

PRESS STATEMENT

South Sudan: A Call to Domestication and Implement the Maputo Protocol

27 November 2025 | Torit, Eastern Equatoria State

Fifty stakeholders—including government ministries, civil society, women’s rights organizations, UN agencies, academia, youth, and media—met in Torit from 26th–27th November 2025 to chart a National Action Plan (NAP) for the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol in South Sudan during this period of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.

South Sudan ratified the Protocol in June 2023, signaling commitment to women’s rights. Two years later, progress remains slow, and urgent action is needed to embed the Protocol into national laws, policies, and institutions.

Current gaps include:

- The 35% affirmative action quota is not fully realized.
- Reproductive health remains stigmatized.
- Literacy rates for women are among the lowest in the region.
- Gender-based violence and harmful norms continue.
- Legislative delays and weak implementation structures hinder progress.

Key Outcomes from the Workshop

Participants agreed on the following urgent priorities:

- Extend training on the Maputo Protocol to grassroots communities, involving local chiefs in remote areas.
- Establish a Maputo Protocol Committee with key stakeholders to ensure information reaches the grassroots.
- Include marriageable age (18 years and above) in the Permanent Constitution.
- Codify customary laws as part of domestication efforts.
- Guarantee women’s access to land for farming, business, and other activities.
- Improve schools in remote areas to advance the right to education.
- Use the Protocol as a tool for conflict resolution, protecting women and girls in conflict settings.
- Translate the Protocol into local languages and disseminate through media houses for wider reach.
- Domesticate the Protocol across all state institutions and government laws.
- Engage traditional leaders in Eastern Equatoria State and Administrative Areas to establish a forum on bride price practices.
- Ensure inclusion of persons with disabilities in domestication and implementation, including through sign language interpretation and braille protocol versions.
- Establish a follow-up committee, led by the Ministry of Gender, to streamline National level NAP processes. Provide targeted capacity-building for institutions and individuals involved in implementation and reporting, especially follow-up committee members.
- Promote legal and policy reforms, including reviewing the Transitional Constitution, Penal Code, and aligning the Child Act (2008) with the Protocol.
- Translate and disseminate the Protocol into Arabic and local languages in EES to raise community awareness.

Call to Action

We call upon all stakeholders—policymakers, legislators, traditional leaders, civil society actors, and community members—to join forces and prioritize the domestication and implementation of the Maputo Protocol. “Women and girls must stand together, speak boldly, and insist that their rights are not negotiable. The future of South Sudan will be written with your courage—the time to rise is now.”

Partners

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