



Lakes State Marks 16 Days Campaign of Activism
Against Gender Based Violence

25th November to 10th December 2014

Theme: "Let's Stop Violence Against Women at Home
and in Conflict Settings"



Stop Violence

Against

Women

December 2014





The Nonviolent Peaceforce team in Rumbek (Lakes State) took part in this year's global campaign to Stop Violence Against Women. The theme of this year's 16 Days of Activism was to stop violence against women at home and in conflict settings. The campaign took place between 25th November and 10 December with NP, IRC, UNFPA, UNICEF, OXFAM, UNHCR and the Lakes State Ministry of Social Development taking part. Many weeks went into planning the activities with a large range of events planned to mark the campaign.

The campaign opened with a large ceremony in Freedom Square in Rumbek town. The event had been heavily promoted over the previous several days with posters, radio announcements, a mobile P.A. system and t-shirts with the campaign slogan to ad-

vertise the campaign. Many NGO's and UN agencies were involved including NP, IRC, UNFPA, UNICEF, OXFAM, UNHCR and the Ministry of Social Development. The opening celebration was a great success. Well over a thousand people came out to see the half-

mile march to Freedom Square with people lining up with banners and smiling amongst the music and dancing. The march convened into Freedom square where many speeches were given, entertainment performed and the theme of this year's event spoken upon at length. There was a great energy throughout the event with plenty of active participation and excitement.

On another of the field trips NP visited Pacong and Makuach along with IRC and UNHCR. Participants at the talks spoke about violence in the community and how they have witnessed murder, rapes, beatings and looting around Lakes state. Some of the women spoke about young girls being forced to be married off to generate income for the family in the form of a dowry. They spoke about how women are seen as the weaker and passive gender in the community, that rape is common and that women are not involved in the important decisions being made in the community. For reasons of se-

curity many of the women choose to sleep in groups overnight to deter GBV against them. NP worked with the women to further strengthen their self-protection strategies as well as giving information to link them to services should anything happen to them.

On the final day activities were organised for the women of Nyoticangui. Speeches were given by local officials, women leaders and NGO's but ample time was left for singing and dancing. For NP's final speech in the



campaign we focused on the power and influence that women have in the community, both over their own security and the security of the community. NP spoke about our women's peacekeeping teams and the important work that they do in the local communities and drove home the message that women need to empower themselves and use their influence within the community to bring

about peace in their Payam, County and Country. The attending audience, consisting mostly of women, showed their enthusiasm for the message of the campaign by raising their arms and singing about bringing peace to the country. It was a uplifting end to the 16 Days of Activism.



STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

At Home At School In Conflict

Everywhere!



16 DAYS
OF ACTIVISM
November 25
December 10

Launch and Closing Ceremony
at Freedom Square



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