chairman SPLM for Democratic Change.

The delegation asked Dr. Lam Akol on how can South Sudanese women strategically and effectively contribute in the next phase of talks.

Dr. Lam said the destruction of social fabric led to the current crisis and it concerns us all. It will be unusual if women are not concerned and involved yet they are the most affected. The crisis started as a power struggle within the SPLM and become a national crisis, which requires national solution. He said the talks should take two phases; stop the guns and an inclusive national dialogue conference.

Things changed drastically with the signing of the agreement by the two principals on the 9 May 2014, a rededication to the cessation of Hostilities, inclusivity of other stakeholders, humanitarian access and transitional government.

The negotiation is now open to all. However a kind of framework needs to be presented to the stakeholders and this is a challenge to all. You need to mobilize more women groups and coordinate your efforts. Women need to formulate a position paper and state what reform do we need. What do you want in the interim government, what should they do, their



mandate, who will be there, who will lead. Dr. Lam advised women that as much as they can, should coordinate at all levels with other women groups, political parties and youth to draft a political framework to be shared at the negotiation table.

5.2.8. Meeting with Chief Mediator – Amb. Mesfin Seyoum.

The delegation also had a brief meeting with Amb. Seyoum. He confirmed to us the inclusivity and that the two sides will go on recess. He said IGAD would visit South Sudan and as well planning for a symposium that will bring in all the different stakeholders.

5.3 South Sudan Women Platform for Peace National Day of prayer for Peace

On the 31 May 2014; ahead of the IGAD mediated peace negotiations of 09 June 2014 in Addis Ababa -Ethiopia; the women of south Sudan came together to call for peace through prayers. The main purpose of the national day of prayer is to dedicate the nation to God and ask for a divine intervention to give guidance and wisdom to the leaders as they engage in the peace process and also heal the land and families who had been affected by the current crisis. The theme of the National day of prayers is taken from the bible, the book of 2 Chronicles 7:14 which says *“If my people which are call by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven and will forgive their sin and will heal their land”*.

The voice of the women was ” give peace a chance”. One woman said **“ we are tired of burying our sons and husbands, we are tired of being refugees in other people’s countries; this time round I am not going anywhere, but we will pray to God to have mercy on us and see our suffering”**.

For so long the people of South Sudan had been in conflict and barely two years into the independence the country was dragged into a senseless war. In this conflict it is women and children who bare the brunt of the war. Most of them were killed brutally, raped, mishandled by the military and displaced in their own country.

The women started the day by a peaceful march from Dr. John Garang’s Mausoleum up to Nyakuron Cultural Centre where the prayers took place. The main sermon was preceded by the Pentecostal church with a participation of the different other churches including the Catholic Church, Episcopal Church and the Seventh Day’s Adventist Church.

At exactly 12:00mid day; the whole congregation lit a candle of hope and peace for South Sudan and prayed. In Solidarity with the Women of South Sudan; Ethiopia and Uganda also lit candles for the women of South Sudan at the same time.

The prayer was attended by more than a thousand women and men including youth; Government officials; parliamentarians; NGOs and UN representatives; who are all concerned about the well being of the country.

The South Sudan Women Platform for Peace who organized the prayer is formed of different women groups, organizations and individual activists who are committed to ensuring that peace and calm is restored in the country. The National day of prayer is one of the many other activities that the women will conduct in the next six months which includes the development of South Sudan Women's position paper on the ongoing peace process; a national conference for women; support and visit to the displaced women and a continuous participation in the ongoing peace process to ensure that women's agenda is adequately included in the process.

The representative of the ministry of gender encouraged the women to stand firm and contribute effectively in the ongoing peace process, Ms. Agnes Wasuk of South Sudan Council of Churches urged the women to continuously put pressure and pray for peace to prevail again in South Sudan. Dr. Julia Duany; the vice chancellor of Dr. John Garang's University called on the Youth not to allow themselves to be used to fight a war without a cause. Rita Martin the director of EVE Organization and also a representative of the organizing committee call on the Women of South Sudan to avoid hate talks and not fuel the conflict, but rather be peace builders. She also advised the young girls to seriously learn from what the women are doing, as they are the future leaders of the country.

5.4 South Sudan Women Platform for Peace Peaceful demonstration in Juba 26 July 2014

5.4.1 Background:

The peaceful demonstration came about as a follow up of the peace process in Addis Ababa by the South Sudanese women platform for peace. The South Sudanese women platform for Peace held a one day meeting coordinated by Eve organization for women development at Regency hotel - Juba to give updates of the peace process and brainstorm on way forward regarding delays in resuming the peace process in Addis Ababa. The meeting resolved that women were to come out in a peaceful demonstration and to meet the president. The women of South Sudan planned a meeting with the H.E. General Salva Kiir Mayardiit the President of the Republic of South Sudan in relation to the peace process.

The women were concerned about the delay of the peace process and have a message for H.E. the president. The women also wanted the President to address them. The women platform mobilized other women from different walks of lives and gather at Dr. John Garang's Mausoleum on Saturday: 26th July 2014 at 08:00am

5.4.2 Objectives of the peaceful demonstration are:

- To call for peace and express disappointment with the continuous hostilities and the delay and the lack of commitment to the peace process
- To meet His Excellency president Salva Kiir to hand him women's letter for peace

5.4.4 Important outcome:

- More than 200 Women were courageous and came out to express themselves,
- Women were able to pass their message of peace to the president through the speaker of the parliament and through the media.

5.5 Development of the South Sudan Women Position Paper on the Draft Political Framework of the South Sudan IGAD led peace process 1-2 August 2014

5.5.1 Background:

Ahead of the Phase II Session V of the IGAD led peace negotiation on 03 August 2014; The South Sudan women platform for peace held a two-days consultative



meeting at regency hotel Juba on 1st & 2nd August 2014. The purpose of the meeting was develop the South Sudan women position paper on the draft political framework of the South Sudan IGAD led peace process. South Sudan women thought it is wise to have a handy document that presents their voices and position in influencing the peace process in Addis Ababa.

5.5.2 Objectives:

- To review the draft security and political frameworks of South

Sudan IGAD led peace process

- To include women's inputs in the draft security and political frameworks for consideration at the peace negotiation table

5.5.3 Overview of the developing the position paper

Day one: 1st, August 2014

- Opening prayer
- Reviewing of the draft security framework of South Sudan IGAD led peace process
- Group discussions on possible triggers of the conflict, role of women in conflict mitigation and peace and nation building
- Group work presentations on the above questions
- Closure

Day Two: 2nd, August 2014

- Opening prayer
- Review of the draft political matrix of the South Sudan IGAD led peace process
- Group discussion on terms and mandate of the transitional, structure of transitional government, and gender representation in the government
- Group work presentations on the above questions are summarized as follows:-
 - Term limit: 4 years
 - Mandate: Restore security and economy, conduct census, establish truth and reconciliation, build schools, hospitals etc in e.g. greater Upper Nile, conduct democratic free, fair and transparent elections, conduct elections of states governor and ministers, construct roads, create job opportunities, etc.
 - Structure: President, vice president and prime minister
 - Legislative structure: Includes all political parties
 - Ministerial position: maintain the current number, with 40% women participation
 - Ministries of Finance, Interior and Defense: 40% women
 - Ministries of Finance, education, agriculture, electricity & dam, gender, communication, environment, culture, youth and sports: to be headed by female ministers
- Closure/prayer

5.5.4 Important outcome: South Sudan women's position paper on the political framework was developed

5.6 Press Conference

5.6.1 Background:

On 6th, August 2014, South Sudanese women held the press conference to air out two letters, one addressed to H.E president Salva Kiir and another to Dr. Riek Machar, head of the SPLM/A in opposition to commit to peace.

5.6.2 Objectives:

- To send out South Sudan women messages of peace to the two principals of the warring parties
- To continuously engage media to ensure publicity of SSWPP contribution to peace building

South Sudanese Women held the press conference on 6th, August 2014 at Civic engagement center. Among the many women, four representatives of SSWPP were at the panel table, one woman was facilitated the conference women, one read the letter to president, another read the letter to Dr. Riek, and the other one was in charge of journalist questions.

5.6.3 Out comes

- The most important outcome was that SSWPP letters to the two principals were aired through the media and copies delivered both to the office of the President and to the Chief Mediator of the SPLM/A in opposition.
- The following day, SSWPP representatives were immediately invited by SSTV for a talk show to elaborate on the SSWPP activities and on the role of women in peace and nation building

5.7 Second Visit to Addis Ababa by the delegation of South Sudan Women Platform for peace

5.7.1 Background:

The South Sudan women platform for peace together with Young women Christian association sent representatives to Addis to present their position letter to the two main delegations, the government and the SPLM/ in opposition and the rest of the stakeholders. Three women from the SSWPP and a coordinator from EVE Organization were tasked to deliver the women's position. SSWPP and YWCA believe that the right way forward is a stronger and more committed inclusion of women and women's groups in mediation process.

5.7.2 Objective:

- To deliver the SSWPP position on the transitional government to the two warring parties and as well to the other stakeholders.
- To advocate for further commitment to peace and get updates on the peace process

The following were the meetings held in Addis Ababa:

5.7.3 Meeting with all group of women who were in Addis:

SSWPP delegation met women groups from women crying for peace, women block, women leaders for peace, women from opposition, faith based and YWCA. They shared with the women groups SSWPP's objectives of coming to Addis,- to advocate and lobby for peace, and to present our position letter to those who are at the negotiation table and to echo the voices of women in South Sudan for they are the most effected people in this crises. The other women appreciated the efforts and also the development of the position paper, which they welcomed and said they will use it for further advocacy efforts.

5.7.4 Meeting with the chairman of the political parties represented by Dr. Lam Akol.

Dr. Lam appreciated the efforts of women to come with a position letter to contribute to the peace process in Addis. For him peace is not the silence of guns, but it is addressing the root courses of the conflict of 15 December 2013 up to now and to have social justice, development and diversity. Dr. Lam said, the thousands of people killed during this period are more than the people killed

during the 21 years war in Sudan, and it is us killing our selves. He said the cessation of hostilities was signed to stop killing and raping, child soldiers which is taking place now and to allow the humanitarian aids to reach the people in need but the two parties did not respect the agreements. He also talked about the representation of the stakeholders being unfair. He commented on our position paper interim Government of 4 years is too long, he suggested 2 to 2.5 years arguing that 4 years is for a normal government. He advised South Sudan women to be united for the sake of peace in South Sudan. He added that he will pass our voice to IGAD

5.7.5 Meeting with the SPLM Leaders former detainees:

SSWP delegation met the former detainees and shared the position letter.

The former detainees appreciated the role that South Sudan women are playing in contributing to peace. They said women make up to 60% of South Sudan so women need to develop themselves and come together as one body for issues concerning peace in the country. One of them said, "*You are the peace agent and the future of South Sudan, for the CPA was a men affairs.*" In our position letter we also have women and youth programs, although our delegation don't have women representative, it is not because we don't believe in women, but because we were detained men alone; they said. It will take us long to have this peace, but there is hope that it will come, for it is easy to make conflict but difficult to make peace.

The former detainees said; they are the rainbows of South Sudan and they have overcome all types of discriminations, and they stand for democracy, diversity and federalism.

"We refuse to take guns to kill our own people whom we fought for, in almost 21 years. We will only pick arms if we have an external threat."

They also advice us that the long term of the interim Government is risky and like you are giving the parliament a normal period.

They commented that SSWPP position is good without that the country will not go ahead. They admitted that the country can be determined by women to fight for the rights of every one. Make sure girls education is part of your program, for the role of education is fundamental. It is good to see you here that you were the women platform that had been leading the national prayers and press release calling for peace and now you are sharing with us your position letter as women of South Sudan. The former detainees appreciated the efforts of WPP and said they will continue to support women and are following the activities of the platform.

5.7.6 Meeting with women of SPLM/opposition:

The meeting started with prayers by Mary from YWCA, and we introduce who we are and that we came together to make sure that peace is attained in South Sudan and we are working for peace. Bangout Amum chaired the meeting: we read them the position letter. Ms. Bangout welcomed us and they appreciated our coming to

Addis. Mrs. Sofia said that what took place in December 2013 was political and not military but it has affected the whole country especially women. She said they stand for federalism in their position. Ms. Bangout added that, to come to Addis as women is good, so that women can be part of the coming Government. She continued that they need a general reform in institution in the country, good system of governance by federalism.

Madam Angelina said general reform is the priority and that truth telling and accountability are important. She added that women should look for developmental funds for women and youth. If women do not stop this war we don't know what next is going to happen and we are the greater number of South Sudan for we have lost a very big number people already.

5.7.7 Meeting with the Government:

We had a meeting with the government delegation chaired by Hon. Michael Makuei the deputy chairperson for the government delegation. The government delegation said stopping the war is priority by signing the CoH matrix, for the matrix puts clear the deprecation for the party that violets the deal. That they don't have the moral while people are still fighting and dying, IGAD was asking them to be in committees discuss power sharing, resources and issues of security. They argued that they are suppose to be at the table with the opposition only, but not all stakeholders, for the problem is between them- the two warring parties. They said all stakeholders who came to Addis are looking for positions, and for them people of South Sudan will decide if they want federalism or not. However, they appreciated SSWPP delegation for coming to Addis as women with a position letter, and they said they were expecting women to come out with ways of bringing peace in South Sudan. They advised South Sudan women to meet all the stakeholders and listen from them also.

5.7.8 Meeting with the faith based:

SSWPP also met the faith-based group, which consists of the South Sudan council of churches and the Islamic council. The faith based told us that their role in Addis is to provide chaplain ship, to monitor the process, to be advisers and advocate for peace. They also observe and mediate the process. They were in the three committees with the other groups. Women can play both peace and conflict role, but the pain that brought you to Addis is a pain indeed. You can do a lot back home by talking to all women in South Sudan that your role is to speak and practice the culture of peace and it is your concern to bring peace in South Sudan. Pray to God as you strive for peace for He is always ready to answer our prayers of peace.

As faith based we know it is not easy but, it is possible and peace is just around the corner, no one can do something alone unless we together will not make the changes we want in South Sudan.

5. Conclusion:

SSWPP will continue to contribute in addressing the ongoing conflict in South Sudan from both Addis Ababa and South Sudan level by engaging with the stakeholders in and inclusive peace resolution process and by implementing a number of recommendations outlined above. SSWPP believe that the right way forward is a stronger and more committed inclusion of women and women's groups in mediation process to bring sustainable peace and to contribute to national building. Working in partnership with CORDAID, the government, and other local CSOs, SSWPP is confident that it will effectively work to facilitate and ensure the position of South Sudanese women from all works life is considered in the peace talks and in national building.

6. Lessons Learnt and Challenges

Some lesson learnt from this project were that it is possible for women in South Sudan to shape the direction of the country with just a little support. Women in South Sudan are very vocal and confident; given the right tools they can bring change in the country. Women in South Sudan realized that it is only when they stand their grounds together and demand their rights for a peaceful co-existence. It is also clear that the issues in South Sudan is quiet complex and needs further analysis as well as it requires both formal and informal engagement to restore peace in South Sudan. This is an area that women need to explore further and create other linkages especially using the UNSCR 1325 and connecting to the grassroots.

Some of the challenges encountered were the politicizing of women groups, there were a lot of pressure and propaganda from both warring parties to gain the support of women to take sides. At the outbreak of the conflict; several women groups came up and each trying to find a solution to the conflict in South Sudan, It was a challenge as there were different voices, however women realized that there is strength when there is unity of purpose, the differences are quickly fading and now there is better coordination which we believe will improve much more as we continue to work together. Finally for WPP, it had been a challenge of enough funding to reach and connect with the grassroots and replicate the activities at the national level to the states. We believe that there would have been a much bigger impact if we expand the WPP to the states level.

7. Way forward

The women movement is getting stronger everyday as women realize their potentials and abilities to contribute effectively in the peace process. Women during this project period were able to realize that for sustainable peace and development to be realized in South Sudan, it will require involvement of women at all levels and especially in peace building and nation building. This shows the need to continuously establish linkages as such with the UNSCR 1325 and strengthen its implementation in South Sudan. The Linkages established will encourage more women engagement and continue to build on their confidence and effective participation in peace and nation building processes in South

Sudan. Much more the UNSCR 1325 could be used as a tool to further amplify the voices of women in relation to women, peace and security issues in South Sudan.

8.Appreciation

South Sudan Women platform for peace and EVE Organization appreciate Cordaid for the support to South Sudan women to be able to participate in the South Sudan peace process. South Sudan women platform for Peace believes that the right way forward is a stronger and more meaningful inclusion of women and women's groups in the peace process.

9. Annexes

Press Statement from South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations Consultation Meeting Organized by EVE Organization for Women Development and Voice for Change (VFC)

Who will wipe our Tears?

For Immediate Release

April 26th 2014, South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations convened at Juba Grant Hotel to discuss a way forward in the quest for finding a lasting solution to the current on-going violent conflict in South Sudan. The women with deep regret and sadness wish to convey a message of condolence to the families of those who lost their lives in Bentiu, Malakal, Renk, Mayom and Bor, attacks in recent days. At the wake of renewed attacks and more specifically the attack on civilians in different parts of the country, we are alarmed and call for immediate action from both the government and the Opposition to stop the killings. The women in strongest terms condemn the mob attack on citizens in the UNMISS camp which serves as home for nearly 5,000 Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Bor town and civilian population in Bentiu and other parts of South Sudan.

In our opinion, the direction this whole disagreement and misunderstanding within the ruling elite of South Sudan would have been addressed through a non-violent approach. The people of South Sudan are tired of war and expect our government to take higher moral ground in leading the peace process.

As concerned citizens of this country and stakeholders in the development of South Sudan, we the women wish to take this opportunity to applaud the President of the Republic of South Sudan for the step he has taken to pardon and release the Political Detainees, the Judiciary for handling the case in a professional way, the Political Detainees for their strong position in support of peace and specifically promoting a non-violent approach. We also call upon the leader of SPLM in Opposition Dr. Riak Machar to take a step toward peace and accept dialogue.

It is in this context that concerned South Sudanese Women Civil Society Organizations and individual Women Activists held a one day consultation meeting to strongly discuss a way forward for restoring peace and stability in South Sudan. After deliberations and consultation, the meeting resolved the following;

1. Establish a National Women Platform for Peace and organize a national women conference to discuss effective women contribution and consolidate efforts towards restoration of peace and stability in South Sudan
2. Organize prayer meetings in collaboration with the National Platform for Peace and Reconciliation with both Houses of the National Legislature and the Women Parliamentarians Caucus and a public prayer for peace
3. Organize periodic solidarity visits to the IDPs and the affected communities and engage the elders
4. Women Organizations/Groups at the state level **MUST** participate in the monitoring and verification of the cessation of hostilities agreement and the AU Commission for Inquiries
5. Women need to work together so that we can survive together as a nation

Signed:

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------------|-----|
| 1. SSWP | 11. SSUDEMOP | 21. |
| BUSINESS WOMEN | | |
| 2. WAAPD | 12. GEWLP | |
| 3. WCDP | 13. UPD | |
| 4. VFC | 14. EVE Organization | |
| 5. PWAD | 15. EEWAYE | |
| 6. SSUNDE | 16. EWA | |
| 7. SSWLP | 17. CWYE | |
| 8. PDRA/WCAD | 18. WCD | |
| 9. COP/CES | 19. TASK FORCE | |
| 10. AMWISS | 20. SSWLP | |

For more information Contact: eve.sudan@gmail.com or llowillal2000@yahoo.co.uk

South Sudan Women Platform for Peace and South Sudan YWCA Position Paper on the Framework for Political Negotiations toward a Settlement of the Crisis in South Sudan

South Sudan Women Platform for Peace (WPP) consists of different women's groups, organizations and individual women activists who are concerned about the ongoing conflict in South Sudan and its impact on the most vulnerable people like women, girls, children, and disabled people of South Sudan. The Platform seeks to effectively engage women in peace building and conflict mitigation and continuously advocate for the inclusion of women in peace building efforts at all levels. It further seeks to ensure that women's interest is adequately addressed in the peace agreement.

WPP activities were coordinated by EVE Organization for Women Development based in Juba. The Vision of EVE Organization is ***"Peaceful, Empowered and Developed Women in South Sudan"***.

The Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) of South Sudan is a non-governmental non-profit organization with its headquarters in Yambio, Western Equatoria State. YWCA is a local initiated membership based organization formed in 1997 with 8 local branches.

The purpose of the organization is to support programmes and projects that promote the development of leadership qualities of women and girls, and those that target at achieving peace, justice, health, human dignity and sustainable environment and the fulfillment of basic needs amongst women and girls in South Sudan.

WPP and YWCA appreciate the ongoing efforts by the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD) to end hostilities and resolve the conflict in South Sudan through a multi-stakeholder negotiated peace agreement. SSWPP and YWCA believe that the right way forward is a stronger and more committed inclusion of women and women's groups in the mediation process. During the decades of war in South Sudan, while men took up guns to liberate and defend the rights of South Sudanese; women were predominantly maintaining the social fabric of the society by caring for the elderly, provide food and shelter for the families. Some women fought alongside men in front line while others played a role of advocacy and lobbying for the rights of South Sudanese. All these were done in an effort to liberate the people of South Sudan. However many men during this period chose to direct violence towards women whom they were expected to protect and limited women's participation in decision making. We therefore believe that both men and women did contribute to liberate South Sudan and this crucial experience is an integral part of our history and must not be ignored but rather benefit the ongoing efforts for a just and sustainable peace.

WPP during a number of consultations with women had discussed the framework for political negotiations towards a settlement of the crisis in South Sudan and

the principals that will form the basis for the negotiated agreement in Addis Ababa. The recommendations from the consultations are as follows;

1. Women's position in the peace mediation

- a) With the goal of reflecting a representative section of the population *the number of participants from all stakeholders at the mediation shall constitute at least 40% women*
- b) To ensure the concerns of women and girls are satisfactory emphasized, *the mediation team should have at least 30% women mediators.*

2. Women's Position in the transitional government

- a) *The pre-transitional period duration shall be three (3) months, which will commence upon signing and ratification of the peace agreement. This period is meant to allow for the necessary changes needed in the current government structure before the transitional government can come into effect.*
- b) *The transitional government should be given a mandate for a maximum of four (4) years without any room for further extension. These four years will allow the transitional government to perform the necessary reforms required to put the country back on track such as a national reconciliation and healing process, reforms in the government institutions, review of the transitional constitution, conduct census and finally lead the country to free, fair and credible elections. During the transition period; *the Government must prioritize programmes in addressing health, education and infrastructure as such investments are fundamental to achieve development.**
- c) *A gender representative executive will create ownership and recognition amongst the population of South Sudan and consequently build trust with its citizens. The transitional government must have at least one qualified female representative in the Executive. The gender representation should be included in the amendment of the transitional constitution.*
- d) *The National Legislative Assembly has a crucial role to play in the transition period in passing legislations and bills and to ensure effectiveness. The position of speaker should reflect the gender representation in parliament and be nominated amongst men and women on a rotational basis. Unlike previously, the speaker during the transitional period should consequently be female.*
- e) *For an effective, result focused and people's driven government, the transition government should be a lean government at the national level with a maximum of 18 Ministries inclusive core Ministries such as Foreign*

Affairs, Defense, Interior and Finance.⁵Women should atleast be minister in two of the core ministries and out of the remaining atleast 7 ministers should constitute women from the diversity of South Sudan.*We as a country need to build trust in our Government and Government institutions, hence appropriate checks and balances must be introduced at all Government levels to ensure a standard of good governance through transparency and accountability*

- f) To redress the imbalances created by the impact of war on the women of South Sudan and the marginalization; *women including the young women shall constitute 40% of all the institutions at all levels of the Transitional Government of National Unity (TGONU) at both National and state levels. This should include all commissions established. The Criteria of selection of women should be determined by a committee and should be transparent and based on merit and fair representation of the diversity of South Sudan.*
- g) *In order to increase effective women's participation at all levels of Government in accordance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325/2000 (UNSCR 1325/2000), a training program to boost the capacity of potential female candidates must be put in place and conducted at all levels.*
- h) *During the transitional period; specific funds should be allocated to women programs including capacity building, improved livelihoods and economic status of women in South Sudan.*
- i) Programmes of relief, rehabilitation, repatriation and resettlement of IDPs and refugees *targeting especially children, youth and women should be established.* Its composition should include the government, national organizations including women's organizations, the UN and other international humanitarian Organizations.
- j) National reconciliation and healing programmes *must include truth telling, investigation of sexual and gender based violence and reparation for girls and women survivors, tracing of children and reunion of families and set up of psychosocial support for the survivors of the conflict including the child soldiers and women.*

Date: 1st August 2014

Signed:

⁵Others such as Agriculture, Transport, Electricity and dams, Education, Wildlife, culture and Tourism, Animal resources and fisheries, Water and Irrigation, Cabinet affairs, Gender and youth, Labour and Public Service, Information Telecommunication and broadcasting, Health, Petroleum and mining, Environment, and Justice.

By Delegates of SSWPP and YWCA- SS to Addis Ababa IGAD Led Peace Process on Behalf of SSWPP and YWCA – SS.

SN	NAME	ORG	SIGNATURE
1.	<i>Mary Yor Lual</i>	<i>SSWPP</i>	
2.	<i>Meridi Luigi Adwok</i>	<i>SSWPP</i>	
3.	<i>Betty Thomas</i>	<i>SSWPP</i>	
4.	<i>Gloria Nyoka Joseph</i>	<i>SSWPP</i>	
5.	<i>Livia Oliver Yasoma</i>	<i>YWCA - SS</i>	
6.	<i>Laetitia Benito Gbafu</i>	<i>YWCA - SS</i>	
7.	<i>Modi Enosa Mbaraza</i>	<i>YWCA - SS</i>	
8.	<i>Fatiya Mary Joseph</i>	<i>YWCA - SS</i>	
9.	<i>Rita Martin Lopidia</i>	<i>SSWPP</i>	

Letter to the President of the Republic of South Sudan

Date: 22 July 2014

We write to you as South Sudanese women who are committed to restoring peace in South Sudan through our various advocacy efforts and peace building activities. We are very concerned about the renewed violence and hostilities against your own fellow brothers and sisters in South Sudan. We are not experts on the art of war, nor are we political analysts. We are human beings, citizens, and daughters of this great nation. The common ground between us and all the other women and men in this country is that we are all tired of war, burying our children and living as IDPs in our own country and as Refugees in other people's countries. It should never take the whole world to scream at the top of their lungs and cry foul before you could put an end to this senseless war.

This conflict has taken a different dimension, which had never been our culture where serious violations of human rights and especially violations against women's rights had occurred. These include physical attacks on women, acts of rape and other forms of extreme violence against women, which amounts for crime against humanity. Seeing our own infants and youth dead, rotting and being eaten by vultures, dogs and other wild animals is heart wrenching. We cannot keep silent and ignore this any longer.

We, your sisters, mothers and daughters therefore urge you to show leadership and to

- Stop the war; enough for the killings; come back home; lets build the nation
- Ceasefire and commit to dialogue to bring a lasting peace to South Sudan; You had once signed a peace deal with Sudan, why is it difficult to strike a peace deal with your fellow folks

- Stop the war to allow all the IDPs go home. The future generations and leaders of South Sudan cannot be brought up in PoCs.
- Stop the war for our youth to get better Education and employment other than engaging in war
- Stop the war and give peace a chance

We are a nation cemented by blood of our many martyrs, your Excellency. You have accomplished much good in your administration. We hope that you will be mindful of the basic concerns that the women of South Sudan have. Women of South Sudan have been devalued to the extreme. We will be here watching, waiting and hoping that for once in our history, the voice of women will be heard.

We don't want to loss any more precious lives, and be responsible for the deaths of more innocent children who are the future of this nation. We do not want to be witnesses because the future will judge us all harshly.



Websites postings

<https://radiotamazuj.org/en/article/women-march-peace-juba>

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/EVE-Organization-for-Women-Development/496561537066971?ref=bookmarks>