

**Concept Note for Commemoration of 16 Days of Activism against GBV Campaign 2021**

**Global Theme CWGL: “Awareness, Action, Accountability All Year Round” 365 Days of Activism against Gender- Based Violence**

**United Nation Theme: Orange the World: End Violence Against Women Now!**

**National Theme: Take Action, Be Accountable: End Violence against Women and Girls**

**25th November – 10 December 2021**

## Background

Gender-based violence (GBV) is deeply entrenched in South Sudan, where women and girls continue are high risk in both public and private spaces. Gender based-violence is not only manifested in the physical and sexual violence, but also through overall lack of equal opportunities for women and girls to lead a fulfilling life. High rate of illiteracy amongst girls and women, high rate of child marriage, high maternal mortality due to preventable causes, limited access to livelihood opportunities, are some of the indicators that highlight the dire need to address the gender inequality at the root causes to end gender based violence. According to the Gender Based Violence Information Management System (GBV IMS) annual report of 2019, 41% of the reported incidents were physical violence, 24% were emotional violence and 16% were sexual violence. Government data shows that about 40% of girls are married before age of 18. Clearly, there is a need for urgent and scaled up action against GBV in South Sudan.

GBV in particularly, sexual violence, is widespread and one of the largest crises emanating from the protracted conflict in South Sudan. Even in displacement settings, threats and risks of GBV against women and girls persist particularly sexual violence, growing levels of intimate partner violence (IPV), sexual exploitation, harassment and early and forced marriage*.* Anecdotally all forms of GBV such as rape, sexual harassment, physical violence, psychological violence, denial of resources, and others, remain prevalent. In most cases, some GBV survivors experience multiple forms of GBV.

### 2021 CONTEXT

Since the onset of COVID-19 pandemic, gender based violence, particularly domestic violence against women and girls, teen-age pregnancies and other violations of women’s rights have witnessed an upsurge in South Sudan and around the world. Civil society organizations and women’s rights groups and the frontline responders have all anecdotally highlighted the rising risk factors such as food insecurity, economic insecurity and unemployment. DueCovid-19 outbreak in March 2019 up to March 2020, schools were closed down as a result there was increased in child marriages, high teenage pregnancies, sexual violence and harassment in public spaces. While South Sudan faces challenges with regards to credible evidence base and data to ascertain the scale of the issue, all stakeholders agree on the increased risk of gender based violence, including sexual exploitation and abuse and harassment.

According to the latest estimates, nearly 1 in 3 women aged 15 years and older, around the world have been subjected to physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, non-partner or both, at least once in their lifetime, indicating that levels of VAWG have remained largely unchanged over the last decade. These numbers do not reflect the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and would be even higher if they included the full continuum of violence that affect women and girls including sexual harassment, violence in digital contexts, harmful practices and sexual exploitation.

COVID-19 has exacerbated all the risk factors for VAWG, including unemployment and poverty, and reinforced many of the root causes such as gender stereotypes and harmful social norms. It has been estimated that 11 million girls may not return to school because of COVID-19, thereby increasing their risk of child marriage. The economic fallout is expected to push 47 million more women and girls into extreme poverty in 2021, reversing decades of progress and perpetuating structural inequalities that reinforce VAWG.

The global context of violent conflicts and humanitarian crises, including climate-related disasters, are affecting more people than ever before, with a disproportionate impact on women and girls, perpetuating all forms of VAWG. The most marginalized women, including women with disabilities, refugees or indigenous women amongst others, are at disproportionate risk and face greater barriers in accessing services and justice.

The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated that the world was unprepared to respond to the rapid escalation of all forms of VAWG. If we want to ensure that no woman or girl is left behind, we need comprehensive and inclusive approaches that can be adapted to rapidly changing contexts, preventing and responding to all forms of VAWG.

## Rationale

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is an international campaign originating from the first Women’s Global Leadership Institute sponsored by the Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) at Rutgers University in 1991. Participants chose the dates November 25, International Day against Violence against Women, and December 10, International Human Rights Day, in order to symbolically link violence against women and human rights and to emphasize that such violence is a human rights violation.

South Sudan started commemoration of 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence since 2007 and has continued since then. The commemoration is carried out in all the 10 States of the Republic of South Sudan. The Ministry of Gender Child and Social Welfare and partners organize activities to make people aware of the negative impact of violence on women and children, what the available services, legal are and policy framework and prevention of violence against women and girls.

The United Nations theme for the 16 Days’ Activism is yet to be announced, and will necessitates adapting this in the planning once the global theme is announced.

This year, UNFPA in partnership with Amref plan to hold series of Art exhibition from 25th Nov-10th December 2021. This Art exhibition entitled “**Noor-Le-Humon”** is expected toplay an important role by keeping the art relevant to a diverse audience at the same time. An exhibition is traditionally a space where the art objects meet an audience for a particular amount of time. The idea of this exhibition is to bring diverse people in one place and start a thought provoking conversation between them through the display and the art. Exhibition spaces brings out the expression which the theme of the exhibition requires. The talking Circle Art exhibition will act as the catalyst of art and ideas to the public. The curator of art works will aim to contextualize art so that it becomes relevant and accessible to contemporary audiences. The exhibition is important because the art work will touch the audience on different levels, emotionally, spiritually and on personal levels or global levels. The artists will also utilize the exhibition to showcase their works and give out some important messages to the society and really bring change, and even if not a large scale change but at least the art work will provoke thoughts and ideas into people’ minds. Under the 2021 international theme:of CWGL **“Awareness, Action, Accountability All Year Round” 365 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence and UN: Orange the World: End violence against women now!**

The 16 days’ period offers an opportunity to raise awareness and scale up advocacy for effective initiative to address GBV and VAWG in in our homes and in the places of work. The Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare will lead the Campaign with focus on the following;

1. **Campaign objectives**

* To boost the collective efforts by government, the UN, donors INGOs/NNGOs to prioritize funding for addressing GBV in South Sudan
* To enhance meaningful public engagement in the gender and GBV though art exhibition and youth dialogue
* To prioritize the implementation of Strategic Action Plan on Ending child marriage
* To advocate for enactment of Anti-GBV Bill
* To lobby for resources for establishment of Safe house in Juba and Malakal
* To raise awareness and enhance access to GBV services for women and girls with disabilities

1. **Proposed Activities**

Considering the COVID-19 restrictions and to comply with government directives on physical distancing and suspension of public events, most of activities will be done physically with few participants**.** All the physical events will be live-streamed to allow maximum attendance while adhering to guidelines.

In addition to limiting the participants of the face to face event, COVID19 compliance Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) such as use of thermos gun to measure temperature, jar and water for hand washing facilities, use of sanitizer, masks and spacing on the sitting arrangement will be

**Calendar for 16 Days of Activism against GBV 2021**

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| **Date** | **Activity** | **Responsible institution** | **Venue** |
| Tuesday 23rd Nov 2021 | A Round-table dialogue on National GBV Helplines (623 & 662) – An entry point for access to GBV services for survivors of GBV | MGCSW, MoH , MoI, MoJCA , CREW, Lulu Care , UNFPA | Palm Africa |
| Wednesday, 24th/Nov/2021 | Joint press releases  Discussion on the National Theme 2021 | Ministry of Gender, United Nations  Ministry of Gender and UN | Ministerial hall/MOH  SSBC/TV |
| Thursday, 25th /Nov/2021 | Launch of the 16 days of activism 2021  Event will be streamed live for other participants and public to follow as Well as on the face book | Will include representatives from the UN, Donors Community, ,INGOs, NNGOs, CBOs, FBOs, Civil, PLWD, line Ministries/commissions, Society ,Academia, organize forces, schools, women groups, associations and the guest of the day etc. | Nyakuron |
| Thursday 25th  Nov –Friday 10th Dec (16 Days) | Launch of “Noor-Le-Humon” art exhibition | 25th Nov-10th Dec | Nyakuron cultural Centre |
| Monday, 29/ Nov/2021 | Discussion on GBV at home and at work place | Ministry of Gender, Ministry and of labour and Ministry of Interior | Radio Miraya FM |
| Monday 29th November 2021 | Youth and family public speaking (Intergenerational dialogue) | AfriYAN | TBC |
| Tuesday 30th Nov- Thursday 2nd Dec (3 days) | National Traditional Chiefs and government Joint Conference on ending child marriage | Ministry of Gender, UNFPA and partners | Palm Africa Hotel |
| Tuesday 30ths November | National dialogue with Female leaders on 35% affirmative action | CARE and CIGPJ | TBC |
| Tuesday 30th Nov and Wednesday 1st December | Two days workshop with members of the Joint Consultation Forum on survivor centred investigation skills | UNMISS Gender Unit | TBC |
| Thursday 2nd December | Women , Peace and Security Working Group coordination call | WPS working Group  UN Women | Virtual |
| Friday 3rd December | Showcase ‘Temporary’ Film | Ministry of Gender, UNFPA and partners | Dembesh Hotel |
| Saturday 4th December | Magnetic theater (community outreach campaign) | AfriYAN | TBC |
| Monday 6th December | Meeting with Young women | Lulu Care SWIGO & CARE | TBC |
| Tuesday 7TH December | GBV conference with people with disabilities | Ministry of Gender, UNFPA and partners | Dembesh |
| Tuesday 7th December | Young people living with special need (Awareness rising on GBV) | AfriYAN | TBC |
| Wednesday 8th December | Panel Discussion with Parliamentarian on Proposed Ant-GBV Bill | UNFPA, FCDO, MGCSW and Parliamentary Network on Population and Development | Dembesh |
| Friday 10th December | Closing of “Noor-Le-Humon” art exhibition | Ministry of Gender, UN and partners | Nyakuron Cultural Centre |
| Friday 10th December | Human Rights Day | TBC |  |
| Friday 10th December | Policy Dialogue on Access to Health for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan | Jointly organized by UNFPA and OSWPA (UNMISS) | Dembesh |
| Friday 10th December | National level symposium on WPS | CIGPJ , WLO/CARE & CARE | TBC |

## Proposed Committees

1. Steering Committee
2. Communication /Advocacy Committee
3. Logistic Committee
4. Entertainment/Services, Reception/Protocol Committees

## Planning Meetings Schedule: Physical

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| **MEETINGS** | **DATES** | **TIME** |
| 1st Meeting | Tuesday,19/10/2021 | 10:00am-12:00 pm |
| 2nd Meeting | Tuesday,26/10/2021 | 10:00am-12:00 pm |
| 3rd Meeting | Thursday,4th /11/2021 | 10:00am-12:00 pm |
| 4th Meeting | Friday,12th/11/2021 | 10:00am-12:00 pm |
| 5th Meeting | Friday,19th /11/2021 | 10:00am-12:00 pm |