

NUBA MOUNTAINS PEOPLES FOUNDATION - Sudan

ELRAYAH HAMMAD KAKKI

Items

(28)

Language, education and the empowerment of women and girls

Thank you for giving me the floor, madam chair.

It's been said that: "The mother is a life-time school, empower her and you will build a better nation." In the case of the Nuba people of Sudan empowerment of women and girls is impeded by not using the Nuba language in education.

The following are the main challenges facing Nuba language education in Sudan

- Cultural discrimination and non- representation of Nuba languages in school curriculum. Speaking minority languages in public spaces has become a trigger of discomfort, alienation, contempt and provocation.
- The Nuba region has been stricken by on-going conflicts that are driven by violent state building policies of assimilation, massive displacement and replacement of minority communities, evacuation into neighbouring countries and compelling them to migrate to Europe, North America and Australia.
- Minority language education is wrongly perceived as a threat to national unity. However, governments should now understand the importance of minority languages in building bridges of peace and linking divided societies.

Madam chair I recommend the following:

- Encourage and support our hopeful government of Sudan to introduce minority language and cultural heritage in school curriculum
- Encourage and support our Government to educate Nuba girls and women in their native language.

item 5. 21