



Women Building Peace and Fighting Sexual Violence

in Conflict-Affected Areas

*A Toolkit for Canadian Action on
United Nations Security Council
Resolutions 1325 and 1820*



GENDER AND PEACEBUILDING
WORKING GROUP



August 2009

Introduction

This action toolkit address two intertwined issues affecting women in conflict situations all around the world: the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, and the role of women in peacebuilding. The Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group and the Canadian Federation of University Women are launching it as reports emerge that a new law curtailing women's rights is in the works in Afghanistan, and as the tally of victims of sexual violence in East Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) reaches 40 women a day.

This is modern conflict, where in the words of a seasoned peacekeeper, it is now "more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier".

For a long time, rape and other forms of sexual violence were thought to be a side effect of conflict, a rare and isolated type of collateral damage. However, new understandings of gender and conflict have revealed a different picture: rape is a war within a war.

In conflict situations, what is occurring is not rape out of control – it is rape under orders. Rape and other forms of sexual abuse are now systematically used by armed groups as a means of achieving political and military ends.

Perpetrators know that rape has a devastating effect on families, villages, communities and nations. They know that it makes peace less possible. They know that it keeps women imprisoned by shame and destroys their access to a reliable income. They know it is cheaper than conventional weapons. Above all, they know that they are unlikely to ever be brought to justice.

This unique experience of conflict, and the central role women play in families and communities, makes their participation in peacebuilding vital to success. Research in Sudan, DRC and Uganda has shown that peace

agreements, post-conflict reconstruction, and governance do better when women are involved. Women make a difference because they have a more inclusive idea of security and bring forward key social and economic issues that would otherwise be ignored. Despite this, women continue to be widely excluded from decision-making in peace negotiations and reconstruction talks.: according to a recent study that examined peace agreements, only 2.4% of signatories to were women and women's participation in negotiating delegations averaged a dismal 5.9% .

The UN has already developed key international policy tools to begin to put a stop to sexual violence in

conflict and support women building peace. Canada was integral to the adoption of two groundbreaking Security Council resolutions that provide frameworks for addressing sexual violence and including women in peacebuilding.

However, almost ten years after the issue of women in conflict was first seriously dealt with by the UN Security Council, Canada still lacks a national action plan to implement these resolutions.

This toolkit is a call to act in solidarity with women in conflict, to hold the Canadian government accountable to its international commitments, and to press forward the struggle for women's equality.

We hope you find it both helpful and inspiring.

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Sudanese women, one from the north and one from the south, hold hands as they chant "sawa, sawa" (together, together) during celebrations in Khartoum on January 1, 2005. (AFP)

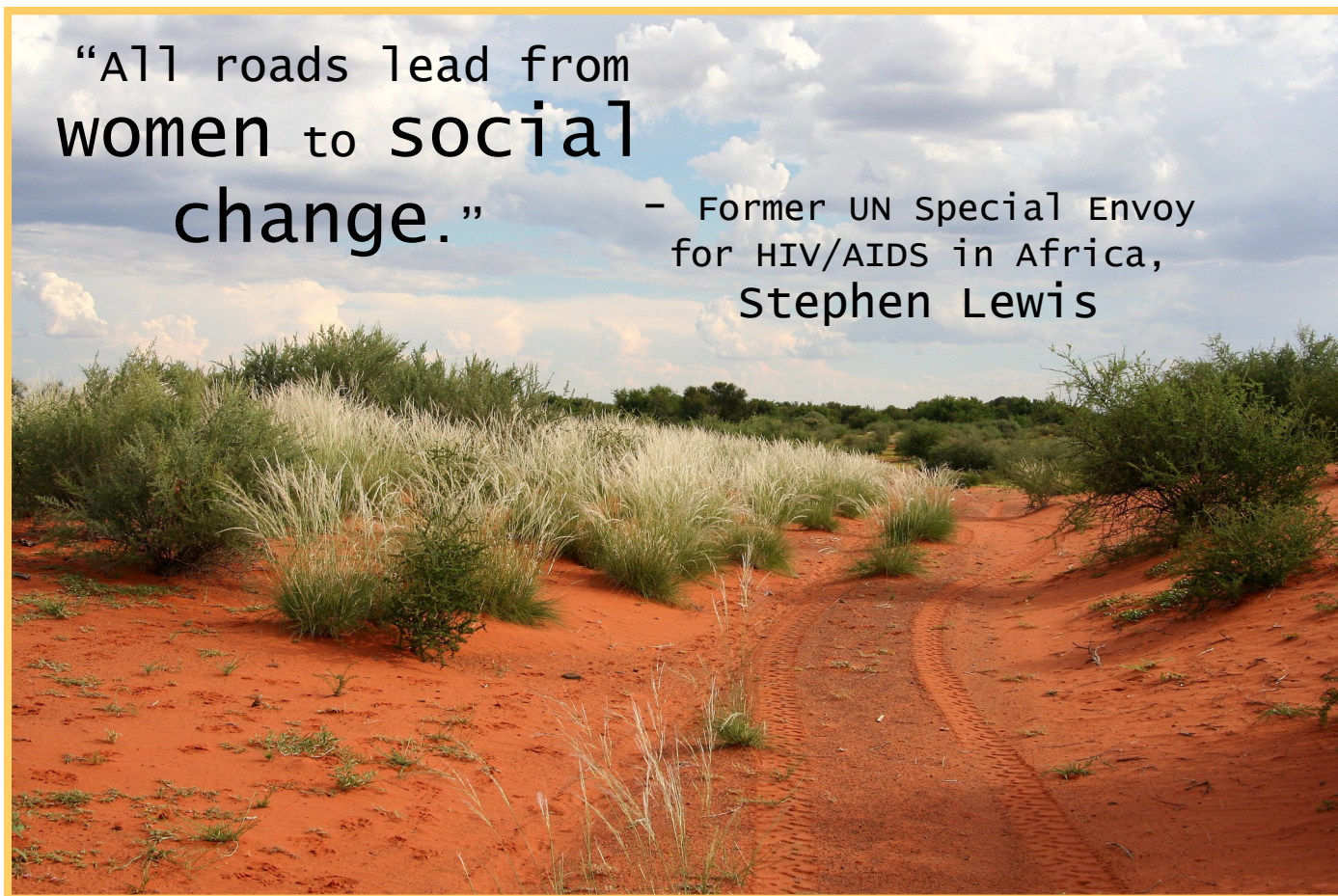


Table of Contents

Introduction	Page 2
Background	Page 4
Possible Actions	Page 6
Sample Letter	Page 8
Sample Petition	Page 9
Resources	Page 10

“All roads lead from
women to social
change.”

– Former UN Special Envoy
for HIV/AIDS in Africa,
Stephen Lewis



Background

Approximately 75 per cent of the estimated 60 million people displaced by conflict and disasters worldwide are women and children. These women and children often face considerable humanitarian hardships in situations of displacement, including high rates of sexual violence and abuse.

Sexual violence continues to be epidemic in many of the countries and regions in which the Government of Canada is involved. Sudan, DRC and Afghanistan are all conflict-affected countries with substantial Canadian aid or military involvement that also have high rates of sexual violence against women and children. This violence feeds a vicious cycle of exclusion, because without basic human security women and girls are unable to participate in elections, public debate, and peace negotiations.

In response to the pressing issues facing women and girls in conflict situations, on October 31, 2000 the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Resolution 1325 calls for the participation of women in peace processes and the protection of women and girls and respect for their rights.

On June 19th, 2008, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1820 on the use of sexual violence in conflict. Resolution 1820 demands that parties to armed conflict adopt concrete protection/prevention measures to end sexual violence and reasserts the importance of women's participation in all processes related to ending sexual violence in conflict, including peace talks.

Canada was a member of the Security Council when Resolution 1325 was unanimously adopted, and actively supported the resolution. In 2004, the Government of Canada contributed to the Secretary General's 2004 Report to the Security Council on

Resolution 1325, further demonstrating a commitment to supporting women in conflict situations. In 2006 the Government of Canada began to develop an action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Since then, national actions plans for the implementation of Resolution 1325 have been developed by fourteen countries, including: Austria, Belgium, Cote D'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Uganda and the United Kingdom. As of late 2009, Canada still has not completed a national action plan on 1325 nor are there any plans to undertake one for 1820.

Why UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 Matter to Canada

There are both pragmatic and ethical reasons why women and girls need to be involved in peacebuilding and why peacebuilding processes need to account for the particular needs and experiences of women and girls. In pragmatic terms, the failure to involve women and girls in peacebuilding processes leads to a less secure peace and lost opportunities for conflict resolution and prevention. In ethical terms, Canada has committed to ensuring respect for women's human rights and promoting gender equality and empowering women.

On the occasion of International Women's Day, 2009, Minister Helena Guergis, Minister (Status of Women), emphasized "our Government's firm belief that increasing women's participation and access to leadership roles and opportunities will help women and girls thrive, reach their full potential and fulfill their dreams." This will not be possible for women in conflict situations that do not have access to

Background

protection from sexual violence or a voice in peace negotiations.

Peacebuilding processes have been proven more effective when they address the needs and experiences of all those affected by conflict, including women and girls. Women may also be uniquely placed to engage in informal peacebuilding efforts, by virtue of their unequal social status with men. For example, in 2001 the members of the Mano Women's Peace Network visited the presidents of Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea and “were able to get them to agree first to a meeting of the three Foreign Ministers and then to a Presidential summit that was held in September 2001”.

Peace is necessary for development. Both the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development identify the importance of addressing conflict and fragile state contexts in order to ensure the most effective delivery of aid. Finally, Canada has been a leader in demonstrating the importance of addressing women and girls in development. Thus, the needs of women and girls, and their participation, are important elements in effective and sustainable peace and development.

The Government of Canada has made commitments to national and international norms which support women's human rights, including: United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the Millennium Declaration—which includes, as Millennium Development Goal 3: Gender Equality. Among other things, these documents call on the Canadian government to take a pro-active stance to further the equality of women and girls in conflict situations.

Quick Facts

Estimated number of women affected by sexual violence in recent conflict situations:

- **Sierra Leone:** 50,000 – 64,000
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina:** 20,000 – 50,000
- **Rwanda:** 250,000 – 500,000
- **Province of South Kivu, DRC:** 40 every day

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security:

- Adopted in 2000 as the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council specifically dealing with the impact of war on women and women's contributions to sustainable peace;
- Addresses the impact of war on women and their role in sustainable peace;
- Focuses on the protection of the human rights of women and girls during conflict, in particular the prevention of gender-based violence; and
- Prioritizes the equal participation of women in peace building and reconstruction.

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 on Sexual Violence in Conflict Situations:

- Adopted in 2008;
- Recognizes the systematic use of sexual violence as an weapon of conflict and that such violence is a security issue;
- Demands that parties to armed conflict adopt concrete protection and prevention measures to end sexual violence;
- Reasserts the importance of women's participation in ending sexual violence in conflict, including their role in peace talks.

Policy Recommendations:

After nearly a decade of activism on the issues facing women in conflict situations, two gaps in policy have emerged in Canada. First is a lack of knowledge about what is currently being done in terms of gender equality across all government departments involved in foreign conflicts (this includes foreign aid, military operations, development, international trade, etc.). The second missing piece is the creation of a national action plan for the implementation of resolutions 1325 and 1820.

Consequently, the two main policy recommendations currently being advocated by a number of human rights and women's organizations across Canada are:

1. **The Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade should commission a study on the status of Canadian implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.**
2. **Canada should create and implement a strong national action plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Security Council Resolution 1820 on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which would:**
 - be a 'whole of government' plan with demonstrated commitment of senior leadership;
 - include new resource commitments;
 - include a performance measurement framework with specific targets and key indicators; and
 - include clear allocation of responsibilities.

These policy recommendations and the preceding background information are important to include when writing to or speaking with government representatives. Many MPs are not specialists in the realm of gender or security; clear, detailed suggestions with background help them to make decisions and bolster the case for urgent action.



Iraqi women from the La'Onf Nonviolence Group pass out nonviolence materials to students at the College of Education for Girls in Najaf. (warresisters.org)

Ways to Get Involved

1. **Educate.** Inform yourself and your community about the situation of women in conflict-affected areas and the international agreements in place to protect and empower them. A variety of sources of information are available in the Educational Resources section of this kit. As well, the Background on pages 4 and 5 can be detached and photocopied as a quick reference guide.
2. **Speak up.** Take the policy recommendations outlined here to your MP, either in person or in a letter. You are a constituent, and as such, you are a different kind of lobbyist than any other, with advantages that a professional, national lobbyist cannot bring to bear. You are a voter directly connected to the MPs community, so s/he has a vested interest in listening to your concerns.

You can also raise the issue of violence facing women in conflict and the role of women in

Possible Actions

peacebuilding in the media through letters to the editor. A letter to the editor can allow your comments to be presented with minimal mediation or interpretation by the paper itself, though in practice, this requires you to keep the letter as concise as possible since all papers reserve the right to edit letters for brevity.

Think creatively about other realms where bringing up these issues might be appropriate: for instance, showing a film (suggestions in the Educational Resources section) to raise money for an organization assisting women in conflict may create an opportunity for discussion.

- 3. Join up.** Connect with other organizations working on the issue of women in conflict. There may be many organizations in your community already doing this work, and it can be a great advantage to collaborate and share strategies. Cooperating with other organizations also offers the opportunity to host joint events, conduct campaigns together, and exchange information.
- 4. Support.** There are many organizations working on the ground in conflict situations to improve the lives of women and support them in building peace. These groups could benefit from improved visibility as well as increased funding offered by fundraising. Consider the possibility of donating proceeds from an event to a group in your community or internationally working on these issues (see “Projects”).

Event Ideas

Here are some ideas for events that could help focus attention on the systemic use of sexual violence in conflict and the importance of women’s role peacebuilding:

- Organize a film night, showing one of the films suggested in the “Resources” section. After the film, encourage attendees to discuss the implications of what they have seen in the context of Canada’s international commitments. This could also be a fundraiser.
- Start a book club by reading women’s accounts of conflict. Consider how the implementation of international agreements like UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 would affect the narrative.
- Host a luncheon with a guest speaker who is knowledgeable on the issue. This offers the chance to catch up on the latest developments affecting women in conflict as well as the opportunity to ask questions.



Liberian women demonstrate at the American Embassy in Monrovia at the height of the civil war in July 2003.
(Pewee Flomoku)

Sample Letter

With some personalized modifications, this letter can be sent to MPs and other decision-makers. It is worth bearing in mind that generally, if an MP receives over ten different letters from the same riding on the same topic, the issue will be noticed more readily than if s/he receives a single letter with many signatures. Note that this sample letter can also be modified to work as a letter to the editor.

Tip: Not sure who your MP is? Find out online at www.parl.gc.ca where you can input your postal code to find your MP's contact information.



Women in Afghanistan discuss peace and conflict. (UNIFEM)



Women participate in workshops organized by the Great Lakes Institute on Women Building Peace and Good Neighborliness in September 2006. (radiofeminista.net)

[MP]
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0A6

Re: The Human Rights of Women and Girls in Conflict Affected Settings

Dear [MP],

I am writing to you to ask for your support for the creation a national action plan on Canadian implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and 1820 on Sexual Violence in Conflict. These two UN resolutions are key international policy tools that provide frameworks for addressing sexual violence in conflict and supporting women's role in building peace.

Currently, national actions plans for the implementation of Resolution 1325 have been developed by fourteen countries. Although the Government of Canada was a leader in the development of this resolution, as of 2009 Canada still does not have a national action plan for its implementation.

2010 will mark the tenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. I believe that the fulfillment of Canada's obligations as outlined in these resolutions represents an important step towards building effective peace and security in conflict-affected areas. The creation of a national action plan for the Canadian implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820 would also insure continued Canadian foreign policy leadership in providing effective support for peace and development.

I thank you in advance for your response on this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

[Your name]

[Your address]

Sample Petition

PETITION TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

We, the undersigned, draw the attention of the House of Commons to the following:

THAT women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements;

THAT women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence as a systemic tactic of war to humiliate, dominate, terrorize and forcibly relocate civilian communities;

THAT women play an essential role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, contingent on their access to equal participation, full involvement and decision-making roles in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security;

THAT Canada is a signatory to United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and 1820 on Sexual Violence in Conflict that address many of these issues but have never been implemented in Canada.

THEREFORE, your petitioners call upon the House of Commons to:

Create and implement a strong national action plan on Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and Security Council Resolution 1820 on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which should:

- 1. Be a “whole of government plan” with demonstrated commitment of senior leadership;**
- 2. Include new resource commitments for addressing sexual violence in conflict and promoting women’s role in peacebuilding;**
- 3. Include a performance measurement framework with specific targets and key indicators; and**
- 4. Include clear allocation of ministerial responsibilities.**

Signatures

(Sign your own name—do not print)

Addresses

(City and province)

Petition Tips:

Submitting petitions to Parliament can be a bit tricky because there are very specific rules about what can be tabled. These tips will help ensure that your petition is accepted:

- Before you get signatures, meet with your MP and ask them if they would be willing to table the petition in the House of Commons;
- Petitions have to be submitted on plain letter or legal sized paper;
- The “THEREFORE” portion of the petition has to appear on every page of signatures;
- Nothing in the text of the petition can be crossed out or altered in any way;
- Nothing can be attached to the petition, and it must not be printed on the reverse of other material;
- A minimum of 25 signatures are needed.

If in doubt, consult the guidelines for form and content available at www.parl.gc.ca



Cut and glue onto a plain 8 1/2 x 11 sheet to photocopy. Add more signature lines as needed.

FILMS

Women of Liberia: Fighting for Peace

Amnesty International, 2008
20 minutes, English (subtitled)

Liberia experienced conflict between 1989 and 1997 and again between 1999 and 2003. It is estimated that women made up over 30% of the fighting force, playing roles as commanders, spies, cooks and porters. The consequences of the violence and abuses committed against women during the conflict are devastating. Following the conflict, a disarmament, demobilization, rehabilitation and reintegration process began. The process aimed to ensure women's participation and address their special needs but in reality failed to meet the needs of a large number of women and girls.

This film looks at the experiences of a number of Liberian women who are trying to build peace in their country after the war. Their experiences of sexual and physical violence during the war inform their work, presenting many of the complex reasons why women chose to take up arms during the conflict. The film highlights the vital importance of women's participation in peacebuilding as a way of rebuilding entire communities shattered by violence.

Web address: www.amnesty.org/en/news-and-updates/video-and-audio/women-liberia-fighting-peace-20080723

Technological Help:

The film above and other online films can be watched individually on home computers with internet, or be shown to a large group with the use of a projector, computer, internet connection and screen. This set-up can often be rented from a university or community college, or even some community centres.

Pray the Devil back to Hell

Fork Films LLC, 2008
72 minutes, English



Pray the Devil Back to Hell is the extraordinary story of a small band of Liberian women who came together in the midst of a bloody civil war, took on the violent warlords and corrupt Charles Taylor regime, and won a long-awaited peace for their shattered country in 2003.

As the rebel noose tightened upon Monrovia, and peace talks faced collapse, the women of Liberia – Christian and Muslims united - formed a thin but unshakable white line between the opposing forces, and successfully demanded an end to the fighting– armed only with white T-shirts and the courage of their convictions.

In one remarkable scene, the women barricaded the site of stalled peace talks in Ghana, and announced they would not move until a deal was done. Faced with eviction, they invoked the most powerful weapon in their arsenal – threatening to remove their clothes. It worked.

The women of Liberia are living proof that moral courage and non-violent resistance can succeed, even where the best efforts of traditional diplomacy have failed.

Please note—Pray the Devil Back to Hell is currently in theatres, but is slated for home DVD release in late 2009. Check online at www.praythedevilbacktohell.com for the most up-to-date information.

Resources

Calling the Ghosts A Story about Rape, War and Women

Mandy Jacobson and Karmen Jelincic, 1996
63 minutes, English (subtitled)

An extraordinarily powerful documentary, *Calling the Ghosts* is the first-person account of two women



caught in a war where rape was as much an everyday weapon as bullets or bombs. Jadranka Cigelj and Nusreta Sivac, childhood friends and lawyers, enjoyed the lives of "ordinary modern

women" in Bosnia-Herzegovina until one day former neighbors became tormentors. Taken to the notorious Serb concentration camp of Omarska, the two women, like other Muslim and Croat women interned there, were systematically tortured and humiliated by their Serb captors.

Once released, the pair turned personal struggles for survival into a larger fight for justice—aiding other women similarly brutalized and successfully lobbying to have rape included in the international lexicon of war crimes by the UN Tribunal at the Hague. Chronicling the two women's experience and their remarkable transformation, *Calling the Ghosts* is an indispensable resource for deepening understanding of women's experiences of conflict and their role in peacebuilding.

Emmy award winner for Best Documentary and Best Directing.

God Sleeps in Rwanda

Kimberlee Acquaro and Stacy Sherman, 2004
28 minutes, Kinyarwanda (subtitled)

Uncovering amazing stories of hope in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide, *God Sleeps in Rwanda* captures the spirit of five courageous women as they rebuild their lives, redefine women's roles in Rwandan society

and bring hope to a wounded nation.

Working with two cameras and no crew except for their translator—a genocide survivor herself—the filmmakers uncover incredible stories: an HIV-positive policewoman raising four children alone and attending night school to become a lawyer, a teenager who has become head of household for her four siblings, and a young woman orphaned in her teens who is now the



top development official in her area. Heart-wrenching and inspiring, this powerful film is a brutal reminder of the consequences of the Rwandan tragedy, and a tribute to the strength and spirit of those who are moving forth.

Emmy Winner for Best Documentary and Academy Award Nominee for Best Documentary Short.

The Greatest Silence: Rape in the Congo

Lisa F. Jackson, 2007
76 minutes, French, Swahili, Lingala, Mashi (subtitled)

Winner of the Sundance Special Jury Prize in Documentary and the inspiration for a 2008 U.N.

Resources

Resolution classifying rape as a weapon of war, this extraordinary film, shot in the war zones of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), shatters the silence that surrounds the use of sexual violence as a weapon of conflict. Many tens of thousands of women and girls have been systematically kidnapped, raped, mutilated and tortured by soldiers from both foreign militias and the Congolese army. A survivor of gang rape herself, Emmy Award®-winning filmmaker Lisa F. Jackson travels through the DRC to understand what is happening and why.

Turning Pain to Power

V-Day, 2009
6 minutes, English



Interview with V-Day Campaign founder and playwright Eve Ensler and Dr. Denis Mukwege, founder of Panzi Hospital at Howard University. Panzi Hospital in Bukavu is the only medical centre in the Democratic Republic of the Congo that treats women and girls who have

been physically and emotionally ravaged by rape during the 12-year long civil war.

Available for viewing online at www.vday.org/video/tour09/howard

REPORTS

Shattered Lives: Sexual Violence during the Rwandan Genocide and its Aftermath

Human Rights Watch Africa, Human Rights Watch Women's Rights Project, September 1996
Available online at www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/1996/Rwanda.htm

Provides background and recommendations on the issue of documenting gender-based crimes, the international and legal protection against gender based

crimes, problems facing Rwandan women, and the national and international response.

Kosovo: Rape As a Weapon of "Ethnic Cleansing"

Human Rights Watch, 2000.
Available online at www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/2000/fry/index.htm

An investigation of sexual abuse in Kosovo during the NATO bombing, from 1998 to 1999.

"The War within the War" Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls In Eastern Congo

Human Rights Watch Report, June 2002.
Available online at www.hrw.org/legacy/reports/2002/drc/Congo0602.pdf

Examines sexual violence as a weapon of war, its aftermath and the response from the international community.

"Well Kill You if Cry" - Sexual Violence in the Sierra Leone Conflict

Human Rights Watch, January 2003.
Available online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2003/01/15/well-kill-you-if-you-cry>

Provides background on the conflict in Sierra Leone, and examines sexual violence against women and girls during the conflict, its effects, legal protections, and international response.

If not now, when? Addressing gender-based violence in refugee, internally displaced, and post-conflict settings

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, April 2002
Available online at www.reliefweb.int/rw/rwb.nsf/AllDocsByUNID/40b847015485b34749256bfe0006e603

Explores the needs of women and girls experiencing gender-based violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

Resources

Sexual Violence Against Women and Girls in War and Its Aftermath: Realities, Responses, and Required Resources: A Briefing Paper

Prepared for Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, 21-23 June 2006 Brussels (Belgium)
By Jeanne Ward and Mendy Marsh, UNFPA

Available online at: <http://www.unfpa.org/emergencies/symposium06/docs/finalbrusselsbriefingpaper.pdf>

An accessible paper that lays out the nature and scope of sexual violence against women and girls in war and during reconstruction. It also gives a history of policy interventions to stop sexual violence in conflict-affected areas and an assessment of progress to date.

Our Bodies - Their Battle Ground: Gender-based Violence in Conflict Zones

IRIN, September 2004

Available online at <http://www.irinnews.org/pdf/in-depth/GBV-IRIN-In-Depth.pdf>

This report details women's experiences of sexual violence in conflict, with an emphasis on understanding humanitarian responses to rape in conflict.

Beyond Victimhood: Women's Peacebuilding in Sudan, Congo and Uganda

International Crisis Group, 2006

Available online at www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=4185

This report looks at how women in Sudan, Congo and Uganda have worked to build peace in their conflict-ridden countries. It argues that women involved in peacebuilding should be safeguarded and strengthened with funding, training and inclusion in assessment missions and other decision-making mechanisms that shape fundamental questions of security.

Briefing Sheet – Women's Essential Role in Peacebuilding

UNIFEM, 2005

A brief overview of women's role in peacebuilding and the importance of UN resolution 1325. Also provides a rundown of UNIFEM's peacebuilding projects with women around the world.



Women and Peacebuilding

Jennifer F. Klot, Social Science Research Council, 2007

Available online at www.un.org/spanish/peace/peacebuilding/WorkingGrouponLessonsLearned/WGLLbackgroundpaper29.01.08.pdf

This paper explores the early experiences and potential of the Peacebuilding Commission (created by the UN after the adoption of Resolution 1325) in integrating a gender perspective into its work. Provides analysis of the successes and failures of the UN in implementing 1325 to date.

Women, Peace and Security: The Canadian NGO Experience

Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, 2007

Available online at <http://www.peacebuild.ca/documents/Fina-NGO-Report-EN.pdf>

Resources

This report is an overview of the current initiatives by Canadian NGOs to advance the women, peace and security agenda, including the full and equal participation of women as a requisite condition for stable peace. It is based on a survey of Canadian NGOs about their programming in conflict-affected areas.

Canadian Perspectives on Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group, 2004
Available online at <http://www.peacebuild.ca/documents/cdnpers1325.pdf>

This report offers a variety of perspectives on the opportunities and challenges for the implantation of UN Resolution 1325 in Canada from leading NGOs, researchers and policymakers.

ORGANIZATIONS

PeaceWomen

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom is the oldest and largest women's peace organization in the world. The PeaceWomen Project uses its website to highlight the most recent information and news on resolutions 1325 and 1820 as well as tracking in-country initiatives. Under resources the site links to an extensive bibliography of reports and articles. PeaceWomen also puts out a 1325 PeaceWomen E-Newsletter with a news roundup on women, peace and security. To subscribe, email: 1325news@peacewomen.org

Contact:

Web: www.peacewomen.org
Email: info@peacewomen.org

United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict unites the work of 12 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual

violence in conflict. It is a concerted effort by the UN system to improve coordination and accountability, amplify programming and advocacy, and support national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. Its website contains a plethora of resources for advocating on the issue of sexual violence as a weapon of war and supporting women in peacebuilding.

Contact:

Web: www.stoprapenow.org

Femmes Africa Solidarité

Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) is an international NGO that was founded in 1996 to empower African women to assume a leadership role in peace building. It also works to promote sustainable development and gender mainstreaming into policies and programs relating to peace, security and development. One of their activities includes monitoring and evaluation of activities relating to gender mainstreaming in decision making and in the promotion and protection of women's human rights according to the Beijing Platform of Action and Resolution 1325.

Contact:

Web: www.fasngo.org
Email: info@fasngo.org

Women, War and Peace: UNIFEM

Women, War and Peace is a UNIFEM project to track progress on the implementation of resolution 1325 and to provide information to encourage researchers, policy makers, analysts and NGOs to make gender central to security analysis. Through this portal, UNIFEM strives to provide access to the information and analysis that is currently available on the impact of armed conflict on women and women's role in peacebuilding. Includes a "1325 Toolkit" with extensive information and annotation on the resolution.

Contact:

Web: www.womenwarpeace.org

United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (UN-INSTRAW)

UN-INSTRAW's Gender, Peace and Security Program's goal is to promote gender equality and women's full and equal participation in the realms of peacekeeping, peace processes, post-conflict reconstruction and the reform of security institutions. Website includes tools on gender training and security sector reform that provide policymakers and practitioners with a practical introduction to why gender issues are important in security and what can be done to integrate them.

Contact:

Web: www.un-instraw.org

International Women's Tribune Center

The International Women's Tribune Centre (IWTC) provides communication, information, education, and organizing support services to women's organizations and community groups working to improve the lives of women, particularly low-income women, in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Western Asia. IWTC has produced a number of innovative popular educational tools about UNSCR 1325 and 1820.

Contact:

Web: www.iwtc.org

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGO Working Group) was formed in May 2000 to advocate for a UN Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security. This was achieved collaboratively with the unanimous adoption of SCR 1325 on 31 October 2000. The NGO Working Group advocates for and monitors the participation of women, prevention of conflict and protection of all

civilians, to ensure full and rapid implementation of SCR 1325's promises.

Contact:

Web: www.womenpeacesecurity.org

Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group

The Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group (GPWG) aims to translate the general international commitments that have been made on gender equality and peacebuilding into concrete actions and to promote the active participation of girls and women in peacebuilding. The GPWG is designed to strengthen collaboration among Canadian organizations, activists, and academics by providing a forum for the exchange of resources, facilitating dialogue between and among civil society and government, and contributing to the direction of programming and policy.

Contact:

Tel: (613) 241-3446

Fax: (613) 241-4846

Web: www.peacebuild.ca

E-mail: gender@peacebuild.ca

CARE Canada

CARE is Canada's global force dedicated to defending dignity and fighting poverty by empowering the world's most vulnerable and greatest resource for change: women and girls. CARE Canada's mission is to serve individuals and families in the poorest communities for the world. Guided by the aspirations of local communities, CARE pursues this mission with both excellence and compassion because the people deserve nothing less. Founded in 1946 to distribute "CARE packages" of relief to a war-torn Europe, CARE is now reaching out to over 50 million people in almost 70 countries around the world every year.

Contact:

Sarah Wilson

Tel: (613) 228-5689

Fax: (613) 226-5777

Web: www.care.ca

E-mail: sarah.wilson@care.ca

Resources

Canadian Federation of University Women

The CFUW is a voluntary, non-profit, self-funded organization of close to 10,000 graduate women and students in 113 Clubs in Canada who work for equality for women and girls. CFUW's programs are designed to improve access to education for women and girls around the world, as well as to advocate for peace, justice and human rights. CFUW serves on the Sectoral Committee on Education of the Canadian Sub-Commission to UNESCO and is the largest affiliate of the International Federation of University Women.

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Hasrun Idrisi was a victim of gender-based violence in Nepal—burned alive because of a dowry dispute. With CARE she has gained the power to rebuild her life, start a small business, and seek justice.



PROJECTS

The Congolese Women's Campaign Against Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Congolese Women's Campaign Against Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is a grassroots initiative launched by women's associations in Eastern DRC to bolster the fight against sexual violence. You can go online to sign their petition to support their work to end sexual violence in the DRC.

www.drcsexualviolence.org



The Campaign aims to ensure that the assistance mobilized goes directly to the victims of sexual violence, and to bring recognition to the crucial role played by local women's associations that provide assistance to victims.

SAHABHAGITA: CARE Canada's Gender and Peacebuilding Project in Nepal

CARE Canada is working in Nepal, one of the world's most impoverished nations, to help some of the poorest and most vulnerable women in the region stand up for their rights and have a voice in community decisions. Peacebuilding community groups are created as a forum for women to gain awareness of their rights and to develop the confidence to speak out against practices that are harmful to women. This project also focuses on helping women enter decision-making roles, where they can effect positive change for women, particularly in the peacebuilding process.

You can help these women build a better world by making a donation to this project today. Every dollar you donate to this project will be **matched three to one** by the Canadian Government.

To support this project, or to learn more, please contact Sarah Wilson at 613-228-5689 or sarah.wilson@care.ca, or mail a cheque made payable to CARE Canada, 200-9 Gurdwara Road, Ottawa, ON K2E 7X6 to the attention of Sarah Wilson.

For more information or to read CARE stories, visit CARE.ca.