

HRC25: High-Level Dialogue on Sexual Violence in DRC



Thank you Mr. President.

I make this statement on behalf of the Sexual Rights Initiative.¹

We welcome Security Council Resolution 2122, which invites the Secretary General to commission a global study on the implementation of Resolution 1325. We also welcome HRC Resolution 24/27, highlighting the persistence of a very high level of cases of sexual violence, used as a weapon of war in conflict, and the recommendations contained therein.

During the first UPR of the DRC, it accepted 28 recommendations focusing on sexual violence. While we welcome efforts made to implement these, many challenges remain. We urge the DRC to accelerate its efforts to implement these UPR recommendations.

We also urge the DRC and all States in conflict and post-conflict situations to:

- Provide a comprehensive range of accessible physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health-care services that are responsive to trauma and include affordable, safe, effective and good-quality medicines, first line support, treatment of injuries and psychosocial and mental health support, emergency contraception, safe abortion, post-exposure prophylaxis for HIV infection, diagnosis and treatment for sexually transmitted infections, training for medical professionals to effectively identify and treat women subjected to violence, as well as forensic examinations by appropriately trained professionals
- Ensure that all forms of rape and sexual violence and abuse are criminalized in national law, regardless of whether the perpetrator is a State, quasi-State or non-State actor
- Take legislative and policy steps to ensure the prompt and adequate investigation, prosecution and accountability of perpetrators, including by strengthening the capacity of the criminal justice system
- Take comprehensive measures to ensure that women are active participants in all decision making processes
- Provide financial resources and information in order to enable civil society organizations to support women's leadership development and participation in decision making, and to prevent, monitor and report on sexual violence
- Protect women human right defenders, including those working to prevent, monitor and report on sexual violence
- Access to judicial recourse including reparation and redress for all victims and survivors of sexual violence

Thank you.

¹ The Sexual Rights Initiative (SRI) is a coalition of organizations that advocates for the advancement of human rights in relation to gender and sexuality within international law and policy. The SRI partners are: Action Canada for Population and Development, Akahatá - Equipo de Trabajo en Sexualidades y Generos, Coalition of African Lesbians, Creating Resources for Empowerment in Action (India), Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights, and Federation for Women and Family Planning (Poland). For more information, visit: www.sexualrightsinitiative.com