

SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

**Best Practices from Members
of the International Alliance
on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict**

2025

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This publication was designed and printed within the framework of the project “Coordinated Civil Society Action to Ensure Justice, Accountability and Continued Support for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine”, implemented by the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association “JurFem”, Truth Hounds, the International Partnership for Human Rights (IPHR), NGO “Bluebird”, Fight for Rights with the support of the United States Department of State Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor (DRL).

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War crimes know no gender, no age, no borders. It leaves no one untouched. And even as the nature of warfare evolves, conflict-related sexual violence continues to be one of the most destructive and cynical tactics — used to cause pain, instill fear, and destroy communities. Ukraine has faced such crimes since 2014, when Russia turned sexual violence into a systematic weapon of aggression.

In the face of such cruelty, Ukraine chose not only to condemn but to act. We put survivors at the center of our response — by adopting new laws, introducing urgent interim reparations even in wartime, building cooperation between law enforcement, military, social services, and civil society. Above all, we listen to survivors themselves — whose voices, courage, and demands for justice shape our way forward.

This collection of best practices reflects both Ukraine's own path and our shared global journey. In 2025, Ukraine became the chair of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. For us, this is not just a title — it is a responsibility and an opportunity: to contribute, to learn, and to create a stronger, united response with our partners globally.

Through our chairmanship, we sought to emphasize that this issue is not only of concern to Ukraine but to the wider international community. We are therefore proud that, during our presidency, five new members chose to join the Alliance, further strengthening our common cause.

In this book, you will find lessons tested in the hardest of circumstances. They are intended for governments, institutions, practitioners — and, importantly, for survivors everywhere. We hope to inspire concrete action, grounded in dignity, respect, and accountability, all around the world.

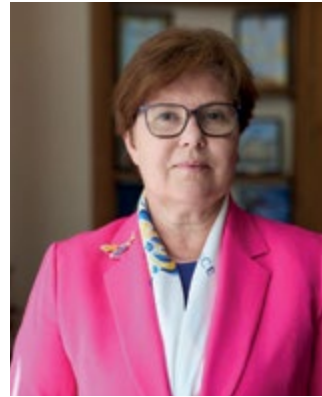
Above all, we pay tribute to the survivors. Their resilience is the true foundation of all our work. It is my sincere hope that, with survivor-centered practices, political will, and international solidarity, we can bring them closer to justice, recognition, and the healing they so rightfully deserve.



Taras Kachka,
Deputy Prime Minister for European
and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine

PREFACE

Survivor-centered approaches have become an essential reference point in the global response to conflict-related sexual violence, but their application in practice continues to raise complex questions. How do we ensure that survivor-centered principles are not only acknowledged but meaningfully embedded in legal systems, service provision, prevention strategies, and transitional justice? How can different institutions, communities, and survivors themselves define and shape what “survivor-centered” truly means?



These questions guided the decision to initiate this publication during Ukraine’s presidency of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict in 2025. Rather than offering a singular definition or model, the goal was to document how diverse actors across different contexts are applying survivor-centered thinking — what it looks like in practice, what challenges arise, and what tools have proven effective. Over the past eleven years, Ukraine’s own path in addressing conflict-related sexual violence has underscored that while the principles may be shared, the implementation must respond to national realities and the lived experiences of survivors.

This compilation brings together a wide range of practical examples and lessons learned from twenty-two members of the Alliance: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Corporación Sisma Mujer, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, France, Global Survivors Fund, Japan, Jordan, Justice Rapid Response, Republic of Korea, Legal Action Worldwide, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, UA Experts, Ukraine, Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association “JurFem,” Ukrainian Women’s Fund, UNFPA, United Kingdom, and UN Women.

In addition to the core pillars of prevention and response, we have chosen to highlight two additional areas where survivor-centered approaches are actively applied: co-creation processes and survivor-centered justice. Each section includes short analyses paired with real-world practices that illustrate the diversity of strategies in use, ranging from legal reforms and awareness-raising interventions to reparation processes and local initiatives.

This is not an academic review. It is a practical resource for policymakers, practitioners, institutions, organizations, and survivors, offering concrete examples that can inform action, adaptation, and innovation. The survivor-centered approach is not static; it must evolve as we continue to listen, learn, and respond. We hope this publication will serve as both a reflection of progress and a tool for ongoing collaboration.

Above all, it affirms a shared commitment: that survivor voices are not only heard but drive the solutions we build together.

Kateryna Levchenko,
Government Commissioner of Ukraine
for Gender Equality Policy

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This publication presents a compilation of best practices in applying the survivor-centered approach, contributed by members of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (the Alliance). This compendium has been funded by the UK Government, provided through the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office within the framework of the project “Women. Peace. Security: Acting Together,” implemented by the Ukrainian Women’s Fund. The views expressed do not necessarily reflect the UK Government’s, the Government Commissioner’s on Gender Equality Policy, and the Ukrainian Women’s Fund’s official policies. This compilation has also been prepared in close cooperation with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine.

The publication was authored by Kateryna Levchenko, Government Commissioner of Ukraine for Gender Equality Policy, together with Liubov Gordienko and Anatolii Dosych, Consultants to the Office of the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy. Gratitude is extended to Advisors Anna-Maria Chaikovska and Evgeniia Lukianchenko, as well as Consultants Mariia Zheltukha and Karina Lytvyniuk from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration of Ukraine, for their valuable insights and thoughtful suggestions. Special appreciation is also extended to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine for its valuable information and analytical support, and for enabling the study of leading international practices that contributed to the preparation of this compendium.

The drafting, revision, and finalization of this publication were informed by a participatory process involving Alliance members — both states and organizations — who voluntarily submitted information. The examples included do not represent an exhaustive account of members’ work, and the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the official positions of any Alliance member government. Likewise, the views expressed in the report may not necessarily reflect those of individual members of the Alliance.

The authors express their sincere gratitude to all individuals worldwide who supported the preparation of this compilation, both for their contributions and their ongoing efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence.

ACRONYMS

CAHC	Crimes Against Humanity Convention
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRSV	conflict-related sexual violence
CSO	civil society organization
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
FFM	fact-finding mission
GBV	gender-based violence
GSF	Global Survivors Fund
IAWG	Inter-Agency Working Group on Combating Sexual Violence Related to Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine and Assistance to the Survivors
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IDP	internally displaced person
IHL	international humanitarian law
IICI	International Institute for Criminal Investigations
JEP	Special Jurisdiction for Peace
JRR	Justice Rapid Response
JurFem	Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem"

ACRONYMS

KC	King's Counsel
LAW	Legal Action Worldwide
LGBTQI+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and others
MAT	Mesa de Asistencia Técnica (Technical Assistance Table)
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	non-governmental organization
MF	Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation
PSVI	Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative
SAG	Survivor Advisory Group
SEAP	Survivor Engagement Advisory Panel
SEMA	Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence
SGBV	sexual and gender-based violence
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UWF	Ukrainian Women's Fund
WPS	Women, Peace, and Security

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

This publication brings together best practices from twenty-two members of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (the Alliance), highlighting how survivor-centered approaches are being developed and applied in different contexts. Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) remains a grave and persistent crime. Across the Alliance, both states directly affected by CRSV and those prioritizing its prevention and response in their foreign policy, as well as organizational members, have sought to move beyond viewing survivors merely as recipients of aid, instead recognizing them as rights holders, leaders, and agents of change. This publication captures achievements, innovations, and challenges across four areas: prevention, response, co-creation, and survivor-centered justice.

KEY FINDINGS

1. Prevention and Response

Alliance members are increasingly approaching prevention as more than just awareness-raising; it is about weaving legal reform, institutional readiness, and community vigilance into a single fabric. National legal frameworks set the groundwork, but their effectiveness has depended on how well communities are engaged and how risks are identified, mapped, and anticipated through area analysis and early warning systems. This shows that prevention succeeds when law, capacity, and community knowledge work together rather than in silos.

On the response side, a dual track has been critical. Immediate interventions — such as mobile clinics, hotlines, and rapid referral systems — address urgent medical and psychosocial needs, while long-term support anchors survivors in social and institutional networks and recognition. Survivor status recognition and clear reparative measures have been particularly powerful in restoring trust and dignity. The lesson here is that response cannot be reduced to crisis relief; it must also provide continuity, predictability, and dignity, with co-created and survivor-led reparations offering a model of trust-building in contexts of ongoing conflict.

2. Survivor Participation and Co-Creation

What stands out across Alliance practices is the movement from symbolic and often tokenistic consultations toward substantive survivor leadership. Survivor-led organizations and dialogues have not only created safe spaces but also influenced institutional practices, proving that lived experience is indispensable expertise and essential to ensure the effectiveness of laws, policies, and projects aimed at preventing or addressing CRSV. Survivors and survivors' groups possess a unique capacity to contribute their views and perspectives on measures that affect their lives, from prevention and response to justice and reparation. Systematic consultation and engagement with survivors representative of different intersectional groups have broadened inclusion. At the same time, legal participation has ensured that survivors are not merely outside observers of justice systems and reparation processes, but active contributors to their design, implementation, evaluation, and monitoring. The lesson learned is that participation gains meaning only when it is structured, resourced, and safeguarded so that survivors can engage meaningfully and continuously — not as occasional voices, but as actors shaping the system from within.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

3. Justice and Accountability

Justice initiatives are gradually being reframed: while prosecutions remain important, they primarily focus on perpetrators and can at times lead to the revictimization of survivors. Trauma-informed training for legal professionals has strengthened professional practice; however, formal justice mechanisms often remain geographically and institutionally distant. The central lesson is that justice cannot remain a distant promise — it must be localized, accessible, timely, and shaped by survivors themselves if it is to build trust and contribute to healing.

Reflecting this shift, the most transformative practices have emerged through administrative reparations and other non-judicial, survivor-centered measures — such as access to essential services, monetary compensations, initiatives promoting civic participation and social inclusion. Survivor-designed reparations, whether symbolic or material, have proven particularly effective in restoring dignity and rebuilding the social fabric disrupted by conflict.

4. Gaps and Challenges

While Alliance members have built important foundations, the architecture of support remains uneven. Rehabilitation is the weakest link: immediate responses are more common than sustained pathways for recovery, leaving survivors without the medical, psychosocial, and economic stability required for reintegration. Equally striking is the lack of inclusivity. Men, LGBTQI+ survivors, children, in particular children born out of rape and children who have witnessed CRSV, indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities remain at the margins of interventions, showing that rhetoric on “leaving no one behind” is not yet matched by practice.

Financial fragility also undermines progress. Short-term, project-based funding cycles create disruption, forcing survivor-led organizations to operate without the stability needed to retain staff, expand services, or plan strategically. Political and bureaucratic barriers compound these challenges: even strong laws falter when state institutions fail to implement them, leaving survivors with rights on paper but not in practice. The gap, therefore, is not only in resources but also in governance and accountability.

CONCLUSIONS

For Alliance members, the survivor-centered approach has evolved not as a prescriptive model, but as a foundation for meaningful survivor engagement, co-creation, and survivor-led models, shifting the locus of authority from institutions to survivors themselves. It reframes effectiveness through the lived realities of survivors, making their voices the compass for prevention and response, recognizing their right to participation and co-creation. This shift is visible across practices where survivors act as leaders, standards-setters, and co-creators of solutions.

Yet, the persistence of gaps reveals that survivor-centered work cannot be episodic or symbolic — it requires structural commitments. Stable, long-term funding, inclusive practices that reach the most marginalized, and serious state implementation of existing legal frameworks are essential. Survivor-centered action, then, is not only about listening to survivors but about restructuring systems to remain accountable to them over time.

I INTRODUCTION

What is the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict?

The International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict comprises 33 members,¹ including 20 states and 13 non-state actors, such as multilateral partners, civil society organizations, and survivors. As a collaborative platform, the Alliance's mission is to strengthen efforts to prevent and respond to CRSV by sharing good practices, learning, and supporting survivor-centered action.

What is a Survivor-Centered Approach?

The survivor-centered approach, as defined by United Nations Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019),² places the rights, needs, and choices of survivors at the heart of all efforts to prevent and respond to CRSV. It seeks to empower survivors and affirm their agency. However, its practical implementation differs across contexts, sectors, and legal systems.

Objective and Structure of the Publication

In 2025, under Ukraine's Presidency of the Alliance, an initiative was launched to collect best practices on the survivor-centered approach, with the aim of documenting and analyzing how Alliance members have implemented this approach since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 2467.

The structure of this publication reflects the thematic focus defined during the information-gathering process and aims to showcase survivor-centered approaches to prevention and response to CRSV, as outlined in UNSCR 2467. A section on co-creation³ processes has been included to highlight ways of enabling survivors to act as agents of change and to have a meaningful voice in decision-making at all stages. In addition, a thematic section on survivor-centered justice was incorporated following input from several members who identified this as a distinct category.

The defined sub-sections within each thematic area are based on the specific topics addressed in the submissions received from Alliance members, reflecting the priorities and focus areas they identified in practice.

Approach and Compilation Process

This compendium was developed in alignment with the concept and structure for information collection that were presented and discussed with members of the Alliance during the 2025 series of meetings. These exchanges began with the technical online meeting on 28 February and concluded with the High-Level Alliance Meeting held in New York on 11 March, during the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

The data collection form was circulated to Alliance members on April 3, 2025, via email, as well as through diplomatic channels facilitated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine, marking the start of a consultative process characterized by ongoing engagement and communication. The feedback and contributions received were extensively reflected in the final publication.

During an online session on September 19, 2025, the publication was presented to representatives of the Survivor Advisory Group. While the Compendium incorporates the majority of submissions from Alliance members, not all examples could be included due to the extensive volume of materials. A QR code at the end of the publication provides access to the complete set of submissions for reference.

I INTRODUCTION

Contributors

The best practices shared by Alliance members reflect both the experiences of states—whether directly affected by CRSV or addressing it through their foreign policy and international projects—as well as those of organizations engaged in preventing and responding to CRSV.

Members of the Alliance have chosen and submitted best-practice examples from their own work, selecting the initiatives they wish to highlight. This is not an exhaustive record of all activities undertaken within each thematic area by each member of the Alliance, but rather a collection of examples intended to offer practical, tangible illustrations of how the survivor-centered approach can be applied in diverse contexts.

A total of twenty-two Alliance members contributed information on survivor-centered approaches for this publication: Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Corporación Sisma Mujer, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, France, Global Survivors Fund, Japan, Jordan, Justice Rapid Response, Republic of Korea, Legal Action Worldwide, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, UA Experts, Ukraine, Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem," Ukrainian Women's Fund, UNFPA, United Kingdom, and UN Women.

Why This Matters

Since the understanding and application of the survivor-centered approach can vary depending on context, actors, and institutional frameworks, this publication aims to identify common practices among Alliance members across different areas of work. It also seeks to highlight gaps in implementation and provide recommendations for future application. The publication is intended as a practical resource for experts, policymakers, and practitioners committed to advancing survivor-centered approaches in addressing CRSV.

1. As of November 2025, the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict comprises Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Colombia, Corporación Sisma Mujer, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation, France, Global Survivors Fund, International Criminal Court (Karim Khan KC), Japan, Jordan, Justice Rapid Response, Kosovo, Legal Action Worldwide, Liberia, Luxembourg, Malta, Nadia's Initiative (Nadia Murad), Nigeria, Survivor Advisory Group, Republic of Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Timor-Leste, UA Experts, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, Ukraine, Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem," Ukrainian Women's Fund, UN Women, UNFPA, United States of America.

2. https://www.un.org/shestandsforspeace/sites/www.un.org/shestandsforspeace/files/unscr_2467_2019_on_wps_english.pdf

3. Co-creation refers to the collaborative design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of measures, such as prevention, response, justice, reparation programs or non-State led reparative measures, by survivors, affected communities, civil society, and institutional actors, ensuring that survivors have an effective influence on decision-making and outcomes and play an active role at all stages of the process. A co-creation methodology ensures survivors' perspectives, needs, and priorities directly inform decision-making and outcomes.

II BEST PRACTICES OF SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

2.1 PREVENTION

The prevention section addresses legal and policy frameworks, training, awareness-raising initiatives, and other measures aimed at preventing CRSV before it occurs.

2.1.1 Legal and Policy Basis

Alliance members emphasized that preventing CRSV requires targeted measures to address the structural conditions in which it occurs, including gender inequality, discrimination, and barriers to women's participation. National laws and regulations addressing domestic violence, gender-based violence, and human trafficking were cited, with members emphasizing their role in tackling underlying conditions that contribute to CRSV and highlighting the clear correlation between addressing these crimes and preventing CRSV.

Switzerland

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation implemented the Great Lakes Regional Psychosocial Program (2011–2023) with local partners in Rwanda, Burundi, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The program was based on the understanding that sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) stems from a set of dysfunctional relationships shaped by social, cultural, and economic factors, particularly gender inequalities internalized through patriarchal practices. Using the community-based “Healing Together” approach, it combined psychosocial support, socioeconomic development, and peacebuilding to promote survivors' recovery, strengthen families, foster respect for human rights, and enable communities to take responsibility for their own well-being.

Ukraine

The UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict conducted the study “The Nexus Between Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Trafficking in Persons for Sexual Exploitation in (Post) Conflict: The Case of Ukraine”,⁴ producing recommendations to strengthen the criminal justice system's response to CRSV and trafficking in persons and to improve early detection of these crimes. Proposals were developed to amend the draft Law of Ukraine “On Amendments to the Law of Ukraine ‘On Combating Trafficking in Persons’” to strengthen its legal provisions. Work also began on revising the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine Resolution “On Approval of the Procedure for Establishing the Status of a Person Affected by Trafficking in Persons” to streamline the process and shorten the timelines for granting this status.

Jordan

In 2021, Jordan amended its Anti-Human Trafficking Law, expanding the legal definition of trafficking to include emerging forms of the crime, establishing specialized courts for trafficking cases, and strengthening victim protection from identification through voluntary repatriation or reintegration. In 2023, the country created a Victim Assistance Fund, mandated by the amended law, to provide support such as voluntary return, emergency expenses, interpretation services, and legal counseling, reinforcing a survivor-centered approach to combating human trafficking.

II BEST PRACTICES OF SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

Some of the contributors emphasized the strong connection between legal practices addressing gender-based violence (GBV) and those relevant to CRSV, noting that established GBV prevention methods — including survivor-centered approaches such as trauma-informed care and sensitive interviewing — can be effectively adapted to CRSV, demonstrating the value of transferring good practices across these areas.

Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association “JurFem”

JurFem's research — “Understanding How GBV Capacity-Building in Peacetime Has an Impact During War”⁵ — highlighted the strong connection between legal practices and approaches used to address GBV and those applicable to CRSV, noting that survivor-centered methods such as tailored psychosocial support and specialized interviewing approaches, originally developed for GBV cases, have been effectively adapted to CRSV contexts.

Presentation of research at the expert workshop “Security Sector Reform and CRSV: Understanding the Impacts of Peacetime GBV Capacity-Building During War”, organized by DCAF – Geneva Center for Security Sector Governance, Geneva, Switzerland, October 2024.⁶

Photo credit: Jurfem.



Members referenced a range of legal and policy frameworks applied in prevention efforts. Frequently cited were United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and its subsequent resolutions (notably 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106, and 2467), along with national and local action plans developed to implement the resolution and advance the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda.

United Kingdom (UK)

In February 2023, the UK launched its fifth Women, Peace, and Security National Action Plan (2023–2027),⁷ which for the first time includes domestic commitments, addresses the impact of transnational threats on women, and adds Ukraine, Ethiopia, and Yemen to its focus countries. The plan also sets a key strategic objective on GBV.

4. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/48352-2/>

5. <https://www.dcaf.ch/understanding-how-gbv-capacity-building-peacetime-has-impact-during-war-ukraine-case-study>

6. <https://jurfem.com.ua/en/khrystyna-kit-and-daria-rosokhata-visited-geneva-switzerland/>

7. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-women-peace-and-security-national-action-plan-2023-to-2027>

II BEST PRACTICES OF SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

Australia

Australia remains committed to the transformative potential of WPS agenda. Its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (2021–2031) guides these efforts, while promoting inclusive peacebuilding is a priority during its 2025–2026 term on the Peacebuilding Commission. Gender-responsive peace and security is a core focus of the International Gender Equality Strategy, and the International Development Policy requires that 80% of Australia's Overseas Development Assistance focus on gender equality.

Other key international instruments frequently referenced by Alliance members include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the United Nations Convention against Torture, and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The latter explicitly recognizes sexual violence as a war crime, a crime against humanity, and a constitutive act of genocide, thereby reinforcing the legal accountability framework for such violations.

At the regional level, references include the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (the Istanbul Convention) and the African Union Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. Both instruments affirm sexual violence as a criminal act and oblige State Parties to respect, protect, and promote the rights of women, underscoring the shared international and regional commitment to addressing CRSV.

The United Nations draft Convention on Crimes Against Humanity (CAHC) was noted as an opportunity to strengthen the legal framework for preventing and prosecuting CRSV and other atrocity crimes. While the ICC can prosecute crimes against humanity, there is no binding treaty obligating states to prevent and punish them domestically, where most cases are handled.

UN Women

UN Women supports civil society efforts to advance a gender-competent, survivor-centered draft CAHC, recognizing its potential as a key tool for preventing CRSV globally. In partnership with the Global Justice Center, it provides legal and technical expertise to strengthen states' understanding of the CAHC relevance for gender justice. As part of this work, the Global Justice Center and other civil society organizations published a legal brief⁸ on survivor-centered approaches to inform state discussions and future negotiations.

UK

In November 2023, the UK presented proposals to strengthen the CRSV provisions of the draft CAHC and ensure its articles are gender-competent. These proposals, informed by consultations with survivors, partners, and states — including a Wilton Park event hosted by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office in March 2023 — were submitted to the UN Sixth Committee in December 2023. The UK welcomed the UN's November 2024 decision to convene a conference in 2028–2029 to negotiate the convention.

Despite the existence of many legal frameworks, impunity for CRSV remains widespread. Members stressed the importance of using all available measures — including sanctions — to deter violations, disrupt operational capacity, and reinforce compliance with international obligations.

8. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/uk-women-peace-and-security-national-action-plan-2023-to-2027>

II BEST PRACTICES OF SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

UK

The UK employs a range of measures to prevent and address CRSV, including the use of sanctions as outlined in its sanctions strategy.⁹ Sanctions serve to deter harmful behavior, disrupt operational capacities, and signal a commitment to upholding international norms. Since the PSVI International Conference in 2022, the UK has designated fourteen individuals for CRSV-related offenses, demonstrating its leadership in applying this tool.

Australia

Australia acknowledges the importance of establishing and strengthening legislative and regulatory frameworks to end impunity and hold perpetrators of CRSV accountable. In February 2025, Australia's biggest Russian sanctions package included sanctions on individuals responsible for the forced deportation of Ukrainian children and on individuals responsible for CRSV.

Finally, members highlighted the need to consistently recognize sexual violence as a weapon of war. Such recognition can influence public policy and judicial standards on CRSV and was frequently referenced in the context of ongoing advocacy initiatives.

Ukraine

In January 2025, Ukrainian survivor-led organizations — Numo, Sestry!, SEMA Ukraine, Alumni, and December 29 — submitted an appeal to UN Secretary-General António Guterres, calling for Russia's inclusion on the UN's so-called "list of shame."¹⁰ This annex to the Secretary-General's annual report on CRSV, compiled since 2010 by the Office of the Special Representative, names parties credibly suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflict. Listed parties are required to work with the UN on concrete action plans to end violations, and those listed for three consecutive years automatically face UN Security Council sanctions, including exclusion from peacekeeping operations.

The appeal is part of a wider advocacy campaign, led by the same survivor groups in cooperation with international partners and Ukrainian government bodies, to hold Russia accountable for CRSV against Ukrainians. The campaign engages domestic audiences to raise awareness of this accountability mechanism and mobilizes international stakeholders to support Russia's inclusion, using national, local, and global advocacy platforms.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The DRC amended the 2006 law, which previously only addressed forms of violence encountered during conflicts, by implementing and complementing it in 2022–2023 with several other laws. These include: the law on GBV and domestic violence (initially not covered by the 2006 law on CRSV); the law on the protection of women's rights defenders; the law on the protection of victims and their families, which also includes provisions allowing victims to be exempt from court fees; the law establishing special courts within the judiciary to try perpetrators of violence; and the law on human trafficking.

The DRC has also developed its strategy for combating sexual violence, the strategy on positive masculinity, and the third-generation strategy on UNSCR 1325.

9. <https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/65d720cd188d770011038890/Deter-disrupt-and-demonstrate-UK-sanctions-in-a-contested-world.pdf>

10. <https://semaukraine.org.ua/en/menu/view?slug=support-the-call-to-include-russia-in-the-un-list-of-shame-for-committing-crimes-of-sexual-violence>

II BEST PRACTICES OF SURVIVOR-CENTERED APPROACH

2.1.2 Awareness and Capacity

Awareness-raising efforts were highlighted in various forms – from communication campaigns to training. The Alliance itself has been recognized as an important international platform for this purpose, alongside initiatives such as the Platform for Action Promoting the Rights and Well-being of Children Born of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.

Events in different formats — including roundtables, conferences, and consultations at national, regional, and international levels — have proven effective in fostering peer-to-peer learning and developing concrete solutions. Such events can bring together government officials, civil society organizations (CSOs), the UN, the diplomatic community, and CRSV survivors and should be designed both for survivors and in collaboration with them.

UK

In November 2022, the UK hosted an international Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) Conference, which placed survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence front and center and sent a strong message that the global community must do more. Over 1,000 delegates attended, including survivors, representatives of civil society, multilateral partners, and officials from at least 57 countries.

Announcements at the conference included:

- The 2022–2025 PSVI Strategy, which outlined how the UK would deliver a strengthened global response, prevent CRSV, promote justice, and support survivors. It was backed by up to £12.5 million in funding until March 2025, which has since been extended by an additional year with further funding.
- A Political Declaration, which sent a clear message that these heinous crimes must end and set out the steps needed to achieve this. Fifty-three countries and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, Pramila Patten, endorsed the Political Declaration, with 42 countries making national commitments that detailed the tangible actions they would take to tackle conflict-related sexual violence.
- A Platform for Action to support children born of CRSV.

Republic of Korea

Since 2018, the Republic of Korea has promoted the WPS agenda through the Action with Women and Peace initiative, centered on two pillars: annual conferences to amplify women's voices in peace and security, and targeted humanitarian and development assistance.¹¹

Through contributions to UNICEF and UNFPA, Republic of Korea has supported CRSV prevention via awareness and education programs in Bangladesh and Sudan and assisted refugees and host communities in Uganda through partnerships with non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In 2024, it institutionalized these efforts by launching the Action with Women and Peace Fund, committing approximately \$2 million annually to expand global WPS initiatives.

11. <https://awp.or.kr/>

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UK

The following non-exhaustive lessons learned were developed to support the delivery of future survivor-centered events:

1. Involve survivors at the heart of planning and design. Consider establishing a diverse survivor advisory group.
2. Provide early access to the program, brief survivors on key issues, and offer options for how they wish to participate and engage with officials.
3. Plan for duty of care before, during, and after the event. Ensure access to professional counselling, clearly signposted wellbeing rooms, and ongoing support.
4. Offer translation services and allow survivors to be accompanied by peer support where needed.
5. Prepare aftercare plans to manage trauma, anticipate backlash, and support survivors returning to insecure environments.
6. Assess sensitivities and risks if survivors will be in the same space as politicians, military, or police from affected contexts. Plan seating, interactions, and security accordingly.
7. Allow survivors the choice to engage with government representatives, respecting different preferences and needs.
8. Include content warnings in the agenda and at the start of sessions where survivor stories or sensitive content will be shared.
9. Establish a clear protocol for managing new disclosures of GBV, known to all staff and volunteers, with a designated safeguarding focal point.
10. Train selected team members in mental health first aid to complement professional counsellors and ensure debriefing for the delivery team.
11. Provide flexible and appropriate logistics, including suitable food, travel, accommodation, and per diem support for participants unfamiliar with the setting.
12. Publish a survivor-centered charter for organizers and participants and remind attendees of respect and confidentiality at the start of each session.

Information campaigns play an important role, including those organized as part of the “16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence” and the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

Ukrainian Women's Fund (UWF)

In partnership with the Government of Ukraine, UWF developed a communication strategy and information campaign to raise awareness about CRSV among survivors, service providers, and the general public. The campaign was implemented at the national level and in 14 pilot regions by UWF's regional NGO partners. It aimed to inform specialists on providing support to CRSV survivors and to guide survivors and the public on where to seek help, the types of assistance available, and reparations.

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In partnership with the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration and the United Nations Population Fund, five types of regionally tailored thematic materials were developed, including definitions of CRSV, its forms, action algorithms, and local contact information. Over 81,000 materials were distributed to regional partners and shared with target groups during local events in September–October 2024.

UA Experts

Public awareness has been advanced through high-profile events such as the national “Acting for Survivors” race in Irpin, held during the international 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence campaign in 2023, which mobilized over 10,000 participants from Ukraine and abroad. UA Experts has also commemorated the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict on June 15, 2023, and June 19, 2024, bringing together senior officials and international partners to review progress, set priorities, and reaffirm commitments to survivor protection. Many of these CRSV-response-focused events have been conducted in partnership with UNFPA.

The engagement of high-level officials, including heads of state, ministers, and members of royal families, plays a critical role in keeping CRSV on the international agenda. Such involvement not only draws global attention to the experiences of survivors but also reinforces the urgency of sustaining efforts in both prevention and response, ensuring that CRSV remains recognized as a priority security and human rights concern, and the importance of addressing CRSV for sustainable peace.

Ukraine and UK

In 2024, the Duchess of Edinburgh became the first member of the British Royal Family to visit Ukraine following the Russian invasion.¹² During her trip, she met with survivors of sexual violence and torture, underscoring the UK’s commitment to supporting those affected by conflict. In her meeting with President Volodymyr Zelensky and First Lady Olena Zelenska, the Duchess delivered a private message from King Charles and discussed ways to strengthen support for survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

A range of practical tools can contribute to awareness raising, such as the Murad Code¹³ and the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.¹⁴ Additionally, guidelines for practitioners — including journalists covering CRSV, as well as prosecutors, investigators, and other justice actors — help inform standards, alongside protocols for communication with survivors. Institutionalizing such guidelines is considered essential for ensuring consistency and sustainability in practice.

12. <https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-04-30/the-duchess-of-edinburgh-in-ukraine>

13. <https://www.muradcode.com/>

14. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

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In 2022, together with Nobel Peace Laureate Nadia Murad and the International Institute for Criminal Investigations (IICI) in partnership with the UK launched the Murad Code — minimum standards for the safe and ethical collection of information from survivors of CRSV. It is now available in 14 languages.

On 19 June 2023, the UK launched the Guidebook on States’ Obligations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, developed by the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation with PSVI funding. The guide sets out state obligations under international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and relevant UNSC resolutions, aiming to strengthen state compliance and empower civil society and survivor groups to hold states accountable. In 2024, UK funding supported the creation of a synthesis document and a searchable online resource, with translations into English, Spanish and French. It has also been translated into Ukrainian. The Guidebook now has over 4,200 users from 157 countries.

Since 2014, the UK’s International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence¹⁵ in Conflict has strengthened the evidence base for prosecutions. On 23 January 2024, the UK and the US co-funded the Syria Supplement to the Protocol, developed by Synergy for Justice with Syrian partners Lawyers and Doctors for Human Rights and the Amal Healing and Advocacy Center.¹⁶ The Supplement provides Syria-specific guidance and best practices for documenting and investigating SGBV, enhancing accountability efforts in the country.¹⁷

In 2023, The UK, through Synergy for Justice, funded £300,000 towards the successful development of four tools to support a toolkit for assessing stigma in criminal justice systems, available in English, Spanish, Ukrainian and French. The Stigma Toolkit is an extensive evaluation, training and change management tool for justice systems. It provides justice systems with evaluation tools to identify stigma embedded in their legislative, investigative, prosecution, judicial, and sentencing procedures that privilege perpetrators and prevents the justice system from ensuring their practices are trauma-informed and capable of delivering rigorous, predictable justice for survivors. The toolkit also provides a roadmap and change management tools to help justice systems correct these inequities and improve their ability to hold perpetrators of violent sexual crimes accountable.

UK funding also enabled Dart Centre Europe to launch guidelines on covering CRSV for journalists¹⁸ to ensure that media engagement with survivors of CRSV is responsible, upholds safeguarding principles, and respects their human rights. This is the first detailed publicly available resource that is survivor-centered, written by journalists for journalists, and which is explicitly trauma-informed. The resource is also positioned to be useful to a range of media professionals: reporters, editors, filmmakers and photographers. The content is available in five languages: English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Swahili. The guidelines provide a benchmark for practical and ethical expertise on covering CRSV for media around the world.

15. <https://www.endcrsv.org/guidebook/>

16. <https://reliefweb.int/report/syrian-arab-republic/syria-supplement-second-edition-international-protocol-documentation-and-investigation-sexual-violence-conflict-syria-specific-country-guide-november-2023-enar>

17. Prior to the Syria Supplement to the Protocol, IICI developed country-specific Supplements for Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Iraq. These are available at: Myanmar/Burma <https://iici.global/publications-and-resources/#Guide-to-help-practitioners-document-conflict-related-sexual-violence-crimes-in-Myanmar-Burma> Sri Lanka <https://iici.global/publications-and-resources/#Guide-to-help-practitioners-document-conflict-related-sexual-violence-crimes-in-Sri-Lanka> Iraq <https://iici.global/publications-and-resources/#Guide-to-help-practitioners-document-conflict-related-sexual-violence-crimes-in-Iraq>

18. <https://www.coveringcrsv.org/>

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Jurfem

In 2024, JurFem in partnership with Office of the Prosecutor General and other CSOs actors advanced national CRSV prevention by developing and institutionalizing guidelines for prosecutors, investigators, and other justice actors. These guidelines address the evolving and complex forms of CRSV documented in Ukraine, including forced prostitution,¹⁹ invasive medical examinations in detention,²⁰ forced nudity,²¹ genital mutilation,²² forced pregnancy,²³ coercion into sexual acts (including with others, animals, or family members),²⁴ and sexual slavery.²⁵

Formally adopted by the Office of the Prosecutor General and integrated into national training programs by the Ukrainian Prosecutors' Training Center, the guidelines standardize procedures and strengthen professional capacity across regions.

JurFem also produced a specialized guide on safeguarding survivors' personal data to ensure confidentiality and ethical handling throughout legal proceedings, as well as a guideline on the criminal classification of CRSV acts. The latter aims to reduce legal qualification errors, promote consistency, and foster a shared legal interpretation essential for securing accountability and protecting survivors' rights.

Justice Rapid Response (JRR)

With the support of JRR's gender expertise, in 2024 the Ibero-American Association of Prosecutors developed and published a regional protocol for the investigation of sexual violence cases in Latin America. The Protocol establishes rigorous, gender-sensitive guidelines for investigating sexual violence, explicitly encompassing CRSV. By embedding principles of due diligence, survivor-centered approach, and international human rights standards, this protocol offers an indispensable foundation for Latin American countries to strengthen their detection, prevention, and judicial response to CRSV.

Notably, the Protocol offers a broad definition of sexual violence focused on lack of consent and indicates that the survivor's well-being and autonomy should take precedence when handling their information. It underscores the critical need to prevent revictimization and outlines the key elements of a trauma-informed approach to evaluating victims' testimonies. The adoption and adaptation of the Protocol by regional prosecutorial bodies can significantly strengthen institutional readiness in conflict and post-conflict settings.

France

France is committed to fighting impunity through international cooperation. In 2024, France co-organized the first International Conference of Prosecutors on Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in The Hague, along with the Office of Special Representative of the Secretary

19. <https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-04-30/the-duchess-of-edinburgh-in-ukraine>

20. <https://www.muradcode.com/>

21. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

22. <https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-04-30/the-duchess-of-edinburgh-in-ukraine>

23. <https://www.muradcode.com/>

24. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

25. <https://www.royal.uk/news-and-activity/2024-04-30/the-duchess-of-edinburgh-in-ukraine>

26. <https://www.muradcode.com/>

27. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/international-protocol-on-the-documentation-and-investigation-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

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General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The initiative has led to the creation of a global network of prosecutors, comprising France National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office, which is expected to be launched by the end of 2025.

Moreover, the National Anti-Terrorist Prosecutor's Office has established a standard set of questions for investigators of the Central Office for Combating Crimes against Humanity and Hate Crimes so that sexual violence is systematically addressed in all investigations, all areas combined, even if these facts are not spontaneously mentioned by survivors.

The collection and publication of survivors' stories is recognized as a meaningful initiative to raise awareness and advocate for the prevention of CRSV. These stories amplify survivor voices and deepen understanding of the impacts of sexual violence in conflict.

UWF

In 2024, UWF published *Ukraine Is Not Silent: Chronicles of Fighting Against War-Related Sexual Violence (2022–2024)*.²⁸ The book features 25 interviews with leading Ukrainian and international experts on CRSV, as well as survivors who have become human rights defenders and established their own NGOs.

The interviews highlight available assistance enabling survivors to rebuild their lives, the roles of government agencies, NGOs, and international partners, and Ukraine's unique experience in addressing CRSV during the Russo-Ukrainian war. This experience, the authors note, may serve as a valuable model for other countries. The publication is available in both Ukrainian and English.²⁹

Another publication, "CRSV: War Crimes Without a Statute of Limitations,"³⁰ was developed and issued under the project "Standing Together: Strengthening the Support System for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence." Within its pages are the voices of those who endured occupation, torture, enforced disappearances, and sexual violence. The initiative was implemented by the UWF in partnership with La Strada-Ukraine and the Ukrainian Women Lawyers Association "JurFem." The work reflects the systematic efforts of members of the initiative "Justice for Survivors of War Crimes," who for over two years have been documenting crimes committed by Russian forces on the territory of Ukraine.

Legal Action Worldwide (LAW)

In Myanmar, LAW has worked with a wide range of CSOs since 2022 to advance CRSV awareness. Efforts focus on defining and identifying CRSV, sharing prevention strategies, and compiling survivor-based stories to support advocacy. LAW also supports the Alliance Against CRSV Myanmar, dedicated to raising awareness with the long-term goal of prevention. Additionally, LAW has delivered multiple trainings for members of the National Unity Government, aiming to strengthen CRSV knowledge and influence future legal and policy frameworks.

28. <https://www.endcrsv.org/guidebook/>

29. <https://uwf.org.ua/en/the-book-ukraine-is-not-silent-chronicles-of-fighting-against-war-related-sexual-violence-2022-2024/>

30. https://uwf.org.ua/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/snpk_vo%D1%94nnij-zlochyn-bez-terminu-davnosti.pdf

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Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation (MF)

MF supported the DRC survivor network in developing and directing their own film “SEMA.”³¹ The film recounts and reenacts a survivor’s experience—exposing the violence endured, the urgent need for care, and the transformation that occurs when adequate medical and legal support is provided. Screenings of SEMA have taken place in the DRC and the Central African Republic, where it has served as a powerful tool for training, awareness-raising, and prevention. MF continues to use the film as a global resource in campaigns and has extended similar support to other survivor networks to develop film and media projects as effective means of communication and prevention.

In Ukraine, MF supported the documentary “Traces”, directed by Alisa Kovalenko. The film presents a powerful psychological multi-portrait of six women who survived sexual violence and torture during Russia’s aggression against Ukraine. Director, herself a member of SEMA Ukraine, portrays with sensitivity and depth the survivors’ painful experiences and their ongoing fight for justice and recognition of the crimes committed against them.

JRR

JRR amplified the voices of survivors in conflict settings such as Syria, Iraq, and Myanmar through media projects widely disseminated to raise awareness of CRSV and to highlight the importance of combating impunity and achieving justice for SGBV survivors. In partnership with UN Women, JRR produced the short documentary “Evidence of Hope”,³² featuring four survivors and witnesses of SGBV at the hands of ISIS, calling for justice for the harms they endured.

In partnership with Yazda, JRR also produced the public video “Raising Their Voice: The Yazidi Journey to Justice”³³ to highlight the experiences of female Yazidi survivors who risked their lives to escape captivity. The film emphasizes the establishment of the Yazidi Survivors’ Network, which encourages survivors to speak out about their experiences, express their needs, and advocate for international accountability.

JRR further developed several micro-website projects. In partnership with LAW, the Paths to Justice project³⁴ sheds light on the stories of Rohingya who fled the military’s attacks in Myanmar and suffered repeated atrocities, including rape. In collaboration with UN Women, Justice Now | UN Women³⁵ presents the issue of SGBV—its historical perceptions, the rights of victims and survivors under international law, and the importance of ensuring impartial, timely, and professional investigations as a vital first step toward justice for survivors of gender-based crimes.

31. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=prHyALts56Y>

32. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z2aCRkMHmVg>

33. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8KMRxwLFTIE>

34. <https://www.pathstojustice.com/>

35. <https://interactive.unwomen.org/multimedia/infostory/justicenow/en/index.html>

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Building the capacity of all actors, ranging from first responders to the judiciary, has been identified as a key priority. Training programs may target a broad spectrum of professionals, including military personnel, prosecutors, judges, police officers, legal aid providers, and multidisciplinary teams from various sectors. The multisectoral nature of these initiatives is widely recognized as a best practice.

Jurfem

In 2023, JurFem conducted several training and coordination sessions³⁶ involving multidisciplinary teams—prosecutors, free legal aid providers, police officers, and others (which united more than 300 specialists from 24 regions). Since then, the practice of bringing together multidisciplinary groups has become a regular and ongoing approach.³⁷ Moreover, while developing the training program, experts from the “JurFem: Education” Center consulted with CRSV survivors to enhance the effectiveness of both the program design and the overall training delivery.

Japan and UN Women

In 2023, with funding from Japan, UN Women implemented a project in Nigeria to strengthen the capacity of security actors to address GBV. Thirty security personnel (26 men, 4 women) from the police, civil defense, and local security forces received specialized training on GBV prevention, protection, and response.

Participants developed localized action plans for their communities, improved investigative skills, and enhanced accountability mechanisms—leading to increased prosecutions and reduced impunity for GBV-related crimes. This initiative demonstrates Japan’s commitment to advancing survivor-centered approaches within the security sector in conflict-affected contexts.

UWF

In 2023, under the “Resilient Together: Improving the Response System to War-Related Sexual Violence” project, La Strada–Ukraine and UWF conducted a Training-of-Trainers program for judges and multidisciplinary teams (including social workers, health providers, psychologists, and women’s NGOs). Fourteen trainers from multi-agency groups were prepared to deliver regional-level trainings, while twenty-four professional trainers were trained to provide thematic CRSV-focused training to judges nationwide. Following successful piloting in July 2023, the program was included in the list of standardized training programs for judges of appeal and first-instance courts in 2024.

36. <https://jurfem.com.ua/en/series-of-training-identification-and-providing-assistance-to-survivors-of-war-crimes-on-the-example-of-cases-of-conflict-related-sexual-violence/>

37. <https://jurfem.com.ua/treninh-dlya-trenerok-pidsumky/>

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JRR

For nearly a decade, JRR and UN Women, in partnership with IICI, have supported the development of a specialized training curriculum on investigating SGBV as international crimes. The program brought together professionals from investigations, prosecution, law reform, interpretation, psychosocial support, and forensic sciences to strengthen technical skills on SGBV, including safe and dignified interviewing of victims and witnesses. Graduates of this training joined the JRR–UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster and remain available for rapid deployment to assist States, UN entities, regional organizations, and international accountability mechanisms in documenting and investigating such crimes.

In 2019, JRR and IICI, in cooperation with the Security Council Affairs Division of the UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, conducted a training course following Security Council resolution 2467 (2019). The course trained 21 members of Security Council expert groups to better integrate gender-sensitive analysis and SGBV reporting into the work of Sanctions Committees. This strengthened the use of sanctions as an important, though often underutilized, tool for preventing and addressing CRSV and advancing justice for survivors.

Training and codes of conduct are essential to ensure military personnel understand their responsibilities in preventing GBV, sexual exploitation and abuse, and CRSV when deployed, including in peacekeeping missions.

Ukraine

In 2022, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine, in collaboration with the PROTECT Program, developed a memo for military personnel on interacting with civilians affected by CRSV.³⁸ In 2024, the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine also produced its first Voluntary report on international humanitarian law (IHL).³⁹ The voluntary report is a significant achievement in raising awareness of the issue of CRSV, as it contains a separate section entitled “Conflict-related sexual violence. Why is it a prohibited method of warfare?” in Section IV “Means and methods of warfare. Legislation, policy and best practices of the Ministry of Defense of Ukraine”. Among other things, the document covers ways to protect women under IHL, internal discipline in military units, and implementing the principle of equal rights and opportunities for women and men, preventing GBV, sexual violence, and violations of sexual freedom and integrity.

UK

Under its Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan, UK Defense Medical Services have committed to training, equipping, and supporting deployed clinical practitioners who will, in extremis respond to victims and survivors of CRSV by providing initial emergency care, and when appropriate, reporting and referral, with the primary

38. <https://www.alineainternational.com/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/PROTECT-memo-EN.pdf>

39. <https://ukraine-eu.mfa.gov.ua/en/news/voluntary-report-implementation-international-humanitarian-law>

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aim of avoiding further harm to the survivor. This approach recognizes that survivors may be men, women, boys, or girls. Additionally, Defense Medical Services will appoint a CRSV Champion to develop and implement a dedicated CRSV plan.

Australia

Australia supports the Elise Initiative Fund, an innovative fund designed to accelerate the pace of change in security institutions and to enable more uniformed women to meaningfully deploy to and participate in peace operations. Australia also deploys military and civilian gender advisors on military, police, humanitarian, relief and recovery operations, and maintains zero tolerance for sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment in all contexts, operations and missions.

Finally, online learning platforms tailored to different audience groups — including platforms specifically designed for women — continue to serve as effective tools for building awareness and capacity.

Ukraine

An educational series, “Gender Equality and Social Inclusion in Communications,”⁴⁰ was produced for the Diia.Education platform by ICSM in partnership with the Ministry of Digital Transformation and the United States Agency for International Development. It provides practical guidance for government institutions, media, and advertising agencies on inclusive communication, including how to address CRSV and other sensitive topics responsibly.

The Help Platform for Survivors—another government initiative launched at the start of the full-scale war—serves as an online hub offering accessible and reliable information on available assistance and key support services. Developed in partnership with civil society, UNFPA and other international organizations, it combines government programs, psychological resources, and practical materials to help citizens address the consequences of violence and access timely support. The platform is particularly valuable for those unable to reach services in person, offering not only information on immediate assistance but also educational and economic opportunities for survivors of the war and CRSV. Since its launch, it has provided information and support to around 300,000 people.

Jordan

The Jordanian National Commission for Women launched Know More, an online platform providing women with accessible information on legal rights, protection from violence, and labor legislation. Designed as both a legal reference and practical guide, it connects users to available services while raising awareness of women’s rights and protections under national law.

40. <https://osvita.diia.gov.ua/en/courses/gender-equality-and-social-inclusion-in-communication>

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2.1.3 Community Engagement

Community engagement, particularly in refugee and internally displaced persons (IDP) settings, has proven to be a strategy in strengthening the prevention of CRSV. A particularly effective practice has been the active involvement of community leaders, including religious, traditional, and informal leaders. Their public recognition and condemnation of sexual violence not only help to break the silence around these crimes but also contribute to shifting harmful social norms. By fostering open dialogue and setting clear expectations within communities, these leaders play a vital role in creating safer environments, encouraging survivors to seek support, and reinforcing accountability.

UK

Launched in November 2019, the Declaration of Humanity⁴¹ unites leaders from multiple faiths in a commitment to denounce CRSV and address the stigma faced by survivors within their communities. Signed by over 750 faith leaders, NGOs, and civil society actors in countries including Iraq, Kosovo, the DRC, and within Catholic networks, the initiative recognizes the influential role of faith leaders in challenging harmful misinterpretations of religious texts used to justify sexual violence and in promoting survivor support.

Timor-Leste

Timor-Leste became the first country to adopt the Human Fraternity Document, endorsed by Pope Francis and Grand Imam Ahmed el-Tayyeb, promoting peace, dialogue, and mutual respect between religions. Signed in Abu Dhabi on February 4, 2019, the document aims to foster reconciliation among Timorese citizens and religious communities, prevent conflict, and strengthen peaceful coexistence between Christians and Muslims.

Community-based approaches can reinforce institutional measures by integrating prevention into local government action plans, community safety strategies, and other localized frameworks. Local WPS or UNSCR 1325 action plans are one such platform, enabling cooperation at the community level on CRSV prevention.

UWF

Since 2018, the UWF has supported the creation of twenty-five 1325 coalitions as coordination and cooperation platforms for advancing the WPS agenda at the regional level in Ukraine. These informal networks unite civil society organizations, government authorities, law enforcement, the security and defense sector, media, and other local stakeholders involved in implementing UNSCR 1325. The coalitions contribute to the development of the National Action Plan and regional action plans, including initiatives to address CRSV at the regional level.

41. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/declaration-of-humanity-by-leaders-of-faith-and-leaders-of-belief/declaration-of-humanity-by-leaders-of-faith-and-leaders-of-belief>

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2.1.4 Early Warning and Area Analysis

Alliance members reported that effective early warning requires a combination of information-gathering and community-based mechanisms. Open-source intelligence was highlighted as a tool for identifying risks and supporting both prevention and accountability efforts. Complementing this, members emphasized the value of local rapid alert committees that can provide timely alerts, assist in suspected cases of violence, and actively involve men in prevention efforts while ensuring that responses remain survivor-centered.

DRC

In DRC, Local Rapid Alert Committees (Comités locaux d'alerte rapide) are an active component of community-level responses to SGBV. Operating under the "Prevent-Alert-Intervene" framework, these committees enable communities to report suspicious incidents and mobilize assistance swiftly.

Members also emphasized the role of territorial analysis in strengthening early warning systems. By examining the wider community impacts of sexual violence and applying a gender-territorial lens, these methodologies can reveal social fractures, related risks, and patterns of victimization that often correlate with the territorial control of armed actors. Such insights allow for the precise identification of high-risk areas and the design of targeted preventive measures.

Japan

In 2023–2024, Japanese-funded initiatives through UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict in Mali supported the creation of 27 Early Warning Systems in IDP sites, strengthening community-based mechanisms to prevent and respond to GBV. Over the same period, 2,984 women and girls—both survivors and those at risk—received psychosocial support in IDP camps, including 726 who participated in individual and group listening sessions. Culinary activities designed to promote psychosocial healing and life skills development reached.

Corporación SISMA Mujer

Corporación Sisma Mujer integrates territorial analysis into its CRSV prevention work by examining the lived realities of communities affected by armed conflict. This approach recognizes that patterns of sexual violence often correlate with the territorial control of armed groups, enabling communities to identify areas of heightened vulnerability and anticipate related risks. By situating sexual violence within the broader context of community structures and cohesion, Corporación Sisma Mujer ensures that prevention strategies address both individual harms and collective impacts. Survivor perspectives are actively incorporated into policy design, particularly in shaping reparation measures and community recovery plans. This method not only strengthens early warning and prevention but also builds the capacity of local actors to detect risks and adapt responses effectively.

From Corporación Sisma Mujer's experience in Colombia, it is emphasized that legal frameworks must not only address the symptoms but also transform the patriarchal structures that normalize GBV. Effective prevention requires integrating grassroots gender analysis into national policies to ensure they challenge—rather than reinforce—systemic inequalities.

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Lessons Learned

- ◆ A strong legal and policy foundation, aligned with international standards such as UNSCR 1325 and the Rome Statute, underpins both prevention and accountability efforts. The adoption of normative frameworks addressing inequalities and discrimination leading to GBV, including CRSV, and human trafficking can further strengthen measures of prevention.
- ◆ Lasting change requires moving beyond awareness campaigns and service provision to confronting harmful attitudes, behaviors, gender stereotypes, cultural or religious beliefs, and power dynamics that enable GBV as such. An inclusive approach to prevention also recognizes that CRSV affects men and boys, engaging them in efforts to challenge discriminatory norms.
- ◆ Clarity on CRSV being an international crime and its different legal consequences from broader GBV remains a prerequisite for prevention. In many contexts, the understanding of this distinction remains uneven among government officials and civil society partners, underscoring the importance of continued awareness-building efforts.
- ◆ A multidisciplinary approach to capacity building — engaging first responders, patrol officers, investigators, prosecutors, judges, psychologists, military, and other specialized teams — can strengthen the quality and timeliness of interventions. Meaningfully involving survivors in the design of such multidisciplinary training programs ensures that these initiatives are grounded in the lived realities.
- ◆ Strong partnerships between state institutions and civil society organizations, including survivor associations, create opportunities for the latter to shape interventions. Such collaboration enables platforms for direct dialogue between survivors and state actors, shaping decision-making, planning, and action.
- ◆ Sufficient time and resources are essential when working in coalitions with survivor groups, as navigating differing interests and priorities can be complex. Building consensus on policy positions and advocacy goals often depends on dialogue and negotiation within these groups. Engagement must reflect diverse survivor voices, avoiding over-reliance on a few individuals.
- ◆ Collaborative platforms — such as roundtables, online conferences, or other events — provide valuable spaces for knowledge exchange and the integration of global best practices for CRSV prevention.
- ◆ Early warning benefits from community-based mechanisms, such as local rapid alert committees, and territorial analysis, which help identify high-risk areas, address underlying social fractures, and inform the design of targeted, survivor-centered prevention measures.

“CRSV must and can be prevented. This is achievable not only through strong political commitment and financial contributions from the international community, but also through increased education and awareness-raising efforts targeting a broad range of stakeholders.”

Republic of Korea

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2.2 RESPONSE

The response section covers actions taken after incidents of CRSV, encompassing both immediate support—such as emergency medical care, psychological assistance, and legal aid—and longer-term measures, including rehabilitation, socio-economic reintegration, and access to justice and reparation.

2.2.1 Immediate Assistance

This subsection addresses immediate response services for CRSV survivors, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, hygiene kits, medical treatment, psychosocial support, and referrals for legal, psychological, or other specialized assistance. These services may be provided through one-stop centers, mobile units, or clinics, depending on the context and available resources.

2.2.1.1 Mobile Clinics and Relief Centers

During humanitarian responses, heightened violence and increased barriers to essential services and assistance are common, with the specific needs and participation of affected individuals often overlooked. Alliance members highlighted that mobile clinics and multisectoral care centers play a vital role in delivering timely, coordinated, and survivor-centered responses in both acute crises and protracted conflict settings. Depending on the context, services may be offered through permanent one-stop centers or mobile units, enabling outreach to remote, conflict-affected, de-occupied, or displaced communities while maintaining confidentiality and dignity. These facilities can operate with mixed-gender teams to ensure accessibility and comfort for all survivors, providing an integrated package of medical, psychosocial, legal, and social support.

As reported, survivors emphasize the importance of quality reception and continuous accompaniment in their care journeys. Psychosocial assistants play a central role by developing personalized, multisectoral care plans and guiding survivors through each stage of support, reducing the need for them to recount traumatic experiences repeatedly. In some cases, survivors themselves, trained as psychosocial assistants, provide this support—offering psychosocial care and referrals while embodying a peer-led, survivor-centered model.

Japan

In 2023–2024, through UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict, targeted assistance in Mali supported survivors of SGBV and vulnerable communities through mobile clinics and a One-Stop Center. A total of 523 survivors received comprehensive case management services, ensuring more accessible, coordinated, and survivor-centered care.

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Ukraine and UNFPA

The network of Survivor Relief Centers was established at the initiative of the then Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration in collaboration with UNFPA in Ukraine and supported by a number of donors. They were developed⁴² to provide protection and support for affected populations, both local residents and IDPs, including survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in response to the full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The centers operate in 12 cities across Ukraine: Zaporizhzhia, Lviv, Dnipro, Kyiv, Chernivtsi, Mukachevo, Kropyvnytskyi, Odesa, Poltava, Kharkiv, Kherson and Sumy, providing psychosocial, legal, informational support and referrals to all war-affected individuals. Comprehensive specialized services are offered to survivors of CRSV through the application of a case management approach, ensuring a survivor-centered response that prevents re-traumatization and stigmatization. These support services are available directly at the centers or through referrals to other verified service providers.

In April 2024, three mobile Survivor Relief Centers were officially launched, operating across the Kyiv, Chernihiv, Sumy, Kharkiv, and Kherson region, therefore, bringing support closer to communities and enabling residents of areas no longer under Russian occupation as well as those on the frontline regions to receive quality psychological, social, and legal support. From 2022 to 2025, nearly 60,000 conflict-affected Ukrainians, including #CRSV survivors, have benefited from the services provided by the network. Recognizing the effectiveness of the piloted response model, the Government approved a Resolution on the Model Regulations for Survivor Relief Center,⁴³ so that communities could create such centers independently in line with the provisions of the Regulation.



The official launch of three mobile Survivor Relief Centers to support people affected by the war, including CRSV survivors, by the Government of Ukraine and UNFPA, with the support of Spain and Belgium – Borodianka, Kyiv region, Ukraine, April 2024.

Photo credit: UNFPA in Ukraine.

Australia

Australia partners with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual violence in areas affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence. This includes the provision of holistic care

42. <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ze-u1Vu4a3V1uhXf2ITKnZrJ9hKUCeA6/edit?usp=sharing&oid=110070089966293865845&rt-pof=true&sd=true>

43. <https://www.kmu.gov.ua/storage/app/uploads/public/673/dc8/eb7/673dc8eb73351404706756.pdf>

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for survivors through multidisciplinary programming in priority conflict-affected contexts including Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, DRC, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mali, Nigeria, Philippines and South Sudan. To respond to sexual violence in these contexts, the ICRC ensures access to quality survivor-centered medical care, mental health and psychosocial support, and emergency and multipurpose cash assistance to support survivors. Australia's support also facilitates the distribution of post-rape kits, regular training of medical staff on survivor-centered service delivery, equipping medical facilities with necessary materials, and cash-assistance for victim-survivors at risk of further harm to relocate to safer areas.

2.2.1.2 Online Consultations and Referrals

Referral mechanisms that link survivors of CRSV to medical, psychosocial, legal, and other services should function at both national and community levels, connecting service providers and enabling access to support without unnecessary delays or repeated disclosures.

Timor-Leste

In Timor-Leste, the Rede Referral Network was established to provide both short- and long-term support for victims of GBV. The network comprises two working groups: the first, led by the Ministry of Social Solidarity and Inclusion, coordinates the provision of essential services, while the second, coordinated by the Secretary of State for Equality, focuses on advocacy strategy.

In contexts where insecurity, stigma, or distance limit mobility, technology gives expanded access to assistance. Mobile applications and phone hotlines allow survivors to seek crisis support, participate in peer learning spaces, and connect with judicial and healthcare institutions through established referral pathways.

DRC

In the DRC, the toll-free hotline provides primarily psychological support to many victims living in areas affected by conflict. Between 5,000 and 8,000 calls per month are handled through the call center, which also serves to refer survivors to urgent and direct psychological care services, especially in conflict zones. Some consultations are conducted online due to insecurity or limited mobility, until conditions allow for in-person services.

Through the Youth Coordination, Violence Against Women, and Human Trafficking, measures have been established to support survivors, including a call center with a toll-free number (122), community policing units, and multisectoral care centers to which women survivors of violence are referred. These structures allow communities to report cases and ensure holistic care, even in provinces affected by conflict, as soon as alerts are raised. The toll-free hotline has proven to be an effective tool for referral, reporting, and assistance, despite ongoing security challenges.

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UN Women

To address survivors' limited mobility amid insecurity, UN Women and partner organizations in Haiti developed two digital tools—ALO TOYA, a toll-free phone line and app available via app stores, and KONEKTEM, an online platform—to facilitate remote and confidential access to psychosocial support. These tools reached over 330 women and girls directly and benefited more than 1,700 community members through interactive peer learning spaces.

LAW

In Lebanon, LAW provides legal assistance to vulnerable women, children, and LGBTQI+ persons, including in emergency contexts to ensure their protection and security. As part of this work, LAW operates a phone hotline offering immediate assistance and referrals to other services, including for CRSV survivors and refugee communities from neighboring countries.

Since 2023 in Ukraine, LAW has delivered psychosocial and legal support to victims and survivors of Russia's full-scale invasion through its implementing partners JurFem, OPORA, and PROJECTOR+. These services have been accessible to men, women, and LGBTQI+ persons.

National hotlines—including those addressing domestic violence, trafficking in persons, and GBV—can be reoriented or expanded to provide survivors with essential information and referrals

Ukraine

In Ukraine, La Strada-Ukraine operates two national hotlines that serve as key entry points for CRSV survivors seeking support: the National Hotline for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, Human Trafficking and Gender-Based Discrimination, and the National Children and Youth Hotline. Calls are received directly from survivors, witnesses of violence, or through referrals from institutions, including state authorities. The main purpose of these hotlines is not to formally report crimes but to provide immediate assistance and guidance. Callers often seek help with urgent needs such as medical care, relocation, housing, or financial support.

Demand for the hotlines increased significantly after the liberation of occupied territories, when friends, neighbors, and acquaintances frequently reported cases on behalf of survivors unable or unwilling to call themselves. By offering confidential, accessible, and survivor-centered support, the hotlines have become a lifeline for those affected by CRSV, demonstrating how timely and practical assistance can meet survivors' most pressing needs beyond formal legal mechanisms.

Immediate assistance to meet survivors' basic needs is often a prerequisite for them to have the capacity to seek justice or engage in transitional justice processes and thus serves as an essential enabling factor for accessing justice and reparations.

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2.2.2 Long-Term Support

This subsection addresses longer-term support for survivors of CRSV, extending beyond immediate assistance to include sustained socio-economic reintegration, legal aid or participation in transitional justice processes.

2.2.2.1 Survivor Status Recognition

According to Alliance members, recognizing survivor status is a key element of a long-term CRSV response and reparation, as it formally acknowledges harm and opens access to rights. These processes typically define eligibility criteria, establish dedicated bodies or procedures for assessment, and link official status to entitlements for various forms of reparation, including comprehensive rehabilitation, interim financial compensation, legal aid, and psychosocial support. When developed together with survivors, civil society, and relevant institutions, such frameworks can be transparent, accessible, and grounded in survivors' lived experiences.

Ukraine and Global Survivors Fund (GSF)

In November 2024, the Ukrainian Parliament adopted the Law "On the Legal and Social Protection of Survivors of Sexual Violence Related to the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and the Provision of Urgent Interim Reparations to Them," marking a significant step in the long-term CRSV response while the conflict is ongoing. The law defines CRSV in the context of Russia's armed aggression, establishes categories of survivors — including children born as a result of CRSV — and outlines urgent interim reparations, such as monetary payments and free rehabilitation. It also sets out the mandate of the Commission for the Consideration of Issues Related to Recognizing a Person as a Survivor of CRSV. The law was developed through close collaboration among survivors, GSF, parliamentarians, government authorities, survivor networks, civil society, and international organizations, ensuring not only a survivor-centered legislative process but also survivors' meaningful participation in shaping the law.

This is the first such example of interim reparation to be provided by a government to survivors of CRSV during war, while accountability mechanisms against perpetrators and comprehensive compensation mechanism are still being defined. GSF is continuing to work with the Ukrainian government and partners to set up the institutional framework for implementation of this law. However, even if the law entered into force on June 18, 2025, its implementation has not started, as the Government is concerned about its ability to guarantee the necessary funding, in the current context of war.

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High-level strategic session on the development of bylaws and measures to implement the Law of Ukraine, held at the Opera Hotel, Kyiv, February 2025. Representatives of government, civil society, and international organizations discussed steps toward the Urgent Interim Reparations system. Andriy Kochmuradov, a survivor, speaking during the event.

Photo credit: Dmytro Korobkov.

MF

MF supports survivor networks through a range of collective memory initiatives designed to convey messages to present and future generations — warning against the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war, highlighting survivors' healing and transformation, and promoting peace. To bring these initiatives together, the Foundation created the SEMA Virtual Memorial⁴⁴ — an interactive online space dedicated to preserving and sharing the collective memories of survivors of CRSV. The platform enables survivors to express their stories creatively, placing their voices at the center of the global narrative on conflict and resilience. The Memorial features over 70 initiatives from 18 countries, organized by diverse forms of artistic expression. It was developed by MF in collaboration with the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience, serving as both a living archive and a tool for healing, recognition, and justice.

“Official recognition is seen as an important factor in addressing the historic and current stigma experienced by women survivors of CRSV and children born of rape. Many women survivors said that they feel “abandoned by the state” due to the ongoing lack of recognition.”

Timor-Leste

2.2.2.2 Services for Survivors

Survivor services, viewed in a long-term perspective, can take many forms, ranging from medical and psychosocial support to legal assistance, livelihood opportunities, education, housing, and community reintegration initiatives. As reported, access to socio-economic support plays a vital role in survivors' healing and reintegration into their families and communities. This support takes multiple forms, shaped by survivors' own choices—ranging from income-generating activities and vocational training to literacy programs, continued education for minors, and support for children of survivors. In some contexts, national survivor networks have been equipped to extend

44. <https://www.semanetwork.org/collective-memory/>

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these opportunities to their members, using tailored methodologies to deliver training, provide vocational skills, and supply start-up resources. These approaches not only promote economic independence but also strengthen survivor networks as key actors in long-term recovery.

MF

MF ensures that survivors have access to holistic care that is both trauma-informed and survivor-centered. This approach—encompassing medical, psychological, legal, and socio-economic support—enables survivors to heal, regain resilience, and act on their own priorities. Inspired by the Panzi one-stop center model pioneered by MF and his team in the DRC, this model integrates comprehensive services within one institution or system. Since 1999, Panzi has provided care to more than 80,000 patients, including survivors of sexual violence, demonstrating the transformative impact of holistic, survivor-centered support.

In contexts such as the Central African Republic, MF has conducted mobile clinics and surgical campaigns, delivered hygiene and dignity kits, and provided direct psychosocial and specialized psychological care. Survivors who benefit from a holistic care package consistently report greater physical and psychosocial wellbeing, enhanced resilience, and reduced trauma symptoms. Many also describe a marked reduction in feelings of shame and worthlessness, coupled with a stronger sense of self-worth and renewed value within their families and communities.

Japan

In 2020–2021, Japan with UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict supported initiatives in Somalia that enabled 226 women formerly associated with Al-Shabab to access reintegration services through civil society organizations in Kismayo and Baidoa. During the project period, participants engaged in social reintegration and community engagement activities. Survivors of GBV, including CRSV, received tailored assistance, including medical care and referrals, specialized counseling, and dignity kits.

Ukraine and UNFPA

In Ukraine, to ensure comprehensive survivor-centered support, rehabilitation retreats for female survivors of CRSV have been launched by UNFPA in Ukraine, in cooperation with the domestic CSO Neemia and survivor-led initiatives – SEMA Ukraine, Numo, Sestry! – in partnership with the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy. These retreats apply a holistic approach based on scientifically validated methods and combine psychosocial recovery, peer support, and empowerment through group and individual counselling using evidence-based eye movement desensitization and reprocessing and trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy techniques, art therapy, self-care training, and medical care. They provide a safe environment for women to rebuild trust, strengthen resilience, and restore a sense of dignity, self-confidence and control over their lives. Children are permitted to accompany female survivors, as their presence can positively

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contribute to the survivors' recovery and the broader family reintegration process. The programme is continuously adapted to the evolving context and includes a newly developed family-inclusive component to support the recovery of survivors and their partners, particularly those affected by CRSV in captivity and who may have been detained for several years. This approach not only promotes healing within families but also contributes to restoring social cohesion in affected communities and breaking the cycle of intergenerational trauma. These rehabilitation programmes are integrated into a comprehensive support system that brings together Survivor Relief Centers and the Aurora online platform for psychotherapeutic assistance, launched under the Government's initiative with UNFPA support. The planned re-launch of the platform, with a new name, refreshed identity, and enhanced technical capacity, aims to reflect the growing number of male survivors, many of whom experienced CRSV in captivity. It is important that all support services work with families of the missing, prisoners of war, released detainees, and other groups at risk of CRSV.



Rehabilitation retreat for female survivors of violence, organized by UNFPA in Ukraine, the Government of Ukraine, and women's survivor networks, with the support of the UN Action Network Against Sexual Violence in Conflict, 2024.

Photo credit: Alla Lysenko

Among all services, legal assistance has been highlighted by Alliance members as a critical component of the CRSV response. Effective legal aid frameworks prioritize safety and confidentiality. They may include documenting atrocity crimes, interviewing witnesses and survivors to preserve evidence for future litigation, and providing legal representation in both domestic and international proceedings.

LAW

Since 2019, in partnership with local civil society organizations in Syria, LAW has provided direct legal services to displaced female survivors of human rights abuses, including CRSV. Support has included securing essential civil and legal documents, particularly in family-related matters, and representing survivors in domestic, regional, and international proceedings. To date, LAW has assisted more than 220 survivors of human rights violations, war crimes, and crimes against humanity—most of whom experienced sexual violence—and represented 29 of them before the International Criminal Court in an investigation into cross-border crimes between Syria and Jordan.

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Since 2018, LAW has also pursued litigation on behalf of Rohingya survivors through its "Survivor Advocate" program in Cox's Bazar refugee camps. This work has included representation in Argentina's universal jurisdiction case on crimes against humanity and genocide, where survivor testimony in 2023 helped secure arrest warrants for 25 Myanmar government officials. LAW also represents Rohingya survivors in The Gambia's genocide case against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and supports the ICC's investigation into crimes against humanity, including CRSV, through survivor representation before the Pre-Trial Chamber and interviews with the Office of the Prosecutor.

2.2.2.3 Interim Reparative Measures⁴⁵ and Urgent Interim Reparations⁴⁶

Alliance members primarily reported on early or urgent reparative measures, emphasizing that participatory damage-identification processes—where survivors collectively assess the physical, emotional, sexual, reproductive, and socio-economic impacts of CRSV—allow for tailored responses that align with survivors' specific needs and lived experiences.

Reported reparative measures have ranged widely, including financial compensation, literacy programs, access to specialized healthcare, community-led infrastructure projects, and psychosocial support.

Colombia

In Colombia, early reparation measures have been embedded within a survivor-centered transitional justice framework and co-designed with survivors of CRSV, particularly Indigenous women. These initiatives reflect priorities of recognition, healing, and community restoration. Notable examples include a literacy program for 70 Indigenous women survivors to strengthen personal agency and access to rights; the establishment of Hospital de la Paz, the first health center in the country dedicated to survivors of sexual violence in conflict; and community-led aqueduct projects managed by Indigenous CRSV survivors, addressing basic needs while symbolizing leadership, dignity, and collective recovery.

GSF

The GSF's mission is to enhance access to reparations for survivors of CRSV globally and to ensure they receive comprehensive reparative measures in the interim. A founding principle of GSF is its survivor-centered approach, ensuring that survivors' interests are at the heart of all its activities. As rights-holders, survivors have a meaningful role in decision-making and actively participate in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of GSF's projects and processes—a practice defined as co-creation. GSF works not only for but with survivors, reflecting the SEMA Network's motto: "Nothing about us without us."

45. Interim reparative measure is a State-provided remedy designed to address the most urgent needs of survivors of violations without delay, preventing irreparable harm or further suffering. Urgent interim reparations do not limit victims' rights to full, adequate, and prompt reparation; rather, they serve as temporary relief until comprehensive reparations can be implemented.

46. Urgent interim reparations are measures provided to survivors by non-duty-bearers, such as non-governmental and civil society organizations, to support their healing and recovery in situations where States or other duty-bearers have not yet fulfilled their obligation to provide reparations and where the need is urgent.

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To ensure that reparation programs, interim reparative measures, and related processes recognize and strengthen survivors' agency and dignity, it is vital that survivors are not only consulted but that such initiatives are co-created with them. From the DRC to South Sudan and Nepal, the 11 interim reparative projects implemented by GSF and its partners are co-created with survivors—individually and collectively—to support their healing and recovery.

Each project is guided by a multi-stakeholder Steering Committee, composed of at least 40% survivors alongside experts and partner organization representatives. In the Türkiye project, survivors made up 72% of the Steering Committee, playing an instrumental role in conceptualizing, designing, and implementing the project, including the identification of survivors. They also participate in choosing individual and collective measures, such as whether compensation is paid in installments or paired with financial management and vocational training. Survivors are further involved in evaluating the impact of interim reparative measures, which has shown significant improvements in their well-being and quality of life, as well as in the reparative value of the co-creation process itself.

One of the primary challenges reported in delivering interim reparative measures and urgent interim reparation is establishing a survivor identification process that is both rigorous and accessible, and survivor-centered without being intimidating or retraumatizing. In many contexts, official support frameworks rely heavily on documented evidence. Yet, survivors may be unable or unwilling to share their experiences in formal settings. To address this, one should work closely with survivor groups to create safe and trauma-informed conditions for registration, emphasizing active listening, trust-building, and flexibility.

Dedicated case managers, through both in-person and remote interviews, can help ensure the process accommodates survivors' needs and availability. In some cases, previously provided information can be retrieved directly from the competent authority. To deliver effective interim reparative measures and urgent interim reparations, it is important to conduct training for relevant state actors, guided by the stakeholder mapping undertaken beforehand.

Jurfem

Under the coordination of the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Internal Affairs, National Police, Ministry of National Unity, and the Office of the Prosecutor General, a coordinated training initiative was undertaken to support the implementation of a reparations mechanism for survivors.

Key activities included:

- Webinars and trainings for hotline consultants, Government Hotline 15-47 representatives, and "VONA" career hubs, as well as presentations for case managers in specialized service agencies assisting survivors of domestic and GBV. These sessions introduced the Pilot Project, explained participation procedures, and outlined eligibility criteria for urgent interim reparations.

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- Specialized capacity-building trainings for coordinators supporting CRSV survivors, targeting staff of the Coordination Center for Support of Victims and Witnesses.
- Trainings for Survivor Relief Centers to strengthen their ability to provide survivor-centered assistance.
- Community-level capacity building through trainings for Resilience Centers to operate as local support hubs for CRSV survivors.

Additionally, a video course titled "Reparations to Survivors of CRSV: Survivor-Oriented Approaches" was developed by JurFem in collaboration with the UWF and La Strada – Ukraine, aimed at enhancing the knowledge of legal professionals and service providers on CRSV and reparations.⁴⁷

Eligibility for reparations can be further determined through collective bodies, such as identification councils or status-granting commissioners, composed of survivors, institutional representatives, and civil society members, who apply clear, pre-established criteria to ensure transparency, accountability, credibility, and meaningful survivor participation in the decision-making process.

Ukraine and GSF

In May 2024, GSF launched a pilot project to provide urgent interim reparations to survivors of CRSV committed since 2014. Implemented in partnership with national authorities and civil society, the initiative reached survivors in remote areas, frontline communities, and among the Ukrainian diaspora. Originally aiming to register 500 survivors, the project received 1,208 applications and have granted interim compensation to 634, alongside referrals to medical services and psychological support, while other applications are still being assessed. Key national partners included the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, the Government Commissioner for Gender Equality Policy, and SEMA network in Ukraine. Notably, a higher proportion of applications came from men, particularly those held in detention by the Russian Federation and affiliated groups. Survivors outreach and identification required integrated support services provided on site and trust-building measures to address stigma.

Most importantly, the pilot implemented a registration process based on a survivors-centered methodology, through confidential interviews by trained staff. It also developed a system for determining their eligibility in a way that is adequate to the circumstances under which CRSV has been perpetrated and to the present conditions of survivors. As such, it was an important contribution for the approval of the Law on Interim Reparation mentioned above and offers relevant lessons that can be adapted to the Register of Damages for Ukraine when registering claims derived from CRSV or other serious human rights violations and other reparation policies.

47. <https://jurfemosvita.com/courses/reparpostr/>

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Workshop in Kyiv on the implementation of the Law on Legal and Social Protection for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence and Urgent Interim Reparations, signed by President Volodymyr Zelensky in late 2024. The event was co-organized by the GSF, the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, and JurFem.

Photo credit: Dmytro Korobkov.

Survivors can primarily use reparation payments to meet their basic needs, access medical care, repair their housing, invest in livelihood activities, and pursue education. Feedback collected through case managers and anonymized forms can indicate if the process itself offered survivors a sense of recognition and validation. But the true value of compensation is not only financial support; it is a material manifestation of recognition and acknowledgment, which reinforces the dignity and agency of survivors.

GSF

Since 2009, Boko Haram has employed sexual violence as a weapon of war, using the kidnapping of young schoolgirls to propagate extremist anti-Western education rhetoric. Survivors were abducted from schools, homes, farms, markets, and other public places, and in captivity endured rape, forced marriages, forced pregnancies, sexual slavery, and other forms of CRSV. After escaping or being rescued, women and girls are often stigmatized as “Boko Haram wives,” and their children, born to fighters, are frequently excluded from education and social life.

To address these needs, GSF, in partnership with the Neem Foundation, implements an Education as Reparations initiative under the broader Interim Reparative Measures Project. The program provides trauma-informed education to 200 children aged 8–16, creating safe and supportive learning environments that foster healing, resilience, and academic progress. Psychosocial support is integrated into the curriculum, using therapeutic interventions and microlearning modules to help children cope with trauma, rebuild confidence, and engage in learning.

Teachers and counsellors receive training in child-centered and inclusive education, classroom management, basic counselling, solution-focused therapy, and adolescent mental health support. This approach enables children to regain competence, confidence, and a sense of belonging.

“I want to resume school because if I finish school and graduate, then Boko Haram will not have won. I will then be the winner.” – a survivor of CRSV.

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GSF representatives and survivors of CRSV visit Lafiya Sarari School in Maiduguri, Nigeria, together with staff from the Neem Foundation. A student presents the school's signposts.

Photo credit: Sarah-Eve Hammond / GSF.

2.2.2.4 Multistakeholder Coordination

Structured coordination among state institutions, civil society organizations, international agencies, and survivor-led groups can be achieved through formal platforms, such as coordination committees, working groups, or inter-agency task forces. By integrating legal, health, psychosocial, and economic recovery services, these mechanisms help reduce service gaps and prevent duplication.

UN Women and Colombia

In Colombia, UN Women leads multi-stakeholder coordination through platforms like the Technical Assistance Table (Mesa de Asistencia Técnica, MAT)—a space that brings together survivors' organizations with state institutions and decision-makers to strategize, harmonize advocacy, and strengthen gender-responsive transitional justice. Initially informal, the MAT was formalized into a periodic, structured mechanism through UN Women's leadership as its technical secretariat. Long-term partnerships, notably with Sweden, have provided the flexibility needed to adapt to Colombia's shifting political landscape and the sustained effort required for meaningful impact.

Ukraine and UN

In May 2022, shortly after the full-scale invasion, the UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict visited Ukraine and, together with the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, signed a Framework of Cooperation⁴⁸ between the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations to prevent and address CRSV. To operationalize this agreement, an Inter-Agency Working Group on Combating Sexual Violence Related to Russia's Armed Aggression against Ukraine and Assistance to the Survivors (IAWG) was established on May 25, 2022. The IAWG includes representatives of state authorities, international organizations, civil society organizations, and survivors themselves. Recognized as an advisory body to a governmental commission. To reinforce international collaboration, the IAWG, together with the Office of the UN Special Representative, developed an Implementation Plan—designed as a “living document” that is continuously reviewed and adapted to address emerging challenges and ensure survivor-centered action.

48. <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/framework-cooperation-between-government-ukraine-and-un-prevention-and-response>

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2.2.2.5 Legal and Institutional Reform

Legal and institutional reform can address both the normative framework and the operational capacity of institutions responsible for responding to CRSV. Such reforms often involve harmonizing domestic legislation with international legal standards to ensure that CRSV is explicitly criminalized, effectively prosecuted, and never subject to amnesties. They also include establishing policies for long-term reparations for survivors and guaranteeing their entitlement to legal, social, and other forms of support.

Institutional changes may include establishing or strengthening specialized units within police, prosecution, and judicial bodies, as well as integrating survivor-centered protocols into standard operating procedures. Reform processes can also address structural barriers to justice, such as restrictive evidentiary requirements, statutes of limitation, and discriminatory procedural rules.

Ukraine

Established in 2023 under the Office of the Prosecutor General, the Coordination Center for Victim and Witness Support provides psychological and legal assistance to victims and witnesses of war and other international crimes involved in criminal proceedings, facilitates their interaction with investigators, prosecutors, and courts, and applies enhanced standards of practice. In 2024, the Center expanded nationwide with nine regional branches. It plays a key role in developing and institutionalizing new support mechanisms, improving survivor engagement practices, and updating internal prosecution standards.

Lessons Learned

- ◆ Survivor-centered services must be holistic and well-coordinated across medical, psychosocial, legal, and socio-economic domains, supported by strong referral systems that ensure continuity of care and minimize the risk of re-traumatization.
- ◆ Understanding each survivor's individual and cultural context—including security conditions, stigma, gender norms, literacy, access to information, and local power dynamics—is essential. Participation should proceed only when survivors feel safe and emotionally ready, and must never compromise their well-being.
- ◆ Safety and informed consent take precedence over institutional objectives. Consent should be ongoing, clearly explained, revocable at any time, and grounded in the survivor's own understanding of potential risks.
- ◆ Supportive and accessible logistics are critical. Sufficient time and resources must be allocated for preparation, financial and logistical assistance, accompaniment by trusted persons, and trauma-informed care before, during, and after participation. This includes ensuring access to trauma-informed psychosocial support. Where mental health specialists are scarce, trained non-specialists and survivor networks can provide community-based care, with referral pathways for complex cases.

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- ◆ Justice is a priority for many CRSV survivors but is often hindered by stigma, fear, lack of legal recognition, and other formal barriers; at the same time, survivors frequently see it as a transformative process that extends beyond criminal accountability to addressing root causes, systemic drivers, and broader rights such as citizenship, reparations, and access to services. Reparations are often the most desired but least received form of justice, with many survivors viewing reparations as central to achieving true justice.
- ◆ Legal support should be integrated with medical, psychosocial, protection, and economic assistance, with access to care provided unconditionally, in line with international best practice. Survivors must never feel that pursuing formal justice—criminal or otherwise—is a prerequisite for receiving medical, psychological, or other support. Service gaps are particularly pronounced for displaced persons, men, and LGBTQI+ survivors, whose specific needs are frequently overlooked.
- ◆ Participatory approaches, such as damage identification mapping, can make interim reparative measures and urgent interim reparations powerful tools for building trust and restoring agency. Meaningful reparations do not need to wait until the end of a transitional justice process; when context-specific, interim measures can be effectively implemented even during conflict.
- ◆ Time limitations or restrictive eligibility criteria in reparative mechanisms risk excluding survivors, creating perceptions of inequality, and undermining trust. Sustainable funding — not short-term or donor-dependent — is critical for long-term planning and survivor confidence.
- ◆ Multi-stakeholder coordination — including state actors, civil society organizations, survivor-led groups, and technical experts — fosters ownership and effective implementation. Localization, achieved through national staff and local partners, enhances access and community acceptance.
- ◆ Legislative reform must be matched by full implementation. Gaps in regulatory frameworks, restrictive evidentiary rules, statutes of limitation, or discriminatory procedures undermine access to justice and services.
- ◆ Context-specific referral mechanisms, especially in remote or underutilized areas, are essential for providing timely and appropriate support. The integration of technology, mobile services, and culturally sensitive care expands access, particularly in insecure or displaced settings.
- ◆ Responses must avoid creating hierarchies among survivors of GBV and CRSV. While legal entitlements may differ, service needs are comparable, and exclusion can cause harm.
- ◆ CRSV-related services should be embedded within existing national protection and response systems to avoid creating parallel or segregated structures, while strengthening institutional sustainability and ensuring local ownership and accountability. While donor funding is intended to serve primarily as emergency and catalytic support, sustainable, nationally owned financing remains vital for long-term assistance and survivor confidence.
- ◆ Accountability for past crimes, including CRSV, can be constrained when political reconciliation is a parallel priority; sustained advocacy is required to balance both goals.

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2.3 CO-CREATION PROCESS

The co-creation section outlines initiatives that meaningfully involve survivors and affected communities in shaping both prevention and response to CRSV, including reparation. These may include structured consultations, briefings, political forums, advocacy campaigns, participation in drafting policy and legal frameworks, and the formation of non-governmental or survivor-led organizations.

2.3.1 Dialogue Platforms, Safe Spaces, and Survivor Organizations

Alliance members described a wide range of co-creation and other initiatives designed to place survivors at the center of prevention, response, and recovery efforts. These included establishing dialogue platforms at local, national, and international levels, supporting and expanding survivor-led organizations, and creating peer support networks through safe spaces. Survivors can contribute directly to shaping policies, legislative reforms, and operational tools, as well as leading advocacy campaigns, participating in international conferences, and engaging in truth-seeking and reparation processes. In many contexts, co-creation and other forms of survivor participation have been paired with psychosocial support and capacity-building, enabling survivors to participate meaningfully in justice mechanisms, confront stigma, and drive both institutional reform and cultural change.

MF

MF supports more than ten national survivor networks worldwide and co-founded SEMA – the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, now uniting survivors from over 26 conflict-affected countries. These networks provide safe spaces where survivors share experiences, break the silence, and organize collectively to ensure that such violence does not happen to others.

Survivor networks supported by the Foundation amplify voices through testimony, advocacy, and sustained engagement with decision-makers. They challenge stigma, raise awareness of the consequences of CRSV, and press for structural reforms that strengthen protection and end impunity. Their activism spans from community-level initiatives—such as theatre performances, school visits, marches, and creative campaigns—to high-level advocacy before parliaments, ministries, the UN Human Rights Council, and the ICC.

What distinguishes this model is that survivors themselves lead the work. With support from MF, they transform personal experience into collective agency, ensuring that responses to CRSV are survivor-driven, inclusive, and sustainable.

Survivor Advisory Group (SAG)

The PSVI SAG was established by the UK Government to ensure that survivors of CRSV play a direct and meaningful role in shaping the UK's PSVI priorities and actions. Composed of survivors from different conflict-affected contexts, the group provides strategic advice to the UK Government and the Alliance.

Since its creation, the SAG has contributed to multiple high-level processes. Members played

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a key role in shaping commitments at the UK's 2022 International Conference on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, ensuring that survivor-centered justice, reparations, and participation were prioritized in the final outcomes. Through its work, the SAG has highlighted the lived realities of survivors as essential evidence for shaping prevention, protection, and justice measures. Members have contributed to high-level dialogues, international summits, and advocacy campaigns, ensuring that survivor perspectives influence decision-making at the global stage. Importantly, the SAG functions not as a symbolic body but as an active partner—its recommendations have been reflected in Alliance priorities, commitments, and joint initiatives.

Colombia

Colombia convened 18 Dialogue Platforms with Survivors ("Mesas de Víctimas") in partnership with the Unit for Attention and Reparation for Victims at municipal, departmental, and national levels to strengthen survivor participation in transitional justice. In these spaces, survivors validated tools such as the Protocol for Communication with Survivors of Sexual Violence and co-developed investigative methodologies to ensure institutional responses reflected their experiences. Providing a safe, facilitated environment for sharing testimonies helped reduce stigma and rebuild trust in state institutions.

Ukraine

As of 2025, survivor-led organizations such as Alumni, December 29th, Numo, Sestry!, and SEMA Ukraine contribute to advocacy and policymaking processes, ensuring that survivor perspectives inform national and international responses. Alumni, a network of civilian men who survived Russian detention and torture, and December 29th, composed of former prisoners from the self-proclaimed Donetsk People's Republic and Luhansk People's Republic, provide peer support, advocate for justice, and document violations. Numo, Sestry! is a survivor-led organization established in 2024 that unites women who endured Russian captivity and CRSV to document war crimes, advocate for accountability, and amplify survivors' voices. SEMA Ukraine is a survivor-led organization founded in 2019 as part of the global SEMA Network, working to end sexual violence in conflict and to advance justice and support for survivors in Ukraine and beyond. Survivors are also actively engaged in the work of the IAWG, contributing their expertise to subgroups and policy development.

MF

MF is piloting Survivor and Care Provider Dialogues to strengthen survivor participation in shaping decisions about care. These dialogues, conducted between survivor networks and care-providing institutions, have served both to collect feedback on specific services and to address broader issues concerning quality and responsiveness to survivors' needs.

In Ukraine, the Foundation's role in the Survivor Engagement Advisory Panel (SEAP) within the Inter-Agency Working Group demonstrates how survivor co-creation can be embedded into formal structures. Through SEAP, survivors' priorities for capacity-building have been identified, feedback on services is collected, exchanges between survivor

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network leaders have been facilitated, and the platform continues to grow as a resource for both survivors and institutional partners committed to survivor-centered responses.

Survivors are also consistently engaged as subject-matter experts in professional training programs. For example, during a Training of Trainers organized jointly with the Ukraine High School of Public Governance and the National Social Service, survivors shared their experiences and recommendations directly with professionals. Participants emphasized the unique value of this engagement, noting how it deepened their understanding, challenged established practices, and informed improvements in their respective regions.

LAW

In Syria, LAW convened an all-women conference in Paris to address SGBV, including CRSV, in the context of the conflict. The meeting resulted in an action plan endorsed by sixteen CSOs. LAW also issued a policy brief on the impact of enforced disappearances on children, highlighting heightened risks of CRSV, including forced and child marriage. Representing 41 families of victims and survivors, LAW submitted 477 pages of evidence to the UN Working Group on Arbitrary and Involuntary Disappearances to seek truth and locate the missing. In parallel, it published the most comprehensive report to date (as of June 2024) on gendered crimes in Syrian government detention facilities.

2.3.2 Focal Points, Identity-Based Networks, and Surveys

The establishment of focal points within each community—whether at the village or sector level—serves as a critical link in early detection and response to incidents of GBV. These individuals act as trusted intermediaries, enabling timely reporting and coordination with relevant services. Their presence helps bridge the gap between survivors and formal support mechanisms, particularly in remote or conflict-affected areas.

To address the intersectional nature of CRSV, identity-based focal groups can be established according to survivors' gender, sexuality, ethnicity, and lived experiences. These may include, for example, heterosexual women, Indigenous women, transgender women, gay men, heterosexual men, and individuals formerly recruited as children. Such groups create spaces for collective healing and peer support, enabling targeted analysis of harm—including its impacts on health, autonomy, and community relationships—and supporting the development of early reparation proposals tailored to each group's specific needs and priorities. This approach ensures that the diversity of survivor experiences meaningfully informs response mechanisms.

Survivor surveys and reports provide systematic feedback on needs, barriers, and priorities, ensuring that interventions remain grounded in survivors' lived realities while generating actionable policy recommendations.

GSF

In Colombia, GSF initiated a study in 2022 as part of its Global Reparations Study to identify barriers to implementing survivor-centered reparations. In addition to the need to improve the implementation of administrative reparations, under the Law on Victims and

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Land Restitution, the study identified an opportunity for survivors of sexual violence to meaningfully participate in defining restorative sanctions for perpetrators who acknowledge responsibility before the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP).

Building on these findings, in 2023 GSF began collaborating with the JEP to design a participatory mechanism for survivors involved in Macro Case 05, which addresses violence in northern Cauca and southern Cauca Valley. This case involves over 120,000 victims, including around 80 survivors of CRSV from Afro-Colombian, Indigenous, non-Indigenous, and LGBTQI+ communities.



Participants in the Case 05 JEP process during a side event organized by GSF and the University of Rosario, Bogotá, Colombia, November 2024.

Photo credit: Valentina Alfonso Guarí.

UWF

To mark the opening of the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Ukrainian Women's Fund, together with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, co-hosted the panel discussion "Ukraine is Not Silent" at the Ukrainian Institute of America. The event created a dedicated space for survivors CRSV to share their stories, insights, and messages with the international community. It also brought together distinguished Ukrainian and international voices to stand in solidarity in fight for justice, dignity, and peace.

2.3.3 Legal Participation and Institutional Engagement

Survivors of CRSV may engage directly in transitional justice processes by submitting reports, contributing to investigations, and seeking legal accreditation in relevant cases. Such participation supports truth-telling, shapes institutional responses, and justice outcomes.

Colombia

In Colombia, survivors of CRSV have been active protagonists in shaping transitional justice outcomes. They have submitted seven formal reports to JEP, including contributions to regional macro-cases investigating CRSV, and are pursuing legal accreditation in

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Macro-Case 11, which addresses CRSV at the national level. Survivors have also presented three reports to the Commission for the Clarification of the Truth, underscoring their central role in truth-telling, preserving public memory, and advancing institutional accountability.

2.3.4 Reparations: Design, Implementation, Monitoring, and Evaluation

When survivors are directly involved in shaping reparations initiatives, the measures are more likely to address both immediate needs and long-term recovery. Co-designed reparations can span social, health, and community infrastructure projects, integrating symbolic and practical components that promote recognition, healing, and collective resilience.

Different forms of reparations are outlined in the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Victims of Gross Violations of International Human Rights Law⁴⁹ and Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law, including restitution, compensation, satisfaction, rehabilitation, and guarantees of non-repetition. The fundamental principle is that the duty to provide reparation lies with the party responsible for committing or failing to prevent sexual violence, known as the duty-bearer. Interim measures offer immediate support to address survivors' urgent needs, while the legal responsibility of duty-bearers remains unchanged. When designed in collaboration with survivors and paired with longer-term initiatives, reparations foster recovery, recognition, and accountability.

Ukraine

In response to UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-11/5 (November 2022), which called for accountability and reparations for Russia's violations of international law in Ukraine, the Council of Europe established the Register of Damage Caused by the Aggression of the Russian Federation Against Ukraine⁵⁰ in May 2023. An Enlarged Partial Agreement, the Register provides an international mechanism to document claims and evidence of damage, loss, or injury suffered by individuals, businesses, and state or municipal entities in Ukraine.

The Register's headquarters are in The Hague, Netherlands, and an office opened in Kyiv on 22 March 2024. It began accepting claims on 2 April 2024, including for sexual violence, serious personal injury, forced displacement, and torture or inhuman treatment. The Register explicitly incorporates a gender perspective, addressing barriers to reporting sexual violence and reflecting gender-specific harm.

By systematically documenting claims, the Register creates a factual and evidential basis for Ukraine and its citizens to seek reparations for internationally illegal acts committed by the Russian Federation.

Beyond monetary compensation, reparations can take symbolic forms, such as collaborative art projects co-created with CRSV survivors. One example is a poetic, performative act in which survivors collectively authored a poem, giving voice to both their pain and resilience. Such initiatives can transcend legal mechanisms, offering non-verbal avenues for truth-telling, memorialization, and public acknowledgment, thereby reinforcing survivors' central role in shaping narratives about CRSV and armed conflict.

49. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-and-guidelines-right-remedy-and-reparation>

50. <https://rd4u.coe.int/en/about-the-register>

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Colombia

In Colombia, symbolic reparations have been advanced through collaborative art initiatives that center CRSV survivors in the country's public memory of the conflict. In partnership with sculptor Doris Salcedo and the memorial art space Fragmentos in Bogotá, projects such as *Mi testimonio deja huella* ("My Testimony Leaves a Mark") engaged transgender and Indigenous survivors who had submitted reports to the JEP, transforming their testimonies into lasting works of remembrance. *Desamadas* ("Unloved Women") brought together 35 survivors to compose a collective poem — a performative act that gave voice to pain and dignity while fostering healing, recognition, and restored agency. These initiatives created non-verbal pathways for truth-telling, embedding survivors' perspectives in national narratives of the conflict.

By formally involving survivors in monitoring and steering bodies—sometimes at community, municipal, and national levels—these approaches ensure that implementation remains responsive to survivors' priorities and grounded in their lived realities. Such participation can take innovative forms, from appointing survivors as focal points for specific reparation measures to granting them leadership roles within project governance structures.

UN Women

From 2017 to 2020, UN Women supported the creation of a survivor-led mechanism to monitor the implementation of the landmark Sepur Zarco reparations sentence, which convicted two former military officers of crimes against humanity, including sexual slavery. Sixteen survivors, known as the Abuelas, were each appointed as "ambassadors" for one of the 16 collective reparations measures, participating in monitoring committees at community, municipal, and national levels. Guided by *Mujeres Transformando el Mundo*, they developed measurable indicators to track progress, which has included the opening of a school and health clinic, though key measures—such as restitution of ancestral lands—remain pending.

A notable innovation was the inclusion of the Abuelas in UN Women's project steering committee, with one survivor serving as co-president alongside the Country Representative. This ensured survivors' leadership in shaping workplans, budgets, and priorities, while responding to ongoing insecurity in their communities. The independent evaluation of the project highlighted this co-presidency as "an act of power in itself," symbolically and practically countering decades of marginalization and invisibility.

France

France contributes to the Trust Fund for Victims of the International Criminal Court, one of the pillars of restorative justice under the Rome Statute, which enables victims of international crimes to obtain redress. France has supported the Trust Fund for Victims since its creation in 2005.

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Lessons Learned

- ◆ Methods of engagement must be adapted to survivors' realities. This includes using appropriate formats (in-person, online, or illustrated surveys), clear, jargon-free language, and interpreters who uphold confidentiality and follow survivor-centered principles.
- ◆ Local context and leadership are essential. Partnering with local NGOs and survivor networks as equal actors ensures cultural sensitivity, strengthens safe engagement, and builds lasting community ownership.
- ◆ Emotional and practical support should be integrated throughout the participation process. This includes psychosocial assistance, training, and coaching for survivors who wish to share their experiences publicly or assume leadership roles.
- ◆ Survivor leadership and survivor-founded organizations should be recognized, supported, and adequately resourced. Their networks play a vital role in advocacy, mutual support, and representation, ensuring that survivors' lived experiences inform programs and policies.
- ◆ Clear and transparent processes sustain trust. Survivors should understand the distinction between storytelling and decision-making, as well as the expectations regarding procedures, finances, and participation.
- ◆ Survivor co-creation and meaningful participation have proven most effective when supported through multiple channels — including legal, artistic, organizational, and community-based spaces.
- ◆ Reparation processes derive value not only from their outcomes but also from the participatory process itself. Survivor involvement, when respectful, informed, and responsive to their needs, affirms agency and dignity while enhancing the relevance and accessibility of reparative measures.
- ◆ Effective engagement relies on safe and inclusive spaces, psychosocial support, skilled facilitation, confidentiality safeguards, and flexible procedures tailored to diverse survivor groups, including children, men, youth, and LGBTQI+ individuals.
- ◆ When appropriately adapted and safeguarded, participatory processes for children demonstrate that survivor-centered approaches can enable safe and meaningful engagement.
- ◆ A sustained, on-the-ground presence near survivor communities has been critical for building trust, understanding evolving needs, and ensuring that justice processes are shaped by survivors' lived experiences.

“We must be careful not to treat survivors as consumers or to “market” things to them where we want their buy-in.”

United Kingdom

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2.4 SURVIVOR-CENTERED JUSTICE

The survivor-centered justice section highlights practices and strategies designed to secure survivors' access to justice in ways that uphold their agency, dignity, and needs. It reflects work to reinforce accountability frameworks and enable meaningful survivor participation in justice processes, whether pursued through national courts, transitional justice mechanisms, or international judicial bodies.

2.4.1 CRSV Expert Rosters and Hubs

Beyond formal legal entitlements, the presence of specially trained legal professionals is essential to delivering support. Networks of lawyers equipped to address CRSV, apply trauma-informed communication, and practice self-care can offer survivors more responsive, empathetic, and sustained assistance.

JRR and UN Women

JRR and UN Women, have developed the JRR-UN Women SGBV Justice Experts Roster— a network of approximately 250 professionals with expertise in investigating and prosecuting SGBV and integrating gender perspectives into justice processes. The roster includes investigators, gender experts, psychosocial and witness protection specialists, and restorative justice practitioners, all with demonstrated experience in applying survivor-centered approaches.

Recruitment goes beyond technical qualifications, assessing candidates' ability to engage with survivors respectfully and safely, including building rapport, obtaining informed consent, assessing risks, and addressing stigma or re-traumatization. All members are required to complete a mandatory induction program covering do-no-harm principles, gender sensitivity, and child rights in justice mechanisms.

JRR and UN Women also promote ongoing learning and collaboration. They co-coordinate a Community of Practice with the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, connecting gender experts and SGBV investigators from UN investigative bodies to exchange best practices, including strategies for meaningful survivor participation. In partnership with institutions such as the Institute for International Criminal Investigations, the partnership offers targeted trainings—such as on the Murad Code—to strengthen ethical and survivor-led investigative practices.

UK

The UK PSVI Team of Experts is a flexible and diverse pool of external specialists with a range of expertise in tackling CRSV, including in international law, gender-based violence, psychology, and humanitarian responses. The Team of Experts has deployed over 90 times since its formation in 2012, to support conflict affected states including Kosovo, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Ukraine, Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, with CRSV expertise.

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Australia and LAW

With support from Australia, LAW recently launched the Gender Justice Practitioner Hub, a global resource designed to foster collaboration, enhance coordination, and facilitate knowledge-sharing among practitioners working to advance gender justice. The Hub serves as a platform for accessing the latest information, tools, and methodologies for identifying, defining, and prosecuting gender crimes, including CRSV, with the aim of improving justice outcomes for survivors of core international crimes.

As a long-term measure, integrating CRSV-specific training into university-level legal and policing curricula would embed survivor-centered principles into the education of future lawyers, prosecutors, and judges, fostering more informed, empathetic, and effective responses across generations.

Strengthening the well-being of justice sector professionals is equally important; providing prosecutors and investigators with access to trauma-informed psychological support reduces burnout, improves survivor engagement, and enhances the integrity of CRSV case handling.

2.4.2 Inclusive Justice Participation: Context Analysis and Capacity

Before engaging in justice and accountability processes, it is essential to conduct a contextual analysis grounded in a survivor-centered perspective. This involves understanding how survivors—particularly those of SGBV—have experienced and participated in justice efforts, and how their needs, priorities, and risks are addressed.

A thorough analysis should consider the extent to which survivors have been included in shaping justice mechanisms and whether certain groups have been excluded based on gender, age, or type of violation. It should assess current levels of participation and identify factors such as social stigma, geographic isolation, legal constraints, or lack of information and support.

Attention must also be given to the specific risks survivors may face when engaging with justice processes, including the potential for re-traumatization, threats to safety, or breaches of confidentiality. The availability of psychosocial support, whether embedded within justice mechanisms or provided through external referrals, is critical to ensuring that survivors can participate safely and meaningfully.

JRR

Understanding the critical importance of integrating mental health and psychosocial support throughout justice and accountability processes, JRR has been seeking to position psychosocial accompaniment as a necessary and not auxiliary component of restorative justice. To do so, JRR has been supporting its partners with psychosocial expertise in a variety of contexts. Most recently, in Colombia, JRR has deployed a psychosocial expert at the request of the JEP to support its team working on Case 009 in developing and implementing a methodology for psychosocial support sessions for CRSV survivors using an intersectional and culturally grounded approach. The methodology was co-developed with JEP and communities, including indigenous communities, engaging with the JEP under Case 009. It enables the process to highlight the psycho-spiritual dimension of CRSV and its impact on identity and collective healing, strengthening the role of women leaders as spiritual caregivers and justice actors in their communities.

Technology can further enhance this process by simulating litigation procedures, helping survivors prepare for and navigate the experience with greater confidence.

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UK

The UK has partnered with the Office of the Prosecutor of the ICC to develop and pilot an innovative Virtual Reality application designed to support survivor engagement with the Court. Launched in December 2023 by Lord Ahmad, then UK Prime Minister's Special Representative for PSVI, at the ICC Assembly of States Parties, the app is intended for use by ICC investigators. It offers potential witnesses an immersive experience inside an empty ICC courtroom, demonstrating the special measures available to protect their identity. By providing this virtual orientation, the tool seeks to help survivors make informed decisions about testifying while reducing fears of reprisals, stigma, and re-traumatization.

Finally, engaging with civil society and survivor-led organizations can help ensure that affected individuals are supported in understanding the opportunities and risks of participation. When survivors are equipped with accurate information, they are better able to make informed decisions about the justice and advocacy efforts they wish to pursue. This includes strengthening individual and collective capacities to make informed decisions, articulate their priorities, and advocate for their rights.

Corporación Sisma Mujer

Corporación Sisma Mujer has developed a survivor-centered emergency response model that links community and individual support to national transitional justice processes.

A central element of this model is the emotional preparation of survivors for key stages of legal proceedings. Recognized as a best practice, this preparation equips survivors with the skills and strategies needed to engage in judicial processes—such as hearings—while reducing the risk of retraumatization. By fostering dignity, agency, and emotional readiness, the approach enables survivors to participate meaningfully and safely in accountability mechanisms.

JRR

JRR helped shed light on SGBV committed against men and boys in the context of the Colombia armed conflict by supporting All Survivors Project's efforts to document such cases. Furthermore, JRR supported All Survivors Project in their efforts to submit to the JEP collective and individual accreditation requests on behalf of male survivors of SGBV, resulting in the accreditation of over 100 male and non-binary survivors of CRSV so they could take part in the JEP's justice process.

2.4.3 CRSV Expertise in International Crimes Accountability Mechanisms

Ensuring justice for survivors of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts depends on the systematic integration of dedicated expertise into mechanisms dealing with international crimes, be it criminal accountability or other transitional justice processes. Without the involvement of CRSV professionals, patterns of sexual violence risk being overlooked, evidence may fail to meet international standards, and survivor-centered perspectives may be absent from legal proceedings and other transitional justice efforts.

CRSV experts can contribute at every stage of the justice process—from identifying investigative “red flags” and gathering survivor testimony in a sensitive and trauma-informed manner, to shaping legal strategies and ensuring findings on CRSV are incorporated into case files and reports. When embedded within multidisciplinary teams alongside child rights, psychosocial, and survivor support specialists, their participation increases the visibility of CRSV within broader accountability efforts, and it improves the likelihood of meaningful legal action and restorative measures.

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JRR and UN Women

Since 2019, JRR and UN Women have deployed SGBV-focused experts 335 times (including 186 times since 2019) to support accountability efforts led by international (e.g. ICC, UN Commissions of Inquiry), national (e.g. criminal investigations and prosecutions and truth, reconciliation and reparations commissions in various countries), and civil society (CSOs documenting violations and/or representing survivors before justice mechanisms) actors. These deployments have helped ensure that SGBV is thoroughly investigated, reflected in legal findings, and addressed through survivor-centered approaches. JRR and UN Women has also deployed child rights specialists to safeguard the inclusion of children's needs in justice processes, advancing more inclusive and comprehensive accountability.

2022: JRR and UN Women supported the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, including by injecting gender experts that provided the groundwork for the Commission to produce the conference room paper on CRSV in South Sudan. The report is a ground-breaking analysis of how SGBV (including sexual torture, targeted rape, sexual slavery) has been used in a widespread and systematic way in South Sudan, and along ethnic lines.

2024: JRR and UN Women provided expert support, including on gender and child rights, to the independent international fact-finding mission (FFM) for the Sudan – investigating international crimes occurring during the ongoing conflict. Together, these experts have been crucial in facilitating the FFM's engagement with victims and witnesses of GBV and violations affecting children. They have also enabled the FFM to report effectively on SGBV and violations affecting children. This has resulted in increased visibility of relevant violations by warring parties such as rape and sexual slavery, child recruitment, killing and maiming of children, and attacks on schools and hospitals.

By making SGBV expertise rapidly available to international justice mechanisms, JRR and UN Women can bring reassurance and hope to victims and survivors of GBV that their stories and the violations they were subjected to will be reported upon by an international body – as an Iranian survivor of intentional blinding and sexual violence in detention told JRR during a gathering of victims ahead of a UN Human Rights Council session in Geneva.

UK

The UK supports the UN Team of Experts in advancing capacity-building, technical support, and knowledge-sharing initiatives in various conflict-affected states, with a view to ensuring enhanced accountability for CRSV. Through funding to UN Women, the UK also supports survivor-led and gender-responsive transitional justice. This includes technical assistance, mentoring, policy engagement, and legal reform. Activities range from embedding gender expertise in law-drafting processes, facilitating survivor engagement in justice mechanisms, and building capacity among legal practitioners and victim advocates, to engaging with civil society and governments on the draft Crimes Against Humanity treaty to increase co-sponsorship of the resolution calling for treaty negotiations. Over the past year, these efforts have contributed to landmark cases on CRSV as a crime against humanity in Guinea, Kenya, and Uganda. The UK also supports civil society advocacy for accountability and justice. For example, in Colombia, JEP has now recognized 104 men, including 35 minors, as victims of sexual violence, torture, and forced displacement during the armed conflict. This landmark recognition, part of Macro Cases 8 and 11 and supported by the All Survivors Project, highlights the strategic use of sexual violence to punish and control male victims, often targeting their masculinity. With UK PSVI funding, the All Survivors Project played a key role in documenting the cases and advocating for justice.

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Integrating such expertise also strengthens national capacities, enabling authorities and civil society actors to treat CRSV as a core component of atrocity crimes rather than a secondary concern. This approach supports survivors' access to justice, particularly for marginalized groups, including children, whose needs are often overlooked.

JRR

In 2018, JRR deployed a team of experts to support the team of Ugandan prosecutors in the case against Thomas Kwoyelo, a former senior commander of the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda, in building a prosecution case for CRSV. CRSV was initially overlooked by the investigations and as a result, CRSV charges were missing from the original indictment. Following pressure from survivors, Ugandan prosecutors decided to gather evidence for these crimes, including through the conduct of trauma-informed interviews of victims and witnesses. They called on the support of JRR which deployed a team of JRR experts, comprised of an SGBV Investigator, a Prosecutor, a Witness Protection Expert and a Psychosocial Expert, to work hand in hand with the Ugandan team of prosecutors and their partners, including the Ugandan police, to strengthen the evidence supporting the CRSV charges. In 2024, the International Crimes Division of the High Court of Uganda handed down a landmark decision in the Kwoyelo Case. The court found Kwoyelo guilty of 44 of the 93 counts, including of CRSV.

A persistent challenge in international justice mechanisms is the tendency to prioritize procedural norms over survivors' lived realities. Institutions based far from affected communities—such as those in The Hague or Geneva—can unintentionally distance survivors from decision-making, diluting their perspectives in the name of legal formality. Closing this gap requires sustained efforts to ensure survivor voices are not only heard but meaningfully integrated into the design, implementation, and evaluation of justice processes.

LAW

LAW has played a leading role in facilitating direct survivor engagement with international justice institutions, ensuring their voices influence proceedings and advance their rights.

2020 – ICC: On behalf of Rohingya survivors, LAW submitted a request to the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber to hold any future proceedings in the Bangladesh/Myanmar situation in Bangladesh to enable greater victim participation. While the request was denied, the Chamber reaffirmed victims' right to make such submissions, countering arguments from the Office of the Prosecutor.

2022 – ICJ: LAW supported 807 Rohingya survivors in sending a collective letter to the President of the ICJ, urging the court not to recognize the junta-appointed agent for Myanmar. The letter, developed through LAW's survivor advocate network in Cox's Bazar, was accompanied by recorded voice notes to ensure informed consent and broad community backing.

2024 – CEDAW: LAW secured a precedent-setting decision allowing 35 South Sudanese CRSV survivors to submit a communication without disclosing their identities to the State party—the first such ruling by any UN Treaty Body. This outcome, achieved after six years of advocacy, sets a global precedent for safer survivor access to justice.

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Lessons Learned

- ◆ Survivor-centered context analysis is essential to identify barriers, risks, and gaps in participation, particularly for marginalized groups excluded by gender, age, location, or type of violation.
- ◆ Meaningful participation requires emotional and practical preparation, including psychosocial support, accessible information, and protective measures tailored to survivors' needs. Innovative tools, such as virtual courtroom simulations, can familiarize survivors with legal proceedings, reduce fear, and support informed decision-making.
- ◆ Collaboration with survivor-led and civil society organizations strengthens trust, ensures responses are grounded in lived experience, and enhances survivors' capacity to make informed choices about engagement.
- ◆ Integrating CRSV-specific content into legal and policing curricula embeds survivor-centered principles into future generations of justice professionals, fostering sustained, empathetic, and informed responses.
- ◆ Integration of dedicated CRSV professionals in international and national justice mechanisms ensures patterns of sexual violence are not overlooked and survivor-centered perspectives are integral to legal proceedings and other transitional justice efforts.
- ◆ Meaningfully engaging survivors in reparation and other transitional justice processes not only allows for survivors' views to be known but also ensures legitimacy and effectiveness. The participation process itself can reinforce survivors' agency, have reparative value, and contribute to survivors' healing.

"There are a number of important lessons learned arising from LAW's extensive work with survivors of CRSV around the world. While each context in which LAW works is unique and requires a distinct understanding and approach, there are several common patterns that can be seen across all conflict contexts:

First, justice remains a key priority for survivors of CRSV...

Second, survivors have broad and varied perceptions of justice...

Third, survivor services in conflict-affected contexts remain woefully lacking...

LAW's work shows that where a survivor-centered approach is applied—i.e., individualized risk-mitigation strategies are put in place, survivors are empowered to understand the process in which they are participating, and they feel that they are contributing to justice for their community as well as themselves—survivors are more willing to speak about their experiences."

Legal Action Worldwide

III CONCLUSIONS

The review of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict members' practices indicates that initiatives across prevention, response, co-creation, and justice are increasingly positioning survivors as active agents in shaping policies, services, and accountability mechanisms. Collectively, these efforts have built a strong foundation for advancing survivor-centered approaches from multiple perspectives. However, significant structural and operational gaps remain, particularly in the areas of holistic services and inclusive engagement.

Key Achievements

- ◆ Integrated, multisectoral prevention strategies have linked legal reform, community mobilization, and service provision, often coordinated with both state and civil society actors, including survivor-led organizations.
- ◆ Meaningful survivor participation has been operationalized through diverse channels—legal advocacy, artistic expression, and organizational leadership—strengthening agency, visibility, and community recognition.
- ◆ Specialized justice expertise has been expanded via rosters, professional networks, and trauma-informed training for legal actors, improving the investigation and prosecution of CRSV.
- ◆ Innovative survivor engagement tools (e.g., virtual reality simulations, co-created symbolic reparations) have improved informed decision-making, enhanced safety, and facilitated more dignified participation in justice and reparation processes, and co-created interim reparative measures have had a transformative impact on survivors' lives.

Persistent Gaps

- ◆ Rehabilitation remains underdeveloped, with limited focus on long-term medical, psychosocial, and economic recovery. Most interventions prioritize immediate response, leaving sustained reintegration and livelihood restoration insufficiently addressed.
- ◆ Insufficient inclusivity for certain groups—male survivors, LGBTQI+ individuals, children, Indigenous peoples, and persons with disabilities—limits the reach of interventions.
- ◆ Short-term and project-based funding can undermine sustainability, particularly for survivor-led organizations that rely on predictable resources to maintain services and advocacy.
- ◆ Justice mechanisms remain distant from affected communities, both geographically and procedurally, which reduces accessibility and survivor trust, with an insufficient focus on administrative reparation programs.
- ◆ Limited attention to political and bureaucratic barriers, such as weak state implementation of laws, can erode the impact of survivor engagement and reparation measures.

For Alliance members, a survivor-centered approach is not a static principle but a way of organizing systems around survivors as the standards-setters of effectiveness, the connectors across fragmented sectors, and the custodians of knowledge that guides prevention, response, justice, and reparation.

III CONCLUSIONS

It positions survivors not only as rights-holders but as political actors whose participation can shift institutional priorities and expose where systems fall short. Rather than a checklist of services, the approach operates as a living process—constantly tested, revised, and reshaped by the realities and choices of those most affected.

Experiences demonstrate that collective psychosocial accompaniment and survivor participation should be recognized as forms of transformative reparation. These elements could be recommended as standards to address identified gaps.

1. Survivors as standards-setters

For Alliance members, survivors are not only participants but the benchmarks for success. A measure is valid only if survivors recognize it as useful, dignified, and safe. This reorients evaluation away from donor logical frameworks or state reporting and toward lived realities.

2. Survivors as connectors across silos

The approach forces different sectors (justice, health, psychosocial support, security, humanitarian aid) to align because survivors' needs are never one-dimensional. In this sense, survivors themselves are the "organizing principle" that links otherwise fragmented institutions.

3. Survivors as custodians of knowledge

The text highlights that testimonies, advisory panels, and dialogues do more than feed into programs — they reshape what counts as expertise. Alliance members treat survivors' insights not as informal accounts but as methodological guidance for prevention, response, and reparation.

4. Survivors as political actors

The approach acknowledges survivors not only as rights-holders but as actors who can influence policy directions, legal reforms, and even international negotiations. Their presence in panels or working groups shifts the balance of decision-making power.

5. Survivor-centered as an accountability test

Instead of being an "add-on," this lens exposes weaknesses in systems: short-term funding, poor coordination, or weak implementation become visible precisely when survivors are asked whether the system meets their needs. Survivors serve as the "stress test" for institutional promises.

6. Survivor-centered as a living process

For Alliance members, it's not a fixed checklist but a continuously renegotiated relationship. Practices like "living documents" or flexible reparations show that responsiveness to evolving contexts is part of being survivor-centered.

GUIDANCE DOCUMENTS AND USEFUL RESOURCES

[Accessibility, Challenges, and Needs: An Analysis of the CRSV Survivor Assistance System in Ukraine](#)

[A Theory of Change for Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

[Child Victim Response Database](#)

[Checklist on Preventing and Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys](#)

[Co-Creating Interim Reparative Measures with Survivors](#)

[Co-Creation and Survivors' Participation in the Work of the Global Survivors Fund](#)

[Core State Obligations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: An Overview of International Law](#)

[Dart Center Guidance for Journalists](#)

[Documenting Good Practice on Accountability for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: The Sepur Zarco Case](#)

[Equalities Resource Hub on Ending Violence](#)

[Final Report of the Commission for the Clarification of Truth, Coexistence and Non-Repetition — "My Body is the Truth"](#)

[Framework for the Prevention of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

[The Gender Justice Practitioner Hub](#)

[Global Code of Conduct for Gathering and Using Information about Systematic and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence \("Murad Code"\)](#)

[GSF's Türkiye project through the eyes of survivors](#)

[Guidance Note of the Secretary General: Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

[Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Transitional Justice: A Strategic Tool for People, Prevention and Peace](#)

[Guidelines for Integrating Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Action](#)

[Guidelines for Investigating Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Men and Boys](#)

[The Handbook for United Nations Field Missions on Preventing and Responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

[How GSF ACTs: The Global Survivors Fund's Approach to Interim Reparative Measures Projects](#)

[ICC OTP Policy on Gender-Based Crimes](#)

[ICC OTP Policy on Gender Persecution](#)

[Identifying Gender Persecution in Conflict and Atrocities: A Toolkit for Documenters, Investigators, and Adjudicators of Crimes Against Humanity](#)

[Integrating a Child Rights Approach in Accountability Work – E-Learning Course](#)

[Integrating a Gender Perspective into Human Rights Investigations: Guidance and Practice](#)

[The Inter-Agency Minimum Standards on GBV in Emergencies Programming](#)

[International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

[Investigative and Charging Considerations for International Crimes Targeting Individuals Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity](#)

[Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights to Reparation and Co-Creation of Survivors and Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence](#)

[PSVI Library of Resources](#)

[PSVI Strategy](#)

[Realising Reparation for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Key Insights](#)

[Regional Study on the Implementation of a Holistic Approach to Care for Victims and Survivors of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence \(SGBV\) in ICGLR Member States](#)

[Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Lessons from the Western Balkans](#)

[Stigma Toolkit](#)

[SEMA Virtual Memorial](#)

[Summary Document on the Outcomes of the Plan for Implementation of the Framework of Cooperation between the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations on the Prevention and Response to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence](#)

[Syria Supplement to the Second Edition of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)

[UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Digital Library](#)

[Understanding How GBV Capacity Building in 'Peacetime' Has Impacts During War](#)

[University of Birmingham Rapid Evidence Assessment: The Immediate and Long-Term Risks, Harms and Challenges Faced by Children Born of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence \(CBoCRSV\) in Low- and Middle-Income Countries \(LMICs\)](#)

[What are survivors of conflict-related sexual violence saying about care?](#)

[What Works Evidence Summary on Preventing CRSV](#)

[Wilton Park Event Report: CRSV Survivor Retreat](#)

[Wilton Park Event Report: CRSV and Crimes Against Humanity](#)

[Women's Meaningful Participation in Transitional Justice: Advancing Gender Equality and Building Sustainable Peace](#)

ANNEX / QR CODES TO ALLIANCE MEMBER SUBMISSIONS

Australia



Japan



UA Experts



Bosnia and Herzegovina⁵¹



Jordan



Ukraine



Colombia



Justice Rapid Response



Ukrainian Women
Lawyers Association “JurFem”



Corporación Sisma Mujer



Legal Action Worldwide



Ukrainian Women’s Fund



Democratic Republic
of the Congo



Republic of Korea



UNFPA



Dr. Denis Mukwege
Foundation



Switzerland



United Kingdom



Global Survivors Fund



Timor-Leste



UN Women



51. As this publication was finalized before Bosnia and Herzegovina’s submission after its accession to the Alliance in October 2025, its contribution is not reflected in the main text; however, it is duly acknowledged and included via the QR code.

