



# SOUTH SUDAN HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS NETWORK

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*Ladies and gentlemen, and the bright and courageous youth of South Sudan,*

*Today, we commemorate International Youth Day, a day that holds immense significance for all of us. As members of the South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network, we are honored to celebrate the boundless potential, resilience, and unwavering determination that our youth bring to the forefront of society.*

*This year's theme, "Green Skills for Youth: Towards a Sustainable World," resonates profoundly with our mission as human rights defenders. Just as our youth possess the ability to cultivate green skills and drive sustainable practices, they are also catalysts for upholding and protecting the fundamental rights of our fellow citizens.*

*In a nation that has known the struggle for independence and endured the challenges of nation-building, our youth are a beacon of hope. They possess the energy to transform adversity into opportunity, to turn scarcity into abundance, and to transform the narrative of our nation from one of strife to one of progress.*

*Human rights defenders of all ages share a common goal: to ensure that every individual's rights are respected, protected, and fulfilled.*

*Today, we are inspired by the youth who have courageously stepped forward to champion these rights, often against great odds. In the face of social, political, and economic challenges, they continue to speak truth to power, advocating for justice, equality, and inclusion.*

*As we celebrate our youth, we must acknowledge the importance of providing them with the tools they need to thrive. Education, mentorship, and access to information are the cornerstones upon which they can build a brighter future. By nurturing their talents and equipping them with knowledge, we empower them to become leaders, not only in their communities but also on the global stage.*

*To the youth of South Sudan, we convey this message: Your voices matter, and your actions have the power to reshape the destiny of our nation. As you confront adversity, remember that you are not alone. You are part of a network of human rights defenders who stand united in their commitment to a just and equitable society. Your courage, determination, and dedication inspire us all to strive for a better tomorrow.*

*As we commemorate International Youth Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to supporting the youth of South Sudan. Let us create an environment where their ideas are heard, their dreams are nurtured, and their rights are upheld without compromise. By doing so, we contribute to a society that respects the dignity of every individual and embraces the values of justice, freedom, and equality.*

*In closing, let us honor our youth by recognizing their immense potential, and let us work hand in hand to build a South Sudan where their aspirations are realized. The South Sudan Human Rights Defenders Network stands beside you, ready to support your journey towards positive change.*

**HAPPY INTERNATIONAL YOUTH DAY !**

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