



Graduate Women International (GWI)

International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict



19 June 2024

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR THE ELIMINATION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

The International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict is observed on 19 June each year. This day was established by the United Nations General Assembly (A/RES/69/293) in 2015 to **raise awareness about the need to put an end to conflict-related sexual violence**, honor the victims and survivors, and pay tribute to those who have devoted their lives to, and lost their lives in, standing up against these crimes. (Source: un.org)

In conflict zones, the risk of early and forced marriages increases as families seek to protect their daughters from sexual violence or as a coping mechanism for economic survival. **Early marriage usually results in girls dropping out of school.** (Source: UNICEF)

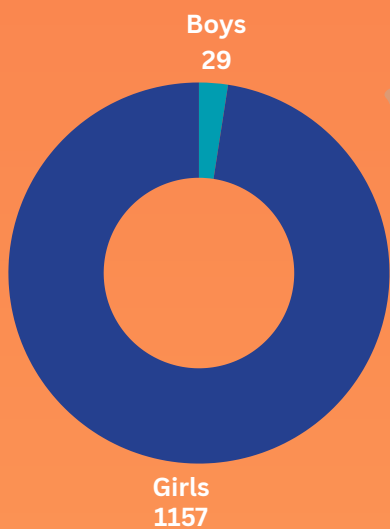
Conflicts often result in the destruction of schools and displacement of communities. **Girls who are displaced may have limited access to safe and secure educational facilities, and their schooling is often interrupted or terminated altogether.** (Source: UNESCO)

GWI aims to raise awareness about concerns that sexual violence in conflict zones has profound and far-reaching impacts on the education of women and girls



FAST FACTS

Regarding sexual violence among children, worldwide, 1186 cases were reported, and **girls make up 98 percent of the total cases.**



During armed conflict, children and women may be deprived of basic rights as they are in a turbulent region and are more vulnerable. According to UNICEF, adolescent girl's lives are distributed in terms of living situation and **girls are 2.5 times more likely to be out of school than boys** in countries affected by conflict.



Thus, given that only 50 percent on average are enrolled in primary school, girls are **150% more likely to be excluded from an educational environment.**

Source: Report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Conflict-related Sexual Violence

Source: UNICEF

INSPIRATION

“Education is the first thing to be suspended in war and conflict. But every child have the right to learn and not be compromise. Education needs to be prioritized!
-Youth Delegate, Stakeholder Briefing on the Declaration on Future Generations, 12 June 2023

“We must guarantee safe and equitable access to inclusive and quality education, including digital literacy for all.
-Office of the SRS on Sexual Violence in Conflict concept note, 19 June 2023

Source: un.org



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Interesting Read

United Nations Field Missions: Preventing and responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Within United Nation’s policy paper reviewed in 2022, it stated that “CRSV is not solely a women’s issue, the Security Council has mandated the prevention and response to CRSV as part of its Women, Peace and Security agenda.” By highlighting the difficulties women and girls face on top of the already existing inequalities brought by societal and culture stigmas within the region , the armed conflicts and sexual violence adds to the trauma one have to burden. The United Nation’s paper calls for sexual violence to be eliminated in conflicts.

Source: un.org

ADVOCACY IDEAS



Suggest local schools and educators to **work with girls and improve their education condition.**

Partner with local and international NGOs, **such as GWI**, working on the ground to **promote harm of sexual assault, provide resources for help and share information.**

Utilize **social media to increase global awareness** about sexual violence in conflict zones, its causes, consequences, and the importance of prevention and response.

Adopt a survivor-centered approach to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence, focusing on **empowering survivors** by prioritizing their unique needs and perspectives.

Donate to funding raising campaigns for survivor support services and awareness programs, such as Girls Education for Brighter Futures.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



During conflicts, mental health and sexual autonomy needs to be ensured to the same extent as physical safety.

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



Acknowledge the need for education during conflict, ensuring equal and inclusive quality education for all, especially girls, whenever possible.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



Increase gender equality for girls and women suffering in conflict, ensure they are not sexually harassed.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Ensure State and individual actions reflect the commitment to addressing and eliminating sexual violence in conflict.

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Sexual violence needs to be eliminated to ensure peace, justice, and strong institutions.

GWI thanks Xinyang Sun, GWI spring intern, for her valuable contribution to this infographic.



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