

**CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION 30**  
**WOMEN IN CONFLICT PREVENTION,**  
**CONFLICT AND POST-CONFLICT SITUATIONS**  
**SHADOW REPORT GUIDELINES**



## FOREWORD

Protecting women's human rights at all times, advancing substantive gender equality before, during and after conflict, and ensuring that women's diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reconstruction processes are important objectives of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

On 18 October 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women ('the Committee') adopted a landmark General Recommendation No. 30 on "Women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations", its primary aim and purpose being to provide authoritative guidance to States parties on legislative, policy and other appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention to protect, respect and fulfil women's human rights during conflict and post-conflict situations.

In General Recommendation No. 30, the Committee recommends that States parties report on the legal framework, policies and programmes that they have implemented to ensure the human rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict. States parties are to provide information on the implementation of the Security Council agenda on women, peace and security, in particular resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013).

This user-friendly guide is an excellent initiative by IWRAP Asia Pacific. Although it primarily targets women's rights groups and civil society organisations which play a prominent role in conflict-affected and fragile states, and provides guidance in the preparation of their shadow reports to the Committee, it will also potentially enhance the quality of States Parties' reports as the latter will need to address issues raised in shadow reports.

This Guide on GR 30 is another demonstration of the strong determination of IWRAP Asia Pacific to ensure that vital voices of women caught in the crossfire in many

conflict-affected countries are heard, heeded and included in peacebuilding and beyond.

In this world of instability, with a rise in violent extremism, the need to reduce the suffering of women and girls, prevent violent conflict and identify non-violent means of resolving tensions has become one of today's most pressing issues. Today more than ever before, we cannot rethink security policy and address global human security without addressing the role of women in conflict prevention.

Civil society organisations, including women's rights groups – particularly those working with refugees and internally displaced women, widows, minorities, indigenous peoples, female heads of households, and persons with disabilities, amongst other vulnerable groups – are particularly well placed to provide information and analysis and to suggest appropriate responses. They are often best placed to understand what is going on and to identify overlooked problems.

I particularly rejoice over the elaboration of this Guide and its wide circulation amongst NGOs which have a crucial and ever-increasing role in providing pertinent information to the Committee.

In addition to being an excellent capacity-building tool on the Convention and in highlighting how its substantive provisions establish the requisite normative framework for the full protection of women in armed conflict and advancement of their fundamental human rights, the Guide will significantly enhance the quality of information provided by women's rights organisations and civil society organisations.

The Committee highly values their insights and input which will enable it to come up with country-specific and targeted recommendations.

**Pramila Patten**  
**Chairperson of Working Group on GR 30**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

IWRAW Asia Pacific wishes to take this opportunity to convey its appreciation and thanks to a number of individuals and organisations who have taken principal responsibility for the development of this Framework.

We would like to thank Sreekala MG (India) and Andy Yentriyani (Indonesia), for their cooperation and insightful contributions to the development of these Guidelines.

We wish to thank the programme staff of IWRAW Asia Pacific, particularly Shanti Uprety and Dorathy Benjamin who contributed to the development of these Guidelines.

Last but not least, we would like to thank all the participants who attended the Writeshop on CEDAW General Recommendation 30 in Kuala Lumpur in September 2015 and provided their invaluable input in the drafting process of the Guidelines.

**IWRAW Asia Pacific**  
**September 2016**

## ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

<b>CEDAW</b>	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
<b>CSO</b>	Civil Society Organisation
<b>DDR</b>	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
<b>GBV</b>	Gender-Based Violence
<b>GR</b>	General Recommendation
<b>IDP</b>	Internally Displaced Person(s)
<b>NAP</b>	National Action Plan
<b>NHRI</b>	National Human Rights Institution
<b>SCR</b>	Security Council Resolution(s)
<b>SSR</b>	Security Sector Reforms
<b>TJ</b>	Transitional Justice
<b>TRC</b>	Truth and Reconciliation Commission
<b>TSM</b>	Temporary Special Measure(s)
<b>VAW</b>	Violence Against Women

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## PART I: INTRODUCTION

### WHAT IS CEDAW GENERAL RECOMMENDATION 30?

The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) decided at its forty-seventh session, in 2010, pursuant to article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, to adopt a general recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. Following a series of regional consultations and drafting processes led by its independent expert Ms Pramila Pattern, the Committee adopted a landmark General Recommendation (GR 30) on Women in Conflict Prevention, Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations on the 18th October 2013.<sup>1</sup>

General Recommendations interpret and expand the meaning and scope of the Convention. This is done by taking into consideration and reviewing a government's actions, and results in the drafting of Concluding Observations.

The primary aim and purpose of the General Recommendation is to provide authoritative guidance to States Parties on legislative, policy and other appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights. It also builds upon principles articulated in previously adopted General Recommendations.<sup>2</sup>

General Recommendation 30 recognises that in relation to conflict, women are not simply passive bystanders or only victims or targets; they often also play roles as soldiers and combatants, human rights defenders, civil society organisers, protesters, and peacebuilders. It outlines the concrete steps States Parties can take to ensure that women's human rights are protected before, during and after a conflict, and ensures that the Convention applies in all forms of conflict and post-conflict settings. The recommendation also covers other situations of concern, such as instances of ethnic and communal violence, political strife, internal disturbances, state of emergency and suppression of mass uprisings, protracted and low-intensity civil strife, violence related to terrorism, organised crime, and crime perpetrated by other non-state actors that may not necessarily be classified as armed conflict under international humanitarian law but which results in serious violations of women's rights.

### WHY A GUIDELINE ON GR 30?

In 2000, the United Nations Security Council formally acknowledged through the creation of Resolution 1325 the changing nature of warfare, in which civilians are increasingly targeted, and women continue to be excluded from participation in peace processes. UNSCR 1325 addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace.<sup>3</sup> The concerns of women in conflict and peacebuilding have been further strengthened by creating a number of subsequent Resolutions by the Security Council: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013) and 2122 (2013).

Despite the fact that these Resolutions provide strong positions on the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda, they have not adequately recognised women's human rights and there is no in-built compliance framework to ensure accountability. Therefore it is critical to build the capacity and connectivity of women's rights groups to understand and ensure that these processes are accountable to women's human rights with a focus on the standards enshrined in CEDAW and its General Recommendation 30.

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<sup>1</sup><http://dawnnet.org/2013/04/cedaw-gr-30-on-women-in-conflict-prevention-conflict-and-post-conflict-situations/>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/CEDAW/GComments/CEDAW.C.CG.30.pdf>

<sup>3</sup>[http://www.usip.org/gender\\_peacebuilding/about\\_UNSCR\\_1325](http://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325)



Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) played quite an active role to provide substantive input in the drafting process and content of GR 30. At this time there is still a need to strengthen the reporting by NGOs on issues affecting women in conflict/post-conflict contexts, and to ensure that use of GR 30 through the robust nature of the CEDAW review process enhances the concepts and norms related to state accountability, highlights current and emerging issues related to the conflict prevention, conflict and reconstruction phases, and leads towards more effective recommendations from the treaty body system and, in turn, towards more constructive actions by the state. There is also a need to explore strategies to highlight the application of GR 30 as a complementary framework for monitoring the progress and constraints to advancing women's human rights in conflict-affected communities, including in the implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) as endorsed by UNSCR 1325.

### **WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE GUIDELINES?**

The purpose of the Guidelines is to improve application of principles and standards of CEDAW and its GR 30 in examining facts, data, laws and policies while preparing a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee on the situation of women impacted by conflict. To that end, these Guidelines provide sets of questions under each thematic article of CEDAW and priority area of GR 30. It is ideally to be used to examine specific issues on the ground and provide recommendations to the CEDAW Committee drawing on the overarching principles of substantive equality, non-discrimination and state obligation under CEDAW.

### **WHO ARE THE INTENDED USERS AND HOW TO USE THE GUIDELINES?**

CSOs working at national, regional and international level on women's human rights, particularly on issues concerning women's rights violations in conflict-affected communities and post-conflict settings, will find the Guidelines useful in their work. They have been primarily prepared for use by CSOs to deepen understanding on the concepts of CEDAW General Recommendation 30 and to use it for providing alternative information in the process of CEDAW reviews.

The user will need some understanding about the CEDAW processes, particularly of shadow report writing and submitting to the CEDAW Committee. In order to effectively use these Guidelines, the user is advised to use them together with the Shadow Report Guidelines to CEDAW prepared by IWRAW Asia Pacific.<sup>4</sup>

The guidelines have set out a series of questions for key thematic areas as referenced in GR 30, linking them to respective articles. Note that these are not meant to be an exhaustive list. Also note that the user is not meant to answer each question specifically, but rather use them as a way to prompt information related to the specific theme and to provide analysis by using CEDAW's substantive principles.

The video developed by IWRAW AP could serve as a basic tool for understanding the scope and applicability of GR 30 as a reference point of accountability.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.iwraw-ap.org/resources/participation-in-the-cedaw-reporting-process-process-and-guidelines-for-writing-a-shadow-alternative-report-part-1-2/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fwewoOR-wSY>

## PART II: GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR WRITING SHADOW REPORTS

### General Questions

1. What is the context of conflict your community is facing?
2. In what ways do the conflicts affect women's enjoyment of rights? Which group of women is most affected? Please provide, if possible, data disaggregated by sex, ethnicity, religion, age, marital status, or any relevant variables.
3. What are the various forms of violence and discrimination faced by women in conflict-affected communities, including women internally displaced persons (IDPs) and (ex-)combatants?
4. How has the government responded to the situation faced by women? Please provide your analysis of this with regards to the appropriateness and effectiveness of government responses, including in ensuring access to justice for women victims of conflict-related violence and discrimination?
5. How have the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes promoted the advancement of women's rights in the conflict-affected community?
6. Do women, on equal terms with men, have access to participate in decision-making processes in building peace or in any conflict-related issue? How do the State, third parties and the UN ensure women are equally represented and that they hold leadership positions in the mechanisms established in transition and post-conflict contexts at the local and national level?
7. If your area is declared as post-conflict, what measures have been undertaken to account for past abuses and to prevent reoccurrence of conflict? Are early warning systems in place with gender-sensitive security measures to prevent the escalation of conflict and gender-based violence? To what extent do these measures also support women's formal and informal conflict prevention efforts?
8. Have there been any conflict-preventive measures taken by the State such as including setting up of early warning systems, mediation measures, regulation of arms transfer, having dialogues with protestors or actors in resistance movements? Do these measures include a gender dimension?

CEDAW has urged the State party to ensure the effective and meaningful participation of women in decision-making processes within the National Reconciliation Committee. The Committee has called upon the State party to establish a clear timeframe to finalise the draft National Action Plan (NAP) to implement Security Council Resolution No. 1325 (2000), in cooperation with the Kurdistan Region and representatives of women's organisations

**(Iraq, 2014)**

### Questions under Article 1-5

1. Does the new constitution enshrine the principles of equality between women and men and of non-discrimination in line with the Convention?
2. Do the armed forces/uniformed personnel enjoy impunity in their operations in conflict-affected areas? Can they be brought under the purview of ordinary criminal laws in cases of sexual violence perpetrated by them?



3. Has the national human rights commission got the mandate and mechanisms to investigate cases against armed forces, in cases of violence against women? How do National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) respond to violence against women cases in conflict situations?
4. Is there a policy to end sexual violence? Are there mechanisms to prevent, investigate and punish all forms of violence against women, especially sexual violence perpetrated by State and non-State actors? Are there specialised courts to expedite cases of sexual violence?
5. What are the protection mechanisms available to women victims of gender-based violence (including sexual violence), when complaints are brought against State and or non-state actors?
6. Have there been any instances of roll-back on women's rights protections in order to appease non-state actors?
7. How does the government ensure participation of civil society organisations in policy formulation related to women and conflict?
8. Are there any restrictions to the work of civil society organisations and human rights defenders working in conflict areas?<sup>6</sup> Is there any violence or threat against women human rights defenders by the State or non-state actors?
9. How has the State ensured that its extraterritorial state obligations are met? What responsibilities are imposed in this regard on national corporations operating extraterritorially in conflict-affected countries?
10. Has the State (or third party state) met its extraterritorial obligations in situations where it provides bilateral or multilateral donor assistance for conflict prevention and humanitarian aid?
11. How is data collected on incidence of violence against women, particularly sexual violence in different settings and against different categories of women? Is there a standardised method of collecting disaggregated data?
12. What strategies are in place to implement Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security? Does the NAP, or other policies related to the same, reflect a model of substantive equality and cover all rights enshrined in the Convention and its GR No. 30?
13. Is there adequate budgetary support for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda? Has the government earmarked sufficient budget for support services for women affected by conflict?
14. Have there been periodic reviews of the National Action Plan to include the full spectrum of issues included in SCR 1325+? How does the government collaborate with

The Committee has recommended that the State party ensure that women facing intersectional forms of discrimination have access without discrimination to basic services, including health, education, adequate water and sanitation  
**(Cameroon, 2014)**

<sup>6</sup> Imposing surveillance, restrictions on registration, fund raising, administrative complexities, etc.

the civil society and non-governmental organisations working on the implementation of the Security Council agenda on women, peace and security?

15. How does the State assess that the policies and programmes effectively benefit women, in particular rural and minority women, living in conflict/post-conflict situations?
16. How are national laws and policies relating to women and transitional justice monitored for their effectiveness?
17. How does the State ensure that the officials involved in post-conflict mechanisms and processes are gender-sensitive?
18. How does the government ensure that the principle of non-discrimination is applied by all public services in any conflict-affected area? Do the anti-discrimination laws and policies include sanctions? Have they been implemented and monitored regularly?
19. Has there been a review of the impact of militarisation and conflict on women in the country before policies are designed and implemented?
20. What measures have been developed by the State to promote zero tolerance to discrimination on any basis against minority groups in its peace programmes? Please provide your analysis of the questions below:
21. Does the State recognise the equal rights of minority women in the legal framework? Are there special laws to promote the human rights of minority women during conflict and in the post-conflict context?
22. How does the State ensure the minority groups are able to maintain their identity and ensure that minorities within minorities are not discriminated against?
23. Has the State developed a curriculum that respects the identity of minorities? Has the State supported media to advance peace journalism and to prevent tension in the conflict areas with respect to minority groups?

CEDAW has recommended to immediately review the impact of the Indian housing project in Sri Lanka and adopt a consultative and gender-sensitive approach in addressing the needs and concerns of the most disadvantaged and marginalised groups of women.

Similarly it has also recommended the State party to adopt all necessary measures including an assessment of the impact of the Lakshmanpur dam project on women in Nepal, so as to among other things, prevent or remedy women's loss of livelihood, housing and food security, and provide adequate compensation whenever their rights have been violated

**(India, 2014)**

CEDAW expressed concern on the lack of data on widows and their living conditions, as well as on the situation of former women combatants in the State party. It was also concerned at restrictions on widows' rights to inheritance and that in practice their and their children's possessions are taken by the family of the deceased husband. The Committee was further concerned that the compensation of war widows and women victims of conflict-related sexual violence continues to be delayed for lack of funds

**(Sierra Leone, 2014)**



## GUIDING QUESTIONS ON THEMATIC/PRIORITY ISSUES

### GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (ARTICLES 1-3 AND 5A)

1. What are the different forms of gender-based violence (GBV) faced by women during conflict and in post-conflict situations, committed at home, in the community or by armed groups in your area? Which groups of women are affected by or more vulnerable to the different forms of violence?
2. Has there been any mechanism to collect data on GBV regularly during conflict and post-conflict? What are the sources of data?
3. Has there been any study to understand impacts of the conflict situation on family, female heads of households, women widowed or left behind in conflict? How has the study been used to promote women's enjoyment of rights?
4. What are the measures to prevent GBV against the most vulnerable groups of women during conflict situation, including but not limited to women with disabilities, indigenous women, women ex-combatants, female prisoners, IDPs and women relatives of members of armed groups?
5. Are there reliable and gender-sensitive complaint mechanisms in place for women victims of violence during conflict and post-conflict? How have the mechanisms observed the principles of respect, non-discrimination, safety and confidentiality when addressing GBV?
6. How does the State deal with issues of cultural constraints, militarisation and extremist violence and impunity that prevent women from safely reporting sexual violence? What gender-sensitive victim/witness protection mechanisms are in place?
7. How does the State prosecute cases of GBV involving security personnel and other armed group members? Can the security personnel be prosecuted under the general system? Are there reliable and accountable prosecution mechanisms in place? Can you monitor the mechanisms, including the military court if necessary?
8. Are there current investigations related to GBV? Are there any cases filed to the ICC or other international mechanisms? Why not?
9. What are the impacts of GBV on the victims – physical, mental, sexual, economic, social, etc.? How have the State and other parties responded to the impacts?
10. What kind of mechanisms exist to prevent attacks against minority groups, particularly to prevent rape and other sexual violence against women as a strategy of war?
11. Do GBV victims have access to legal aid and other needed assistance to access justice and recovery, including rehabilitation and compensation?
12. Is there adequate participation of women survivors of GBV in the design and implementation of transitional justice? Has there been any amnesty for sexual violence during the transitional mechanism?
13. What are the policies, programmes and mechanisms available to prevent GBV during conflict and post-conflict? Has there been any systematic monitoring to ensure their effectiveness?
14. How has the arms trade influenced the occurrence of VAW and GBV?

## Trafficking (Article 6)

1. How prevalent is trafficking of women and girls in transit and/or destinations?<sup>7</sup>
2. Which groups of women and girls are particularly prevention? How effective are those steps and what
3. Are the policies of the State restrictive to women's
4. Is there a comprehensive legal/policy strategy to situations?<sup>8</sup>
5. Are there bilateral or multilateral agreements entered women?
6. How does the State protect the rights of women who are trafficked or are fleeing from conflict areas (refugees)? How does the State ensure the safe return of women who are trafficked so that they are not penalised or stigmatised on return?<sup>9</sup>
7. Is there data available on the extent and nature of trafficking in women and girls from conflict-affected areas? How is data collected on trafficking? Is disaggregated data available? Does the State work with universities to research and assess the current situation? Do policies and services for trafficked women reflect the ground realities?
8. Which agencies are involved in providing services to trafficked women and girls affected by conflict? Government or non-government? Do they have the knowledge and skills to deal with trafficking cases?
9. Is the migration policy of the State party or third party country discriminatory? How do such policies heighten vulnerability of conflict-affected women and girls to trafficking? Is the State considering amending or repealing such discriminatory policies? Are civil society organisations consulted? Are there any discriminatory laws that penalise women victims of trafficking instead of the perpetrators?
10. Are troops, including peacekeeping forces, provided with gender-sensitive training on how to identify and protect women and girls vulnerable to being trafficked?
11. Are there early warning systems used to prevent trafficking of women? How are women involved in early warning and prevention? What measures need to be taken by government to prevent trafficking of IDP women and to protect the rights of those who are trafficked from conflict areas?<sup>10</sup>
12. Are there any special rehabilitation programmes/remedial education programmes for women and girls who are displaced or trafficked?

CEDAW expressed concern that trafficking in women and girls has increased during the conflict. The Committee was particularly concerned that at every stage of the displacement cycle, women and girls are at high risk of trafficking, disguised as marriage, for purposes of sexual exploitation. The Committee has recommended the State party to prevent, prosecute and punish traffickers and perpetrators of related human rights violations occurring under its jurisdiction, whether perpetrated by public authorities or private actors, and adopt specific protection measures for women and girls, in particular those internally displaced or refugee women and girls

**(Syria, 2014)**

<sup>7</sup> Provide information on patterns of trafficking; whether sending/receiving/transit; vulnerabilities – including displaced, rural, minority or women from development sites; socio/economic factors.

<sup>8</sup> Include: recognition of trafficking of women and girls as a gendered impact of conflict; legislation-related; trafficking for all purposes, including for recruiting children in State/non-state armed forces through kidnapping or trafficking; preventive measures – social security, employment, providing travel documents and safe passage for those who wish to leave the country; investigation and prosecution; perpetrators, including non-state armed actors, peacekeepers, military, organised trafficking syndicates; complaint procedures for victims; rehabilitation/reintegration – remedial education, resource allocation; gender-sensitive support services, inter-agency approaches; training for enforcement agencies and peacekeepers to identify and deal with cases of trafficking; monitoring and effectiveness of policy, whether NAP incorporates trafficking of women in conflict; international commitments; cooperation with countries of transit and destination for prevention and conviction of perpetrators.

<sup>9</sup> Include both women who are citizens and non-citizens.

<sup>10</sup> Include trafficking of rural women from conflict-affected areas.



## Participation (Articles 7-8) <sup>11</sup>

1. What are the legislative, executive, administrative, social, cultural and economic obstacles to women's participation in conflict prevention, management and resolution?
2. What measures, including Temporary Special Measures (TSM), are adopted to address various barriers to women's equal participation in the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts?
3. Are women well-represented at various branches of government, the justice system, and peacekeeping activities? Is gender-disaggregated data available with regard to participation of women at all levels in the political and peacebuilding processes? What steps are taken by the State to ensure women's equal participation in national mechanisms and institutions (including the armed forces, police, justice institutions and transitional justice mechanisms dealing with crimes committed during the conflict)?<sup>12</sup>
4. Are women equally represented and do they hold leadership positions in the mechanisms established in transition and post-conflict context at the local and the national level?<sup>13</sup>
5. Are women included as delegates in negotiation and mediation, including at senior levels by third-party States?
6. Are women equally deployed in UN peacekeeping missions? Are the countries sending an equal number of women for these missions?
7. How does the State consult/involve conflict-affected women and the civil society organisations (especially those focusing on women's rights in peace negotiations and post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction efforts) in policy making and monitoring implementation?

CEDAW has recommended the State party to ensure participation of women as negotiators and mediators in all peace negotiation efforts including those initiated by third-party States participating in conflict resolution processes, either individually or as members of international organisations. The Committee has further recommended to provide leadership training to women in order to ensure their effective participation in conflict resolution and post-conflict political processes

**(Azerbaijan, 2015)**

CEDAW has recommended the State party to create an enabling environment for the participation of women and girls, in particular, women human rights defenders in public life by urging the State party to ensure their right to participate in demonstrations as well as their right to express their opinions, in accordance with international standards and to undertake all necessary measures to protect women and girls from arbitrary detention and harassment

**(Venezuela, 2014)**

<sup>11</sup> What strategies are in place to implement Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security? Do NAP/other policies related to the same reflect a model of substantive equality and cover all rights enshrined in the convention and its GR No. 30?

<sup>12</sup> Include women's representation in local and national institutions/mechanisms, including the justice sector, armed forces, police, transitional justice mechanisms (peace commissions, truth and reconciliation commissions); TSMs; data on the number of women who were included in the government delegation for conflict resolution and negotiation (internal, external, cross-country conflict). How many women are in the foreign service and national security establishments at higher levels? What leadership roles have they been playing in conflict resolution?

<sup>13</sup> Include IDP/refugee management; peace and reconciliation commissions.

8. Are there adequate capacity-building programmes for women and are there TSMs in place for enabling them to participate effectively and meaningfully in peacebuilding initiatives, and post-conflict political, reconstruction and rehabilitation processes?<sup>14</sup>
9. How do States, including third-party States and the UN, ensure participation of a critical mass of women in peace processes so that gender concerns can be incorporated in post-conflict recovery and development processes?
10. How has the State and any relevant parties ensured the representation and active participation of minority women in peace processes? Have all documents and processes that are key to building peace been translated into the languages of minority groups?
11. Are there any instances of violence or threats against women human rights defenders by the State or non-state actors?<sup>15</sup>
12. How does the State ensure women's equal participation in conflict resolution? Do women governed under customary laws enjoy de jure and de facto equality in terms of their right to participation? Are TSMs applicable to those women?

### Education (Article 10)

1. What measures have been undertaken to ensure women's and girls' access to education at all levels in conflict and post-conflict situations? Please provide information on:
  - disaggregated data by sex, ethnicity, religion and any relevant conflict-related variables on dropout rate
  - safety measures for female students to be able to access schools, including measures to protect women and girls in education institutions
  - measures to ensure access to education for girls and women living in IDP camps
  - provision and effectiveness of re-entry policy for girls who drop out of school/higher
  - education institutions due to conflict, including for female ex-combatants and children living in camps and jails
  - scholarships in place for marginalised women and women affected by conflict, including women IDPs and ex-combatants

CEDAW has advised the State party to continue to coordinate all activities with stakeholders from the international humanitarian and development communities to secure funding for the restoration of the schools that were occupied and damaged during the conflict and ensure a comprehensive approach integrating a gender perspective in the provision of teaching materials and facilities such as sanitary conveniences. It has further recommended to ensure the safe return of teachers and students, including women and girls, to school; and develop plans to restore and strengthen access to education, including for internally displaced children, giving particular attention to girls' needs, in all regions of the State party  
**(Central African Republic, 2014)**

<sup>14</sup> Include budget/resource allocation for capacity building and facilitation of women's participation in elections as candidates and voters.

<sup>15</sup> Include restrictions on registration and fundraising by NGOs/CSOs working on women's human rights.



- availability and effectiveness of policies and measures for adult education advancement (for conflict-affected communities)
  - budget allocation to rebuild schools affected by conflict
2. Has the peacebuilding and peace maintenance subject been included in the curricula? Is human rights, peacebuilding and peace maintenance, including equal rights, non-discrimination and non-stereotyping, integrated in course curricula at all levels?
  3. How has the government responded to interruptions to the schooling of rural children, due to military bombardment, burning of schools or the use of school buildings as evacuation centres?
  4. Is there budgetary allocation for rebuilding of schools destroyed during conflict?

### Employment (Article 11)

1. What measures are available to ensure women's access to livelihood during conflict? What are the measures to prevent exploitation of women's work in conflict?
2. How do post-conflict strategies promote women's rights to employment, on a basis of equality between men and women? Include the following considerations:
  - Are women also considered the primary income earners in income policy design and employment creation? Do female-headed households get equal benefit in post-conflict employment opportunities?
  - What is the percentage of secured employment available to women?
  - Are there measures to eliminate discrimination and violence against women in the workplace, and to reduce politicisation of cases that could provoke more violence?
  - Is there state-assisted care work for women?
3. What has been done to ensure women's economic literacy, to promote human rights education for women and to encourage non-traditional employment? How effective have these activities been?
4. How do post-conflict strategies promote the advancement of women from vulnerable groups to also benefit from employment opportunities?
5. How has the government dealt with discriminatory policies and practices related to groups that have been stigmatised/labelled due to conflict? Are there affirmative measures for women from marginalised and stigmatised groups to access employment opportunities, including but not limited to women from armed groups, IDPs and ex-combatants?
6. What measures are in place to ensure that women who are affected by conflict benefit from employment opportunities in post-conflict situations?

CEDAW has urged the State party to strengthen its efforts to provide women affected by the conflict, including women with disabilities, widows and women heads of households, with sustainable economic opportunities and effectively address all barriers to women's equitable participation in the labour market; and develop economic recovery strategies which promote gender equality as a necessary precondition for a sustainable post-conflict economy

**(Syria, 2014)**

7. What are the programmes available to integrate women affected by conflict who work in high-risk employment sectors, e.g. sex workers and migrants?
8. Have any bilateral or multilateral policies or programmes been undertaken to ensure women's participation in conflict-sensitive economic recovery and related decision making? These might include labour agreements, trade policies, restoring livelihoods and infrastructures.
9. Have the government and relevant stakeholders taken special measures for capacity building of minority women in conflict-affected areas in order to ensure their equal access to the process and benefits of peace programmes?
10. How has the conflict disproportionately affected the situation of minorities, particularly of women? Please consider the impact of conflict on the deliverance of public services and how the situation affects minority women in comparison to women in general, such as in the areas of civic registration, healthcare, education and employment. Please provide segregated data by sex and other relevant variables.

## Health (Article 12)

1. What measures have been undertaken to ensure women's and girls' access to healthcare facilities and programmes in conflict-affected communities? Please provide data and your analysis of:
  - availability of health centres, availability of adequate medical equipment and availability of female medical practitioners and healthcare staff
  - availability and accessibility of sexual and reproductive healthcare, including access to information, psychosocial support, family planning programmes, maternal health services, safe abortion services and post-abortion care, as well as HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment and support
  - programmes to provide free (or at least affordable) health services
  - facilities and programmes available in disputed territories
2. Are quality trauma-healing and other psychosocial services for women integrated in the health service? Are the services appropriate, accessible and effective for women victims of conflict-related sexual and other gender-based violence?
3. Has there been monitoring of accessibility and quality of health services? Have there been measures to prevent discrimination against women from stigmatised groups accessing healthcare services due to conflict?





CEDAW has expressed concern at the precarious situation of rural women, who often bear a disproportionate burden in conflict situations as their rights to productivity, livelihood and access to land are regularly violated in conflict. The Committee has expressed further concerns at the lack of information on any initiatives aiming at assisting and supporting rural women affected by the conflict in the State party. The Committee has urged the State party to pay due attention to the negative impact of the conflict on rural women and ensure that their specific needs are addressed and that they have equal access to basic services; and to design specific interventions to leverage opportunities for their economic empowerment and ensure that they are involved in the design of those strategies and programmes and in their

monitoring  
**(Syria, 2014)**

## Rural Women (Article 14)

1. How are humanitarian and development activities of various stakeholders coordinated in the fields of education, employment and health for rural women?
2. What policies/programmes are available for economic empowerment of rural women in conflict areas?
3. In what ways does the State promote representation and leadership roles of rural women in peacebuilding and in post- conflict reconstruction and political processes?
4. How does the State ensure that information about policies and programmes reach rural women and minority women in post-conflict situations? Are they readily available to rural women?
5. Are there policy mechanisms to provide security to rural and community women leaders?
6. What measures are taken by the State to prevent trafficking and to enable safe migration of rural women living in conflict affected areas? These might include provision of employment opportunities, social security, etc.
7. How does the State prevent recruitment of underage girls from conflict areas as migrant workers?<sup>16</sup>
8. Are affordable and accessible healthcare, including reproductive and sexual health and mental health services, available to rural women in conflict-affected areas? Are these services freely available to internally displaced and refugee women? Is data available on the maternal mortality rates in conflict-affected rural areas?
9. What policy measures are available for rural women who are displaced? What compensatory and rehabilitation mechanisms are available, including for their lost property/land?
10. Are there any policies and measures for the benefit of 'conflict widows'? How is information about such policies publicised to make them accessible?
11. Are credit facilities available to rural women living in conflict situations? How effective are such policies in improving the lives of women?

<sup>16</sup> Include trafficking in the guise of marriage as well as employment.

12. Are there any gender impact assessments of mining and other development projects in conflict areas? How do such projects particularly impact the livelihood and land resources of rural and indigenous communities? What protective/preventive measures are taken by the State to eliminate negative impacts of development projects on women, particularly on indigenous women? What are the responsibilities in this regard of non-state actors as per law/policy? How does the State deal with its extraterritorial obligation with respect to rights of indigenous communities violated by multinational corporations in conflict-affected areas?
13. Are there adequate and gender-sensitive measures/programmes in place to support women-headed households in conflict-affected areas?

CEDAW has recommended the State party to guarantee to the internally displaced persons and the Central African refugees the right to return to their places of residence and to other benefits as nationals of the Central African Republic; take measures, including by securing the places of origin of IDPs, to ensure their safe return; and provide internally displaced women with security and access to basic services and food, and ensure that accountability services are available for victims of sexual and other forms of violence

**(Central African Republic, 2014)**

## Displacement, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (Refer also to General Recommendation 32)

1. Does the State recognise IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers in the national laws as well as in the conflict-related policies? Are there measures to prevent forced displacement?
2. Does the State have a gender-sensitive monitoring mechanism on the situation of IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers?
  - Does the State have regularly updated information and disaggregated data about IDPs' camps, refugees and asylum seekers? What is the source of this data/information?
  - Does the State monitor incidents of discrimination and violence against women, including sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and child marriage amongst IDPs, refugees, and asylum seekers? Have any cases been reported?
  - How does the State respond to the monitoring results? Have the responses been effective in preventing and handling cases of discrimination and violence?
  - Are there accountability mechanisms for the State and other agencies working with IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers?
3. What kinds of policies exist to protect women IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers?
  - Are there safeguards available to vulnerable groups?
  - How does the government ensure non-discrimination against minorities in the camps?



- Is there any mechanism to protect their property or to get compensation for losing property?
  - Is there any effort to strengthen inter-agency coordination among State agencies to protect the rights of IDPs/refugees/asylum seekers?
  - What is the State's support for the establishment and maintenance of a GBV referral network in the camps?
4. How does the situation in the IDP camps increase women's vulnerability to violence and/or discrimination?
    - What is the situation and infrastructure in the camps? What services are available? Do the camps consider the needs of women, including women with disabilities and elderly women?
    - Are there safe spaces for women in camps and private spaces for bathing and sleeping?
    - Do the government and other parties working with IDPs and refugees provide basic housing for displaced families, and are they sensitive to women's needs?
    - Is healthcare, including sexual and reproductive healthcare, available and accessible to all women in IDP and refugee camps?
    - Are there food/cash-for-work policies that discriminate against women from specific groups who live in the IDP and refugee camps?
  5. Does the State cooperate effectively with other parties in handling the situation of IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers, with special attention to the vulnerabilities of women? In the context of refugees, what is the relationship between the State and UNHCR and other relevant organisations? Does the State give access to NGOs and media to monitor the situation in the camps?
  6. What measures do the State and other parties develop to promote leadership of women IDPs, refugees and asylum seekers? Are women involved in decision-making processes in their camps, in developing recovery systems, resettlement, etc.?
  7. What are the policies and measures of reintegration undertaken by the State that reduce community segregation and possible conflict between IDPs/refugees and the local people, and instead promote sustainable peace?
  8. How does the State deal with third-party countries when there is an influx of migrants and refugees? Has there been any bilateral dialogue to address the sociopolitical problems in dealing with refugee crises?



## Nationality and Statelessness (Article 9) (Refer also to General Recommendation 32)

1. What is the situation of stateless persons, particularly women and girls, in your country?
  - What is the number of stateless persons in your country? Please provide disaggregated data.
  - How do stateless persons, particularly women and girls, access education, health services, resettlement programmes, etc.?
2. Does your country have laws, policies and measures to protect the rights of stateless people? What is the State's definition of stateless persons?
  - What are the factors contributing to statelessness in your country?
  - Does the State recognise women as individuals and heads of household in its programmes for stateless people?
  - How does the State facilitate stateless persons to seek civic registration without discrimination?
  - How does the State facilitate stateless people's access to basic rights? Are there affirmative measures for ensuring the rights of stateless women?
  - What measures does the State take to reduce stigma against stateless persons?
3. What are the measures adopted, in relation to women's rights to nationality, to prevent statelessness among children born in the country, including children of single mothers who became pregnant due to conflict-related sexual violence?
4. Please provide your analysis of the State's measures on reintegration and resettlement of stateless persons. How have the measures promoted the advancement of women's rights?
5. Does the State have monitoring mechanisms on the situation of stateless persons, particularly women and girls? Is there any independent group to investigate the situation?
6. How does the State address issues of stateless persons being denied their rights? Have the responses been effective?
7. Is there any discriminatory provision against women in the nationality law of your country? Are there any processes to review policies relating to stateless persons and equal rights to nationality?

CEDAW has urged the State party to ensure that all children, including girls, born on the territory of the State party are registered at birth, paying particular attention to the registration of internally displaced girls and boys; ensure, through its consulates and in cooperation with the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, that Central African refugee children born in foreign countries are registered at birth; and that women and their children will be provided with valid travel documents; and amend its Nationality Law to ensure that Central African women can transfer their nationality to their foreign husband on an equal basis as Central African men married to a foreign wife, in line with article 9 of the Convention  
**(Central African Republic, 2014)**

## Marriage and Family Relations (Article 16)

1. Does the State have disaggregated data on women in the conflict-affected community by status of marriage?
2. Has the data been used to develop any policy and livelihood-specific support programmes for women, including those who have lost their husbands in conflict and experienced violence?
3. What are the institutional mechanisms for implementation and monitoring laws and policies regarding the women's rights situation in marriage and family relations in conflict-affected areas? Have there been responsive programmes to ensure access to civic registration, including marriage and divorce of women living in conflict-affected areas or in conflict-affected communities?
4. What are the mechanisms to ensure women's active role, including at the level of decision making in determining programmes for family welfare in post-conflict rehabilitation?
5. Do female heads of household have equal access to and receive equal benefits from conflict relief programmes provided for families?
6. Is there any gender-sensitive legislation to guarantee that women affected by conflict can claim their rights to inheritance and land? What is the implementation mechanism for such law?
7. Does the legislation cover enforced disappearances whereby families have no death certificate, so that the wives can legally access inheritance and other benefits such as compensation?
8. What are the measures undertaken by the State to prevent, investigate, and punish gender-based violations in conflict-affected areas in relation to marriage and family relations, including forced abortion, forced sterilisation and sexual exploitation?
9. Is there any policy and reintegration support programme for women exploited by forced marriage and temporary marriage by armed groups, including the military? Is there any justice mechanism to make perpetrators accountable for their actions?
10. Are there discriminatory laws or practices that restrict the remarriage of women who are widowed and divorced in times of conflict?
11. What are the sensitive measures developed to ensure family reunions of children, including girls, who have been forcibly recruited by the military or armed groups?

CEDAW has expressed concerns on the increase of child and/or forced marriages under the pretext to better protect girls and to reduce the financial pressure of families, often resulting in rape; and difficulties faced by married women whose husbands have gone missing to escape from conflict-affected areas together with their children, due to child custody restrictions not allowing them to travel with their children without the consent of their father or guardian. The Committee has therefore recommended the State party to repeal all discriminatory provisions contained in the Syrian Personal Status Law, in particular those related to unequal rights of women and men to marriage, divorce, custody, inheritance, polygamy and child and/or forced marriages

**(Syria, 2014)**

Similarly, the Committee has expressed concern on the forced recruitment of women and girls, sexual slavery and forced marriages perpetrated by armed groups

**(Central African Republic, 2014)**

## Security Sector Reforms (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR)

1. Has the government set up a mechanism for security sector reforms? If yes, have women participated in it?
2. Is the DDR programme developed within the framework of SSR? Is it gender- and age-sensitive? Is there adequate budgetary support for its implementation?
3. Has the government developed and implemented strategies to increase participation and leadership of women within armed forces, police services, defence institutions, penal systems and the judiciary?
4. How many women have taken part in formal peace negotiations? How many women represented the State at peace negotiations?
5. What steps are taken to increase women's representation and participation at all levels of peace processes, including design and implementation of programmes? Are women's human rights defenders and women's organisations included in the SSR?
6. How have external agencies in the country ensured women's participation in the disarmament process?
7. How does the State ensure the participation of women ex-combatants in DDR programmes? Are there any specific measures to support reintegration of ex-combatant women into family and community?
8. Is disaggregated data available on the condition of former women combatants?
9. Are there any skill development programmes for ex-combatant women? How do DDR programmes ensure such programmes are not gender-stereotyped?
10. Are adequate compensatory packages available to women ex-combatants? Are they discriminatory? What are the other policies for women ex-combatants?
11. What preventive steps are taken in DDR processes so that women ex-combatants do not remain in exploitative situations and are not exploited in new conditions due to social stigma, economic disempowerment or isolation?
12. What is the percentage of women ex-combatants integrated into national security forces during the reintegration of military/militias? Do they have equal opportunities for career improvement?
13. What kind of health services, including for sexual and reproductive healthcare, are available to former women combatants? Who provides these services?
14. What strategies are used to prevent the recruitment of children/girls in armed groups? How are girl/child soldiers reintegrated?
15. Does the curriculum of the military school integrate gender-sensitive addressing of violence against women? Is human rights education included in the training curriculum of the security sector?
16. Does the government follow security sector vetting processes to exclude perpetrators from employment in the security sector? Do DDR processes ensure that former combatants who were perpetrators of gender-based violence are not integrated into the security sector?



17. Are there mandatory provisions for gender-sensitive investigation and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence by security forces? How effective are those provisions? How effective and transparent are the military courts in trying gender-based violence, including sexual violence? Can security personnel who perpetuate sexual violence be tried under the general judicial process? Is data related to prosecution available?
18. Are crimes against women included in transitional justice mechanisms? Are they justiciable without amnesties?
19. How does the State ensure the accountability of military contractors in conflict zones?
20. Is the military deployed in civilian areas? If yes, under what circumstances?
21. How do SSR foster a violence-free and non-discriminatory work environment in order to increase participation, retention and promotion of female personnel?
22. What are the indicators for monitoring the handling of discrimination and violence against women by the security agencies?
23. How does the State engage the entire spectrum of actors in SSR, including the customary and religious leaders, private military and security agencies in DDR?
24. Is any gendered impact analysis of the arms trade, including small arms, conducted by the State?

### Constitutional and Electoral Reforms (Articles 1-5a, 7 & 15)

1. Does the new constitution enshrine the principles of equality between women and men and of non-discrimination, in line with the Convention?
2. What measures were taken to ensure that women were involved in post-conflict electoral reforms and constitution building/drafting processes? List TSMs adopted to accelerate de facto equality of women's participation in reforms. How many women were part of the constitution drafting process?
3. Is there wider discrimination against former combatants and those linked to armed groups in political participation? Is there any restriction on former armed combatants/sympathisers to form or join political parties?
4. Have women ex-combatants participated in the constitution drafting process? If not, how were their perspectives included in the process?
5. What measures were taken to ensure enhanced political

CEDAW has urged the State party to adopt a holistic security sector reform framework which incorporates a gender-sensitive and gender-responsive perspective and aims at capacity building for the security forces in full respect of human rights and respect for the rule of law; and ensure that the security sector reform is subject to inclusive oversight and accountability mechanisms with sanctions; and to provide systematic training on human rights, in particular on women's rights, to all law enforcement officials, the military and other armed forces involved in security operations and establish and enforce a strict code of conduct so as to effectively guarantee respect for human rights

**(Iraq, 2014)**

participation of women, both as candidates and as voters in the post-conflict context? These may include gender-responsive electoral systems, gender-sensitive codes of conduct for elections, accessible polling stations, adoption of TSMS to enhance participation of women as candidates, quotas, registration of voters, prevention of violence against women candidates and voters, and proportional representation in the electoral system.

6. Is there a zero tolerance policy against targeted violence against women candidates or voters by State or non-state actors? What steps are taken to prevent intimidation and violence against women candidates and voters – including barring women from contesting or voting – and to ensure the safety and security of women candidates? Is there any legal provision to punish the guilty?
7. Is there any discriminatory law (provision) against non-citizens in the new constitution?
8. Are there any provisions in the constitution that indirectly discriminate against women from rural and conflict-affected areas and other disadvantaged women? (Points to consider: age limit, minimum educational qualification, non-citizens, customary laws, IDP, etc.)
9. What steps are taken to ensure that women and men living in conflict-affected areas are able to cast their votes without fear?





## Access to Justice (Refer also to General Recommendation 33)

1. What measures have been taken by justice sectors to end impunity for conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence? If an informal system of justice operates in the absence of formal mechanisms, how does the State ensure that this mechanism is not discriminatory against women?
2. What is the gender-sensitive procedure adopted for women to access justice? How is the confidentiality of victims protected and investigation and prosecution by women officials ensured?
3. What measures have been taken by security (or law enforcement) and justice sectors to end impunity for gender-based violence in relation to the establishment of conflict resolution mechanisms?
  - To what extent have sexual and other forms of gender-based violence been investigated and prosecuted by any established mechanisms to resolve conflict, such as truth and reconciliation commissions, or the court?
  - To what extent are they prosecuted as elements of genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity?
  - Are the laws and policies referred by these mechanisms compliant with international standards?
  - What measures are undertaken to build the capacity of law enforcers in order to firmly prosecute gender-based violence?
  - How does the State ensure the victims' access to the judicial and non-judicial processes?
  - Are reliable victim and witness protection and support systems in place to raise the victims' confidence in the processes?
  - Is there adequate budget allocation for ensuring access to justice for women victims of conflict-related violence?
4. How have the transitional justice (TJ) mechanisms ensured the inclusion of women and addressed gender-based violations in their design and implementation?
  - How do the State and other relevant parties ensure that women are equally represented in TJ mechanisms?
  - How do TJ mechanisms address the gendered impact of war on women?
  - How does the NHRI respond to GBV cases in conflict situations? What support has it offered to the victims and the community?
  - How does the TRC or any other similar mechanism respond to sexual violence committed against women during conflict? What is the procedure for the implementation of TRC decisions?
  - How does the State ensure inclusive consultation with women's groups affected by the conflict when setting up the processes of temporary judicial and non-judicial mechanisms to deal with gender-sensitive cases, including through TJ hybrid systems and tribunals?

5. Have remedies and reparations been available, adequate, effective and timely for victims of conflict-related sexual violence and other gender-based violence? What measures are undertaken to eradicate stigma and support the reintegration process of women survivors in their community? Are the complaint mechanisms on this matter available and accessible to women victims?
6. Are any cases reported related to attacks on and persecution of minority groups in conflict-affected areas? Is there any independent group to investigate the situation? Please provide segregated data by sex and other relevant variables.
7. What kind of mechanisms exist to handle complaints related to attacks and persecution of minority groups, particularly against the women? Please provide your analysis regarding the effectiveness of the mechanisms.
8. What reforms to the legal and judicial sectors have been undertaken to ensure access to justice and redress for conflict-related sexual violence and other gender-based violence?

- Have the reforms addressed the root causes and consequences of gender-based violence in the conflict situation and of discrimination in access to justice?
- Is there adequate budget allocated to ensure women's access to justice, including provision of free legal aid and any social services needed by the victims?
- Have there been adequate measures to increase the number of female law enforcers and their appointment to high-rank positions in the judiciary system?
- Has the standard of operation for handling cases, including victim protection and referral systems, been improved in consultation with women survivors?
- What is the mechanism to monitor the progress of legal and judicial sector reforms and to implement the monitoring results?

9. How has cooperation with various parties, including foreign governments or UN agencies, improved State accountability for conflict-related sexual violence and other forms of gender-based violence?
10. What measures has the State developed to ensure the non-recurrence of conflict and conflict-related gender-based violence and discrimination? Please provide your analysis of the effectiveness of these measures.

CEDAW has expressed concerns that many recommendations made by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) are yet to be implemented, and that reparation for victims of the civil war, including women victims of sexual violence, thus far, have been inadequate. The Committee has requested the State party to allocate sufficient resources to implementing the TRC recommendations in relation to women and girls war victims to ensure their full rehabilitation, reintegration into society, and compensation through the reparation programme.

**(Sierra Leone, 2014)**





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