



Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Peace Negotiations: Implementing Security Council Resolution 1820

22-24 June 2009, New York

Executive Summary

A DPA, UNIFEM, UNDP, OCHA and DPKO collaboration on behalf of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, in partnership with HDC

Introduction

In 2008, the UN Security Council recognized sexual violence as a tactic of war.¹ Unaddressed in almost all peace negotiations, it represents one of history's greatest silences.² To address this, a group of high-level mediators, subject experts, and women's rights advocates will assemble for this Colloquium to generate technical guidance for, and urge political commitment within, the international community.

The event is timed to contribute to discussions on the upcoming Secretary-General's Report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1820. The Colloquium outcomes will also support other longer-term efforts to improve the UN's capacity to engage women in all aspects of conflict resolution and peace building.

Agenda Overview

The event takes place over three days (22-24 June). The **first day** assembles technical experts with a range of expertise – ceasefires, protection of civilians, justice, DDR and social protection. Each thematic working group will generate best-practice, guiding principles and suggested language for peace accords. The discussions will take place under 'Chatham House' rules and be guided by analytical papers.

Internationally recognized mediators such as Jan Egeland and President Joaquim Chissano will convene on the **second day** to discuss the political challenges and obstacles of addressing sexual violence in peace processes. These mediators will also review the material produced by the technical working groups and develop consensus on practical strategies for mediators and the international community. The second day will conclude with a reception hosted by various UN agencies and interested Member States to advance the broader discussion of SCR 1820 and peace negotiations.

The **third day** centers on an informal briefing of Security Council members on the outcomes of the previous two days. This briefing will be preceded by a morning event open to all UN staff and Member States.

¹ SCR 1820 was adopted on 19 June 2008. The resolution acknowledges that women and girls are particularly targeted by the use of sexual violence as a tactic of warfare and notes that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide.

² UNIFEM, *Women, War, Peace*, Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-building, Progress of the World's Women, 2002.