



THE
LUTHERAN
WORLD
FEDERATION

A Communion
of Churches

lutheranworld.org

50th Session of the UN Human Rights Council

ORAL STATEMENT: INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE WITH THE SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, ITS CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES

20 June 2022

Speaker: Ms Sikhonzile Ndlovu

Madame President,

The Lutheran World Federation is deeply concerned about escalating violent conflict and war and the associated increase in violence against women and girls globally.¹

With conflict comes forced displacement and women and girls are affected the most.

Unsafe or irregular migration routes increase the risks of sexual and gender-based violence, including human trafficking.

Close to 15 million people, mostly women and children, are estimated to have been displaced in Ukraine since the start of the war.

¹ The Lutheran World Federation is a global communion of 149 churches in the Lutheran tradition, representing over 75 million Christians in 99 countries. The LWF acts on behalf of its member churches in areas of ecumenical and interfaith relations, theology, human rights, ecological justice, humanitarian assistance, communication and the various aspects of mission and development.

In April 2022, UN Women warned the Security Council of a potential protection crisis in Ukraine amidst increasing reports of sexual violence and human trafficking in the context of the continuing war.

In South Sudan, the United Nations reports that armed groups across the country continue to violate women and girls' rights. During attacks on villages, there is systematic rape of women and girls, who are often left with unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections.

In Yemen, the civil war has drastically cut support services for women already at high risk of violence, displaced others who are now vulnerable to armed groups and contributed to an increase in child marriage and intimate partner violence.

We call upon this council, the international community, and all relevant duty bearers to:

- Work together to guarantee the rights of all women and children in conflict settings.
- Allocate adequate resources towards mitigating violence against women.
- Systematically track the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions
- Redouble efforts to ensure inclusion of women in peacebuilding processes.
- Include religious actors in efforts to end VAW given their capacity and outreach to displaced persons.

Thank you.