

UN ACTION NEWSLETTER

From Advocacy to Action: Maintaining Momentum on the CRSV Agenda

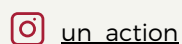
This edition of the UN Action Newsletter highlights a period of **intense engagement, collective action, and renewed commitment across the UN system and beyond**. From strategic planning and knowledge-sharing to global advocacy and field-level initiatives, recent weeks have demonstrated the power of partnership in advancing prevention, protection, accountability, and survivor-centred responses.

This edition features highlights from the 12th International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict and the annual Security Council Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence along with other key moments of advocacy and action in our collective efforts to end CRSV.

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The interagency coordination network, United Nations Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action), unites 27 UN entities in common cause, providing a unique platform for advocacy, knowledge-building, and operational, survivor-centered support.



www.stoprapienow.org

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict: Amplifying the Voices of Child Survivors and their Caregivers

19 June 2026



“In Baidoa, silence is survival. Families do not report because they fear stigma, retaliation, and the future prospects of their daughters. I have sat with mothers who knew exactly what happened to their child —and begged me not to write it down.”

-RISE, Frontline Responder Organisation in Somalia

This year's commemoration at the United Nations Headquarters in New York placed children affected by conflict-related sexual violence at the centre of the conversation. The event highlighted the **unique vulnerabilities and protection needs of child survivors of CRSV and their caregivers**, while drawing attention to the experiences of children born of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), whose rights and access to services are often overlooked.

As a founding member of the UN Action Network, **UNICEF** delivered remarks on its behalf, underscoring the importance of strengthening protection systems and ensuring that affected children receive comprehensive support. Participants also heard **powerful statements from representatives in Somalia and South Sudan**, whose interventions were facilitated by UN Action. This provided an opportunity for the international donor and diplomatic community to hear firsthand perspectives from survivors and service-providers who benefitted directly from UN Action's catalytic, country-level support. Several speakers specifically highlighted the added value and impact of UN Action, notably Spain, which commended the UN Action platform as “the best way to address CRSV while giving support, protection, and empowerment to survivors”, urging other Member States to support its efforts.

Together, these discussions reinforced a central message: protecting children affected by CRSV requires sustained commitment, coordinated action, and meaningful investment in survivor-centred and community-led solutions.

▶ **Watch the recording of the official commemoration [here](#).**

📝 **Find social media posts about this event by UN Action [here](#).**

A Global Call to Action: Commemorating the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict Around the World

19 June 2026

Commemorations took place across the globe in communities affected by the continuing threat and trauma of CRSV, with thanks to UN Action member **DPO** for their assistance in compiling this collection of country-level activities and supporting the strategic engagement of field missions and partners.

In the **Central African Republic**, MINUSCA's Radio Guira marked the International Day by broadcasting CRSV awareness messages in Sango and featuring an interview with a survivor and member of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission, helping to amplify survivor voices and raise public awareness.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, MONUSCO supported the launch of the 2025–2029 Congolese National Police Action Plan against Sexual Violence, including commitments by police commanders to strengthen prevention and accountability. Activities also included a national awareness-raising campaign on sexual slavery and the rights of children born of rape, high-level discussions involving UN partners, government and civil society stakeholders, support to mobile court proceedings in Lubero (North Kivu) that resulted in 20 convictions, and initiatives to sustain legal aid services for CRSV survivors.



In **South Sudan**, UNMISS aired radio programmes with the Joint Consultation Forum—a forum that provides a structured space for exchange between the Mission, UN agencies, and civil society organizations on incidents, patterns, trends and risks of CRSV—as well as the National Police Service on CRSV prevention, survivor support, and accountability. Commemorations also included a community event in Terekeka (Central Equatoria), a National Police awareness march in Juba, the Joint Consultation Forum's first public statement calling for stronger action against CRSV, and a video message from the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General of UNMISS highlighting the importance of collective efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence.

To fill a critical capacity gap in **Sudan**, UN Action has supported the deployment of a Senior Women's Protection Adviser to enhance national ownership. In a statement issued on the International Day, the authorities reaffirmed their commitment to the protection of women and girls, including through efforts to address CRSV and advance the development of a national protection plan.

Global Roundtable on Protecting the LGBTQI+ Community in Contexts Affected by Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

22 June 2026

Convened in the margins of the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict as a UN Action side-event, the Global Roundtable on Supporting LGBTQI+ individuals **brought together 46 participants from the UN, civil society, and academia to examine the distinct experiences and needs of LGBTQI+ survivors in conflict settings.**



**GLOBAL
ROUNDTABLE**

on Protecting the LGBTQI+ Community in
Conflict-related Sexual Violence Contexts

22 June, 2026
By Invite and Registration Only

Bringing together thought leaders from the international community for a discussion on the CRSV response for the LGBTQI+ community, in a show of solidarity.

“Our advocacy and action must amplify their voices, break the silence that shields perpetrators, and galvanize a concerted and comprehensive global response,”

-UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten

Logos: Rainbow flag, FONDATION VIE, PROJEKTOR, OUTRIGHT INTERNATIONAL, UNITED NATIONS UKRAINE, STOP RAPE NOW, European Union, Funded by European Union Humanitarian Aid, Rainbow heart.

Supported by EU Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) through UN Action and organised in partnership with UN Ukraine, Outright International – Ukraine, Projector Ukraine, MADRE International, UN Women, and partner civil society organisations, the roundtable served to **unite allies from multiple contexts in solidarity on supporting LGBTQI+ survivors of CRSV.**

Through presentations and a panel discussion, **participants shared evidence, field experience, and advocacy insights across sectors**, reinforcing that inclusive, survivor-centred responses to CRSV must account for the full diversity of those affected through an intersectional approach.

“They may have the weapons, but we have the truth”

- Civil Society Organisation speaker

European Union: Strategic Partner Briefing

1 July 2026



On 1 July 2026, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict convened a **technical briefing with 26 experts from 15 Permanent Missions together with the EU Delegation to the United Nations**, reflecting a core conviction: **prevention permeates everything UN Action does**, from advocacy and knowledge-building to country-level support.

Drawing on consultations with Women's Protection Advisers, UN partners, and survivor networks, the discussion spotlighted how **EU ECHO's partnership is translating that commitment into practice**—enabling survivor-centred rehabilitation pathways in Somalia and field-tested prevention tools co-developed with UNMISS in South Sudan. Speakers underscored that **closing critical knowledge gaps, localising global guidance, and scaling survivor-centred approaches in high-risk settings** is only possible through sustained strategic partnerships, as exemplified by the collaboration between UN Action and the European Union.



Annual Security Council Open Debate on CRSV

8 July 2026

The **annual Security Council Open Debate on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence** was convened on 8 July, and continued on 10 July, under the presidency of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The debate marked a **historic moment**, being the first time a country directly affected by CRSV had presided over and convened this annual meeting. The **UN Action Chair**, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Pramila Patten, congratulated the DRC on sustained progress made by the Congolese National Police, and highlighted Somalia as another positive example where her mandate has recently supported the development of a Command Order on CRSV with the Somali National Army. The Open Debate demonstrated **sustained international engagement with 76 speakers** participating in the Open Debate, including a briefer from the Haitian Women's Collective, representing the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security.

Discussions reflected broad and continued support for addressing CRSV as a peace and security imperative, including **strong endorsement of the mandate's methodology, reporting framework, and tools**. The Open Debate also showcased the growing prominence of survivor-centred approaches, reflecting a significant shift from earlier years when survivors' participation and agency received far less attention in international discussions. Particular attention was paid to the **importance of Women's Protection Advisers (WPAs)** and the need to sustain this critical capacity despite growing financial pressures across the UN system.



UN Action's impact received notable recognition throughout the Debate. Member States including Denmark, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Panama and Slovenia, alongside the European Union and the 66-member Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, highlighted the specific role of the Network in advancing prevention, survivor-centered support, accountability, and cross-pillar coordination.

-  **Watch the Open Debate on UN Web TV**
-  **Read the meeting transcript and statements**
-  **Read the SRSG's statement**

New UN Action Progress Report Demonstrates Impact Across Diverse Contexts

June 2026



We are pleased to highlight the recent publication of the UN Action Annual Progress Report for 2025, which sets out the **Network's continued impact in an increasingly challenging global environment**

characterized by escalating violence, shrinking humanitarian space and resource constraints.

In **Sudan**, largely considered the world's worst humanitarian crisis, UN Action restored safe spaces, enabling **tens of thousands** of women and girls to access psychosocial care, clinical services and livelihood support.

In **Ukraine over 10,000** survivors and service providers were able to access rehabilitation, holistic services and livelihood opportunities due to UN Action interventions.

These are two illustrative examples of how UN Action through its 27 member entities leverages system-wide coordination to deliver **integrated, survivor-centred responses** across multiple contexts.

A defining feature of UN Action's work throughout 2025 was its strong focus on **survivor leadership and localization**, ensuring that programmes are shaped by those most affected and grounded in sustainable national capacities.

The report also highlights progress in knowledge generation, advocacy, and inter-agency collaboration, further strengthening coherent and effective responses to CRSV worldwide.

 **Read the Annual Progress Report 2025 [on our website.](#)**

Enhancing UN System Coordination and Coherence: UN Action Focal Points Strategic Retreat New York, Geneva, Nairobi

June 2026

On 4-5 June, representatives from across the UN Action Network came together for the **UN Action Strategic Retreat**, held both in NYC and virtually, providing an important opportunity to reflect on achievements, identify priorities, and chart a shared course for the years ahead. The retreat was generously hosted by UN Action founding member, **UN Women**.

Bringing together **44 expert** participants and practitioners from across **18 UN entities**, as well as analysis from the NGO Working Group on WPS, the retreat reinforced **UN Action's unique role as a coordination and information-sharing platform** connecting humanitarian, human rights, development, peacebuilding and security in pursuit of a common goal: to end CRSV and prevent its recurrence.



Knowledge Building: Joint UN Action Mission to Somalia

In April 2026, UN Action and the Military Expert of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict deployed a technical mission to Somalia to support CRSV prevention and response initiatives of the Senior Women's Protection Advisor of the UN Transitional Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNTAMIS), building on the [2013 Joint Communiqué](#) with the Federal Government of Somalia. Engagements with the Somali Armed Forces resulted in a draft Command Order to address CRSV within their ranks.



The mission also engaged government officials, the UN country team, and civil society on CRSV issues and verified project outcomes in Kismayo. Five years since the UN Action catalytic intervention, which brought together UNSOM and IOM Somalia under the UN Action umbrella, Somalia's National Programme for the Treatment and Handling of Disengaged Combatants continues to include women, a direct result of the project. Many of these women are CRSV survivors, and the programme enables their access to rehabilitation and economic empowerment support. This approach was recognised as a women's protection best practice in the [2024 OHCHR/UNSOM report](#).

Knowledge Building: Joint UN Action Mission to South Sudan



In April 2026, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict undertook a joint mission together with DPO and the Senior Women's Protection Adviser in UNMISS to strengthen prevention and response to CRSV in South Sudan. As part of this, a Survivor-Centred **UN Action Lab** on Preventing CRSV was convened together with UNFPA and civil society organizations.



The two-day UN Action Lab marked the launch of the CRSV **Prevention Framework** in South Sudan, with direct input from UN partners, survivor networks and civil society to contextualize and operationalize the **Early-Warning Indicators of CRSV**. It also marked the first-ever pilot of UN Action's **Toolkit to Support a Survivor-Centred Approach to Preventing & Responding to CRSV**.



By grounding prevention in survivor experiences and field-level expertise, the UN Action Network is strengthening early warning, improving coordination, and supporting peacekeepers to act before violence escalates. This innovative initiative was featured in the [Daily Press Briefing by the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General](#).

THANKING OUR MEMBERS AND PARTNERS

From strategic coordination and global advocacy, to building and disseminating knowledge, to delivering survivor-centered programming on the frontlines, UN Action continues to work across the humanitarian, development, peacebuilding nexus through its broad array of partners to enhance prevention, protection, assistance and accountability.

Thank you for being part of this collective effort.

Together we can build a world free from the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence, where perpetrators are held accountable, and survivor's rights, needs and aspirations are realized.

Thank you to all of our member entities:

CTED, DPPA, DPO, ILO, IOM, ITC, OCHA, OHCHR, OSAPG, OSGEY, OSRSG-CAAC, OSRSG-VAC, UNAIDS, UNDGC, UNDP, UNEP, UNFPA, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, UNICEF, UNIDIR, UNOCT, UNODC, UNODA, UN Women, WFP and WHO.

Grateful to our donors for sustaining support to the UN Action Network:

