



Dignity, Justice, and Peace

Women, Children and War Crimes: Special Considerations in Sudan's Justice Process

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Proposal for Gender-Sensitive and Child-Centered Justice Mechanisms

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1. Executive Summary

This proposal outlines specialized justice mechanisms to address war crimes and atrocities committed against women and children in Sudan's ongoing conflict. Recognizing that women and children constitute the majority of victims and face distinct vulnerabilities, this framework establishes gender-sensitive and child-centered procedures within Sudan's transitional justice process.

The proposal calls for the establishment of specialized courts, dedicated investigation units, comprehensive victim support services, and community-based reconciliation mechanisms that prioritize the safety, dignity, and rights of women and children. It builds upon international best practices while respecting Sudan's cultural context and legal traditions.

Key Components:

- Specialized Gender-Based Violence (GBV) investigation and prosecution units
 - Child-friendly justice procedures and juvenile rehabilitation programs
 - Comprehensive psychosocial support and medical services for survivors
 - Protection mechanisms for witnesses and victims
 - Community awareness and stigma reduction initiatives
 - Integration with broader transitional justice mechanisms
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2. Introduction and Context

2.1 Background

Since the outbreak of conflict in Sudan in April 2023, women and children have borne a disproportionate burden of violence. Reports from international organizations, human rights groups, and survivor testimonies document widespread sexual violence, forced displacement, recruitment of child soldiers, attacks on civilian populations, and systematic targeting of women and children as weapons of war.

2.2 Scope and Objectives

This proposal specifically addresses:

Primary Objectives:

- Ensure accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence and crimes against children
- Provide comprehensive support and reparations for survivors
- Establish procedures that protect the dignity and rights of victims throughout the justice process
- Create mechanisms for rehabilitation and reintegration of child soldiers and conflict-affected children
- Address systemic gender inequality that enables and perpetuates violence

- Integrate survivors' voices into justice and reconciliation processes

2.3 Guiding Principles

- **Victim-centered approach:** Prioritizing the needs, safety, and agency of survivors
- **Do no harm:** Ensuring justice processes do not re-traumatize or endanger victims
- **Gender sensitivity:** Recognizing gender-specific impacts of conflict and addressing root causes of gender inequality
- **Best interests of the child:** Making decisions that prioritize children's welfare, development, and protection
- **Cultural competence:** Respecting cultural contexts while upholding universal human rights standards
- **Intersectionality:** Acknowledging how gender, age, ethnicity, disability, and other factors compound vulnerability

3. Gender-Based Violence and Crimes Against Women in Sudan's Conflict

3.1 Documented Patterns of Violence

Evidence indicates systematic patterns of sexual violence including:

- Rape and gang rape as weapons of war and ethnic cleansing
- Sexual slavery and forced marriage
- Conflict-related sexual violence in detention facilities
- Forced pregnancy and abortion
- Genital mutilation and sexual torture
- Trafficking of women and girls

3.2 Non-Sexual Gender-Based Crimes

- Forced displacement disproportionately affecting women-headed households
- Targeted killings of women leaders and activists
- Denial of humanitarian access affecting women's survival
- Destruction of livelihoods and economic violence
- Psychological abuse and collective punishment of communities

3.3 Impact Assessment

Physical Consequences:

- Injuries, sexually transmitted infections including HIV/AIDS
- Unwanted pregnancies and unsafe abortions
- Maternal mortality and morbidity
- Long-term reproductive health complications

Psychosocial Impact:

- Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety
 - Social stigma and community rejection
 - Loss of family and support networks
 - Economic hardship and poverty
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4. Children as Victims and Perpetrators: Special Vulnerabilities

4.1 Crimes Against Children

Direct Violence:

- Murder, maiming, and torture of children
- Sexual violence against boys and girls
- Abduction and forced recruitment
- Use of children as human shields
- Attacks on schools and educational facilities

Indirect Harm:

- Separation from families and caregivers
- Forced displacement and loss of education
- Exposure to violence and psychological trauma
- Denial of humanitarian assistance
- Exploitation and trafficking

4.2 Child Soldiers and Children Associated with Armed Forces

An estimated [thousands] of children have been recruited or used by armed groups in Sudan. These children require:

- Recognition as victims, not criminals, under international law
- Specialized rehabilitation and reintegration programs
- Educational and vocational training opportunities
- Family reunification services where possible
- Protection from re-recruitment

4.3 Age and Developmental Considerations

Children's experiences of conflict differ by:

- **Age group:** Infants, young children, adolescents face distinct challenges
 - **Gender:** Girls and boys experience different forms of violence and exploitation
 - **Disability status:** Children with disabilities face heightened vulnerabilities
 - **Prior trauma exposure:** Many children experienced multiple traumatic events
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5. Legal Framework and International Standards

5.1 International Legal Standards

Treaties and Conventions:

- Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)
- Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols
- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)
- Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- Optional Protocol on Children in Armed Conflict
- UN Security Council Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, 2242 (Women, Peace and Security)

5.2 Definitions of Crimes

Sexual and Gender-Based Violence under International Law:

- Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy
- Enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity
- Persecution on grounds of gender

Crimes Against Children:

- Conscription or enlistment of children under 15
- Active participation in hostilities
- Sexual violence against children
- Attacks on schools and hospitals

5.3 National Legal Framework

Integration with:

- Sudanese Penal Code (with necessary amendments to address gaps)
- Child Act 2010
- Violence Against Women Act (proposed or existing legislation)
- Traditional and customary law systems (where consistent with human rights standards)

6. Challenges in Prosecuting Gender-Based and Child-Related War Crimes

6.1 Investigation and Evidence Challenges

- **Stigma and shame:** Survivors reluctant to report due to social consequences
- **Lack of forensic capacity:** Limited medical and forensic infrastructure
- **Time sensitivity:** Medical evidence deteriorates rapidly

- **Access constraints:** Ongoing conflict limits access to affected areas
- **Chain of custody issues:** Ensuring evidence integrity in insecure environments

6.2 Legal and Procedural Barriers

- **Gaps in national legislation:** Insufficient criminalization of international crimes
- **Evidentiary standards:** Corroboration requirements that burden victims
- **Statute of limitations:** May preclude prosecution of historical crimes
- **Command responsibility:** Difficulty establishing liability of commanders
- **Amnesty provisions:** Incompatible with international obligations

6.3 Cultural and Social Factors

- **Patriarchal norms:** Minimization of violence against women
- **Honor-based violence:** Secondary victimization of survivors
- **Child marriage practices:** Normalizing abuse of girls
- **Limited women's participation:** In legal institutions and decision-making
- **Language and literacy barriers:** Particularly affecting rural women

6.4 Security and Protection Risks

- **Ongoing conflict:** Continued threats to victims and witnesses
- **Retaliation:** Against those who report or testify
- **Displacement:** Victims scattered across regions and countries
- **Inadequate protection systems:** Limited capacity for witness protection

7. Proposed Special Mechanisms and Procedures

7.1 Specialized Investigation Units

Gender-Based Violence Investigation Unit:

- Composed of trained female and male investigators with expertise in sexual violence
- Equipped with forensic medical examination capabilities
- Deployed to conflict-affected regions and refugee camps
- Collaboration with medical providers and psychosocial counselors
- Secure evidence storage and chain of custody protocols

Child Crimes Investigation Unit:

- Specialized in interviewing child witnesses and victims
- Utilizes age-appropriate investigation techniques
- Includes child psychologists and social workers
- Focuses on recruitment, use, and violence against children
- Coordinates with child protection agencies

7.2 Specialized Prosecution Units

Structure:

- Dedicated prosecutors with expertise in gender-based violence and child crimes
- Gender-balanced teams reflecting Sudan's diversity
- Ongoing training in trauma-informed prosecution
- Vertical integration: same prosecutor from investigation through trial

Charging Strategy:

- Prioritize most serious and systematic crimes
- Charge sexual violence as standalone crimes, not lesser included offenses
- Pursue command responsibility for systematic patterns
- Address both direct perpetrators and those who facilitated crimes

7.3 Specialized Court Chambers

Gender-Based Violence and Child Crimes Chambers:

- Judges with specialized training and demonstrated sensitivity
- Gender-balanced benches where possible
- In camera proceedings for sensitive testimony
- Prohibition of discriminatory questions (e.g., about victim's sexual history)
- Child-friendly courtroom modifications

Procedural Modifications:

- Remote testimony via video link to protect witnesses
- Use of screens to shield witnesses from accused
- Closed sessions for particularly traumatic testimony
- Expedited proceedings to minimize victim burden
- Flexibility in evidentiary standards (pattern evidence, expert testimony)

7.4 Legal Representation and Support

Free Legal Services for Victims:

- Court-appointed counsel for victims as parties to proceedings
- Legal aid clinics in conflict-affected areas
- Para-legal training for community advocates
- Language interpretation services

Support Throughout Process:

- Court support workers present during testimony
- Regular case updates and consultation with victims
- Assistance accessing services and reparations

- Post-trial support and follow-up
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8. Victim Support and Protection Services

8.1 Immediate Response Services

Medical Care:

- Emergency medical treatment including post-exposure prophylaxis (PEP) for HIV
- Treatment of injuries and sexually transmitted infections
- Safe abortion services where legally permissible
- Reproductive health services and family planning
- Documentation of injuries through medico-legal examinations

Psychosocial Support:

- Crisis counseling and psychological first aid
- Culturally appropriate trauma therapy
- Support groups for survivors
- Family counseling and support
- Community-based psychosocial programs

8.2 Long-Term Support Programs

Economic Empowerment:

- Livelihood training and income-generating activities
- Micro-credit and business development support
- Educational scholarships for women and girls
- Childcare services enabling economic participation

Social Reintegration:

- Community awareness campaigns to reduce stigma
- Engagement with religious and traditional leaders
- Support for survivors rejected by families
- Safe housing and shelter services
- Peer support networks

8.3 Specialized Services for Children

Holistic Child Support:

- Family tracing and reunification services
- Foster care and alternative care arrangements
- Educational catch-up programs and tutoring

- Recreational and psychosocial activities
- Life skills training for adolescents

Healthcare:

- Age-appropriate medical care
- Mental health services using child-friendly approaches
- Nutrition support for malnourished children
- Disability services and assistive devices

8.4 Witness Protection Program

Protection Measures:

- Risk assessment for all witnesses and victims
- Temporary relocation for high-risk individuals
- Identity protection and anonymity measures
- Security escorts and safe houses
- Regular monitoring and threat assessment updates

Sustainable Protection:

- Long-term livelihood support in relocation areas
- Community integration programs
- Education and healthcare access
- Psychosocial support for displacement stress

9. Child Justice Considerations

9.1 Children Associated with Armed Forces and Groups

Rehabilitation Over Prosecution:

- Presumption against criminal prosecution for children under 18
- Diversion programs for minor offenses
- Focus on reintegration and rehabilitation
- Individualized assessment of each child's situation

Rehabilitation Programs:

- Interim care centers providing safety and stability
- Psychosocial counseling addressing trauma and violent behavior
- Educational programs (formal and informal)
- Vocational training appropriate to age and interests
- Sports, arts, and recreational activities
- Life skills and peace education

Reintegration Process:

- Family assessment and preparation
- Gradual family reunification with support
- Community sensitization to prevent stigmatization
- Follow-up services for minimum 12 months
- Protection from re-recruitment

9.2 Exceptional Prosecutions

When Prosecution May Be Necessary:

- Children who were 15-18 and committed serious international crimes
- Only for most serious crimes (genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes)
- After comprehensive assessment of child's capacity and circumstances
- In specialized juvenile justice facilities with rehabilitative focus

Procedural Safeguards:

- Legal representation at all stages
- Psychological assessment before proceedings
- Proceedings closed to public
- Parents or guardians present unless contrary to child's interests
- Detention as last resort and for shortest appropriate time
- Rehabilitative rather than punitive sentencing

9.3 Children as Witnesses

Age-Appropriate Procedures:

- Pre-trial preparation and court familiarization
- Testimony via video link or behind screens
- Support person present during testimony
- Breaks and accommodations for attention span
- Questions adapted to child's developmental level
- Avoid multiple interviews; use video-recorded statements

Protection of Child Witnesses:

- Identity protection in all proceedings and documentation
- Safety planning with families
- Psychosocial support before, during, and after testimony
- Coordination with child protection services
- Monitoring for any adverse effects

10. Community-Based Reconciliation and Traditional Justice

10.1 Integration with Formal Justice

Complementary Approaches:

- Serious crimes prosecuted in formal courts
- Community processes address lower-level harm and social repair
- Victim choice in participating in traditional mechanisms
- Safeguards ensuring women's and children's voices heard

10.2 Adapted Traditional Mechanisms

Modifications for Gender Sensitivity:

- Inclusion of women in traditional justice councils
- Explicit prohibition of practices violating women's rights (e.g., forced marriage as compensation)
- Protection against secondary victimization
- Outcomes consistent with international human rights standards

Child Protection Considerations:

- Child-friendly participation methods
- Guardians ad litem for child participants
- Outcomes prioritizing child's best interests
- Prohibition of corporal punishment or harmful practices

10.3 Community Dialogue and Healing

Reconciliation Programs:

- Facilitated community dialogues on gender-based violence
- Inter-generational discussions on conflict impact
- Engagement of men and boys in prevention
- Religious and traditional leaders as champions
- Memorialization and collective remembrance activities

10.4 Accountability and Oversight

Monitoring of Traditional Justice:

- Documentation of proceedings and outcomes
- Review by formal justice system for human rights compliance
- Appeals mechanism for victims dissatisfied with outcomes
- Training for traditional leaders on gender and child rights

11. Documentation and Evidence Collection

11.1 Systematic Documentation

Multi-Source Evidence Collection:

- Survivor and witness testimony
- Medical and forensic evidence
- Photographic and video documentation
- Satellite imagery of attacks on civilians
- Social media and digital evidence
- Expert testimony on patterns and practices

Documentation Standards:

- Chain of custody protocols
- Secure storage and data protection
- Informed consent from victims for use of information
- Ethical guidelines prioritizing victim safety
- Compliance with international evidence standards

11.2 Medical-Legal Documentation

Forensic Examinations:

- Trained medical professionals conducting examinations
- Standardized documentation forms (WHO guidelines)
- Photography of injuries with consent
- Collection of biological evidence
- Provision of medical certificate for legal proceedings

Challenges in Delayed Reporting:

- Acceptance of testimony even without medical evidence
- Pattern evidence establishing systematic practices
- Expert testimony on delayed disclosure and trauma responses

11.3 Collaboration with Civil Society

Partnership with NGOs and Human Rights Organizations:

- Sharing information while protecting sources
- Capacity building for documentation
- Referral pathways for victims to services
- Joint advocacy for justice and accountability

Survivor Networks:

- Empowering survivors to document experiences
 - Peer-to-peer support and solidarity
 - Amplifying survivor voices in advocacy
 - Protection and confidentiality protocols
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12. Witness Protection and Trauma-Informed Approaches

12.1 Trauma-Informed Justice

Principles:

- Understanding trauma's impact on memory, behavior, and functioning
- Avoiding re-traumatization through justice processes
- Empowering victims and respecting their autonomy
- Building trust and transparency in interactions
- Recognizing cultural and gender dimensions of trauma

Application in Proceedings:

- Training all justice actors in trauma-informed approaches
- Flexible proceeding schedules accommodating victim needs
- Supportive environment and demeanor
- Validation of victim experiences
- Avoiding victim-blaming language or attitudes

12.2 Protection Planning

Individual Risk Assessment:

- Comprehensive threat analysis for each victim/witness
- Assessment of family and community risks
- Consideration of gender-specific threats (honor violence, forced marriage)
- Child-specific vulnerabilities
- Regular reassessment as situations evolve

Tailored Protection Measures:

- Security escorts for court attendance
- Relocation with livelihood support
- Identity protection in proceedings and documents
- Secure communication channels
- Coordination with police and security services

12.3 Capacity Building

Training Programs:

- Judges, prosecutors, investigators on gender-sensitive and child-friendly approaches
- Police and security on victim protection
- Medical professionals on forensic examination and documentation
- Psychosocial counselors on trauma therapy
- Community leaders on supporting survivors

Ongoing Mentorship:

- International experts providing technical support
- Peer learning exchanges regionally and internationally
- Supervision and quality assurance mechanisms

13. Implementation Timeline and Phases

Phase 1: Foundation Building (Months 1-6)

Legal and Policy Framework:

- Draft and adopt specialized procedures for GBV and child crimes
- Establish legal basis for specialized units and chambers
- Develop standard operating procedures and protocols

Institutional Setup:

- Recruit and train specialized investigators, prosecutors, judges
- Establish physical infrastructure (courts, offices, safe spaces)
- Procure equipment and supplies
- Develop database and case management systems

Victim Services Establishment:

- Identify and contract service providers
- Establish referral pathways
- Train service providers
- Set up hotlines and reporting mechanisms

Phase 2: Pilot Implementation (Months 7-18)

Initial Operations:

- Begin investigations in selected regions
- Prosecute initial cases to establish precedents
- Provide services to survivors in pilot areas
- Document lessons learned and challenges

Community Engagement:

- Launch public awareness campaigns
- Conduct community dialogues on justice and reconciliation
- Engage traditional leaders and women's groups
- Establish community-level reporting and support mechanisms

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Collect baseline data
- Monitor protection incidents and responses
- Evaluate victim satisfaction with services
- Assess quality of investigations and prosecutions

Phase 3: Scale-Up (Months 19-36)

Geographic Expansion:

- Extend services to additional conflict-affected regions
- Establish mobile courts for remote areas
- Expand witness protection capacity
- Increase staffing based on caseload

Systems Strengthening:

- Refine procedures based on lessons learned
- Enhance coordination among justice actors
- Strengthen referral systems
- Build sustainable financing mechanisms

Transitional Justice Integration:

- Link prosecutions with truth-seeking initiatives
- Coordinate with reparations programs
- Support memorialization and guarantees of non-recurrence
- Engage in security sector reform

Phase 4: Sustainability and Institutionalization (Months 37-60)

Integration into National Systems:

- Embed specialized approaches in regular justice institutions
- Develop sustainable funding through national budget allocation
- Build national training capacity
- Establish permanent monitoring and oversight bodies

Long-Term Support:

- Continue victim services with transition to community-based models
 - Maintain witness protection for high-risk cases
 - Provide ongoing psychosocial support
 - Monitor for re-traumatization or protection needs
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14. Resource Requirements and Budget

14.1 Human Resources

Specialized Personnel:

- 20 GBV investigators (female and male)
- 15 child crimes investigators
- 10 specialized prosecutors
- 6 specialized judges
- 30 psychosocial counselors
- 20 medical professionals (forensic specialists)
- 40 legal aid lawyers
- 15 witness protection officers
- 25 case managers and support staff
- 10 monitoring and evaluation staff

Estimated Annual Personnel Costs: \$4.5 million

14.2 Infrastructure and Equipment

Physical Infrastructure:

- Specialized court chambers (6 locations): \$2 million
- Victim support centers (12 locations): \$1.8 million
- Safe houses and shelters (8 locations): \$1.2 million
- Investigation offices and forensic labs (4 locations): \$1.5 million

Equipment and Technology:

- Forensic and medical equipment: \$800,000
- Video conferencing systems for remote testimony: \$400,000
- Secure communications and data storage: \$300,000
- Vehicles for mobile teams and protection: \$600,000
- Office equipment and supplies: \$400,000

Total Infrastructure and Equipment (Year 1): \$9 million

14.3 Operational Costs

Annual Operational Expenses:

- Victim services (medical, psychosocial, legal): \$3.5 million
- Witness protection and relocation: \$2 million
- Training and capacity building: \$1.2 million
- Community awareness and outreach: \$800,000
- Transportation and logistics: \$1 million
- Monitoring and evaluation: \$500,000
- Administrative overhead: \$1 million

Total Annual Operational Costs: \$10 million

14.4 Five-Year Budget Summary

- **Year 1:** \$23.5 million (includes infrastructure setup)
- **Years 2-5:** \$14.5 million annually
- **Five-Year Total:** \$81.5 million

14.5 Funding Sources

Proposed Funding Mix:

- International donors and UN agencies: 60%
- National government allocation: 20%
- International financial institutions (World Bank, regional development banks): 15%
- Private foundations and civil society: 5%

15. Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability

15.1 Indicators of Success

Justice Outcomes:

- Number of cases investigated and prosecuted
- Conviction rates for GBV and child crimes
- Quality of judgments (use of international standards, victim-centered reasoning)
- Timeliness of proceedings
- Sentences reflecting gravity of crimes

Victim-Centered Metrics:

- Victim satisfaction with justice process and outcomes
- Number of victims receiving services
- Reductions in secondary victimization
- Protection incidents and responses
- Access to reparations

Child-Specific Indicators:

- Number of children rehabilitated and reintegrated
- School enrollment rates for formerly recruited children
- Psychosocial wellbeing assessments
- Re-recruitment rates
- Community acceptance

Systemic Change:

- Legal and policy reforms adopted
- Institutional capacity development
- Reduction in stigma (measured through surveys)
- Women's participation in justice processes
- Sustainability of services

15.2 Monitoring Mechanisms

Regular Data Collection:

- Case tracking database with disaggregated data (gender, age, ethnicity, disability)
- Victim feedback surveys and focus groups
- Service provider reporting
- Protection incident tracking
- Financial and administrative audits

Independent Oversight:

- National Human Rights Commission monitoring
- Civil society observation of proceedings
- International technical review missions
- Survivor advisory groups providing input

15.3 Accountability for Justice Actors

Codes of Conduct:

- Zero tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse
- Ethical guidelines for victim interactions
- Confidentiality and data protection requirements
- Consequences for violations

Complaint Mechanisms:

- Accessible complaint channels for victims
- Independent investigation of allegations
- Disciplinary procedures
- Remedies for victims of misconduct

15.4 Learning and Adaptation

Periodic Reviews:

- Quarterly operational reviews
- Annual external evaluation
- Mid-term comprehensive assessment
- Final evaluation and documentation of lessons learned

Adaptive Management:

- Flexible implementation based on monitoring findings
- Regular consultation with stakeholders
- Integration of emerging best practices
- Documentation and dissemination of innovations

16. Recommendations and Conclusion

16.1 Key Recommendations

To the Government of Sudan:

1. **Enact comprehensive legal reforms** criminalizing all forms of sexual and gender-based violence as war crimes and crimes against humanity, with no statute of limitations
2. **Establish specialized institutions** with dedicated budgets and qualified personnel for investigating and prosecuting crimes against women and children
3. **Ratify and domesticate international treaties** including the Rome Statute, CEDAW, and CRC Optional Protocols
4. **Allocate adequate resources** from the national budget for victim services and reparations
5. **Ensure women's participation** at all levels of justice institutions and decision-making, with target of 40% representation
6. **Prohibit amnesties** for sexual violence, crimes against children, and other serious international crimes
7. **Cooperate with international mechanisms** including the ICC and UN human rights bodies

To International Partners:

1. **Provide sustained financial support** for specialized justice mechanisms and victim services over minimum 5-year period
2. **Deploy technical expertise** including legal advisors, forensic specialists, and trauma counselors
3. **Support capacity building** through training programs, study tours, and mentorship
4. **Advocate for political will** and prioritization of accountability for crimes against women and children

5. **Coordinate assistance** to avoid duplication and ensure complementarity
6. **Condition support** on adherence to international standards and victim-centered approaches

To Civil Society Organizations:

1. **Continue documentation** of crimes and support to survivors while ensuring their safety
2. **Advocate for justice** and amplify survivors' voices in national and international forums
3. **Provide complementary services** where government capacity is limited
4. **Monitor justice processes** and hold institutions accountable
5. **Engage communities** in awareness-raising and stigma reduction
6. **Support survivor networks** and peer-led initiatives

16.2 Critical Success Factors

Political Will and Leadership: Success requires sustained commitment from Sudan's leadership to prioritize justice for women and children, allocate resources, and resist pressure for blanket amnesties.

Victim-Centered Implementation: Procedures must genuinely prioritize victim safety, dignity, and agency rather than treating victims as mere witnesses or tools for political objectives.

Adequate Resources: Insufficient funding undermines quality of investigations, protection of witnesses, and provision of services, potentially causing more harm than good.

Coordination and Collaboration: Effective coordination among government institutions, civil society, international partners, and communities is essential to comprehensive response.

Long-Term Commitment: Justice and healing require sustained engagement over years, not short-term initiatives that abandon survivors and perpetuate impunity.

Security and Protection: Without adequate security for victims, witnesses, and justice actors, proceedings cannot move forward safely and effectively.

16.3 Conclusion

The crimes committed against women and children in Sudan's conflict demand justice that is both rigorous in holding perpetrators accountable and compassionate in supporting survivors' healing and dignity. This proposal provides a roadmap for establishing specialized mechanisms that meet international standards while adapting to Sudan's context.

Implementing these recommendations will send a powerful message that violence against women and children will not be tolerated and that Sudan is committed to building a society where all people, regardless of gender or age, can live free from violence and with full enjoyment of their human rights.

The international community must stand with Sudan's women and children by providing the financial, technical, and political support necessary to translate these proposals into reality. Survivors have waited too long for justice. The time to act is now.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Abbreviation

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
ICC	International Criminal Court
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
PEP	Post-Exposure Prophylaxis
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
RSF	Rapid Support Forces
SAF	Sudanese Armed Forces
SGBV	Sexual and Gender-Based Violence
SOP	Standard Operating Procedure
STI	Sexually Transmitted Infection
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme

Abbreviation

UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSC	United Nations Security Council
WHO	World Health Organization

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39. **International Journal of Transitional Justice**: Research on victim-centered approaches

Case Law and Jurisprudence

40. **International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR)**: Prosecutor v. Akayesu (1998) - landmark sexual violence judgment
41. **International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)**: Prosecutor v. Furundžija (1998); Prosecutor v. Kunarac et al. (2001)

42. **International Criminal Court:** Prosecutor v. Bemba (2016); Prosecutor v. Ntaganda (2019); Prosecutor v. Ongwen (2021)
43. **Special Court for Sierra Leone:** Prosecutor v. Brima et al. (2007); Prosecutor v. Taylor (2012)
44. **Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia:** Case 002 on forced marriage and rape

National Legal Framework

45. **Sudanese Penal Code** (1991, with amendments)
46. **Sudan Child Act** (2010)
47. **Sudanese Criminal Procedure Act** (1991)
48. **Draft Violence Against Women Act** (various versions in legislative process)
49. **Juba Peace Agreement** (2020) - provisions on transitional justice

Best Practices and Comparative Examples

50. **Colombia Special Jurisdiction for Peace:** Gender and ethnic approach in transitional justice
51. **Bosnia and Herzegovina Court:** Section for War Crimes - witness protection and support
52. **Democratic Republic of Congo:** Mobile courts for sexual violence cases
53. **Kosovo Specialist Chambers:** Witness protection and support measures
54. **Gacaca Courts, Rwanda:** Integration of community-based justice with formal mechanisms
55. **Guatemala Sepur Zarco Case:** Landmark sexual slavery prosecution
56. **Nepal Truth and Reconciliation Commission:** Challenges and lessons in addressing conflict-related sexual violence

Implementation Guidance

57. **Justice Rapid Response:** Guidance on investigating sexual and gender-based crimes
58. **UN DPPA/DPA:** Guidance on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies
59. **UNDP:** Practice Note on Gender and Transitional Justice (2023)
60. **World Bank:** Approaches to Gender-Based Violence in Fragile and Conflict-Affected States
61. **Global Survivors Fund:** Technical guidance on reparations for conflict-related sexual violence

Expert Consultations

62. Consultations with Sudanese women's rights organizations and survivor networks
63. Technical input from international criminal law experts and prosecutors
64. Guidance from child protection specialists with Sudan experience
65. Insights from psychosocial support providers working with conflict-affected populations
66. Input from customary and religious leaders on integration of traditional justice mechanisms

Disclaimer

This proposal draws on publicly available information, international legal standards, and best practices from comparative contexts. Specific details about Sudan's ongoing conflict continue to evolve. The proposal should be adapted based on the most current situation analysis, ongoing consultations with affected communities, and the political and security context at the time of implementation.

Restricted Use