



**ALL SURVIVORS
PROJECT**

**2017
Annual
Report**

Our Mission Statement

All Survivors Project conducts research and advocacy to improve the global response to every victim/survivor of sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement. We document cases of abuse against men and boys to complement work on women and girls to inform and support global responses that include all victims/survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. All Survivors Project is an independent, international research and advocacy organisation working with survivors, governmental and non-governmental stakeholders to strengthen national and international responses to conflict-related sexual violence and to ensure that the rights and dignity of all victims/survivors is respected and protected.

Table of Contents

Foreword	Page 4
Why All Survivors Project?	Page 6
Our Approach	Page 8
Our Focus Areas of Work	Page 10
Research, Monitoring and Consultations	Page 10
Advocacy	Page 16
Who We Are	Page 23
Acknowledgments	Page 24

Foreword

All Survivors Project (ASP) is proud to present its first Annual Report. Established in December 2016 to address the neglected issue of sexual violence against men and boys in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement, our work aims to bring this grave violation of human rights into the open, catalyze action to prevent it and strengthen responses that address the needs of male survivors.

The strenuous efforts of women's rights activists and others over many years have ensured that conflict-related sexual violence against women and girls is today squarely on international agendas, its pervasive nature and appalling consequences are acknowledged, and much-needed efforts are being made to respond to it. Although it is increasingly apparent that men and boys are also highly vulnerable, and that conflict-related sexual violence has a devastating impact on them, their families and communities, their plight has been largely ignored by policy makers and practitioners alike.

ASP is seeking to fill this gap through its focus on men and boys to complement ongoing work on women and girls. During our first full year of operation we focused on building knowledge on the nature, scope and responses to conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys through fact-finding on Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Central African Republic, Sri Lanka and Syria/Turkey. We also engaged in and facilitated discussions with human rights, humanitarian and other experts to share knowledge and stimulate thinking on how to strengthen responses for men and boys.

Although we still have much to learn, it is already evident that there is a vicious circle that must be broken. Men and boys who have been subjected to sexual violence rarely report this crime or disclose their experience. This leads to a widespread lack of recognition and understanding of the issue among those who should respond including governments, human rights and humanitarian

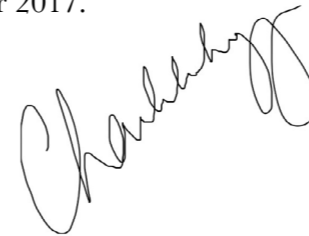
stakeholders. This in turn means that measures to prevent sexual violence against men and boys are not prioritised, medical care, mental health and psychosocial support and other vital services are largely unavailable to male survivors, and justice is denied.

The reasons for this situation are complex and much work needs to be done to fully understand both the problem and what would constitute effective and appropriate responses to it. However, the first step is for conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys to be recognised as the grave violation of human rights that it is. To this end, in 2017 we began to translate our research into action through advocacy aimed at putting the issue on global agendas and were gratified to see it being acknowledged by UN and other stakeholders, in some cases for the first time.

As we pursued our research and advocacy, we also worked to build the capacity of the organization. We created a network of consultants and experts to work with us, and also set up a Board of Advisors to help guide our work. We are indebted to them for their generosity in sharing their time and expertise with us. We are also grateful to practitioners and others who have participated as respondents in our field research helping us to deepen knowledge of the problem in different countries and the challenges in addressing it. Above all we are grateful for and humbled by the willingness of survivors to share their experiences with us; we will seek to ensure that victims/survivors are at the center of and inform our work going forward.

We are also deeply grateful to all our donors who placed their trust in ASP when it was just an idea and without whom our work would not be possible. The Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) who remain our core partners, deserve a special mention as does the Principality of Liechtenstein and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR), for their support to us since our inception. We would also like to extend our

gratitude to University of California and Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law for hosting the All Survivors Project during its first year and with which we continue to maintain a strong intellectual partnership, as well as to the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office for their support in establishing ASP as an independent entity in December 2017.



Charu Lata Hogg
Founder and Executive Director
All Survivors Project



© Charu Lata Hogg/ASP

Why All Survivors Project?

“Sexual violence is a scourge that must be combatted regardless of gender. This long overdue project seeks to ensure that boys and men are not left out.”

- Ken Roth
Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

The Issue

The pervasive nature and appalling consequences of conflict-related sexual violence on women and girls is the subject of on-going inquiry and action. Despite increasing evidence that men and boys and gender minorities are also widely affected by sexual violence and in some cases directly targeted, research on and understanding of this issue remains extremely limited. Although significantly under-reported, conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys is known to have taken place in at least 22 countries worldwide during current and recent armed conflicts or in the context of ethnic and political violence or oppression.

Sexual violence is used against men and boys to punish, humiliate, terrorise and repress individuals and their communities. They are often targeted including because of their political affiliation, religion, and ethnicity and/or on the basis of their actual or perceived gender identity and sexual orientation. Boys under the age of 18 years are thought to face specific risks, including when recruited and used for military purposes, forced into child labour, or when unaccompanied or separated from their families or carers. Situations of extreme humanitarian need can also create vulnerability to sexual exploitation and abuse. Although perpetrators are frequently parties to the armed conflict, they can also include peacekeepers as well as state security forces and non-state armed actors who are able to exploit the absence of rule of law and other protection mechanisms.

Available data shows that men and boys can be highly vulnerable in situations of detention where sexual violence is often used as a form of torture or punishment by state security forces or

non-state armed groups: in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Sri Lanka and Syria for example, thousands of male detainees are known to have been subjected to rape, genital violence, enforced nudity and other forms of sexual violence. However, sexual violence against men and boys has also been documented in other situations, including during armed attacks, house searches, military recruitment and forced displacement.

Despite the devastating and long-lasting physical, mental health, social and economic consequences of sexual violence on men and boys, their families and communities, the issue remains largely hidden from view, is insufficiently understood and is therefore unaddressed.

National laws and policies frequently fail to protect men and boys against rape and other forms of sexual violence. Social constructs of masculinity, stigma and shame deters disclosure and are among the many obstacles that can prevent male survivors from seeking help and accessing services. Investigations and data gathering by human rights, humanitarian actors and others often overlooks the issue; vital humanitarian programs and state-provided services including medical care and psychosocial support that respond to the specific needs of male survivors are widely lacking; and the issue has received little attention in national or international justice processes.

Urgent action is needed to protect men and boys in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement from the risk of sexual violence and to put in place measures, services and programs to ensure the rights and needs of victims/survivors are met.



Our Approach

ASP works to strengthen global responses to sexual violence for all victims through building a more gender-inclusive understanding of the prevalence, patterns, severity and impact of sexual violence on all victims and communities.

We carry out research on conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys in countries affected by armed conflict and/or where there is large scale forced displacement resulting from armed conflict. Our research is aimed at exposing patterns and understanding the causes and consequences of this crime and assessing the availability and adequacy of responses, including services and support for male survivors, by all relevant stakeholders, including governments, multilateral organisations and NGOs.

We use what we learn to advocate for change at the global and national level to strengthen protections for men and boys against conflict-related sexual violence, improve the availability of quality, survivor-centred medical care, mental health and psychosocial support services and other support to male survivors and their families, and ensure accountability of perpetrators.

ASP's work is based in the international human rights framework, but our approach is multi-disciplinary. We work closely with humanitarian and public health stakeholders, academics and other experts to encourage the sharing of information and analysis to support a holistic understanding of the problem and comprehensive and coordinated responses to it.

Victims/survivors are at the heart of ASP's work and their experiences, opinions and needs inform our analysis and actions. We seek to ensure the highest possible level of victim/survivor participation in our work, while ensuring that their safety, security and best interests are prioritised at all times.

ASP applies the highest ethical standards to all of its work and its research is conducted in accordance Institutional Review Board (IRB) approvals obtained through UCLA School of Law and with IRB ethical guidelines.



OUR FOCUS AREAS OF WORK

Research, Monitoring and Consultations

COUNTRY STUDIES

During 2016 research was undertaken in five different country situations which have or continue to be affected by armed conflict. Our study on **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (BiH) and **Sri Lanka** highlighted the long-lasting and deeply damaging consequences on individuals and communities of the failure to adequately acknowledge or respond to sexual violence that was perpetrated against men and boys during and since the end of armed conflicts in both countries. However, these two historical conflicts also reveal important lessons that, if applied, could help prevent and respond to the deeply damaging impacts of conflict-related sexual violence. In our report, “Legacies and Lessons: Sexual violence against men and boys in Sri Lanka and Bosnia & Herzegovina” launched in London on 16 May 2017, we outlined key learnings from our research and analysis including:

- The importance of gender-inclusive laws that proscribe rape and sexual violence against men and boys as well as women and girls;
- The need for working assumption that men and boys are vulnerable to sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and of not interpreting lack of reported incidents as an absence of the problem, but rather that there may be barriers that inhibit reporting;
- The need to invest in capacity building of national and local level human rights defenders and other civil society stakeholders in documenting and exposing sexual violence against men and boys;
- The need for sexual violence against men and boys to form an integral part of training for government and other state and professional stakeholders, including state security forces, the judiciary, national human rights institutions, medical and mental health professionals and humanitarian workers;
- The need for humanitarian programs and state-provided services to survivors of sexual violence to be accessible to and respond to the specific needs of male survivors;
- The importance of gender-sensitive understandings of shame, stigma and other barriers to disclosure and for strategies to be adopted to encourage and support all survivors including men and boys to safely and confidentially report, seek and access assistance;
- The need for particular attention and effective safeguards to protect detainees, of which men and boys often constitute the vast majority in situations of armed conflict, against sexual violence;
- The importance of understanding and addressing the broader context in which sexual violence against men and boys takes place, including social attitudes, cultural norms, gender-stereotypes and discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender-identity.

Throughout the year we continued to build on these learnings including through research in the **Central African Republic** (CAR) and **Syria/Turkey**, where it was unfortunately clear that even these basic lessons have not been learnt or applied and that sexual violence against men and boys is common and largely unaddressed.

Our research in CAR, which consisted of a review of publicly available literature, field research conducted in the capital of Bangui and the town of Obo in the southeast of the country in September/October 2017 and follow-up research, revealed a hitherto undocumented but nevertheless discernible pattern of sexual victimization of men and boys primarily by non-state armed groups. The violence occurred in the context of violent clashes between armed groups, communal tensions and largescale forced displacement of the civilian population. We gathered data on rape and other forms of sexual violence against men and boys mainly during armed attacks on towns and villages or when men and boys were held captive by non-state armed groups. There was also evidence that sexual violence was also used as a tool to punish those who refused to join armed groups.

To mark the first anniversary of the establishment of ASP on 16 December 2017 we launched a documentary “The Hidden Crisis” to expose the extent and nature of conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys in CAR, the lack of services and support to male survivors and the absence of justice. In the documentary, two survivors speak in their own words about their experiences, the impact on them and their needs for medical care and other support. The documentary was screened in New York at an event at the UN HQ in May 2018 attended by high-level representatives from member states and the UN. However, this was just the beginning of our work in CAR. Full research findings were published in early 2018, we continue to work with the survivors featured in the documentary and others, including helping them to access support, and are engaging with the national authorities, the UN, international and national NGOs and others to explore ways in which responses can be strengthened.

Field research on Syria and Turkey took place in southeast Turkey and Istanbul in September 2017 and supplementary research was on-going at the end of the year in preparation for a report to be published in September 2018.





MONITORING

In addition to primary research, ASP also monitors and compiles information on conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys from secondary sources thereby acting as a depository of data on patterns, trends, responses and other key developments to build knowledge and provide relevant information to support engagement of other key stakeholders on this issue.

Through our monitoring of UN documents, reports of independent inquiries and investigations, truth commissions and other transitional justice processes, academic and other materials, we have compiled information on conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys that has taken place during the last 70 years in 22 different countries on all continents (see back page). Our website also provides a one-stop-shop for UN reports, resolutions and other policy developments, and academic literature on conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys.

CONSULTATIONS

During 2017, ASP facilitated and/or participated in discussions and consultations with experts from different sectors to encourage and support inter-disciplinary thinking and exchange and to broaden the pool of policy makers and practitioners engaging on the issue of conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys.

Events included:



**Sexual Violence against Men and Boys:
BREAKING THE SILENCE**

Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys: Breaking the Silence

ICRC Humanitarium, GENEVA, Switzerland, 23 March 2017

We participated as a panellist in an event at the headquarters of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), co-organised by the Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH), the ICRC, SDC and United Nations Refugee agency (UNHCR), in which leading experts discussed emerging approaches to reaching male survivors of sexual violence. Attended by over 100 participants from the humanitarian community, academia, governments and donors, the event provided a forum for ASP to share research findings on Sri Lanka and BiH, provoked stimulating discussions on the need to respond to this issue and provided a forum for learning.

Workshop on Children and Armed Conflict (CAAC) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Federal Foreign Office, BERLIN, Germany, 20-21 April 2017

Organised by the German Foreign Office titled “Children and Armed Conflict & Women, Peace and Security: Leading to Change - Closing the Implementation Gap”, the workshop brought together members of the UN Security Council Group of Friends on CAAC and Group of Friends on WPS, representatives of the Offices of the UN Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict (SRSG CAAC) and Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG SVC), DPKO, OHCHR and DPA; representatives of regional organisations (AU, EU, NATO, OSCE), as well as humanitarian workers, human rights and other practitioners. The workshop is part of an ongoing discussion on how to improve implementation of the CAAC and WPS agenda and ensure that they are mutually reinforcing. ASP was invited to bring together a panel of experts on sexual violence against men and boys providing the organisation with its first opportunity to bring the issue into this high-level policy debate.

Where Vulnerability Meets Power - Protecting Children during Conflicts and Humanitarian Disasters,

British Psychological Society, LONDON, United Kingdom, 16 October 2017

ASP was invited to speak at a symposium organised by the British Psychological Society (BPS) in London which brought together humanitarians, psychologists, criminologists and child safeguarding specialists. The event explored the nature and causes of abuse to children during emergencies, and how those responsible for protecting children can turn into abusers. We presented preliminary findings from our research on CAR. The symposium sought to identify the types of systems, procedures and support needed to ensure that children are better protected, including against sexual violence, in situations of armed conflict and other emergencies. The event represented ASP’s first engagement with BPS with which conversations are continuing to identify points of common interest including in relation to improving responses for male survivors in humanitarian settings.

Conflict-related Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys: An Agenda to Build a Gender-Inclusive Response

Princeton Club, NEW YORK, United States, 25 October 2017

ASP co-hosted with the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD) an expert meeting in New York of leaders from the humanitarian and human rights communities, academics, policy makers, development practitioners and child protection experts to explore issues concerning ongoing sexual violence against men and boys from policy and programming perspectives.

OUR FOCUS AREAS OF WORK

Advocacy

During 2017, ASP's advocacy was aimed at building awareness and acknowledgment of the problem of conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys among key international stakeholders and ensuring that the issue is on global agendas going forward. To this end, we focused our efforts at the international level engaging with and providing briefings and information to high-level policy makers including UN Security Council members and UN representatives, UN human rights treaty bodies and experts, national governments, donors and international human rights, child rights and humanitarian NGOs.

Although these are still early days, we began to see the first signs that our work is having an impact with conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys being acknowledged in UN Security Resolutions and by the Offices of the UN Special Representatives on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG SVC) and Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG CAAC), both of whom publically stated their commitment and support to work on this issue. We also saw growing support from governments for our efforts to bring the issue to the attention of the international community.

Our advocacy highlights included:

20 December 2016

Adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 2331 (2016) on the maintenance of peace and security, which includes specific reference to men and boys as victims of sexual violence in conflict, including when associated with trafficking in armed conflict, and the need for male survivors to benefit from relief and recovery programs. ASP worked closely with the Permanent Mission of Spain to the UN to secure this language as part of our efforts to gain recognition of and strengthen the normative framework on the issue.

15 March 2017

Presentation of findings from “Legacies and Lessons: Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys in Sri Lanka and Bosnia & Herzegovina” at a side event to the sixty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women hosted by Permanent Mission of Spain and co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Liechtenstein, Switzerland, as well as the OSRSG SVC.



19 June 2017

Official release of ASP documentary, “Making the Invisible Visible” to mark the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The documentary, which highlights the pervasive nature of sexual violence against men and boys in countries including Afghanistan and Sri Lanka, was pre-screened at events including the German Foreign Office hosted workshop on CAAC and WPS in April and at the launch of our Sri Lanka/BiH report in May. The on-line release of the documentary on 19 June took the issue to a broader audience with the aim of generating increased awareness of the harms caused by sexual violence against men and boys.



23 October 2017

Oral briefing on “Building Gender inclusivity: Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys” to UN Security Council members at an event in New York hosted by the Permanent Mission of Canada to the UN in partnership with ASP. UNHCR joined us to brief an audience of representatives of UN member states, UN agencies, the ICRC and others, on the need to respond to the issue of sexual violence against men and boys.



11 December 2017

The Permanent Mission of the UK, Switzerland and Liechtenstein to the UN in partnership with All Survivors Project and the Liechtenstein Institute of Self Determination in Princeton University hosted an Ambassador-level meeting in New York with opening speeches by the SRSG CAAC Ms. Virginia Gamba. The event provoked discussions on Security Council responses to the issue of sexual violence against men and boys in conflict.



16 December 2017

ASP marked its first anniversary with the release of an eight-minute documentary which examines ongoing sexual violence against men and boys in CAR.



Report Launch

“Legacies and Lessons: Sexual Violence Against Men and Boys in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Sri Lanka”

Chatham House, LONDON, United Kingdom, 16 May 2017

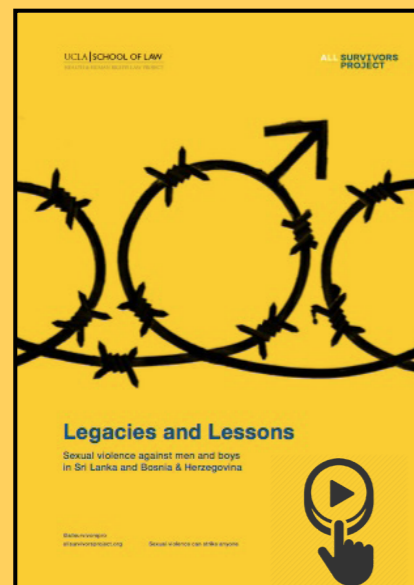
“It has become abundantly clear in recent years that men and boys are also targeted for sexual violence in conflict. [...] All Survivors Project upcoming report on Legacies and Lessons: Sexual Violence against males in Sri Lanka and Bosnia constitutes an important contribution to the understanding of this phenomenon.”

- Zainab Hawa Bangura
Outgoing SRSG SVC



“My experience in Bosnia and other conflict situations shows that gender based violence against men and boys is even more of a taboo than against women and girls. This seems to be the main reason why there is not enough data available in this respect.”

- Manfred Nowak
UN Expert leading global study on children deprived of liberty. Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment of punishment (2004-10)

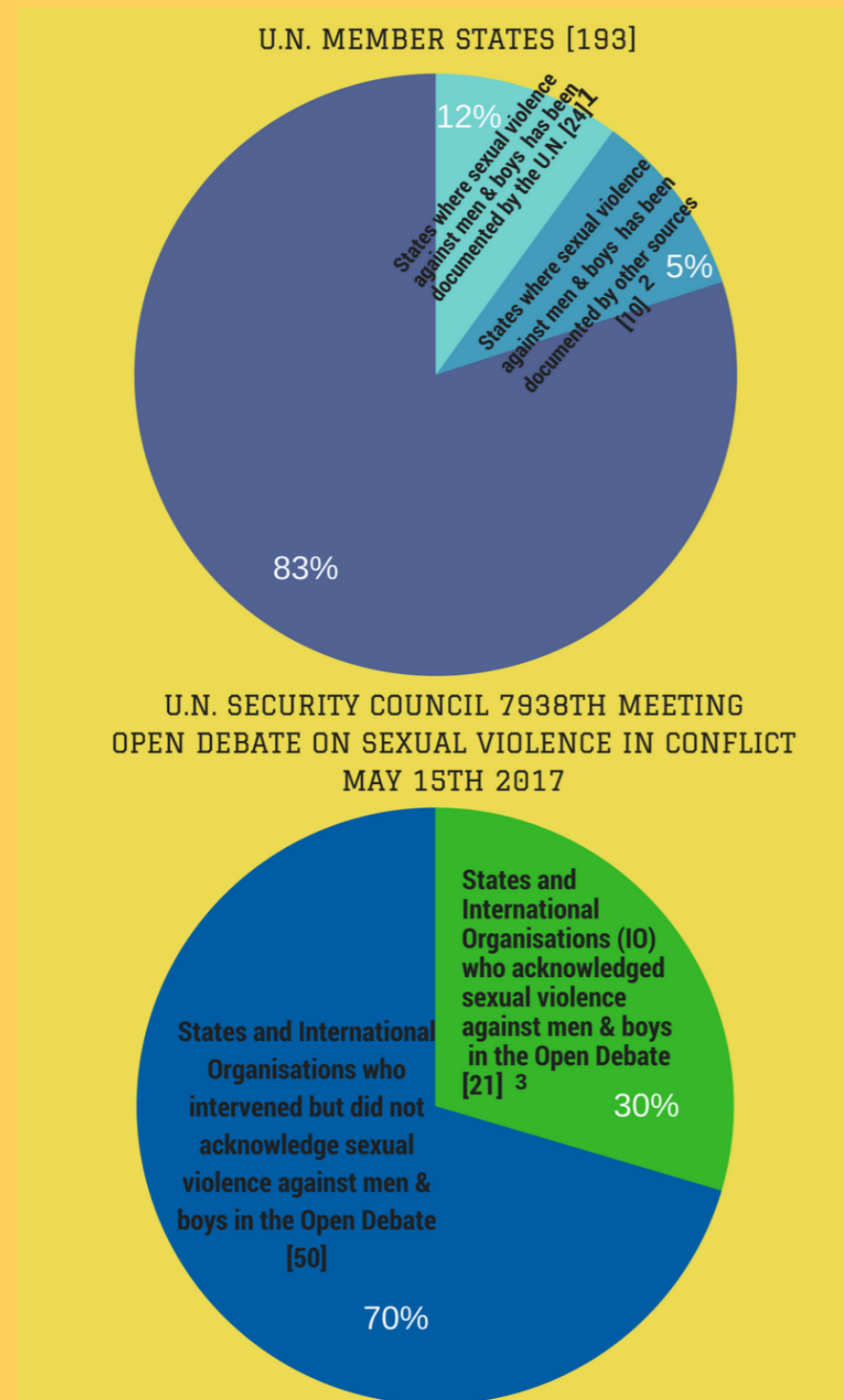


The panel discussed findings of ASP’s report “Legacies and Lessons: Sexual Violence against men and boys in BiH and Sri Lanka” as well a local and international efforts to prevent and respond to sexual and gender-based violence. How can international and local communities hold perpetrators accountable? What structures are in place to help support victims of sexual violence across the world? And, if gender norms which trigger sexual violence against women in conflict also apply to men, why then do international frameworks on sexual violence only seem to apply to women?



Monitoring and Analysis of UN Security Council Debates

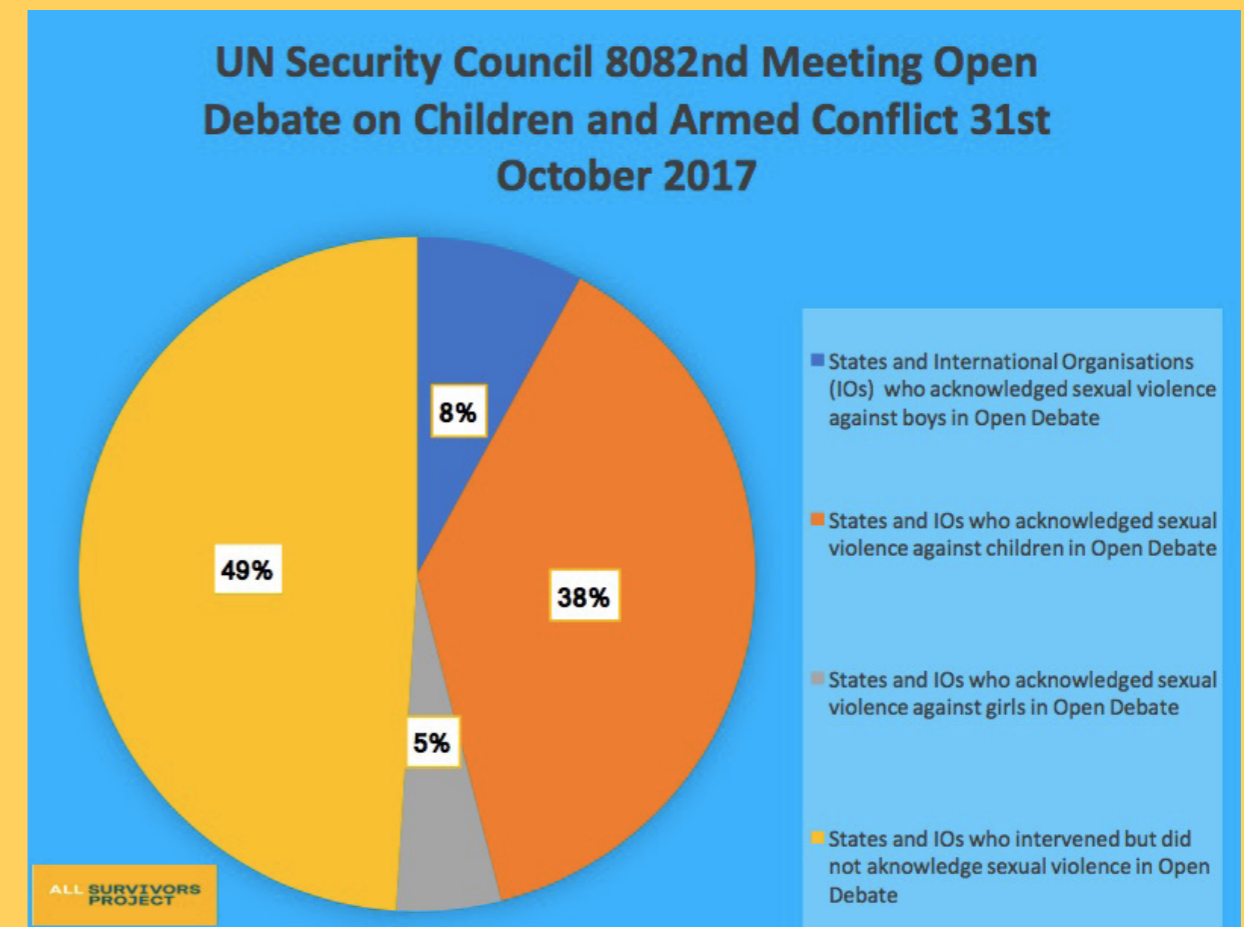
UN Security Council Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict (7938th Meeting), 15 May 2017



UN Security Council Debate on Children and Armed Conflict (8082th Meeting), 31 October 2017

ASP submitted a written briefing highlighting the need for increased attention to sexual violence as a grave violation against boys and girls to UN member states, representatives and officials in advance of the UN Security Council Open Debate on CAAC which took place on 31 October 2017.

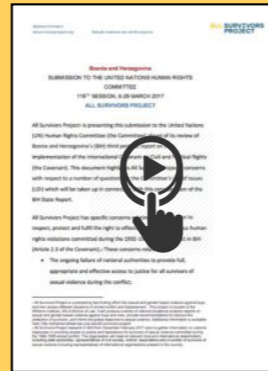
Six interventions in the debate made specific reference to the vulnerability of boys to conflict-related sexual violence (SRSR CAAC, the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), and the Permanent Missions of Liechtenstein, Norway, Maldives and Afghanistan). Other states including France, Hungary, Malaysia and Andorra also raised specific concerns relating to sexual violence against girls.



Submissions to UN Mechanisms

In addition, ASP made the following submissions to UN human rights and treaty bodies:

Submission on BiH to the UN Human Rights Committee in advance of its review of BiH's third periodic report on the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, March 2017



Submission to the 34th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) on Sri Lanka's commitments under UN HRC Resolution 30/1 on Sri Lanka, March 2017



ASP research report "Legacies and Lessons: Sexual violence against men and boys in Sri Lanka and Bosnia & Herzegovina" submitted to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) to support its consideration of the combined fifth and sixth periodic reports of the Government of Sri Lanka on its implementation of its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The CRC's concluding observations reflected ASP recommendations for the revision of the Penal Code to criminalize statutory rape of boys and the need to raise awareness to encourage the reporting of rape of boys (see, CRC/C/LKA/CO/5-6, 2 March 2018).



Briefing to the UN Security Council Working Group on CAAC, October 2017



Who We Are

TEAM

Charu Lata Hogg
Founder & Executive Director

Lucia Withers
Senior Advisor

Lara Stemple
Co-Principal Investigator

Laura Pasquero
Senior Humanitarian Advisor

Andrew Park
Co-Principal Investigator

Saphia Fleury
Consultant Copy Editor

Patricia Ollé Tejero
Project Coordinator

Zack Baddorf
Consultant CAR Researcher

Tomaso Falchetta
Legal and Policy Advisor

Colleen Dockerty
Consultant Syria and Turkey Researcher

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Aryeh Neier
President Emeritus
Open Society Foundation

Richard Sollom
Senior results-based Management Office
UNHCR

Baroness Helena Kennedy QC
Principal
Mansfield College

Nelly Staderini
Reproductive Health Advisor
Medecins Sans Frontieres

Manfred Nowak
Professor for International Human Rights
University of Vienna

Zama Coursen-Neff
Executive Director
Children's Rights Division, Human Rights Watch

Christian Wenaweser
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the UN

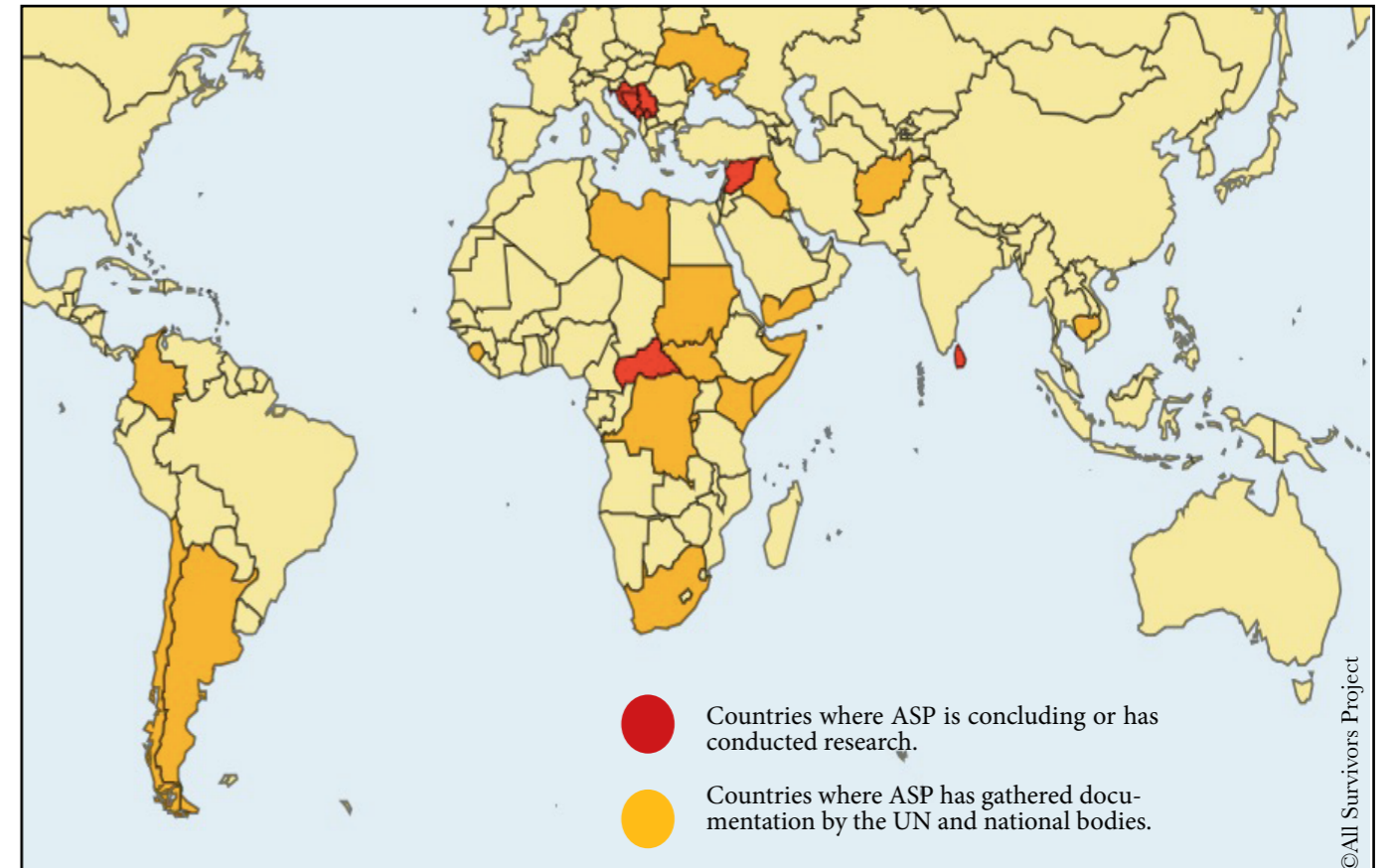
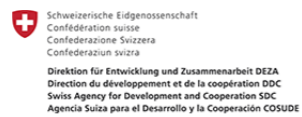
Ellen Gorris
Policy Officer on Gender and Age
European Commission, Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations

Lara Stemple
Director
Health and Human Rights Law Project, UCLA School of Law

Dean Peacock
Executive Director
Sonke Gender Justice Network

Acknowledgments

All Survivors Project is grateful for the support received from the following sponsors and partners who have enabled the advancement of its mission and goals.



Afghanistan
 Argentina
 Burundi
 Cambodia
 Central African Republic
 Chile
 Colombia
 Democratic Republic of Congo
 Iraq
 Kenya
 Libya

Former Yugoslavia
 Rwanda
 Sierra Leone
 Sri Lanka
 Somalia
 South Africa
 South Sudan
 Sudan
 Syrian Arab Republic
 Ukraine
 Yemen



All Survivors Project
www.allsurvivorsproject.org
info@allsurvivorsproject.org

allsurvivorsproject.org