



ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS SEXUAL DISARMAMENT IN ARMED CONFLICT

Sexual violence is an international crime, which continues to be perpetrated in the context of too many international conflicts, where it is used as a tactic of war. As Congolese activist Caddy Adzuba has repeatedly denounced, through sexual violence, war is waged on women's bodies, tearing them, their families and their communities apart.

International law has enshrined an absolute prohibition and an obligation to prosecute and punish these crimes, which must not go unpunished. The reality, however, is that the investigation and punishment of these crimes face multiple obstacles. Despite advances in the legal field and the creation of international criminal tribunals, whose jurisdiction covers these crimes, the fact remains that impunity continues to be the general rule.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019) ended the unanimity and showed that the danger of regression in relation to the recognition of both the rights of survivors and the specificity of this type of violence is very real.

In this context, the approval of the first NATO Policy on Sexual Violence in Conflict is a very relevant milestone. In the case of Spain, this step forward by NATO is in line with our country's commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, which is a fundamental element of the feminist foreign policy concept to which Spain has adhered, and to human security contemplated in the National Defence Directive 2020, that according to the External Action Strategy (2021-2024), must be placed at the centre of the agenda.

The objective of this conference is to analyse and raise awareness of the need to prevent and combat sexual violence in armed conflicts. We will have the testimony of activists committed to the fight against sexual violence in their respective countries ; and we will also have the opportunity to debate and reflect on how to prevent and eradicate this scourge with government, international organisations and civil society organisations representatives.



CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

21 JUNE 2021

10.00 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, President of Fundación Mujeres por África

Arancha González Laya, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation

Ricardo Mairal Usón, Rector of UNED

Margarita Robles, Minister of Defence

10.30 PRESENTATION OF NATO'S POLICY ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Clare Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

Miguel Fernández-Palacios, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain in the North Atlantic Council (NATO).

11.00 TESTIMONIES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

Shukria Dini, Somali Women's Studies Centre, Somalia

Amal Khreishe, General Director of Palestinian Working Woman Society for Development, Palestine, member of Karama

Kamilia Ibrahim, Founder and Chairperson for Nuba Women's Education and Development Association (NuWEDA); Member of Karama, Sudan

Moderator: María Angustias Caracuel Raya, President of ADESyD; Director of *Spanish Women in International Security* (SWIIS).



12.30 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

LtGral Birame Diop, Former Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Armed Forces

Alicia Cebada, Director of WPS Program, Women for Africa Foundation; Associate Professor of Public International Law at University Carlos III

Ana Helena Chacón, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Spain

Moderator: Ana Belén Perianes, Postdoctoral Researcher at Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado (IUGM)

14.00-16.00 LUNCH

16.00 TESTIMONIES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY

Mouna Ghanem, Founder and Director of the Syrian Women's Forum for Peace; Member of Karama, Syria

Suzan Aref, Founder and Director of the Organization for Women's Empowerment; Member of Karama, Iraq

Paula Barrios, General Coordinator of Mujeres Transformando el Mundo and
Demecia Yat, Grandmother of Sepur Zarco and Colectiva Jalok U, Guatemala

Moderator: Andrea Arrieta Ruiz, Doctoral Researcher at Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado (IUGM)



17.00 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

Lcol Juan José Lucero, Permanent Secretariat of the Observatorio Militar para la Igualdad

Lcol. Silvia Gil, Chief of the Teruel Command, Guardia Civil

Koussay Boulaich, Adviser to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs for Ibero-America and the Caribbean

Moderator: Alicia Alted Vigil, Director of Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado, Full Professor of Contemporary History, UNED

19.00 CLOSING SESSION

Alicia Cebada Romero, Director of the WPS Program, Fundación Mujeres por África

Rosa Martín Aranda, Vicerrectora Primera y de Investigación, Transferencia del Conocimiento y Divulgación Científica de la UNED

Juan Francisco Martínez Núñez, Secretary General of Defence Policy (Ministry of Defence)

Registration info@igm.uned.es

Only those registered will receive a link to join the Zoom meeting

The event will be livestreamed on **Canal UNED** (<https://canal.uned.es/live/event/60ab8b36b609237b8a2d0b85>) with simultaneous translation in english and spanish.

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