



STOP RAPE NOW

U.N. ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



“In no other area is our collective failure to ensure effective protection for civilians more apparent...than in terms of the masses of women and girls whose lives are destroyed each year by sexual violence perpetrated in conflict.”

**-United Nations
Secretary-General,
Ban Ki-Moon, 2007.**



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Why was UN Action established?

- **Sexual violence is often used as a tactic of war that specifically targets women and girls, exacerbating conflict and impeding the restoration of peace.**
- **Poor coordination has undercut an effective response – the UN can achieve greater impact if it harmonises its approach.**
- **Sexual violence has not been on the radar of security institutions, being steeped in a sense of inevitability, silence and shame.**



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Goal: To amplify and better coordinate the work of the UN system in addressing sexual violence in conflict.

Approach: To harmonise efforts of 12 UN system entities: DPA, DPKO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIFEM, WFP and WHO.

- Aligning behind national efforts;
- Deepening partnerships with NGOs;
- Building on existing efforts – especially the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), which coordinates humanitarian assistance.



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Six Guiding Principles:

- Rape is not an inevitable consequence of conflict. It must be prevented.
- Gender-based violence, including sexual violence, is a violation of human rights.
- Attempts to end sexual violence must address gender-based inequalities by empowering women, and protecting and promoting their human rights.
- Constructive involvement of men and boys is vital.
- Women must guide advocacy and programming efforts to end sexual violence and secure peace.
- Sexual violence in conflict is one of history's great silences. We all have a duty to act.

"It is now more dangerous to be a woman than to be a soldier in modern conflict."

- Maj. Gen. Patrick Cammaert, 2008, ex-Force Commander for Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.





UN Action is a “critical joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilization, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”.

- Secretary-General’s Policy Committee, June 2007.



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3 Pillars of Action:

- **Country Level Action:** Support joint programming by UN Country Teams and Peace Support Operations. Build operational and technical capacity.
- **Advocating for Action:** Raise public awareness and generate political will to end sexual violence as part of a broader campaign to *Stop Rape Now*.
- **Learning by Doing:** Create a knowledge hub on sexual violence in conflict.



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Achievements: COUNTRY-LEVEL ACTION

- ✓ **Strategic assistance to UN Country Team in Sudan/ Darfur.**
- ✓ **Senior Adviser to coordinate MONUC's response to sexual violence in DRC.**
- ✓ **Senior Sexual Violence Programme Manager in Liberia.**
- ✓ **Support for V-Day campaign condemning systematic use of rape in DRC.**
- ✓ **Strategic support planned for Chad.**
- ✓ **Support for training of GENCAP (Gender Stand-by Capacity) Advisers.**
- ✓ **Developing a comprehensive capacity-building strategy, including the design of standard job profiles for Senior Sexual Violence Advisers.**
- ✓ **Strategic Support provided to UNCTs and Peace Support Operations with a protection of civilians mandate. Support bridges humanitarian, security and development actors.**



Achievements: ADVOCATING FOR ACTION

- ✓ High-profile launch event, March 2007.
- ✓ Disseminated material to publicise the impact of rape as a tactic of war.
- ✓ “StopRapeNow.org” website launched.
- ✓ Concerted advocacy with the Security Council to ensure that sexual violence is addressed as a peace and security priority (SCR1820).
- ✓ Wilton Park conference to review the role of uniformed peacekeepers in preventing and responding to sexual violence.
- ✓ Developed advocacy resources on SCR 1820.
- ✓ Proactive engagement with the Human Rights Council, General Assembly and Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU).



“Rape is too often seen as ‘collateral damage’ of conflicts...We are missing the point: rape is a crime and must be stopped”.

**- Assistant Secretary-General,
Kathleen Cravero, 2008.**



Achievements: KNOWLEDGE GENERATION

- ✓ Mapping of UN system responses to sexual violence in the DRC, Liberia, Uganda, Haiti and Sudan/Darfur. Colombia and Nepal pending.
- ✓ Summarised and disseminated *Ethical and Safety Recommendations for Researching, Documenting and Monitoring Sexual Violence in Emergencies*.
- ✓ Developed and disseminated a tip-sheet on the “*Dos and Don’ts*” of reporting and interpreting data on sexual violence.
- ✓ Undertook expert review of the jurisprudence of international criminal courts and tribunals on sexual violence, guided by OHCHR.
- ✓ Compiling good practices in women’s protection.
- ✓ Convened WHO-led meeting to improve data and data collection methodologies.





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Future Challenges and Priorities:

- **Enhance UN response to Security Council Resolutions 1820, 1325, 1612,1674 – broadening constituency for addressing sexual violence against civilians; supporting preparation of global report on 1820 implementation.**
- **Strengthen efforts to integrate women’s needs, including responses to sexual violence, into early recovery processes including post-conflict justice and security sector reform.**
- **Identify incentives to drive a coordinated UN response to sexual violence at country level.**
- **Develop and roll-out pre-deployment training on women, peace and security for peacekeepers, informed by an analysis of practice to date.**
- **Improve the quality of data/ evidence on the extent and intent of war-related sexual violence.**
- **Strengthen mapping of UN system-wide responses to identify gaps/ concentrations of activity and ensure greater accountability by individual UN entities.**
- **Build partnerships with politicians, activists, NGOs and parliamentarians.**
- **Foster greater ownership of UN Action’s aims within participating entities.**



**Making a real difference to
the lives of women and girls
during and after conflict –
ensuring protection,
services, reparation, justice!**

www.stoprapenow.org

No security without women's security!

