

# Frequently Asked Questions



## South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC)

### What is the difference between the Action Plan for Peace and other peace initiatives (the High-level Revitalization Forum, the National Dialogue and SPLM Reunification etc.)?

The Action Plan for Peace is a church-led peace initiative implemented by the ecumenical partners, while the National Dialogue is a political process led by the government. The Action Plan for Peace is the process and channel through which the church can contribute to all peace processes, in keeping with its normative roles and its moral calling. The Church encourages all forms of peaceful, constructive dialogue while it continues to undertake its spiritual process of transformation. The Church stresses its unique outreach, experience with and connection to all tribes, sub-tribes and ethnic groups.

### Who are your target audiences for advocacy?

- At the community level, the SSCC and partners engage South Sudanese to share their experiences on inter-communal violence and its roots, with the goal of coming to a common understanding of the drivers of conflict and finding peaceful means of resolving it. Village elders, youth, women, neighboring villages and other key people discuss the issues, and the outcome can include the signing of an agreement between the parties to conflict to commit to peace.
- Church leaders also reach out to and engage all political and military leaders and influencers at the county, state and national level, as well as regional stakeholders (the African Union, the Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), international players (the United Nations, the diaspora, donor countries and international ecumenical partners).

### What are the main calls to action or main messages?

- An immediate end to the violence and killings
- Change the narrative from one of violence to one of peace
- Give a voice to the voiceless and the most vulnerable
- Ensuring that the path toward peace is inclusive and holistic
- Promoting reconciliation that repairs relationships that are damaged and torn
- Act now! Stop the suffering of the people of south Sudan.

- No to Ethnic segregation
- Forgive and be reconciled
- Stop rumours!
- Turn away from evil and do good, seek peace, and pursue it.
- Respect for God! Respect for humanity
- How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity. (Psalm 133:1)
- No to hate speech
- Stop greed
- Youth for peace, mothers for peace, children for peace and leaders for peace, all for peace.
- Family for peace, community for peace
- Peace is a journey, lets us walk together
- No revenge killing
- Blessed are the Peace makers for they shall be called children of God (Matthew 5,9)

### How does the SSCC work with the government and other players?

The SSCC creates safe spaces for truth-telling and the open sharing of experiences. The work also involves 'shuttle diplomacy,' through formal and informal meetings, building relationships through constant exchanges to increase understanding of the issues and tensions, aimed toward eventually mediating among various parties and inviting them to meet and discuss in a neutral forum.

### Some would say the peace process in South Sudan has long been at an impasse, or even that it has failed. Is that true?

Globally peace and conflict resolution have always been elusive. However, the Church believes that hope must be kept alive regardless of how long it might take. God calls churches to be agents for peace and therefore it is the Church's mission and duty to work toward building a world at peace. The church recognises the challenges but has always shouldered its moral responsibility to call upon parties to the conflict to end the bloodshed, to come to the negotiating table, to respect peace agreements and reconcile with and forgive each other as God commands.