

The Legacy of War Time Rape: *Mapping Key Concepts and Issues*

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Photo: Returned female child soldier, courtesy of CPA's photo gallery, provided by FAPAD.

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Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

REPORT FROM THE CONFERENCE

The legacy of war time rape: mapping key concepts and issues

*Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO) and the International Network for Interdisciplinary Research on Children Born of War (INIRC) in co-operation with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Oslo, October 27th -28th 2011*

Summary by Ingvill C. Mochmann and Ingeborg K. Haavardsson

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Cover: Photo of a returned female child soldier (abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army) and her child fathered by a member of the LRA. With courtesy of CPA's photo gallery. Kindly provided by Facilitation for Peace and Development (FAPAD), Lira, Uganda, <http://www.fapaduganda.org/>

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Acknowledgements

The conference on “The legacy of war time rape: mapping key concepts and issues” which took place in Oslo end October 2011 is an example of how an issue which is often seen as a women’s issue needs to be embedded into the wider societal context. War rape affects not only the victims directly exposed to the crime, but also their family, community and society at large. Understanding the interactions and dynamics between these levels in different conflicts is essential for providing support at the individual level and finding measures for sustainable post-conflict peacebuilding.

We would like to thank the presenters for their valuable contributions to the conference and all participants for their important points in the discussions. In particular, we would like to thank the key note speakers, Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and Jan Egeland, Europe Director and Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Watch. Furthermore, we would like to thank the Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding Project and the PRIO Gender Team for hosting the conference and providing expert advice in the planning process.

Finally, we are particularly grateful to the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the financial support provided for this conference.

Cologne and Oslo, December 2011

Ingvill C. Mochmann

Ingeborg K. Haavardsson

Information

At this conference researchers and practitioners gathered to map key concepts and issues related to war time rape. The cooperation between the PRIO gender group, and the “International network for interdisciplinary research on children born of war (INIRC)” offered the opportunity to draw upon contacts from different networks of researchers and practitioners who for many years have worked on rape, war, traumatisation, children born of war, perpetrators, reconciliation etc., but who had not yet had the opportunity to exchange information and share knowledge in these areas. It was the aim of the organisers to address these issues in an interdisciplinary perspective inviting international experts among others from the neurosciences, medicine, psychology, history, laws, arts, media, social sciences, military, NGOs, politics and the United Nations with expertise from different countries and regions of the world.

The main focus of the conference was on the consequences of rape in wars and conflicts, in particular, where this has been/is being used as military strategy by governmental or paramilitary groups. However, in times of war and conflict/post-conflict it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between rape, sexual abuse and so called consensual relationships. The women often experience social stigma and exclusion from the community in all these situations. Furthermore, information seems to indicate that many children born of war share similar fates independent of the circumstances of conception. Frequently the children are provided with identities related to their fathers’ ethnic/country/biological origin and/or military belonging which define them as a social out-group in the country/region of birth. Thus, the issue of children born of war was addressed in a broader perspective at the conference in order to facilitate a comparison of the state of knowledge between the children born of war time rape compared to other groups of children born of war.

Part I of this report contains a summary of the main issues addressed and discussed at the conference. This has been structured based on issues rather than providing a summary of each presentation and recommendations at the political and research levels are provided where this seems appropriate based on the available evidence base. The main contents of the respective presentations can be read in the abstracts which are included in Part II of this report.

PART I

SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Radhika Coomaraswamy

Summary Report and Recommendations

“Ethics is about recognising, it is about how to set a group on the agenda and how to support this group” (Henrik Syse, speaker at the conference)

Awareness of war time rape and its consequences

October 7th 2011 the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced that the Nobel Peace Prize for 2011 was to be divided in three equal parts between Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s rights to full participation in peace-building work. *“It is the Norwegian Nobel Committee’s hope that the prize to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman will help to bring an end to the suppression of women that still occurs in many countries, and to realise the great potential for democracy and peace that women can represent.”*

The conference “The Legacy of War Time Rape: mapping key concepts and issues” took place three weeks after this announcement. For two days an interdisciplinary and international group of researchers and practitioners shared knowledge and exchanged experience on the issue of sexual violence against women in armed conflicts. There was optimism among the participants that the Nobel Peace Prize would increase public and political awareness of the topic. And the hope was that this awareness would make visible victim groups who until recent years were invisible or considered “collateral damage” in times of war and conflict. Nevertheless, this is not only a question of awareness. The presentations given at the conference also made clear that the topic of war-related sexual violence and its consequences are significantly under-researched and that this needs to be changed. Research is important as a basis of agenda setting; facts are important in order to, for example, estimate the magnitude of the problem, see varieties over time and place, and evaluate the success of humanitarian programmes to the victim groups.

War time rape and children born as a consequence of such crimes have existed for as long as there have been wars and conflicts. Yet, only during the past few decades these issues have become a topic on the human rights agenda and in recent years several important developments have taken place; among others in 2007 the UN declared a zero-tolerance policy

on sexual violence and abuse among its peacekeeping and civilian personnel, and in 2008 the UN passed a resolution describing rape as a tactic of war and a threat to international security.

Also public awareness of such crimes has grown through a larger focus on this issue in the media and reports by, in particular, NGOs and the UN. This growing awareness of sexual violence in more recent wars has also encouraged societies to address similar crimes committed in their societies in previous wars. An example is the widespread rape of German women by Red Army soldiers during the capitulation of Germany in WWII. This topic has, compared to other war-related topics, received rather little attention in post-war Germany and in the German society and in families the topic was a taboo until recently.

Raping the women is often seen as a war booty, proof of victory and power, humiliation of the men who are unable to protect their wives and daughters. The consequence is that neither the women nor families and societies talk about sexual violence. In many parts of the world it is now recognised that the women are not responsible for the crimes committed against them. However, in many cultures around the world the women are still held responsible for being raped and the fact that children may also be born as a consequence of war time rape is widely ignored. Although women and girls are mostly the victims, it was emphasised that also men and boys are victims of sexual violence in war. When committed against the male population, such crimes are often categorised as torture, however, and are thus not included in statistics and reports on sexual violence.

In summary, in recent years there is a growing awareness on sexual violence used as weapon of war. However, the topic is significantly under-researched. The conference participants agreed:

- **that there is a need to consolidate and expand the evidence base on war rape victims and children born of war, but also to increase knowledge on the perpetrators as well as the impact sexual violence has on families, communities, and societies at large; *It was clear that issues related to war time rape need to be addressed in a multidisciplinary and cross-cultural perspective drawing upon experts who have case specific conflict and country expertise.***

- ***and that there is a need to develop immediate and sustainable support mechanisms for the victim groups; practical and sustainable procedures to support war rape***

victims and children born of war have to be implemented, both at the policy level and at the level of humanitarian interventions including repatriations and the punishment of perpetrators. A holistic approach should be used in the development and implementation of such procedures on all system levels including, for example, other family members, members of the communities, and community leaders/religious leaders.

These two areas will be elaborated in the following sections and will serve as basis for the concluding recommendations.

Consolidating and expanding the evidence base

The presentations revealed that systematic collection of reliable data on war time rape and children born of war is required. This data should not solely be limited to clearly defined rape cases as available evidence suggests that it is sometimes difficult to differentiate between rape, sexual abuse and so called “voluntary relationships” in times of war and post-conflict situations. Circumstances of relationships and conception vary greatly. For example with regard to ‘survival prostitution’ the borders between voluntary and exploitative relations are fluid in circumstances where survival of the individual and her family might depend on sexual services of a woman (e.g. war-time and post-war liaisons in Germany, Austria, France, Britain, Central and Eastern Europe, Vietnam, and countries where peacekeeping forces operate). In addition consensual relationships occur also between foreign soldiers and local women in war and post-war situations (e.g. US soldiers in Great Britain; Canadian soldiers in the Netherlands; Allied soldiers in post-war Germany and Austria; German soldiers in France, Eastern or Northern Europe). Interestingly, available evidence indicates that many children born of war share similar fates independent of the circumstance of conception. Examples are elaborated in the section below. Per today researchers differentiate between four different categories of children born of war: Children of enemy soldiers, Children of occupation forces, Children of child soldiers, and Children of peacekeepers.

More information on the life histories of war rape victims and children born of war is needed. Information about the mothers’ show, for example in Congo, that the women are blamed for the rape and were left by their husbands or had to leave their family and community. In Bosnia, the children born of forced impregnation were acknowledged as a challenge for the mothers. To

improve the situation the women who had been raped were declared martyrs of Islam and the Islamic leadership urged the communities to support the women and accept and raise war-rape orphans and to integrate them. However, research shows that the reality has been difficult for both the women and the children. Local women who were involved in so called consensual relationships with foreign soldiers during and after WWII were often considered as collaborators (even if the forces were allied) and whores. In some cases they were also officially punished although they had not committed a crime according to existing law. This left the women in vulnerable positions and had often far-reaching consequences for the children born as a consequence of these relationships as the mothers themselves were too exposed to protect the children.

In the meantime we do have data and information on the different categories of children born of war. Independent of type of conflict and background of many children share the following fates: They often belong to the hidden and marginalised populations; they are often traumatised, suffering from identity crises and they have often been deprived of some of their basic human rights such access to education and social services. Furthermore, many receive no information about their biological origin. They may know of their fathers' military background, but no more about his identity. Often they grow up in institutional care or in single-parent families which – dependent on society – may cause stigmatisation. The children often also experience to be rejected by family and local communities. Also, their life courses are often adversely affected with regard to health (physical and mental); education, socio-economic outcomes etc. Finally, children born of war are associated with 'the enemy' and receive names which characterise them as such, for example, 'children of enemy' in Bosnia, 'children of hate' in Congo, 'Bui Doi' (dust of life) in Vietnam, 'German brat' in Norway, Denmark, and France.

The discussions also made clear that there is a deficit in research related to the perpetrators, compared to the focus on the women and children. In order to successfully combat sexual crimes in war, we need to increase research on perpetrators to improve our knowledge and understanding of why rape and sexual abuse is used systematically in some conflicts and not others. We need to analyze the role of the different military groups and, for example, their organisational culture, ethical principles and codes of conduct or lack of such guidelines. For examples, research results show that states are frequently perpetrators of sexual violence in war (SVAC Data Project). In this context it is also necessary to look at cross-cultural variations in gender roles and attitudes towards women in general. Although, this should not be used as an excuse for accepting sexual crimes, the often inferior position of women and girls in societies

may contribute to understanding which measures may be most useful in changing attitudes and behavior of perpetrators.

Information in the above mentioned areas, i.e. facts, life histories of victim groups, perpetrators, communities and societies can be obtained, among others, via meta analysis of existing research results, reports from humanitarian organisations, national and international agencies, courts, and archives, media etc., qualitative and quantitative interviews of the victims and their children as well as other witnesses. In addition, presentations given by experts in the areas of psychology, neuroscience, and medicine made clear that further dimensions need to be taken into considerations which are not related to the political, sociological, historical or juridical understanding of human behavior. Basic research from socio-biology, brain and trauma research give interesting insights into issues which are also highly relevant to war rape victims, children born of war, perpetrators and war-affected and traumatised communities and societies at large. This includes, among others, the impact of traumatisation on brain functions and memory, the impact of post-traumatic stress (PTSD) on the willingness to reconcile, the psychosocial and genetic impact of traumatisation on biological children (transgenerational impact), as well as the role of resilience, and the impact of stigma and self-stigmatisation.

Finally, throughout the discussions, ethical issues were raised repeatedly. Many researchers working on sensitive topics asked for experiences exchange and best practices with regard to ethical aspects of data collection, in particular when directly confronted with the victim groups or perpetrators through observations, interviews etc. For example how to ask sensitive questions and react to answers? How to avoid retraumatisation of victims in the research process and how to act if this occurs? How to include raped women and children born of war in research without outing them, thereby increasing stigmatisation? How to get informed consent from children? How to use the data obtained in the research process? In addition to these issues, ethical concerns regarding the role of the researchers doing research on traumatised women and children, but also on perpetrators were addressed. How to keep the emotional distance to the research object in order to secure objectivity? How to cope emotionally when interviewing individuals who experienced or committed severe human rights violations?

Develop sustainable support procedures for the victims

Raped and sexually abused women and the children born of war often belong to the marginalised and hidden populations in war and post-war settings. There was general agreement among the participants that the rights and interests of these victim groups can only be secured if the issue is addressed openly and someone is identified who is responsible, for example, UN and its organisations operating in the field such as UNICEF, UNHCR and peacekeeping troops. It may also include foreign military units who are responsible for committing the crimes in the countries of occupation/service. An important step in this context is to develop international guidelines to secure the rights of women raped and sexually abused in war and the rights of children born of war. These guidelines need to take into account that the interests of the women and children do not always overlap. For example the mother may have an interest in keeping the biological origin of the child a secret, however, this may not be in the best interest of the child. The existence of opposing interests thus needs to be considered in the elaboration of guidelines

Beyond establishing general guidelines, it was emphasised that the immediate needs of the victims with regard to health, food/economy, education, practical, and legal support need to be secured. Both with regard to the immediate and the long term support procedures, best practices need to be developed on how to implement these without increasing the discrimination of the women and children in question. It was also argued that the practical support has to be targeted both at the raped women and children born of war to make sure that both groups receive adequate support. With regard to the children born of war we know that it cannot be assumed that the mothers are willing or capable of acting in the interest of their children. For example, DDR programmes in Northern Uganda left out the children born by abducted female child soldiers who were raped by members of the LRA. These children received among others no school and no education.

Although, rape is seen as a tactic of war and sexual violence may be prosecuted under international law, legal regulations and procedures often do not exist at the national level. In many countries perpetrators are not prosecuted and jailed for committing rape. To the victims it is an essential part of their political protection to see that when they testify against their perpetrators these are prosecuted and held responsible for their committed crimes. However, often perpetrators are not prosecuted and/or released without sentence on grounds such as lack

of proof, lack of witnesses etc. In order to obtain this it is essential that the international community and political leaders put more pressure on local leaders to combat rape and prosecute war-time rape as a crime. This also includes pressures to promote “the right people in the right positions”, requiring that persons having been involved in committing these crimes are not promoted into leading positions in post-conflict societies. Furthermore, issues related to rape and sexual violence and the existence of and responsibility towards children born of war need to be addressed in post conflict peace building processes and repatriation procedures. Finally, it was emphasised that measurements of success related to the actual improvement for the raped women and children born of war should be implemented. These measures should go beyond the counting the number of court cases, prosecutions, policy reports and meetings at national and international level. This implies, among other, that we need to ask the women if and how their situation has improved (or not), address NGO’s operating in the field on how they perceive the situation, and above all carry out longitudinal analyses in order to evaluate how the situation actually develops. Often, such as in the Bosnian case, the issue gets a high level of attention from all sides at one point and thereafter the topic and the affected victim groups disappear in the hidden.

To the extent this seems possible and profitable to reintegration and reconciliation a holistic approach should be used in the development and implementation of support mechanisms including other family members, members of the communities and community leaders/religious leaders etc. In some situations also the perpetrators should be included in this process, such as in the case of the demobilisation and reintegration of former child soldiers

Recommendations

In summary, the following recommendations were given at the political and research level:

Political level:

- War rape and children born of war need to be addressed openly and organisations and states identified who are responsible for them in war and post-war situations.

- International guidelines need to be developed which secure the rights of raped and sexually abused women and children born of war. These guidelines need to take into account that the interests of the women and children do not always overlap and should thus be seen from both perspectives.
- It is essential to secure the immediate needs of the victims with regard to health, food/economy, education, practical, and legal support. The practical support has to be targeted both at the women and children born of war to make sure that both groups receive adequate support. With regard to the children born of war we know that it cannot be assumed that the mothers are willing or capable of acting in the interest of their child.
- Perpetrators have to be held responsible for their actions and the international community and political leaders must put more pressure on local leaders to combat rape and prosecute war-time rape as a crime.
- Rape and sexual violence and the existence of and responsibility towards children born of war need to be addressed in post conflict peace-building processes and repatriation procedures.
- Best practices need to be developed on how to implement support without exposing the victim groups, as this may lead to discrimination and stigmatisation.
- The units providing support to the women/mothers and children (NGO's, national services etc.) should cooperate and exchange knowledge. Only then it is possible to detect children who may fall out of the two support schemes such as is often the case with children born of war.

Research level:

- Reliable data on war time rape and children born of war should be collected systematically.
- Comparative, interdisciplinary and longitudinal research on the life histories and developments of the war rape victims and children born of war should be carried out.

- Research on perpetrators of sexual crimes needs to be increased. Knowledge on the role of the different military groups, their organisational culture, ethical principles and codes of conduct as well as cross-cultural variations in gender roles and attitudes towards women is required in order to find successful procedures to combat sexual violence in war.
- Experiences and best practices should be exchanged between researchers from all disciplines who are working with and doing research on war rape victims, children born of war perpetrators and related topics.

Finally, the political and research level need to interact; Collaborations between national governments and international organisations, courts, and humanitarian organisations, military units and research networks need to be established. They should follow up on developments both practically, politically and research-based in this area and evaluate the actual progress in terms of improving the situation for sexually assaulted women in conflict and post conflict situations and the children born of war.



Barbara Stelzl-Marx, Ingvill C. Mochmann, Philipp Kuwert and Sabine Lee

PART II

CONFERENCE INFORMATION



Jan Egeland

Concept note of the Conference

In recent years it has increasingly been acknowledged that in addition to the devastating personal consequences of rape, widespread sexual violence and rape in war have an immense impact on families, communities and societies at large. Women often do not report sexual violence as this may result in stigmatisation, and the women may be blamed for being raped and lose their families and ties to the community as a result. When rape results in pregnancy, however, it cannot be hidden. Although it is known that pregnancies occur and children are born as a consequence, the existence of rape-related pregnancy in war has found little attention so far in academia, humanitarian interventions, or post-conflict reconciliation.

This conference offers a first step in mapping key concepts and issues on war rape victims and children born of rape, perpetrators and communities and the dynamics between these actors based on current knowledge. By facilitating the exchange of expertise and experience between researchers, military personnel, and representatives from NGOs, the arts and the media, the aim is to find answers to, among others, the following questions:

- *In general:* How are war rape victims and the children born of rape treated during and after conflicts? What is their situation in the family, community and society? What legal rights and medical, economic and psychological support systems exist? Are the women and children integrated and supported by families and communities, or are they exposed to stigmatisation and discrimination?
- *The mothers:* What do we know about the context of rape, the relationship between mother and child, and the long-term consequences (psychological, economic, medical, social, and so on)?
- *The children:* What is known about how the lives of children born of war rape develop? How and with whom do they grow up? What do they know about their biological background and the way they were conceived? How is the relationship to their mother (if they know her)?
- *The perpetrators:* What is known about the perpetrators? Was the rape, for example, ethnically motivated or a result of group pressure, intoxication etc.? Are the perpetrators nationally and/or internationally prosecuted? Which role does the biological background of the father have for the position of the children in post-war integration?

The community: How has the local community and society positioned themselves towards

the rape victim, the children born of rape and the perpetrators? Have special measures been taken, for example, by religious leaders or community leaders to integrate the victims?

By analysing these aspects in different cultural, historical, juridical, social and political contexts we expect to achieve a better understanding of which short- and long-term national support systems and international humanitarian interventions and policies are required, both in order to prevent the use of widespread rape in war and to deal with the individual and societal consequences of rape.



Eunice Apio



Henrik Syse and Heidi Matthews

Conference Programme

27-28 October 2011

Henry Dunant Hall, Norwegian Red Cross, Hausmanns gate 7, Oslo.

Day 1

Moderator: Helga Hernes

Registration and Lunch: 12:30-13:25

Welcome

13:30 - 13:40 Kristian Berg Harpviken

Keynote Speaker

13:40– 14:10 Radhika Coomaraswamy, Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, United Nations

Panel 1 14:15 – 16:30

War rape victims and children born of rape – some perspectives

Chair: Scott Gates

Speakers:

- Sabine Lee, *Children born of war-related sexual exploitation: a historical perspective on 20th century developments of reality and perceptions*
- Philipp Kuwert, *A bitter lesson to be learned for the conflicts of nowadays: wartime rape in 1945,*
- Inger Skjelsbæk, *28 Convicted Individuals: A social psychological analysis of the sentencing judgments on sexual violence crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)*
- Hans Markowitsch, *Self-deception and perception of others: A neuroscientific contribution to the topic of traumatization*

Discussion

Day 2

Moderator: Torunn Tryggestad

Keynote Speaker

9:15-9:45 Jan Egeland, Europe Director and Deputy Executive Director, Human Rights Watch

Panel 2 9:45 – 12:00

Case studies: Experiences from the field

Chair: Liv Tønnessen

Speakers:

- Zala Volcic, *'Target', 'cancer' and 'warrior': exploring painful metaphors of self-presentation used by girls born of war rape in Bosnia*
- General Major Muniruzzaman, *The Unpleasant Truth: Sexual exploitation in UN Peace Keeping Operations*
- Eunice Apio, *Resilience beyond programs; the Ugandan experience*
- Jocelyn Kelly, *Inheriting Shame: Children born of rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*

Discussion

Lunch 12:00 – 12:55

Moderator: Sabine Lee

Panel 3 13:00 – 15:15

How to get the topic on the agenda?

Chair: Barbara Stelzl-Marx

Speakers:

- Dorien DeTombe, *War time rape as a complex societal problem handled by the Compram Methodology*
- Heidi Matthews, *Interrogating the Policy Implications of Wartime Rape as an International Crime*
- Ragnhild Nordås, *The importance of facts in agenda setting – the SVAC data project*
- Henrik Syse, *The Mother and the Child: Ethical Considerations about Children Born of Rape*

Final Discussion

15:15-15:30 Coffee Break (15 minutes)

15:30 – 16:00 Summing Up: Ingvill C. Mochmann

Information on Speakers

Key note speaker Radhika Coomaraswamy

Radhika Coomaraswamy was appointed by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan as Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict in April 2006. She was reappointed by the UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in February 2007. In this capacity, she serves as a moral voice and independent advocate to build awareness and give prominence to the rights and protection of boys and girls affected by armed conflict.

Ms. Coomaraswamy, a lawyer by training and formerly the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, is an internationally known human rights advocate who has done outstanding work as Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women (1994-2003). In her reports to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, she has written on violence in the family, violence in the community, violence against women during armed conflict and the problem of international trafficking. A strong advocate on women's rights, she has intervened on behalf of countless women throughout the world seeking clarification from Governments in cases involving violence against women.

Ms. Coomaraswamy was appointed Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission in May 2003. She was also a director of the International Centre for Ethnic Studies in Sri Lanka, leading research projects in the field of ethnicity, women and human rights. She has served as a member of the Global Faculty of the New York University School of Law. She has published widely, including two books on constitutional law and numerous articles on ethnic studies and the status of women. Ms. Coomaraswamy has won many awards. These include: The International Law Award of the American Bar association, the Human Rights Award of the International Human Rights Law Group, the Bruno Kreisky Award of 2000, the Leo Ettinger Human Rights Prize of the University of Oslo, Cesar Romero Award of the University of Dayton, the William J. Butler Award from the University of Cincinnati, and the Robert S. Litvack Award from McGill University. Ms. Coomaraswamy is a graduate of the United Nations International School in New York. She received her B.A. from Yale University, her J.D. from Columbia University, an LLM from Harvard University and honorary PhDs from Amherst College, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Essex, the University of Leuven and the University of Ulster.

Key note speaker Jan Egeland

Since August 2011 Jan Egeland is Europe Director and Deputy Executive Director at Human Rights Watch. He was director of the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) from 2007-2011. From 2003-2006 was the United Nations Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. This position is the head of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Prior to becoming the head of OCHA, Egeland was the Secretary General of the Norwegian Red Cross. From 1999 to 2002, he was the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Adviser on Colombia. Egeland's career also includes service to his government as State Secretary in the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from 1990 to 1997. In that capacity, he initiated two Norwegian Emergency Preparedness Systems, which have provided more than 2,000 experts and humanitarian workers to international organizations. He has also been Chair of Amnesty International in Norway, and Vice-Chair of the International Executive Committee of Amnesty International. He served as Director for the International Department of the Norwegian Red Cross, Head of Development Studies at the Henry Dunant Institute in Geneva. Egeland has actively participated in a number of peace processes. Among others he co-initiated and co-organized the Norwegian channel between Israel and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1992, which led to the Oslo Accord (Declaration of Principles) of September 1993. Egeland has focused his efforts in alleviating the needs of this sector of the population in complex emergency situations like the Lord's Resistance Army insurgency in northern Uganda, the Darfur region in Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has also raised awareness in issues such as natural disasters, gender mainstreaming, sexual exploitation and violence, and internal displacement. Jan Egeland has published a number of reports, studies and articles on conflict resolution, humanitarian affairs and human rights. Egeland holds a Magister Artium in Political Science from the University of Oslo. He has been a Fulbright Scholar at the University of California, Berkeley and a fellow at the International Peace Research Institute, Oslo, and the Truman Institute for the Advancement of Peace, Jerusalem. Egeland also holds a post as Professor II at the University of Stavanger.

Eunice Apio is Executive Secretary of Facilitation for Peace and Development, an NGO active in the post conflict recovery processes in northern Uganda. She has gained significant experience in the field of DDDR in northern Uganda since the year 2000. Besides attending courses in Uganda and abroad on children and DDDR, Apio has a Masters Degree in Human Rights and a Bachelors degree in Sciences from Makerere University, Kampala. The qualifying thesis conceptualized the reintegration of children affected by armed conflict in Uganda. This later formed the basis for Ms. Apio's deeper involvement and commitment in research on children and war. With an eye on children born of war mainly in Uganda, Ms. Apio has since contributed to the research area considerably.

Dorien J. DeTombe is the founding father of the field Methodology for Societal Complexity. She is an international recognized expert in the field of handling Complex Societal Problems and issues. She developed the methodology COMPRAM (Complex Problem hAndling Methodology), a multi disciplined methodology for political decision making. Dorien J. DeTombe studied social science and computer science. She received her doctorate in the field of methodology for Complex Societal Problems. She spent her main carrier as a scientist at Utrecht University and at Delft University of Technology in The Netherlands. Dorien J. DeTombe published many articles and books on the subject of Methodology of Complex Societal Problems. She is doing research on the subject of how to handle complex problems; policy problems in risk management, sustainable development and healthcare. On issues like floods, HIV/Aids, urban research, future planning, agricultural issues, terrorism, credit crisis, and climate change. She gives lectures on the subject of Methodology of Societal Complexity as visiting professor and at conferences all over the world. She organizes yearly conferences on the topic of Methodology of Societal Complexity. She is editor of several journals.

Scott Gates is Director of the Centre for the Study of Civil War (CSCW) at PRIO and is a Professor at the Norwegian University of Science & Technology (NTNU). Gates has published five book and articles that have appeared, *inter alia*, in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, and *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*. Gates' current research interests include: governance, civil war, insurgency-counter-insurgency dynamics, children and war, and the various forms of political violence.

Ingeborg K. Haavardsson is the *Special Advisor on External Relations* at PRIO. She is responsible for developing and maintaining good relations with various collaborators and funding sources, and coordinates larger conferences and events and is co-organizer of the conference on "Legacy of war time rape". Ingeborg is also responsible for the development and operation of PRIOs involvement in the US based Peace Research Endowment.

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Jocelyn Kelly is Director of the Women in War program at the Harvard Humanitarian Initiative (HHI) where she designs and implements research projects based in the Democratic Republic of the Congo to examine the experiences and attitudes of community groups regarding sexual violence. Ms. Kelly graduated from Johns Hopkins University and prior to joining HHI, she worked as an Emergency Management Specialist in Hurricane Katrina-affected areas and acted as a liaison to the FEMA Public Assistance Chief in Louisiana.

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Sabine Lee is Reader at the Department of Modern History at the University of Birmingham, UK. She graduated with a degree in Mathematics and History from Düsseldorf University before completing an M.Phil. in International Relations at Cambridge University and a Ph.D. in Modern History at Cambridge University. She has published widely on aspects of 20th century History, History of Science and International Relations.

Hans J. Markowitsch is Professor of Physiological Psychology at the University of Bielefeld. He studied at the University of Konstanz, had professorships for biopsychology and physiological psychology at the Universities of Konstanz, Bochum and Bielefeld and was offered chairs of psychology and neuroscience at Australian and Canadian Universities. His research centers on the neural and psychic bases of memory disorders, consciousness and traumata. He is author, co-author or editor of two dozen books and has written more than 500 scientific articles and book chapters.

Heidi Matthews is a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D.) candidate at Harvard Law School. Her dissertation, under the supervision of Dean Martha Minow, undertakes a political history of the idea of international criminality, and theorizes international criminal law as both marking – and shaping – a radical shift in the normative framework of international law more generally. Heidi holds a B.A. from Mount Allison University and an LL.B.-B.C.L. from McGill University. While pursuing her LL.M. at Harvard Law School she wrote on the structural role of the civilian-combatant distinction in new counter-insurgency and anti-terrorism law and policy. She has worked at the Appeals Chamber of the Special Court for Sierra Leone, where she advised judges on the doctrine of “forced marriage”. Most recently, she worked for the Immediate Office of the Prosecutor at the Special Tribunal for Lebanon. She also has experience in domestic and international criminal defense. Heidi is currently in pre-production of a documentary film about the legacy of sexual violence experienced by German civilian women during the fall of Berlin in 1945. Additional research interests include: public international law, domestic and international criminal law, human rights, sexuality and criminal law, legal history, political and legal theory, and aesthetics and the law.

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Major General Muniruzzaman (Retd) is a career military officer who served 38 years in active duty. He was the Military Secretary to the President of Bangladesh and the Colonel Commandant of the Regiment of Artillery (Head of the Bangladesh artillery). General Muniruzzaman is an experienced peace keeper and was a member and head of the country contingent to UNTAC in Cambodia. He also has the distinction of heading the post election UN Mission in Cambodia, monitoring the political and security stability situation of the country and as the Head of the mission acting

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Liv Tønnessen is a political scientist and researcher at Chr.Michelsen Institute (CMI) with a track record from the Middle East and northern Africa with long term stays in Sudan, Lebanon and Syria. Tønnessen speaks Arabic and has published in international peer review journals on Islamic feminism, legal pluralism and gender justice and women's rights and gender based violence. Her project portfolio includes projects on women and sexual violence in northern Sudan in cooperation with Ahfad University for women (Project leader), poverty reduction and gender justice in contexts of complex legal pluralism, women and peace-building, and the politics of Islamism and gender. Tønnessen is also a board member of the Nordic Society for Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies.

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Helga Hernes

Abstracts

Abstracts Panel 1

Sabine Lee, Children born of war-related sexual exploitation: a historical perspective on 20th century developments of reality and perceptions

Wartime sexual exploitation has, with some justification, been described as the oldest and the newest war crime. There is little doubt that for as long as humans have been engaged in warfare, there has been some raping (Brownmiller 1975, 31); however, the 20th century has witnessed a dramatic change in warfare, which has led, among others, to a much increased impact of warfare on the civilian population. Not only that, in the last decades of the century the world witnessed an increasing tendency towards the sexualisation of war-related violence as a means of warfare, serving tactical and strategic purposes. There have always been children born as a result of war rape, but only recently has the existence of these children born of war been acknowledged, and the United Nations are beginning to work towards an acknowledgement that these children's rights need to be enforced (UN 2007). This paper will trace a number of 20th century conflicts and investigate the situation of children born of these conflicts with particular emphasis on the question whether the changing nature of warfare has had an impact on the situation of the children born of war throughout the century. Gaps in research of children born of war will be addressed briefly and some ideas about a future research strategy will be mentioned.

Philipp Kuwert, A bitter lesson to be learned for the conflicts of nowadays: wartime rape in 1945

The aim of the presented study was to determine the amount of trauma impact and significant posttraumatic stress symptoms indicating a Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in a sample of very elderly German women who survived the mass rapes committed by soldiers of allied troops at the end of World War II. 27 women were recruited, then interviewed and administered a modified Posttraumatic Diagnostic Scale, a Brief Symptom Inventory and a Social Acknowledgement scale. The women reported a very severe degree of trauma exposure in 1945. 19 % reported significant posttraumatic stress symptoms indicating a possible PTSD at the time of the study, 30 % fulfilled the criteria of a current partial PTSD. Compared to controls who experienced non-sexual war trauma, the women exposed to the rapes had a significantly higher degree of current psychopathological distress and a significantly lower degree of social acknowledgement as trauma survivors. The results highlight the necessity for prevention and treatment programs for women exposed to wartime rapes in current conflict settings worldwide and the need to identify and treat posttraumatic conditions in women exposed to sexual war trauma. Programs which enforce the social acknowledgement of war trauma could improve posttraumatic stress and indirectly ameliorate the readiness to reconcile in post-conflict settings.

Inger Skjelsbæk, 28 Convicted Individuals: A social psychological analysis of the sentencing judgments on sexual violence crimes at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (ICTY)

The work to be presented is a social psychological reading of the 28 judgments from the ICTY containing sexual violence convictions. More specifically, the analysis situates the sexual violence perpetrator as a social psychological subject by analyzing the aggravating and mitigating circumstances described in the judgments in relation to three different perpetrator categories. Through this analysis we gain insight into different kinds of sexual violence perpetrators and how their actions and inactions are viewed in a supranational legal setting.

Hans J. Markowitsch, Self-deception and perception of others: A neuroscientific contribution to the topic of traumatization

The self has attracted philosophers, psychologists, neuroscientists, and many others due to its combination of stability and change or dynamic variation. The self develops in social interaction and on the background of a genetic basis.

Both factors contribute to neural maturation. It will be shown that especially the early social and to a lesser degree the biological environments determine the formation and stabilization of the self. In the last years a branch of genetics – termed epigenetics – has been established. Epigenetic research revealed that the social environment has a direct impact on the exprimation of genes and therefore modulates the self or character of an individual considerably. Furthermore, our own research has shown that severe stress or trauma conditions can change the nervous system, most likely by releasing cascades of stress hormones which alter the activity of the brain and lead to a desynchronization between emotional and cognitive portions of information. By these mechanisms it may – in extreme cases – come to a total amnesia of the own biography or to a total anterograde amnesia. In less extreme cases a partial or selective blockade of access to the past may be found. This block may even be accompanied by morphological changes in the brain, such as a volume shrinkage in specific brain regions or a deterioration of the brain's white matter and therefore of connectivity. Traumata therefore not only alter the processing of biographical events, but may lead to lasting damage of the brain.

Abstracts Panel 2

Zala Volcic, 'Target', 'cancer' and 'warrior': exploring painful metaphors of self-presentation used by girls born of war rape in Bosnia

Children born of war rapes continue to be a marginalized political, media and academic topic in Bosnian and other post-war societies. The goal of this research is to contribute to the work that deals with the life situations of children born of war rape, and to show the usefulness of an analysis of metaphors when a specific topic is emotionally difficult to talk about. The metaphor analysis of life stories of 19 adolescents – all Bosniak's girls – born of war rapes in Bosnia and Herzegovina shows that metaphorical language provides abused girls with the only way to express their painful situations. We identify three main uses of metaphors as discursive strategies. These are the only possible articulations of their painful situation: the avoidance of the use of vocabulary from the primary domain, the repetition of the metaphor and the immediate use of the metaphor when it collapses into the primary domain. There were three major metaphorical frames that dominated the self-presentation of the girls: 'shooting target', 'cancer', and 'warrior'. The subject of children born of war rape is still a taboo topic in Bosnian society (Daniel- Wrabetz, 2007). These children remain neglected in the media discussions, but also in most of the academic debates about the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BH) (Weitsman, 2007). Although these children have already been defined as 'secondary rape victims' (Daniel-Wrabetz, 2007: 21), the academic attention concerning mass rape in BH has been on the plight of women (e.g. Carpenter, 2006; Nikolic-Ristanovic, 1997; Skjelsbæk, 2001, 2006; Stigalmayer, 1994). Only in recent years have some researchers focused on the situation of children born as a consequence of war rape (Balorda, 2009; Carpenter, 2005, 2007a, 2007b; Daniel-Wrabetz, 2007; Goodhart, 2007; Watson, 2007). These studies show how these children are marginalized as subjects of human rights law and how there is a tendency to identify them with the perpetrators, rather than the victims, of genocide. However, there is still a lack of any analysis of children's life situation. The goal of this article is to contribute to the research that deals with the situation of the children born of war rape, and to show the usefulness of the analysis of metaphors precisely when events and topics are emotionally too difficult to talk about. Previous studies on educational, political, therapeutic and medical discourses have shown that speakers make use of metaphors to structure their talk, to explain unfamiliar ideas, and to carry affect, including values, emotions and attitudes (e.g. Cameron, 2003; Charteris-Black, 2004; Drew and Holt, 1995; Levitt et al., 2000; Musolff, 2004; Semino, 2005). In our study based on in-depth interviews with 19 adolescents born of war rape in BH, we presupposed that metaphors play a significant role in providing adolescents with a way to talk about themselves, their painful situation, and the important people in their lives. Metaphors are an integral part of the human conceptual system and the way we understand the world. In the first part, the presentation focuses on the social-political frameworks of BH, and maps crucial issues regarding sexual violence and children born of war rape. The main part details the metaphors used by adolescents in order to frame themselves, their situation and, also, the important people in their lives. We critically evaluate these metaphors in the context of the contemporary political situation in BH.

General Major Muniruzzaman, The Unpleasant Truth: Sexual exploitation in UN Peace Keeping Operations

The paper looks at the complex scenario of sexual exploitation in post conflict situation by UN peacekeepers. It takes notes of the post conflict trauma that the population goes through and what is often termed as consensual relation with the peace keepers is quite often 'soft' exploitation. The vulnerability of the potential victim is also seen from both the material and the psychological angle. This further complicates the issues. It also looks at the major causes leading to the exploitative behaviour by the peace keepers and the lack of strict monitoring system to identify and prevent such behaviour. There is a general lack of enforcement of the code of conduct by the national contingents of the troops contributing countries. It critically analyses the role of national and international command structures in the fields and their failure. It tries to identify the consequences of these violations on the efforts of the international community in peace building and ultimately to sustenance of peace. Finally the paper looks at the need for a generally understood set of code of conduct and the necessary tools to implement and enforce them at all levels of command in the field.

Eunice Apio Otuko, Resilience Beyond Programmes; the Ugandan experience

The paper focuses on Northern Uganda which experienced a particularly high rate of abduction and conscription of girls into forced 'marriages' within the rebel ranks of the notorious Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) between 1988 and 2007. Exploratory facts points to the dire situation of children born by such girls now living in the post 'reintegrated' community of northern Uganda. Serious social, economic and psychological problems still haunt these children and their mothers extending beyond the so-called reintegration phase-out. The paper briefly explores these through the lens of children born of war now living with their mothers in northern Uganda. Through their own perspectives, an understanding of their needs, rights and aspirations are revealed vis à vis their actual situation.

Jocelyn Kelley, Inheriting Shame: Children born of rape in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Background: The conflict in eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is the deadliest since World War II. Over a decade of fighting amongst an array of armed groups has resulted in extensive human rights abuses, particularly the widespread use of sexual violence against women. Many survivors of sexual violence have become pregnant and given birth to children as a result of their rapes, although the magnitude of the problem is difficult to measure. It is clear, however, that these mothers and children face severe stigma in their families and communities.

Methods: We conducted focus groups and interviews with female survivors of sexual violence in 5 field sites in eastern DRC to learn more about their experiences with the conflict and with violence. Results were coded by a team of researchers and analyzed in NVivo. Results: Women noted that they and the children they had as a result of rape faced significant stigma both in their family and community networks. A widely held belief was that children born as a result of rape would exhibit the same "bad" characteristics as their fathers. A great concern stated by many participants was related to the fact that the child would have an "unknown" father – which would lead to poorer care within the family and disruption of social networks. Conclusions: These results suggest that a greater need for programming around vulnerable mothers and children in general – and families affected by births related to sexual violence in particular –to reduce stigma and to facilitate social reintegration.

Abstracts Panel 3

Dorien DeTombe, War time rape as a complex societal problem handled by the Compram methodology

War time rape is unfortunately a frequent behavior of the conquerors to express their dominance and their power over the conquered; and to celebrate their victory. By raping members of a population conquerors emphasize their superiority over the conquered by humiliating them. This abuse is very traumatic for the victims. The situation becomes worse as women become pregnant due to rape. Children born out of this situation, children born of war, are often not treated optimal by their mother, nuclear family and other members of the family as well as their local environment. This results in a decreasing of the level of living for the children. War time rape can be considered as a complex societal problem in which many phenomena and parties are involved. Like in all complex societal problems

the phenomenon are complicated interrelated and intertwined with each other. In order to create sustainable interventions in this problem towards a desired goal, one has to analyze the situation carefully in a scientific way. This can be done according to the Compram methodology by which one can analyze the problem in a careful scientific way in order to get sustainable interventions. The Compram methodology is a framework methodology that handles a complex societal problem in six major steps. First the problem will be analyzed by a group of experts, then by the different actors, powerful and non powerful actors, then in step three mutual accepted interventions will be created, in step four the societal reactions towards the intervention will be analyzed, in step five the problem will be implemented and in step six the problem will be evaluated. Handling according to the Compram methodology supports defining and changing a complex societal problem, from awareness of the problem to evaluation of the outcome of the problem handling process. For supporting this process it uses all kinds of methods and tools that support the problem handling process. The methodology is based on the three basic elements in handling complex societal problems: knowledge, power and emotion.

Heidi Matthews, *Interrogating the Policy Implications of Wartime Rape as an International Crime*

International lawyers and activists who have advocated for the international criminalization of sexual violence frequently posit themselves as participating in and facilitating a conceptually cohesive - and morally justifiable - progressive project for the global protection of the rights of women and children. Progress narratives suggest that the recent (1993-present) proliferation of international criminal courts and tribunals complements the institutional legacy of the Nuremberg trials as the first international success in imposing individual (as opposed to state-based) criminal responsibility for war crimes and crimes against humanity. Whereas rape was not charged at the International Military Tribunal for Nuremberg, the post-Cold War tribunals have placed a high degree of emphasis on rape, due in large part to the efforts of feminist human rights activists. Rape and other sexual crimes have been progressively elevated up the hierarchy of international offenses. Some of these crimes are now stand-alone offenses (“rape”, “sexual slavery”, “enforced prostitution”, “forced pregnancy”, “enforced sterilization”, “forced marriage”), while others are predicate offenses (e.g. for genocide). This turn to individualized punishment in the international sphere is understood to be synchronous with the institutionalization of individual human rights (Moyn, 2010).

This paper joins a growing literature that resists progressive narratives of international developments in this area. I argue that the international criminalization of rape and other forms of sexual violence committed during armed conflict is neither an unmitigated moral good nor an apolitical endeavor; like any socio-political project, it has counterintuitive and unintended consequences (Halley, 2009; Engle, 2008). With a view to enriching the policy debate on the future role of international justice in addressing wartime rape, this paper probes how the structural dynamics of the law of war (the basis for international criminalization) shape and limit the practical and social effects of rape as an international crime. After briefly reviewing the legal history of the international criminalization of sexual violence, including the current state-of-affairs, I suggest that far from representing a continuation of the Nuremberg project, the current international criminal law of rape radically breaks with this history. Further, current legal doctrine exceptionalizes wartime rape in a manner that distracts from broader justice considerations, including policy questions about the justness of the underlying armed conflict itself. In so doing, I argue, we risk undermining the capacity for political agency of the women we study.

Ragnhild Nordås, *The importance of facts in agenda setting – the SVAC data project*

Rape has been called one of the greatest peace and security challenges of our time. Sexual violence has been recognized as a weapon of war and genocide, but also called an inevitable fact of war. In this way, the phenomenon has reached the public debate. Still, to effectively address the problem, policy makers need to know which policies work best. The framing of sexual violence as “inevitable” is not only false, it can also pacify rather than activate policy-makers. UN Security Council Resolution 1960, Dec. 2010, declares the need for an enhanced focus on ‘data collection and analysis of incidents, trends, and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence’. To devise more effective prevention strategies, more systematic knowledge is needed. Specifically, we need to know where, when

and how sexual violence takes place, as well as by whom and who the most vulnerable populations are. Detailed knowledge on these dimensions can facilitate better early-warning practices and more efficient policies to assist survivors of sexual violence. The SVAC project responds to this call from the UN. By collecting systematic data sexual violence by all armed conflict actors active in the period 1989-2009, we are in the process of creating the most extensive database on wartime sexual violence to date. This talk will outline the data collection being undertaken, some preliminary findings, as well as where the data can be used in future work to create a better understanding of the processes of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations.

Henrik Syse, The Mother and the Child: Ethical Considerations about Children Born of Rape

The idea of "inherent dignity", which constitutes in a very real sense the conceptual groundwork of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, is the point of departure of this paper. Who actually confers that dignity on us? Governments? Individuals? Each person him- or herself? Or God? Furthermore: Can dignity remain intact in spite of humiliation, social stratification, and taboos? And does the idea of dignity make sense across cultures? I will discuss these basic questions from the point of view of moral philosophy, issuing in a vindication of the concept of dignity, but also with a set of challenges relating to how dignity can be made real even under the most extreme of situations, such as conflict and post-conflict situations where sexualized violence and its results are widespread phenomena.



Kristian B. Harpviken

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Jon Rian	Program Adviser, FOKUS - Forum for Women and Development		
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Report from the Conference

The Legacy of War Time Rape: Mapping Key Concepts and Issues

The conference on “The legacy of war time rape: mapping key concepts and issues” which took place in Oslo end October 2011 is an example of how an issue which is often seen as a women’s issue needs to be embedded into the wider societal context. War rape affects not only the victims directly exposed to the crime, but also their family, community and society at large. Understanding the interactions and dynamics between these levels in different conflicts is essential for providing support at the individual level and finding measures for sustainable post-conflict peacebuilding.

At this conference researchers and practitioners gathered to map key concepts and issues related to war time rape. The cooperation between the PRIO gender group, and the “International network for interdisciplinary research on children born of war (INIRC)” offered the opportunity to draw upon contacts from different networks of researchers and practitioners who for many years have worked on rape, war, traumatisation, children born of war, perpetrators, reconciliation etc., but who had not yet had the opportunity to exchange information and share knowledge in these areas. It

was the aim of the organisers to address these issues in an interdisciplinary perspective inviting international experts among others from the neurosciences, medicine, psychology, history, laws, arts, media, social sciences, military, NGOs, politics and the United Nations with expertise from different countries and regions of the world.