The Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Social Development

المجلس القومي لرعاية الطفولة - الأمانة العامة

The National Council for Child Welfare, Secretariat General

The National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW), while it condemns and deprecates all acts of violence against children, in general and child-girls in particular has been practiced by the rebel Rapid Support Militia since Saturday, 15 April 2023, we declare that the issue of the female genital mutilation(FGM) and violence against children and underage marriage of minor girls are considered serious violations that conflict with the laws passed by Sudan laws and the international covenants and charters ratified by our country to end the issue of violence, violation and material exploitation of girls in particular, for the female genital mutilation(FGM) devastates the victim girl's personality, both physically and psychologically, as it hinders her psychological health.

February 06, is the International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female genital mutilation(FGM) because girls are victims of misinformed societal practices, and because FGM, besides, its an economic issue, is also an unhealthy and heinous harmful social, psychological and health issue for its negative effects on the victim girls and the society, as well, in the future, whilst it is contrary to the healthy human behavior. Therefore, it is necessary to strengthen the political will to implement deterrent punishments against the violators of children's rights under Article 141A of Sudan Penal Code, whereas NCCW Council and the protection mechanisms have been officially responsible, along with its partners, for the issue of ending and combating the female genital mutilation(FGM), for it requires raising the communal awareness based on a solid and influential media awareness system among the communities. Sudan has a law that criminalizes and pushes to put an end to this social custom hand-in-hand with official executive resolutions and decisions for its devastating effects on the victim girls now and in

the future, so we are in this year have adopted the theme: (Together towards changing the negative social norms to end the custom of the female genital mutilation(FGM)). The purpose and end goal of raising the communal awareness, and enforcing deterrent punishments is the protection of the rights of children, in general and the child-girls in particular, to step up the social responsibility and raise the efficiency of community awareness and enforce the legislations and laws that protect the children's rights and ensure the safety of child-girls in the country. The NCCW Council, its partners and social protection mechanisms stress the need to continue dialogue with all social segments at all levels to raise awareness of the dire risks of the female genital mutilation(FGM). Therefore, the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) and the protection partners at the national and international levels, while acknowledging the progress towards eradicating the negative social norms, however, they resolve to exert more efforts in all the eighteen states of the country and Abyei Administration until these harmful customs targeting child-girls are eradicated once and for all to protect child-girls. This resolve is one of the priorities of the National Council for Child Welfare (NCCW) work to augment coordination and advocacy to raise communal awareness complementary to the protection roadmap in this year, and complementary to the social policy and the social protection strategy in the year 2025 to combat all forms of violence against our children, in general and our child-girls in particular.

The Secretariat of Protection

Dr. Abdul Gader Abdullah Abo Ali

NCCW Secretary-General / Council Rapporteur

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