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"We all need to be part of the process in ensuring that women and girls are protected from all forms of violence"

The Ceasefire & Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) Chief of Staff, Col. Gunnar Gabrielsen has urged a collective approach to ensuring the protection of women and girls in the country. Speaking during the workshop for the commemoration of the 16 days of Activism in Juba on Friday, he stated that the Government, civil society, youth groups, community leaders and the private sector must all stand firm and speak with one voice to stop Sexual Gender Based Violence (S/GBV) against women and girls in South Sudan.

"From our perspective, we have much to offer with regards to accountability. We must monitor progress, collect the right data, write the reports on S/GBV, and remain transparent but persistent in our collective efforts".

He further noted that the mission engagement with various stakeholders must continue in advocating for the protection of the rights of women and girls.

"CTSAMVM remains committed to promoting inclusive participation for all South Sudanese in the implementation of the Peace Agreement, and specifically on Chapter II. CTSAMVM will continue our effort to fully discharge our monitoring, verification and reporting mandate", Col. Gunnar stated.

He encouraged the participants to challenge harmful norms, support survivors, and build a society that values and protects the rights of every individual. "Let us work hand in hand to ensure that gender-based violence becomes a relic of the past", he urged.

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is a global civil society led campaign that runs from 25 November, (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women), and ends on 10 December, (International Human Rights Day), highlighting that violence against women is the most pervasive breach of human rights worldwide. It has mobilized individuals, civil society organizations, governments, national and international institutions to advocate for the elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG).

"It is my earnest hope that the discussions today will increase your awareness on the importance of supporting an end to violence against women and girls and strengthen your role in contributing to the intended outcomes of promoting a more inclusive implementation of the provisions of the Permanent Ceasefire, specifically on the Protection of civilians", he concluded.

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Notes to Editors (NOT FOR PUBLICATION): For further information, please contact CTSAMVM Communications office on: ctsamminfo@igad-rss.org or protocolofficer@igad-rss.org

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