




## UN WOMEN

# UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

### BACKGROUND GUIDE:

**Topic:** Discussing the impacts of conflict-related sexual violence in countries afflicted by war

**Chairs:** Francisca Gasparian and Maria Direito

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# 1. GREETING WORD

Dear delegates,

We, Francisca Gasparian and Maria Direito, are beyond excited to welcome you to the UN Women council at AleMUN 2026. We could not be happier to take on the role of chairs in such a meaningful committee alongside talented delegates, and we are thrilled to be discussing such a vital topic: "Discussing the impacts of conflict-related sexual violence in countries afflicted by war"

The UN Women council is a global organization dedicated to promoting gender equality and empowering women worldwide. It plays a crucial role in advocating for women's rights, within the framework of human rights. The topic of analyzing the impact of extreme religious policies on women's rights aligns with the council's mission, as it addresses issues such as their access to education and employment, and other harmful practices that violate women's autonomy and rights. This discussion is essential for raising awareness, fostering dialogue, and advocating for policies and actions that protect women's rights and promote their well-being.

As we embark on this journey together, we are thrilled to assume the role of moderators, overseeing and facilitating the fruitful debates that will unfold during our sessions. The topics we have carefully selected for discussion hold great relevance and significance in today's global landscape, and we are eager to witness the innovative solutions and collaborative efforts that will emerge from our collective deliberations. Please feel free to approach us with any questions, concerns, or ideas you may have as we prepare for our upcoming sessions. Together, we shall embark on a journey of diplomacy, cooperation, and shared understanding, contributing our part to the improvement of our world.

We know that debating such a complex topic might feel daunting, especially for newer delegates. But whether this is your first MUN or your tenth, know that your voice matters. This council is a space for learning, growing and making your ideas heard in a respectful and supportive environment. Don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time, as our role here is to help you.

We look forward to hearing your unique perspectives and seeing thoughtful solutions emerge. Our contact information is displayed under, do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions. Let's make this a memorable and impactful experience for all of us.

Sincerely,  
Chairs of the UN Women council.

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# 2. UNITED NATIONS ENTITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

## 2.1 UN WOMEN'S MISSION

UN Women, officially established in 2010, was the result of years of negotiations among UN Member States and sustained advocacy by the global women's movement. It was created as part of the UN's broader reform agenda, aiming to consolidate various efforts and resources under one umbrella to more effectively promote gender equality and empower women worldwide.

The United Nations' commitment to women's rights dates back to its founding in 1945, when the UN Charter was signed. Thanks to the efforts of a few pioneering women delegates — most notably Bertha Lutz (Brazil) and Minerva Bernardino (Dominican Republic) -the Charter included explicit language affirming the equal rights of men and women. Shortly afterward, in 1946, the UN established the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) as a functional body under the Economic and Social Council. Its mandate was to advocate for women's rights and gender equality across multiple areas, including political participation, education, civil society, and economic opportunities. The CSW also worked on urgent issues impacting women and provided reports and recommendations to the broader UN system.

Over time, the UN's internal structure to support gender equality evolved. A Section on the Status of Women was formed within the Human Rights Division, which later became the Division for the Advancement of Women in 1978. Finally, in 2010, this division, along with several other entities focused on women's issues, was merged to create UN Women—a single, stronger body tasked with leading and coordinating global efforts to achieve gender

## 2.2 STRUCTURE OF UN WOMEN

The Executive Board of UN Women consists of 41 members, representing different regional groups:

- 10 from African States
- 10 from Asian States
- 4 from Eastern European States
- 6 from Latin American and Caribbean States
- 5 from Western Europe and Other States
- 6 from the top contributing countries

The Board's main role is to provide guidance to the Executive Director on UN Women's operational work. It ensures that the organization's activities align with broader policy directions set by the UN General Assembly and ECOSOC. The Board also oversees performance, approves strategic plans, country programs, financial and administrative budgets, and more.

Members are elected by ECOSOC for terms that generally last three years, with a rotation system in place to ensure continuity. The Board operates on a calendar-year basis, from January 1 to December 31. In some cases, particularly in the Western European and Others group terms may be shorter due to an internal rotation schedule.

## 2.3 UN WOMEN'S MISSION

UN Women is the United Nations main agency dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls. Established in 2010, it was created to strengthen the UN's efforts by consolidating four previous gender-focused entities into a single, more effective organization:

UN Women's core mission is to accelerate global progress toward meeting women's needs and rights. It works closely with Member States, governments, and civil society to create and implement laws, policies, and programs that promote equality. It also ensures women's full participation and benefits across all areas of life. The organization focuses on four strategic priorities:

1. Promoting women's leadership and participation in governance
2. Ensuring income security and economic independence
3. Ending violence against women and girls
4. Supporting women's role in peacebuilding and resilience

UN Women also plays a key coordination role within the UN system, helping to drive progress on gender-related aspects of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). While progress has been made through frameworks like the Beijing

Declaration and CEDAW, major gender inequalities remain — impacting women's access to education, healthcare, decent work, and decision-making roles.

In addition to policy support and funding, UN Women monitors progress and ensures accountability across the UN system on gender equality efforts.

# 3. TOPIC

## BACKGROUND

### 3.1 CURRENT SITUATION

Conflict-related sexual violence is one of the most serious humanitarian consequences of armed conflict all around the globe. In countries affected by war, survivors, which are most often women and girls, face rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, trafficking and other forms of gender-based violence committed by armed groups, military forces and extremist individuals. In many cases these actions are deliberately used to terrorize civilians, force displacement and punish communities.

Recent conflicts in places such as Ukraine, the Republic of the Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar and the State of Palestine have resulted in many reports of sexual violence occurring in places that go from the actual combat zones and detention facilities to displacement settings. Humanitarian organizations have documented cases of rape, sexual torture and exploitation often linked to mass movements of people. Those living in refugee camps or temporary shelters are particularly exposed, as overcrowding, limited security and scarce resources create opportunities for abuse.

The collapse or weakening of state institutions during conflict worsens the problem. Police, courts and health services may be inaccessible or not operating, leaving survivors without medical care, proper documentation or legal resources. Fear of persecution and social stigma also silence victims, meaning that many incidents go unreported and perpetrators remain unpunished. International organizations continue to press for stronger accountability, emergency care and survivor protection, but gaps persist where the government is not functional

### 3.2 HISTORICAL CONTEXT

The use of sexual violence in war is an old pattern, since, historically, invading forces treated women and girls as objects and means to humiliate communities. For centuries these abuses were accepted or overlooked, and many survivor experiences were rarely recorded or addressed.

With the beginning of the 20th century, that began to change. Larger conflicts exposed the organizations behind sexual violence in countries affected by conflict, and over time the international community came to see these acts as thought over tactics rather than unavoidable outcomes of war, as they were once considered. Patterns documented in more recent decades, such as in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the Republic of the Sudan, show how sexual violence can be part of strategies to displace, intimidate or target specific populations.

Legal and political shifts in international humanitarian law and human rights increasingly recognized rape and related crimes as war crimes and crimes against humanity. Yet, despite clearer legal actions being taken, their enforcement has been uneven. Recent conflicts, in Ukraine, Myanmar and Sudan, for example, have shown that when state control weakens, sexual violence adapts and persists. Understanding this history helps explain why modern solutions must combine immediate humanitarian support with long-term legal and social reforms, considering future perspectives.

The consequences of conflict-related sexual violence go very deep and beyond the assault itself. Physically, survivors may carry injuries; psychologically, trauma, depression and anxiety are extremely common. In many conflict zones, functioning health services are unavailable, meaning that emergency care and mental health support are often impossible to reach.

Socially and economically, survivors can also face many difficulties. Including forced marriages, loss of livelihood and difficulty accessing education. Children born of wartime sexual violence may have to live with stigma and legal and financial uncertainty, which can deepen the harm throughout generations. At the community level, sexual violence breaks trust, weakens social relations and complicates reconciliation efforts, standing as a barrier in making reconstruction and peacebuilding.

### 3.3 LAW AND THE STATE

States and their legal systems are crucial to preventing, documenting and addressing conflict-related sexual violence. Still, war often results in damaged functionality of institutions needed for addressing the issue. When courts are damaged, survivors face high barriers to reporting and obtaining justice. This institutional breakdown causes impunity, especially in places where perpetrators belong to armed groups and/or receive political protection.

Some states maintain legal frameworks that criminalize sexual violence but lack the capacity to enforce them during conflicts, others have emergency or military rules that restrict survivors' access to justice. Cases documented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar and Ukraine show how when the state's capacity is weak, there are low investigation and punishment rates.

Addressing these gaps requires restoring the laws, rebuilding judicial capacity and implementing reporting and protection mechanisms for survivors. International cooperation can assist, providing technical support, documentation and accountability mechanisms, aimed at preventing the crimes.

# 4. PREPARATION FOR THE DEBATE

## 4.1 TOPICS TO FOCUS ON DURING THE DEBATE

- How can the international community strengthen the protection of civilians, particularly women and girls, in countries affected by armed conflict?
- To what extent should states be held accountable for conflict-related sexual violence committed within their territories?
- How can humanitarian organizations provide support for survivors while respecting national sovereignty?
- What measures can be adopted to improve access to healthcare, psychological assistance and legal support for survivors of sexual violence in conflict zones?
- How can refugee camps and humanitarian shelters be made safer for women and girls displaced by war?
- To what extent can sanctions, peacekeeping missions or international tribunals help reduce impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence?
- What long-term strategies can be implemented to support the reintegration, protection and economic independence of survivors?
- How can women's participation in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction contribute to reducing gender-based violence in conflict settings?

## 4.2 GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

- What is your country's official position regarding conflict-related sexual violence and international humanitarian intervention?
- How does your country approach the balance between national sovereignty and international accountability mechanisms?
- What role has your country played within the United Nations regarding women, peace and security initiatives?
- How effective are current international legal frameworks, such as the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, in addressing conflict-related sexual violence?
- What challenges do humanitarian organizations face when providing assistance in active conflict zones?
- How have recent conflicts in countries such as Ukraine, Sudan, Myanmar and the State of Palestine influenced international discussions on civilian protection?
- What role can women play in peace negotiations, post-conflict reconstruction and long-term conflict prevention?

# 5. IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUNTRIES

## 5.1 Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan

Afghanistan continues to face a severe human rights crisis under Taliban rule, particularly affecting women and girls. Since the Taliban regained control in 2021, restrictions on women's participation in public life, education, employment, and freedom of movement have intensified, creating conditions that increase vulnerability to gender-based and sexual violence. In early 2026, reports concerning revisions to the criminal code and the weakening of legal protections against domestic abuse raised significant international concern, as women's access to justice and protection mechanisms remains extremely limited.

Although large-scale armed conflict has decreased compared to previous years, insecurity, political repression, and the absence of independent judicial institutions continue to contribute to an environment of impunity. International organizations and human rights groups have documented allegations of forced marriages, domestic violence, arbitrary detention, and sexual abuse, while survivors often face major obstacles in reporting crimes or receiving medical, psychological, and legal support.

The Taliban authorities maintain that their policies are based on their interpretation of Islamic law and claim they are ensuring security and social order. However, many governments, the United Nations, and human rights organizations argue that the systematic exclusion of women and the lack of accountability for abuses violate international human rights standards.

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## 5.2 Federative Republic of Brazil

Brazil has expressed concern over rising levels of gender-based and sexual violence, recognizing its serious social and humanitarian consequences. Although Brazil is not affected by armed conflict domestically, the country continues to face high rates of sexual violence, femicide, and abuse against women and children. Reports in recent years have shown increasing cases of harassment and sexual assault, while humanitarian crises and natural disasters, such as major floods, have also increased vulnerability to exploitation and abuse. In international discussions, Brazil strongly condemns conflict-related sexual violence, describing rape, sexual slavery, and related abuses as grave violations of international humanitarian and human rights law. Brazil supports the United Nations Women, Peace, and Security agenda, particularly UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and advocates for stronger protection of civilians in conflict zones. Brazilian representatives at the UN have emphasized the need for accountability for perpetrators, survivor-centered assistance, and improved training for peacekeeping missions to prevent abuses. Brazil also highlights the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict recovery, arguing that inclusive peace processes are essential for long-term stability and the prevention of future violence.

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### 5.3 People's Republic of China

China strongly condemns conflict-related sexual violence, particularly against women and girls, describing it as a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law that threatens international peace and security. In 2026, China continues to emphasize that the increase of such crimes in conflict zones, including in countries such as Sudan and Ukraine, is closely linked to prolonged armed conflict, political instability, and humanitarian crises.

China's position in multilateral forums, especially within the United Nations Security Council, focuses on conflict prevention, ceasefires, respect for state sovereignty, and political dialogue as the most effective long-term measures to reduce sexual violence in war. The country generally supports humanitarian assistance, protection for civilians, and medical and psychological support for survivors, while also calling for accountability for perpetrators in accordance with international law.

At the same time, China often stresses that responses to conflict-related sexual violence should avoid what it considers the "politicization" of humanitarian issues. Chinese representatives frequently advocate for balanced investigations, evidence-based reporting, and internationally coordinated responses led through the United Nations framework. Additionally, China supports strengthening peacekeeping operations and capacity-building efforts aimed at protecting vulnerable populations in conflict-affected regions.

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### 5.4 Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Democratic Republic of the Congo continues to face a severe crisis of conflict-related sexual violence, particularly in the eastern provinces of North and South Kivu. Armed groups, including M23 and other militias, have been accused of using rape and other forms of sexual violence as tactics of terror and control against civilian populations. Reports from 2025 show a significant increase in victims, especially among women and girls living in conflict zones and displacement camps, where insecurity and lack of protection remain critical concerns.

The consequences are devastating and long-lasting, including physical injuries, psychological trauma, unwanted pregnancies, family separation, and the spread of sexually transmitted infections such as HIV/AIDS.

Humanitarian services, including post-rape care and psychosocial support, have also been weakened by ongoing violence, looting, and funding shortages.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo officially condemns conflict-related sexual violence and has cooperated with the United Nations and international organizations to improve accountability and survivor assistance. However, continued instability, weak state control in eastern regions, and widespread impunity remain major obstacles.

The delegation should stress the urgent need for stronger international support, increased humanitarian aid, protection for civilians and displaced persons, and effective prosecution of perpetrators, while reaffirming that sexual violence in conflict constitutes a serious violation of international law.

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## 5.5 Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

Ethiopia continues to face serious challenges regarding conflict-related sexual violence, particularly in the regions of Tigray, Amhara, and Oromia. International organizations, including the United Nations and human rights groups, have documented widespread allegations of rape, gang rape, sexual torture, forced pregnancy, and other forms of gender-based violence committed during armed conflicts by various actors, including Ethiopian forces, Eritrean troops, regional militias, and armed groups. Reports indicate that these abuses have had devastating physical, psychological, and social consequences for survivors, while fear, stigma, insecurity, and limited access to justice contribute to significant underreporting of cases.

The humanitarian situation has further intensified the crisis. Many healthcare facilities and support centers have been damaged, closed, or left underfunded because of insecurity and reductions in international aid, limiting access to medical care, trauma support, and reproductive health services for survivors. Women and girls in displaced communities remain especially vulnerable.

At the official level, the Ethiopian government has publicly acknowledged that conflict-related sexual violence occurred during the conflicts and has stated its commitment to accountability, survivor assistance, and cooperation with international mechanisms. Authorities have announced investigations, military prosecutions, and national action plans aimed at addressing gender-based violence and improving institutional responses. Ethiopia has also engaged with United Nations agencies and supported aspects of the international Women, Peace and Security agenda. However, international observers and human rights organizations continue to criticize the pace and transparency of investigations, arguing that accountability remains limited and that many perpetrators have not yet been brought to justice.

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## 5.6 French Republic

France considers conflict-related sexual violence a grave violation of international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as a potential war crime, crime against humanity, or act of genocide under international law. The French government consistently supports stronger international measures to prevent such violence, protect survivors, and ensure accountability for perpetrators. France has promoted what it describes as a “feminist foreign policy,” placing gender equality and the protection of women and girls at the center of its diplomatic and humanitarian agenda.

Within the United Nations, particularly in the UN Security Council, France advocates for stricter implementation of resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and on conflict-related sexual violence. It supports international investigations, sanctions against individuals and armed groups responsible for these crimes, and stronger cooperation with the International Criminal Court and other judicial mechanisms. France has also provided financial assistance to survivor-support initiatives, including contributions to the Global Survivors Fund founded by Nobel Peace Prize laureates Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, aimed at reparations and long-term recovery for victims.

At the same time, France emphasizes the importance of survivor-centered approaches, including medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and the participation of women in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction. French officials also argue that combating impunity is essential for long-term peace and security, maintaining that commanders and political leaders who tolerate or organize sexual violence in conflict should be held individually accountable under international law.

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## 5.7 Republic of India

India officially recognizes conflict-related sexual violence as a grave violation of human rights and a serious threat to international peace and security. The Indian government supports stronger international cooperation to prevent such crimes, ensure accountability for perpetrators, and improve protection and assistance for survivors. In multilateral forums, India has repeatedly emphasized the importance of survivor-centered approaches, gender-sensitive peacebuilding policies, and the role of women in conflict prevention and peacekeeping operations.

India also presents itself as an active contributor to the Women, Peace and Security agenda through its participation in United Nations peacekeeping missions, the deployment of women police contingents, and financial and diplomatic support for international initiatives assisting victims of sexual violence in conflict. Indian representatives frequently stress that accountability, improved humanitarian protection systems, and measures to reduce the proliferation of illicit weapons are essential to preventing conflict-related sexual violence.

At the domestic level, however, India continues to face significant challenges regarding violence against women, including allegations of sexual violence linked to ethnic unrest, communal tensions, insurgencies, and security operations in conflict-affected regions such as Kashmir and parts of the Northeast. Human rights organizations and civil society groups have raised concerns about underreporting, limited access to justice, social stigma faced by survivors, and the uneven implementation of legal protections. Consequently, while India advocates internationally for stronger action against conflict-related sexual violence, observers note that the country also faces ongoing pressure to strengthen accountability mechanisms and improve protections for women and vulnerable communities within its own borders.

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## 5.8 Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran faces continued international scrutiny over allegations that state security forces have committed sexual violence, including rape, assault, and other forms of abuse, against protesters and detainees, particularly women and girls, during periods of civil unrest. Reports by human rights organizations, UN experts, and independent investigations have linked these abuses to crackdowns following demonstrations related to women's rights, compulsory hijab regulations, and broader political grievances. Such acts are frequently described by observers as methods of intimidation aimed at suppressing dissent and discouraging public protest.

As of 2026, allegations persist that abuses continue during arrests, interrogations, and detention procedures associated with political unrest. Survivors reportedly face severe physical and psychological trauma, social stigma, and significant barriers to obtaining legal protection or accountability. Concerns have also been raised regarding the increasing use of surveillance technologies, including AI-assisted monitoring systems, to enforce social restrictions and identify protesters, contributing to a climate of fear and repression.

The Iranian government consistently rejects accusations of systematic sexual violence by state authorities, describing many reports as politically motivated or fabricated by foreign actors and hostile media. In international forums, including at the United Nations, Iran publicly condemns conflict-related sexual violence in armed conflicts worldwide and emphasizes principles such as state sovereignty, prevention measures, victim assistance, and the importance of national legal frameworks. Iranian representatives also frequently argue that human rights discussions should avoid politicization and selective targeting of states.

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## 5.9 State of Israel

Discussing the impacts of conflict-related sexual violence in countries afflicted by war: Israel is currently at the center of intense international debate regarding conflict-related sexual violence linked to the ongoing war following the October 7, 2023 attacks. Israeli authorities and multiple international investigations have reported evidence of rape, sexual torture, and other forms of abuse committed by Hamas and affiliated armed groups during the attacks and against hostages held in Gaza. Israel characterizes these acts as deliberate tools of terror and crimes against humanity, emphasizing the severe physical and psychological consequences for survivors and calling for stronger international accountability, hostage protections, and condemnation of armed groups responsible for such violence.

At the same time, United Nations bodies and several human rights organizations have raised allegations concerning sexual abuse, mistreatment, and gender-based violence committed against Palestinians by Israeli security forces and, in some cases, by extremist settlers in the occupied territories. These reports have increased international scrutiny of Israel's conduct during the conflict, including discussions within UN mechanisms related to conflict-related sexual violence. The Israeli government strongly rejects many of these allegations, arguing that some reports are politically motivated, insufficiently verified, or fail to account for the broader security context of the war against Hamas.

Israel's official position remains focused on prioritizing the recognition of Hamas's actions as systematic wartime atrocities while maintaining that its military operations are conducted within the framework of national defense and international law. At the diplomatic level, Israel continues to advocate for international pressure on Hamas and for the release and protection of hostages, while simultaneously contesting accusations directed at Israeli forces and criticizing what it views as disproportionate or biased international attention toward its conduct.

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## 5.10 Republic of the Union of Myanmar

Myanmar is currently facing a severe humanitarian and human rights crisis in which conflict-related sexual violence has become a major concern since the 2021 military coup. According to reports from UN agencies, humanitarian organizations, and local civil society groups such as the Women's League of Burma, rape and gang rape have allegedly been used by members of the military and affiliated forces as tactics of intimidation, punishment, and control, particularly in conflict-affected areas such as Karenni State, Sagaing Region, and parts of Chin and Rakhine States. Hundreds of documented cases indicate that women and girls are disproportionately affected, although men and children have also reportedly been victims. Survivors often face long-term physical injuries, psychological trauma, social stigma, displacement, limited access to medical and psychosocial support, and significant barriers to justice due to insecurity and weak institutional accountability. The position of Myanmar's military authorities remains highly controversial, as the junta has repeatedly denied or minimized many allegations of abuses while restricting independent investigations and media access in conflict zones. In contrast, Myanmar's opposition groups, ethnic organizations, and pro-democracy representatives have called for stronger international action, accountability mechanisms, and

expanded protection for civilians and survivors. The broader international community, including the United Nations, continues to express concern over credible reports of widespread sexual and gender-based violence and has urged all parties to the conflict to comply with international humanitarian and human rights law.

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## 5.11 State of Palestine

The situation in Palestine remains deeply concerning, as women and girls continue to face serious risks of sexual and gender-based violence linked to the ongoing conflict, particularly in Gaza and parts of the West Bank. Reports from United Nations bodies, humanitarian organizations, and human rights groups indicate that sexual violence has occurred in the context of military operations, detention practices, displacement, and the collapse of civilian protection systems. Survivors often face limited access to medical care, reproductive healthcare, psychological support, and safe shelter. Documented testimonies and investigations describe cases of rape, sexual torture, harassment, threats, and degrading treatment, although many incidents are believed to remain underreported because of stigma, fear, and insecurity. International investigations have also identified credible evidence of sexual violence during the October 7 attacks carried out by Hamas and other armed groups, including against hostages and civilians. For this reason, many states and international organizations stress that accountability efforts must apply impartially to all parties involved, including Hamas, Israeli forces, and armed settlers where allegations arise.

The Palestinian position in international forums generally emphasizes the protection of civilians, humanitarian access, and international accountability for alleged abuses committed in the occupied Palestinian territories. Palestinian representatives frequently call for greater international action to protect women and children affected by conflict and displacement, while international organizations continue to stress that conflict-related sexual violence is a serious violation of international humanitarian and human rights law.

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## 5.12 Russian Federation

The Russian Federation is currently facing significant international scrutiny regarding allegations of conflict-related sexual violence linked to the war in Ukraine. Reports from international organizations, independent investigators, and humanitarian agencies have documented cases of sexual violence allegedly committed in detention facilities and occupied territories, describing severe physical, psychological, and social consequences for survivors and affected communities. These reports have intensified international calls for accountability, independent investigations, and stronger protection mechanisms for civilians in conflict zones.

At the same time, the Russian government and its delegation at the United Nations have consistently rejected these allegations, arguing that many of the reports are politically motivated, insufficiently verified, or used as part of broader information campaigns against Russia. Russian representatives have emphasized the importance of impartial investigations based on verified evidence and have criticized what they describe as selective politicization of humanitarian issues within international institutions.

The United Nations has indicated that Russia could potentially be placed “on notice” concerning conflict-related sexual violence due to the growing body of documented allegations. This development has increased diplomatic pressure on the Russian Federation and reinforced international debates regarding accountability, international humanitarian law, and the protection of civilians during armed conflict.

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## 5.13 Republic of the Sudan

Sudan is currently facing a serious humanitarian and human rights crisis in which conflict-related sexual violence has become widespread and systematic. Reports from international organizations and humanitarian agencies indicate that women and girls are being subjected to rape, sexual exploitation, and other forms of gender-based violence in towns, displacement camps, and conflict zones, particularly in Darfur and other heavily affected regions. Armed groups, including paramilitary forces and militias, have frequently been accused of using sexual violence as a tactic of intimidation and control against civilians.

The impact on survivors is severe and long-lasting, including physical injuries, psychological trauma, social stigma, and economic insecurity. Many victims are unable or unwilling to report abuses due to fear, stigma, and the lack of reliable protection. At the same time, humanitarian access remains limited, making medical care, psychological support, shelters, and legal assistance insufficient in many areas. Weak judicial institutions and ongoing instability have also contributed to widespread impunity for perpetrators.

Sudan has publicly condemned sexual violence and expressed support for civilian protection in cooperation with the United Nations and humanitarian organizations. However, the ongoing conflict, the fragmentation of state authority, and accusations involving multiple armed actors have significantly weakened the country's ability to enforce accountability and effectively protect survivors. As a result, the international community continues to pressure Sudan to improve humanitarian access, strengthen justice mechanisms, and ensure greater protection for civilians affected by the conflict.

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#### 5.14 Ukraine

Ukraine emphasizes that conflict-related sexual violence committed during the ongoing war, particularly in territories affected by Russian occupation and military operations, represents a grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights. Ukrainian authorities, alongside international organizations and humanitarian agencies, have documented cases in which sexual violence has reportedly been used as a method of intimidation, coercion, torture, and terror against civilians and detainees. Ukraine highlights the severe and long-term physical, psychological, social, and economic consequences suffered by survivors, including women, men, and children, many of whom remain unable or unwilling to report abuses due to stigma, fear, trauma, or displacement.

The Government of Ukraine has consistently called for stronger international accountability mechanisms, independent investigations, and the prosecution of perpetrators under international law. Ukraine also stresses the importance of survivor-centered responses, including access to medical treatment, trauma-informed psychological care, legal assistance, shelter, and social reintegration programs for affected individuals both inside the country and among displaced populations abroad. In cooperation with the United Nations, the International Criminal Court, and various humanitarian partners, Ukraine supports initiatives aimed at documenting evidence, strengthening protection systems, training professionals to respond to sexual violence cases, and ensuring that survivors receive dignified and confidential support. Ukraine further maintains that addressing conflict-related sexual violence is essential not only for justice and accountability, but also for long-term recovery, reconciliation, and the protection of international peace and security.

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## 5.15 United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The United Kingdom views conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) as a grave violation of international humanitarian law and human rights, as well as a serious threat to international peace, security, and post-conflict recovery. The United Kingdom firmly condemns the use of sexual violence as a tactic of war, repression, intimidation, and ethnic persecution, and consistently advocates for survivor-centred responses, accountability, and strengthened international cooperation to prevent and address such crimes. The UK positions itself as a leading international actor on this issue through diplomatic engagement, humanitarian assistance, and multilateral initiatives aimed at combating impunity and supporting affected populations.

The United Kingdom emphasizes that effective responses to CRSV must prioritize survivors' dignity, safety, and long-term recovery, including access to comprehensive medical care, psychological support, legal assistance, and social reintegration services. The UK also stresses the importance of ensuring justice through stronger national and international accountability mechanisms, improved documentation of crimes, and support for investigations and prosecutions conducted by international courts, the United Nations, and domestic judicial institutions.

In its foreign policy, the United Kingdom actively promotes international frameworks related to women, peace, and security, particularly the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions addressing conflict-related sexual violence. The UK has played a significant role in establishing and supporting initiatives such as the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) and the International Alliance on PSVI, which seek to strengthen global coordination, survivor assistance, and prevention strategies. Furthermore, the United Kingdom supports UN agencies and civil society organizations operating in conflict-affected regions, including Sudan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Ukraine, while encouraging member states to adopt survivor-centred policies and reinforce protections for vulnerable populations during armed conflict.

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## 5.16 United States of America

The United States considers conflict-related sexual violence a grave violation of human rights and a significant threat to international peace, security, and stability. The country maintains that sexual violence in armed conflicts is frequently used as a deliberate tactic of war, intimidation, and social control, with long-lasting consequences for individuals, families, and entire communities. According to the U.S. position, these crimes not only cause severe physical and psychological trauma, but also weaken social structures, hinder post-conflict recovery, and obstruct reconciliation and sustainable development.

In response, the United States advocates for a comprehensive and survivor-centered approach that prioritizes prevention, protection, accountability, and access to support services. This includes diplomatic engagement with governments and international organizations, financial and humanitarian assistance for survivors, and support for medical care, mental health services, legal aid, and social reintegration programs. Furthermore, the U.S. strongly supports the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators through national courts and international mechanisms, emphasizing the importance of ending impunity for such crimes.

The United States also promotes cooperation with the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, and local civil society actors to strengthen institutions, improve monitoring and reporting mechanisms, and enhance education and awareness initiatives aimed at preventing future abuses. Overall, the U.S. position reflects the belief that addressing conflict-related sexual violence is essential not only for protecting human dignity and human rights, but also for achieving long-term peace and security in war-affected regions.

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