

17TH REPORT OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

JANUARY – DECEMBER 2025 (S/2026/321)



21

SETTINGS

14

CONFLICT SETTINGS

4

POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS

3

SITUATIONS OF
CONCERN

WOMEN
AND GIRLS

continue to constitute the
vast majority of victims
globally

88%

The annex of the
present report listing
parties credibly suspected of
committing or being responsible
for patterns of sexual violence
includes

77 PARTIES

the vast majority of which are
non-State actors.

9

SANCTIONS REGIMES

of the Security Council include sexual violence
within their designation criteria.

In 2025, sexual violence was explicitly
used as the basis for the designation
of one entity (Gran Grif) on the Haiti
sanctions list.

WOMEN'S PROTECTION ADVISERS
(WPA)

are deployed in only 9 of the more than 21
settings covered in the report.

The presence of WPAs contributes to
enhanced data collection and analysis on
CRSV.

9,788

UN-VERIFIED
CASES OF CRSV

representing a **112% increase** from the
previous reporting cycle. While the report conveys
the severity and brutality of verified
incidents, it does not purport to reflect the global
scale or prevalence of these crimes.

MEN AND BOYS

account for

1,179

of the reported cases in 2025.

12%

Since the adoption of
Security Council resolution
1960 (2010)

95 PARTIES

78 non-State actors

17 State actors

have been listed across

12 SETTINGS.

2,966
in
CASES
the victims were
CHILDREN.

GIRLS
alone account for
92.5% of the cases.

LGBTQI+

persons were
at acute risk of
sexual violence,
particularly in
detention settings.

The Office of the SRSG on Sexual
Violence in Conflict has signed

12 JOINT COMMUNIQUÉS/
FRAMEWORKS OF COOPERATION

with Member States to address
CRSV.

9

SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS

have adopted formal
commitments to
address CRSV.

KEY THEMES

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) continues to be **used as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism, and political repression amid increased militarization, acute funding cuts, and record levels of displacement.** Escalating hostilities severely constrained humanitarian access and hindered peace or political processes. The trendlines of CRSV were marked by extreme brutality, including the killing of victims after rape, severe physical trauma, and recorded incidents of suicide. Individual victims, including persons with disabilities, **ranged in age from one to 70 years old.**

The **illicit proliferation and widespread availability of small arms and light weapons** fueled incidents of sexual violence with impunity across all settings. Globally, CRSV remained a chronic feature of the political economy of war. Non-State armed groups, and transnational criminal networks used sexual violence, including forced marriage, as well as abductions and kidnapping as part of their strategic objectives and ideology, to incentivize recruitment and gain territorial control over lucrative natural resource sites.

Rape, gang rape, and sexual slavery were perpetrated predominantly by non-State armed actors in the context of abduction and trafficking. These incidents were committed to extort ransom, and exert social and territorial control over populations.

In **detention settings,** patterns of CRSV – consisting of rape with objects, gang rape, forced nudity, and genital beatings – were widely used as a form of torture to humiliate, punish, and extract confessions. These violations predominantly affected men and boys, though women and girls were also targeted.

Displaced, migrant, and refugee women and girls experienced elevated risks of sexual violence which were exacerbated by climate-related challenges, food insecurity, and vulnerabilities in remote border areas or overcrowded camps where survivors lacked protective community networks.

Perpetrators increasingly **weaponized digital platforms** to record and preserve images of sexual assault to extort, silence, or humiliate victims, while deliberate internet shutdowns blocked access to life-saving healthcare referral pathways.

The report continues to highlight long-term and intergenerational impacts, emphasizing the severe stigma and social exclusion faced by women who become pregnant following rape, and the legal or social barriers encountered by children born of conflict.

To strengthen compliance with international norms, the report underscores that consistent monitoring by Security Council sanctions committees is vital to adopt targeted, graduated measures against persistent perpetrators of sexual violence.

PROGRESS & CHALLENGES

ENCOURAGING JUDICIAL DEVELOPMENTS DESPITE PREVAILING IMPUNITY

Colombia: The Special Jurisdiction for Peace delivered three landmark convictions for command responsibility for sexual violence in Macro Case 1, and successfully accredited 938 women and 104 men as victims in Macro Case 11.

Democratic Republic of the Congo: Military judges convicted 35 members of the Armed Forces and three armed group elements for sexual slavery and rape. Pursuant to the 2022 groundbreaking reparations law, the Government disbursed funds derived from the mining sector to 10 victims in accordance with domestic court decisions and provided interim assistance to 45,095 survivors in refugee camps. Furthermore, 1,052 children born of rape had their civil status registered and nationality recognized.

Iraq: Under the Law on Support to Female Yazidi Survivors, 2,587 total applications for compensation were approved, with 1,341 finalized for Yazidi, Turkmen, Shabak, and Christian survivors of sexual violence.

Guinea: Following the 2024 trial verdicts for the massacre and mass rape of 28 September 2009, the Team of Experts supported national authorities in delivering a victim-centred reparations process, through which 185 victims of sexual violence were compensated on a prioritized basis.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

» Call upon all parties to conflict to **immediately cease all forms of conflict-related sexual violence** in compliance with relevant Security Council resolutions and provide the United Nations with unhindered access to conflict areas and detention centres.

» Encourage Member States to foster a **gender responsive security sector** through effective oversight and accountability. This includes establishing robust screening mechanisms to prevent recruitment, retention, or promotion of individuals credibly suspected of violations within security institutions or reserve forces.

» Encourage Member States to adopt **gender-responsive national legislation and policies on arms control, weapons, and ammunition management.** This includes aligning actions with international and regional conventions to address the threat of conventional ammunition and illicit small arms and light weapons that facilitate these crimes.

» Recommend that the **Security Council ensure incidents of sexual violence are systematically monitored and incorporated as a stand-alone designation criterion for targeted sanctions.** Sanctions committees should apply targeted and graduated measures to persistent perpetrators who have appeared in the report's annex for five or more years without taking remedial or corrective action.

» Encourage Member States to adopt a **survivor-centred approach that prioritizes survivors' rights, specific needs, and aspirations.** This requires promoting an enabling environment for survivors to seek support on a non-discriminatory basis through scaled-up funding for clinical rape management, HIV prevention, safe termination of pregnancy, legal services, and transformative reparations.

» Ensuring that mandate authorizations and renewals of peace operations include dedicated provisions on addressing CRSV and **accelerating the deployment of WPAs to peace operations and Offices of UN RC/HCs, in line with Security Council resolution 2467 (2019);**

» Urge all stakeholders, donors, and Member States to **address chronic underfunding by providing predictable and sustainable financial support to the conflict-related sexual violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV MPTF).** This funding is vital to sustain the cross-sectoral work of the Political Team, UN Action Network and the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law.

“

The United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) Network unites 27 UN entities, providing a unique platform for advocacy, knowledge building and operational support. In Sudan, UN Action restored safe spaces, enabling tens of thousands of women and girls to access psychosocial care, clinical services and livelihoods, including nearly 10,000 civilians in West Darfur. To fill a critical capacity gap, UN Action supported the deployment of a Senior Women’s Protection Adviser (SWPA) to Sudan. In Ukraine 10,582 survivors and service providers accessed rehabilitation, holistic services, and support, including through survivor relief centres. In South Sudan, a joint UN Action project supported over 200 survivors through trauma-informed counselling, economic empowerment, and community-led protection, and launched safe transport networks to connect remote populations to life-saving services. As a unique global knowledge hub, UN Action supported 350 practitioners and 46 civil society organisations to enhance prevention and response by rolling out guidance and practical tools, including through the survivor-centred UN Action Lab model.

“

In 2025, the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict enabled legislative reforms, investigations, prosecutions, judgements and transitional justice processes through deployments to the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Syria, and Ukraine. Through its work, the Team of Experts concretely improved access to justice for nearly 2,000 survivors and supported the establishment of institutions, jurisprudence, and legislation to address and prevent future violations in half a dozen countries.

17TH REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

<http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/>



@endrapeinwar