

A Study to Examine the Role of Kator B Court (Customary Court) in the Fight Against Domestic Violence in Juba, South Sudan.

An Abstract of the Thesis By

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South Sudan has been rated among the countries with the highest number of women affected by domestic violence worldwide. Most of the victims are experiencing extreme challenges, subordination and inadequate support when they seek for legal remedies in Kator customary courts. Because in administering almost all cases related to domestic violence, the court officials highly prioritize conciliation as opposed to punishment of the perpetrator. Intimidation, victim blame, insults and harassment toward victims of domestic violence during court hearing is common among all the court officials. Lack of empowerment to Court Officials on women rights issues has been uncovered as a major challenge. This has posed a significant threat for the court officials to articulate the clear mandate and role of Kator B court in providing justice to victims of domestic violence. Establishment of Information and psychosocial support centre (PSS) near the court vicinity in addition to provision of continued training to court officials on women rights knowledge should highly be prioritized.

Keywords: Challenges, women rights, victims, empowerment, Support