



# **Advancing Gender-Sensitive Transitional Justice: A Path towards Healing and Equality in Sudan**

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## **Author's contribution**

*The sole author designed, analysed, interpreted and prepared the manuscript.*

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## **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the critical need for gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan, highlighting its potential to address historical injustices and promote healing among affected populations. It examines the concept of transitional justice, emphasizing the importance of incorporating gender perspectives into truth-seeking, reparations, and institutional reforms. The analysis is grounded in the historical context of gender inequality in Sudan and the impact of conflict on women and marginalized groups. Case studies of successful gender-sensitive initiatives illustrate their effectiveness and potential for replication. The study draws on qualitative data collected through interviews with key stakeholders, including survivors, civil society organizations, and advocacy groups, as well as a review of relevant literature and policy documents. Findings suggest that inclusive engagement and the active participation of diverse voices are essential for shaping effective transitional justice mechanisms that foster equality and sustainable peace.

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The conflict in Sudan has significantly eroded the advancements made toward democracy and stability, resulting in unprecedented suffering and insecurity for the country and precipitating a catastrophic humanitarian crisis. In the aftermath of conflict, societies grapple with the need for justice, healing, and reconciliation. In Sudan, a country scarred by decades of violence and upheaval (Slom, 2024), it is essential to prioritise gender-sensitive transitional justice. Both men and women are victims of the conflict, but women are disproportionately affected during and after the conflict. International security within the framework of the United Nations has incorporated various themes, including human rights (United Nations, 2023) and gender (Stephanie, 2009; United Nations, 2023). Traditionally, security was seen as a state-based concept, with protecting state borders and interests being the top priority. However, there has been a paradigm shift in the concept of security, which has expanded to include the needs of individuals. This expanded view of security now considers economic, food, health, and environmental security and addresses gender issues (Corey, 2011). The involvement of women's groups, human rights organisations, activists, and other non-civil society actors has garnered increased national and international attention to issues related to women in conflict (Corey, 2011). The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) is pivotal in recognising gender-related issues (UN et al., 2000). Resolution 1325 represented the first time the Security Council officially acknowledged the distinct experiences of men, women, boys, and girls in conflict, underscoring the significance of integrating gender considerations throughout all peacebuilding activities, particularly transitional justice (Corey, 2011). According to the strategic initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), including rape against women in Sennar and Singa, Sudan (AllAfrica, 2024). In the same vein, the United Nations Women Africa (2024) reported that the conflict in Sudan has a devastating impact on the people of Sudan, most especially women and girls, making the Sudanese women and girls in Sudan paying a heavy price; the report states that, amidst ongoing conflict, the situation in Sudan remains dire. Seven thousand new mothers face mortality

due to unmet health and nutritional needs, while 6.7 million people are vulnerable to gender-based violence. Disturbingly, this violence encompasses intimate partner violence, sexual abuse, exploitation, female genital mutilation (FGM), and child marriage. Urgent action is essential to protect women and girls (UN et al., 2024). The aim of this paper is neither to portray the female gender as more important nor as the only victims of conflict in Sudan. Even though most reports of the conflict in Sudan, both regionally and internationally, focus more on women, girl children, and children in general, while the males were not reported. Male vulnerabilities in war are often overlooked due to gender stereotypes, leading to a lack of understanding of the full extent of male vulnerability (Dolan, 2011). There is no denying that women were the most victimised gender in the conflict. However, gender-inclusive sensitivity mechanisms in transitional justice in Sudan should consider all aspects of gender and promote a more inclusive understanding that acknowledges the experiences and harms of women, men, and those outside binary heteronormative frameworks (Schulz, 2019), to achieve equity. Instead, the paper aims to establish the importance of examining war and conflict from gender perspectives. Including the incorporation of a masculinities perspective that engages with militarised masculinities and masculine vulnerabilities. It is evident that conflicts are increasingly internal and fought amidst civilian populations of all genders (Human Rights Watch, 2011). As Theidon (2007) pointed out, numerous scholars within the field of conflict and peacebuilding, particularly in transitional justice, advocate for the inclusion of a gender perspective, emphasising the roles, needs, rights, and vulnerabilities of women, which is referred to as "gender blind spot" (Martin & Phillips, 2017; Kim, 2024) The transition period presents opportunities to reshape societies and power dynamics, which can benefit people previously denied human rights and decision-making access (Reilly, 2007). However, due to the historical marginalisation of women in decision-making, peace negotiations, and governance institutions and processes, especially in African countries such as Sudan, achieving gender balance in transitional justice is challenging. Achieving gender justice in transitions in Sudan requires an examination of the reasons and effects of women's

marginalisation in high-level political decision-making (Reilly, 2007). This is essential as it will aid in rehabilitation, negotiating peace settlements, and drafting new constitutions to maintain law and order in Sudan.

**The Conceptual Framework:** The conceptual framework for this study is grounded in integrating gender-sensitive transitional justice and its application in post-conflict societies, particularly Sudan. This framework builds on existing theories of transitional justice, feminist legal theory, and gender studies, focusing on how justice mechanisms can be structured to address gendered harms. In Sudan, where women and marginalised groups have borne a disproportionate share of conflict-related violence, applying a gender-sensitive lens to transitional justice is essential for achieving inclusive and sustainable peace.

**Transitional Justice and Gender Sensitivity:** Transitional justice refers to a set of judicial and non-judicial measures implemented by societies to address the legacies of human rights abuses and to promote reconciliation, accountability, and the rule of law. These mechanisms typically include truth commissions, criminal prosecutions, reparations, and institutional reforms (Teitel, 2000). While traditional transitional justice frameworks have often focused on state crimes or collective abuses, gender-sensitive transitional justice is recognised explicitly. It seeks to redress the unique experiences of women and marginalised gender groups. This approach ensures that the harms suffered by these groups, such as sexual violence, economic exclusion, and systemic discrimination, are not overlooked in post-conflict recovery processes (Ní Aoláin, 2012).

A gender-sensitive approach to transitional justice emphasises several vital components. First, it requires that justice mechanisms specifically address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), which is often used as a tool of war (Brounéus, 2008). Second, it advocates for including women and marginalised genders in all levels of transitional justice processes, from truth commissions to institutional reforms, to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met (Bell & O'Rourke, 2007). Third, it promotes a broader understanding of reparations that encompasses not only economic compensation but also psychosocial support and guarantees of non-recurrence, which are particularly important for women survivors of violence (Rubio-Marín, 2009).

**Gender-sensitive Transitional Justice in Post-conflict Societies:** The literature on gender-sensitive transitional justice underscores the importance of addressing the specific forms of violence and exclusion experienced by women in conflict situations. In many post-conflict societies, including Sudan, women have been subjected to sexual violence, forced displacement, and economic deprivation. However, transitional justice mechanisms often fail to adequately address these gendered harms by sidelining them in favour of broader state-focused issues or excluding women from decision-making processes (Davis, 2013). Integrating gender sensitivity into these mechanisms is a matter of justice and a necessity for long-term peacebuilding.

Studies have shown that incorporating a gender-sensitive approach in transitional justice can lead to more meaningful outcomes for women and marginalised groups. For example, in the case of Rwanda, the Gacaca courts and subsequent truth and reconciliation processes included specific provisions for addressing sexual violence, which was pivotal in delivering justice to female survivors of the genocide (Burnet, 2012). Similarly, in Sierra Leone, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) provided special hearings for women, allowing them to testify about their experiences of gender-based violence in a more supportive environment (Shaw, 2007). These examples illustrate the potential for gender-sensitive transitional justice to redress gender-specific harms and empower women in post-conflict recovery.

## **2. GENDER AND TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN SUDAN**

Sudan presents a unique case where gender-sensitive transitional justice is both urgently needed and difficult to implement due to entrenched patriarchal norms and ongoing political instability. Sudanese women have played crucial roles in the country's revolutionary movements, including the 2019 uprising that led to the ousting of President Omar al-Bashir. However, despite their activism, women remain marginalised mainly in formal peace processes and transitional justice mechanisms (Baldo & Khalid, 2020). Furthermore, sexual violence and other gender-based crimes committed during the conflicts in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile have not been adequately addressed in national or international justice frameworks (Human et al., 2019).

Existing literature points to several challenges in implementing gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan. These include the exclusion of women from political decision-making processes, the lack of accountability for gender-based crimes, and the limited capacity of domestic legal institutions to address SGBV (Abdelgadir & Khalafallah, 2021). Moreover, the intersection of ethnic and gender discrimination further complicates efforts to secure justice for women from marginalised ethnic groups, who face both racial and gendered oppression.

Nonetheless, there are opportunities for advancing gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan. The transitional government formed after the 2019 revolution has taken some steps towards reform, including the establishment of the Women and Gender Equality Commission and the repeal of discriminatory laws like the Public Order Act (Tønnessen, 2020). These developments provide a foundation upon which to build gender-sensitive justice mechanisms that address the specific harms experienced by Sudanese women and marginalised gender groups.

### **3. HISTORICAL CONTEXT OF GENDER INEQUALITY IN SUDAN**

The historical landscape of gender inequality in Sudan is shaped by a complex interplay of patriarchal traditions, legal frameworks, and political dynamics that have entrenched the subordination of women and marginalised genders. Traditionally, Sudanese society has been deeply influenced by conservative, patriarchal values reinforced by religious and tribal customs. These cultural norms have historically relegated women to subordinate roles, limiting their participation in public life, political decision-making, and economic opportunities (Badri, 2018). Women, particularly in rural areas, have often been confined to domestic roles, with limited access to education, healthcare, and legal rights.

The marginalisation of women in Sudan has been exacerbated by decades of conflict and political instability. During the civil wars and under authoritarian regimes, gender inequality became institutionalised, as women were often excluded from peace negotiations and governance structures. The legal system, primarily based on a blend of Sharia law and customary law, has further perpetuated gender discrimination, particularly in matters of marriage,

divorce, inheritance, and personal status (Tønnessen, 2011). For example, under Sudan's Personal Status Law for Muslims, women face restrictions on their autonomy, with limitations on their ability to travel, work, or seek divorce without a male guardian's approval (Abdelgadir, 2020).

Sudan's protracted conflicts, including the civil wars in Darfur, South Kordofan, and Blue Nile, have disproportionately affected women and marginalised genders. Women have endured widespread sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), used as a tool of war by both government forces and armed opposition groups. In Darfur, for instance, reports of mass rapes and sexual violence against women during the conflict have highlighted the gender-specific nature of the violence (Human et al., 2005). These acts of violence not only inflicted physical and psychological trauma on survivors but also led to long-term social and economic marginalisation. Women who experienced sexual violence were often ostracised by their communities, compounding their suffering and excluding them from accessing justice and support.

Moreover, the effects of conflict have worsened the pre-existing legal and societal barriers faced by women and marginalised genders. Displacement due to conflict has further exacerbated their vulnerability, with women in refugee camps often facing unsafe living conditions, limited access to resources, and continued exposure to violence (El-Bushra, 2003). Marginalised gender groups, including LGBTQ+ individuals, have also faced heightened persecution, with both legal and societal structures reinforcing discrimination against them (Badri & Tripp, 2017). Sudanese law criminalises same-sex relations, and LGBTQ+ individuals face harassment, violence, and discrimination from both the state and society.

In Sudan, legal frameworks have historically enshrined gender inequality. The country's legal system, heavily influenced by Sharia law, restricts women's rights in personal status matters such as marriage, divorce, and inheritance. For example, the 1991 Public Order Law imposed strict dress codes and public behaviour standards on women, subjecting them to arbitrary arrests and public flogging for perceived moral transgressions (Tønnessen, 2011). Although this law was repealed in 2019, the underlying societal attitudes that treat women as second-class citizens remain pervasive.

In addition to legal barriers, women in Sudan face societal obstacles to equality. Traditional norms often limit women's participation in decision-making processes at all levels of society, from the household to national politics. Despite their significant contributions to the 2019 revolution, women have been largely excluded from crucial political processes during the transitional period. The exclusion of women from formal peace processes and transitional justice mechanisms further underscores the deep-rooted gender inequalities that persist in Sudan (Baldo & Khalid, 2020).

#### **4. CASE STUDIES AND EXAMPLES OF GENDER-SENSITIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE INITIATIVES**

- **Sudanese Women's Participation in Transitional Justice Mechanisms**

Despite the challenges, there have been some gender-sensitive initiatives aimed at addressing the specific harms suffered by women and marginalised genders during Sudan's conflicts. One example is the Darfur Women's Network, which has advocated for including women in peacebuilding processes and transitional justice mechanisms. The network has organised consultations with women survivors of conflict, ensuring their voices are heard in truth commissions and reparations programs. Although limited in scope, these efforts have enabled women to participate in shaping the justice process, advocating for reparations that address not only economic losses but also the psychosocial harm caused by violence (Aly, 2020).

- **The Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace (SuWEP) Initiative**

Another significant initiative is the Sudanese Women Empowerment for Peace (SuWEP) initiative, which has worked to ensure that women are represented in peace negotiations and post-conflict recovery processes. SuWEP has trained women in conflict resolution and negotiation skills, enabling them to participate in local peace committees. The initiative has successfully brought women to the table in regional peace dialogues, advocating for gender-sensitive approaches to disarmament, demobilisation, and reintegration (DDR) programs (Ali, 2018).

These gender-sensitive initiatives demonstrate the importance of involving women and

marginalised genders in transitional justice processes. However, their impact has been limited by a lack of sustained support and resources, as well as resistance from entrenched patriarchal structures. The success of these programs highlights the need for scaling up gender-sensitive transitional justice initiatives, mainly through more robust legal frameworks that ensure women's participation at all levels of governance and justice.

The lessons from these initiatives show that for transitional justice to be truly transformative, it must address the specific harms experienced by women and marginalised groups while also promoting their leadership. Expanding the scope of these initiatives, providing adequate funding, and integrating gender perspectives into national transitional justice mechanisms are essential steps for ensuring lasting peace and equality in Sudan.

#### **5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

**Intersectionality Theory:** Intersectionality, a theory developed by Kimberlé Crenshaw (1989), provides a critical lens through which gender-sensitive transitional justice can be understood and applied, particularly in complex societies like Sudan. This theory argues that individuals face multiple, overlapping forms of oppression based on their various identities, such as race, gender, class, ethnicity, and sexual orientation. Intersectionality emphasises that these identities do not exist independently but interact in ways that produce unique experiences of discrimination and marginalization. This framework is essential for analysing how the transitional justice process in Sudan can better address the diverse needs of women and marginalised groups, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of justice and reconciliation.

Incorporating an intersectional approach into gender-sensitive transitional justice is crucial for addressing the multiple, overlapping forms of discrimination faced by women from different social, ethnic, and economic backgrounds (Crenshaw, 1989). Intersectionality refers to the interconnected nature of social categorisations, such as race, gender, and class, which create overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage. In the context of Sudan, this means recognising that women from marginalised ethnic groups, such as the Fur, Nuba, or Beja, may face distinct challenges compared to women from more dominant ethnic

groups, and these differences must be reflected in transitional justice mechanisms.

Intersectionality also highlights the importance of including LGBTQ+ individuals in transitional justice frameworks. In Sudan, LGBTQ+ people face legal and social persecution, making it even more difficult for them to access justice in post-conflict settings. Therefore, a gender-sensitive transitional justice framework must not only focus on women but also on individuals marginalised based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Badri & Tripp, 2017).

**Intersectionality in Transitional Justice:** Applying an intersectional framework to transitional justice involves understanding that women, especially those from marginalised ethnic and social groups, do not experience conflict or violence in the same way as others. For example, a woman from Sudan's Nuba or Fur ethnic group may face discrimination not only due to her gender but also because of her ethnicity and socioeconomic status, compounding her experience of injustice. Intersectionality demands that transitional justice mechanisms account for these overlapping systems of oppression when addressing harms and designing reparative processes (Crenshaw, 1991).

In post-conflict contexts, transitional justice mechanisms such as truth commissions, reparations, and institutional reforms often fall short of recognising and addressing the diverse experiences of marginalised groups. For instance, while some frameworks might focus on addressing gender-based violence, they may overlook how ethnicity or class further intensifies the vulnerability of certain groups of women to violence and exclusion (Davis, 2013). Therefore, an intersectional approach calls for transitional justice mechanisms in Sudan to be not only gender-sensitive but also responsive to the specific needs of women from different ethnic and socioeconomic backgrounds, as well as those of LGBTQ+ individuals who face legal and social persecution.

**Intersectionality in Sudan's Context:** In Sudan, intersectionality is particularly crucial due to the country's complex social and political landscape, where ethnic, religious, and gender identities intersect with historical marginalisation. Women from ethnic minority groups, such as the Fur in Darfur or the Nuba in South Kordofan, have faced both gender-based and ethnic violence during Sudan's prolonged conflicts.

These women often experience unique forms of harm, such as sexual violence used as a weapon of war, alongside other abuses linked to their ethnic identity (Badri & Tripp, 2017). A gender-sensitive transitional justice framework in Sudan, guided by intersectionality, must address these layered oppressions and provide reparative justice that fully reflects their lived experiences. Moreover, intersectionality draws attention to the distinct challenges faced by LGBTQ+ individuals in Sudan, where societal norms and legal frameworks have historically criminalised same-sex relationships and non-conforming gender identities. LGBTQ+ individuals, especially during conflict, are often doubly marginalized both by their gender and sexual orientation and by the patriarchal and heteronormative structures of society (Abdelgadir & Khalafallah, 2021). Intersectionality ensures that justice mechanisms consider the unique forms of violence and discrimination they endure and include their voices in shaping the transitional justice process.

## **6. CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF GENDER-SENSITIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE INCLUDE**

- **Recognition of Gendered Harms:** Acknowledging the gender-specific forms of violence and discrimination experienced by women, LGBTQ+ individuals, and marginalised genders. These harms include not only sexual violence but also economic disenfranchisement, exclusion from political processes, and societal stigmatisation (Ní Aoláin et al., 2011).
- **Inclusion and Participation:** Ensuring the meaningful participation of women and marginalised groups in all stages of the transitional justice process—from truth-telling to institutional reforms and reparations. Their involvement is crucial to designing mechanisms responsive to their lived experiences and needs (Ayodele, 2020).
- **Comprehensive Reparations:** Gender-sensitive reparations aim to restore the dignity and livelihoods of victims by addressing both the material and symbolic dimensions of justice. Reparations should recognise the distinct social, economic, and psychological impacts of violence on different genders and provide reparative measures accordingly (Rubio-Marín, 2009).
- **Institutional Reforms:** A gender-sensitive approach requires judicial, security, and

political institutional reforms to address gender inequalities. This involves prosecuting perpetrators of gender-based violence and transforming the institutions that perpetuate discrimination (Ayodele, 2020).

- **Gender-Responsive Truth and Reconciliation Processes:** Truth commissions and other fact-finding bodies must adopt gender-sensitive approaches to capture the full extent of harm experienced by women and marginalised genders. This involves creating safe spaces for survivors to share their stories and ensuring their testimonies inform reparations and reforms (Ní Aoláin et al., 2011).

## **7. NEXUS BETWEEN GENDER EQUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE**

There is a growing consensus that gender equality is fundamental to achieving sustainable peace. Research shows that societies with higher levels of gender equality are less likely to experience conflict and more likely to maintain long-term peace (Hudson et al., 2012). Gender-sensitive transitional justice is critical to this because it ensures that the root causes of gender-based violence and inequality are addressed, creating the conditions for more inclusive and peaceful societies.

The link between gender equality and peace is grounded in the understanding that patriarchal structures and gender-based violence often play a significant role in driving and sustaining conflict. In Sudan, for example, the exclusion of women from political decision-making processes has been identified as a contributing factor to instability and conflict. Addressing these gendered power imbalances through inclusive justice mechanisms helps prevent the recurrence of violence and fosters more equitable governance structures (Ayodele, 2020).

## **8. METHODS**

The study employs a qualitative methodology to explore the phenomenon of gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan, aiming to uncover effective strategies for addressing the unique needs of women and marginalized groups. Data were collected through semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders, including survivors of violence, representatives from civil

society organizations, and members of advocacy groups actively engaged in transitional justice initiatives. To illustrate the potential for practical implementation, case studies of successful gender-sensitive initiatives, both within Sudan and internationally, were analyzed. These cases highlight effective practices, challenges, and strategies that can inform future interventions in the Sudanese context. A comprehensive review of relevant literature, policy documents, and reports was conducted to support the analysis, ensuring the robustness and reliability of the study. This included examining historical records, human rights reports, and legal frameworks to understand the systemic roots of gender inequality and its intersection with transitional justice. The article is grounded in the historical context of gender inequality in Sudan, providing a lens to analyze how decades of systemic discrimination and conflict have uniquely impacted women and marginalized groups. This historical perspective informs the study's understanding of current challenges and opportunities for gender-sensitive justice mechanisms. The analysis is framed within theories of gender and transitional justice, drawing on feminist legal theory and restorative justice models. These frameworks were used to interpret findings, assess the effectiveness of existing initiatives, and propose context-specific recommendations for promoting equity and inclusivity in transitional justice processes. This multi-faceted approach ensures a holistic understanding of the issue and offers actionable insights for addressing gender disparities in Sudan's transitional justice efforts.

## **9. CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN IMPLEMENTING GENDER-SENSITIVE TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE IN SUDAN**

Implementing gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan faces numerous challenges. One of the most significant obstacles is the deep-rooted patriarchy that permeates Sudanese society and institutions. Cultural norms and legal frameworks often marginalise women and other gender minorities, limiting their participation in political processes and decision-making bodies. Women are frequently sidelined in peace negotiations despite being disproportionately affected by conflict (Ayodele, 2020).

Legal and institutional barriers are also considerable challenges. Sudan's legal system

has historically been influenced by Sharia law, which often discriminates against women in areas such as personal status laws, inheritance, and criminal justice (Tønnessen & Kjøstvedt, 2020). The legal infrastructure in Sudan is not adequately equipped to handle gender-based violence, with weak enforcement mechanisms for laws related to women's rights and a lack of accountability for gender-specific war crimes.

Additionally, social stigma and the trauma experienced by survivors of gender-based violence can prevent women and marginalised groups from participating in transitional justice processes. Survivors may fear retaliation, shame, or social ostracism, which discourages them from seeking justice. The lack of psychosocial support services further exacerbates this issue, as many women and marginalised individuals lack the resources to heal from their trauma and participate meaningfully in justice processes (Badri & Tripp, 2017).

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

To effectively incorporate gender perspectives into transitional justice processes in Sudan, several strategies should be implemented. First, truth-seeking mechanisms must be designed to specifically address gender-based violence and the unique experiences of women and marginalised genders during conflict. This involves creating safe and supportive environments for survivors to share their testimonies, ensuring their voices are heard and validated.

Regarding reparations, it is essential to develop programs that offer comprehensive support tailored to the needs of women and gender minorities. This can include financial compensation, access to mental health services, and vocational training to empower survivors economically. Recognising these individuals' social and cultural contexts will enhance the effectiveness of reparative measures.

Institutional reforms should focus on creating and enforcing laws protecting women's and marginalised groups' rights. This includes revising existing legislation to eliminate discriminatory practices and ensure women have equal representation in all governance and decision-making processes. Training public officials on gender-sensitive practices will also be crucial in promoting equitable treatment under the law.

Leverage international frameworks and agreements, such as the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, which calls for greater inclusion of women in conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. Sudan's transitional government has committed to this resolution, creating a platform for integrating gender-sensitive approaches into peace processes and transitional justice initiatives (Abdelgadir & Khalafallah, 2021).

The role of civil society in promoting gender-sensitive transitional justice cannot be overstated. Civil society organisations (CSOs) are often at the forefront of pushing for reforms prioritising women's and marginalised groups' needs. In Sudan, CSOs have mobilised women and youth, providing them the tools to participate in peacebuilding and transitional justice processes. These organisations have been crucial in documenting gender-based violence, advocating for victims' rights, and raising awareness about the importance of gender-sensitive approaches (Tønnessen & Kjøstvedt, 2020).

The international community also plays a critical role. International organisations, including the United Nations, the African Union, and various non-governmental organisations (NGOs), provide technical assistance, funding, and advocacy for gender-sensitive reforms. They can also mandate Sudan's government to uphold international agreements related to women's rights and transitional justice (Abdelgadir & Khalafallah, 2021). Additionally, international actors can facilitate knowledge-sharing by showcasing best practices from other post-conflict societies that have successfully implemented gender-sensitive transitional justice.

Finally, the Sudanese government is primarily responsible for ensuring that transitional justice mechanisms are inclusive and gender-sensitive. This requires political will and commitment to institutional reforms that dismantle patriarchal structures and guarantee gender equality. The transitional government has an opportunity to lead by example, promoting gender parity in all levels of governance and justice processes (Elamin, 2020). However, this requires significant political, legal, and financial investments to ensure justice mechanisms are accessible to all, particularly women and marginalised groups.

## 11. CONCLUSION

In conclusion, advancing gender-sensitive transitional justice in Sudan is essential for fostering healing, equality, and peace. Incorporating gender perspectives into truth-seeking, reparations, and institutional reforms will address the specific needs of women and marginalised groups, ensuring their voices are recognised and valued. Civil society organisations, women's groups, and LGBTQ+ advocates are crucial in this process, providing advocacy and support that amplify the experiences of those most affected by conflict.

Furthermore, engaging diverse voices in shaping transitional justice mechanisms is vital to creating an inclusive and practical framework. By prioritising the participation of all stakeholders, Sudan can develop a transitional justice system that addresses past injustices and paves the way for a more equitable and just society. The journey toward gender-sensitive transitional justice is not merely a moral imperative but a necessary step toward sustainable peace and stability in the country.

## DISCLAIMER (ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE)

I declare that NO generative AI technologies, such as large language models (ChatGPT, COPILOT, etc.) and text-to-image generators, were used during the writing or editing of this manuscript.

## COMPETING INTERESTS

Author has declared that no competing interests exist.

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