



SIERRA LEONE
UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
(2024 – 2025)



GERMANY
FOR UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY COUNCIL
2027-2028

**Respect
Justice
Peace**



Concept Note

United Nations General Assembly High-Level Side Event:

Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related rape
and children born of rape

Date & Time: Thursday, 25 September 2025, 3.00 – 4.30pm

Location: UNHQ, Conference Room 5, New York; UN Web TV: <https://tinyurl.com/3cs25tx3>

Co-hosted by: The Government of Sierra Leone and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and co-sponsored by the Government of Germany and the Government of South Sudan, in the margins of the 80th session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Background: War has long been fought on the bodies of women and girls, robbing them of physical integrity and autonomy; yet the experience of survivors who become pregnant and children born of rape only came to the fore of public debate in the 1990s. In Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uganda, the former Yugoslavia and elsewhere, parties to armed conflict perpetrated conflict-related sexual violence as part of war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide. Armed forces and groups used rape and other forms of sexual violence as a tactic of war to displace and dehumanize communities and to forcibly impregnate women and girls. Such strategies, fueled by entrenched gender inequality in predominantly patriarchal societies, treat children born as a result of conflict-related rape as the next generation of a political, ethnic or religious movement. As a result, survivors and children

born of rape are often perceived as affiliated with parties to the conflict, resulting in stigma, discrimination, abandonment, statelessness or other adverse repercussions.

Tragically, these trends continue to be documented today in conflict-affected settings, such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, the Sudan, and elsewhere. In some cases, survivors, who may be children themselves, and the children born of such violence, have been rendered vulnerable to abduction, recruitment and use by armed forces and groups, and to trafficking for purposes including sexual exploitation. If left unaddressed, the gendered impacts of violence and marginalization compound over time. These abiding challenges deepen transgenerational trauma and grievances and have been shown to undermine social cohesion, which can in turn destabilize peace and development processes, sparking further cycles of violence and revenge.

The 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) includes a slate of critical recommendations. For instance, it urges governments to ensure that national legislation and policies are designed to uphold the rights of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and children born of such violence, pursuant to the *Convention on the Rights of the Child* and the *Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women*, in line with Security Council resolution 2467 (2019). The United Nations system must also incorporate the rights and needs of survivors who become pregnant and of children born of sexual violence into survivor-centred programming and assist the national authorities in providing support to longer-term reintegration assistance to survivors and their children.

Objectives & Outcomes: The event provides an opportunity to take stock of progress and challenges related to the fulfillment of the rights and needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of wartime rape and children born as a result of rape. Furthermore, a set of principles will be presented at the event, grounded in international humanitarian and human rights law, which Member States will have the opportunity to endorse. These principles will serve to guide in-country policy and programmatic support to these women and their children. In this connection, the Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Multi-Partner Trust Fund (CRSV MPTF) is the most efficient and holistic platform for coordinating and funding this work.

Participants: Full realization of the rights and needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related rape will require strategic coordination across a range of sectors and actors. The event will therefore bring together representatives from

Governments, the UN system and civil society. Participation at the level of Permanent Representative or Deputy Permanent Representative is encouraged.

Tentative Programme:

- Welcoming and opening remarks by H.E. Pramila Patten, Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Remarks by H.E. Julius Maada Bio, President of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Remarks by H.E. Fatima Maada Bio, First Lady of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- Remarks by H.E. Denise Nyakeru Tshisekedi, First Lady of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Global Champion for the Fight Against Sexual Violence in Conflict
- Testimonies of survivors of CRSV with children born of wartime rape
- Remarks by Member States

Moderator: Ms. Isha Sesay, CEO of AREYA MEDIA, former CNN International News Anchor, UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador