



Event to commemorate the 5<sup>th</sup> official observance of the

## **International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict**

co-hosted by the Office of the SRSG on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office of the SRSG for Children and Armed Conflict, the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations

### ***“The Importance of a Survivor-Centred Approach”***

*Trusteeship Council, 10:00am to 11:30am  
Wednesday, 19 June 2019*



#### ***Background & objectives:***

This year, 2019, marks the 10-year anniversary of the establishment of the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. Over the past decade, there has been a paradigm shift in the understanding of the scourge of conflict-related sexual violence as threat to international peace and security. In addition, it remains essential to recognize and tackle gender inequality as the root cause and driver of sexual violence, in times of war and peace. The response required to address such crimes includes the multidimensional services for survivors.

The effects of conflict-related sexual violence, borne by the survivors and their children, echo across generations through trauma, stigma, poverty, poor health and unwanted pregnancy. In an effort to counter these effects, the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 2467 on 23 April 2019 which articulates a survivor-centred approach to the prevention and response to conflict-related sexual violence.

The survivor-centred approach has several facets, including: medical and psychosocial assistance; sexual and reproductive health care; educational, economic, and livelihood support; justice for survivors and their children; and the end of impunity for perpetrators. Furthermore, this approach calls for support to trained service providers, including international and local civil society organisations, to ensure high-quality services for survivors.

In line with General Assembly Resolution of 13 July 2015 (A/RES/69/293), a public event will be organized on 19 June 2019 to mark the fifth annual International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. This event will contribute to:

- 1. Raising awareness of the need for a survivor-centred approach that empowers and amplifies the voices of survivors;*
- 2. Fostering solidarity with survivors of sexual violence and children conceived as a result of rape;*
- 3. Calling on Member States to ensure that the rights and needs of conflict-related sexual violence survivors are at the centre of all response efforts.*

This year, the International Day will call attention to the need for a holistic survivor-centred approach that builds the resilience of affected individuals while minimizing the risk of re-traumatization, social ostracism, stigma and reprisals. Such an approach ensures that the safety and welfare of survivors is paramount.

This occasion further provides an opportunity for sharing best practices and lessons learnt in the implementation of a survivor-centred approach.

***Event format:***

The event will consist of an opening segment featuring high-level keynote speakers, followed by the screening of a short video on the services provided by “One Stop Centres”, and statements from special guests. Regional Groups and Member States will then be invited to make brief interventions from the floor.

***Opening Segment:***

*Moderator: Chief of Staff, Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Mr. Tonderai Chikuhwa*

- 1. Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Minister Alejandro Verdier*
- 2. Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Pramila Patten*
- 3. Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Virginia Gamba*

***Video and Special Guests:***

*Moderator: Deputy Permanent Representative of Argentina to the United Nations, Minister Alejandro Verdier*

- 4. UNFPA Iraq Video: One Stop Centre*
- 5. President of the Women Parliamentarian Forum in the Central African Republic, Honorable Emile Béatrice Epaye*
- 6. CEO and Founder of Rise, a non-governmental organization, Ms. Amanda Nguyen*
- 7. Brief interventions from Regional Groups and Member States, including co-sponsors of General Assembly Resolution 69/293*

8. *Closing remarks by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Under-Secretary-General, Ms. Pramila Patten*

***Expected outcomes:***

1. *Statements by Member States, senior United Nations officials, and special guests will reflect best practices in implementing a survivor-centred approach in conflict and post-conflict settings;*
2. *Member States will reiterate their commitment to a survivor-centred approach;*
3. *Media coverage, including promotion of key messages on social media (#EndRapeinWar) and a dedicated microsite hosted by the United Nations Department of Global Communications featuring the Secretary-General's annual message and relevant resources* ([www.un.org/en/events/elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict/messages.shtml](http://www.un.org/en/events/elimination-of-sexual-violence-in-conflict/messages.shtml)). *Parallel events will take place in other relevant locations.*

*Live webcast available at <http://webtv.un.org/>*

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