



THE  
LUTHERAN  
WORLD  
FEDERATION

A Communion  
of Churches

[lutheranworld.org](http://lutheranworld.org)

## 50<sup>th</sup> Session of the UN Human Rights Council

# ORAL STATEMENT TO THE 50TH REGULAR SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ON UPR-ADOPTIONS, SOUTH SUDAN

30 June 2022

**Speaker: Ester Wolf**

Mr. President,

The Lutheran World Federation would like to commend the Government of the Republic of South Sudan for its constructive engagement with the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism. Concerning the protection of women rights, LWF welcomes the steps taken towards addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) through the functional judicial institutions - notably the GBV & Juvenile and the specialized Military Courts. This is a step towards addressing the many years of concern over impunity and a ray of hope to women and survivors of SGBV. For example, the special military court prosecuted and jailed 24 soldiers for rape in Yei, in 2022.

However, we remain concerned of the rising cases of Sexual/Gender Based Violence & Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Central Equatoria, Western Equatoria, Unity State and Jonglei. This is a sign that the mitigation efforts by the judiciary is not deterring perpetrators. Women and girls continue to be vulnerable to sexual violence thus affecting their physical, psychological, social. and economical status. According to a UN Human Rights report on South Sudan, March 2022, Conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls is widespread and systematic throughout South Sudan and this therefore requires the relevant government institutions to take steps to eradicate SGBV.

We would like to recommend the Government of the Republic of South Sudan to;

- Accelerate the process of developing the Anti GBV bill and pass it to law.
- Review and amend the penal code (section 247) and transitional Constitution (Section 15 on the marriageable age)
- Establish GBV courts in all states within South Sudan
- Ratify and domesticate the Maputo protocol

Thank you, Mr. President