



OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON  
**SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT**

**GLOBAL DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES  
ON THE RIGHTS OF CHILDREN BORN OF CONFLICT-RELATED RAPE  
25 SEPTEMBER 2025**

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The present Global Declaration reflects existing norms of international humanitarian and human rights law, as well as recommendations from the 2022 *Report of the Secretary-General on women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict* (S/2022/77), as mandated by the Security Council in paragraph 18 of resolution 2467 (2019), in which the Security Council requested a special report on the specific needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), and the children born of such violence, as well as the connected, distinct, and sometimes life-threatening risks and harms they face in conflict-affected settings. The report spanned 24 conflict contexts from 1990 onwards, and addressed the issue as a matter of human rights, development, and collective peace and security.

The aim of this declaration is to translate the findings and recommendations of the special report into practice, by addressing issues of stigmatization, discrimination, exploitation and statelessness, while improving access to multisectoral services and reparations in the context of transitional justice. The signatories to the present declaration commit to recognizing the plight and rights of children born of conflict-related rape, while respecting privacy and ensuring space for self-identification and expression, to avoid giving rise to stigma, while balancing the related and specific rights of the survivor/parent and other affected parties, such as adoptive parents and relatives. It is critical that all such information is handled with confidentiality and sensitivity, in line with safety and ethical principles, and that reporting of these issues occurs in a context of service-provision, where possible, notably of mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS).

#### **DEFINITIONS**

‘*Child born of conflict-related rape*’ refers to any individual conceived as a result of any form of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) or as a result of rape committed during or in the aftermath of armed conflict, including in contexts of detention and occupation, as relevant.

‘*Primary caregiver*’ refers to the person who assumes daily responsibility for the care of the child, regardless of legal or biological relationship.

## **PREAMBLE**

*Recognizing* that children born as a result of conflict-related rape are often among the most vulnerable survivors of conflict;

*Acknowledging* that such children often face lifelong risks of abandonment, statelessness, discrimination, poverty, marginalization, revictimization, recruitment, exploitation, abduction, trafficking, and identity-based harm, which need to be addressed throughout the life cycle;

*Affirming* that while all children, regardless of the circumstances of their conception or birth, or the status and identity of their parents, are entitled to equal protection under international humanitarian and human rights law, children born of conflict-related rape may have specific needs and face unique barriers to accessing social services and redress;

*Guided* by the relevant principles of the *Convention of the Rights of the Child* (CRC) (1989), the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* (CEDAW) (1979), International Humanitarian Law, refugee law, relevant regional instruments, and applicable UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) and Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC);

*Determined* to ensure that no child born of conflict-related rape is left without a legal identity, nationality, civil status and identity documents, protection, access to public services, or equality of opportunity;

We, the Signatories, reaffirm our commitment to uphold the dignity, rights and well-being of these children, to foster an environment of equality, support and opportunity for all, and pledge to secure a future where they can thrive, free from prejudice and pain.

We hereby endorse the following ten Global Principles:

### **PRINCIPLE 1: RIGHT TO A LEGAL IDENTITY AND NATIONALITY**

1. States shall ensure the prompt registration of birth of every child born of conflict-related rape without adverse discrimination. States shall give due attention to ensuring the elimination of all administrative barriers that may hinder this process.
2. States shall ensure that no child is denied nationality on the basis of the status, ethnicity, or identity of either parent.
3. States shall grant women equal rights to transmit their nationality to their children, including in situations of conflict and displacement.
4. States shall take all feasible measures to prevent and remedy statelessness among children born of conflict-related rape, including those from refugee and displaced populations.

## **PRINCIPLE 2: RIGHT TO NON-DISCRIMINATION AND EQUAL TREATMENT**

1. States shall take all appropriate measures to guarantee that children born of conflict-related rape enjoy all fundamental rights and protections under the law on a basis of equality with other children.
2. States shall prohibit, and take all appropriate measures to prevent, any form of discrimination, stigmatization, ostracism, exclusion, negative stereotypes, reprisals, punitive or exploitative measures against such children, their caregivers, or families.

## **PRINCIPLE 3: RIGHT TO FAMILY AND PROTECTION**

1. States shall take measures to ensure that children born of conflict-related rape are not separated from their primary caregivers based on the circumstances of their conception.
2. Family reunification, guardianship and adoption procedures shall be guided by the best interests of the child and shall avoid reinforcing stigma or individual and collective trauma.
3. States shall promote awareness and prevention programs on the negative effects of prejudicial naming practices, to promote human dignity and social acceptance, and to avoid reinforcing stigmatization and harmful social norms.
4. States shall implement educational campaigns to foster understanding and acceptance of children born of conflict-related sexual violence within communities, as relevant and applicable.
5. States shall support the primary caregivers of children born of conflict-related rape in a way that respects their dignity, privacy, physical safety, economic security and rights.

## **PRINCIPLE 4: ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AND EDUCATION**

1. States shall ensure equal access to quality education, healthcare including immunization, mental health and psychosocial support, and other public services for children born of conflict-related rape.

## **PRINCIPLE 5: ACCESS TO JUSTICE, REPARATIONS AND LEGAL AID**

1. States shall uphold the inherent right of children born of conflict-related rape to access justice and reparations programs, including symbolic, rehabilitative, and material measures.

2. States shall take measures to avoid reinforcing stigma in reparative and transitional justice processes, which should be delivered in a way that affirms dignity, agency, self-expression, and fosters long-term socioeconomic inclusion.

#### **PRINCIPLE 6: RIGHT TO OWNERSHIP OF LAND AND PROPERTY**

1. States shall dismantle any discriminatory barriers to ownership of land or other forms of property by children born of conflict-related rape and take proactive measures to guarantee their inheritance rights.

#### **PRINCIPLE 7: ACCESS TO HOUSING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES**

1. States shall take initiatives to facilitate access to legal aid, safe housing, employment opportunities and sustainable livelihoods in contexts of historic or ongoing discrimination linked with armed conflict.
2. States shall consider developing specific housing policies and programs for which children born of conflict-related rape and/or their primary caregivers are eligible to apply, to counter socioeconomic marginalization and exclusion, and provide them with a safe and stable environment.

#### **PRINCIPLE 8: RIGHT TO PARTICIPATION AND VOICE**

1. States shall recognize and support the agency of children born of conflict-related rape, including their right to participate in decisions affecting their lives, in accordance with their level of maturity and capacity.
2. Efforts to design, implement and evaluate policies and programs affecting children born of conflict-related rape shall include their perspectives in a safe, ethical and appropriate manner, including in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and transitional justice processes.

#### **PRINCIPLE 9: PREVENTION OF FUTURE VIOLATIONS**

1. States shall take measures to protect children born of conflict-related rape from exploitation and abuse, including abduction, trafficking and recruitment into armed and criminal groups or gangs. Such violations must be addressed through effective investigation and prosecution, including as a form of deterrence.
2. States shall take measures to address the root causes of stigma and discrimination, including harmful social norms, as part of efforts to safeguard present and future generations.

#### **PRINCIPLE 10: INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY AND COOPERATION**

1. States shall cooperate to ensure the effective implementation of this declaration, including through information-sharing, capacity-building, technical assistance,

fostering solidarity and support networks, ensuring reintegration assistance for survivors and children born of conflict-related rape.

2. Conflict-affected States shall address this issue in Joint Communiqués or Frameworks of Cooperation, signed with the mandate-holder on Sexual Violence in Conflict on behalf of the United Nations system.
3. States, including the international donor and diplomatic community, are encouraged to support programs and policies to realize the rights of children born of conflict-related rape, and to allocate sustained and predictable funding for interventions in this area through the United Nations Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV MPTF).

This Global Declaration shall be open for signature by all UN Member States and Regional Organizations. By endorsing these Principles, signatories affirm that children born of conflict-related rape deserve sustained attention from the international community to ensure the full realization of their rights under international law. This declaration is not intended to constitute binding obligations under national or international law.

Signatories shall report periodically on a voluntary basis on measures taken to advance implementation of these principles to the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC).

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