

National Conference on Protection of Children against Sexual violence in South Sudan

Date 5th - 6th Sept, 2023

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

After two days of intensive deliberations the conferees recommend the following outcomes:

1. Calls upon the Government of South Sudan to ensure accountability and punishment of perpetrators of crimes against children including recruitment, abduction, killing and maiming, all forms of sexual violence, attacks on schools and hospitals, and denial of humanitarian access.
2. Commends the Ministry of Defense and Veteran Affairs and the SSPDF Command for resolving in the 8th Command Council “zero tolerance against conflict related sexual violence and holding accountable perpetrators who commit, command or condone any act of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), and punished those who commit sexual violence act against children according to the laws”.
3. Urges the Government of South Sudan to direct the National Ministry of Finance to prioritize and allocate funds for the National Ministry of Gender, Child and Social Welfare, and agencies responsible for implementing the child protection related activities.
4. Calls upon the government and stakeholders to provide necessary resources, capabilities and support for the implementation of the remaining activities of the Comprehensive Action Plan before the end of the extended period.
5. Urges the Government through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation to lobby for the inclusion of DDR Programs in the UNMISS mandate.
6. Ensure child rehabilitation centers and vocational training schools be established in the ten States and three administrative areas.
7. Urges the government through its law enforcement agencies to ensure implementation of laws that protect child rights in conformity with international standards and to support Law Reform Commission.
8. Calls upon the Presidency and the partners in collaboration with ministry of labor to allocate resources to the DDRC to cater for release and reintegration of Children Associated with Armed Forces and Armed Groups.

9. The government and child protection actors should provide vocational training to children released from prison and those demobilized, disarmed and discharged from the armed forces.
10. Calls upon the MoGCSW and partners to develop and adopt a comprehensive child-centered approach and provide services including specialized psychosocial support, sexual and reproductive healthcare, among others.
11. Urges the MoGCSW to strengthen and adequately finance the collection of data on sexual violence against children and ensure it is ethical, safe, responsible and child-friendly.
12. The MoGCSW and stakeholders to support child-led groups and encourages children voices and participation in peacemaking and peacebuilding efforts.
13. The MoGCSW and stakeholders to ensure uplifting the family tracing and reunification process across the country in order to strengthen and overcome challenges faced by child protection actors in implementing child protection responses and interventions.
14. The MoGCSW in collaboration with UN agencies and stakeholders to create synergy, and shared commitments on information management and data sharing protocol.
15. The government and stakeholders to collaborate and coordinate efforts with local authorities and communities to raise awareness against sexual violence from the grassroots level.
16. In order to separate children from adults in police cells and Prisons remands, the Government through the Ministry of Interior is urged to:
 - (i) Establish a special *juvenile custody*, and
 - (ii) Establish children reformatory centers.
17. The Government through the Ministry of Interior and stakeholders to ensure victims of sexual violence have safe house.
18. The Conference urges the Government through the ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs to ensure juveniles victims have access to justice and legal aid.
19. The MoGCSW takes due consideration to the situation of street children and ensure construction of rehabilitation centers across the country.
20. The government through the Ministry of General Education to teach necessary life skills such as problem solving, communication and critical thinking across all schools to ensure children can detect signs of sexual advancements against them.

21. The government through its security agencies to carry-out a comprehensive disarmament exercise across the nation in order to stem out illegal weapons from the civil population and unauthorized individuals who use these weapons to spread violence and commit crimes including sexual abuses against the children.
22. The relevant ministries should waive the fees for age assessment (*for gratis*) in order to enable victims of sexual violence who are limited by lack of resources to access justice.