

# GENDER PERSPECTIVES IN PEACEBUILDING

AN INSIGHT INTO THE SUDAN CONFLICT



In 2023, over **49 women-led organisations** formed the **Peace for Sudan Platform** to push for an inclusive peace process.

Despite this **women remain excluded** from formal peace negotiations in Sudan.

## WHERE ARE THE WOMEN?

The African Union (AU) works with partners including the UN to advocate for a ceasefire, humanitarian access, and inclusive peace talks.

The **FemWise-Africa network** initiative, which has a local charter in Sudan, advocates for women's involvement in peace processes under an AU mandate. Despite **Women Peace and Security (WPS)** open sessions that highlight the plight of African women in conflict settings, gaps remain between commitments and action.

### African Union's formal commitments to gender inclusion

- 2003 - Maputo Protocol
- 2004 - Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa
- 2009 - Gender Equality Policy
- 2015 - Agenda 2063: Aspiration 6
- 2019 - Continental Results Framework
- 2018 - AU Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2018-2028)
- 2025 - African Union Convention on Ending Violence against Women and Girls (AUCEVAWG)

### Reality of implementation in Sudan

- Gender provisions in agreements are limited to sexual violence.
- Women face exclusion or tokenistic inclusion.
- No women in official delegations to the 2005 Comprehensive Peace Agreement.
- 10% representation in the 2020 Juba peace process.
- Sudanese women consistently call for participation in talks.

### Women were not mentioned in:

- December 2022 Deal:** Negotiations for civilian leadership transition.
- March 2024 UNSC Resolution:** Negotiation mediated by Libya and Turkey.
- February 2025 Nairobi Meeting:** Participants in RSF leadership gathering.

## HOW ARE WOMEN CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN PEACE PROCESSES?

Women's organisations have been advocating for an inclusive peace process. Despite these efforts women remain under-represented as mediators, negotiators and signatories.

**Excluding Colombia, they make up only 1.5% of peace & conflict agreement signatories.**



9.6% of negotiators, 13.7% of mediators, 26.6% of signatories

**0** Women's group signatories in 2023 peace agreements

## GENDERED IMPACTS OF CONFLICT



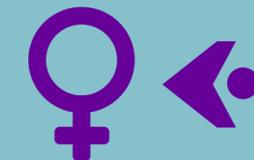
### DISPLACEMENT

Refugee crisis disproportionately affecting women and children who make up majority of displaced populations.



### VIOLENCE

30+ million are estimated to need humanitarian assistance. Evidence of systemic sexual violence perpetrated by the RSF affecting girls as young as 14 (UN).



### DEATH

Thousands have died in the conflict, through both violence and the collapse of healthcare systems.

**14 million+** displaced, disproportionately affecting women and girls

## SUDAN CONFLICT TIMELINE

- 1983-2005: Second Sudanese Civil War
- 1989: Dictator Omar al-Bashir seizes power in coup
- 2018-2019: Sudanese revolution - Omar Al Bashir ousted
- July 2011: Establishment of the Republic of South Sudan
- 2019: Draft Constitutional Declaration
- April 15 2023: Start of current Civil War

Two main warring factions: Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and Rapid Support Forces (RSF) led by Mohamed Hamdan "Hemedti" Dagalo

## THE PROJECT

Developing Gender Responsive Leadership in the AU via Sudan



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Despite women's prominent roles and feminist participation, **gender perspectives are missing** in peacebuilding.

This project seeks to understand women's exclusion and **ensure gender considerations in peace and security processes** by actors like the African Union.

### Project Aims

- Amplify local women's voices in peace discourse
- Document gendered impacts of the Sudan conflict
- Create networks between local women's groups and international peace and security actors
- Develop **decolonial feminist analysis tool** and support **gender responsive leadership in mediation**

### Guidance for Future Actors

- Foster women's leadership and perspectives in **ALL parts of decision-making**
- Fund women's organisations with **direct support**
- Create **protection mechanisms for women mediators**

### Data Collection

