



**Joint Report for the Universal
Periodic Review of the Human
Rights Council, Democratic
Republic of Congo, 2019**

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



Mouvement des Survivant.e.s
de Viols et Violences Sexuelles
en RDC

dr. Denis
Mukwege
Foundation

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 women 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)



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

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