



UN ACTION AGAINST SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT  
www.stoprapenow.org

NGO WORKING GROUP  
ON WOMEN, PEACE  
AND SECURITY  
www.womenpeacesecurity.org

# Security Council Resolution 1820

## Women, Peace & Security

### what it says:

- ✗ Sexual violence can threaten world **peace and security**
- ✗ Sexual violence is used as a **tactic of war** to dominate, humiliate, terrorize and displace.
- ✗ Sexual violence can be a **war crime, crime against humanity** and act of **genocide**.
- ✗ **No amnesty or impunity** for sexual violence.
- ✗ Women are entitled to full and **equal participation** in all peace-building processes.
- ✗ States must **uphold human rights**; all parties to armed conflict must **protect civilians**.
- ✗ Reaffirms **Resolution 1325 (2000)** on Women, Peace and Security.

### why it matters:

- ✗ Places sexual violence on the agenda of the United Nations **Security Council**.
- ✗ Recognizes sexual violence as a **security issue** that demands a **security response**.
- ✗ Affirms that sexual violence affects not only the **health and safety** of women, but the **economic and social stability** of nations.
- ✗ Demands parties to armed conflict **prevent and punish** sexual violence.
- ✗ Calls for **guidelines** to make peacekeeping responses to sexual violence more effective.
- ✗ Seeks proposals to **minimize susceptibility** of women/girls to sexual violence.
- ✗ Aims to **improve data collection**.

**No Security Without Women's Security**

A young woman walks 16kms every day carrying her 18-month-old daughter, crossing rebel territory in eastern Congo to sell wood. [AP Photo/Jerome Delay, 2008]

### how it works:



ACTOR	ACTION
United Nations Security Council	Address sexual violence in peacekeeping mandates and state-specific sanctions [para 1, 5 Resolution 1820]
United Nations Member States	Uphold human rights [para 1] Prosecute perpetrators; give women/girls equal access to justice [para 4] Strengthen judicial and health-care systems and services for survivors [para 13]
United Nations Secretary-General & United Nations system	Include recommendations on women's protection in country-specific reports [para 9] Help develop training for peacekeeping/humanitarian personnel to better address sexual violence [para 6] Develop protection mechanisms for women/girls in and around UN-managed camps; in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes; and in justice and security sector reform [para 10] Dialogue to address sexual violence with parties to conflict [para 3] Invite women to participate in conflict-prevention/resolution [para 10, 12] Support strengthening of judicial/health systems and local civil society networks to assist survivors [para 13] Zero-tolerance for sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel [para 7] Report on implementation [para 15] Improve coordination including through the inter-agency network UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict [para 15]
Troop/police contributing countries	Prevent sexual exploitation and abuse; ensure accountability for misconduct [para 7] Heighten capacity of personnel to prevent and address sexual violence; deploy more women [para 8]
Parties to armed conflict	End sexual violence, protect civilians, enforce military discipline, uphold command responsibility, train troops and vet those who have committed sexual violence, debunk myths that fuel sexual violence, evacuate persons under imminent threat to safety [para 2, 3]
Parties to peace talks	Ensure no amnesty for sexual violence [para 4]
Peacebuilding Commission	Include strategies for addressing sexual violence in advice/recommendations [para 11]
Civil society	Inform Secretary-General's report on implementation [para 15] Strengthen institutions/efforts to protect and assist survivors [para 13]
Financial institutions	Strengthen justice, health and civil society efforts to assist survivors [para 13]
Regional/subregional organizations	Implement policies, activities and advocacy for affected women/girls [para 14]

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