

Sexual Violence and Conflict

- 40 women are raped every day in the ongoing conflict in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Half a million women were raped during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda
- 60,000 women were raped during the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina between 1992 - 1995



sexual violence is a tactic of war

Sexual violence is used by combatants to humiliate and demoralize opponents, to initiate and discipline their own troops, and to forcibly displace populations.

Sexual violence is used to perpetuate conflict through the disruption and displacement of communities and individuals. Sexual violence undermines the ability of women and girls to participate in conflict resolution, elections, governance and post-conflict reconstruction processes.

sexual violence affects everyone

Sexual violence is primarily targeted at women and girls, however, men and boys are increasingly being victimized.

Sexual violence is aimed at both civilians and combatants.

Sexual violence has severe and long-lasting consequences for the health and well-being of the individual and the community, including:

"Today's weapons of armed conflict include rape, sexual violence, and the abduction of children conscripted as soldiers or forced into sexual slavery."

United Nations Secretary General,
Ban Ki-moon

- Increased rates of HIV-AIDS
- Vaginal Fistula
- Unwanted pregnancy
- Severe psychological trauma
- Isolation and further abuse of victims
- The dissolution of community and family bonds
- High economic costs in health care, decreased access to food, shelter, and work



what can be done?

- Provide physical and mental health care to those affected
- Provide economic, social, and legal assistance to those affected
- Implement reparations for those affected
- Reform and enforce laws concerning sexual violence
- End impunity for perpetrators
- Train judges, lawyers, and legislators
- Increase the participation of women in the political, legal and judicial systems

international norms:

- **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 on the Use of Sexual Violence in Conflict (2008):**
 - full text of the resolution: www.peacebuild.ca/work-groups-gender-pb-e.php
 - overview and analysis: www.stoprapenow.org/pdf/Security%20Council%20Resolution%201820.pdf
- **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000):**
 - full text of the resolution: www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html
 - 1325 toolbox: www.womenwarpeace.org/1325_toolbox
 - analysis and fact sheets: www.peacebuild.ca/work-groups-gender-pb-e.php
- **Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998)**
- **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995)**
- **The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)**

international campaigns

- **Stop Rape Now (UNIFEM):**
<http://www.stoprapenow.org/>
- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence:**
<http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/16days/home.html>
- **White Ribbon Campaign:**
<http://www.whiteribbon.ca/>
- **Stop Violence Against Women:**
<http://www.stopvaw.org/>
- **International Violence Against Women Survey:**
<http://www.heuni.fi/12859.ht>