

## **WOMEN OF SOUTH SUDAN**

### **DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF THE PEOPLE'S COALITION FOR CIVIL ACTION**

**August 17, 2021**

We, the women of South Sudan, after thorough deliberations and having carefully read the Declaration of the People's Coalition for Civil Action, declare our full and unwavering support to the Coalition. Our spirits are uplifted by the Coalition's non-violent call for change in our country and a clear vision for the country. For women, who have endured tremendous suffering, this message of peaceful change resonates with very well.

During the liberation struggles, the women of South Sudan played central and vital roles. Women fought in the frontlines and others provided logistical support to the army, took care of the wounded soldiers, and women whose husbands were fighting, took over households as the sole breadwinners, taking care of children and the elderly, feeding the army, and becoming the key producers in the economic front to sustain the war efforts. These efforts brought about the independence of the Republic of South Sudan. Despite these efforts, the role of women has been undermined and their suffering continues.

We the women of South Sudan had expected, after independence, better lives for ourselves and our children. Unfortunately, we, the women have suffered tremendously together with our children over the last 10 years. The failure of government to control violence in the countryside where frequent episodes of cattle raiding, the wars of power struggle, and communal violence have all had negative impacts on women.

#### **The women of South Sudan are disappointed with the following:**

- 1. Voting for the Independence and conflicts:** After voting more 52% for the separation, women had hopes for better life for their children and their country. However, the war in 2013 started and led to the death of our children, our fellow women and our community members. This senseless war was uncalled for and created human sufferings. In July, 2016, another conflict erupted in South Sudan when South Sudan was implementing the Peace Agreement. Many people lost their lives including women and children. It also disrupted the livelihoods of women. Despite the different peace agreements signed, there is no political will to the implementation the agreement, therefore, women see no hope for a tangible peace in the country through the current agreement and under the current regime.
- 2. Economic situation:** In 2015, we the women of South Sudan noted the economic downfall of South Sudan, which led to poverty and a large number of women begging on the streets with little or no support from the government. This situation to-date, continues to worsen and women bear the most effects.
- 3. High rate of Poverty:** More than 90% of South Sudanese women are living in poverty without any support from the government. The government has neglected the poor people and the only

support women and the poor people are getting comes from the foreign donors, the NGOs and the Churches.

**5. Mismanagement of Public Resources:** The Women of South Sudan are saddened with the mismanagement of resources where government officials own millions of dollars while the poor South Sudanese have nothing. If this money was managed well, with proper accountability system put in place, the economic situation of South Sudan could have been better today.

**6. 35% Affirmative Action:** The 35% affirmative action that was allocated to the women of South Sudan has been implemented by only having the same women who are being appointed for those positions and have stayed in power in Juba for the last sixteen years. If the 35% Affirmative Action is only for these same women, then the women of South Sudan are not sufficiently represented in the government.

**7. High Rate of Unemployment:** Many South Sudanese women and youth are unemployed in South Sudan. The citizens of South Sudan only depend on the private sector and NGOs to employ them while the government continues to neglect the public sector by not paying salaries and benefits on time and by not creating more job opportunities in other sectors.

**8. Public Hospitals Neglected:** About 14,000 women die every year from maternal mortality. Women, children and the poor people are dying every day from diseases that are preventable if only there was access to quality healthcare services. The hospitals do not have electricity and water and depends on foreigners to supply water using water tanks. Doctors and healthcare workers have not been paid salaries for months or even for a year. The salary for doctors in South Sudan is less than \$10 a month.

**9. Education Sector Neglected:** The education sector is left in the hands of NGOs. Teachers have not been paid salaries for months and their salaries is less than \$2 a month, which hardly comes on time.

**10. Organized Forces:** The organized forces in South Sudan are not paid salary on time and their salaries is less than \$2 a month and usually takes up to 6 months before they get a one-month salary. You can all imagine what happens if their salaries are not paid on time. We do not expect the organized forces to keep law and order while their children and families are sleeping hungry

**11. Women are not protected:** Gender Based Violence including raping is regarded as a normal practice in South Sudan. People are given impunity and only those without connections are trialed and later released. Recently, Minister Mayer stabbed his wife and different women groups called for his dismissal, the regime has taken no action because voices of women in South Sudan do not matter under the current regime.

**12. Tribalism, Nepotism and Ethnic Divisions:** South Sudanese have been divided by this regime into tribal groups. We demand unity as a nation to help us protect the sovereignty of this nation from any foreign invasions.

To end the killing, the rape, the abuse, and harassment of women and to recognize the contribution of women to the liberation struggle and their right to equal share of power with men, we the women of South Sudan in South Sudan and in the Diaspora are calling upon all the women of South Sudan to join the People's Coalition for Civil Action. We invite all the women to come out to the streets to demand change peacefully. To ensure a better future for our

daughters and our sons, we must rise and put an end to the failure of leadership in South Sudan. We must rise to end corruption, war, violence, and ethnic divisions.

Peaceful demonstrations are scheduled for the **30<sup>th</sup> of August 2021** all the over South Sudan. Women working in the government and in the private sector are asked to stay home for the duration of demonstrations. Women should wear black clothes and those who might not be able to join the demonstrations should turn their profile pictures black on social media to symbolize the suffering of the people of South Sudan.

We call upon the public to **Like** and **Follow** the PEOPLE'S COALITION FOR CIVIL ACTION on Facebook page for regular updates during this critical time

Victory to the South Sudanese women, Victory to our people.

The people shall prevail.

Signed:

1. Atong Susan Garang
2. Regina Wiliam Waiwai
3. Nyemuse James Mbugo
4. Rebecca Deng Reik
5. Asunta Kamal Abdu
6. Ayak Deng Kiir
7. Naumba Richard Zingo
8. Eunice Gai Dak
9. Pita Josphine Ladu
10. Rita Inyani Sururu
11. Eunice Dumo Anthony
13. Nyankor Deng Lual
14. Victoria Makur Deng
15. Joy Uku Tereso
19. Tuna Mathew Abdallah
15. Nyawech Susan Angelo
21. Jane David Akuana
22. Beatrice Okello Gama
23. Sofia Une Kizito
24. Nyawera Edward Sabit
25. Zubeda Ismail Adam
26. Nejuwa Riqiq Adam
27. Jemima Paul Lasu
28. Adeng Riak Dak
29. Mimi Paul Sabit
30. Uda Zebiba Rizig
31. Ayen Mayen Garang