

Sr. Orla receives 2019 International Women of Courage Award

On **Thursday, March 7**, the US Secretary of State hosted the [2019 International Women of Courage](#) (IWOC) Awards at the U.S.

Department of State to honor 10 extraordinary women from around the world. This year, our very own *Sr. Orla Treacy* was nominated and selected for this prestigious award. She was nominated by Callista Gingrich, Ambassador to the Holy See, on a recommendation from the De La Salle Brothers whom recently started a school in our community.

After receiving the award, Sr. Orla expressed her hope for the girls at Loreto, *“**Today**, I was very aware of our girls as I was receiving the award. I pray that I am paving the way for them. My hope and dream is to see one of them with this award in the future. I spoke with one of our former students **this morning** and I shared my hope that a South Sudanese young woman would have the honor of receiving this award one day.”*

[Read the full story on loretorumbek.ie](http://loretorumbek.ie)

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We Grow, We Thrive, We Succeed!

In February we started our enrolment process, which has seen the schools swell with new students and potential.

The Secondary School had 424 candidates in 4 centers - Rumbek, Wau, Yambio, and the capital of South Sudan, Juba. Of these applicants, only about 100 were selected. 20 girls were admitted to our Transition Year, which supports girls who have the determination to succeed but who have not had the advantage of strong foundations in primary school. The rest were split into two Senior 1 classes.

This year there are a total of 300 girls enrolled in the program. The Loreto Girls Secondary School recently had 48 girls sit for the national examinations - our largest class yet! For the last 2 years (2016 and 2017), 100% of candidates have passed the national exams and we are hoping to continue this tradition for excellence.

Like the secondary school, our community based co-educational primary school has also grown. We have increased our enrolment from the immediate community with new classes in Kindergarten and Primary 1 (morning and afternoon programs).

A total of 1188 students are currently enrolled. Like the secondary school, the primary school's (Primary 8) national exam candidates have had excellent rates of success - with 100% of both 2017 and 2018 candidates passing the national examinations.

My Dolls and Me

Through the generosity of a partner of Loreto, cloth dolls were donated to the school for the kindergarten. The dolls are used during playtime with a focus on developing cooperative play and peaceful conflict resolution skills in the youngest children. This extends the donation of toys made in 2016 and 2017.

Mary (Primary 1), *"I share four dolls with my friends. My doll is a*

baby. The doll can help me know how to take care of babies. If a baby grows up she can help her mother fetch water and clean the house. I love my doll because I have no dolls at home.”

Learning through play is a powerful method for supporting education and development in the primary school and helps encourage these youngest students to attend daily, and to learn with joy.

Thank You

A Special Thank You to all of the donors, advocates, and supporters of the Loreto Programs in Rumbek. Without your hard work or support none of this would be possible. For more news & info about the programs, our students, and how you can help, please visit our website loretorumbek.ie.



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