

# peacemail

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POSTAGE PAID  
OFF PEAK  
AUSTRALIA

**act for peace**  
reduce poverty | protect refugees  
prevent conflicts | empower communities



After gaining independence from the United Kingdom in 1956, Sudan plunged into a vicious civil war between Sudan's Northern Arab-Islamic Government and marginalised African, Christian and Animist Southerners. The world's longest civil war has raged on and off for over 40 years. Over two million people have died and four million have been displaced.

Throughout the entire conflict, especially when it reignited in 1983, the Sudanese churches, both in the north and south were the main institutions for support to the people. With our support and the support of other agencies, the church was heavily involved in providing relief aid and social services during the course of the prolonged war.

The signing of a Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) in 2005 which brought the war to an end, allowed for a reunification of Sudan's divided churches forming what is today known as the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC). However, the continuing conflict in Darfur in Western Sudan has killed another 250,000 people, displaced over 2.4 million people and threatens the 2005 Peace Agreement.

The SCC continues to pursue peace in areas of continuing conflict and amongst returning refugees with their well structured People to People Peacemaking Project. The work is critical and urgent in order to avoid regression to armed conflict as a means of resolution of tribal and other conflicts.

Act for Peace is the international aid agency of the National Council of Churches in Australia (NCCA).

*"The Christmas Bowl People!"*



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**THANK YOU Partners** for your commitment to Act for Peace through your regular gifts. Thank you for your generosity, especially those who have chosen to increase the amount of their giving. Together, we are making a real and lasting difference to the lives of many people affected by conflict and extreme poverty.

If you would like to upgrade your regular gift, simply free call Howard or Jordan on **1800 025 101** or email [hgraham@ncca.org.au](mailto:hgraham@ncca.org.au). Also, all feedback and suggestions are welcome, as we love to hear from you and to pass on comments to project partners.

If you are not yet an Act for Peace Partner and would like to join this special group of committed givers, or would just like to help this project, your call or email will be welcomed! All gifts of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

## People to People Peacemaking in Sudan

*Dear Partner,* I am proud to work for the Sudan Council of Churches (SCC) on activities ranging from peace, advocacy and education to health, HIV/AIDS services and refugee relief wherever humanitarian assistance is needed most.

The SCC has initiated and convened more than twenty major meetings in various regions over the last twelve years, in pursuit of peace in our war-torn country. We facilitate an innovative People to People Peacemaking Process with disputing communities. This process ensures that the voice of all participants is heard and that their feelings, culture and rights are respected. The approach is structured, but innovative in developing sustainable solutions that are often outside the prior thinking of participants. The outcome of signed resolutions and agreements with steps for implementation provide a pathway to lasting peace and continuing dialogue between the formerly warring parties.

The processes include representatives from all facets of the community, including young mothers. During difficult periods of war, these women have held the society together. They must be involved in addressing problems and participate in making the decisions on issues that mainly affect them. After the Comprehensive Peace Agreement was signed, they asked themselves, 'What next? Where do we stand in the peace arena? Are the issues that affect us as women known to the new system and taken seriously when searching for the solutions to our problems? In building the nation, where are we placed as women?' The SCC ensures that women are nominated justly to help represent their communities.

Mama Chief Elizabeth Igolibo did not take refuge during the long years of war in Sudan. She remained with her people in Mugali and fought alongside the soldiers in her village. She never gave up the responsibility of protecting her people and took it upon herself to see to it that the people were protected by the security personnel.

"I used to walk every day to and fro for over 26 miles to beg the military authority in Nimule to listen to my cry on the issues of insecurity in the areas. The worst time was when my villages were attacked by the rebels, the Lord's Resistance Army of Uganda. Their attacks became very consistent, but I remained focused and continued to face the army officers and commanders and demand they listen to my cry!"

Because of her humble and persistent approaches to the authorities, she was finally given a response with deployment of a good number of security personnel to protect the villages of Mugali Payam sub-district. Later, Elizabeth was honoured and appointed the Boma Chief in Mugali Payam.

Thank you Act for Peace Partners for your support of our peace initiatives. Your gifts help to sustain and grow this work. On average, it costs \$100 to support a participant at these important peacemaking conferences and \$200 for each person to attend training sessions for women and young people on human rights and civic responsibilities.



### Partner's Prayer Points:

**Give thanks for the SCC and all working to make peace agreements to benefit Sudanese people.**

**Pray for a just solution to conflicts and for those still divided by civil wars and violence.**



*Mama Chief Elizabeth Igolibo (in white) led her team at the Conference in Nimule*

*Gladys D. Mananyu*

Peace and Justice Officer  
Sudan Council of Churches