



**SawaSouthSudan**

## **A virtual summit for women in South Sudan**

**May 25, 2018**

7:00am EST | 11:00am GMT | 12:00pm WAT

1:00pm CET, CAT, SAST | 2:00pm EAT

### **EVENT PACK**

#### **1. ABOUT THE #SAWASOUTHSUDAN WOMEN'S VIRTUAL SUMMIT ON MAY 25<sup>TH</sup>**

**#SawaSouthSudan** is an opportunity for women leaders from South Sudan, Africa, and the world to celebrate Africa Day, May 25<sup>th</sup>, by coming together and co-creating solutions for a lasting peace in South Sudan.

The Virtual Summit will be an online conversation that people can easily engage with on Facebook, [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), or the website, [www.sawasouthsudan.com](http://www.sawasouthsudan.com). It's a high-tech event that anyone can participate in, a democratic and innovative approach to reaching solutions for an entrenched problem. It's being led by the Women's Coalition for South Sudan.

Women in South Sudan have borne the brunt of the suffering from the civil war that has been ongoing since December 2013 between government and opposition forces. Despite this, it is the men with guns who have long decided who benefits from the war, and when peace talks commence and what gets discussed.

**#SawaSouthSudan** is when this gets turned around. It's when South Sudanese women join up with influential women leaders from the worlds of business, politics, sports, civil society, and the arts to say that things can no longer be business as usual in South Sudan – the country's women must have a say in how peace is achieved and what the future of South Sudan must look like for the benefit of all its citizens. The women who take part in the Virtual Summit will be making this call directly to leaders in the African Union and United Nations, and they want you to join them.

'Sawa' encompasses everything South Sudanese women want this Virtual Summit to be. In Juba Arabic, it means 'solidarity'; in Swahili, it means 'ready' or 'ok'. It's being led by the Women's Coalition for South Sudan, and will be produced out of Nairobi and live-streamed via social media around the world, with major events in South Sudan. Everyone will have the chance to join together and be ready to say what needs to happen for peace to arrive in South Sudan.

#### **2. WHY YOU SHOULD PARTICIPATE**

Few people ever have the chance to take part in a summit where big discussions and decisions are made. This is your chance to be a part of something big – to help generate a global wave of action for women in South Sudan. The simple act of participating – individually or by organizing an event – adds weight to the calls for change through the political campaign that will happen afterwards.

You'll have a chance to submit questions and comments to people like **Moussa Faki**, the Chairperson of the African Union, former Liberian president **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, and former Irish president **Mary Robinson**, and many other **women leaders from South Sudan**. You can contribute your ideas for peace to the Women's Coalition of South Sudan, who are at the forefront of peace efforts in South Sudan and a leading sponsor of the Virtual Summit.

The more people who watch and participate in the Virtual Summit, the greater influence it will have on political leaders who can help end the war in South Sudan and catalyze peace. That's why we need you: your voice will be heard, and it will matter. You'll be joining individual women and women's groups from around Africa and the world who will be watching and participating at the same time.

### **3. HOW TO THROW A #SAWASOUTHSUDAN EVENT**

The best way to amplify #SawaSouthSudan's calls and messages is to watch and participate with a group of people, however big or small, whether with your friends, loved ones, or work colleagues.

Use the occasion to celebrate Africa Day! Organize a small party where people can watch or listen to the live-stream of #SawaSouthSudan, and submit questions or comments via Facebook, Twitter, or SMS/WhatsApp. Hold a larger event at your work place or community center with keynote speeches from women leaders, music, art, panel discussions, while also watching the Summit and engaging with it. You can even watch it with friends and family at home over a meal.

At a minimum, you will need a computer with a decent internet connection to watch the live-stream of #SawaSouthSudan. If you are having an event with many people, consider linking your computer to a television or projector so everyone can watch on a larger screen. In South Sudan, it will be possible to tune-in via radio broadcast.

Otherwise, you can make your #SawaSouthSudan event in any shape you want it to be. Print out a list of facts about South Sudan, including how people are being affected by the war. Engage in a debate about what African Union leaders must do, and even what your country's leaders can do to support women and peace in South Sudan. This is your chance to speak up – your voice will be heard!

#### 4. **WHAT TO DO DURING THE VIRTUAL SUMMIT**

All shareable content related to the Summit will be on [www.sawasouthsudan.com](http://www.sawasouthsudan.com). There you'll find graphics, photos, messages, and other content that you can share on your favorite social media network, using the hashtag, #SawaSouthSudan.

As a minimum, you can just watch or listen to the live-stream. But there is so much more you can do. For example:

- **Contribute!** Send in your questions, comments, or ideas via email, social media, or SMS to the #SawaSouthSudan hosts. They'll be monitoring public contributions in real-time, and will be feeding them into the discussions and interviews during the Summit's production in Nairobi. Hosts will frequently tell their audiences what people are saying, and may even ask your question directly to a political VIP being interviewed.
- **Take a selfie!** Show the world that you're in solidarity with South Sudanese women. Take a photo of yourself, or of you and the group you're with, and post it online with the hashtag #SawaSouthSudan. Keep large pieces of blank paper and thick markers to write simple and bold messages to hold up when you take your selfie.
- **Make a commitment!** Write a list of what you and your group will do to continue supporting South Sudanese women. This can be anything from continuing to post messages on social media with #SawaSouthSudan for the following week, or writing a letter to your local newspaper, or writing a letter to your government representatives.

#### 5. **HOW TO HELP AFTERWARDS**

#SawaSouthSudan is just the start of a long campaign to boost South Sudanese women's voices in the future of their country in solidarity with women across the world. The hard work begins from May 25<sup>th</sup>, when African Union leaders need to hear your persistent calls and messages to take what was discussed during the Summit and turn it into a concrete reality.

Visit [www.sawasouthsudan.com](http://www.sawasouthsudan.com) to learn what steps you can take.

#### 6. **#SAWASOUTHSUDAN PROGRAMME**

The Women's Coalition for South Sudan are currently putting together a great list of speakers on topics meant to stimulate ideas and action. The website, [www.sawasouthsudan.com](http://www.sawasouthsudan.com), will be your one-stop-shop for all information and details about the Virtual Summit, including the official speakers list.

The Summit will feature panel discussions and keynote speeches on topics such as:

- The war's human impact
- How women can lead to stop the war now, and what inclusive leadership should look like post-war
- Bringing perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence to justice

- What institutions like the African Union must do to advance peace and women's leadership in South Sudan
- What neighbouring countries must do to cut off South Sudan's ability to continue waging civil war

For questions related to organizing a #SawaSouthSudan event, please contact:  
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