

# DEFINING CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (CRSV)

## WHAT IS CRSV

Conflict-related sexual violence refers to incidents or patterns of sexual violence against women, men, girls or boys occurring in a conflict or post-conflict setting that have direct or indirect links with the conflict itself or in a context of political repression.

- Guidance Note of the Secretary General:  
Reparations for Conflict Related Sexual Violence-



Women, men, girls and boys.

Members of ethnic, racial, religious, or political minorities often become targets of CRSV.

## WHO ARE THE VICTIMS OF CRSV?

Family members, children, parents or partners, children born of rape, dependants of the victim survivor

Sex workers



## CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE INCLUDES

 <b>RAPE</b>	 <b>FORCING VICTIMS TO ENGAGE IN SEXUAL INTERCOURSE WITH ONE ANOTHER.</b>	 <b>SEXUAL MUTILATION</b>	 <b>SEXUAL SLAVERY</b>	 <b>COMFORT WOMEN</b> (women and girls forced to provide sexual services to military personnel).	 <b>FORCED PROSTITUTION</b>
 <b>FORCED PREGNANCY</b>	 <b>FORCED ABORTION</b>	 <b>ENFORCED STERILIZATION</b>	 <b>FORCED NUDITY / STRIPPING</b>	 <b>FORCED MARRIAGES</b>	 <b>GROPING</b>
 <b>SEXUAL HUMILIATION</b>	 <b>THREATENING TO COMMIT SEXUAL VIOLENCE</b>	 <b>SEXUAL BRIBERY</b>	 <b>SEXUAL EXPLOITATION</b>	 <b>SEXUAL HARASSMENT</b>	 <b>CHECKPOINT HARASSMENT</b>

## PERPETRATORS OF CRSV INCLUDE

**Individuals affiliated with State armed forces**

**Individuals affiliated with non-State armed groups**

**Terrorists**

Other individuals in a position to abuse the powers granted to them during conflicts, political instability or climates of impunity.

## WHERE DOES CRSV OCCUR?

**HOMES**

**FIELDS**

**PLACES OF DETENTION**

**MILITARY SITES**

**CAMPS FOR REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS.**

**IT OCCURS AT THE HEIGHT OF ARMED CONFLICT, DURING POPULATION DISPLACEMENT, AND CONTINUES AFTER CONFLICT.**

## WHAT IS A POST CONFLICT CONTEXT?

“Conflicts do not necessarily end with the signing of official peace agreements”. It is not easy to define the length and duration of a post-conflict context.”

*(Frère and Wilen)*

“Situation in which open warfare has come to an end. Such situations remain tense for years or decades and can easily relapse into large scale violence”

*(UN Human Right Council)*

“Post-conflict” - not as a period bounded by a single specific event, but as a process that involves the achievement of a range of peace milestones.”

*(Brown, Langer and Stewart)*

## PEACE MILESTONES

**CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES AND VIOLENCE**

**SIGNING OF POLITICAL/PEACE AGREEMENTS**

**DEMOBILISATION, DISARMAMENT & REINTEGRATION**

**REFUGEE REPATRIATION**

**ESTABLISHING A FUNCTIONING STATE**

**ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

**ACHIEVING RECONCILIATION & SOCIETAL INTEGRATION**

## WHEN IS SEXUAL VIOLENCE RELATED TO CONFLICT?

**WHEN IT IS USED AS A 'TACTIC' OF WAR**  
Sexual violence is strategically linked or intended to be linked with military and political objectives.

**TEMPORALITY**  
When the Violation is Linked to the Conflict due to the Time of Occurrence of the Violation. Time related nexus between the conflict and the violation.

**LOCATION**  
For an act of sexual violence to be considered as CRSV, it is also necessary for the violence to have occurred in a geographical location affected by the conflict.

**Sexual violence is conflict related when:**

- It occurs in a context of instability that may escalate to an armed conflict.
- During occupation
- Against people deprived of their liberty in connection with conflict.
- In the aftermath of a conflict before State authority is restored.
- To persons who are displaced or become refugees due to armed conflict

## SEXUAL VIOLENCE DURING POST CONFLICT CONTEXTS

Individuals who have become vulnerable due to former conflict contexts could be targeted when they return to their homelands / homes as retribution.

Such individuals could also be subject to domestic violence, sexual exploitation, and trafficking in persons. -Jeanne Ward and UN Women, Violence against Women in Conflict, Post-Conflict and Emergency Settings (2013)

**CRSV IS AN ONGOING AND SIGNIFICANT CONSEQUENCE OF CONFLICT THAT REQUIRES AN EVOLVING DEFINITION.**

## LINK BETWEEN SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND CONFLICT



This link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator (often affiliated with a State or non-State armed group, including a terrorist entity or network)



The climate of impunity (which is generally associated with State collapse)



The profile of the victim (who is frequently an actual or perceived member of a persecuted political, ethnic or religious minority)



Cross-border consequences (such as displacement or trafficking in persons) and / or violations of the provisions of a ceasefire agreement.



Targeted on the basis of actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity

The term also encompasses trafficking in person when committed in situations of conflict for the purpose of sexual violence/ exploitation. (Report of the Secretary General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence (2017))

## CRSV AGAINST REFUGEES OR DISPLACED PERSONS



People who are displaced or are compelled to become refugees due to reasons of armed conflict are more vulnerable to harm including sexual violence because they are compelled to live in unfamiliar circumstances.



Displaced persons or refugees may also be subject to sexual violence and other offences due to discriminatory attitudes of combatants or authorities. Some individuals may be singled out for victimisation based on their race, ethnicity, or religion

## WHY SHOULD SPECIAL ATTENTION BE PAID TO CRSV?



**CRSV IS LINKED WITH ABUSE OF POWER**



**INABILITY, LACK OF SAFETY AND CULTURAL ATTITUDES DETER VICTIMS FROM LODGING COMPLAINTS AGAINST CRSV**



**LACK OF PROSECUTIONS AND PUNISHMENTS DUE TO INEFFICIENCY OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM AND VICTIMS' INABILITY TO LODGE COMPLAINTS ON CRSV**

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