

# Summit Report



**END** **SEXUAL**  
**VIOLENCE**  
**IN CONFLICT**  
**GLOBAL SUMMIT**  
**LONDON 2014**



# Summit Report

## THE GLOBAL SUMMIT TO END **SEXUAL** VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT LONDON 2014

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**“Thousands of members of the public... taking part in events around the world, around the clock, to make this truly a summit like no other.”**

**Rt Hon William Hague MP**



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## Foreword



**“We believe the time has come to end the use of rape in war once and for all, and we believe it can be done”**

**Rt Hon William Hague MP**

## From 10 - 13 June 2014, we had the privilege to co-host in London the largest ever summit convened with the aim of ending sexual violence in conflict.

Over 120 countries attended, many at Ministerial level, as did over 900 experts from around the world. We invited multilateral institutions including the United Nations, African Union and European Union, faith leaders, as well as hundreds of civil society organisations. Unusually for a major international summit the doors were open to the general public, allowing thousands of people to join us and take part in 175 events in the Summit Fringe.

The Summit was the latest milestone in the campaign – the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) – which we launched together in 2012. We share a deep conviction that the international community must do more to tackle rape and other forms of sexual violence in war, not only as a moral imperative but also as a matter of fundamental importance to peace and security. Where sexual violence occurs in conflict it undermines ceasefires, triggers refugee flows and condemns victims to lives of poverty – all of which put peace and lasting reconciliation further out of reach. But far too often the taboo surrounding these crimes leads to a culture of impunity, where the survivors, not the attackers, face shame and isolation.

We have been fortunate to have been able to draw on a considerable body of expertise since the launch of PSVI, and are grateful to the many governments, UN agencies, policy makers and practitioners, civil society

representatives, legal experts and academics who have provided invaluable advice and support as we have sought to put the issue of sexual violence in conflict at the heart of the international policy agenda. We would like to thank in particular the Under Secretary-General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Mrs Zainab Hawa Bangura, and her team who have contributed hugely to the success of the PSVI campaign.

We are very proud of what we all collectively achieved at the Summit. Holding an event at this level was, in itself, a major milestone in breaking the international silence on this subject. And by bringing the world's foremost experts in the field together with the top international decision-makers, we have all helped to generate the long-overdue international political will necessary to end acts of sexual violence in conflict.

We are determined now to focus on practical action to implement the outcomes from the Summit. These include implementing the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, providing better protection and assistance to human rights defenders working to address these crimes on the ground, encouraging more practical support for specific conflict-affected countries, and promoting the inclusion of women in peace and reconciliation processes as the norm rather than the exception. There is also an

**“We must send a message around the world that there is no disgrace in being a survivor of sexual violence, that the shame is with the aggressor”**

**Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees**



urgent need to support survivors of sexual violence and those vulnerable to exploitation and abuse.

The breadth and depth of discussion in the expert, Ministerial and Fringe meetings was inspirational. We encourage you to read the records of these discussions which are available in full at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict>. We urge you to consider how you can put into action the many recommendations that were made. If there is one resounding message that we should all take from the four days of the Summit and which echoed throughout each meeting, it is this: overcoming the prevailing societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate the subordination of women and girls and

prevent their full participation in all areas of life is critical to challenging the culture of impunity for sexual violence crimes and its acceptance as an inevitable by-product of war. We all have an obligation to tackle the root causes and drivers of sexual and gender-based violence as essential part of our fight against sexual violence in conflict.

We are hugely grateful to everyone who took part in the Summit and supported the campaign as international leaders, practitioners, subject matter experts, and as interested members of the public. As we develop the campaign into its next phase, we hope we can rely on your continued support.



**Rt Hon William Hague MP**

Prime Minister's Special Representative  
on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

Co-Founder of PSVI



**Angelina Jolie**

Special Envoy of the UN High  
Commissioner for Refugees

Co-Founder of PSVI

# Introduction



**“We have the tools, political momentum and clarity of purpose to turn the tide of this crime”**

**Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations**

From 10-13 June 2014, the then UK Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, William Hague, and the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie, co-hosted the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (the Summit). This document summarises the discussions at the Summit and the recommendations from those who participated, as well as the commitments made and outcomes achieved. Annexed to this report is the Chair's Summary presented on the closing day of the Summit (Annex A).

On 14 July the UK Prime Minister appointed William Hague as his Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict. In this role William Hague will continue to work with the Special Envoy and with Summit participants and interested parties from around the world to promote and implement the September 2013 Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and the commitments made at the Summit to deliver further practical action.

However, success cannot be achieved by a single country or organisation acting alone. It will take the collective international effort of governments, international organisations, militaries, parliaments, civil society groups and individuals, including survivors. It is only by working together that we can bring about the change in global attitudes that will remove the culture of impunity that exists for these crimes and see an end to the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war once and for all.

**#TIMETOACT**  
TO END SEXUAL VIOLENCE  
IN CONFLICT

**1**  
GLOBAL SUMMIT

**120+** COUNTRIES

**4** DAYS

**84** HOURS OF  
GLOBAL ACTION

**100+**  
NGOs &  
INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERS

**70** MINISTERS

**175**  
FREE PUBLIC EVENTS  
IN LONDON

**630+** GOVERNMENT DELEGATES

**900** REGISTERED EXPERTS,  
INCLUDING HEALTH, LEGAL, MILITARY  
AND ACADEMIC PROFESSIONS

**6,000 m<sup>2</sup>**  
OF INTERACTIVE EXHIBITIONS,  
CINEMA, PERFORMANCE  
AND MARKETPLACE

**AND YOU?**

**ExCel London 10-13 June**  
Get inspired, get involved, have your say  
[gov.uk/endsexualviolenceinconflict2014](http://gov.uk/endsexualviolenceinconflict2014)

**#TIMETOACT**

**“THE USE OF  
RAPE AS A  
WEAPON OF  
WAR IS ONE  
OF THE GREAT  
INJUSTICES  
OF OUR TIME”**

**Angelina Jolie**  
UN Special Envoy

Join Angelina Jolie, William Hague,  
global leaders and charities at  
ExCel London, public dates 10-12 June

## FREE PUBLIC EVENTS

OPEN ALL DAY - Performances - Debates  
Gallery - Silent Cinema - Marketplace

Event Programme: [gov.uk/endsexualviolenceinconflict2014](http://gov.uk/endsexualviolenceinconflict2014)

 End Sexual Violence In Conflict |  @END\_SVC

Some content may not be suitable for under 16s

**END  
SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE  
IN CONFLICT**

**GLOBAL SUMMIT  
LONDON 2014**

**#TIMETOACT**

### Why a Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict?

Where rape is used for political ends, including as a means of ethnic cleansing and terrorising local populations, it destroys lives, fuels conflict, creates refugee flows, jeopardises ceasefires and undermines the long-term prospects for reconciliation. Sexual violence is indiscriminate, affecting men and boys as well as women and girls. Victims can face a life of shame, stigma and ostracism, while the perpetrators go free, protected by a culture of impunity.

The overwhelming majority of survivors of sexual violence in conflict never see justice for the abuses they have endured. Where such injustices go unpunished they become part of the cycle of violence that perpetuates conflict. All too often, rape and other forms of sexual violence have been considered as inevitable consequences of war, and a 'lesser crime' compared with other grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions such as torture and extra-judicial killings. As a result, procedures for investigating and documenting acts of sexual violence committed in conflict have often proved inadequate, survivors regularly fail to be given appropriate support, peace and security efforts have been pursued with little regard for sexual and gender-based violence, and strategic international

co-ordination to address both their cause and effect has been limited. Justice systems, too, are often ill-equipped to respond to cases of sexual violence, thereby limiting the number of successful prosecutions and reinforcing the culture of impunity.

The Summit was envisioned as a platform to bring together the world's leading experts with the world's top decision-makers to address these issues. Two years on from the launch of PSVI, the Summit was an opportunity to reflect on progress achieved so far and to identify what further practical actions by governments and other participants are needed to deliver fundamental and long-lasting change on the ground. In organising the Summit we sought to use the innovative format of the event to open up the debate, allow the widest participation possible and, in recognition of their critical contribution to decision-making, give particular prominence to the voices of survivors. We also sought to use the Summit Fringe and other public events as a means to bring civil society and the public into the policy-making process, and through the UK's network of diplomatic missions around the world to engage otherwise unheard voices from across the globe in this discussion.

# The history of the PSVI campaign



**“Sexual violence in conflict knows no geographical borders; it knows no gender or age limits”**

**Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary General and Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict**

In recent years there has been growing international recognition of the critical need to address sexual violence in conflict. Through a series of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) the United Nations has repeatedly condemned and called for the end to all forms of sexual violence against women and children in situations of armed conflict and made clear their link to wider international conflict prevention efforts. States, the UN, NGOs, the International Criminal Court and medical, social and legal practitioners have all made significant advances in prevention, protection and survivor support. But despite these efforts, sexual violence in armed conflict has continued to occur, often reaching appalling and frequent levels of brutality.

Based firmly on the belief that the UK has the moral obligation and the diplomatic power to change this, on 29 May 2012 William Hague launched the PSVI campaign with the Special Envoy of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Angelina Jolie. The aim of the campaign is to raise awareness, rally global action, promote greater international coherence and increase the political will and capacity of states to do more to address the culture of impunity that exists for these crimes, to increase the number of perpetrators held to account and to ensure better support for survivors.

In 2013 William Hague undertook to use the UK's Presidency of the Group of Eight (G8) to ensure greater international attention and commitment to tackling the use of sexual violence in conflict through a clear political statement from the G8 of its determination to make real, tangible progress on the issue. On 11 April, accompanied by Angelina Jolie and the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG), Zainab Hawa Bangura, G8 Foreign Ministers adopted a historic Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict (Annex C). The Declaration contains a number of key political, practical and legal commitments. This includes agreement from G8 governments that there should be no peace agreements that give amnesty to people who have ordered or carried out

rape; that there should be no safe haven for perpetrators of sexual violence; that rape and serious sexual violence in armed conflict constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions, meaning that there is an obligation for states to search for and prosecute suspects regardless of nationality; and that there should be new efforts to ensure support and justice for survivors. G8 Foreign Ministers also endorsed the development of a new International Protocol to improve global standards in documenting and investigating sexual violence committed in conflict.

Building on the success of the G8 Declaration, on 24 June 2013 William Hague hosted a debate during the UK's Presidency of the UN Security Council on tackling sexual violence in conflict which focused on the need to challenge the culture of impunity and promote accountability. A new UN Security Council Resolution (2106) which contains a series of actions to improve the UN response to sexual violence in conflict was adopted. This was the first resolution on the subject in three years and was co-sponsored by 46 UN member states.

Recognising the importance of broadening even further the international coalition of support behind the campaign, on 24 September 2013 William Hague and SRSG Bangura jointly launched the Declaration

## The Declaration is action oriented, ambitious and expresses a shared commitment and determination to see an end to the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war

of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (Annex D) during the 68th session of the UN General Assembly. The Declaration was drafted with a number of Heads of State, Heads of Government (the 'PSVI Champions') and Foreign Ministers from a range of countries who also worked alongside the UK to build wider support for the text. The Declaration is action oriented, ambitious and expresses a shared commitment and determination to see an end to the use of rape and sexual violence as weapons of war. It has a clear focus on tackling impunity and accountability but also contains a set of wider political and practical commitments – many of which were the focus of discussions at the Summit. States also reaffirm in the Declaration that rape and serious sexual violence in armed conflict are war crimes and constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions. From the 113 countries which endorsed the text at its launch, the Declaration has so far been endorsed by 155 UN member states. At the launch, William Hague invited all endorsing countries to join him at the Summit in June 2014 to identify how the international community could turn the provisions of the Declaration into a programme of practical action.

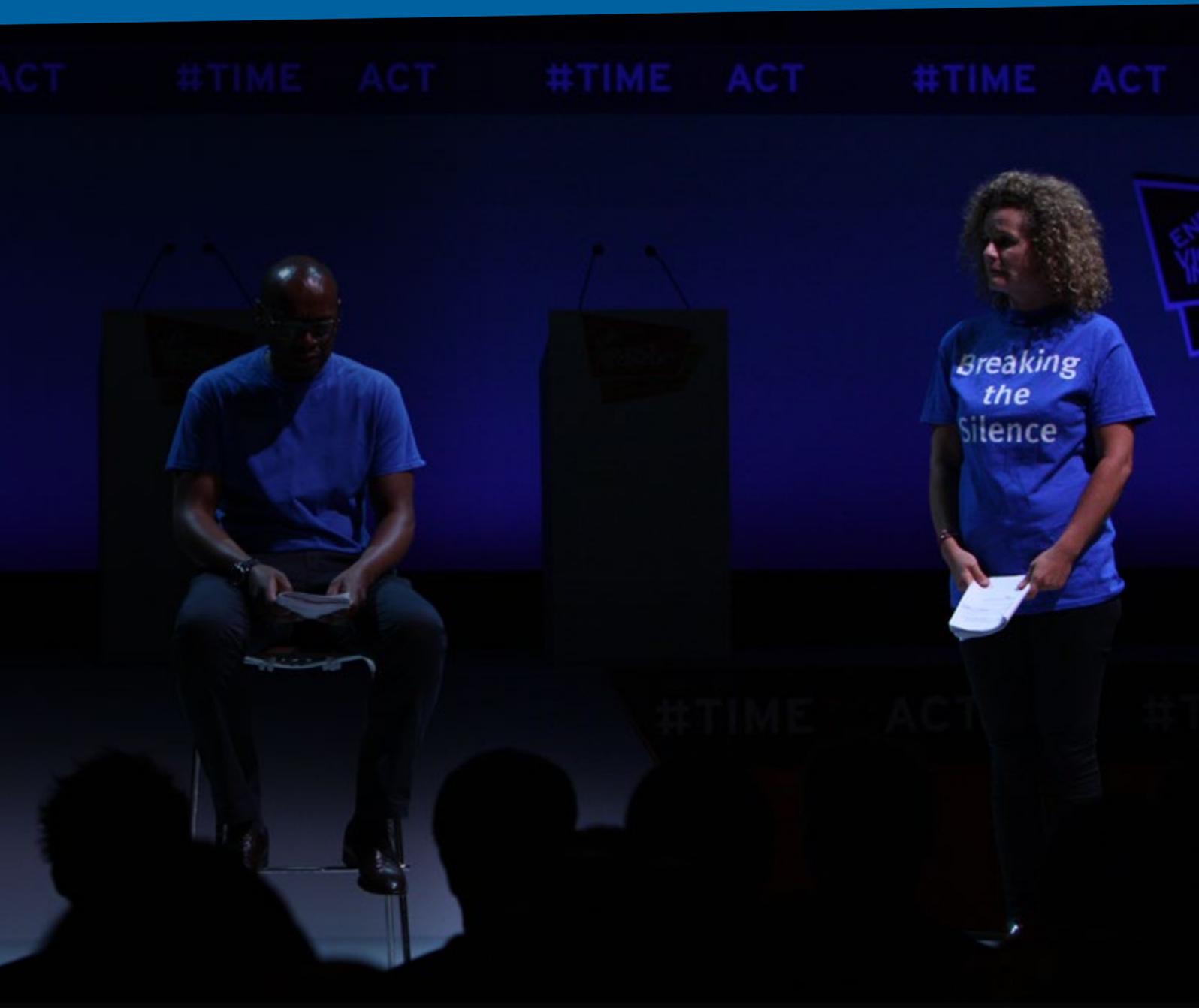
From the launch of PSVI there has also been a strong programme of practical action in a range of countries around the world. This includes deployments of members of a UK Team of Experts on sexual violence including to the Syrian borders to train Syrian health professionals and human rights defenders in how to document reports of sexual violence; to Bosnia-Herzegovina to support training of the judiciary by the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) to combat

impunity for wartime sexual violence crimes; to Mali to strengthen the capacity of the Malian armed forces to protect civilians from human rights violations including sexual and gender-based violence; to the DRC to build local capacity among Congolese health, legal and law enforcement professionals to investigate sexual violence crimes through documentation, collection and preservation of forensic evidence; and to Kosovo to deliver training to local participants on specific therapeutic issues such as sexual violence disclosure, rehabilitation needs for survivors and documentation of cases. Through their visits to the DRC and Bosnia-Herzegovina, William Hague and Angelina Jolie have seen these projects in action on the ground, as well as gaining a deeper understanding of the complexity of the issues around sexual violence in conflict which have informed the campaign's development. The UK has also provided financial and staff support to the UN, AU and other bodies. This includes £1 million to SRSG Bangura's office; £150,000 to the UN Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Children and Armed Conflict, whose mandate includes tackling sexual violence against children in conflict; approximately £800,000 to the AU's Gender, Peace and Security Programme to support the work of the AU Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security and the deployment of a multidisciplinary team of experts to the Central African Republic; and £1.5 million to the International Criminal Court's Trust Fund for Victims, which supports victims of sexual and gender-based violence to rebuild their lives. The UK has also provided funding to NGOs and other civil society organisations working with survivors and human rights defenders in conflict areas.

The UK has also led on the development of an International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict (the International Protocol), in collaboration with a range of global experts and practitioners. The International Protocol serves as a set of practical guidelines for those working to document incidents of sexual violence in conflict-affected areas and is particularly focused on embedding protection strategies throughout investigations to ensure survivors receive sensitive and sustained support should they choose to come forward. The International Protocol was launched at the Summit in June.

The UN, and particularly SRSG Bangura and her team, has played a central role at every step of the PSVI campaign, bringing their considerable expertise to bear in helping to shape the G8 Declaration and the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well the format, content and outcomes from the Summit. They have also provided invaluable advice on PSVI country activity, including through joint assessment visits to the DRC and Somalia. The PSVI campaign has also engaged with the wider UN system, including UN Action – the network of 13 UN entities designed to prevent all forms of gender-based violence – to ensure that our activity is in line with broader international goals and commitments.

## The Summit's objectives



The intention was firmly to cement the issue of sexual violence as an international policy priority

The purpose of the Summit was to create a sense of irreversible movement towards ending the use of rape and sexual violence in conflict through a set of practical agreements that brought together and focused the efforts of conflict and post-conflict affected countries, donors, the UN and other multilateral organisations, NGOs and civil society in an ambitious and cohesive programme for change. These ambitious goals were defined in line with a vision that the event should be a 'Summit like no other'.

In practice this meant an event on a scale unusual outside major UN-led international conferences, involving not only governments and international institutions but also civil society and the general public. The intention was firmly to cement the issue of sexual violence as an international policy priority in conflict prevention efforts and to give centre stage to those working directly on the issue.

In developing the G8 Declaration and the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and based on broad consultation with other governments, international organisations and NGOs, we had identified four specific areas where we believed greater action by the international community was necessary to address the issue of sexual violence in conflict. These four areas provide the overarching framework for the commitments in both Declarations. In developing the Summit, we were keen to ensure that it reflected these same four areas so that the outcomes from the Summit discussions would serve to implement the Declarations. These areas are:

- (i) Strengthening accountability and tackling impunity through stronger national and international justice and improved documentation and investigation of sexual violence crimes;
- (ii) Providing greater support, assistance and reparation for survivors, including child survivors, of sexual violence;

- (iii) Ensuring sexual and gender-based violence responses and the promotion of gender equality are fully integrated in all peace and security efforts, including security and justice sector reform; and
- (iv) Improving international strategic co-ordination to deliver a more effective multilateral response.

To this end, we encouraged participants to come to the Summit ready to discuss and commit to new actions in these areas, as well as to support various country-led and multilateral initiatives, through a focus on:

- (i) **The International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.** The Summit launched the new International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the aim of which is to improve accountability for sexual violence in conflict by capturing information and evidence that can be used to support future accountability processes. We asked Summit participants to announce their support for the basic principles and methods set out in the International Protocol and for states to support, facilitate and empower the documentation of sexual and gender-based violence crimes in accordance with these basic principles.

**“To end sexual violence in conflict is a great endeavour and at its heart stands the soldier and the choice that he will make... to be a protector or a perpetrator... I have deliberately excluded a third choice - to be a bystander while others commit sexual violence. There are no bystanders - the standard you walk past is the standard you accept”**

**Lieutenant General David Morrison,  
Chief of the Australian Army**

- (ii) **Legal reform.** We called on all states attending the Summit to make sure their domestic legislation allowed for the prosecution of international crimes including war crimes, crimes against humanity and/or acts constituent of genocide at the national level. We also encouraged participating states to interpret rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity as grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions on the grounds that this constitutes inhuman treatment. For States Parties to the Rome Statute who have not done so, this would mean moving forward with legislation to implement Rome Statute obligations and criminalise Rome Statute crimes. For others this could mean acceding to the Rome Statute and committing to enact the relevant legislation or enacting equivalent legislation.
- (iii) **Human Rights Defenders.** We encouraged states to announce new measures to support Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), such as engaging more openly with them in the delivery of national efforts to tackle sexual violence; lifting legal and administrative restrictions, for instance on registration and access to international funding; ensuring that violations against HRDs are investigated promptly and impartially and that perpetrators are held accountable; and incorporating human rights training into educational programmes, especially for security forces and the judiciary. We also called on states to provide increased funding for local advocacy and grassroots organisations.
- (iv) **Humanitarian protection and support for survivors.** We encouraged states to endorse the ‘Call to Action on Protecting Women and Girls in Emergencies,’ building on agreement reached at the high level meeting in London in November 2013, chaired by the UK Secretary of State for International Development and the Swedish Development Minister. The Call to Action urges donors, humanitarian agencies and NGOs to address the many forms of gender-based violence that can occur in emergencies, including sexual violence. We also encouraged states to consider how to improve child protection in emergencies and how to better integrate the issue of men and boys as victims of sexual violence into wider humanitarian responses.

- (v) **Enhancing military and peacekeeping capabilities.** The Summit was a major opportunity to profile existing military best practice around addressing sexual violence in conflict. Senior military and political participants were invited to discuss how to incorporate the existing provisions of the UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security into military planning and the conduct of operations, including in doctrine; the need for more robust reporting; how to integrate international humanitarian and human rights law into military training; enforcing initiatives on conduct and discipline, including governing acts of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by armed forces; and improving gender balance within the armed forces, including through the appointment of gender advisers. The Summit also considered how best to empower peacekeepers with the skills and capabilities to prevent and intervene actively where sexual violence is occurring as part of their wider responsibility under a Protection of Civilians mandate.
- (vi) **Country-owned action plans.** In preparation for the Summit, we encouraged a number of conflict and post-conflict affected states to use the opportunity of the Summit to announce at least one of the following: (i) national plans or commitments to end the use of sexual violence in conflict, (ii) mechanisms to provide appropriate support to survivors and (iii) a public commitment to implement fully existing plans. We encouraged donors to provide the necessary technical or financial resource to ensure the delivery of these plans.
- (vii) **Multilateral initiatives.** We called on multilateral partners to come to the Summit in a position to announce publicly their readiness to improve their prevention or response efforts.



## The Summit's discussions and recommendations



**“In this new century, we must expose the custom for what it really is; a despicable crime whose perpetrators must be met with the full force of the law”**

**Fatou Bensouda, Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court**

The following section summarises the main discussions at the Summit and highlights some of the key recommendations made by experts and Ministers for further action. These recommendations are not exhaustive; fuller records of the Expert, Ministerial and Fringe working sessions and dialogues as well as the various background policy papers that informed these discussions can be found at <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

#### **Strengthening accountability and tackling impunity through stronger national and international justice and improved documentation and investigation of sexual violence crimes**

Addressing impunity for sexual violence crimes requires a more effective delivery of justice at all levels. Meeting this challenge involves improving the capacity and capability of the judiciary, the police, magistrates, prosecutors and advocates/lawyers and improved and strengthened national, regional and international justice institutions. Victims' and survivors' rights, their security and safety must be front and centre to all these efforts.

The International Criminal Court (ICC) and other international criminal tribunals have made important contributions to ensuring accountability by demonstrating how sexual violence can be used as a means to perpetrate genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. However, progress at the international level is not enough. It remains the primary responsibility of states to investigate and prosecute the most serious crimes of international concern committed on their territory or by their nationals or residents. Enabling domestic prosecutions of these international crimes often requires legal reforms to put in place the right domestic legal framework. Even where states have the relevant domestic legislation the breakdown of national criminal justice systems during conflict makes securing prosecutions much harder.

One of the major challenges to addressing the culture of impunity is the lack of effective investigation and documentation of such crimes. At the Summit, William Hague and Angelina Jolie launched the new International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. The standards compiled in the International Protocol are drawn from best practice in the field. They set out methods for ensuring that survivors are empowered through participation in the justice process; that the information obtained by documenters is gathered sensitively and comprehensively; that the organisation of the information gathered is coherent and stored safely; and that the material is gathered with integrity and professionalism. The International Protocol received widespread support from participants at the Summit.

As critical first line responders who monitor and document crimes as well as provide protection to victims and survivors, HRDs play an important role in strengthening accountability and justice. They can also support survivors of sexual violence to access vital services including health and psychosocial support. However, considerable barriers remain that restrict the work of HRDs. These include violence or the threat of violence, both by the state and by non-state actors, and the delegitimisation of HRDs whose status and role can be undermined through public stigmatisation. In some cases HRDs can themselves be the victims of sexual violence as a result of their work.

Recommendations from the discussions on these issues included:

- A gender-based approach must be included in all transitional justice mechanisms from the very beginning, in order to ensure that sexual violence is covered in the appropriate mandates, and that adequate resources are allocated to dealing with sexual violence crimes.
- Where formal criminal justice mechanisms are not available, there are a variety of alternative judicial and non-judicial options, such as the collection of documentation for future prosecutions, constitutional actions, civil cases and the exercise of universal jurisdiction in third countries.
- There should be a model national law for sexual and gender-based crimes which conforms to the highest international standards and from which states can draw when developing their own domestic legislation.
- States should consider a new international treaty on extending the grave breaches regime to non-international armed conflict.
- Judges, at both the national and international level, should receive training to ensure they are in a position to adjudicate objectively on crimes of sexual violence. This training should also aim to dispel certain myths that are long engrained and stem from traditional common law.
- National and local level legislation should be adopted which recognises men and boys as victims (including recognising female perpetrators) and laws that criminalise male victims should be reformed.
- States should mandate cross-sectoral training (i.e. joint training

between medical, legal, justice and law enforcement sectors) within their countries.

- States should recognise that HRDs are an integral part of wider protection efforts. Ministers should meet HRDs whenever they travel, speak out in support of their objectives and include them in official delegations.

#### **Providing greater support, assistance and reparation for survivors, including child survivors, of sexual violence**

National and international responses to emergencies have tended to focus on supporting survivors' access to life-saving services and assistance but there is growing recognition that responses should also aim to prevent sexual and other forms of gender-based violence before they occur.

It is widely recognised that promoting strong leadership and the institutional capacity of key humanitarian actors at all levels to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and to respond to the needs and rights of survivors is integral to improving prevention in emergencies. Beyond emergencies, there is also a need to provide continued and often long-term support for survivors who may need continued access to a range of services.

The 'Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies' was launched by the UK Secretary of State for International Development and the Swedish Development Minister at a high level meeting in London in November 2013 with lead responsibility subsequently passing to the US in 2014. It urges donors, humanitarian agencies and NGOs to address the many forms of gender-based violence that can occur in emergencies, including sexual violence. In particular, it commits donors to address sexual and gender-based violence from the onset of an emergency and to prioritise the protection of girls and women from violence, even before evidence has emerged of abuses taking place. The Call to Action builds on and complements PSVI by mobilising the

humanitarian community to address the many forms of gender-based violence in all types of emergencies, including sexual violence in conflict, from the onset of crisis.

Children are particularly susceptible to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings and the impact is often physically, psychologically and socially catastrophic. Both girls and boys may be reluctant to report the crime because of fears of social stigma and retribution. While women and girls are the primary victims, sexual and gender-based violence against adult men and young boys has been reported in 25 armed conflicts over the last decade. In 2014, SRSG Bangura noted that ten countries her team had investigated had reported sexual violence against men and boys. It is very likely that the actual numbers are considerably higher than the cases reported.

Recommendations from the discussions on these issues included:

- Donors and international organisations need to ensure that civil society organisations can access predictable funding and technical support.
- Accountability mechanisms for the Call to Action need to be established to ensure that governments and organisations that have made commitments deliver on their promises.
- Different data is needed for different purposes – prosecution, informing programmes, understanding the magnitude, nature and drivers of violence – all of which can reinforce each other. There needs to be improved co-ordination, harmonisation and learning between agencies and local organisations, and more integrated data collection and reporting mechanisms at national levels. Women’s safety and wellbeing must be at the centre of all data collection.
- Data information management systems need to be strengthened in humanitarian response. These need to respect principles of ‘do no harm’.
- The integration and co-ordination of service delivery should be strengthened so that survivors can receive care in an integrated manner without barriers to access. This may take the form of a ‘one-stop’ shop to deliver holistic services although this may not be appropriate in all settings. Girls and women and communities should be involved in their planning to improve the design and impact of interventions.
- States and international actors need to be held accountable for delivering survivor centred prevention and response. Appropriate laws, implementation and monitoring systems need to be in place to enable this.
- Donors need to make longer-term funding commitments (beyond one year) in order to build necessary systems and long-term engagement with communities; funds should be made accessible for local level organisations and leveraged from other areas (e.g. Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria).
- Survivors should have access to holistic services that are offered in a survivor-centred, rights-based manner and survivors should be consulted on the design and delivery of these services, including financial compensation, where possible.
- Ministries of Education should include sexuality, gender, vulnerability and sexual violence in educational curricula to tackle the root causes of the issue for all ages and genders.

- Children should be at the centre of all practical and political action on sexual violence in conflict, not an add-on or a secondary issue. International protocols, policies and national action should explicitly address the needs of children.
- Political leadership is needed to publicly challenge the stigma on child survivors of sexual violence or children born from rape: by speaking out, promoting prevention of sexual violence within education, prosecuting perpetrators and empowering families and communities.
- Greater international recognition of, and support for, the current UN 'Children, Not Soldiers' campaign, launched in March 2014, should be encouraged, including renewed efforts to prevent the recruitment of children and more programmes to support children's demobilisation.
- Ministers should create and sign up to a high level policy statement on men and boys as victims that commits them to integrating the issue into existing policies and practices.
- Training on men and boys as victims of sexual violence in conflict should be provided to humanitarian and peacekeeping actors as well as all other relevant responders.

**Ensuring sexual and gender-based violence responses and the promotion of gender equality are fully integrated in all peace and security efforts, including security and justice sector reform**

The military is a critical partner in the prevention of and protection from sexual violence in conflict. They are often one of the first responders when sexual violence occurs and have access to information about events on the ground that is otherwise unavailable to civilians. However, they are not always properly equipped, nor at times willing, to

deal with this issue. In a number of cases they may also be the perpetrators. At the Summit there was broad recognition of the need to mainstream prevention and response to sexual violence into military doctrine, policy, training and operations.

Critical to the implementation of such policies is ensuring that senior military leaders lead by example, can demonstrate awareness of gender and sexual violence issues in the environments in which they operate and that they support relevant policies and doctrine being disseminated down the chain of command. This includes delivering relevant and practical scenario-based and operationally focused pre-deployment training for all levels on gender, protection of civilians, human rights, child protection and conflict-related sexual violence. It should also incorporate International Humanitarian Law, human rights and criminal law. More widely, military deployments need to have a gender-sensitive approach integrated throughout their operations, including through the use of gender advisers with access to senior military leaders.

Historically, peace processes have been dominated by men. Despite growing awareness of the need to include women in such processes, few states have fulfilled the commitments set out in the relevant UNSCRs (1325 onwards). Women's groups have notably played an important role in calling for an end to violence and in localised mediation and reconciliation efforts but often remain excluded from formal processes. Those international organisations and groups and local peace builders who do attempt to implement the spirit of inclusive peace-building are met with multiple hurdles, including political resistance, an inability to even reach the negotiating table, and institutional structures that discriminate against them. International and regional organisations have failed to integrate systematic and structured inclusion as part of their mediation and peace-building strategies.

While peacekeeping personnel have an important role to play in the fight to prevent sexual violence, there are substantiated reports that some peacekeeping personnel have committed sexual offences while on deployment (known as Sexual Exploitation and Abuse or SEA). Summit participants reaffirmed their commitment to the UN's zero tolerance policy on SEA and recommended a ten-year progress review of the issues identified within the UN's 2005 report by Prince Zeid bin Ra'ad of Jordan. While there have been improvements, delegates agreed that there was still more to do to match the zero tolerance approach with zero occurrence.

Recommendations from the discussions on these issues included:

- All UN peacekeeping missions and troop-contributing countries should report publicly on the training they have delivered to their troops and police. This should be benchmarked and monitored by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and be supported wherever necessary by UN mobile training teams. Good practice from missions and troop-contributing countries should be shared.
- Troop and police-contributing countries should carry out mandatory pre-deployment training for all levels on gender, protection of civilians, human rights, child protection and prevention of conflict-related sexual violence. The training should incorporate International Humanitarian Law, human rights and criminal law. It needs to be relevant and practical, scenario based, operationally focused and monitored and vetted by the UN. UN training materials developed to help support contributing countries in this process should be fully accessible.
- Preventing sexual violence must be a defined central aspect of a UN



peacekeeping mission's objective and mainstreamed across the objectives of all mission staff and the right staffing provided for in the mission budget. Senior leadership should be held accountable for their work to tackle sexual violence.

- Where there is a Protection of Civilian element to the mandate of the peacekeeping mission, this must include preventing and tackling sexual violence.
- Since gender inequality is a root cause of sexual violence in fragile states, conflict and post-conflict settings, a gender sensitive approach must be integrated throughout the work of all mission components. Women Protection Advisers and Gender Advisers should be in influential positions in mission structures and have access to senior mission personnel.
- States should partner with at least one other country (or the UN) to offer or ask for help in creating or strengthening National Action Plans on UNSCR1325.
- All states involved in peace processes should ensure that a minimum 30% of all mediation and negotiations teams are women. States should also

commit to providing a predictable and sustainable flow of funds to local women's civil society organisations.

- Peacekeeping missions should have a fixed percentage of women police and military peacekeepers.
- States must do more to meet their current obligations to investigate and prosecute quickly individuals alleged to have committed SEA offences and ensure that the steps they are taking are reported back to the UN consistently in all cases.
- The UN processes for investigating individuals committing SEA need to be more transparent. Inconsistencies between how civilian and military staff are treated need to be addressed.
- Greater political leadership and buy-in should be secured through partnerships between local communities, national-level leadership and the international community which results in policymakers and practitioners integrating gender into their security and justice sector reform programmes, emphasising the resulting enhanced operational effectiveness and how this contributes to wider peace and security efforts.

### **Improving international strategic co-operation to deliver a more effective multilateral response**

In conflict and post-conflict situations, where national authorities can be weak and poorly resourced, the international community can play a critical part in supporting national efforts to address sexual violence in conflict. Many of the multilateral and regional institutions have, or are developing, strategies and plans to tackle sexual violence in conflict. However, to support peace and state building efforts and reconstruction and reform effectively, the international community must work in a more coherent

and co-operative manner than it has done to date. This includes paying greater attention to the institutional mechanisms, frameworks and legal commitments that promote greater co-ordination, as well as identifying new areas for co-operation, such as through the provision of expertise and technical assistance or agreements around common approaches to finance.

Recommendations from the discussions on these issues included:

- An understanding of sexual and gender-based violence should be integrated into a wider range of post-conflict assistance as an integral part of peace and security efforts. For example, governance or security sector reform should include by default consideration of how to build an awareness of and responses to sexual and gender-based violence.
- States should come together to form sustainable solutions to sexual violence which address historical as well as proximate problems and which cover political, economic, security and psychosocial concerns. In doing so, states must take advice from people on the ground, especially women and young people.
- Training, capacity building and adequate financing are crucial. States must support the pooling and/or sharing of expertise amongst governments and international organisations.
- States need to ensure that experts on rosters for deployment are readily available and releasable from government positions to ensure rapid deployment and that there is a greater availability of predictable funding to ensure rapid deployment of expertise.

**“Today, together with all the people here – men and women, boys and girls – who refuse to remain victims, we rise”**

**The Hon John F Kerry, Secretary of State of the United States of America**



**END SEXUAL  
VIOLENCE  
IN CONFLICT**

**GLOBAL SUMMIT  
#TIMETOACT**

## The Summit Fringe



“We want people around the world to understand the scale of the problem and the urgent need for action... and to be mobilised and inspired to work within their societies and with us to bear down on this terrible injustice”

Rt Hon William Hague MP

The Fringe was an integral part of the Summit. Its purpose was to encourage the public to learn about the issue of sexual violence in conflict through engaging with the 175 events organised by international and UK NGOs, activists, artists, academics, survivors, performers and youth groups. These included discussions and public meetings, performance and theatre pieces, photography and art exhibitions and films and documentaries which covered a broad range of diverse topics and highlighted the impact of conflict on communities around the world. The Fringe also included a market place featuring hand-made jewellery, clothing and other items from countries such as Somalia, the DRC, Colombia and Afghanistan, many of which were part of economic empowerment schemes set up to help survivors of sexual violence rebuild their lives.

Around 19,000 members of the general public visited and participated in these events throughout the three days of the Fringe. We also encouraged all the participating government delegates and Ministers to visit the Fringe and take part in the events. An exit poll recorded a significant increase in awareness and understanding of sexual violence in conflict amongst visitors to the Fringe. Many of those who attended pledged to take further action to help to end sexual violence in conflict.

The UK Government hosted a number of events in the Fringe. Nicky Morgan, then Financial Secretary to the Treasury and Minister for Women, chaired a panel discussion on 'The Role of Faith Leaders & Communities in Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict' jointly organised with the We Will Speak Out coalition of faith-based organisations who work to end sexual violence globally. The panel discussed examples from across the faiths where religious leaders and communities have played a distinctive role in addressing the root causes and consequences of sexual violence. They also considered the importance of a multi-stakeholder approach, with faith groups working closely with the legal and medical professions, the military and NGOs, as well as government and aid agencies. Baroness Warsi, former Senior Minister of State at the

Foreign and Commonwealth Office, hosted a subsequent meeting at which participants considered the key role faith leaders can play in challenging attitudes, whether at government or community level, that allow sexual violence to occur, as well as their role in providing support to survivors. Mark Simmonds, former Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, hosted a joint event with the NGO War Child on the issue of child soldiers and sexual violence which brought together governments, survivors and experts to examine how best to prevent the recruitment and use of children in conflict.

Justine Greening, Secretary of State for International Development, hosted an event with the Gender and Development Network to highlight the UK's commitment to gender equality and women's empowerment in the post-2015 agenda. Lynne Featherstone, then Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State at the Department for International Development, hosted an event to launch the £25 million 'What Works to Prevent Violence' research and innovation fund, raising awareness of the need for survivor-centred, robust evidence on all forms of violence against women and girls. She also spoke about the UK's leadership in addressing all forms of violence against women and girls at a Womankind youth event with international





women's rights activists and students from a London girls' school.

The Fringe was also the venue for the launch by William Hague, Justine Greening and Philip Hammond, then Secretary of State for Defence, of the UK's third National Action Plan (NAP) on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The NAP, which covers the period 2014–2017, sets out the Government's plans to promote this agenda, with a focus on activities in Afghanistan, Burma, the DRC, Libya, Somalia and Syria. It highlights the Government's ongoing commitment to the promotion of women's participation in conflict resolution as an integral part of our defence, diplomatic and development activity.

### The Global Relay

Many of the UK's Embassies and High Commissions around the world hosted a relay of activity which lasted for the entire 84 hours of the Summit. Through a range of events – such as a discussion of domestic violence with representatives from a women's refuge in Yemen; a mini Summit in Uganda which brought together government, civil society and youth representatives that mirrored the London discussions; an event for future female leaders in Pakistan; and a theatre piece and post-performance discussion of sexual violence and war widows

in Sri Lanka – the Relay provoked wide-ranging consideration of the issue of sexual violence in conflict. In addition, a number of high-profile public-facing events including flying a #TimeToAct hot air balloon over Canberra; lighting the iconic Burj Al Arab hotel in Dubai; and a range of art installations and film showings, made sure the Summit and its discussions were at the forefront of the world's attention.

### The Summit youth delegates

We were clear from the start that the Summit must include the views of and contributions from young people, in recognition that children and young people are both victims of sexual violence in conflict and also have a transformational role to play in tackling the societal norms that contribute to its occurrence.

To ensure meaningful input, we worked with a number of NGOs, coordinated by Plan UK, to deliver three key elements of youth participation in the Summit:

- (i) **Youth Day.** The first day of the Summit Fringe had a strong youth focus. Events looked on the contribution that young people can make to the fight against sexual violence in conflict.





(ii) **The Summit Youth Group.**

26 youth delegates, including survivors of sexual violence, from around the world participated in the Summit, producing their own youth policy recommendations.

(iii) **An Online Youth Consultation.**

In the run-up to the Summit, this consultation collated the views of youth globally on the issue of sexual violence in conflict. Responses were summarised and passed on to the Summit Youth Group to ensure that their recommendations took into account the wider views of their peers across the world.

The 26 Summit youth delegates were aged 17–26 and represented a wide range of conflict and post-conflict countries, G8 and PSVI ‘Champion’ countries, including Bosnia-Herzegovina, Colombia, the DRC, Iraq, Kosovo, Liberia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Rwanda. The youth delegates participated throughout the full Summit,

attending expert and Ministerial discussions as well as engaging in events in the Fringe. Two representatives from the group delivered a summary of their recommendations (Annex E) in the Summit plenary session on the final day. They also met with William Hague, Angelina Jolie, SRSB Bangura, senior level representatives of the African Union and the ICC and ministerial delegations from their respective countries. Together, they urged all Summit delegates “to recognise that it is essential that young men, women, girls and boys play a key role in the design, implementation and accountability of interventions to end sexual violence in order for them to be successful”.

Since the Summit the group has created and released their own Summit Report and Toolkit and developed their own Facebook page to raise awareness of the issue: [www.facebook.com/Youth2ESV](http://www.facebook.com/Youth2ESV). They continue to campaign for an end to sexual violence against children and young people both in their respective countries and globally.

# Summit outcomes and next steps



Holding a summit on this scale, with such high level attendance and profile, represented a major step forward in international efforts to tackle sexual violence in conflict. It helped to break the taboo surrounding the issue and focus international attention as a matter of urgency. The ongoing commitment and determination to work together to end the use of rape and sexual violence in conflicts around the world was reflected in the many signatures from the Summit participants to the Summit's Statement of Action (Annex B). The Summit also resulted in a number of tangible achievements and outcomes, notably:

- The launch of the first International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- The Federal Government of Somalia presented its National Action Plan for addressing sexual violence, with the backing and support of the UN and the international community.
- Ministers of the Government of the DRC committed to implement quickly their National Strategy to Fight Sexual Violence and the provisions of the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The recent launch of an action plan for the Congolese army on sexual violence in conflict reflects this undertaking.
- The African Union announced the launch of a pilot project in the Central African Republic to respond to the urgent needs of victims of sexual violence. The programme will allow the tracking and investigation of allegations of sexual violence for further action by the African Union Commission and national stakeholders. The pilot project will comprise a multidisciplinary team of experts, including medical doctors, psychologists, lawyers and police officers deployed under the AU Mission in the Central African Republic.
- The Government of Libya committed funding to enact into law its Decree that recognises that victims of sexual violence and their families are victims of war and are therefore entitled to benefits from the state including health care, scholarships and rehabilitation services.
- The Governments of Liberia, Mexico, Morocco, Senegal and South Korea and the Palestinian Authority signed up to the Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies.
- The UK Government pledged a further £6 million to support survivors of sexual violence in conflict, including £4.25 million for the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women; £1 million for the International Criminal Court Trust Fund for Victims and £750,000 for the International Organisation for Migration.
- The US:
  - (i) Committed to doubling (to \$1 million) its funding for the US State Department's Gender-based Violence Emergency Response and Protection Initiative, which provides urgent assistance to survivors of those threatened with gender-based violence.

- (ii) Announced the launch of an accountability initiative which will help survivors secure justice and build the capacity of partner governments to prosecute sexual violence crimes in conflict-affected countries.
  - (iii) Announced the expansion of the Safe from the Start initiative with a new funding opportunity for NGOs. The initiative supports humanitarian organisations to prevent and respond to gender-based violence at the onset of a disaster or a conflict.
  - (iv) Unveiled the US Secretary of State's Policy Guidance on Gender – a directive to all embassies and bureaus to integrate gender equality and the advancement of women and girls into all policy and programming efforts, including preventing and responding to sexual violence in peacetime and conflict.
- Australia committed AUD3.3 million to support the Afghan Women's Network and its member organisations to help to end violence against women in Afghanistan; AUD1 million in partnership with UN Women in Timor-Leste, Liberia and Uganda to support women's engagement in decision-making on peace-building and gender-responsive security sector reform; and AUD1.65 million in assistance to humanitarian and emergency initiatives through ProCap and GenCap and the Women's Refugee Commission as well as UNICEF and UNFPA.
  - The UAE announced \$1 million in support of the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.
  - Finland announced €2 million for the UN Fund for Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.
  - Bahrain announced \$100,000 for the UN Fund for Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

#### Our post-Summit plans

Following the Summit, our aim now is to instil efforts to prevent sexual violence in conflict into standard discourse and practice on all aspects of international conflict prevention, stabilisation, peace-building, security and justice, humanitarian and human rights work. To deliver this, we will pursue a programme of political and practical activity that includes:

- (i) Implementing the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict through advocacy, capacity-building and national application. We will promote the International Protocol as the key resource for the international justice and human rights profession with responsibility for investigating and documenting sexual violence in conflict and support training in the International Protocol for practitioners from the international justice community as well as local practitioners working in conflict and post-conflict countries. We will push for the International Protocol to become widely used and recognised as best practice for practitioners and first responders.
- (ii) Further lobbying of governments to implement fully in domestic legislation the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court and encouraging more states to accede to the Rome Statute and to implement fully its provisions in domestic law.

- (iii) Pressing governments to do more to support HRDs and building further the capacity of local civil society and grassroots organisations to document and respond to acts of sexual violence and to provide support to survivors.
- (iv) Encouraging governments to do more to include sexual violence issues in their doctrine and training and to enforce initiatives on military conduct and discipline.

We will also work with and encourage those governments who announced new plans or commitments at the Summit to implement them as fully and as quickly as possible. This country activity will be complemented by ongoing UK support to the full range of multilateral bodies to ensure that PSVI and

the outcomes from the Summit are fully integrated into their daily activity as well as future international events, such as the World Humanitarian Summit in 2016.

The Summit represented a unique moment in our collective efforts to end the use of rape and sexual violence in conflict. All of us must now build on the momentum of the meeting and encourage even greater international co-ordination and collaboration. In the months to come we must see clear evidence that those who participated at the Summit are delivering on the commitments they made – by putting in place measures to bring more perpetrators to justice, by providing better support to survivors and by ensuring that this issue remains at the very heart of the international policy agenda.

# Where to find further information



This report summarises the policy aims and objectives of the Summit, the outcomes and the next steps. It does not aim to be an exhaustive account of everything that was discussed at the Summit. Individual participants have produced a number of separate, independent reports on individual sessions. The Summit website contains a number of additional documents, including records of each of the expert and Ministerial sessions, as well as the panel events in the Fringe and the Delegate Handbook. Please see: <https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/sexual-violence-in-conflict>.

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**Annex A:** Chair's Summary

**Annex B:** Statement of Action

**Annex C:** The G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, April 2013

**Annex D:** The Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, September 2013

**Annex E:** The Summit Youth Group's recommendations

## Annex A

# Chair's Summary

### The Summit

1. From 10 to 13 June 2014, in London, Government representatives from over 120 countries, over 1,000 experts, faith leaders, youth organisations and representatives of civil society and international organisations came together at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict.
2. Together, we committed to break the taboo around wartime rape and take action to put an end to its use, and to shatter the culture of impunity. At the Summit, we united in our determination to tackle sexual violence in conflict, just as previous generations joined forces to put an end to slavery and landmines. This is a matter of our common humanity. We pledged our support for engendering a global shift in attitudes towards sexual violence, causing a lasting and profound shift, transforming world opinion. Sexual violence is not a lesser crime: it is an atrocity of the first order and there must be no safe haven for perpetrators anywhere. We were unified in calling for concrete, practical and forward looking outcomes, and sending a message that the era of impunity for wartime sexual violence was over, sending fear into the hearts of would-be perpetrators. Governments are crucial to ending sexual violence, but the Summit drew inspiration and ideas from survivors, activists and artists. We will work with regional and international organisations to ensure that no corner of the globe is left untouched by our campaign.
3. We launched the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, setting out international standards on how to collect

the strongest possible information and evidence, whilst protecting witnesses, in order to increase convictions and deter future perpetrators.

4. This Chair's Summary captures the way in which we will turn political commitment into practical action to overcome the barriers to ending sexual violence in conflict. This change will require persistence, innovation, commitment and continued leadership on the part of governments, experts, civil society, the media, legal professionals and security forces.

### The issue

5. Sexual violence in conflict is a uniquely destructive act and method of war. It is an outrage to all morality. Survivors who have gone through the trauma of an attack too often also face rejection by their families and reprisals from their communities. Moreover, sexual violence in conflict often flows from underlying inequalities. Further, a society that believes in human rights for all human beings and opportunities for all its citizens cannot know about the way rape is used as a weapon of war and then simply ignore it.
6. But it is not only our values that are at stake. Sexual violence in conflict poses a grave threat to international peace and security. It exacerbates tension and violence and undermines stability. It is prohibited under international law: under specific provisions of the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, and under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. It is a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions, and, when used as a method of warfare, it will always be unlawful. States have

responsibility for breaches of international law committed by their armed forces. Although it is and has been a feature of most conflicts, it has only recently been discussed openly in international conflict-prevention discourse. Yet it can undermine ceasefires, and prevent lasting reconciliation long after the last bullets have been fired. It affects not only women and girls, but also men and boys.

7. Thus sexual violence has a devastating impact on societies already traumatised by war, and overwhelming social, psychological and economic consequences for those it affects. All too often the stigma and shame associated with sexual violence remains with the victim rather than the perpetrator. By undermining reconciliation, deepening grievances and devastating communities, sexual violence feeds a cycle of conflict.

#### **What we will do**

8. We were united in our view that sexual violence is not an inevitable side-effect of war. It can be stopped if perpetrators are held to account and attitudes and practices change. Building on the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict launched at UNGA in 2013, at the Summit we signed a Statement of Action, and also agreed a range of legal, humanitarian and security sector reforms that will play a critical role in ending the culture of impunity for sexual violence in conflict. Our discussions were informed by contributions from some of the world's leading experts and authorities in the field, as well as the youth discussions. We considered the lessons learned from a number of conflict-affected countries, and discussed the role of military, peacekeeping and humanitarian agencies in acting to

prevent conflict-related sexual violence. We agreed to fund UN and NGO efforts that provide support and assistance to survivors, including helping them seek justice.

9. The debate during the Summit addressed four key areas for change:
  - (i) Improve accountability at the national and international level, including through better documentation, investigations and prosecutions at the national and international level, and better legislation implementing international obligations and standards;
  - (ii) Provide greater support and protection to survivors of sexual violence, including children;
  - (iii) Ensure sexual and gender-based violence responses and the promotion of gender equality are fully integrated in all peace and security efforts, including security and justice sector reform and military and police training; and
  - (iv) Improve international strategic co-operation.

#### **Not just governments**

10. We highlighted the important role that women have to play in maintaining international peace and security, although this has historically been perceived to be the sole preserve of political and military elites. The Summit noted that women's groups have played an important role in calling for an end to violence and in localised mediation and reconciliation efforts. It recognised that women often have more access and legitimacy than official negotiators, yet remain

## Chair's Summary

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largely excluded from formal processes. Participation of women in peace processes must become the norm. We shared stories of hope where this had had a transformative effect. Ministers agreed that more could be done to implement the commitments set out in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 through to 2122 – more States needed to set out rigorous and evaluative National Action Plans on Women Peace and Security. There needed to be more women in senior positions within the UN and other international organisations; more female ambassadors to the UN; and more women in the police and military. Regional and international institutions should spearhead our efforts.

11. We acknowledged the vital role that civil society actors have to play in engaging their communities in both the prevention of, and response to, sexual violence in conflict. The Summit recognised that local community activists are often best placed to make a difference on the ground, including in changing attitudes and behaviours that underpin inequality and the spread of violence.
12. We noted that good laws and international agreements in themselves are not enough if attitudes don't change. In this respect, faith groups have a key role to play, including in their role providing care, treatment and support for survivors. Through their networks, they often have access and influence with local communities that no other actor has. As such, they are uniquely placed to change hearts and minds, and challenge cultural and social norms, including notions of masculine identity as it affects sexual violence. The Summit recognised the need to engage faith-based organisations as active partners in the fight against sexual violence, both in helping to formulate strategy and in providing front-line support to survivors.

### Accountability

13. We agreed that addressing impunity requires strengthening accountability and justice in both conflict and post-conflict contexts. We recognised that meeting this challenge called for an improvement in the capacity and capability of justice sector actors – judiciary, police, magistrates, prosecutors and advocates/lawyers. It also requires improved systems, strengthened institutions, including laws and policy, and greater synergy between national and international approaches. Better implementation of existing legal obligations by States is required. Judges at the national and international level should be given training so that they can adjudicate effectively sexual violence crimes. In addition to the technical and institutional work, there was also recognition of the critical need to put victims' and survivors' rights, their security and safety, at the forefront and centre of justice. Lack of recognition of men and boys when they are victims can result in failures in documentation and evidence collection, leading to a lack of justice.
14. Accountability requires a legal framework through which to deliver justice for those who commit and command crimes. States were urged to strengthen their domestic laws so that those responsible for sexual violence can reliably be prosecuted in the countries where their crimes were committed. National law in conflict and post-conflict countries often lags behind international norms. States parties to the ICC Statute should all criminalise the crimes prohibited under the Statute so they can be prosecuted at the national level. For those States not parties to the ICC Statute, they can still introduce laws which support the aims and objectives of the ICC. There is also an obligation for all states under the Geneva Conventions to criminalise grave breaches and allow for national prosecution of grave breaches on the basis of universal jurisdiction. Where such legislation has

not been enacted, it should be. Definitions of sexual violence in domestic legislation should conform to standards and definitions in international law, and should also ensure that crimes against men and boys can be prosecuted. Specialised units for the investigation of such offences can help with their prosecution. Often lack of capacity is an issue; but political will is also required. A model law for crimes prohibited under international law could help states implement their international obligations.

15. A significant gap at the international level was identified: the grave breaches regime, which requires all states to exercise universal jurisdiction in relation to the most serious breaches of international humanitarian law, has only traditionally been considered to apply in international armed conflict; but most modern conflicts are non-international armed conflicts.
16. International prosecutions are required where States are unwilling or unable to carry out genuine investigations and prosecutions. The ICC's sexual violence casework is increasing and its efforts should be supported, but it should continue to operate on the principle of complementarity, where states cannot prosecute Rome Statute crimes domestically. ICC jurisprudence should inform the development of national law, although there remain challenges in ensuring that the same standards are applied to sexual violence crimes as for other crimes.
17. The International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict, produced in collaboration with over 200 gender and sexual violence experts, was launched at the Summit. The Protocol will help strengthen the evidence base for bringing perpetrators to justice, thus overcoming one of the key barriers to tackling impunity for sexual violence in conflict. It guides practitioners on how to obtain evidence for the key elements of sexual violence crimes. A stronger evidence base will also lessen the burden on survivor testimony as the basis of prosecutions, as well as ensuring that victims are not further stigmatised or traumatised by the trial process. Victims' well-being must be at the centre of all data collection, emphasising informed consent and confidentiality. Data-collection should not be gender-blind to men and boys. We agreed that in implementing the Protocol, States should ensure joint training between the medical, legal, justice and law-enforcement sectors. Where sexual violence occurs in remote areas, States should increase the number of practitioners with the right skills. Funding for front-line responders should be long-term, and not just focussed on emergency phases.
18. Many countries voiced their public support for the Protocol. These partners committed to support efforts to end impunity for sexual violence in conflict by using the Protocol to improve standards of documentation and investigation of these crimes, so that perpetrators can be held to account and survivors receive the justice they deserve. By supporting the Protocol, partners indicated their support for the basic principles and methods set out in the Protocol and agreed to facilitate and empower documentation of sexual and gender-based violence crimes in accordance with these principles. They also agreed to encourage civil society to use the methodology in the Protocol when training staff documenting sexual violence in conflict areas. Partners indicated their willingness to fund overseas initiatives related to accountability for international crimes of sexual and gender-based violence, and to encourage strongly these initiatives to incorporate the basic principles and methods into their projects.

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19. The launch of the Protocol is just the first step. The next step is to implement the Protocol in a way that keeps it relevant, promotes its advocacy, ensures its accessibility and dissemination, adapts it to national contexts and monitors its progress.
  20. Ministers agreed that international collective action is essential in providing support to countries affected by sexual violence in conflict, including through capacity-building supported by the deployment of appropriate expertise. Pooling the expertise available, for example by establishing rosters at the regional level, ensuring that experts could be more rapidly deployed, and that predictable funding is available to do so, would all help to improve collective action. The need was especially great in remote areas where formal justice mechanisms are difficult to access.
  21. We agreed that States should ensure that in ceasefires and peace negotiations, and the UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolutions that support them, no amnesties should be given to those who commit sexual violence in conflict.
  22. We agreed that governments should also reduce the risk of conflict including by signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty. We recognised that displacement and relocation, both internally and across borders, is about finding safety and that it is vital that the rights of individuals who have been forced to move are recognised in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention.
- Support for survivors**
23. We agreed that, while accountability for perpetrators is crucial, survivors and victims of sexual violence need a wide range of support. Survivors must be at the centre of the response to sexual violence in conflict, to ensure re-empowerment and avoid further victimisation.
  24. We also acknowledged the many victims who are less visible, less recognised and less able to receive assistance. This includes children who are born of conflict-related rape who suffer the lifelong consequences of the act, girl child soldiers who are 'married' to combatants and forced into sexual slavery, and men and boys in detention who are systematically raped as a form of punishment or torture.
  25. Ministers recognised that a huge proportion of victims of sexual violence in conflict were children, but that more could be done to support children specifically affected. Children born of rape should be recognised in terms of citizenship, education, health needs and community integration. A focus on children should be at the centre of all practical and political action on sexual violence in conflict, not treated as an add-on. Child protection, health and education should be considered as essential to all humanitarian responses. All governments must ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through national action plans.
  26. Ministers recognised the need to respond rapidly to the needs of all victims. The Summit also recognised the different factors that foster and underpin this violence as well as the specific physical and psychological needs survivors have in order to overcome their experiences – and to rebuild their lives. We noted the need for a flexible and responsive approach to sexual violence: stigma is not the same for everyone, and overcoming it will require different policy responses. We agreed that laws that address sexual violence must ensure that definitions of survivors be gender-neutral.
  27. We agreed that governments should ensure that survivors receive holistic and integrated services that include full sexual reproductive health rights, psycho-social

support, livelihoods support and shelter. Survivors currently received care that is fragmented and inaccessible, and in some cases feared retribution. Lessons learned from HIV and AIDS included shifting the language from victim to survivor, addressing stigma with community actors, and ensuring effective monitoring and accountability measures.

28. We agreed that the tools for responding to sexual violence needed to be improved, such as ensuring coordinating the delivery of services. Improved partnership between donors, states and local organisations was vital, particularly as grassroots organisations and women's groups are frequently the first responders in a crisis. Such organisations should be consulted by international donors in crisis response, for the wealth of local knowledge they possess. Funds should be made accessible for local organisations of men and women to ensure that they have the requisite capacity and training specifically in how to respond to sexual violence. Funding could potentially be leveraged from other donor areas (e.g. Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria). We also considered that sustainable funding was necessary to build long-term sustainable engagement with communities.
29. We saluted the work of human rights defenders, who hold a key role in supporting survivors and shining a spotlight of these crimes. They need to be recognised and protected. Ministers should speak out in support of human rights defenders and include them in official delegations. Attacks on human rights defenders should never be tolerated – they can be equivalent to attacks on the primary victims themselves. Human rights defenders' participation in peace processes should be promoted and monitored as part of UNSC Resolution 1325.
30. We identified reparations as the most survivor-centric and valuable way of supporting survivors of sexual violence in conflict, often cited by victims and survivors of sexual violence as key to their recovery. But they are often underused as a means of justice. We agreed that they were not solely about financial compensation, but the restoration of dignity, status and health. They could take the form of an apology, or access to employment. Reparations should be accessible and prompt; should not necessarily depend on evidence and documentation; should treat sexual violence survivors in the same way as other survivors; be confidential; and, above all, be transformative. Reparations should aspire to heal the wounds of post-conflict society and to address long-standing gender issues, through, for example reconciliation commissions in which sexual violence could be discussed. Survivors should participate in determining the form they take. UN Women and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights launched the Guidance Note of the UN Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, a blueprint for promoting gender-sensitive approaches to the design and delivery of reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence.
31. We recalled the launch of the UK-initiated 'Call to Action' to end violence against women and girls in emergencies. We all agreed that preventing and responding to sexual violence must be prioritized from the start of any humanitarian response and most importantly, recognised as life-saving activity, not an afterthought. We noted that the Call to Action helps to fulfil the aim set out in the Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict by mobilising the humanitarian community to address the many forms of gender-based violence in all types of emergency, including sexual violence in conflict situations. We agreed on the need to implement urgently the commitments contained in the Call to Action, to ensure that those making them are held accountable for them, and

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to broaden international agreement on how best to protect women and girls in emergencies.

32. Ministers reviewed progress so far in improving the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies, particularly in recent and current humanitarian crises. Ministers also discussed the remaining challenges, and how they can be overcome, to ensure every humanitarian response includes the steps necessary to mitigate the risk of gender-based violence and to provide safe and comprehensive services for survivors.

#### Security and justice sector reform

33. Ministers agreed that sexual violence in conflict, when used as a method of war, or as a form of terror or intimidation, is a security issue that demands a security response. The UN Security Council has articulated the link between sexual violence and the maintenance and restoration of international peace and security in a series of resolutions since 2008. The challenge now is to convert these resolutions into practical action. Ministers of Defence should take responsibility for preventing sexual violence by their armed forces.
34. The military is a critical partner for both prevention and protection, but is not always properly equipped to deal with this sensitive and difficult problem. The Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict made the commitment to ensure national military and police doctrine and training was aligned with international law. Security forces are often the first responders to sexual violence. They have access to information about events on the ground that is otherwise unavailable to civilians. They may be the only protection that vulnerable sections of society have against sexual violence. In a limited number of cases they may also be the perpetrators.

35. UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and the subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, provide a framework for how militaries can address sexual violence in their doctrine and accompanying policies. Knowledge of these doctrines, policies and guidelines down the command chain is critical. Training, including pre-deployment training, for all levels is important and should be comprehensive. It needs to be relevant and practical, scenario-based and operationally-focused. Women's participation in the security sector at all levels has been recognised as a critical component of mission success.

36. We noted that action on sexual violence is a central part of discharging a Peacekeeping Protection of Civilians mandate (which covers 95% of current Peacekeepers). Preventing sexual violence should always be a defined mission objective as part of Protection of Civilian responsibilities. We highlighted the vital role of senior military, police and civilian leadership of peacekeeping missions in addressing sexual violence. The issue should be mainstreamed across all staff. Training at the national level on sexual violence should be consistent and the UN could have a role in driving up standards by an evaluation or monitoring process. Civil society considered that there should be more direct oversight, vetting and benchmarking by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and improved accountability for delivery, ultimately to the UNSC.

37. Much has been done over recent years to address cases of sexual exploitation and abuse committed by peacekeepers, but continued cases threaten the credibility of the international peacekeeping system and individual missions, and discourage victims from coming forward. Whilst progress has been made to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse by the UN, more needs to be done to track progress and gather information, including on crimes

against men and boys. There should be a review of progress on the issues identified by the Zeid Report. UN processes for investigating sexual exploitation and abuse should be more transparent, and there should be no inconsistency in how civilian and military staff are treated. States must do more to investigate and prosecute their own nationals who have been accused of sexual exploitation and abuse whilst on peacekeeping operations. The outcome of cases should be reported back to victims and missions.

38. We agreed that security and justice sectors provide an enabling environment to allow active and meaningful participation of women, including through comprehensive and on-going mentoring and training for security and justice sector practitioners at all levels. Community engagement in setting standards is critical.
39. Staffing was important: women's protection advisers and gender advisers should be in influential positions in mission structures, and missions should have a fixed percentage of female police and peacekeepers. Senior military and civilian leadership should be personally accountable for proactive delivery on tackling sexual violence.
40. There should be more consistent and accessible mission-specific capacity development including training ahead of and during deployment, both by troop contributing countries and the UN, to always include: substantive training for Force Commanders and SRSGs; a pre-deployment recce in-country; and scenario training. All missions and troop contributing countries should be required to report publicly on what training their troops have received, based on their respective responsibilities, to be monitored by the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

### International co-operation

41. The Summit recognised the need for continued close international co-operation to dismantle the scourge of sexual violence in conflict. It welcomed the strong contribution of the UN Action member entities, as well as the active stance being taken by the European Union and African Union. It also strongly welcomed the ongoing work of the International Committee of the Red Cross and the work of non-governmental and international organisations.

### DRC and Somalia

42. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and Somalia have suffered long conflicts but are showing determination in the struggle against sexual violence in conflict and have vital lessons to share. We will support them in their crucial work.
43. The Federal Government of Somalia presented its National Action Plan on ending sexual violence in conflict, building on the work of the joint UN-UK Team of Experts (ToE) in December 2013. The ground-breaking plan brought together government Ministers, four star Generals, Police Commissioners, lawyers, judges and members of civil society organisations in a series of workshops to turn the recommendations of the ToE into a Somali owned plan. The plans are broken down by each Ministry, with strong civil society engagement, and rooted in expert advice and evidence. The plan was formally agreed at a validation workshop on 27 May in Mogadishu. The Action Plan received wide international recognition and support from all UN agencies, the World Bank, and African and donor countries. The international community agreed to help Somalia keep up the momentum to move quickly from planning to implementation.

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44. Ministers voiced their support for the DRC, which in the midst of continued instability involving 40 armed groups, has launched a National Strategy to Fight Sexual Violence. This includes support to the justice sector, reform of institutions in the security sector, improved military justice, work on prevention and training and responding to victims. Challenges remain, including the ongoing conflict, protection of witnesses and logistical and financial issues affecting access to services. One child survivor challenged DRC to implement quickly their Summit pledges and the UNGA Declaration. Ministers present committed to do so with the international community's continued support. SRSG Zainab Hawa Bangura called for a strategic alliance between government and civil society, and a survivor-centred solution. It is vital therefore to continue strategic alliances to work in partnership and assist the DRC in a tailored approach. The UN system stood in solidarity with the international community and the DRC in this regard.

### **Beyond the summit**

45. The international community has never done enough to stop these crimes, but having come together here in London, we can change that. For all the things we struggle to agree as nations, the abhorrence of sexual violence in conflict cannot be one of them. This Summit is just the beginning. We must apply the lessons we have learned and move from condemnation to concrete action. We must all live up to the commitments we have made. Having come together we must move forward with a collective responsibility, showing leadership at all levels on ending sexual violence in conflict.



## Annex B

# Statement of Action



We have come together in London between 10–13 June at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict because we are determined to end the use of rape and sexual violence in conflicts around the world.

Throughout our lifetimes we have seen too many individuals, families and communities devastated by these crimes. For too long, those responsible have not been held to account. We share a commitment, and a determination, that this must change. We are clear that the prevention of sexual violence in conflict is critical to peace, security and sustainable development.

Together we declare that rape and sexual violence is not an inevitable consequence of war or a lesser crime. From this day forward, the shame of the crimes should be firmly on the shoulders of those who commit them, not their victims.

We pay tribute to those people that many, in particular the survivors who have become powerful advocates, who have worked tirelessly to bring this issue to our attention for many years. We stand shoulder to shoulder with all victims and those affected by sexual violence in conflict. We assure them and the communities with which they work, that we are committed to providing the support they need and to holding accountable those who perpetrate or are otherwise responsible for these crimes with all means at our disposal.

We dedicate ourselves to work together, in a spirit of unswerving resolve, to respond to the urgency of this issue. Every individual has a moral responsibility to speak out – locally, nationally and globally – to demand change in how the world perceives and responds to these crimes. We owe it to future generations to end one of the greatest injustices of our time.



## Annex C

# Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence In Conflict

### Adopted by G8 Foreign Ministers in London on 11 April 2013

1. Ministers welcomed the positive efforts in recent years by States, the UN, other intergovernmental organisations, local and international civil society and nongovernmental organisations to prevent and respond to sexual violence in armed conflict. Despite these efforts, sexual violence in armed conflict continues to occur. In some conflicts it is systematic or widespread, reaching appalling levels of brutality. Ministers recognised that parties to armed conflict bear the primary responsibility to take all feasible steps to ensure the protection of civilians but, as Ministers noted in Washington in April 2012, the G8 has an important role in promoting conflict prevention and resolution, including through advancing the implementation of the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and on Children and Armed Conflict. Sexual violence in armed conflict represents one of the most serious forms of violation or abuse of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Preventing sexual violence in armed conflict is therefore both a matter of upholding universal human rights and of maintaining international security, in keeping with UN Security Council Resolution 1820. Ministers emphasised that more must be done to address these ongoing crimes, including by challenging the myths that sexual violence in armed conflict is a cultural phenomenon or an inevitable consequence of war or a lesser crime.
 

Criminal Court, the ad hoc and mixed tribunals, and the specialised chambers in national tribunals. But in conflict and post-conflict situations national justice systems are significantly weakened resulting in a limited number of perpetrators facing justice. Ministers recalled that international humanitarian law maintains a long-standing prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict and that sexual violence when it is part of a widespread or systematic attack against a civilian population can constitute a crime against humanity and can be a constitutive act with respect to genocide. They also recalled the existing normative frameworks established under UN Security Council Resolutions 1261 (1999), 1325 (2000) and 1612 (2005) and all subsequent resolutions on children in armed conflict and on women, peace and security, as well as UN Security Council Resolution 1983 (2011). Ministers expressed their full support for the work of the UN in addressing sexual violence in armed conflict, particularly that of UN Women, and for the mandates of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representatives on Children and Armed Conflict and Sexual Violence in Conflict. They welcomed, in particular, the work of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to build coherence and co-ordination in the UN's response to sexual violence in armed conflict through UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict as well as her focus on national ownership and responsibility.
2. Ministers recognised the positive steps in holding perpetrators to account at both the national and international level including through the work of the International
3. Ministers reiterated that promoting and protecting women's and children's full human rights and fundamental freedoms is critical in the fight to end all forms of sexual

violence committed in conflict. Efforts to end sexual violence in conflict must also promote women's active and equal political, social and economic participation including in all conflict prevention, conflict resolution, transitional justice and security sector reform processes. Ministers underlined the importance of responding to the needs of men and boys who are victims of sexual violence in armed conflict, as well as to the needs of those secondarily traumatized as forced witnesses of sexual violence against family members. Ministers also emphasised the importance of engaging men and boys as partners in efforts to prevent and eliminate gender-based violence, including sexual violence in armed conflict, and to end the stigmatisation of victims by encouraging a change in attitudes and behaviours through promoting equality between men and women.

4. Ministers recalled that rape and other forms of serious sexual violence in armed conflict are war crimes and also constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and their first Protocol. States have an obligation to search for and prosecute (or hand over for trial) any individual alleged to have committed or ordered a grave breach regardless of nationality. Accordingly, those accused of grave breaches should be brought to trial, in a manner consistent with international norms. There should be no safe haven for perpetrators of sexual violence in armed conflict.
5. Ministers recognised that further action at the international level is imperative to end sexual violence in armed conflict, to tackle the lack of accountability that exists for these crimes and to provide comprehensive support services to victims, be they women, girls, men or boys. Ministers undertook to work together and with others in a

concerted and comprehensive campaign to raise awareness of these crimes, to strengthen international political will at the very highest levels to remove the barriers that prevent the effective monitoring and reporting on situations of sexual violence in armed conflict, to provide better support to victims, and to build both national and international capacities to respond to sexual violence in armed conflict including through investigating the crimes and prosecuting the offenders. In this regard, Ministers committed, within the parameters of their respective national programmes and priorities, to taking the actions outlined in the following paragraphs.

6. Ministers recognised that the effective investigation and documentation of sexual violence in armed conflict is instrumental both in bringing perpetrators to justice and ensuring access to justice for victims whilst protecting their safety, dignity and human rights. A common approach to the investigation and documentation of sexual violence in armed conflict by different responders that conforms to applicable international law would ensure that multiple actor efforts do not overlap or weaken or destroy evidence or information and that due consideration is given to support for victims throughout the documentation and investigative processes. Recognising the need for standard guidelines, Ministers welcomed the aims of the proposed International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence in Conflict and endorsed its development.
7. In defending and promoting women's and children's rights and confronting sexual violence in armed conflict, women's civil society organisations and networks, in particular women human rights defenders play a particularly important

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role in monitoring, fact-finding and documenting cases of sexual violence and empowering victims to pursue judicial and other remedies. They can also strengthen frontline protection, service provision and access to justice for such victims. Ministers recognised the need to afford better protection to human rights defenders and committed to support conflict-affected countries to develop and implement country-level action plans with the involvement of local organisations to provide such protection. Ministers also agreed to enhance the co-ordination of their protection efforts in countries of concern, drawing, as appropriate, on existing guidelines such as those developed by the EU, for the protection and support of human rights defenders where applicable.

8. The provision of appropriate and accessible services, including health, psychosocial, legal and economic support is essential to support the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of sexual violence in armed conflict and to empower them to pursue justice. This is particularly important for child victims, who can often be excluded from adult-centric programming. Ministers emphasised that all forms of humanitarian support must remain impartial and be consistent with the principle of “do no harm” and in accordance with the UN’s Inter Agency Standing Committee Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings, the Minimum Standards for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and the UN guiding principles of humanitarian assistance. Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring that a comprehensive response is included and appropriately funded in conflict, humanitarian, broader development and global health programming. Ministers emphasised the need for further funding support for victims and called on the international community, including the G8, to increase their efforts to mobilise such funding, including to programmes such as the ICC Trust Fund for Victims and its implementing partners.
9. Ministers stressed the importance of further funding for prevention and response efforts and called on the international community, including the G8, to mobilise such funding from the first phase of conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Ministers also agreed to contribute to building the evidence base on the effective ways to prevent and respond to sexual violence in armed conflict and humanitarian emergencies. Ministers also agreed to support UN reform efforts aimed at ensuring that UN agencies and their partners meet agreed standards on gender-based violence in humanitarian settings.
10. Ministers stressed that peace and security efforts, including in humanitarian settings and post-conflict transition and reform processes, should include provisions to prevent and respond to sexual violence in armed conflict, including by holding perpetrators to account and by providing justice and redress to victims. Ministers agreed that peace negotiations and ceasefires which are supported by G8 members should include the participation of women and explicit recognition of the need to prevent, address and reduce crimes of sexual violence in armed conflict. Ministers further stressed the need to exclude crimes of sexual violence in armed conflict from amnesty provisions. Ministers undertook to promote women’s involvement in all peace negotiations, peace-building, prevention, and accountability efforts and to ensure that such efforts also take the needs and rights of women and children into consideration. In this regard, Ministers committed to assisting conflict-affected countries in ensuring that their future national security sector and justice reform programmes are gender and child-sensitive and that they are designed to address and reduce gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and promote

the full participation of women. Ministers recognised the need to promote national institutions and legal reforms that address and deter sexual violence; including through support to both state and non-state service providers where appropriate. They committed to supporting the deployment of international experts in situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in conflict at the request of host governments, the UN and international organisations to build national judicial, criminal investigative and legal capacity to increase the number of perpetrators brought to justice.

11. Ministers recognised that efforts to address sexual violence in armed conflict should be consistent with and support wider efforts to promote better implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security. Ministers recognised the important contribution of National Action Plans to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, undertook to regularly review such Plans and committed to providing support to conflict-affected countries in the development of their Plans.
12. Ministers agreed that Governments should review the doctrine and training provided to their national military and police where appropriate to ensure that it includes training for appropriate personnel deployed to relevant theatres on the implications of rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. This should include, where appropriate, the training and support provided to the forces of other states. Ministers also support UN and other multilateral efforts to ensure such training is provided to international peacekeeping forces. In recognition of their particular contribution to the fight against sexual violence, Ministers called for the deployment of Women and Child Protection Advisers within appropriate UN and other peacekeeping operations and missions. In this regard Ministers stressed the importance of ensuring that such Women and Child Protection Advisers are appropriately trained and, where deployed by UN Peacekeeping missions are included on the central budgets of these missions.
13. Ministers recognised that a co-operative approach to addressing sexual violence in armed conflict, which is often not considered a priority in the face of other pressing security and conflict concerns would clearly have greater impact. Greater co-ordination, particularly in support of the work of the UN and other relevant multilateral organisations, is vital to improving global efforts to meet the challenge. Ministers reaffirmed their support for the mandate of the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, including their advocacy efforts with governments and other parties to armed conflict to make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, and the development and distribution of relevant tools and resources, including by other competent authorities. Ministers also affirmed their support for the work of the Team of Experts-Rule of Law / Sexual Violence in Conflict as mandated by UN Security Council Resolution 1888.
14. Ministers recognised the need to strengthen UN efforts to address sexual violence in armed conflict and committed to provide further support to the Special Representative as chair of UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict as well as to the Secretary-General's Special Representative on Children and Armed Conflict to assist in the implementation of her mandate to address sexual violence against children in armed conflict.
15. Ministers recognised the need for a continued focus on this issue and for a considered review of the implementation of the above commitments.

## Annex D

# A Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict



The widespread use of rape and other forms of sexual violence in armed conflicts around the world is one of the greatest, most persistent and most neglected injustices. Sexual violence in conflict inflicts unimaginable suffering. It is designed to destroy individuals, families and communities. In so doing it perpetuates conflict and instability, often for generations. But it is not an inevitable consequence of war. We applaud all that the UN, other multilateral organisations and civil society have done to halt this human tragedy. We commit our fullest support to them. But for too long those who commit these crimes, and their superiors who condone them, have gone unpunished. As an international community we can – and must – do more to prevent and respond to these acts of barbarism.

Under international humanitarian law there is a long-standing prohibition of sexual violence in armed conflict. Sexual violence also represents one of the most serious forms of violation or abuse of an individual's human rights. Sexual violence in conflict can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, as reflected in many relevant UN Security Council resolutions, including those on Women, Peace and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, and Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict. We express serious and ongoing concern with the role played by illicit weapons in the commission or facilitation of serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children. Preventing and responding to sexual violence is vital to resolving conflicts, enabling development and building sustainable peace. We must address the range of factors which contribute to sexual violence in conflict and put in place a comprehensive operational security and justice response, in a manner consistent with applicable international law.

Sexual violence committed in conflict must not be viewed as a lesser crime. The overwhelming majority of victims never see justice for what they have endured nor receive the necessary assistance and support. We must shatter the culture of impunity for those who commit these crimes, by bringing those responsible to justice – as a critical element of our prevention efforts. There should be no safe haven for the perpetrators. We stress the important contribution of the ad hoc and

mixed international criminal tribunals, the International Criminal Court and chambers in national tribunals to ending impunity by ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict. We recall that rape and other forms of serious sexual violence in armed conflict are war crimes and constitute grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions and their first Protocol.

Ensuring women's and girls' full human rights and fundamental freedoms and women's active, full and equal political, social and economic participation, including in all conflict prevention and resolution, justice and security sector processes, as well as in wider development activities, is critical to ending sexual violence in conflict. But we must also recognise that men and boys are victims of this crime, as are those who are forced to witness or perpetrate this violence against their family or community members. Our efforts must also serve to shift the stigma of shame from the victims of these crimes to those who commit, command and condone them.

We therefore pledge to do more to raise awareness of these crimes, to challenge the impunity that exists and to hold perpetrators to account, to provide better support to victims, and to support both national and international efforts to build the capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict. We are determined to:

- Ensure that sexual violence prevention and response efforts are prioritised and adequately funded from the first phase and throughout all responses to conflict and humanitarian emergencies.
- Provide better, more timely and comprehensive assistance and care, including health and psychosocial care that addresses the long-term consequences of sexual violence in conflict, to female, male and child victims and their families, including children born as the result of sexual violence.
- Ensure that all peace, security and conflict mediation processes explicitly recognise the need to prevent, respond to and reduce crimes of sexual violence in conflict and stress the need to exclude such crimes from amnesty provisions.
- Promote women's full participation in all political, governance and security structures, as well as all decision-making processes, including peace negotiations, peace-building, prevention and accountability efforts, recognising the important contribution that National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 can play in this regard, and ensure that such processes also take into full consideration the needs and rights of women and children.

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- Strengthen UN efforts to address sexual violence in conflict and provide further support to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict as chair of UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.
- Strengthen and support the efforts of regional organizations to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict in their peacemaking, peacekeeping and peace-building initiatives.
- Support conflict-affected states in strengthening their capacity to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict and to develop and implement national security sector and justice reform programmes that take into full consideration the needs and rights of women and children.
- Support the deployment of national and international expertise at the request of host governments, the UN and other international organisations to build national capacity to hold perpetrators to account and to improve the response and support to victims and their access to justice.
- Ensure our national military and police doctrine and training is in accordance with international law so as to enable a more effective prevention and response to sexual violence in conflict.
- Encourage and improve the safe and ethical collection of data and evidence relating to acts of sexual violence committed in conflict, to inform national and international responses.
- Encourage, support and protect the efforts of civil society organizations, including women's groups and human rights defenders, to improve the monitoring and documentation of cases of sexual violence in conflict without fear of reprisal and empower victims to access justice.
- Support and encourage the development of the International Protocol on the documentation and investigation of sexual violence in conflict at national, regional and international levels, with a view to its conclusion in 2014.

By working together, sharing our knowledge and our experience, mobilising resources and committing our global political will we are determined to end the use of rape and other forms of sexual violence as weapons of war. This crime must not be allowed to continue any further. Now is the time to act.



## Annex E

# The Summit Youth Group's recommendations

### Improving the use of evidence and data

- Governments must ensure that there are sufficient resources to prioritise systematic data and evidence collection including data on men, women, boys and girls in order to acknowledge the survivor, inform the provision of appropriate services and to raise public awareness of the scale of sexual violence.
- Data and evidence must be collected in line with the World Health Organisations' safety and ethical recommendations for emphasising informed consent and confidentiality. There should be recognition that different approaches in collecting data and evidence from girls, boys, men and women across different contexts may be necessary.
- Greater use should be made of new methods of data collection and information sharing, for example crowd sourcing information sites, to inform analysis of sexual violence and help to inform new ways of collecting data and evidence.

### Sexual violence against men and boys

- Recognising that gender construction is at the heart of much gender-based violence, governments must invest in ensuring traditional and non-traditional means of educating individuals, families, communities and countries on addressing gender inequalities in order to ever end sexual violence in conflict and outside of conflict.
- All laws that address sexual violence must ensure that definitions of survivors explicitly include all genders, but not

limited to, men, boys, women, girls and transgender people. Definitions of sexual violence must also include clear guidance on consent and include sexual violence in marriage.

- Civil society, including international NGOs, must pay greater attention to the provision of support and services to all genders who are survivors of sexual violence. Recognition must be given to the fact that constructions of gender can be barriers to rehabilitation.

### The particular vulnerabilities of children to sexual violence in conflict

- Recognising the vulnerabilities of girls and boys and the unique dangers they face in conflict, where children can be targeted as a strategy to seed terror amongst communities, all donors and governments must ensure the provision of appropriate child specific and accessible services.
- All governments must ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child through national action plans, and recognise the important role that children and young people have to play in designing, implementing and monitoring effective interventions to end sexual violence at national and global level.
- Recognising that some children are particularly vulnerable such as, but not limited to, orphans, children born of rape, former child soldiers, trafficked children, displaced children and those in exploitative industries, e.g. the sex trade, it is necessary to provide specific interventions aimed at increasing their economic resilience.

### Survivor centric responses in emergencies (Prevention)

- Recognising that sexual violence in conflict has its root causes in attitudes and social behaviours that reflect underlying gender inequality, prioritising investment in quality education for all is key, including for the military. It is important to challenge the stigma attached to sexual violence and empower and commit to protect the crucial work human rights defenders, including survivors, undertake in these contexts.
- Recognising that not all justice results in prosecution and transformative justice with communities is critical, all governments should ensure that national jurisdictions have laws compatible with the highest international standards and that these laws are implemented. Additionally governments should commit to exercising full universal jurisdiction where national governments will not or are unable to prosecute these crimes.
- All governments and the international community must take action to reduce the risk of conflict including by signing and ratifying the arms trade treaty and ensuring that basic standards of living are fulfilled for all. This can be achieved by the use of context appropriate social protection mechanisms and livelihood interventions.

### Survivor centric responses in emergencies (Protection)

- In order to ensure the appropriate response and services are provided to all survivors of all genders, duty holders and first responders must be given specific, contextual and on-going training and support to deliver age appropriate, timely and accessible interventions. Recognising the critical role that duty holders and first responders play, where they are perpetrators prosecutions must be taken forward and prioritised in line with the highest international standards.
- All governments should ensure that all survivors receive holistic and integrated services that include, but are not limited to, full sexual reproductive health rights, psychosocial support, livelihoods support, shelter and also address negative coping mechanisms. Survivors and communities must lead the development of these interventions and services and receive resources allocated to them.
- There must be recognition that displacement and relocation, both internally and across borders, is about finding safety. It is vital that the rights of individuals who have been forced to move are recognised in line with the 1951 Refugee Convention and that they have freedom regarding if and when they travel back to their place of origin. Adequate services and facilities must be provided in both place of origin and place of relocation to make this a true choice.

# Thank you

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AB Colombia; Action Aid; Action Youth Platform; Afghan Women's Network; African Women's Development Fund; Africalives!; AIDS-Free World; American Bar Association; Amnesty International; Artists in The Hood; Art Works Projects; Asia Foundation; BACA; Balkan Investigative Reporting Network in Bosnia and Herzegovina; Balkan Transitional Justice; Beyond (peace); Bond; Breaking the Silence; BVES, Bukavu; Care International; Chatham House; CISP Mogadishu; Coalico; Combat Stress; Congo Connect; Congolese Action Youth Platform; Contra Media Films; Control Arms; Doctors of the World; East and Horn of Africa Human Rights Defenders Project Kampala; European University Firenze; Everyday Sexism Project; FDAPID; Foundation for Human Rights Johannesburg; Freedom from Torture; GAPS UK; Gender Hope; General Reference Hospital of Minova; General Reference Hospital of Uvira; Geneva Call; Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces; Georgetown University School of Medicine; Girl Be Heard; Global Diplomatic Forum; Global Justice Centre; Global Poverty Project; Handicap International; HIV/AIDS Alliance; Human Rights Watch; Hygiene; ICAN; Ice & Fire; International Action Network on Small Arms; International Alert; International Association of Women Police; International Campaign to Stop Rape & Gender Violence in Conflict; International Center for Research on Women; International Committee of the Red Cross; International Exchange Programme Institute; International Justice Mission; International Planned Parenthood Federation; International Rescue Committee; International Centre for Research on Women; International Center for Transitional Justice; IPAS; Iranian and Kurdish Women's Rights Organisation; Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange; Isra AID; Katswe Sistahood; London School of Economics; London School of Tropical Medicine; Made Equal; Marie Colvin Journalists Circle; Marie Stopes International; Medecins Sans Frontieres;

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#TIMETOACT



**END SEXUAL  
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IN CONFLICT**  
**GLOBAL SUMMIT**  
**LONDON 2014**