



STOP RAPE NOW
UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT



**14 AGENCIES COMMITTED TO ENDING
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**



Under-Secretary-General

**PRAMILA
PATTEN**

Special Representative on
Sexual Violence in Conflict

Over the past twelve years, United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) has been uniting efforts across the UN system with the goal of ending sexual violence during and in the wake of armed conflict. Launched in March 2007, the network currently embraces 14 UN system entities, namely: DPPA, DPO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNODC, UN Women, WHO, ODA and IOM. UN Action also works closely with the Office of the SRSG on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG-CAAC) and is housed in the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC). Its work is supported by a coordinating Secretariat based in my office, in my capacity as Chair of the network.

UN Action was created in direct response to the “Calls to Action” of the June 2006 Symposium on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Beyond, held in Brussels. In June 2007, the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee endorsed UN Action as “a critical joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge-building, resource mobilization, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict”.

The story of UN Action is a story of how gross violations of human rights and international law sparked a movement that, for 12 years, has been contributing to prevention and affecting positive normative and real-life change for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It is a success story, demonstrating how the conviction and commitment of individuals across the United Nations can galvanize a network for joint action with one goal: To focus the attention of the international community on sexual violence in conflict, to enhance and coordinate a response by the United Nations, to bring services and justice to survivors, to ensure accountability for perpetrators, and ultimately, to end this heinous crime.

The first success of the network was to rally support through the innovative Stop-Rape-Now campaign. Activists, survivors, influencers, and people from around the world joined the call to “Get Cross” and put an end to sexual violence in conflict. The network spearheaded a global advocacy campaign that led to the adoption of Security Council resolutions 1820, which recognized that conflict-related sexual violence

was a serious impediment to international peace and security. Another advocacy success was the adoption of Security Council resolution 1888, creating a mandate on sexual violence in conflict, and with it, a Special Representative to provide strategic leadership and strengthen coordination, Women’s Protection Advisers to support prevention and response activities in conflict settings, and a Team of Experts who build the capacity of national institutions to improve the rule of law and promote accountability for sexual violence in conflict. To support the work of UN staff on the front lines, UN Action has developed key guidance documents such as the Early Warning Indicators, Guidance for mediators on the integration of CRSV concerns in peace processes and many others. It has been critical for the success of the network that all its members take ownership and leadership of certain focus areas. For example, UN Women and OHCHR developed guidance on reparations for CRSV survivors. DPO and DPPA developed training for civilian and uniformed personnel in Peace Operations on how to respond to conflict related sexual violence.

In conflict-affected countries, UN Action initiatives have provided protection to survivors of sexual violence, their children, and vulnerable refugee and IDP populations. Partnerships with Member States and the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Multi-Partner Trust Fund have been instrumental in providing catalytic funding to numerous UN efforts to end CRSV. The success of the United Nations in addressing conflict-related sexual violence depends on the continued joint effort by every UN Action member organization and donors contributing to the Trust Fund. To this end, all members reiterate their commitment to preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence within the focus of their respective mandates and in “in the spirit of delivering as one”. On the arduous path towards the eradication of conflict-related sexual violence, together we will make the largest strides.

Ms. Pramila Patten
Under Secretary General and
Special Representative of the Secretary General
Chair of UN Action Against
Sexual Violence in Conflict



Under
Secretary-General

**JEAN-PIERRE
LACROIX**

Department of
Peace Operations

In this past decade, more countries have experienced violent conflict than at any time in nearly 30 years. Civilians, particularly women and girls, are being subjected to one of the most brutal forms of hostilities–conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV)¹. Taking this tragic trend into account, the Department of Peace Operations (DPO) is fully mobilized to contribute to ending CRSV, acknowledging that this requires, like all protection issues, a comprehensive response from military, police and civilian actors.

Our five largest peacekeeping operations² have a Security Council mandate to address CRSV. In each of those operations, we have deployed dedicated advisers³ to support prevention and response to CRSV. Women's Protection Advisers work with the military, for example, in CRSV hotspot mapping, which informs planning of patrols by the Force; they support the police to investigate CRSV, including through the UN Police's mentoring role to national police forces and; they work with civilian components to ensure that CRSV is mainstreamed across peacekeeping operations.

- These five peacekeeping operations have established monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements (MARA)⁴, which produce data used to promote and advocate for timely action to prevent and respond to CRSV. Recently, using MARA data relating to attacks on children in Kavumu, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), MONUSCO started conducting patrols around the areas where the incidents took place, preventing further cases of violence in the area.
- These missions have also incorporated early warning indicators of CRSV into their broader protection strategies. In South Sudan, due to the presence of armed youths and following reports of attacks against civilians on the Bentiu-Guit and Bentiu-Nhialdiu roads, UNMISS has been conducting patrols around areas where women gather firewood, and cleared foliage along roads and footpaths, making it difficult for attackers to conceal their presence.

- In 2014, through voluntary funding, DPO⁵ established a CRSV backstopping team in HQ that works closely with OSRSG-SVC and UN Action⁶ member entities. The excellent collaboration on this agenda has steered policy and guidance to our missions. We are about to finalize the first policy and handbook on CRSV⁷, which will improve training, prevention and response efforts in missions.
- Nine peacekeeping operations⁸ have gender advisors who address sexual and gender-based violence more broadly and work to increase women's meaningful political participation, which is critical to eliminating CRSV⁹.
- Peacekeeping operations promote, support and facilitate criminal accountability for CRSV, the protection of victims and witnesses, and the enactment of laws and policies to prevent and address CRSV. MONUSCO has facilitated the investigation and prosecution of serious violations, including CRSV, resulting in life-imprisonment sentences for members of the national armed forces and other armed groups. DPO is part of the TOE¹⁰ that also supports national authorities to address impunity.

Despite all this good work, preventing and responding to CRSV remains challenging in the theaters where peacekeeping operations are present. These challenges include ongoing insecurity and denials of access by authorities that affects our ability to monitor and verify incidents of sexual violence by militias and elements of security forces; impunity of perpetrators; and limited availability of services for victims/survivors. DPO is fully committed to continuing to work with OSRSG-SVC, UN Action and other relevant actors, both in the field and in HQ, toward comprehensive prevention and response measures to end CRSV.

Jean-Pierre Lacroix
Under-Secretary-General for Peace Operations

¹ See latest Annual Report of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict for the latest definition of CRSV.

² MINUSCA in the Central African Republic, MINUSMA in Mali, MONUSCO in the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNAMID in Sudan, and UNMISS in South Sudan.

³ See United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009) on the establishment of Women's Protection Advisers.

⁴ See United Nations Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010).

⁵ Then the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

⁶ Visit <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/about-us/un-action/> for more information on UN Action.

⁷ The CRSV Policy and Handbook are being developed by DPO in collaboration with the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and OSRSG-SVC.

⁸ MINUSMA, MINUSCA, MONUSCO, UNAMID, UNIFICYP in Cyprus, UNIFIL in Lebanon, UNMIK in Kosovo, UNMISS, and UNISFA in Abyei, South Sudan.

⁹ See United Nations Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) and 1888 (2009).

¹⁰ See United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2008). The Team of Experts on Rule of Law on Sexual Violence in Conflict (TOE) has been supporting national legal and judicial officials and other personnel in relevant governments' civilian and military justice systems to address impunity, including by the strengthening of national capacity, and drawing attention to the full range of justice mechanisms, amongst other interventions. With the TOE's support, for example, the High Military Court in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, upheld the life sentence of Frederic Batumike, a local parliamentarian and militia leader who had been found guilty of crimes against humanity for the rape of 39 children in Kavumu between 2013 and 2016, and the trial against Ntabo Ntaberi Sheka for the alleged mass rape of 387 people in Walikale in 2010 has begun in Goma.



Under
Secretary-General

**ROSEMARY A.
DICARLO**

Department of Political
and Peacebuilding Affairs

For much of human history, conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) has been treated as an inevitable consequence of war, as a spoil for victors, as a crime against a woman's father and a stain on the family's honor.

It is only in the last 20 years, that the Security Council has acknowledged the widespread occurrence of sexual violence in conflict, and in the past decade the Council has specifically recognized it as a tactic of war and terror requiring our dedicated attention and resources.

Since the establishment of the UN's mandate on sexual violence in conflict, the Department of Political Affairs now the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) – has been committed to playing its part in efforts to end CRSV.

This has been based on the Department's recognition that CRSV prevention, deterrence and response is fundamentally a political issue.

The gravity of rape in war goes to the heart of DPPA's conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work. Each act of sexual violence represents a grave human rights violation with potentially intergenerational consequences for survivors, families and communities. It risks triggering acts of retaliation, vengeance and renewed violence.

For this reason, we have prioritized CRSV prevention and response in the Department's new Women, Peace and Security policy. We want to ensure that CRSV considerations are integrated throughout all stages of our work: from raising red flags on early warning signs, such as escalating violent and misogynist rhetoric, to mainstreaming risks throughout our gender-sensitive conflict analysis; from using our good offices to advocate with political and military leaders to prohibit sexual violence acts, to safeguarding against efforts to grant amnesty for violations in ceasefire and peace agreements; and from strengthening deterrence by supporting

transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, to ensuring our peacebuilding efforts engage and reach survivors and their families.

To support this work, we have deployed dedicated expertise to some of our special political missions, for example in Iraq and Somalia. These officers are engaging survivor and advocate groups, monitoring and verifying acts of sexual violence, analyzing trends, advising leadership on prevention and response, and ensuring CRSV considerations are fully integrated into mission planning, analysis, and operational activities. The upcoming deployment of a Senior Women Protection Adviser to Myanmar is a welcome next step in these efforts, marking the first time that dedicated expertise will be sent to a non-mission setting¹.

DPPA's partnership with UN Action has been transformative in advancing this agenda. Together, we have provided dedicated training on CRSV to over 300 DPPA officers as part of our gender training programme. We have jointly developed and published in seven languages Guidance for Mediators on Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements, which sets out key principles and strategies to operationalize the CRSV mandate in peacemaking. DPPA has used UN Action catalytic funds to deploy Women Protection Advisers in situations requiring urgent action.

DPPA has benefited from UN Action's crucial role in providing a consultative forum to share priorities, coordinate activities and build consensus among entities on how to harmonize and strengthen the implementation of the CRSV mandate across the UN System. I look forward to our partnership continuing over the next 10 years to bring an end to conflict-related sexual violence.

Rosemary A. DiCarlo
Under-Secretary-General for Political and
Peacebuilding Affairs

¹UNSCR 2467 (2019)



For the past decade, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), which I now lead, has engaged closely with UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict as a critical part of our commitment to the protection of civilians (PoC).

Drawing on inputs from crises across the globe, OCHA provides fact-based analysis for the Secretary-General's annual reports on Women, Peace and Security and systematically reports on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence in its regular briefings to the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict, which makes important recommendations, including on UN mission mandate renewals.

When I began my career in aid work 35 years ago, gender-based violence in humanitarian crises was rarely discussed. That is no longer the case. In May, more than 100 member states joined survivors, civil society, and national and international organisations at the first donor conference on 'Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises' in Oslo, which was co-hosted by OCHA, UNFPA, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the Governments of Norway, Somalia, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates. Member states pledged US\$363 million to prevent and respond to gender-based violence, including sexual violence, in 2019 and beyond.

Yet the success of the conference was a testament to how far we need to go to prevent and address gender-based violence, which is too often a regular feature of conflict today. Like all of the Secretary-General's leadership team who travel extensively to conflict settings, I have

listened to survivors' stories across the globe and heard their stories of hope. We need to continue listening to survivors, greatly strengthen our prevention efforts, especially by changing attitudes and behaviors, and hold perpetrators, who are overwhelmingly men, to account.

OCHA is supporting the UN system to do just that. We continue to provide policy recommendations related to the condemnation of sexual violence – and all forms of gender-based violence – and to the need for parties involved in conflict to prohibit sexual violence through clear command orders in the military ranks. OCHA has also recommended that the PoC Expert Group on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence establish time-bound and specific commitments from Member States or their full implementation of relevant Action Plans, accountability measures and action to ensure survivors are able to access and receive relevant services.

OCHA is also fully committed to strengthening our efforts to prioritise gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including advancing commitments to women's meaningful participation, leadership and decision-making in humanitarian planning and response, and to increasing resources to local women's organisations.

OCHA stands with the entire humanitarian community to do all that we can to end sexual violence and all forms of gender-based violence in conflict.

Mark Lowcock
Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and
Emergency Relief Coordinator

Under-Secretary-General

**MARK
LOWCOCK**

Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency
Relief Coordinator



Director General

**ANTÓNIO
VITORINO**

International Organization
for Migration

With 173 Member States, over 480 offices around the world and 96 per cent of staff based in the field, the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) footprint reflects the unprecedented and growing scale of human mobility. In September 2018, IOM launched its Institutional Framework for addressing Gender-Based Violence in Crises. For an Organization with such a vast operational footprint, this is an important step forward in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), including conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and its root causes in all of the Organization's emergency response operations, as well as transition and recovery programming.

Since joining the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network (UN Action) in 2018, IOM has made significant contributions to address CRSV, ensure survivor's needs are met, enhance accountability, and advance reparations for CRSV survivors, which has been a neglected aspect of CRSV response at both policy and field levels.

Through community-based strategic interventions that aim to increase protection for women and girls, IOM has built local capacity, and promoted national ownership and leadership to safeguard the rights and recovery of survivors. These interventions centred on increasing the safety and dignity of CRSV survivors and persons at risk, by providing access to quality and lifesaving specialized care. In tandem, IOM has fostered a longer-term approach by focusing on resilience of persons at risk, identification of capacities and resources to self-protect, and ensuring the deep-rooted social, economic, and cultural gradual shifts required to reduce and eventually move towards prevention of CRSV. In this way, IOM adopts an integrated approach that ensures the full spectrum of causes, contributing factors and impacts of GBV, including CRSV, are addressed.

IOM has also made efforts to increase knowledge and understanding about rights to remedy and reparations among survivors, their representatives, civil society organizations, and national authorities. IOM has advocated for and provided technical assistance to develop reparations policies and enhance the capacity of governments to develop and implement immediate assistance programmes as well as comprehensive reparations frameworks and mechanisms for CRSV survivors. IOM takes a survivor-centred approach in order to ensure safe and accessible procedures, and efficient and sustainable mechanisms for reparations as well as long-term care for survivors of CRSV.

IOM shares the goal of UN Action members to end sexual violence in conflict and is committed to improving coordination and accountability, amplifying programming and advocacy, and supporting national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors. IOM's extensive operational presence, global cluster leadership on GBV risk mitigation, and provision of direct support to survivors of CRSV uniquely position IOM to complement UN Action members and strengthen the network as a whole. Going forward, IOM will continue to mitigate the risks of CRSV in all emergency response operations and transition and recovery programming; facilitate access to multisectoral support and assistance, including through direct service provision; and contribute to progressively transform the conditions that perpetuate CRSV.

António Manuel de Carvalho Ferreira Vitorino
Director General,
International Organization for Migration



Under-Secretary-General

**IZUMI
NAKAMITSU**

High Representative for
Disarmament Affairs

Conflict-related sexual violence is enabled to a significant degree by the availability of illicit small arms in civilian hands, or by the misuse of government-owned arms. Acting as a power multiplier in the hands of perpetrators, small arms are a leading type of weapon implicated in acts of sexual violence.

To address this dynamic, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) works with its partners to ensure weapons and ammunition stockpiles are secured effectively in accordance with international standards, prevent arms trafficking and reverse the excessive accumulation of arms. This includes supporting States' efforts to prevent the diversion of government-owned arms to unauthorized users, such as armed groups, terrorists or criminal networks, groups which are now responsible for the majority of incidents of sexual violence¹.

Over the past years, the international community has increasingly recognized the link between arms control and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence. The Arms Trade Treaty, adopted in 2013, was the first legally binding global instrument to recognize and create obligations for States to consider the connection between arms transfers and gender-based violence as part of their export assessment. In the context of the Programme for Action on small arms and light weapons, States have adopted progressive language on gender in their outcome documents of the sixth Biennial Meeting of States (2016) and the third Review Conference (2018), acknowledging the gendered impact of small arms and recognizing that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence.

UNODA supports States to follow through on those global commitments including through increased focus on projects that support gender mainstreaming in policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse through systematic gender analysis and integration of gender perspectives,

women's empowerment initiatives and trainings, which contribute directly to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination. Empowering women, increasing their full and meaningful participation in socio-economic and political life and breaking down gender stereotypes surrounding weapons can address root causes of gender-based violence, which include patriarchal systems, gender-biased attitudes and violent aspects of traditional masculinity.

At the same time, we are seeing an increasing convergence between arms control and other frameworks, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. This positive development allows Member States, UN entities, civil society and other stakeholders to work closer together, to harness our collective expertise and to develop a streamlined and comprehensive approach towards our common goals.

As member of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, UNODA works with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and other UN entities on preventing and eliminating conflict-related sexual violence in a holistic way, synergizing efforts made in arms control with those from humanitarian, human rights, development, peacekeeping and other political actors.

Commemorating the 10th anniversary of the mandate, we must recognize the continuous need for a coordinated, synergized effort of the UN system to preventing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict. UNODA remains committed to that vision and to the collective efforts developed through UN Action.

Izumi Nakamitsu
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

¹S/2019/280



Sexual violence causes deep wounds and its scars persist long after the fact. Survivors' dignity and integrity are stripped away twice: through the actual violence and the stigma that follows. The Security Council's recognition, a decade ago, that conflict-related sexual violence is a threat to peace and security gave adequate prominence to an issue long considered only a by-product of war. Since then, the international community at large has been working to improve the collective prevention and response to sexual violence crimes. OHCHR has been contributing to these efforts in close collaboration with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the members of the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network and as a co-lead entity of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Documentation is vital for the experiences of survivors of sexual violence to be fully captured and acknowledged. It is also a first step towards accountability, protection, justice and reparations. In the past ten years, my Office has documented sexual violence in numerous conflict-affected countries, from Afghanistan to Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan, Ukraine just to mention some. It has also supported efforts by national authorities to ensure accountability of high-ranking military officers, leading to indictments and convictions in some countries. Reports of Commissions of Inquiry and Fact-finding missions, which are supported by OHCHR, have shed light on the use and impact of sexual violence as a tool to instil fear, humiliate and punish, and they have served as basis for accountability processes.

We must be proud of these achievements on the path to justice. Survivors have reminded us many times that – to them- justice is not only about seeing perpetrators held accountable. It is also about being able to continue with their life plans. There is an increasing recognition of a need for greater investment in holistic, coordinated approaches to address survivors' physical, psychological, socio-economic and legal needs and help restore their rights and dignity. In Guatemala, my Office supported civil society organizations working with survivors to design the legal strategy and protection arrangements on the Sepur Zarco case. The coordinated and complementary support by organisations providing psychosocial and legal assistance to survivors empowered them to disclose their experience of sexual violence during the conflict and to effectively participate in the judicial proceedings. Survivors stressed how the guilty verdict and the reparations measures ordered by the Court represented an acknowledgement of their truth by the State.

On the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1888, we must be inspired by the stories of resilience of survivors, sobered by their continuing suffering, alert to the continued threat of sexual violence in conflict. Sexual violence is about power, humiliation, control and builds on deeply ingrained gender stereotypes, discrimination and inequality. Strategies to address it must be part of broader efforts to prevent conflict, support sustainable peace and development and, importantly, promote gender equality, human rights and dignity for all.

Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights

Under-Secretary-General

**MICHELLE
BACHELET**

High Commissioner for
Human Rights



Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) brutally harms individuals and divides communities. In many contexts, cases are underreported, impunity of perpetrators is common, and survivors do not have timely access to the services necessary for their full recovery.

In response to these pressing needs, Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1888 of 2009 built upon the ground-breaking SCR 1820 adopted in 2008, which recognized CRSV as a threat to security and a barrier to the restoration of peace. It called for the debunking of the myths that fuel sexual violence, including the notion that rape is an inevitable consequence of war. Those resolutions signaled a sea-change in the way the international community views and deals with conflict-related sexual violence. CRSV is now established as a crime that is both preventable and punishable under International Human Rights Law and International Criminal Law. The 10th Anniversary of the adoption of SCR 1888 presents an opportunity to reflect on the United Nations' (UN) collective efforts to document, mitigate and crucially, prevent CRSV.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) supports survivors of CRSV whether they be women and girls, or men and boys to recover and rebuild their lives. UNDP strengthens national systems to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of CRSV; provides legal aid and protection related services for the displaced; empowers victims to access survivor-centered justice; and opens up referral pathways to medical, psycho-social and livelihood services. UNDP also strengthens the voices of disproportionately affected groups, especially women, to participate in the peacebuilding process, thus supporting the advancement of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Such work also feeds into the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019) as they task us with addressing the structural vulnerabilities, constraints and discrimination faced by survivors and groups vulnerable to CRSV.

UNDP engages in these critical efforts to end CRSV in close collaboration with its partners from the UN System and beyond. They include the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) on Sexual Violence in Conflict; the members of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, and as a co-lead entity of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. In addition, the UNDP-Department of Peace Operations (DPO) -led Global Focal Point for Rule of Law is facilitating joined-up rule of law support in conflict-affected countries. Such cooperation helps to ensure that coordinated, complementary, and integrated support is provided to countries to address CRSV in a way that strengthens national ownership.

As the UN's development arm, UNDP will, in partnership with UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes, continue to address the root causes and drivers of CRSV in conflict and in peace such as structural gender inequality and discrimination as well as poverty, inequality and marginalization. Survivors will remain front and centre of our CRSV assistance. UNDP's on-the-ground experience has shown that when survivors of CRSV have the services and support they need to recover they are more likely to exercise their rights, advance their livelihoods, and contribute to their community's development. Such efforts are crucial to prevent conflict and conflict-related sexual violence; sustain peace and foster inclusive, sustainable development.

Mr. Achim Steiner
Administrator,
United Nations Development Programme

Administrator

**ACHIM
STEINER**

United Nations
Development Programme



Under Secretary-General

**WINNIE
BYANYIMA**

Executive Director
UNAIDS

Conflict places people at increased risk of Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), manifested through physical and emotional trauma, and consequently the transmission of HIV. Violence and instability create a high-risk detrimental environment, due to disrupted access to health care facilities and limited HIV services. Displaced populations are at risk as they adopt coping mechanisms that can include, transactional sex and sexual networking patterns with high prevalence groups such as combatants and uniformed services. A critical component in ending AIDS is to comprehensively address CRSV.

The UNSC Resolution 1308 (2000) recognized AIDS as a threat to global security and prompted development of strategies to address HIV within peacekeeping operations and amongst uniformed services. DPKO and UNAIDS have renewed a Cooperation Framework (2007) to strengthen the global HIV/AIDS response.

This framework established a system-wide agreement to address HIV in emergency settings, including: HIV sensitization and awareness programmes for uniformed services, ex-combatants and IDPs; including HIV in DDDR within national uniformed services; providing voluntary HIV testing and counselling, condom distribution and post-exposure prophylaxis to host populations in peace missions; and the introduction of women's protection advisers and focal points in missions to mainstream HIV. Resolution 1983 (2011) broadened this agenda to address violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, drawing attention to the vulnerability of women and girls. It also highlighted the potential contribution of peacekeeping operations to an integrated response to ending CRSV.

In his letter to the President of the Security Council, following the submission of the 2016 Joint Progress Report on Resolution 1983, the Secretary General emphasized the need to strengthen work to address sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and the risk of HIV infection. Subsequently, UNAIDS, DPKO and OSRSG/SVC, agreed to intensify the response and the tripartite AU/UNAIDS and OSRSG/SVC high level

meeting in 2018, outlined enhanced joint cooperation for the elimination of SGBV and the protection of the health and rights of women and children in humanitarian settings.

Working with these partners, UNAIDS is now enhancing its response through activities including: launching an effective coordination framework through the UNCT and regional teams to combat sexual violence in conflict/disaster settings; training UNAIDS and country lead focal points on CRSV; empowering women champions and promoting access to healthcare for survivors of sexual violence; framing HIV and gender assessments tools/guidance and supporting National Governments (in South Sudan, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe, Central African Republic, and Cameroon) to conduct needs assessments targeting vulnerable populations.

UNAIDS has also enhanced cooperation with military command personnel to ensure protection of vulnerable populations, mitigation of CRSV and access to HIV and health services; campaigns and trainings for uniformed services to increase awareness; promoting HIV testing and treatment within uniformed services, conflict displaced populations and host communities; as well as the promotion of sexual and reproductive health services to enable informed consent for HIV testing and treatment. Sensitization of most at-risk populations has played a pivotal role in triggering behavior change.

Going forward, UNAIDS will work with partners to focus efforts on: identifying, reporting and addressing reports of CRSV; advocating a survivor-centered approach to access justice services; establishing multiple-year trust funds to allow long-term planning and policy development. UNAIDS will also look to incorporate aspects of CRSV into humanitarian financial tools, including the CERF and emergency response mechanism of the GFATM.

Winnie Byanyima
Executive Director



Under Secretary-General

**NATALIA
KANEM**

Executive Director
United Nations
Population Fund

UNFPA is one of the original members of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action). UNFPA has been a member of the UN Action network since its inception, fostering a strong relationship to enhance coordination with the OSRSG-SVC and the Team of Experts on Rule of Law (ToE). UN Action Network funds several projects led by or in partnership with UNFPA at the field. These projects are deemed critical to catalyze synergies and to overcome funding gaps most recently through UN Action's support to CAR, South Sudan, Iraq, Myanmar, and Bangladesh on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV). UN Action has also been a key contributor to the Gender Based Violence Information Management (GBVIMS). Data collected through the GBVIMS, concerning possible Conflict-related Sexual Violence, are currently shared with the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (MARA) actors, according to strict safety and ethical protocols, in South Sudan, Mali and the Central African Republic, and efforts are underway to establish them in Somalia and Iraq.

UNFPA heeds its obligation to take all measures to keep women and girls safe and to help survivors of sexual violence rebuild their lives. Ending GBV, including sexual violence in conflict, is one of three transformative results in UNFPA's 2018-2021 Strategic Plan. UNFPA works with partners to ensure that referral systems are in place to facilitate GBV survivors' access to psychosocial support, safety and security, justice and legal aid and socio-economic support. UNFPA also works to prevent sexual violence and mitigate the risks for women and girls. UNFPA's efforts in humanitarian settings are tailored to the needs of women and girls affected by all forms of GBV and are based on the principles of non-discrimination and do-no-harm, and the survivor-centered approach.

UNFPA also leads actions in emergency contexts to prevent and respond to sexual violence by collecting and disseminating critical population data on affected actors, and promoting the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and young people. Furthermore, UNFPA works to ensure that all gathering of information is done in accordance to safe and ethical standards to ensure the dignity, safety and respect of survivors.

UNFPA coordinates global efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in humanitarian settings, catalyzing a comprehensive and transformative approach underpinned by the values of partnership and collective accountability. UNFPA is also the IASC-designated lead of the Gender-Based Violence Area of Responsibility (AoR) of the Global Protection Cluster. In this capacity, UNFPA catalyzes and coordinate a wide network of actors at global and field levels (through GBV sub-clusters) to ensure action for comprehensive prevention and response to GBV.

UNFPA is committed to ending sexual violence through collaboration and coordination within the United Nations system, to ensure a coherent, integrated and effective UN response to support countries and communities in addressing the root causes of GBV and fighting gender discrimination and inequality.

Natalia Kanem
Executive Director of the
United Nations Population Fund



Under-Secretary-General

**FILIPPO
GRANDI**

United Nations
High Commissioner for Refugees

The last two decades have brought important progress with regard to the recognition of conflict-related sexual violence as a war crime, a crime against humanity and potentially an act of genocide; and acceptance of sexual violence as a form of persecution that may give rise to refugee status. The work of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict in the last decade has helped place this devastating form of harm prominently on the international agenda.

Sexual violence continues to be a significant driver of forced displacement, and one of the gravest risks affecting refugees, returnees, asylum seekers and internally displaced people. For UNHCR, addressing conflict-related sexual violence is a key aspect of our protection mandate – one that we pursue in the context of gender-related asylum claims, through prevention and response strategies together with our partners, and as part of our work to secure sustainable solutions.

UNHCR has been a member of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict since its inception in 2006, and we are committed to continuing our membership and support to coordinated UN efforts to address sexual violence in conflict-related settings. These efforts include contributing to the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) on conflict-related sexual violence mandated by Security Council resolution (SCR) 1960. In 2018, UNHCR issued a Technical Note on UNHCR's Engagement in the Implementation of the Protection Mechanisms Established by Security Council Resolutions 1612 and 1960 (MRM and MARA) to help

UNHCR colleagues around the world implement their responsibilities at country level in collaboration with UN partners. In countries where refugees, displaced or stateless people experience or report grave violations, UNHCR colleagues continue to collect relevant information and to participate in the MARA country coordination bodies.

As a member of the network, UNHCR has also served on the Resource Management Committee, which assesses and approves proposals submitted to the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. The projects supported by this fund have generated considerable momentum towards addressing conflict-related sexual violence. UNHCR and its partners are also pursuing measures to improve the safe and ethical documentation of reported cases.

UNHCR is committed to the UN Action and to continued cooperation with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, especially in relation to forced displacement and statelessness. We will continue to collaborate with UN Agencies, Governments, and other partners so that sexual violence is understood as an issue of peace and security, and fully integrated across all aspects of the work of the UN system.

Filippo Grandi
United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees



UNICEF's commitment to addressing gender-based violence in emergencies (GBViE) is central to our mission to protect the health and well-being of children and women. We are one of the founding members of UN Action and have been an active contributor to the Network since its inception, including serving as the UN Action co-chair before a permanent UN Action secretariat had been established.

UNICEF consistently advocates for placing the safety, wellbeing and agency of survivors at the center of any actions taken to combat conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), which includes making survivor-centered response services one of the key priorities for the CRSV agenda as a whole. We join with other UN Action partners to anchor CRSV interventions within a broader framework of promoting gender equality and ending all forms of gender-based violence in emergencies. We also bring our unique expertise on child protection programming to help ensure CRSV interventions are tailored to the particular needs of child survivors and children born as a result of sexual violence, as well as bringing a focus to the unique risks adolescent girls face. Over the years, UNICEF has helped strengthen and professionalize the GBViE field by producing a wide range of interagency technical guidance, such as the Interagency Gender Based Violence Case Management Guidelines, Caring for Child Survivors of Sexual Abuse, and the IASC Guidelines for Integrating Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action. In addition, we have contributed our technical expertise to all joint products developed by UN Action.

With support from the UN Action multi-partner trust fund, UNICEF has implemented programming to address CRSV at both global and field level, including in Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal and South Sudan. Leveraging our extensive operational

presence in multiple conflict-affected contexts, we work closely with governments, international NGOs and local civil society partners to provide quality, multisectoral response services to survivors – establishing the basic foundation required for all other CRSV interventions to be implemented safely and ethically.

One of my institutional priorities is developing innovative solutions for complex challenges, and an important example of this approach is the Gender-based Violence Information Management System (GBVIMS), the only interagency-endorsed system for safe and ethical management of GBV survivor data in humanitarian settings. The enhanced version of the system, GBVIMS+ – part of UNICEF's Primero information management platform – allows frontline caseworkers to collaborate with their supervisors remotely, which opens up previously unavailable options for delivering high-quality GBV services in locations directly affected by conflict and insecurity. The learning generated through the GBVIMS has been instrumental in guiding efforts to safely and ethically document CRSV. Furthermore, UNICEF's longstanding experience with the Monitoring and Reporting Mechanism (MRM) for documenting grave violations against children has also supported and contributed to strengthening our collective understanding and analysis of these complex issues.

In collaboration with partners and UN Action members, UNICEF will continue to lead by example in promoting collective accountability on addressing all forms of gender-based violence in emergencies, including conflict-related sexual violence.

Henrietta H. Fore
Executive Director
United Nations Children's Fund

Executive Director

**HENRIETTA
FORE**

United Nations Children's Fund



Under-Secretary-General

**YURY
FEDOTOV**

Executive Director
United Nations
Office on Drugs and Crime

The urgent need to stop sexual violence in conflict is increasingly recognized by the international community, in no small part thanks to the work of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the UN Action network. There is growing awareness of the terrible ways sexual violence is being used as a weapon of war, against women, men and children, tearing apart lives and communities.

Shining a light on this horrific crime, Nadia Murad was co-awarded the Nobel Peace Prize last year in recognition of her advocacy on behalf of the victims of sexual violence in conflict. Nadia, who is UNODC's Goodwill Ambassador for the Dignity of Survivors of Human Trafficking, suffered unspeakable treatment at the hands of IS terrorists who attacked her Yazidi community in Iraq, murdered members of her family and abducted thousands of women and girls. She managed to escape captivity and, today, bears witness to these terrible violations and is the first trafficking victim to serve as a UN Goodwill Ambassador.

Ms. Murad's story shows how sexual violence in conflict is closely related to the crime of human trafficking. Armed conflict means that human rights safeguards and the rule of law have broken down. Traffickers take advantage of the instability that ensues and most often operate with impunity. Trafficking for sexual exploitation, sexual slavery and forced marriages are among the most frequently reported forms of trafficking in persons in conflict situations.

UNODC is contributing to improving responses to human trafficking in conflict situations, delivering on our mandate as guardian of the Palermo Convention and its Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children.

The 2018 Thematic Paper on "Countering Trafficking in Persons in Conflict Situations", prepared following consultations with our partners across the UN system, combines research and good practices aiming to advance the identification of victims, improve their access to protection and services, and end impunity of perpetrators. UNODC's 2018 Global Report on Trafficking in Persons has a dedicated section focusing on trafficking in persons in the context of armed conflict, which sheds light on different forms of trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and examines specific conflict and post-conflict situations.

Sexual violence is often used specifically as a tactic of terrorism, to strike fear within communities and recruit new fighters. In such cases, States face particular challenges in terms of bringing perpetrators to justice, and UNODC is supporting UN efforts to ensure that counter-terrorism frameworks can effectively address offences involving sexual violence. In May this year, UNODC published a new Handbook on Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism. This resource assists efforts to hold terrorist groups accountable for sexual and gender-based crimes through robust legal frameworks, gender-sensitive investigations and international cooperation to support prosecutions. As a proud member of the UN Action Network, UNODC remains committed to supporting countries in their efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict and strengthen victim-centred approaches to achieve justice.

Yury Fedotov
Executive Director,
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime



Under-Secretary-General

**PHUMZILE
MLAMBO-NGCUKA**

Executive Director of
UN Women

Increased attention to the Women, Peace and Security agenda since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) has placed women's priorities for peace at the center of peace and security discussions. Recognizing Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) as a security issue, UN Women remains committed to its elimination and providing survivor-centered responses through UN Action and UN system-wide initiatives.

UN Women has worked to tackle CRSV through the provision of expertise on the development and implementation of **National and Regional Action Plans on Women Peace and Security**, tools to promote women's protection from gender-based violence and CRSV¹. UN Women also serves as the Secretariat of the **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Focal Points Network**, an informal, cross-regional forum for more than 80 Member States and regional organizations on WPS, and, the **Security Council Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security**, which provides improved flow of information, analysis and oversight for stronger implementation of WPS commitments.

In addition, UN Women partners with OHCHR to document and investigate international crimes, including sexual and gender-based crimes through the deployment of experts on the **JRR-UN Women Sexual and Gender-Based Violence Justice Experts Roster**. Since 2009, every UN Commission of Inquiry has had a gender adviser/SGBV investigator on its investigation team. Through this partnership, International Criminal Court found Bosco Ntaganda, the former rebel leader in DRC, guilty on 13 counts of war crimes and 5 counts of crimes against humanity, including rape and sexual slavery.

UN Women has worked to advance women's participation in the military components of peace operations, considering their vital role to play in

countering CRSV. Through the **Female Military Officers Course**, over 430 female military officers have been prepared for UN peacekeeping operations. This impact will be enhanced with the roll-out of the **Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations**².

UN Women has also supported women to participate in peace talks and for example, in Colombia, the 2016 Peace Agreement was the first in the world to mainstream gender across all points of the agreement and recognized the victimization of women as a result of the conflict. As Secretariat of the **Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund**³, UN Women has ensured support to over 70 civil society organizations in 13 countries, directly benefiting 76,000 women and girls.

As we are set to commemorate 25 years since the historic Beijing Platform for Action, the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, we must maintain our coordinated efforts to ensure survivors of CRSV have access to quality services, including reparations and livelihoods, guarantee the protection of women and girls at risk of CRSV, and hold perpetrators to account.

We must also turn our attention to prevention, which will only be achieved if we address the root causes of sexual violence fueled by gender inequality and harmful social norms, and ensuring women's access to economic resources, removal of all discriminatory frameworks, strengthening rule of law, and promoting gender equality.

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
United Nations Under-Secretary-General and
Executive Director of UN Women

¹ As of September 2019, 82 countries have adopted National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security.

² <http://mptf.undp.org/factsheet/fund/EIF00>

³ <http://wphfund.org/>



Director-General

**TEDROS
ADHANOM**

World Health Organization

As the lead agency for health, WHO is committed to ending conflict-related sexual violence and ensuring survivors have access to quality, effective and appropriate health services. This has contributed to the work of UN Action by strengthening the evidence base, tools and technical expertise needed for a survivor-centered health response to sexual violence in conflict.

In 2013, WHO released the study, Global and regional estimates of violence against women: prevalence and health effects of intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence. This was the first global systematic review of prevalence of violence against women and demonstrated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. This research has formed the basis of policy, advocacy and technical guidance to address one of the most significant threats to women's health globally. A new tool for measuring sexual (and other forms of gender-based) violence in conflict was developed with support from UN Action and was adapted and tested in South Sudan. A finalized version is expected to be available early next year.

WHO has also strengthened health services for survivors of sexual violence through the development of guidelines and tools. Since 2009, WHO has published new guidance on the clinical management of rape survivors and on strengthening the medico-legal response to sexual violence as well as clinical and policy guidelines on intimate partner violence and sexual violence, a clinical handbook on responding to intimate partner violence and sexual violence, clinical guidelines for responding to children and adolescents who have been sexually abused, a manual on strengthening health system responses to intimate partner violence

and sexual violence, and ethical and safety guidelines for intervention research on violence against women. Together, these tools have been used by WHO and other health organizations to train thousands of health providers to improve frontline services for survivors of sexual (and other forms of gender-based) violence.

With the support of UN action, WHO has also piloted innovative interventions, such as Self Help+, to improve mental health and psychosocial support for sexual violence survivors. Self Help+ is a low-intensity 5-session self-help intervention that helps survivors to manage stress and cope with adversity. It was piloted with South Sudanese women in a refugee settlement in northern Uganda and then assessed with a randomized cluster trial which showed it was effective in reducing mental distress and promoting positive behaviours. It will now be disseminated for wider implementation.

Finally, WHO has made responding to sexual violence and other forms of violence against women a global priority for advocacy and action. In 2014 the World Health Assembly adopted a resolution on strengthening the role of the health system in addressing violence, in particular against women and girls, and against children and requested the Director General, with Member States, to develop a global plan of action to strengthen the role of the health system in addressing such violence, including in humanitarian settings. This plan of action is catalyzing policy and programming across the globe to prevent and respond to sexual violence.

Dr. Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus
Director-General,
World Health Organization



Rape and other forms of sexual violence against children in conflict is one of the six grave violations identified and condemned by the UN Security Council. With the recruitment and use of children, killing and maiming, abductions, attacks on schools and hospitals and the denial of humanitarian access, the six grave violations forms the basis of the Security Council's architecture to monitor, report and respond to abuses suffered by children in times of war. Ending and preventing these violations is the focus of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict's work and advocacy.

Because of the complementary nature of their mandates, the Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) and the Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC) Offices have always worked closely on the issue of rape and other forms of sexual violence against boys and girls living amidst war and hostilities. Over the past decade, the two offices have jointly advocated for more accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence against children in conflict in countries such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo and have organized joint field missions in countries of common interest like in the Central African Republic (2013) to amplify and strengthen messaging. Since 2015, every year on 19 June, SRSG-CAAC and SVC are also united in the organization of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, an opportunity to raise awareness on sexual violence and honor the courageous survivors.

In addition to the 10th anniversary of the establishment of the Sexual Violence in Conflict (SVC) Mandate, 2019 also marks the 10th anniversary of the adoption of Security Council Resolution 1882, which added sexual violence against children as an additional trigger for listing parties to conflict in the Secretary-General's Annual Report on CAAC. Parties verified by the UN as committing this grave violation against children have been since listed in the Secretary-General Annual Report on CAAC. As a result, joint Action Plans signed between the United Nations and parties to conflict also cover rape and other forms of sexual violence, including in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Mali. Over the past decade, the CAAC Office has been working to support parties to conflict to take concrete measures to end and prevent this violation, although it remains severely underreported due to the stigma associated with it. Children survivors of sexual violence must be able to access tailored rehabilitation as well as age- and gender- appropriate reintegration services to ensure their full recovery.

Virginia Gamba
United Nations Special Representative for
Children and Armed Conflict

Under-Secretary-General

**VIRGINIA
GAMBA**

Special Representative for
Children and Armed Conflict



Executive Coordinator

**JENNIFER
TOPPING**

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
UNDP

The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTF Office) congratulates UN Action on the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1888. Behind this trailblazing resolution, the MPTF Office has been honored to support its implementation as the Trustee of the United Nations Fund for Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, which has funded the activities of the UN Action network since its establishment in 2009.

The Fund has grown from Norway's initial contribution of under USD 1 million to USD 48 million supported by 14 contributing Member States. Major donors include Sweden, Japan, Finland, Norway and the UK. In addition, a broad coalition of partners including the United Arab Emirates, Estonia, Belgium, Spain, Ireland, Switzerland, Bahrain, Luxembourg and Turkey contribute to the UN Action MPTF. This reflects the shared belief that partnerships are crucial in fulfilling the commitment of the SCR 1888.

Since its inception, the Fund has provided a pooled fund to enable the UN Action network to identify and implement priority projects in a coherent and coordinated manner. This helped to enhance cooperation between UN agencies and increase effectiveness of projects enabling agencies to work together on multi-sectoral projects. Sexual Violence in Conflict requires multi-dimensional interventions and the UN system, as a whole, is well placed to provide such a response.

During this last decade the Fund has brought together 14 Participating UN Organizations in 63 projects including the Team of Experts working in a wide variety of countries. As a relevant achievement, the Fund funded the initial set-up of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General and the UN Action advocacy strategy. The Fund has also maintained

UN Action to support and coordinate the UN Action focal points and Steering Committee.

The UN Action MPTF has funded catalytic joint projects at the UN headquarters and at the field level to connect global and local action, operationalize Security Council Resolutions, fill budgetary gaps, and enable UN agencies to test innovative ideas and show proof of concept to encourage more long-term funding. For example, the Fund supported Women's Protection Advisors in UN peace operations which demonstrated the value addition of these positions until core funding was prioritized. The work of the WPAs was catalytic in creating Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements. As another example, the MPTF supported the Department of Political Affairs to publish the Guidance for Mediators: Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ceasefire and Peace Agreements, which had a ripple effect evidenced by the inclusion of conflict-related sexual violence in several ceasefire and peace agreements.

The MPTF Office looks forward to continuing to promote the UN System's coordinated and targeted support to address sexual violence in conflict through the successor fund, Conflict Related Sexual Violence MPTF established in 2019. By promoting instruments that facilitate a new generation of partnerships, we continue to work together to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence through multi-sectorial approaches to address this complex issue.

Jennifer Topping,
Executive Coordinator,
UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, UNDP

UN Action Against Sexual violence in Conflict (UN Action) unites the work of 14 UN entities with the goal of ending sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings by improving coordination and accountability, amplifying programming and advocacy, and supporting national efforts to prevent sexual violence and respond effectively to the needs of survivors.

