

Motion on the Humanitarian and Sexual Violence Crisis in Sudan

STATEMENT FROM THE EUROPEAN WOMEN'S LOBBY ON THE HUMANITARIAN CRISIS IN SUDAN [adopted by the General Assembly, on 8 June 2025]

We, delegates of the European Women's Lobby (EWL) General Assembly meeting in Brussels on 7-8 June 2025, strongly condemn the inefficient reaction/inaction of many responsible international actors regarding the humanitarian crisis in Sudan and ask for an urgent international response to the sexual and gender-based violence crisis in Sudan, « the world's most severe humanitarian and displacement emergency » according to UN Secretary-General António Guterres.

As the largest umbrella organisation of women's rights groups in Europe, the EWL calls on all international actors to uphold international humanitarian law and to ensure the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2736¹, together with the UN Resolution 1325 (2000)² and its agenda on Women, Peace and Security.

Two years after the outbreak of the devastating conflict in Sudan, over **14 million people**³—more than a quarter of the population—have been forcibly displaced, making Sudan the **world's worst displacement crisis**, ahead of Syria, the DRC, and Ukraine, according to the **United Nations**.

Children and women are the **primary victims** of this conflict. According to **UNICEF**, *"More than 15 million children now need humanitarian aid—double the number at the start of 2023."* Over **460,000 children** face life-threatening acute malnutrition⁴.

The situation is further compounded by **systematic and widespread sexual violence**, which has been used as a **weapon of war**. According to UNICEF, there are confirmed reports of **children as young as one being raped by armed men**. As **Catherine Russell**, Executive Director of UNICEF, warns: *"This alone should freeze us with horror and compel immediate action. The use of sexual violence as a weapon of war is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law."*

Women and girls are fleeing their homes only to face renewed threats in informal settlements and under-resourced communities. According to **UNFPA**⁵, tens of thousands of women will give birth in the coming months with little to no medical assistance, due to the **collapse of health infrastructure**.

The **UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk**, recently declared: *"The continued use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in Sudan is profoundly shocking. Urgent action is needed to stop it, bring perpetrators to justice, and provide redress to survivors."* The international community's **silence and inaction** have been widely condemned.

The EWL urges all parties to allow humanitarian actors, aid, and assistance to reach Sudan. Ask all international actors to publicly recognize the sexual violence crisis in Sudan and respond with urgency and resources. EWL urges all parties to the conflict and those with influence over them to ensure immediate cessation of hostilities and full humanitarian access.

¹ [Security Council Resolution 2736 - UNSCR](#)

² [UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women and peace and security \(2000\) | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

³ [Sudan conflict and refugee crisis, Multi-country External Situation Report #10, covering the reporting period March-April 2025](#)

⁴ [Sudan: Number of children in need doubled | unicef.ch](#)

⁵ [UNFPA Sudan Situation Report #19 - March 2025](#)

We urge EU authorities, namely European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, European Parliament President Roberta Metsola, European Council President António Costa, and EU High Representative Kaja Kallas, and all other relevant actors to demand an **immediate ceasefire**, an immediate increase in humanitarian funding, and prioritizing protection for women and children.

We ask the UN and regional actors to take decisive steps to **end impunity** for crimes of sexual violence and ensure **justice and reparations** for survivors.