

**UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict
Breaking the silence: Acknowledging sexual violence against men and
boys in conflict**

*Analysis of member state interventions shows gap in acknowledging gender
specific realities of sexual violence against children in situations of armed
conflict*

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London – The All Survivors Project, hosted by the Williams Institute, commends interventions made by some UN member states and international organisations to highlight the gender specific realities of sexual violence against children at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict on 31st October 2017.

At the Open Debate, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and the Permanent Missions of Liechtenstein, Norway, Maldives and Afghanistan pointed to the specific vulnerabilities of boys to sexual violence in situations of conflict. Other states including France, Hungary, Malaysia and Andorra also raised specific concerns relating to sexual violence against girls.

Responding to sexual violence requires a strong, multi-sectoral approach involving the provision of health services, protection, psychosocial support and access to justice for survivors. Although there is growing recognition that sexual violence against men and boys is common, there is often little help available to male survivors whether from the state, humanitarian stakeholders (UN and I/NGOs) or by civil society and community based organisations.

“Our research is telling us that it is not simply a question of extending services already available for girls, but rather whether the services themselves are tailored to ensure that they are accessible by boys and responsive to the specific needs of male survivors,” said Charu Lata Hogg, Director All Survivors Project. “Drawing attention to the gender specific needs of survivors is therefore a crucial first step towards providing these services,” she added.

Sexual violence is proving to be among the most difficult to document of the six grave violations against children during situations of armed conflict enumerated in UN Security Council resolutions. UN reports on children and armed conflict routinely note that sexual violence is “underreported” which, while true for girls, is likely to be more so in relation to boys.

“The lack of gender disaggregated data means that the vulnerability of boys to sexual violence is little understood and they are often overlooked in responses and in prevention and protection strategies,” said Hogg. “Medical and psychosocial support services are widely unavailable for boy survivors and in many situations, there is structural impunity for crimes of sexual violence against boys including because of discriminatory laws which do not recognise male rape.”

Lara Stemple, Director of the Health and Human Rights Law Project at UCLA School of Law, said, “Without a clearer understanding of how conflict or displacement related sexual violence impacts men and boys, it will not be possible to forge an effective response to address the protection and recovery needs of male victims in the short-term nor to address the longer-term impact of sexual violence on communities.”

All Survivors Project seeks to ensure that all survivors of sexual violence in situations of conflict and displacement receive equitable access to services, remedies, and reparations. [All Survivors Project](#) has staff in Los Angeles and London.

The Williams Institute, a think tank on sexual orientation and gender identity law and public policy, is dedicated to conducting rigorous, independent research with real-world relevance.

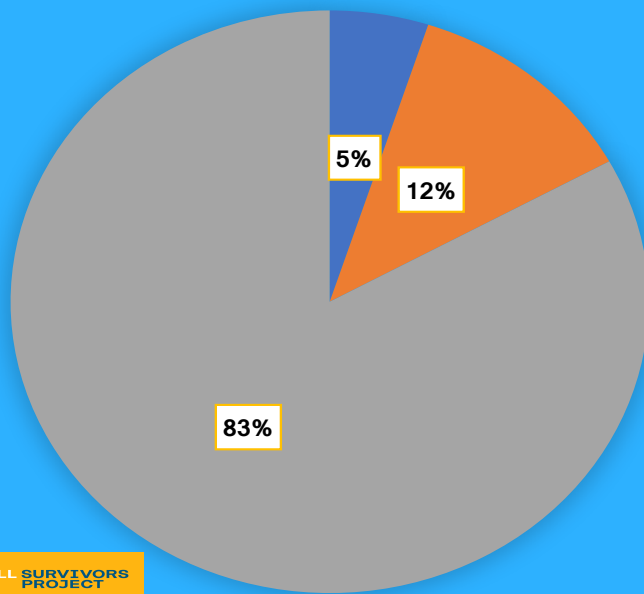
The Health and Human Rights Law Project at UCLA School of Law seeks to improve global health by using a framework grounded in international human rights law. Through multi-disciplinary research, training and mentorship, the Project aims to examine the relationship between health and human rights and to foster the next generation of leaders working in this area.

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Sexual violence can strike anyone

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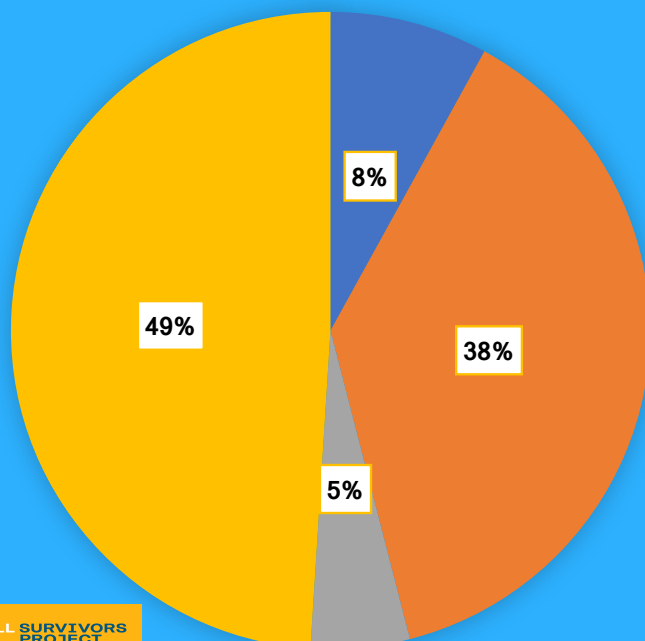
Breaking the Silence: Acknowledging sexual violence against men and boys in conflict (UN Member States 193)



- States where sexual violence against men and boys has been documented by other sources (10)
- States where sexual violence against men and boys has been documented by the UN (24)
- No documentation of sexual violence against men and boys (159)

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UN Security Council 8082nd Meeting Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict 31st October 2017



- States and International Organisations (IOs) who acknowledged sexual violence against boys in Open Debate
- States and IOs who acknowledged sexual violence against children in Open Debate
- States and IOs who acknowledged sexual violence against girls in Open Debate
- States and IOs who intervened but did not acknowledge sexual violence in Open Debate

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