



## **NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE LAUNCHES NEW \$8 MILLION GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE PROJECT IN SOUTH SUDAN**

On International Women's Day, Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> March, Nonviolent Peaceforce launches a new, \$8 million project on '**Promoting Women's Role in Peacebuilding and Gender-Based Violence Prevention in South Sudan**' in partnership with the Kingdom of the Netherlands through the Dutch Embassy in South Sudan.

International Women's Day is an opportunity to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women throughout the world. It is also an occasion to recognize the challenges that remain, and to look ahead to the untapped potential of future generations of women. The global theme for 2016 is *Make a Pledge for Parity*.

As we mark this year's celebration, Nonviolent Peaceforce South Sudan unveils its new 3-year project aimed at strengthening women's participation in peacebuilding and reducing the prevalence and impact of conflict and gender-based violence. In South Sudan today, women and girls are particularly vulnerable to alarming levels of gender-based violence as a result of conflict and wide-scale displacement. Women who are active participants in peacebuilding in their communities are less likely to experience gender-based violence.

The project will be implemented in five sites in South Sudan – Wau Shilluk/Malakal, Rumbek, Juba, Northern Bahr el Ghazal and Bentiu. Project activities will seek to provide an environment for community members which is free from everyday violence, where the rights of women and girls are respected and where their participation and decision making on peacebuilding, protection and security issues is promoted. This builds on Nonviolent Peaceforce's existing work in South Sudan, which includes patrols and protective accompaniment for women in high risk areas.

Nonviolent Peaceforce has recently been nominated for the 2016 Nobel Peace Prize by the American Friends Service Committee for its work as an unarmed, paid civilian protection force, fostering dialogue among parties in conflict and providing a protective presence for threatened civilians.

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