

**Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security  
October 2014, Security Council Chamber**

*Statement by Mr. Buffin, Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations*

Belgium fully associates itself with the statement delivered on behalf of the European Union and would like add the following remarks in a national capacity.

My delegation thanks the Executive Director of UN-Women, Ms. Mlambo-Ngcuka; the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, Mr. Chaloka Beyani; and the founder and Director of Sadr City Women's Centre and Legal Clinic, Ms. Suaad Allami, for their statements. My delegation also thanks the Argentinian presidency for having convened today's open debate.

Belgium welcomes the subject chosen for today's debate, which remains of great relevance. As indicated in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2014/693), the past year was marked by a series of troubling developments and heinous crimes related to violent conflicts, in many cases of a terrorist nature, resulting in new mass displacements of populations. My country is concerned about the persistence of sexual and gender-based violence against women in conflicts. The violent acts committed in Nigeria by Boko Haram and in Iraq by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant are further evidence of a determination to deliberately target women and girls, kidnap them, enslave them or even sell them as slaves. It is an abhorrent development to which we absolutely must find an appropriate response.

We know that the vast majority of displaced persons are women and girls. Their specific needs must therefore be recognized and taken into account in situations of displacement and in refugee camps. In times of conflict, it is often important to respond quickly. It is all the more important, therefore, to anticipate and provide for the specific contexts and needs of women so as to ensure that those aspects are not overlooked during emergency interventions.

To ensure the safety and protection of women and girls in the framework of humanitarian work, it is also important, first, to take into account the specific requirements for the protection of women and girls in the context not only of humanitarian assistance, but also of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and security sector reform.

Secondly, we must ask humanitarian organizations to make the security of women and girls a priority in the organization and management of refugee camps. In that regard, it is essential to improve the participation and leadership of women in decision-making committees and structures in refugee and displaced persons camps so as, inter alia, to ensure that they can express and highlight their concerns with regard to matters of organization, health and safety.

Thirdly, we must accord the necessary priority to financial support for women heads of households in situations of displacement and in refugee camps, because without income, their precarious situation puts them at further risk.