

A UNITED CALL FOR PEACE IN SUDAN

Statement on the International Day of Peace

21 September 2026

We, Religious Leaders, Women of Faith and Interfaith Youth from across Africa, under the auspices of the **African Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace (ACRL-R/P)**, standing in solidarity with our religious leaders from across the faith community, the people of Sudan unite our voices on this International Day of Peace in an urgent appeal for peace in Sudan.

We stand together, moved by the suffering of the Sudanese people and bound by our shared conviction that every human life is sacred, every child deserves to grow in safety and dignity, and no people should endure the devastation of war without end.

Bearing witness to the immense human suffering caused by the continuing conflict; by the lives lost, families separated and communities displaced; and by the millions of people living with violence, hunger, disease, psychological trauma, fear and uncertainty;

Profoundly concerned that More than three years on, the war in Sudan continues unabated, and innocent children continue to pay the highest price bearing an unbearable burden—killed and injured, displaced from their homes, deprived of education and essential services, and exposed to recruitment, exploitation and other grave violations;

Recognizing the disproportionate burden borne by women and girls including heightened risks of gender-based violence and other forms of harm, and the immense strain upon families and communities struggling to access food, shelter, healthcare and other essential services;

Deeply troubled by hate speech, discrimination and incitement that deepen divisions, undermine social cohesion and threaten peaceful coexistence;

Recognizing the courage and resilience of the Sudanese people and of those who continue, amid extraordinarily difficult circumstances, to protect the vulnerable, serve their communities and work for peace;

Affirming that our faith traditions and our shared humanity call us to protect life, uphold human dignity, care for the vulnerable, reject hatred and violence, and pursue peace, justice, compassion and reconciliation;

Alarmed that, as the conflict continues, its human cost grows ever more devastating—children are being killed, injured and displaced; millions are being deprived of education and essential services; women and girls face heightened risks of violence; and families and communities continue to endure hunger, disease, insecurity and displacement;

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Particularly concerned for the children of Sudan, whose lives, education and futures are being shaped by a war they did not create, and recognizing that every day the conflict continues places more children at risk and deepens wounds that may endure for generations;

We cannot remain indifferent to this suffering. Nor can the world allow another generation of Sudanese children to be lost to conflict.

The protection of children, women and civilians must remain at the heart of every effort to end the violence and restore peace in Sudan.

Our Joint Appeal

On this International Day of Peace, we call upon all parties to the conflict and all those with influence to act with urgency and place the lives, dignity and future of the Sudanese people above the continuation of war.

We call for:

1. An immediate cessation of hostilities and a renewed commitment to dialogue and a peaceful resolution of the conflict;
2. The full respect for international humanitarian law and applicable international human rights law for the protection of civilians, particularly children, women and other vulnerable groups,
3. Safe, rapid and unimpeded humanitarian access, so that life-saving assistance and essential services can reach all people in need including the currently 15 million children in dire support;
4. The protection of children from violence, recruitment, exploitation and other grave violations, alongside urgent efforts to restore safe access to education and psychosocial support;
5. The protection and meaningful participation of women and young people in peacebuilding, dialogue and reconciliation efforts;
6. An end to hate speech, discrimination and incitement to violence, together with strengthened efforts to promote reconciliation, social cohesion and peaceful coexistence;
7. Upon all those with influence to choose dialogue over violence, reconciliation over division, peace over war, and
8. Sustained support for an inclusive, Sudanese-owned and Sudanese-led pathway to peace, reinforced by coherent regional and international engagement.

Our Shared Commitment

In standing together for the people of Sudan, we reaffirm our shared commitment to peace, the protection of children and civilians, human dignity, humanitarian action, dialogue and a peaceful and sustainable future for Sudan.

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We recognize that lasting peace must be rooted in the aspirations and agency of the Sudanese people and supported by sustained African, regional and international solidarity. We therefore urge continued and coordinated efforts that protect lives, enable humanitarian action, advance dialogue and reconciliation, and support an inclusive pathway towards peace.

We recognize the important role of Religious Leaders and faith communities in Sudan in preserving hope, strengthening social cohesion and building bridges across communities. Their commitment to peace and reconciliation remains vital at a time when conflict continues to strain the bonds that hold communities together.

We equally acknowledge the courage and resilience of Sudanese women and young people, humanitarian and community actors, and all those who continue to protect life and serve communities amid the conflict.

Sudan must not be forgotten, and its people must not be left to carry the burden of this conflict alone.

On this International Day of Peace, our thoughts and prayers are with every child longing to return to school; every woman and girl seeking safety and dignity; every family displaced from home; and every community yearning for an end to violence.

To the parties in the conflict, and to all those with the power and responsibility to help bring this conflict to an end, **we appeal for courage, forgiveness, compassion, restraint and an unwavering commitment to peace.**

The people of Sudan have suffered for too long.

Let the guns fall silent and the drones be grounded.

Let humanitarian assistance reach those in need.

Let children return to learning.

Let families find safety.

Let communities begin to heal.

Let hope return to Sudan.

Let Sudan have peace.

Issued on the International Day of Peace, 21 September 2026

African Council of Religious Leaders – *Religions for Peace* (ACRL-RP) *In solidarity with Religious Leaders and the People of Sudan*