

# ALL SURVIVORS PROJECT

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A group of people, including men and children, are standing on a dirt hillside. One man in the center is performing a balancing act on a small mound of earth. In the background, a city with buildings and mountains is visible under a cloudy sky. The scene is captured in a cinematic style with soft lighting.

# ANNUAL REPORT 2019

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# Foreword

All Survivors Project turned three in December 2019 and reflecting on those years I feel a deep sense of pride in what we have been able to achieve as well as gratitude for the support and encouragement we have received. I am particularly grateful to our partners, both national and international, who have been so open to working with us to ensure that conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) against men and boys is integrated into broader efforts to prevent and respond to this egregious crime.

This report looks back at highlights from 2019 – our third full year of working to expose how CRSV impacts men and boys and to advocate for enhanced and more inclusive responses. I am proud of the fact that we helped to catalyse action, not least by the UN Security Council which, in adopting resolution 2467 on 23 April 2019, recognised more explicitly than it ever had before the vulnerability of men and boys to CRSV as well as the need for appropriate responses to male victims/survivors.

Despite the progress, the challenges before us are huge. CRSV remains shockingly common, fuelled by and reinforcing of the structural gender inequalities and discrimination that have made women and girls so vulnerable to this violation, but which also underlies the targeting of males. Moreover, as we have continued to build our understanding of how CRSV affects men and boys, we have become increasingly alert to the way a person's sexual orientation and gender identity can create particular risks and vulnerabilities, and more and more aware of the urgent need for attention to be paid to this largely invisible category of victims/survivors.

Driven by the principle that all individuals must be protected from CRSV and all victims/survivors must have access to appropriate care and support without discrimination, in 2019 ASP took the first steps towards incorporating CRSV against LGBTI+ people into our work. As in all our work before and since, survivors were at the centre of our efforts.

We listened to their voices to better understand their experiences, concerns and wishes, we facilitated referrals to medical care and other services, and we advocated for measures and responses which were empowering and lasting. We ensured that voices of survivors from Syria and Afghanistan were heard in New York and in Geneva.

We still have much to learn and understand, but I believe that the impact of this work is already being felt not least because of the way in which our partners and the survivors with whom we have worked have trusted and worked alongside us. We thank you for this.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Charu Lata Hogg'.

Charu Lata Hogg  
**Founder and Executive Director**  
All Survivors Project

## 1. Our mission

ASP's mission is to support global efforts to eradicate conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and strengthen national and international responses to it through research and action on CRSV against men and boys, including those with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and/or sex characteristics (SOGIESC), as well as other people with diverse SOGIESC.<sup>[1]</sup>

## 2. Our values

- Committed to upholding human rights
- Survivor-centred
- Ethical and accountable
- Independent and impartial

## 3. Our objectives

Under ASP's 2018-2020 strategic plan, in 2019 we aimed to achieve change in three core areas:

- **Objective 1**, To increase awareness and acknowledgement of the vulnerabilities of men and boys to CRSV among governments, the UN, humanitarian and human rights actors and other key stakeholders, and for relevant policies, strategies and actions to reflect measures to prevent, protect from and respond to CRSV.
- **Objective 2**, To increase understanding of the needs and wishes of men and boys who have been subjected to sexual violence in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement to inform and support improved availability of and access to quality, survivor-centred medical, mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) and other assistance to male survivors.
- **Objective 3**, To identify and support initiatives to ensure that judicial and non-judicial accountability processes address sexual violence against men and boys as part of broader efforts to provide redress to victims/survivors, counter impunity for and prevent CRSV.

## 4. ASP'S approach and developing areas of work

During 2019, ASP consolidated existing work and began to develop new areas of work. We continued our focus on ensuring that sexual violence against men and boys in situations of armed conflict and forced displacement becomes an intrinsic part of international and national discourse and action on CRSV. This work included primary research and global monitoring to identify and expose the extent and nature of the problem. We consulted with and facilitated dialogue between experts to better understand the barriers faced by male victims/survivors in accessing and receiving appropriate medical care and other support, and to identify obstacles faced by male victims/survivors in realising their right to justice. We also continued to conduct targeted international and national advocacy to inform and influence key stakeholders, and we began to provide training and other capacity building to key stakeholders.

[1] ASP uses the definition of CRSV contained in the Report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence, UN Doc.S/2020/487 (2020), para. 4. We use the term, "people with diverse SOGIESC" to refer to individuals whose sexual orientation, gender identity and/or gender expression, and sex characteristics do not conform with heteronormative, socially constructed norms and expectations of gender and sexuality. The term includes individuals who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI+), which ASP also uses where appropriate.

## **A new focus on men and boys with diverse SOGIESC**

ASP was established as a project dedicated to addressing CRSV against men and boys. However, our work has increasingly revealed the enormous vulnerabilities to CRSV of LGBTI+ communities and the almost total lack of attention to protecting them and responding to their needs. As a result, in 2019 ASP began to expand its focus to include the specific vulnerabilities of and responses to males with diverse SOGIESC, and going forward, we plan to develop this work to look at issues relating to other populations with diverse SOGIESC.

In doing so, ASP seeks to complement and reinforce existing work on CRSV against women and girls, recognising the disproportionate impact of CRSV on them and the way in which gendered inequalities, institutions and identities drive this form of violence. Our work with men, boys and people with diverse SOGIESC is aimed at enlarging the scope of research, policy, prevention and response to include those survivors who are not always easily identified or supported within existing responses to CRSV.

## **Putting survivors at the centre of our work**

A fundamental principle of ASP's work is that it is "survivor-centred". This means that the rights, needs, and choices of CRSV victims/survivors, as identified by themselves, are at the centre of our work, and of all CRSV prevention and response efforts. We seek to incorporate this into our research and advocacy, including through ensuring that victim/survivor voices inform our analysis and guide our policy recommendations. Wherever possible we support victims/survivors to represent themselves so that their voices are heard by others.

In 2019 we engaged in consultations and other activities to build an evidence base of what constitutes appropriate, survivor-centred care for male and LGBTI+ survivors and began planning a multi-country study to examine the extent to which this is applied in specific situations of armed conflict.

## **Expanding our network of partners**

From its inception ASP has prioritised the building of long-term, collaborative with key international stakeholders, as well as with organisations in the countries in which we work to ensure our efforts are context-specific and sustainable. During 2019 we strengthened existing partnerships and built new ones that contributed to enriching our work and enhancing our effectiveness.

We cooperated closely with national-level partners in Central African Republic (CAR) and Turkey and, as we began work on Afghanistan, new partnerships were developed with national and international actors there.

Our longstanding collaboration with University College Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law continued, and we also built close working relationships with other academic institutions. These included the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (LSHTM), with whom we partnered on the development and implementation of a project to assess gaps and promising practice in relation to health interventions for male and LGBTI+ victims/survivors. We also began a new project to develop a set of principles to prevent CRSV in detention settings with Harvard Law School and with the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination at Princeton University.

At the UN in New York, we continued to work in close cooperation with the Offices of the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

and for Children and Armed Conflict (OSRSG SVC and OSRSG CAAC respectively). We were delighted to be able to work with the Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to establish an “Informal Working Group on Sexual and Gender-Based violence (SGBV) against Men and Boys” (Informal Working Group) in New York in 2019.

## 5. Our work and key achievements in 2019

### 5.1 International

ASP’s international advocacy yielded tangible results in 2019 with CRSV against men and boys increasingly being recognised and addressed within broader CRSV and other relevant peace and security and human rights agendas. During the year, ASP submitted briefings to UN Member States in advance of the UN Security Council’s (UNSC) annual debate on children and armed conflict; provided input during the drafting of UNSC Resolution 2467 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS); and submitted information on Afghanistan and Syria to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to support its examination of the progress of these States in implementing the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

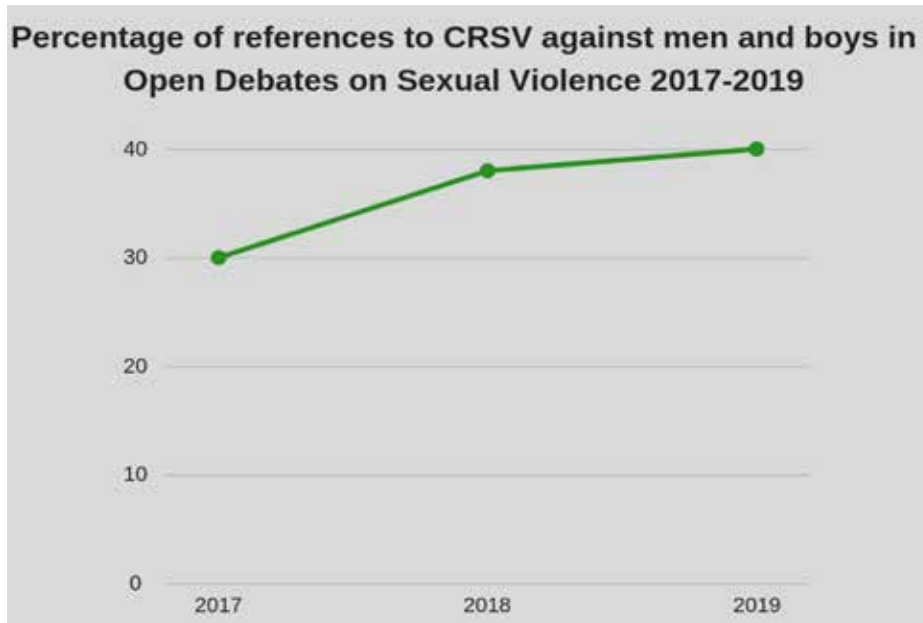
We continued to engage with the OSRSG SVC and OSRSG CAAC on a regular basis to support them in addressing CRSV against men and boys in their work. We supported the Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein in convening the Informal Working Group which acted as forum for sharing information about CRSV against men and boys among UN Member States thereby generating greater awareness, acknowledgment and coordinated action on the issue. We also worked bilaterally with other states including Germany and Switzerland, both of which are supporting projects to improve responses to CRSV against men and boys in country-specific settings and have integrated the issue into their work at the UNSC and elsewhere.

We continued to facilitate and participate in international forums to build awareness of the issue among broader audiences, co-hosting an event at the UN Headquarters on “Responding to sexual violence in the context of detention” with OSRSGs SVC and CAAC and the Permanent Missions of Germany, Liechtenstein, Norway, Peru and Switzerland, and participating as experts on panels and as speakers at conferences and other forums on CRSV (see list of events below).

### International-level highlights

- **CRSV against men and boys features prominently in UNSC Resolution 2467.** Although not the first to recognise that men and boys are among the targets of CRSV, UNSC Resolution 2467, adopted in April 2019, went further both in terms of acknowledgment and in its recommendations for action, which included calls for improved monitoring and documentation of CRSV against men and boys, access to national relief and reparations programmes by male victims/survivors, and for policies that ensure appropriate responses for them.
- **Increased UN reporting on CRSV against men and boys.** Although under-reporting of CRSV remains a significant problem, reporting on CRSV against men and boys by UN-led data gathering processes has increased, including in the Annual Report of the UN Secretary-General on conflict-related sexual violence.
- **Increasing acknowledgement of male victimisation by UN Member States and closer coordination among them.** Yet again, the number of UN Member States referencing CRSV against men and boys in their interventions in the UNSC’s annual

debate on CRSV increased with over one third of interventions explicitly addressing the issue in the 2019 annual debate. The establishment of the “informal working group on SGBV against men and boys” also strengthened coordination among Member States in integrating the issue into this and other relevant UN agendas.



- **UN Committee on the Rights of the Child incorporates CRSV** against boys into conclusions and questions. Following ASP submissions, the Committee on the Rights of the Child raised concerns about the rape of children including boys by state security forces and armed groups in Syria and called for prosecutions of and sanctions against those responsible.<sup>[2]</sup> It also requested information on measures taken by the Afghanistan authorities to implement the prohibition of the sexual exploitation of boys in the context of bacha bazi and to provide remedies to victims.<sup>[3]</sup>

## 5.2 National / in-country work

ASP built on its previous field-based research in Central African Republic and Syria/Turkey through ongoing engagement with national authorities, humanitarian and other national-level stakeholders. We also added Afghanistan to our list of focus countries, beginning a multi-year program of research, advocacy and capacity building there.

### Afghanistan

Working with our national partner, the Youth Health & Development Organization (YHDO), we designed and conducted field research in Afghanistan aimed at exposing the risk of CRSV to boys and young men involved in bacha bazi. In this outlawed, but nevertheless widespread, practice individuals are exploited for entertainment and gratification, particularly dancing and sexual activities, typically by older, powerful men. The research, which took place in Kabul and three provincial capital cities, included interviews with 24 male survivors, as well as with 120 key government and non-governmental stakeholders, and focus group discussions in which over 90 community leaders, teachers and child protection actors participated. The research culminated in a confidential report shared with key stakeholders and briefings to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the OSRSG CAAC and SVC.

[2] Committee on the Rights of the Child, Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the Syrian Arab Republic, UN Doc. CRC/C/SYR/CO/5 (2019).

[3] Committee on the Rights of the Child, List of issues in relation to the combined second to fifth periodic reports of Afghanistan, UN Doc. CRC/C/AFG/Q/2-5 (2019).

We worked closely with the NATO-led Resolute Support Mission (RSM) in Afghanistan to support its work with the Ministry of Interior (MoI) to draft a child protection policy applicable to the Afghan police and other MoI employees. As part of an external advisory group to the MoI convened by RSM, ASP provided guidance and draft language for inclusion in the policy.

Working closely with the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), NATO, OSRSG CAAC and others, ASP intervened in a high-profile case in which hundreds of schoolboys from Logar province were reported to have been subjected to sexual abuse by a criminal network, and where human rights defenders who reported the abuse were arbitrarily detained. We provided guidance and support to the AIHRC on documenting the experiences of the children, and conducted joint advocacy with them to exert pressure on the national authorities, the international community and child protection actors to investigate the allegations and to put in place measures to protect the children and their families.



Workshop on conducting ethical and safe research, February, Kabul

## Highlights in Afghanistan

- **Measures to protect boy victims/survivors from Logar put in place and international action mobilised.**

Coordinated advocacy by ASP and human rights and child protection actors, contributed to arrangements being made to protect boys from Logar who had been subjected to or were at risk of sexual violence. It also contributed to generating international attention and action including a statement by the Group of Friends of Children and Armed Conflict in Afghanistan, a resolution by the European Parliament, and international media coverage which in turn increased pressure on the Afghan authorities to investigate the allegations and hold those responsible to account.





## Central African Republic

Building on our 2018 research and advocacy in CAR, we continued our engagement with UNHCR's in-country team to support their work on responding to male victims/survivors of CRSV. We collaborated in the development of guidelines for UNHCR implementing partners on ensuring access to male victims/survivors in MHPSS programs and shared our research and findings in other contexts to support interventions.

ASP's research and advocacy from previous years also bore fruit with the entry into force in 2019 of a national action plan (NAP) on GBV which explicitly recognises men and boys as potential targets of CRSV. This was an important development not only nationally but also internationally as an example of good practice in integrating men and boys into NAPs and other relevant strategies.

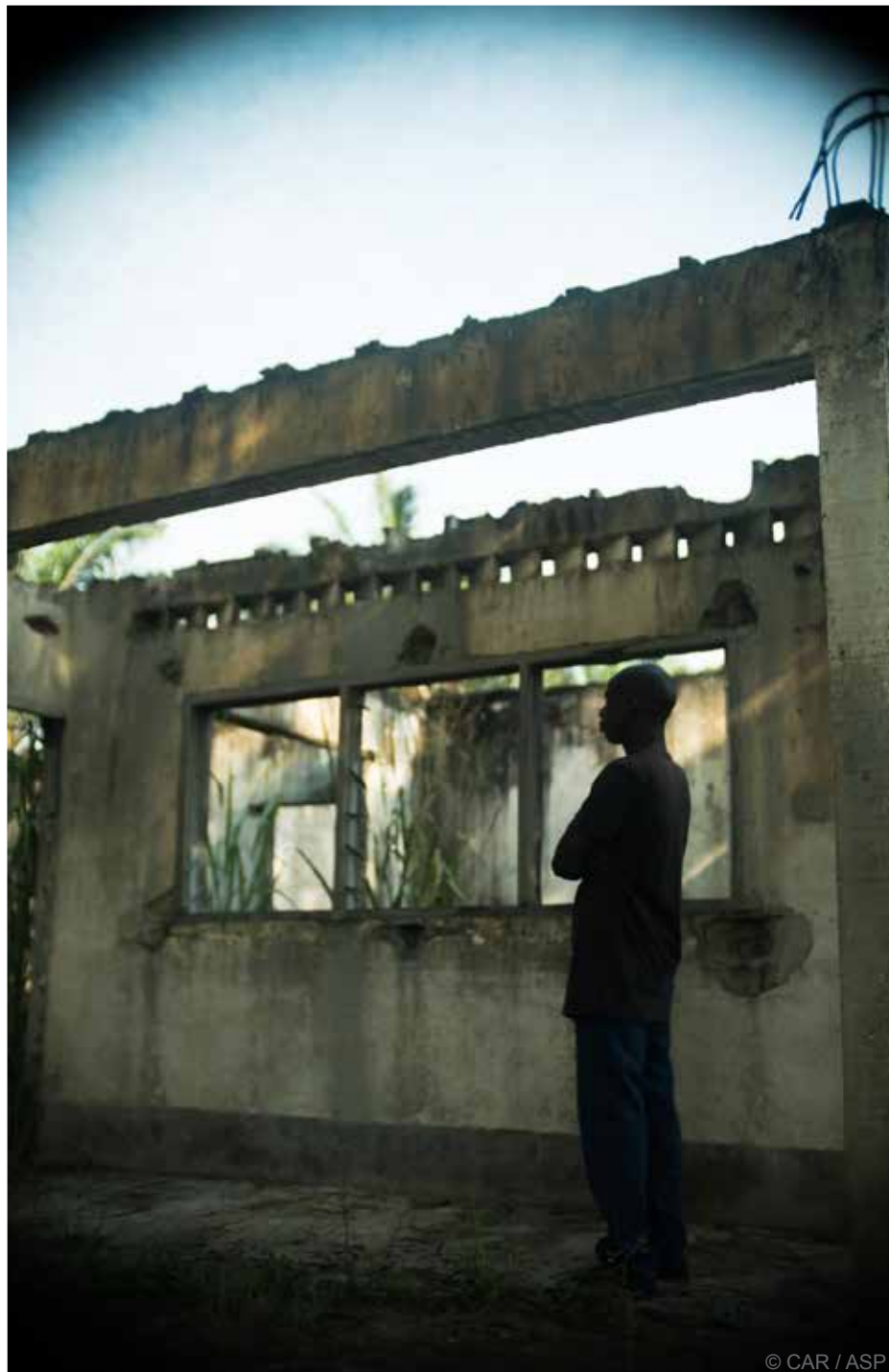
### Highlights in CAR:

- **CAR's National Action Plan on Gender-Based Violence (2019 – 2020)**

Addresses CRSV against men and boys.

- **Guidance on ensuring access to MHPSS**

Services for male victims/survivors developed and disseminated by UNHCR.



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### 5.3 Thematic work

#### A checklist on CRSV against men and boys:

Drawing on our research, consultations and other learning from the past three years, we developed a “Checklist on preventing and addressing CRSV against men and boys”



Checklist launch, December, Geneva

to assist governments and those involved in supporting them to ensure that national laws, policies and actions to protect against and respond to CRSV are gender-inclusive. The Checklist is designed to complement ongoing urgently needed efforts to better protect women and girls against CRSV, by supporting efforts to ensure that men and boys are also protected in law and practice; that national policies and other measures aimed at eradicating such abuses recognise and respond to the risks and vulnerabilities of all persons; and that all survivors have access to justice and to quality, survivor-centred medical care and MHPSS without discrimination. It was published on 10 December 2019

at an event in Geneva hosted by the ICRC.

#### Improving medical and MHPSS responses for male and LGBTI+ victims/survivors:

We continued work that began in 2018 in partnership with the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine to better understand the barriers encountered by male victims/survivors to accessing and receiving appropriate care and support, and to build an evidence base of good or promising practices for quality, gender-competent medical and MHPSS interventions for them. In 2019, this included a literature review and an ongoing program of consultations with experts.

In March, we co-hosted with LSHTM an expert meeting on improving responses for male survivors of conflict-related sexual violence in Geneva, with representatives from the ICRC, International Organization for Migration (IOM), King’s College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), UNHCR; UNFPA, and the World Health Organization (WHO). At the meeting, we shared findings from our literature review and sought input on our research framework and questions to support the next phase of the project which continued into 2020 with the publication of key findings and other ongoing work.



ASP-LSHTM expert meeting, March, Geneva

## 5.4 Capacity Building

During 2019 we began to expand our work to provide training and other forms of capacity building on CRSV against men, boys and people with diverse SOGIESC to partners and other actors. This was an exciting development which allowed us to forge new and closer relationships with key stakeholders, to build greater awareness of CRSV against men and boys and LGBTI+ people, and to influence policy and practice.

We developed and piloted a training module on the safe, ethical documentation of CRSV against men, boys and LGBTI+ people which we first launched in Afghanistan and which is being adapted to support training in other conflict-affected countries.

ASP capacity building activities:

- ASP “Safe and ethical documentation of CRSV against men and boys” training module, Kabul, Afghanistan, 5-7 February 2019, with training participants including ASP national field researchers, UNAMA field monitors, and UNICEF child protection officers.
- Geneva Centre for Education and Research in Humanitarian Action (CERAH), Thematic Short Course on Sexual Violence and Emergencies, 19 March, Geneva.
- NATO Annual Child Protection Focal Point Training, 24-25 July, Naples, hosted by NATO’s Allied Joint Forces Command Naples and attended by over 60 military officers and civilian representatives from NATO member states.
- Open Global Rights, Webinar on CRSV against men and boys, 7 June. ASP and the ICRC were the key speakers in this webinar for policy makers and practitioners on CRSV against males and the need for gender-inclusive responses.



NATO Annual Child Protection  
Focal Point Training,  
24-25 July, Naples

## 6. ASP publications, submissions and statements

- Checklist on preventing and addressing conflict-related sexual violence against men and boys, December 2019.
- Submission to the UN Security Council Open Debate on Children and Armed Conflict, July 2019.
- Interview, “We know little, too little”: Mental health of male survivors of sexual violence in Afghanistan’, 10 October 2019.
- “UN resolution acknowledges hidden victims of sexual violence in conflict—men and boys”, 19 June 2019.
- Statement on UNSC Resolution 2467 “UN Security Council Open Debate on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Resolution 2467”, 23 April 2019.

## 7. Participation in expert meetings, conferences and other events

- Norwegian Church Aid, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nobel Peace Center, Seminar on Men and Gender-based Violence (GBV), 1 February, Oslo. To raise awareness of the need for tailored support for male victims/survivors and engagement with men to prevent GBV. ASP presented findings from its 2018 research on Syria/Turkey.



Norwegian Church Aid, Norway Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Nobel Peace Center, Seminar on Men and GBV), February, Oslo



Save the Children Centenary Symposium, May, London

- German Federal Foreign Office, Workshop on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) on “Strengthening the agenda against sexual violence in conflict”, 21-22 February, Berlin. Brought together UNSC members, representatives of the Group of Friends on WPS, UN, regional and NGO practitioners and policy experts to share lessons learned and best practice. ASP presented its findings from research in CAR and Syria/Turkey.
- UK Foreign & Commonwealth Office, Expert consultation on “Sexual violence in conflict: Delivering justice for survivors and holding perpetrators to account”, 25-27 February, Wilton Park, UK. ASP participated in and facilitated a discussion on practical steps for delivering justice for victims/survivors and holding perpetrators to account.
- St Antony’s International Review (STAIR) launch of publication “Individuals in Conflict: Agency, Rights, and The Changing Character of War”, 28 February, Oxford. ASP joined panellists from King’s College London and the ICRC to discuss the protection of human rights in armed conflict.
- UNHCR, “Sexual violence against men and boys in humanitarian crises”, 6 March, Geneva. ASP joined other panellists including the Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN in Geneva, and representatives of Norwegian Church Aid and Lebanon-based gender-equality

NGO, ABAAD, to discuss the prevalence of sexual violence against men and boys, how to prevent it and how to address the specific needs of male victims/survivors.

- Save the Children (SC) Centenary Symposium “See Me Safe”, 7 May, London, hosted by SC together with Chatham House, which brought together child protection experts, policymakers, academics, and others to identify practical solutions to protect children in conflict and rebuild their lives. ASP participated on a panel which explored the public perception of conflict and the role of the media.

- ICRC and Norwegian Red Cross, Sexual Violence against males in conflict, 23 May 2019, Oslo. ASP participated as a panellist in a side event to the Norwegian

Government-hosted “Oslo Conference on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Humanitarian Crises”, at which we presented our ongoing research in Afghanistan.

- Expert Meeting on the Global Fund for Survivors of CRSV, Geneva, 14 June, hosted by the IOM, the Mukwege Foundation and Nadia’s Initiative. ASP participated in expert discussions on operationalising the Global Fund that was launched in 2019 to ensure survivors of CRSV have access to reparations and other forms of redress.

- Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Bern, 28 November, ASP participated in a panel discussion on CRSV against men and boys organised by SDC to inform policy and actions by relevant Swiss government departments and agencies.



ICRC and Norwegian Red Cross, 23 May, Oslo.



Expert Meeting on the Global Fund for Survivors of CRSV, June, Geneva

## 8. Financials

### ALL SURVIVORS PROJECT FOUNDATION VADUZ

Balance sheet as per	31.12.2019	31.12.2018
	CHF	CHF
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash in bank	544'376.76	465'913.84
Receivables	112'663.27	0.00
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>657'040.03</b>	<b>465'913.84</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>657'040.03</b>	<b>465'913.84</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>		
Other liabilities	13'114.22	9'375.25
Provisions	23'435.65	0.00
<b>Payables</b>	<b>36'549.87</b>	<b>9'375.25</b>
<b>Accrued expenses and deferred income</b>	<b>23'381.81</b>	<b>3'000.00</b>
Capital	30'000.00	30'000.00
Retained earnings	423'538.59	0.00
Profit of the period	143'569.76	423'538.59
<b>Equity</b>	<b>597'108.35</b>	<b>453'538.59</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>657'040.03</b>	<b>465'913.84</b>

ALL SURVIVORS PROJECT FOUNDATION  
VADUZ

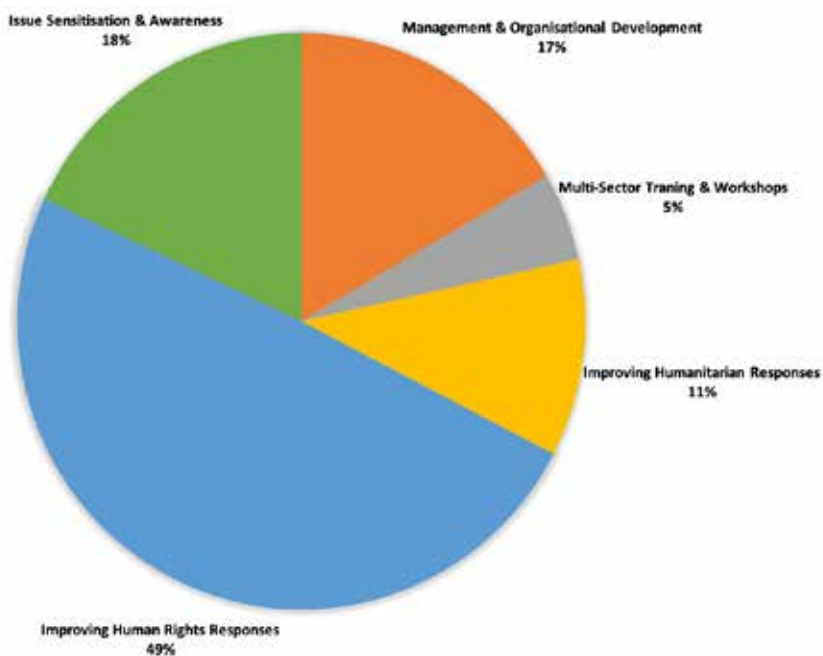
	01.01.2019	13.12.2017
Income statement	-31.12.2019	-31.12.2018

	CHF	CHF
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Administrative Expenses		197'368.58
Personnel & Related Costs	260'849.45	
Contractual Costs	146'633.53	
Grants to other organizations	52'908.41	
Operations & Office Costs	10'900.41	
Travel & Meetings	45'684.89	
Financial Expenses	6'579.61	906.53
Loss on Foreign Currencies	8'012.20	3'681.70
Taxes	35'793.12	0.00
Profit of the period	143'569.76	423'538.59
	<u>710'931.38</u>	<u>625'495.40</u>

**INCOME**

Profit on Foreign Currencies	2'718.99	0.00
Program Income	708'212.39	625'495.40
	<u>710'931.38</u>	<u>625'495.40</u>

**Expenditures by Organisational Function 2019**



## 9. Supporters

All Survivors Project would like to thank our generous donors for their contributions in 2019.



In addition to our financial supporters, All Survivors Project also wishes to thank our technical supporters:



All Survivors Project was established as a research project in UCLA, School of Law in December 2016. In December 2017, All Survivors Project Foundation was registered as a charitable foundation in the Principality of Liechtenstein.

It ended its fiduciary link with UCLA, School of Law in July 2018 and became a fully independent international NGO thereon. In 2019, All Survivors Project was registered in the United Kingdom, and was granted charitable status by the Charity Commission of England and Wales in early 2020. ASP continues to maintain an intellectual link with UCLA, School of Law.