



# Sexual violence in conflict:

From expected and accepted  
to a war crime and a security  
issue



# WHY DO WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT IT?



**The secrecy is poisonous.**

**We must create an environment where victims of sexualised violence can speak more freely about their trauma – otherwise, it can never heal.**

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# IT TAKES TIME



The effects of sexual violence echo across generations, through trauma, stigma, poverty, poor health and unwanted pregnancy.

The children whose existence emanates from that violence have been labelled “bad blood” or “children of the enemy”.

# WHY DOES IT HAPPEN AT ALL?



## **Particularly dominant explanation, especially in policy:**

Rape is used to “tear apart lives and achieve military objectives...in just the same way that tanks and bullets are” (William Hague, 2013)

It has to be understood that this is a security problem, not just men behaving like men. It’s not an inevitable consequence of war – it’s something that is planned.[...] We need to say that we can stop it. It’s not inevitable. (Margot Wallstrom, 2010)



” Sexual violence is a brutal form of physical and psychological warfare rooted in the gender inequality”

(Antonio Guterres, 2017)



## Why is it effective? The *gendered* 'strategic effect' of sexual violence as a weapon of war:

- It degrades women who are often associated with the nation – thereby destroying marriages and communities
- Impregnation as a strategy of ethnic cleansing
- Also an attack against enemy men/degradation of men (failed in the role as men/protectors)
- In wartime usually macho heterosexual masculinity is celebrated, and as such is the male soldiers' libido understood as a formidable natural force.



# **Short history of how it became a war crime**

# GENEVA CONVENTION



**In article 27 of The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949):**

**”Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault.”**

**And in its additional protocol 1, article 76 it is a similar definition, referring to women as ”the object of special respect”.**

# THINGS START TO HAPPEN!



- In **1992**, the UN Security Council adopted of the Statute of the International Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (**ICTY**, 1993) which included rape as a crime against humanity, when committed in armed conflict and directed against a civilian population. In 2001, the ICTY became the first international court to find an accused person guilty of rape as a crime against humanity.
- In **1998**, the **ICTR** (International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda) became the first international court to find an accused person guilty of rape as a crime of genocide (used to perpetrate genocide)
- In **2002** the Rome Statute of the **International Criminal Court** came into force which includes rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or "any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" as a crime against humanity when it is committed in a widespread or systematic way.

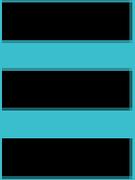
# WPS AGENDA AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



[UNSCR 1325 \(2000\)](#) called on Member States to increase the participation of women in the "prevention and resolution of conflicts" and in the "maintenance and promotion of peace and security."

[UNSCR 1820 \(2008\)](#) called for an end to the use of acts of sexual violence against women and girls as a tactic of war and an end to impunity of the perpetrators.

[UNSCR 1888 \(2009\)](#) detailed measures to further protect women and children from sexual violence in conflict situations and established the position special representative on sexual violence in conflict to lead and coordinate the UN's work on the issue. The special representative was also responsible for a yearly reporting on the issue to the Security Council.



[UNSCR 1960 \(2010\)](#) asked the Secretary-General to list those parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of sexual violence in situations on the Council's agenda. It also called for the establishment of monitoring, analysis, and reporting arrangements specific to conflict-related sexual violence.  
“Name and shame” resolution

[UNSCR 2106 \(2013\)](#) aimed to strengthen the monitoring and prevention of sexual violence in conflict. Asked UN SG to come with annual reports on the implementation of 1820, 1888 and 1960 including recommended strategic actions.



Since April 2017, Pramila Patten of Mauritius.

The three priorities of the Office are:

- converting cultures of impunity into cultures of prevention and deterrence including through justice and accountability;
- addressing structural gender-based inequality as the root cause and invisible driver of sexual violence in times of war and peace;
- fostering national ownership, leadership for a sustainable, holistic survivor-centered response.

# NAME AND SHAME UNSCR1960



There is now a list of parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict on the agenda of the Security Council in the annual report.



The term refers to:

Rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is directly or indirectly linked to a conflict.

The term also encompasses trafficking in persons when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence or exploitation.

# CONT. OF THE DEFINITION



That link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator, who is often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, which includes terrorist entities, the profile of the victim, who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a political, ethnic or religious minority group or targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity, the climate of impunity, which is generally associated with State collapse, cross-border consequences such as displacement or trafficking, and/or violations of a ceasefire agreement.



UN Action is an internal body within the UN system that unites the work of 14 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict.

**<http://www.stoprapenow.org/>**



***“Wartime rape need not be ordered to occur on a massive scale. Wartime rape is often not an intentional strategy of war: it is more frequently tolerated than ordered”.***

Wood, Cohen and Hoover-Green (“Wartime Sexual, Violence: Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward”, 2012, United States Institute of Peace)



# Our man in New York





- **Sexual violence in conflict connected to terrorism and trafficking in human beings**
- **Men and boys as victims**

# IT IS A SECURITY ISSUE



“Rape and sexual violence in conflict are tactics of terrorism and war, used strategically to humiliate, degrade and destroy, and often to pursue a campaign of ethnic cleansing. They should never be downplayed as war’s inevitable by-product. sexual violence is a threat to every individual’s right to a life of dignity, and to humanity’s collective peace and security.”

- United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres

# 5 GROUPS ON DIFFERENT THEMES



**Group 1&2**

**Prevention**

**Group 3**

**Response and Protection**

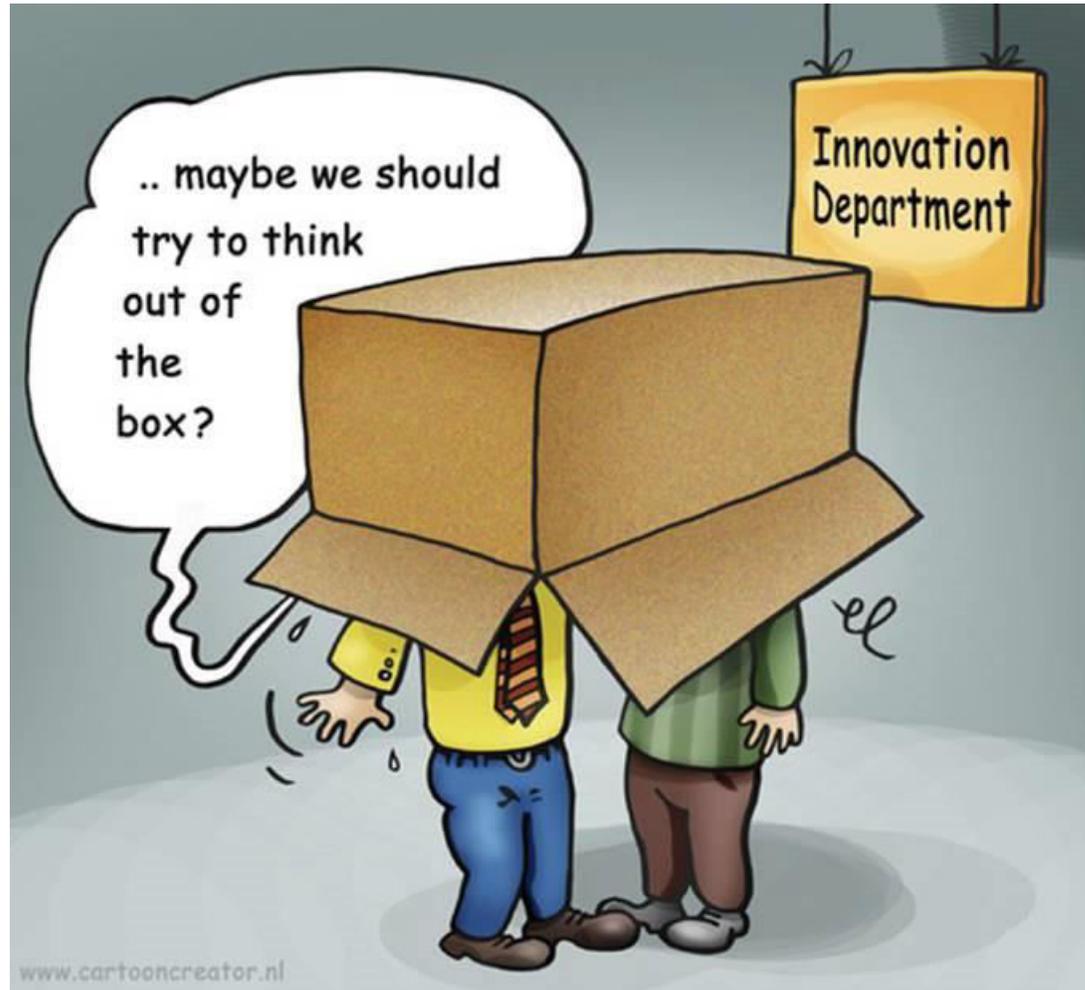
**Group 4:**

**Justice**

**Group 5:**

**What about us?**

# GROUP WORK





**cnw**

**BREAKING NEWS!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**



**SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT  
– WE HAVE ALL THE ANSWERS!!!!!!**



**”Sexual violence in conflict is not sexual, it is not cultural- it is criminal”**