

PETITION

AN URGENT PETITION TO THE REMAINING 13 COUNTRIES TO ACCELERATE THEIR ACCESSION TO THE MAPUTO PROTOCOL.

The Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition urges the remaining 13 African Union member states to **ACCEDE TO the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.**

Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) Coalition, is a pan-Africa network that was formed in 2004 with the principal objective of advocating for the ratification, domestication and implementation of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) to advance the human rights of African women and girls. SOAWR has a membership of 63 organizations working on women's rights in 32 countries in Africa.

The Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) is a ground-breaking human rights treaty adopted on 11th July 2003 at the 2nd Ordinary Session of the African Union Assembly held in Maputo, Mozambique. The consensus of the African leaders to adopt this important treaty reaffirmed their commitment to protect, promote and fulfil African women's rights. However, eighteen (18) years after the Protocol's adoption the African Union Commission's records show that while the majority of member states (42) came through with their commitment to be held bound by the treaty, sadly thirteen (13) countries remain undecided and hence women and girls under their jurisdiction are at risk of not receiving protection against violations of their human rights.

On the occasion of the Maputo Protocol's 18th anniversary, the Sixteen Days of Activism to End Violence against Women (25 November to 10th December 2021), and the ongoing African Union's Human Rights Decade (a period whereby AU member states are required to advance citizen's human rights), the Solidarity for African Women's Rights (SOAWR) coalition **urgently appeals to the following countries to urgently accede to the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) without further delay.**

1. The Republic of Botswana
2. The Republic of Burundi
3. The Central Africa Republic
4. The Republic of Chad
5. The Arab Republic of Egypt
6. The Republic of Eritrea
7. The Republic of Madagascar
8. The Kingdom of Morocco
9. The Republic of Niger

10. The Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic
11. The Republic of Somalia
12. The Republic of South Sudan
13. The Republic of Sudan

This petition is signed by Members of the SOAWR coalition:

1. Action for Development (ACFODE), Uganda
2. African Centre for Democracy and Human Rights Studies (ACDHRS), The Gambia
3. African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Kenya
4. African Women's Development Fund (AWDF), Ghana
5. Akina Mama wa Afrika (AMWA), Uganda
6. Alliances for Africa, Nigeria
7. Association des Juristes Maliennes (AJM), Mali
8. Association des Juristes Sénégalaises, Senegal
9. Association of Egyptian Female Lawyers (AEFL), Egypt
10. Atwar Organization for Research and Social Development (Atwar), Libya
11. BAOBAB for Women's Human Rights, Nigeria
12. Cellule de Coordination sur les Pratiques Traditionnelles Affectant la Santé des Femmes et des Enfants (CPTAFE), Guinea
13. Center for Health Human Rights and Development (CEHURD), Uganda
14. Centre for Justice Studies and Innovations (CJSI), Uganda
15. Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Kenya
16. Centre for Reproductive Rights (CRR), Kenya
17. Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSV), South Africa
18. Coalition on Violence Against Women (COVAW), Kenya
19. Collectif des Associations et ONGS Féminines de Burundi (CAFOB), Burundi
20. Eastern African Sub-regional Support Initiative for the Advancement of Women (EASSI), Uganda
21. Equality Now, Kenya
22. FAHAMU Networks for Social Justice, Kenya and Senegal
23. Federation of Women Lawyers Kenya (FIDA-Kenya), Kenya
24. Fondation Pour l'Egalité/ CIDDEF, Algeria
25. Forum Mulher, Mozambique
26. Girl Child Network (GCN), Zimbabwe
27. Great Lakes Initiative for Human Rights and Development (GLIHD), Rwanda
28. Human Rights Law Service (HURILAWS), Nigeria
29. Initiative for Gender Equality and Development in Africa (IGED), Ghana
30. Inter-African Committee (IAC), Guinea and Ethiopia

31. Ipas Africa Alliance for Women's Reproductive Health and Rights, Kenya
32. Jossour, Morocco
33. KADIRAT, Tunisia
34. Kenyan Section of the International Commission of Jurists, Kenya
35. Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Tanzania
36. Make Every Woman Count, Guinea
37. Malawi Human Rights Resource Center, Malawi
38. NGO Gender Coordination Network (NGOGCN), Malawi
39. Oxfam GB, Kenya
40. People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA), South Africa
41. Question des Femmes, Togo
42. Reproductive Health and Rights Alliance (RHRA), Kenya
43. Réseau des Femmes Leaders pour le Développement (RFLD), Benin
44. Réseau Inter Africain des Femmes, Médias, Genre et Développement/Inter-African Network For Women, Media, Gender and Development (FAMEDEV), Senegal
45. Sister Namibia, Namibia
46. Strategic Initiative for Women in the Horn of Africa (SIHA), Uganda and Sudan
47. Support the Empowerment of Women and their Rights for Development (STEWARDSWOMEN), South Sudan
48. The Network Against Female Genital Mutilation [NAFGEM], Tanzania
49. Tomorrow's Child Initiative (TCI), Kenya
50. Tshwaranang Legal Advocacy Centre (TLAC), South Africa
51. Uganda Women's Network (UWONET), Uganda
52. Union Nationale des Femmes de Djibouti (UNFD), Djibouti
53. University of Pretoria Centre for Human Rights, South Africa
54. Voix de Femmes, Burkina Faso
55. Women's Advocacy and Communication Network (WANET), Cameroon
56. Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA), Zambia
57. Women Counselling and Information Centre (WCIC), Cameroon
58. Women in Law and Development in Africa (WILDAF), Zambia
59. Women NGO's Secretariat of Liberia (WONGOSOL), Liberia
60. Women of Liberia Peace Network (WOLPNET), Liberia
61. Women Peace Initiatives Association (WPI), Cameroon
62. Women's Rights Advancement and Protection Alternatives (WRAPA), Nigeria
63. Young Liberian Women Organization For Improvement (WOFIM), Liberia

Date: 25th November 2021