

Conflict-related sexual violence Resource Kit

According to the UN, conflict-related sexual violence refers to incidents or patterns of sexual violence (rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity, against women, men, girls or boys) which occur in conflict or post-conflict settings or other situations of concern (e.g., political strife) and have a direct or indirect nexus with the conflict or political strife itself. Since the 1990s and particularly from 2008 onwards, the UN has devoted more attention and resources to this issue. The Security Council has adopted four resolutions on women, peace and security focused on conflict-related sexual violence between 2008 and 2013 ([1820](#), [1888](#), [1960](#), and [2106](#)), and the UN's work is led by a [Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) and coordinated through the [UN Action network](#). UN Women is an active member of this network, and works on this issue through its offices all over the world. **(NOTE: Gender-based violence in emergencies (which include all forms of violence against women and girls in both conflicts and humanitarian disasters) and sexual exploitation and abuse are addressed in separate guidance notes).**

What Support Can UN Women HQ Provide on Conflict-related Sexual Violence?

- **Fundraising support:** Peace and Security can provide guidance on how to access funding through the [UN Action Multi-Partner Trust Fund](#), including guidelines, examples of previously funded projects, and proposal development support. This MPTF funds proposals developed jointly by two or more UN agencies, but many other funds and donors can be accessed for resources, particularly the US, the UK, Sweden, Norway, Finland, Japan, and the Netherlands.
- **Support on information requests for the Secretary-General's annual report to the Security Council or external partners (including media):** UN Women is often requested to contribute to or lead in the compilation of country-specific information for the annual reports of the Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence (see examples from the last two years: [2016](#) and [2015](#)). HQ staff can provide guidance on how to answer these requests, which are sent annually to mission leadership and resident coordinators (see [here](#) for an example).
- **Technical support, research, and information on specific sub-topics:** This includes data collection and reporting, medico-legal response, [early warning indicators](#), protection by humanitarians and peacekeepers, [sexual violence in the agenda of peace negotiations](#), international investigations and transitional justice, including [reparations](#), rule-of-law programming, standard operating procedures and good practice for multi-sectoral response to survivors, including reproductive health and rights.
- **Speeches, talking points, and presentations on this subject matter:** UN Women is frequently asked to speak on this topic, especially in the field, and we have a database of useful speeches, presentations, and talking points, both by UN Women senior leadership and by the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, and Peace and Security staff can help tailor new presentations to the audience and context.
- **A database of experts, both academic and practitioners:** HQ staff can refer experts for specific consultations or collaboration, depending on the topic and the specific expertise needed. This includes a roster with close to 200 experts on investigation and documentation of SGBV as international crimes.
- **Involvement in global initiatives:** Our main global initiatives on conflict-related sexual violence have focused on training peacekeepers and the rapid deployment of [trained experts on investigation and documentation of SGBV as international crimes](#).
- **Clarifications on the role of various relevant actors, and facilitation of collaboration with partners:** This includes the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the signed communiqués with national governments (including South Sudan, DRC, CAR, Guinea, and Iraq), the UN Action network and its main member agencies (particularly UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP, OHCHR, and UNHCR), the [UK's Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative](#), Women Protection Advisers in peacekeeping missions, the [SCR 1888 Team of Experts on the Rule of Law](#), the [Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility](#) and the

sub-clusters in the field, and the [Call to Action](#), the International Campaign to [Stop Rape and Gender Violence in Conflict](#), and research initiatives which include a focus on crisis settings, such as the [Sexual Violence Research Initiative](#) and the UK's [What Works To Prevent Violence Against Women and Girls in Conflict and Emergencies](#).

Examples of UN Women's Work on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

- **Bosnia-i-Herzegovina:** UN Women participates in a joint programme with UNDP, UNFPA, and IOM to tackle the legacy of CRSV among survivors that have received little or no support and recognition for twenty years. The project is aimed at improving access to both justice and services, and to combat stigma through educational programmes and engaging the media and law enforcement officials. UN Women supports the economic empowerment of survivors through tailor-made livelihood programmes and access to reparations. UN Women has also supported partners in providing comprehensive and effective care for wartime rape survivors and witnesses before, during, and after their trials, and monitoring and documenting the treatment of witnesses by judges and prosecutors.
- **Mali:** UN Women conducted the first investigations of the use of sexual violence in the civil war, right after the takeover of the North by the rebels. UN Women subsequently partnered with other UN agencies to assist sexual violence survivors and train national armed security forces on the protection of women and girls. This includes the provision of legal, medical and psychosocial support to survivors of sexual violence during previous and ongoing hostilities –through the establishment of multiple units with GBV services integrated in health facilities in the main towns in northern Mali, a country-wide pool of specialized psychologists, and assistance to women IDPs for income-generating activities.
- **Colombia:** In Colombia, UN Women has given voice, support, and visibility to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, through multiple interventions both during the peace negotiations in Havana from 2013 to 2016, in the efforts to the adoption and implementation of the Victims and Land Restitution Law in 2011, and in its collaboration with the Office of the Attorney General.
- **Uganda:** In collaboration with UNICEF, UN Women has helped reintegrate hundreds of women and girls formerly abducted by the LRA, many of them with children born of rape, through income generation activities and access to land. Thanks to this programme, many of them were operating successful businesses and were not shunned by the community, and could use this income to support their children's education and medical needs and regularly participate in community activities.

Key Knowledge Products on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Radhika Coomaraswamy, "Protecting and Promoting the Rights and Leadership of Women and Girls in Humanitarian Settings," in *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325* (UN Women, 2015), pp. 65-97.

[Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#) (2014).

[UN Matrix of Early Warning Indicators of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#) (2010).

Anderson, Letitia, "[Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Analytical Inventory of Peacekeeping Practice](#)," in UN Women Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security (UN Women, 2014).

UN Action (2010), "[Analytical and Conceptual Framing of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)."

UN (2016), "[Guidance note on the intersections between the MARA and the GBV IMS](#)."

IASC (2015), "[Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#)."

"[Conflict and Post-Conflict Module](#)" in UN Women's *Virtual Knowledge Center to End Violence Against Women*.

UK-PSVI (2014), "[International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence](#)."

UN Action (2012), "[Provisional Guidance Note on the Implementation of Resolution 1960](#)."

UN Action (2013), "[Five-year review of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict \(2007-2012\)](#)."

UN DPA (2010), "[Guidance or Mediators: Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)."