

Pastoral Programme Newsletter

November 2025



Restoring the Heart: A Path to Peace

In November 2025, the Solidarity Pastoral Service team facilitated two Women's Empowerment programs in Bor, Jonglei State, under the Diocese of Malakal, with the theme "Restoring the Heart: A Path to Peace." The programs were generously supported by the Sisters of Mercy – Americas and brought together 69 women from different communities. The sessions were facilitated by Sr. Guille Vasquez Rubi, ACJ, and Sr. Ruth Karina, SSND, who guided the women through a journey of trauma healing, emotional resilience, and empowerment. The first group met from 18–22 November with 34 participants, and the second group followed from 24–28 November with 35 participants. The five-day journey focused on helping women understand trauma and build trust, using storytelling, effective exercises, and community dialogue.



Participants courageously shared life experiences shaped by conflict, displacement, and loss. Sacred rituals, such as symbolically releasing pain and fear, allowed women to begin a process of inner healing and restoration. Creative expression, movement, and shared music restored a sense of joy and solidarity. One highlight was the "Walk of Honor," where women celebrated one another's courage and identity through song, dance, and affirmation. Participants identified personal and communal strengths, created visual "strength posters," and rediscovered sources of hope found in their families, culture, and faith. The final days focused on building support networks, developing personal healing plans, and exploring community advocacy. Women formed peer support groups and developed goals to continue healing within families, schools, and church communities. The program concluded with songs, testimonies, cultural expressions, and renewed commitment to walk together toward peace.

Women's Self-Empowerment And Capacity Building



A two-week Women's Self-Empowerment and Capacity Building Programme was successfully conducted in November 2025 for the Eastern Deanery, gathering nearly one hundred women from seven parishes. This vital initiative, supported by the Sisters of Mercy – Americas, aimed to strengthen women's dignity, confidence, and skills as agents of transformation. The core curriculum was comprehensive, covering themes such as self-esteem, self-reliance, gender identity, trauma awareness, leadership, and practical skills like basic business and hairdressing. A key feature of the programme was the space created for personal experience and story-sharing, allowing participants to reflect on their journeys, affirm one another, and collectively envision a better future for their families and communities. Many expressed that this process helped them

regain hope, rebuild trust, and recognize their inner strength. The combination of psychosocial support, practical skills, and spiritual grounding helped participants to see empowerment not only as an economic need but as a holistic path to healing, dignity, and community resilience. The Eastern Deanery programme marks a vital step in building women's leadership at the grassroots, nurturing peace, and strengthening families in a challenging socio-economic environment. Participants have committed themselves to continue mutual support, share skills with other women, and explore small business initiatives within their parishes.



Safeguarding Review in Kit with GSPC Staff



The Solidarity Pastoral Service Team at Kit led a four-day Safeguarding Policy Review and Awareness Programme with staff of the Good Shepherd Peace Centre (GSPC) from November 26th to 29th. The initiative, facilitated by a Legal Consultant, brought together Solidarity Members, staff, and external stakeholders to update the 2021 Safeguarding Policy and improve its implementation across all departments.

Although staff generally reported feeling safe within the Centre, the sessions immediately highlighted a significant challenge: awareness, visibility, and understanding of the policy remain limited due to a lack of access, insufficient training, and language barriers.

Participants openly admitted to signing documents without fully understanding the contents and not knowing the proper reporting procedures or the designated focal person.

In response to these findings, a joint planning meeting established immediate action steps to be completed before the Christmas break: printing and distributing the policy, holding small-group explanation sessions in local languages, displaying instructional notices around the Centre, appointing a Safeguarding Focal Person, and ensuring all contractors and visitors receive basic information, all of which will prepare the ground for a full workshop in early 2026. This process is a crucial step toward building a transparent, informed, and protective environment, emphasizing that safeguarding is a shared responsibility and a core value of Solidarity.