



"It was AWESOME to meet so many outstanding women and amazing men. I was inspired by the depth of the presentations and especially encouraged by the quality of interaction among all the participants. That's the good news. But here's the GREAT news..... THE BEST IS YET TO COME!"

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Staff Greetings

Dear Friends, Family and Fellow Supporters of the South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network,

The staff of SSWEN would like to thank you for your recent support of our national women's conference held in August 2008 in the capital city of Juba, Southern Sudan. The conference was an overwhelming success, with over 200 women leaders (and a number of men too!) participating in the event from across Sudan.

The event served to develop and build upon connections between women in the Diaspora and across Sudan. The event concluded with a series of "Next Steps" for action towards women's empowerment at family, community and state levels.

Your donation helped to fund the travel of a number of women who participated – some of whom are featured in this newsletter.

The conference as a whole was supported by a number of Government and non-Governmental organizations, civic groups, and individuals. They provided us with both financial support as well as a host of in-kind donations which included flight-time, documentary filming, leadership training, tape recorders, website design, and even the use of a private plane!

In this special newsletter, we've covered some of the highlights of the event for your interest, as well as some of the personal stories of the amazing women who participated.

If you'd like to learn more, become a SSWEN member, or keep up with post-conference projects and SSWEN's work both in Sudan and the US, please feel free to check out the conference website at www.sswen.org.

Our European-based donation website is at www.betterplace.org.

Watch for a short film of the event produced by our guest documentary film maker Jen Marlowe (*Darfur Diaries, Rebuilding Hope*) www.rebuildinghopesudan.org coming soon.

There's also a great blog about the event available at: www.girlinthenorthcountry.wordpress.com by one of the event co-organizers—Jennifer Erickson.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you again for your support, guidance and your donation of funds, time and talent that made this event such an overwhelming success!

The SSWEN Team



SSWEN members from the Diaspora and the local region meet in the days leading up to the event to finalize the details. The local organizing committee often came together late at night after working long days to ensure the event was a success.

"God bless you for the great work you are doing to raise awareness of the plight of women in Sudan."



SSWEN first delegates met with H. E. Barnaba Marial Benjamin, Minister of Regional Cooperation—GOSS.



Through a series of pre-conference meetings (with and without the aid of electricity!), the women worked hard to make their joint vision into reality.



Pre-Conference Activities

Members of the Sudanese Diaspora and those women still living in Sudan were at the heart of the 'Weaving Together' conference mission. A group of committed women, often separated by an ocean and thousands of miles, worked together on the hundreds of details it takes to conduct an event of this magnitude.

Planning and coordination began long before the first day of the event. Close, rich, and collaborative relationships forged lasting bonds from the beginning. The first SSWEN conference organizers from the US flew into Juba in July 2008. Lilian Rizi, Rosa Weet and Bonnie Lloyd began networking with

colleagues and grassroots women's organizations the moment their feet hit the ground.

Members of the women's union and women-focused NGOs in Juba (such as Norwegian Church Aid and NESI – a Sudanese indigenous NGO network) provided invaluable guidance and assistance with the many details leading up to the actual conference.

In the months prior to the event, SSWEN staff and representatives met with government officials to finalize invitations and arrangements for dignitaries, speakers, and delegates. They were also required to coordinate sources of funding, develop

plans for the transportation of delegates traveling from outside the city, confirm lodging and food details, and recommend local talent for entertainment throughout the event.

There is not enough room here to list the many contributions of so many people who worked tirelessly to make our vision a reality. Their commitment and passion for achieving equal rights for the women of South Sudan was apparent in every task they undertook, in every phone call they made, in every letter they sent out. We can only say THANK YOU, and hope that they see the fruits of their labor in the actions that result from our Conference.

It was obvious that the planning and effort put into preparation for the conference paid off! Everything ran smoothly and met most everyone's expectations. The pictures on these two pages show many of the individuals involved in preconference activities and events.

We hope to involve more women in the planning process for our 2009 conference. It requires no special skills or abilities—just the desire to serve. Watch for upcoming notices of meetings or opportunities to get involved.



The delegates met with H. E. Dr. Riek Machar, the first Vice President of the Government of South Sudan



Ms. Angelina Daniel, SSWEN representative in Juba, presenting Ms. Bonnie Lloyd with the original copy of the CPA as a gift for her endless effort in empowering the women of Southern Sudan.



SSWEN's first delegates met with Comrade Pagan Amum, the Secretary General of the Sudan People Liberation Movement (SPLM). From (L to R); Ms. Rosa Weet, Mr. Pagan Amum, Ms. Lilian Rizi, and Ms. Bonnie Lloyd.

See our Final Conference
Report on our website at

www.sswen.org



The group visited GOSS Mission to Ethiopia where they were welcomed by GOSS Deputy Head of Mission, Mr. Abraham Keat Bichok and all of the staff.

Arrival of the Delegates

The group left Addis Ababa and arrived at the Juba airport around 2:00 PM. As they disembarked from the plane, they were greeted by SSWEN President, Lilian Riziq, along with other staff members and representatives.

Bonnie, Mama Rosa, Angelina Daniel, Suzanna Deng, and Jennifer Kujang were a few of the friendly faces to greet conference delegates.

The airport provided a security detail for our participants so they could take their time and enjoy the welcoming ceremony. Several well-wishers joined our crowd to lend their support.

We were honored to be greeted by a representative from the Ministry of Regional Cooperation and other government agencies taking an active interest in our work.

We knew that the conference was off to a good start as delegates were warmly welcomed by the Asholi Tribal Dancers as they performed a traditional dance for our enjoyment. It reminded everyone what was at stake for South Sudan... the preservation of the beauty and love of our culture and our people while moving our nation forward toward a lasting peace and justice.





Ms. Sunday Taabu, The Social, Community, Cultural, & Consular Affairs Office of GOSS mission- DC during an interview with SRS.

Media Coverage

The **Weaving Together** Conference was covered by local radio and television stations.



Documentary film maker Jen Marlow gathering footage.



Ms Lily Akol, SSWEN's Director of information, answers questions during an interview with the South Sudan TV (SSTV), Sudan Radio Service(SRS), and other media correspondents



SSWEN's president, Ms Lilian Riziq, conducts an interview with several members of the media.

Honoring Dr. Garang

The group was taken to the site where our great hero, Dr. John Garang, was laid to rest . It was an emotional moment for all.



Visitations

After our emotional tribute to Dr. Garang, the delegation left the site for Juba Bridge Hotel where everyone was assigned rooms and took a much needed siesta. The USA delegation was given time to go shopping and exchange money. After lunch, the conference attendees were divided into two visitation groups: one group would go by boat while the other would go by land. The tour was scheduled from 3:00 until 5:00 PM.



Those who went by boat visited a small, beautiful island covered by a wide variety of fruits and plants.



Those who traveled by land visited many natural places including Kojor Mountains, a very famous mountain in the city.

Opening Reception

All day women continued to arrive from various countries and states, and the number of attendees increased rapidly. The turn-out was very encouraging and we immediately began to set up the working groups for the conference.

A reception was held in the evening hours where delegates introduced themselves and their roles within their communities. These women are deeply involved in addressing social and political issues within their states and communities.

It was encouraging that they took time off from their busy schedules to attend the SSWEN Conference. These women came from the 10 states of Southern Sudan, including Khartoum, Darfur, and Nubians. The coming together of participants from across the world for the event was a moving and exciting experience!

Though marked by the troubled history of the region and the stories of loss, the strength and survival shared by these women was truly inspiring. The various welcoming ceremonies, dances, meetings and meals saw families, old friends, students and teachers reunited as well as the formation of valuable new connections and relationships. This is one of the central purposes of the conference—to connect women for a common purpose and goal.

For many it was the first time they had traveled to the capital city since the peace agreement was signed in 2005. For some, like conference volunteers from the UK, US, as well as some traveling from Sudanese regions further afield, this was their first trip to a city that held such strategic and symbolic significance during the long conflict.

For members of the Diaspora in particular, the return to Sudan triggered both happy and sad memories of life along the Nile and later, during the conflict; memories of flight to neighboring villages, regions or countries. Many delegates had families and long-established connections in the South, but had spent their lives growing up in places like Khartoum in the North, or outside Sudan in the US, Uganda or Kenya.

One SSWEN volunteer commented on how this shaped her experience of traveling to Juba:

"I feel that, although I have a home in the US, I can call this my home now too. I feel my connections to the country are stronger and I am excited to work with women here side-by-side."

Now I feel even more committed to the fact that my life will be spent between here and home in the US."



Women arriving from across Sudan and the Diaspora sit together and introduce themselves and their work.





Conference Participants at the Opening Reception

Another delegate, a medical student based in Khartoum, spoke of her excitement to see Juba and her homeland in the South:

"I'm so happy to attend the conference and to share in our discussions of women's problems – and to work to solve them. I'm also so happy to get to know women from other states in Sudan. My next step is to go back and to begin to educate women about their health"

The Opening Reception proved to be an important venue for our delegates to get acquainted before the challenging work sessions and discussions.



From L to R: Nyakor from AZ, Kadi Rial from Wau, Debi Keille from CA, Suzy Deng and Mary Lagee from Juba.



SSWEN members from (L to R) Khaltoum, Ekram, Evaline and Agum. They are studying civil society and medicine in Khartoum and were part of a larger student delegation from the city that helped to organize the conference.



Conference Participants at Facilitator Training

Facilitator Training

Training for facilitators began on the 16th of August and was led by professional small business and non-profit leadership trainer Angela Gracey.

The day-long session focused on the collaborative development of a project, including how to facilitate the process effectively and how to ensure it was manageable, well-defined and measurable. Projects had to be both successfully funded and carried out, and they had to address the key needs of the population in question.

This training was designed to ensure that the conference closed with each thematic group articulating a series of 'next-steps' for action.

This training concluded on the following day with a workshop on Cross-Cultural Dialogues and Active Listening Skills. The presentation was made by Sarah Rial, Magda Ahmad and Gloria White-Hammond, representatives of My Sister's Keeper and Sisterhood For Peace.

This purpose of this session was to ensure that the engagement between delegates at the conference was as rich, open, and productive as possible. This was especially important given the wide diversity of participants in terms of faith, region, income, age, and location in Sudan or the Diaspora, as well as the different priorities delegates had for women's empowerment.

SSWEN was keen to create an environment where these differences would be celebrated and valued as a resource, rather than as a point of division. As such this was an important space in which to address the delegates' concerns and to lay the foundations for a collaborative and supportive conference.



Representatives of Sisterhood for Peace facilitated discussion about active listening techniques in one of our pre-conference sessions. Sisterhood for Peace is a diverse network of Sudanese and African American women who have come together to contribute to ending the violence and



Ms. Angela M. Gracey, Founder and CEO of Rhema Writing Concepts, has 20 years of experience in office, business, education and church administration. Her company provides business training and communications services to small businesses and organizations.



Conference

The conference opening on August 18th was an incredibly busy and exciting day with over 100 delegates registering for the event. Numerous dignitaries, special guests and invited speakers joined us for the Opening Ceremonies.

The conference officially began with opening remarks from H. E. Mary Kiden Kimbo, Minister for Gender, Social and Child Welfare and Religious Affairs.

Several members of local, national and international media were also in attendance to report on our event and its impact on women's rights in the region. Both the Juba Post and Sudan Radio Service (SRS) were present throughout the conference, interviewing both speakers and delegates.

An essential element in our conference was our ability to provide translators for the sessions to bridge the language divide among conference participants. A special note of thanks goes out to our Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Lily Akol, for her ability to keep the program moving and to facilitate the language translation.

Throughout the conference, participants were treated to dancing, singing and other local talent on display. In addition to celebrating the interaction and ideas presented by our conference, we also took time to celebrate our rich diversity of cultural history.



SSWEN national conference, August 18, 2008. H.E. Mary Kiden opening the conference officially.



One of our Masters of Ceremonies, Ms. Lily Akol, translated speeches and questions in English and Arabic, and also kept speakers on schedule. She was often accompanied by Ms. Ashai Chol. Together they entertained the audience with impromptu poetry, jokes and stories.



Conference delegates dance during the opening ceremony event



The whole event was interwoven with dancing and singing from local talents including a youth and women's choir and the powerful voice of the famous Sudanese singer Nyankol.





Short plays were used by the SSWEN organizers to highlight some of the key themes of the conference.



In the background, SSWEN volunteers worked hard to distribute registration packs, ensure late arrivals were housed in the hotel, direct guests to their seats, and coordinate tickets for the first conference lunch.



Conference Sessions

Over the next 3 days, we held a series of engaging plenary sessions on the following topics:

- ♦ Women's Health
- ♦ Women's Education
- ♦ Women in Business
- ♦ Women's Equal Participation in Politics and Leadership
- ♦ Violence Against Women
- ♦ Social and Family Issues
- ♦ Women's Legal Rights

On the first day of the conference, delegates were invited to join a Working Group of their preference, based upon the issue areas that most held interest for them and those which they felt they could contribute towards impacting most fully.

Each day we provided guest speakers or panels comprised of people who were carefully chosen for their expertise in the field. They came from within Sudan and across the region, as well as those displaced in the Diaspora.

Speakers included Governmental representatives such as the Minister for Gender and Welfare, Mary Kiden, and Governor Jemma Kumba. There were representatives from non-Governmental groups such as Madam Lucie Luguga from UNIFEM, and also experts from the private sector.

These talks or presentations were followed by lively question and answer sessions intended to provide a rich opportunity for delegates to engage with the speakers on these sensitive and vital issues.

Formal speeches and presentations were interwoven with closely related Work Group meetings. Each Work Group was assigned two facilitators who also acted as English and Arabic translators to ensure that everyone participating was able to do so as fully as possible.

Facilitators assigned roles to group members such as time-keepers, scribes, and presenters who would report the group's finding to the larger Conference at the conclusion of the event.



In each area, there was animated discussion and the free exchange of ideas on issues related to the particular challenges facing women in Sudan.

The groups worked through a specific process over the three day period. First, they articulated one clear problem statement relating to their issue. Next, they developed a focused, manageable, time-bound goal statement of what they would like to achieve to address the problem. Each group then outlined Governmental, Non-Governmental, Community and individual services, facilities and resources currently available that were working on the issue. Finally they analyzed what institutional gaps existed. At the end of each session, they developed a set of "Next Steps" which identified specific actions or activities to be pursued.

In terms of the break-out sessions, the largest group containing the most women was Women and Education. All groups agreed that the lack of education among the women of South Sudan affects all areas and levels of life, from the individual to the national.

Other Work Group sessions addressed more specific concerns such as the lack of knowledge about business and the need to create small businesses that allow women more flexibility and time for family responsibilities. Early marriage, lack of basic needs like nutrition, clean water, medical care, and conflicts between men and women and amongst women themselves were other issues impacted by the lack of women's education.

Each topic resulted in very lively discussions and it was challenging to hear as many voices as possible in the limited time we had available. This was a nice "problem" to have! Women are passionate about making positive changes for women's rights in South Sudan. We tried our best to hear from women from different regions and backgrounds, and to minimize conflicting priorities when it appeared that competition among issues or women developed.



Lively plenary sessions gave women the opportunity to question the panel of experts as well as to make recommendations for the future.



The debate and discussion between women was complemented by a number of active male participants who contributed valuable input and insight into how these issues affect traditional perceptions.

We recognize that proactive partnerships and collaborative efforts will help us to achieve our ultimate goal of equality. Men who participated included:

- ▶ Professor Nyamule Wakoson who traveled from Khartoum to speak on the issue of women in education.
- ▶ Dr. Kout Mawein
- ▶ Mr. Zacharia Deng Majok
- ▶ Dr Achir Achir
- ▶ Mr. Joseph Achacha on the issue of domestic violence.

We were happy to be joined in our efforts by two activist groups working to connect Southerners and Darfurians: Sudan Sunrise and Darfur Human Rights Organization. Men from both of these organizations provided support and assistance which made the conference run so smoothly.

These men, and others who attended the event from Mercy Corps, NDI, the private sector, the GOSS ministries, and the media, were welcomed to contribute to our discussions and their thoughts were valued by SSWEN members.

We recognize how important it is for us to include male insight into questions of women's inequality and strategies for women's empowerment. In order for us to reach our goals and objectives, we invite men to work alongside us to achieve women's rights.

On the final two days of the conference, Work Groups presented their goal statements and ways to address their problems. They responded to questions and comments from the invited expert panelists as well as participants from other groups. This proved to be a useful opportunity to share the work of each group more fully and to obtain the valuable feedback of the wider delegate body.

Both delegates and speakers alike spoke about how the Conference provided the invaluable opportunity to voice their thoughts and concerns, to tell their personal stories, and to articulate specific recommendations for reform. They realized that their ideas and opinions could shape policies and attitudes of the new government, civil society, local community members, families and individuals who would be responsible for addressing key challenges facing women in Sudan.



Delegates present their group's work on one of 7 topics to the respective panel of experts and all the attendees. This was followed by the discussion and planning of next steps for action.



Delegates Flora (above) and Khaltoum (below) participate in the Silent March – an event designed to educate the Government of South Sudan about CEDAW- the UN Campaign to Eradicate Discrimination Against Women, and to ask the Government to sign it.

Post Conference Activities

A 'Silent March' marked the final day of the **Weaving Together** Conference event.

A large motorcade of vans, trucks and cars carried delegates across the city to our starting position at the heart of Juba. Along the way we sang and shouted out some of the key messages from the conference. We were often met with encouraging waves and cheers from spectators alongside the road, as well as some surprised faces! We also had several requests for our banners and flyers.

As we stepped onto the road and began the march itself we fell silent, a symbolical act to show our desire to open respectful and collaborative dialog with the Government of South Sudan around women's rights and empowerment.

We were met at the Presidential offices by the President and Government Ministers who lined up to receive our message. Flanked by SSWEN members, conference delegates, the media, and security officers, our Director, Lilian Riziq, presented a speech and a petition requesting the Government of Sudan to sign the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). This was warmly received by those officials in attendance. The President promised to take the issue to the highest offices of the Government of National Unity.

SSWEN will continue to provide updates on the Government of Sudan's stance on CEDAW as the issue is addressed in the months to come!



SSWEN Delegates distribute donations of clothes and toiletries at the women's prison in Juba (left) and visit a career center and child in an orphanage in Yei (right).





At the close of the conference, members of the Diaspora who had traveled far to attend the conference took advantage of their final few days in the country to participate in a series of field trips. Trips included visits to:

- the maternity wing and the teaching program at Juba hospital
- the women's prison in Juba
- an orphanage in Yei

Delegates brought packages of donations and met with representatives at each facility. We hope to continue networking with other organizations serving the people of South Sudan as they provide direct services to those most affected by the violence and the transition to a new future for South Sudan.





Trip to Torit

A group of conference delegates visited the City of Torit where we were welcomed by two of our SSWEN members: Simmy and Omjuma. After greeting us at the airport, they took us to meet with the Minister of Social Welfare. The Minister gave us some history about the challenges faced by women in Eastern Equatoria.

We then headed to a workshop organized by the Women's League, where we presented a brief history of SSWEN and our mission in the Region. Many women asked that we establish a SSWEN branch in Torit to work with local groups and officials advancing women's education and rights.

We were fortunate to receive great support from the Minister of Social Welfare and the Honorable Sabina Daino Lokolong of the Eastern Equatoria State. She provided us with her car and the driver to take us wherever we wanted to go!



Conference Follow-Up

In the months following the conference, SSWEN members in Juba, Khartoum and those located throughout the world in the Diaspora are working hard to evaluate the conference itself, to formalize the many connections and networks made between women leaders on the ground in Sudan and those on the SSWEN list serve, and to identify the next steps for action.

Many delegates returned home saddened by the stories of women who have experienced early marriage, lost families, stifled educations, and legal discrimination. These personal stories of struggle and survival only inspired us to work harder and to do more. The members of SSWEN are resolved to take action alongside the courageous women who seek to protect and promote women's rights in South Sudan and throughout our region of the world.

SSWEN members in corners of the globe who were affected in the Diaspora were inspired by the amazing work of women leaders still in Sudan who have been working tirelessly for women and families in their communities. We are motivated and moved to greater action by the encouragement of the young students who are committed to taking on this legacy for future generations. We see the beginning of a movement toward greater freedom, justice and peace. But this is only the beginning....

The **2008 Weaving Together** Conference was one initial step in this journey. In the months and years ahead, we will present more opportunities for you to get involved and to get others involved in our cause.

In order to build on our success, SSWEN considers all feedback and comments about our conference.

On the following page you will see a summary of the feedback we received from conference participants. Overall, we met or exceeded expectations in most areas. We are making a deliberate effort to rectify any shortcomings as we prepare for next year's event.

As we begin planning the 2009 Conference, we welcome your ideas and suggestions. What sessions and information would you like to be addressed? Do you have a guest speaker we should contact? What about local public officials who could work with SSWEN on our goals and objectives?

The strength of SSWEN is found in our **NETWORK** of strong and dedicated women; not just those working in the headquarters office. Please help us to spread the news and involve more people. Working together we can accomplish so much more than one person can imagine.



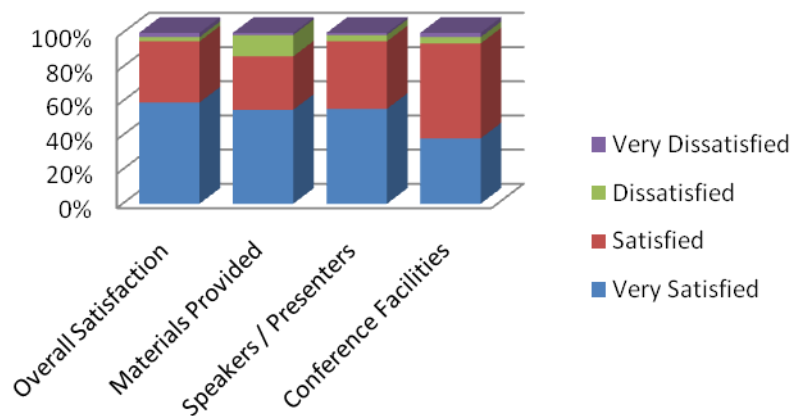
Coming Soon.....

SSWEN is pleased to announce recent efforts to host regular meetings of SSWEN delegates around the country of South Sudan. This coincides with creating new SSWEN local offices in 10 Southern Sudan States. The increased activity allows us to follow-up on the issues discussed during the annual conference and to take the steps necessary to reach our goals and objectives. The local networks will strengthen our presence in the community and throughout the country. For more information on these meetings and networks, check our website at www.sswen.com!



South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network
Weaving Together: Strategizing for a Just and Sustainable Peace
 Conference Evaluation

Satisfaction



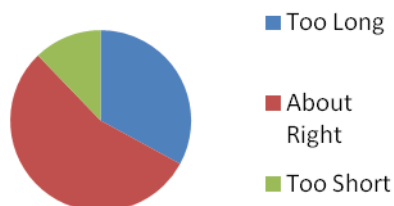
How satisfied were you with the overall conference program?

How satisfied were you with the materials provided?

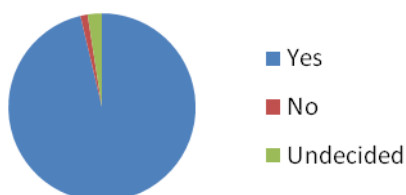
How satisfied were you with the conference facilities?

How satisfied were you with the Speakers and Presenters?

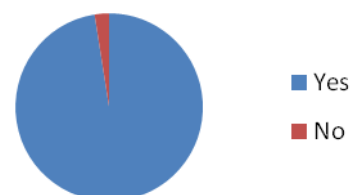
Length of Sessions



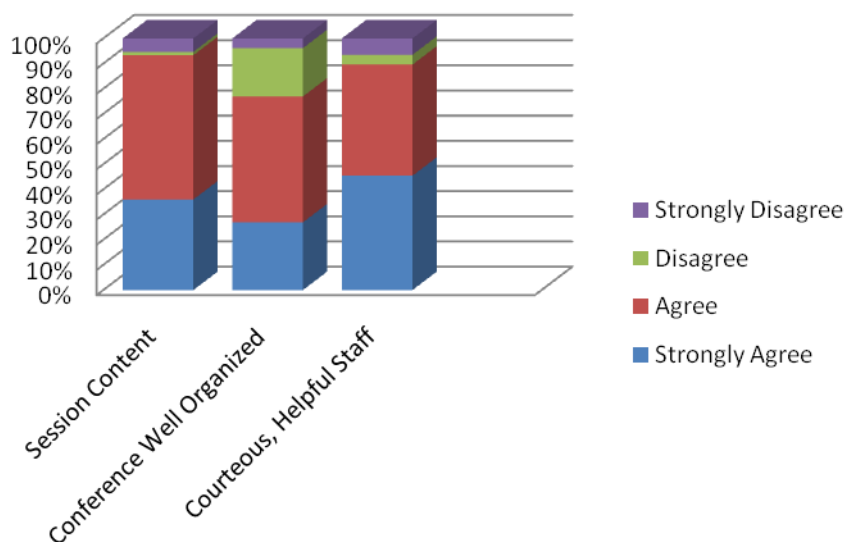
Plan to attend in 2009?



Recommend to others?



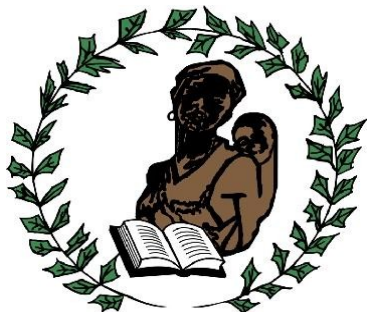
Other Factors



Content of conference sessions was appropriate and informative.

The conference was well organized.

The conference staff was helpful and courteous.



Help us to grow!

Share this membership form with a neighbor, a friend, or an organization in your community. Simply remove this page and have them return it to:

Agnes Oswaho
SSWEN
14817 15th Ave NE #18
Shoreline, WA 98155
USA

South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network

Today's Vision For Tomorrow's Mission

Membership Form

Last Name: _____ First Name: _____ MI: _____

Organization: _____

(Complete only if applying on behalf of an organization.)

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP _____ Country _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Occupation: _____ Gender: M F

Signature: _____ Date: _____

For Official Use Only

Action taken by the office: _____

Received by: (Title) _____ Date Received: _____ Authorized Initial: _____

South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network (SSWEN)

MISSION

The mission of SSWEN is to empower Sudanese women through programs that support and encourage women's rights, education, policy advocacy, and organizational development. We are committed to helping Sudanese women achieve economic, social, and gender justice in Sudan's civil society sector by building healthy and peaceful communities within our country, with human rights for all.

VISION

SSWEN strives to alleviate the factors that contribute to poverty and social distress, and to improve communication and the dissemination of information that will lead to social inclusion and equality. We dedicate ourselves to support for the poor, vulnerable women in Sudan, and those impacted by the Diaspora.

In pursuit of this vision, we provide interpersonal assistance and information to women about education and social services; we organize instruction and develop trainers who will teach organizational development and women's advocacy; and we raise awareness among local, national, and international leaders about the plight of Sudanese women.

CORE VALUES

The core values that guide our work are inherent in everything we do. These values shape our work, and ensure that our approach is consistent with our results. We list them without reference to priority, because they are of equal value in how we live our professional and personal lives.

Respect - We are each unique individuals and as we grow and explore our individuality, we also respect the unique qualities and contributions of others.

Teamwork – By definition, 'teamwork' is the ability and the willingness to work together toward a common vision. A commitment to teamwork demands that individual accomplishments are directed toward organizational objectives. Teamwork is the ingredient that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

Responsibility - We are not responsible for the attitudes and programming we inherited in childhood. However, as adults, we are 100% responsible for changing negative attitudes and behavior and improving our relationships and interactions with others. We become wise not by the recollection of our past, but by taking responsibility for our future.

Founded in 2005, SSWEN is recognized in the United States as a 501(c)(3) organization based in Arizona. SSWEN is also registered with Humanitarian Aid Commission (HAC) in Khartoum, Sudan, and Sudan Relief and the Rehabilitation Commission (SRRC) in Juba, Sudan. In addition to representatives in 7 states (AZ, MN, NJ, SD, TX, WA, and Washington, D.C.), SSWEN has volunteers and advocates located in Toronto-Canada, Cairo-Egypt, London-England, Berlin-Germany, and Juba and Khartoum, Sudan.

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Juba Bridge Hotel

Thanks and Appreciation to the SSWEN Team!

A Conference of this magnitude does not happen overnight. It takes months of planning, coordination and effort on the part of many people and organizations. SSWEN would like to thank the following individuals and organizations for their support. Without their contributions of time, talent and treasure, this annual conference would not be possible!

New Sudanese Indigenous NGOs Network

Humanity United

Mama Cash

The US Consulate in Juba

National Democracy Institute

Darfur Human Rights Organization

Bridge Way Foundation

SPLM Office in Juba

World Food Program

Mercy Corp in Juba

Sudan Sunrise

Norwegian Church Aid

GOSS Mission in DC

The Office for Regional Cooperation: GoSS

My Sister's Keeper and Sisterhood for Peace

Ms. Angela Gracey and Jen Marlow

We recognized many of these organizations and individuals at special presentations during the Conference. Over the coming months, we will be collaborating with them on specific elements of our recommendations and Next Step activities. Working together strengthens our ability to promote our agenda and accomplish our goals throughout South Sudan and the entire region.

And finally, we must say a special word of thanks to all of the men and women in Sudan and the Diaspora who worked so hard to make the conference a success! You share our vision, our hopes and our dreams for lasting peace and justice.



US consulate in Juba received a gift from SSWEN.



SSWEN 1st delegates met with Dr. Ann Ito, Deputy Secretary General of Southern Sector.



South Sudan Women's Empowerment Network

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Visit us on the Web at **www.sswen.com**



SSWEN Founder and President, Lilian Riziq, and the President of the Government of South Sudan, Lt. General Salva Kiir Mayardit.