
THE VOICE OF SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN TIMES OF CONFLICT
PROGRAMME

- Rape as a weapon of war in DRC
- Access to reparations
- Prevention of sexual violence
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN DRC: A WEAPON OF WAR

✓ Previous recommendations: prevent sexual violence by armed groups (Slovenia, Israel), train security forces (Austria)

Sexual violence perpetrated in the DRC must be considered a weapon of war:
❖ Up to today, many aggressors are members of the FARDC or non-state armed groups
  ❖ In 2017, 68% of conflict-related sexual violence was committed by non-state armed groups
❖ Rape is systematically and strategically committed
  ❖ When a village is attacked, groups rape every woman from a village, including 4-months old babies and 84 years old women
❖ Violence is committed in public, which is intended to humiliate the community
  ❖ In a study, 72% of women said they’ve been tortured during the rape.
RECOMMENDATIONS

- Involve the Movement of Survivors in the implementation, evaluation, and strengthening of the National Strategy against Sexual Violence and the National Policy for Gender Equality

- Facilitate access to quality and holistic care for victims (including health, psychosocial, legal and socioeconomic assistance)

Ensemble, nos voix sont plus fortes que le silence.
ACCESS TO REPARATIONS

✓ Previous recommendations: Slovakia, France, Luxembourg.

❖ While the right to reparations is recognized within Congolese law, the establishment of a reparations program has yet to occur
❖ Procedure to obtain reparations is complicated, costly and lengthy and victims never manage to get reparations
❖ In 2011, an expert panel from OHCHR recommended the implementation of a national reparation funds, but this was never considered by the previous government.

Recommendations:
➢ Recognize the status of rape survivors of victims of war
➢ Provide victims with access to reparations by ensuring the process is simplified, free, and accessible for all.
➢ Establish a nationally managed and funded state compensation fund.
PREVENTION OF SEXUAL VIOLENCES

✓ Previous recommendations: implement national strategy (Niger, Sudan, Costa Rica), fight sexual violence (Sierra Leona, Senegal, Indonesia, Macedonia), create a hotline (Hungary), promote equality (Switzerland).

❖ Victims of rape continue to be regarded as a minority, or even non-existent.
❖ As long as these sexist stereotypes and discourses are left unabated, sexual violence will continue to be trivialized and standardized.

In a study conducted in 2014:

75% believing that a woman who is not dressed decently deserved to be raped
27% believing that when a man forces a woman to have sex, she may enjoy it.
RECOMMENDATIONS

❖ Establish a National Day for Survivors
❖ Put in place concrete and well-funded prevention programs at all levels (topics including women's rights, positive masculinities)
Facebook: www.facebook.com/MouvementdesSurvivantesenRDC
Website: https://mouvement-survivantes-rdc.weebly.com/

Mouvement des Survivant.es en RDC
National coordinator: Tatiana Mukanire
survivantesrdc@gmail.com | 00243 97 09 15 603

Fondation Dr. Denis Mukwege
Project manager: Apolline Pierson
apierson@mukwegefoundation.org | 0033 6 66 83 16 20