

## Recommendations by Chapter

### On Violence Against Women the Experts call for:

- 1. An international Truth and Reconciliation Commission on violence against women in armed conflict as a step towards ending impunity.** This Commission, to be convened by civil society with support from the international community, will fill the historical gap that has left these crimes unrecorded and unaddressed.
- 2. Targeted sanctions against trafficking of women and girls.** Those complicit must be held accountable for trafficking women and girls in or through conflict areas. Existing international laws on trafficking must be applied in conflict situations and national legislation should criminalize trafficking with strong punitive measures, including such actions as freezing the assets of trafficking rings. Victims of trafficking should be protected from prosecution.
- 3. Domestic violence to be recognized as systematic and widespread in conflict and post-conflict situations and addressed in humanitarian, legal and security responses and training in emergencies and post-conflict reconstruction.**
- 4. The UN, donors and governments to provide long-term financial support for women survivors of violence** through legal, economic, psychosocial and reproductive health services. This should be an essential part of emergency assistance and post-conflict reconstruction.

### On Refugee and Displaced Women the Experts call for:

- 1. Strengthening of United Nations field operations for internally displaced women, and those bodies that support a field-based presence.** Protection officers from all relevant bodies, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), should be deployed immediately if a State cannot or will not protect displaced populations or is indeed responsible for their displacement.
- 2. Governments to adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, and incorporate them into national laws to ensure protection, assistance and humanitarian access to internally displaced persons within their territory.**
- 3. Refugee and internally displaced women to play a key role in camp planning, management and decision-making** so that gender issues are taken into account in all aspects, especially resource distribution, security and protection.
- 4. Women to be involved in all aspects of repatriation and resettlement planning and implementation.** Special measures should be put in place to ensure women's security in this process and to ensure voluntary, unhindered repatriation, and that it takes place under conditions of safety and dignity, with full respect for human rights and the rule of law.
- 5. All asylum policies to be reformed to take into account gender-based political persecution.** Women, regardless of marital status, should be eligible for asylum and entitled to individual interview and assessment procedures.

### **On Women's Health the Experts call for:**

- 1. Psychosocial support and reproductive health services for women affected by conflict to be an integral part of emergency assistance and post-conflict reconstruction.** Special attention should be provided to those who have experienced physical trauma, torture and sexual violence. All agencies providing health support and social services should include psychosocial counselling and referrals. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) should take the lead in providing these services, working in close cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNHCR, and UNICEF.
- 2. Recognition of the special health needs of women who have experienced war-related injuries, including amputations,** and for equal provision of physical rehabilitation and prosthesis support.
- 3. Special attention to providing adequate food supplies for displaced and war-affected women, girls and families in order to protect health and to prevent the sexual exploitation of women and girls.** The World Food Programme (WFP) and other relief agencies should strengthen capacities to monitor the gender impact of food distribution practices.
- 4. The UN, donors and governments to provide long-term financial support for women survivors of violence** through legal, economic, psychosocial, and reproductive health services. This should be an essential part of emergency assistance and post-conflict reconstruction.
- 5. Protection against HIV/AIDS and the provision of reproductive health care through the implementation of the Minimum Initial Services Package (MISP) as defined by the Interagency Manual on Reproductive Health for Refugees (WHO, UNHCR, UNFPA, 1999).** Special attention must be paid to the needs of particularly vulnerable groups affected by conflict, such as displaced women, adolescents, girl-headed households and sex workers.
- 6. Immediate provision of emergency contraception and STI treatment for rape survivors** to prevent unwanted pregnancies and protect the health of women.

### **On HIV/AIDS the Experts call for:**

- 1. All HIV/AIDS programmes and funding in conflict situations to address the disproportionate disease burden carried by women.** Mandatory gender analysis and specific strategies for meeting the needs of women and girls should seek to prevent infection and increase access to treatment, care and support.
- 2. HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programmes to be implemented during conflict and in post conflict situations, with care and support provided whenever there is access to affected populations.** National governments, national and international non-governmental organizations, and UN agencies should incorporate HIV/AIDS prevention into all humanitarian assistance. Donors should strongly support these interventions.
- 3. Vulnerability assessments to be carried out in each humanitarian situation to determine links between conflict, displacement, and gender.** Information and data collection should be strengthened in order to document this relationship and to guide appropriate responses. Governments and agencies should work together to document vulnerabilities.

**4. Clear guidelines for HIV/AIDS Prevention in Peacekeeping Operations.** All troop-contributing countries should make available voluntary and confidential HIV/AIDS testing for their peacekeeping personnel. Counselling and testing should be provided for all contingent forces and civilian personnel participating in emergency and peace operations before and during deployment on a regular basis.

HIV prevention as well as gender training should be provided in all missions, to all personnel.

**5. The IASC Reference Group on HIV/AIDS in Emergency Settings to develop clear policy guidelines for HIV prevention and care in humanitarian situations** and application of these guidelines to be supported by national authorities, humanitarian agencies and donors.

**6. The Global Fund to Fight AIDS, TB and Malaria to make special provisions for support of HIV/AIDS programmes in conflict situations, including in countries without the government capacity to manage the application process.** In such cases NGOs and UN agencies should be eligible to submit proposals. Further, we encourage the systematic consideration of gender issues in all programme funding.

**7. Regional institutions and organizations to address HIV prevention in conflict situations.** In particular, the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) should take a leadership role in Africa.

**8. The development and enforcement of codes of conduct for all UN and international NGO staff to protect against abuse and exploitation of women and girls.** All such staff should receive training in prevention of sexual and gender based violence, as well as reproductive health information, including STI and HIV/AIDS prevention.

**On Peacekeeping the Experts call for:**

**1. Gender experts and expertise to be included in all levels and aspects of peace operations, including in technical surveys, the design of concepts of operation, training, staffing and programmes.** To this end, a Memorandum of Understanding should set out the roles and responsibilities among DPKO, Department of Political Affairs (DPA), UNIFEM and the Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW).

**2. A review of training programmes on and approaches to the gender dimensions of conflict resolution and peace-building for humanitarian, military and civilian personnel.** United Nations entities active in this area should lead this process with support provided by the Special Advisor on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Task Force on Women, Peace and Security with a view to developing guidance on training policy and standards.

**3. All UN peace operations to include a human rights monitoring component, with an explicit mandate and sufficient resources to investigate, document and report human rights violations against women.**

**4. The improvement and strengthening of codes of conduct for international and local humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel and for these codes to be consistent with international humanitarian and human rights law and made compulsory.** An office of oversight for crimes against women should be established in all peace operations. The office should regularly monitor and report on compliance with the principles set forth in the IASC Task Force on the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in Humanitarian Crises.

**5. No exemptions for peacekeepers from prosecution by international tribunals, the International Criminal Court and national courts in the host country for all crimes committed, including those against women.** All States maintaining peacekeeping forces should take necessary measures to bring to justice their own nationals responsible for such crimes, as called for by the Security Council (S/RES/1400 (2002)).

**6. UN peace operations to improve opportunities for collaboration with women's groups** to address gender issues in a peacekeeping environment.

**7. Member States and DPKO to increase women's representation in peace operations, including through the recruitment of police, military and civilian personnel.**

**On Peace Building the Experts call for:**

**1. The Secretary-General, in keeping with his personal commitment, to increase the number of women in senior positions in peace-related functions.** Priority should be given to achieving gender parity in his appointment of women as Special Representatives and Envoys, beginning with the minimum of 30 per cent in the next three years, with a view to gender parity by 2015.

**2. Gender equality to be recognized in all peace processes, agreements and transitional governance structures.** International, regional organizations and all participating parties involved in peace processes should advocate for gender parity, maintaining a minimum 30 per cent representation of women in peace negotiations, and ensure that women's needs are taken into consideration and specifically addressed in all such agreements.

**3. A United Nations Trust Fund for Women's Peace-building.** This Trust Fund would leverage the political, financial and technical support needed for women's civil society organizations and women leaders to have an impact on peace efforts nationally, regionally and internationally. The Fund should be managed by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), in consultation with other UN bodies, and women's civil society organizations.

**4. UNIFEM to work closely with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to ensure that gender issues are incorporated in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction in order to integrate gender perspectives in peace-building and to support women's full and equal participation in decision-making, and for the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to strengthen its work in emergency situations in order to build women's capacity in conflict situations.** UNIFEM and UNFPA should be represented in all relevant inter-agency bodies.

**5. Peace negotiations and agreements to have a gender perspective through the full integration of women's concerns and participation in peace processes.** Women's peace tables should be established and enabled through financial, political and technical assistance.

**6. The UN and donors to invest in women's organizations as a strategy for conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building.** Donors should exercise flexibility in responding to urgent needs and time-sensitive opportunities, and foster partnerships and networks between international, regional and local peace initiatives.

**On Justice the Experts call for:**

- 1. The Secretary-General to appoint a panel of experts to assess the gaps in international and national laws and standards pertaining to the protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations and women's role in peace-building.**
- 2. State Parties to the Statute of the International Criminal Court to undertake national law reform to ensure compatibility with the Statute as a matter of priority, with particular attention given to the substantive and procedural provisions regarding crimes against women.**
- 3. National legal systems to penalize and remedy all forms of violence against women** in conflict and post-conflict situations. Specially trained police units should be established to investigate crimes against women and law enforcement officials, including judges, police and armed forces, should be sensitized about such crimes. Women's access to justice should be ensured through legal literacy programmes, support services and legal aid.
- 4. Gender equality in constitutional, legislative and policy reforms.** The principle of gender should be integrated into all relevant constitutional clauses, reaffirming the principles of non-discrimination, equality, affirmative action, freedom and security. Special attention should be given to family, civil and labour laws and land reforms.
- 5. Rapid establishment by the UN of interim judicial systems capable of dealing effectively with violations against women by family members and society at large.** Rape and sexual violence should be addressed by post-conflict truth- and justice-seeking mechanisms at national and local levels. The treatment of crimes against women in traditional mechanisms should be consistent with international standards.
- 6. National electoral laws and international electoral assistance to establish quotas to achieve gender parity in decision-making positions, beginning with a minimum of 30 per cent,** to ensure voter registration and education for women, to increase the ratio of women in electoral commissions and observer missions and to provide training for women candidates.

**On Media and Communications the Experts call for:**

- 1. Increased donor resources and access for women to media and communications technology,** so that gender perspectives, women's expertise and women's media can influence public discourse and decision-making on peace and security.
- 2. UN, government, private and independent media to provide public information and education** on the gender dimensions of peace processes, security, reconciliation, disarmament and human rights.
- 3. Hate media, under any circumstances and particularly when used for direct and public incitement to commit crimes against women, to be prosecuted by national and international courts.**
- 4. Donors and agencies to support the training of editors and journalists to eliminate gender bias in reporting and investigative journalism in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to promote gender equality and perspectives.**

5. **A panel of experts to undertake an assessment of the relevance and adequacy of standards on the military use of ‘psychological and information warfare’ and its impact on women.**
6. **The Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Opinion and Expression of the Commission on Human Rights to carry out a study on gender, media and conflict.**

**On the Prevention of Conflict the Experts call for:**

1. **The Secretary-General to systematically include information on the impact of armed conflict on women, and women’s role in prevention and peace-building in all of his country and thematic reports to the Security Council.** Towards that end, the Secretary-General should request relevant information from UN operations and all relevant bodies.
2. **The systematic collection and analysis of information and data by all actors, using gender specific indicators to guide policy, programmes and service delivery for women in armed conflict.** This information should be provided on a regular basis to the secretariat, member states, inter-governmental bodies, regional organisations, NGOs and other relevant bodies. A central knowledge base should be established and maintained by UNIFEM together with a network of all relevant bodies, in particular the Department of Political Affairs (DPA).
3. **The Security Council to formulate a plan for the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources.** Sixty years after being assigned the task, the Security Council should implement Article 26 of the United Nations Charter, taking into account the Women’s Peace Petition which calls for the world’s nations to redirect at least 5 per cent of national military expenditures to health, education and employment programmes each year over the next five years.
4. **The UN Development Programme (UNDP), as the leading agency in the field of security sector reform, to ensure that women’s protection and participation be central to the design and reform of security sector institutions and policies,** especially in police, military and rule of law components. UNDP should integrate a gender perspective into its country programmes.
5. **Operational humanitarian, human rights and development bodies to develop indicators to determine the extent to which gender is mainstreamed throughout their operations in conflict and post-conflict situations and ensure that ‘gender mainstreaming’ produces measurable results and is not lost in generalities and vague references to gender.** Measures should be put in place to address the gaps and obstacles encountered in implementation.
6. **Inter-governmental and regional organizations to strengthen and expand women’s role in conflict prevention and peace-building.** To this end, the UN together with regional organizations should convene an Expert Group Meeting to improve collaboration, share information and develop expertise.
7. **In cooperation with relevant UN bodies, UNIFEM to develop and test a set of gender-based early warning indicators for mainstreaming into the UN Early Warning Framework and explore use of such indicators with regional organizations.**

**8. Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) initiatives to equitably benefit women ex-combatants and those forced into service by armed groups.** Resettlement allowances and other forms of support should be provided on a long-term basis.

**9. The UN to conduct a ‘lessons learned’ study on the gender aspects of DDR processes in which it has been involved.**

**On Reconstruction the Experts call for:**

**1. Gender budget analysis of humanitarian assistance and post-conflict reconstruction** to ensure that women benefit directly from resources mobilized through multilateral and bilateral donors, including the Consolidated Appeals Process, the Bretton Woods Institutions and donor conferences.

**2. Establishment of macroeconomic policies in post-conflict reconstruction that prioritize the public provision of food, water, sanitation, health and energy, the key sectors in which women provide unpaid labour.** Special attention should be paid to the consequences for women of decentralization policies.

**3. A lead organization to be designated within the United Nations for women’s education and training in conflict and post-conflict situations.** This lead organization, together with UNESCO, UNHCR and UNICEF, should ensure that all education programmes for displaced persons provide for women as well as girls.

**4. The World Bank, bi-lateral donors, UNDP and all other relevant UN departments, funds and agencies to integrate gender analysis in needs assessments for post-conflict reconstruction** and throughout the planning, design, implementation of and reporting on programmes.

**5. International organizations and governments to introduce affirmative measures** that give local women priority in recruitment during emergencies and post-conflict reconstruction.

**6. Affirmative measures to be adopted to guarantee women’s socio-economic rights** including employment, property ownership and inheritance and access to UN and public sector procurement in post-conflict reconstruction.

**7. The International Labour Organization (ILO) to expand vocational and skills training for women in post-conflict situations including in non-traditional, public and private sectors,** in a manner that is sustainable and responsive to the local and national economy.