

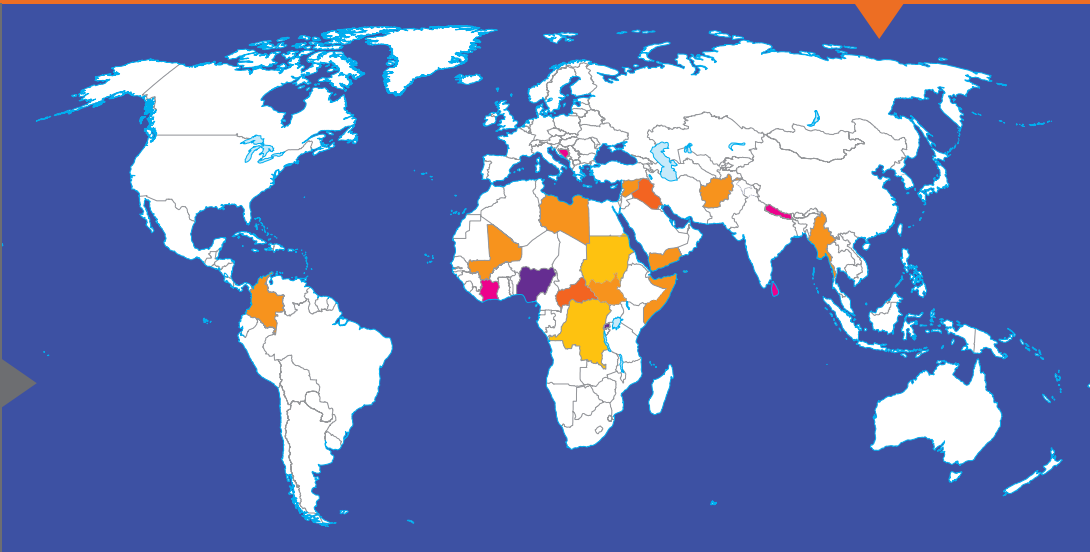


## 9<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The report highlights patterns of violations, as well as challenges faced and actions taken by States to protect women, girls, men and boys from such violence. To chart the way forward, *each country section includes a targeted, actionable recommendation, building on those made in previous years.*

**19**  
countries  
of concern

**47**  
parties  
to the  
conflict  
listed



### SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT-AFFECTED SETTINGS

Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan (Darfur), Syrian Arab Republic, and Yemen.

### SEXUAL-VIOLENCE IN POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS:

Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cote d'Ivoire, Nepal, Sri Lanka

### OTHER SITUATIONS OF CONCERN:

Burundi, Nigeria

### Key themes and critical dimensions

- The **multiple and intersecting stigmas** that follow in the wake of sexual violence, with potentially lethal repercussions, including the stigma associated with children born as a result of wartime rape, and the stigma arising from forced association with a violent extremist group; the urgent need for **socioeconomic reintegration** support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, including those liberated from the captivity of groups such as Da'esh, Boko Haram or Al-Shabaab; sexual violence as a **driver of forced displacement and a form of persecution that causes population flight**, which should be recognized as grounds for refugee status, and also the issue of **justice and accountability as integral to the safe and sustainable return of communities to their areas of origin**; the nexus between **human trafficking**, conflict and sexual violence and exploitation; the **targeting of minorities** on the basis of ethnic, religious or political affiliation, in a way that mirrors the fault-lines of the wider conflict or crisis; and the links between **economic security and physical security**.



## 9<sup>TH</sup> REPORT OF THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

- Our recent reports have noted **the need for a better understanding of sexual violence against men and boys**, which remains a particular concern in contexts of detention and interrogation, and **the plight of children born of wartime rape** who remain in the shadows of society, often facing a lifetime of marginalization, and may be potential targets for future radicalization, recruitment and trafficking. In many settings, where paternity is unknown, mothers are unable to register the child or obtain a birth certificate, leaving them in a legal limbo, which increases their risk of statelessness and impedes their access to social services, such as healthcare and education.

### Progress

- Greater visibility, political will and momentum than ever before.
- Development of a robust legislative framework in the Security Council, which has given us new tools to drive the mandate to the ground and begin to effect some changes in behaviour.
- More strategic and structured engagement with the security and justice sectors, as part of a prevention strategy.
- Beginning to see some accountability at international and national levels, as a vital aspect of deterrence and prevention.
- Beginning to see national ownership, leadership and responsibility, evident in formal commitments that many governments are making to deal with this problem in their countries, as well as commitments by regional organizations.

### Key recommendations

- Strengthen the emphasis on accountability, justice and reparations for crimes of sexual violence, including by supporting the work of the United Nations Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE) and encourage sustainable and regular funding of the ToE.
- Address the needs of survivors of sexual violence as part of peace-making, peacebuilding and community reconciliation initiatives, including restorative justice, reparations and livelihood support.
- Address funding shortfalls for sexual and gender-based violence programming and sexual and reproductive healthcare in conflict-affected settings, including by ensuring sustainable and regular funding of the 14 UN entities members of the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) network.
- Encourage the Security Council to employ all means at its disposal to influence State and non-State parties to conflict to comply with international law, including through the use of sanctions; and to support engagement with State and non-State parties to conflict for specific commitments on conflict-related sexual violence, and to monitor their compliance, including through the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security.

### Conclusion

The dramatic policy and advocacy progress over the past decade has also coincided with a global mass migration crisis, rising violent extremism, and the resurgence of armed conflict, which create the conditions for widespread sexual violence. Therefore, we cannot become complacent, but **we must redouble our efforts to sustain the momentum for change.**