

Action Sheet 6: Preventing and responding to gender-based violence

Key message

1. Gender-based violence (GBV)¹ is a grave human rights violation that can cause long-term and often life-threatening injury and trauma to victims and survivors. It is imperative that human rights and humanitarian actors take action from the onset of an emergency to prevent and respond to acts of gender-based violence and provide adequate care and support to its survivors. This action sheet gives an overview of the causes and consequences as well as the obstacles encountered in responding to gender-based violence and provides guidance on ways to address these.
2. *Note that this chapter does not seek to duplicate the wealth of existing guidelines on GBV prevention and response but rather to give an overview of the issue and provide some basic guidance and further references as appropriate. For further information, please see [the IASC Guidelines for Gender-Based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies](#) (IASC, 2005)². Other important references are provided at the end of this action sheet.*

Overview of gender-based violence in situations of internal displacement

3. Acts of gender-based violence are among the most common forms of violence in many countries and are estimated to affect the lives, health and well-being of millions of women, men, girls and boys world-wide. While gender-based violence takes place in all societies and all cultures it tends to rise considerably – both in terms of frequency and brutality – in countries affected by conflict and forced displacement.

What is gender-based violence?

4. Gender-based violence is defined as violence that is directed against a person on the basis of gender or sex, including acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. It includes physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned within the family, the general community or by the State and its institutions.³ Such violence can take many different forms as outlined in Table * below.

Table *: Overview of types of gender-based violence.

Sexual violence	Includes actual, attempted or threatened (vaginal or anal) rape, including marital rape; sexual abuse and exploitation; forced prostitution; sexual harassment, intimidation and humiliation.
Physical violence	Includes actual, attempted or threatened physical assault; as well as trafficking and slavery.
Emotional and psychological violence	Includes abuse and humiliation, such as insults, cruel and degrading treatment; compelling a person to engage in humiliating acts; and restrictions on liberty and freedom of movement.
Harmful traditional practices	Includes female genital mutilation (FGM); forced and early marriage; honour or dowry killings or maiming; infanticide, sex-selective abortion practices, and sex-selective neglect and abuse; and denial of education and economic opportunities for women and girls.
Socio-economic violence	Includes discrimination and denial of opportunities or services on the basis of sex, gender or sexual orientation; social exclusion; and obstructive legal practices, such as denial of the exercise and enjoyment of civil, social, economic, cultural and political rights, mainly to women.

¹ Gender-based violence is the most commonly used term in the inter-agency context although some organisations use ‘sexual and gender-based violence’ (SGBV) or ‘violence against women’. These terms have been used inter-changeably and there is no contradiction in terms of their understanding or approach to GBV prevention and response.

² The guidelines are available at www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/subsidi/tf_gender/gbv.asp in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Bahasa.

³ Based on UNGA [Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#), Arts. 1&2, A/RES/48/104 of 20 Dec 1993.

What are the main causes?

5. The main causes of gender-based violence include discriminatory laws, policies, beliefs and practices which disempower and marginalise women and girls. A number of other factors - including poverty, lack of access to education, livelihood opportunities and access to justice - are also likely to increase exposure to and undermine a survivor’s ability to recover from gender-based violence. Such factors are often aggravated in times of conflict and forced displacement owing to a break-down in law and order and a collapse of family, social and community structures. Combined with a wide-spread culture of violence and a climate of impunity these factors often lead to an increase in gender-based violence at the hands of both intimate partners and external actors, such as armed forces or groups, law enforcement officials or even humanitarian workers. All too frequently, sexual violence has been used on a wide-spread and systematic scale as a weapon of war in order to terrorize, humiliate, destroy and displace individuals and communities.

6. The causes and contributing factors of gender-based violence also pose a number of obstacles to effective prevention and response. Table * attempts to give an overview of many of the factors that need to be taken into account when addressing gender-based violence.

Table *: Causes, contributing factors and commonly encountered obstacles to effective GBV programming

Type	Common barriers
Physical barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of physical security owing to break-down of law and order, presence of armed forces/groups, and collapse of law enforcement, and justice institutions as well as family, social and community structures. Women and girls are particularly vulnerable when leaving their communities in search of work, food, water or firewood. ▪ Poverty, absence of education and livelihood opportunities, and inadequate access to shelter, food, water, fuel, and income generation, can increase exposure to GBV (including forced prostitution)
Social / cultural / political barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Discriminatory social, cultural or religious laws, norms and practices that disempower and marginalise women and girls and fail to respect women’s rights ▪ Collapse of family, social and communal structures and disrupted roles within the family often expose women and girls to risk, limiting coping mechanisms and avenues for protection and redress
Judicial barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of access to justice institutions and mechanisms, including police, courts and tribunals and/or traditional, customary or religious mechanisms, resulting in culture of impunity for violence and abuse. ▪ Use of traditional, customary or religious dispute resolution systems which fail to criminalise acts of GBV or fail to respect the rights of the victim/survivor. In some cases, the victim/survivor faces harassment, intimidation and/or severe punishment. ▪ Lack of adequate victim/survivor and witness protection mechanisms ▪ Inadequate legal framework – including national as well as traditional, customary and religious law - that discriminates against women, fails to guarantee their rights, or exposes them to further harm and abuse. For instance, it may (i) fail to criminalise many acts of GBV (e.g. marital rape, forced and early marriage, child and wife beating); (ii) fail to guarantee or narrowly restate certain rights (e.g. definition of rape that does not include marital rape); and (iii) criminalise the victim of a violation (e.g. rape defined as adultery by the victim/survivor); and/or (iv) criminalise acts that primarily are associated with women and girls (e.g. adultery and ‘sorcery’)
Individual barriers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Fear or threat of social stigma or social exclusion at the hands of the family or the community ▪ Exposure to further violence, including in the form of reprisals at the hands of the perpetrators or arrest, detention, ill-treatment and punishment, in some cases to death. ▪ Lack of information about human rights and on how and where to seek remedies, such as health care or legal advice and assistance. ▪ Lack of adequate and affordable legal advice and representation making it difficult to seek legal remedies ▪ Lack of confidence and trust in social or public institutions, including in particular law enforcement and justice institutions, that discourage victim/survivors from seeking redress
Humanitarian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Failure to address or prioritize GBV in assessments, strategy development, planning and

Programming obstacles	<p>programming owing to lack of information or understanding about the extent or nature of GBV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Gender-biased design of programmes, services and facilities, including inadequate registration practices and distribution of food and non-food items. ▪ Sexual exploitation and abuse by peace-keepers, human rights and humanitarian workers, facilitated by their position of relative power over recipients of aid. ▪ Other challenges include weak links with other assistance and protection programmes, lack of confidentiality, confusing reporting and referral mechanisms, and GBV committees that are isolated, under-resourced and weak, and lack support from the wider community.
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What are the consequences?

7. Gender-based violence can have serious long-term and life-threatening consequences for victims/survivors. These can range from permanent disability or death to a variety of physical, psycho-social and health-related problems that often destroy the survivor's self-worth and quality of life, and expose her or him to further abuse. Gender-based violence often leads to a vicious cycle of violence and abuse as survivors risk being rejected by their family, excluded and ostracized by society, and even arrested, detained and punished – and sometimes abused again – for seeking protection, assistance or justice. Instead of being met with understanding and support, they may suffer multiple abuses and an ongoing violation of their basic rights. Some of the frequent consequences of gender-based violence are outlined in Table * below.

Table *. The wide range of consequences of sexual and gender-based violence for victims/survivors⁴

Fatal	Acute physical	Chronic physical
Homicide Suicide Maternal mortality Infant mortality AIDS	Injury, including fistulas Shock Disease Infection	Disability Somatic complaints Chronic pain or infections Gastrointestinal problems Eating or sleeping disorders Alcohol / drug abuse
Reproductive	Emotional & psychological	Social
Miscarriage Unwanted pregnancy Unsafe abortion STDs, incl.HIV/AIDS Menstrual disorders Pregnancy complications Gynecological disorders Sexual disorders	Post-traumatic stress Depression Anger, anxiety and fear Shame, self-hate and/or self-blame Mental illness Suicidal thoughts and behaviour	Blaming of the victim/survivor Loss of role or functions in society Social stigma, rejection and isolation Feminisation of poverty Increased gender inequalities

Who are the primary victims/survivors?

8. Gender-based violence affects men and boys as well as women and girls, although the latter are often more likely to be the targets of such violence. Those most at risk include women who have been separated from their family/community, unaccompanied or separated children, female and child heads of households, children in foster families or other care arrangements, women and children with disabilities, persons (of both sexes) in detention, women and children belonging to ethnic or religious minority groups; working girls, girl mothers, and girls born to rape victims/survivors. Persons that have been exposed to such violence are referred to as 'victims/survivors'.

Who are the main perpetrators?

9. Gender-based violence is usually perpetrated by persons (both men and women) who hold a position of power or control over the victim/survivor in either the private or public sphere. In most cases, those responsible are known to the victim/survivor, including intimate partners, members of the (extended) family, friends, teachers or community leaders. Others in positions of authority, such as police or prison officials, and members of armed forces and groups, are also frequently responsible for such acts, in

⁴ For further information see [Sexual and Gender-based Violence against Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons: Guidelines for Prevention and Response](#) (UNHCR, 2003, pp. 23-24).

particular during times of armed conflict. There have also been cases where humanitarian workers and peace-keepers have engaged in acts of gender-based violence.

The role and responsibility of the State

10. States must take all necessary legislative, administrative, judicial and other measures to prevent, investigate and punish acts of gender-based violence whether in the home, the workplace, the community, while in custody, or in situations of armed conflict. To that effect they should, for instance, (i) provide a legal framework that criminalises such acts and adequately protects the rights of women and girls; (ii) take measures to eliminate all beliefs and practices, including social, cultural and religious practices, that discriminate against women or sanction violence and abuse; (iii) provide adequate complaint procedures and remedies, including health care, counseling, rehabilitation, compensation and support services for victims and survivors; and (iv) take action to empower women and strengthen their economic independence.

The role and responsibility of human rights and humanitarian actors

11. While primary responsibility lies with the national authorities, human rights and humanitarian actors also play an important role in preventing and responding to gender-based violence. In addition to ensuring effective GBV response from the outset of an emergency this entails ensuring that gender-concerns are adequately integrated into and mainstreamed at all levels of the humanitarian response (see Chapter * on the Fundamentals of Protection).
12. The [IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings](#) mentioned above, which focus on minimum prevention and response to sexual violence in all sectors during the emergency phase, provide useful guidance for country teams in this respect. Information on comprehensive prevention and response, including during the post-emergency and early-recovery phase, is furthermore provided by the [UNHCR Guidelines for Prevention and Response](#).⁵ The guidelines complement each other and can be used jointly. Without either duplicating or replacing the guidance given by these guidelines, Table * lists a number of activities which can form part of an effective prevention and response to gender-based violence.

Table *: Overview of key activities

In our work we can ...	
Assessment and analysis*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that protection assessments incorporate participatory methods and identify (i) the major causes; (ii) consequences; and (iii) potential solutions to gender-based violence, as well as (iv) the individuals and groups most at risk and their existing coping mechanisms. ▪ Where needed ensure that specific GBV assessments and analysis is undertaken by professional staff with expertise and experience in the area of gender-based violence.
Coordination	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that gender-based violence is adequately addressed by the Protection Cluster/Working Group. Ideally this includes establishing a focal point or a working group on gender-based violence and the development of Standard Operating Procedures, with clearly outlined roles and responsibilities. ▪ Work closely with other clusters/sectors to ensure that gender-concerns are taken into account and integrated in their planning and programming activities at all levels in areas such as shelter and physical planning, health, food and nutrition, and safety/security. ▪ Work closely with peace-keeping forces, which can play an important protection role in terms of safety and security, where these are present. This can also include awareness raising and training on GBV and codes of conduct among peace-keepers.
Advocacy*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate with relevant actors, including national and local authorities, traditional, cultural or religious bodies, armed forces and security forces, law enforcement officials, civil society groups, and others, to ensure effective prevention and response. This may also include advocacy with non-state actors.

⁵ Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: UNHCR Guidelines for Prevention and Response (UNHCR, 2003)

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advocate with and inform humanitarian staff and partners of relevant codes of conduct and the prohibition on engaging in sexual exploitation and abuse of any kind. Adequate and confidential complaints mechanism should be established and complaints promptly investigated and followed up on.
Information and communication activities*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support or undertake information activities which aim to raise awareness of and combat discrimination and other underlying causes of gender-based violence. Ensure that information about GBV prevention and response, including how and where to access relevant assistance and services, is readily available for all survivors of GBV.
Response mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that adequate response mechanisms, as described in the guidelines above, are in place, including clear and acceptable referral and reporting mechanisms that respect confidentiality and the rights of the victim/survivor. Any such mechanisms must be known and available to the victim/survivors.
Physical safety and security*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Take action to improve safety and security in and around camps, villages and other urban areas where incidences of GBV have or are likely to occur. As described in action sheet *, this may for instance include (i) advocating for deployment of trained and adequately supervised police, in particular female officers; (ii) helping organise community watch/patrol programmes; (iii) establish community and women's centers; (iii) ensure regular and visible protection presence; and (iv) take steps to improve physical planning and layout of camps and urban areas. Ensure that mechanisms are in place to guarantee the security of victims/survivors as well as witnesses in order to protect them against further harm. These can include traditional protective mechanisms, establishments of shelters for victims/survivors, foster care arrangements for children, or – exceptionally – assistance to relocate to another place. Note that in some cases measures may need to be taken to protect the perpetrator from violence, for instance at the hands of the victim's family or clan.
Health*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure that adequate and confidential basic health care, including physical, reproductive and psycho-social health care, is available and fully accessible to all women and girls, including in particular victims/survivors of GBV.
Community mobilisation*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Build the capacity of individuals to protect themselves from and recover from acts of GBV, for instance by encouraging and promoting equal participation of men and women in all community activities; support education and vocational training programmes, income-generating activities and literacy programmes that empower women and girls. Build the capacity of the local community by re-building family and community support systems, in particular women's groups and organisations, including by encouraging and supporting social and recreational programmes and encouraging resumption of religious and spiritual activities.
Livelihoods*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support self-reliance and sustainable livelihood programmes and ensure that these are available to victims/survivors of GBV. Such programmes can reduce exposure to GBV and mitigate its effects by facilitating rehabilitation and reintegration of victims/survivors.
Material assistance*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide targeted material or other support to victims/survivors of GBV and their families as well as those at risk of such violence. This may include safe shelter, livelihood support, small financial grants to access education or training, etc.
Technical advice and assistance, including training	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide technical assistance and advice to relevant stakeholders, including local and national authorities, armed forces, judges and lawyers, health practitioners and others, on ways to improve GBV prevention and response. Provide regular training and sensitization on human rights, gender, relevant national and international laws and policies, and guidelines on prevention of GBV, to community, police, courts and national and international humanitarian actors. Ensure that peace-keepers, humanitarian workers and others working with displaced individuals and communities receive training and sensitization on GBV, including their responsibility not to commit, prevent and respond to such acts.
Shelter and physical planning*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure availability of safe shelter for women and children. Where shelter material is provided ensure that it is provided in a gender-sensitive way, i.e. that women do not have to travel long distances to collect the material and that they have the ability to or are assisted in erecting the shelter. Ensure that gender-concerns are taken into account in physical planning of camps as well as in the design and implementation of services, such as health care, education, water/sanitation and food distribution.

Justice*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that victims/survivors have access to free and confidential counseling about legal and/or other avenues for redress, and that the necessary material and other support is provided in order to enable the survivor to pursue their case if they so wish. Note that cases should never be lodged without the informed consent of the survivor. ▪ Monitor and follow up on cases of GBV to ensure that these are investigated, prosecuted and resolved in accordance with established laws and procedures.
Legal reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Encourage, support or undertake review of national laws, regulations, policies, procedures and practices, including traditional and cultural practices, to ensure that they provide adequate protection against gender-based violence. As appropriate, advocate with relevant authorities for amendment, repeal or passing of new legislation. ▪ Encourage the ratification, full compliance and effective implementation of international human rights and humanitarian law instruments, in particular the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
Education*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Promote and ensure equal access for the internally displaced and other affected individuals to safe education as well as vocational and skills training that strengthen self-reliance and increases income-generation. ▪ Minimize the risk of gender-based violence in and around schools and other educational facilities and promote a safe learning environment.
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure that child victims/survivors are provided with special care and assistance. Such interventions should be guided by the key principles of the CRC, i.e. (i) the child's right to life, survival and development, (ii) non-discrimination, (iii) the best interest of the child and (iv) participation of the child.
Durable solutions*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Advocate to ensure that all return, relocation and reintegration frameworks, developmental action plans, and DDR programmes contain measures to prevent and respond to gender-based violence and provide for adequate support for survivors of GBV as appropriate.

Key actors and coordination structures

- Ensuring effective prevention and response to gender-based violence requires a coordinated effort by a range of national and international actors:
 - At the **national level**, in addition to internally displaced individuals and communities themselves, key actors include: Ministries for Justice, Health, Education, Social Affairs and Family; Parliament, in particular legislative committees dealing with relevant topics; health care institutions and personnel; police and prison authorities; prosecutors; the military and para-military groups; traditional, customary or religious councils; local NGOs and civil society, in particular women's and youth organisations.
 - At the **international level**, key actors include UNHCR; UNFPA; UNICEF; OHCHR; DPKO; UNDP; WHO; WFP; ICRC/IFRC; IOM and international NGOs.
- In the context of the cluster approach, UNFPA serves as a focal point agency for gender-based violence within the Global Protection Cluster (*for further information, please see Chapter * on the International Institutional Framework*).

Our responsibility to prevent and respond to gender-based violence

All humanitarian actors share a responsibility to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. This includes ensuring that such acts do not, under any circumstances, take place as a result of our interventions or at the hands of our staff or partners. Human rights or humanitarian actors, including peace-keepers, must never abuse their position to court sexual favours with persons of concern or engage in other acts of gender-based violence. This includes all forms of rape and sexual assault, forced prostitution and trafficking, as well as the various forms of survival sex, i.e. exchange of sex for money, food, access to shelter, education or other services. Such acts amount to a serious breach of the code of conduct and should be punished accordingly.

For further information, see e.g. the [UN Secretary-General's Bulletin: Special Measures for Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse](#), ST/SGB/2003/13, 9 Oct 2003.

Key legal principles and responsibility of the State

15. Acts of gender-based violence, as well as threats or incitements to commit such acts, constitute a serious violation of human rights and a grave breach of humanitarian law. Such acts may also amount to and be prosecuted as war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide under international criminal law.

Human rights law

16. Any form of gender-based violence is a serious violation of human rights law. Depending on the act in question it may violate a number of rights, such as the right to freedom from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the right to liberty and security of person, and to freedom from slavery; the right to life; the right to non-discrimination, equality and to equal protection of the law. In particular, rape and sexual violence suffered at the hands of agents of the State, such as police or military officers, amounts to an act of torture under human rights law.
17. Gender-based violence also impairs or nullifies a range of other rights, such as to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; to an adequate standard of living, to education, and to just and favourable conditions of work.⁶

Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement

Guiding Principle 11: 1. Every human being has the right to dignity and physical, mental and moral integrity. 2. Internally displaced persons, whether or not their liberty has been restricted, shall be protected in particular against: (a) Rape, mutilation, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and other outrages upon personal dignity, such as acts of gender specific violence, forced prostitution and any form of indecent assault; (b) Slavery or any contemporary form of slavery, such as sale into marriage, sexual exploitation, or forced labour of children; and (c) Acts of violence intended to spread terror among internally displaced persons. Threats and incitement to commit any of the foregoing acts shall be prohibited.

International humanitarian law and international criminal law

18. Many acts of gender-based violence, including rape and any other form of sexual violence, such as sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, are strictly prohibited by international humanitarian law as well as by the military code of most States. Such acts constitute a serious violation of the law and a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions.⁷ In addition, depending on the context in which they are committed such acts may constitute a war crime⁸, crime against humanity⁹ or genocide,¹⁰ all of which are punishable acts under international criminal law. All States - and non-state actors - are under an obligation to prevent such violations and to prosecute them as appropriate, or extradite alleged perpetrators to other States or international tribunals with jurisdiction to try such acts.

Resolutions and declarations

19. The UN Security Council and the General Assembly as well as other bodies have repeatedly condemned various forms of gender-based violence and emphasised the responsibility of the State to end impunity for war crimes and crimes against humanity, including sexual and other violence against women and girls. The Security Council, in particular, has passed a series of resolutions calling upon parties to armed conflict to fully respect international law and to take special measures to protect women and children from

⁶ CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 19(1992) – Violence Against Women, para. 7.

⁷ See Rules 90, 93 and 94 of *Customary International Humanitarian Law* – Volume I: Rules (ICRC, 2005). Such acts are also prohibited through (i) grave breaches provisions such as GC IV Art. 147 and AP I Art. 85 which prohibit torture, inhuman treatment, and wilfully causing great suffering or serious injury to body and health; (ii) Common Art. 3 which prohibits violence to life and person, cruel treatment and torture, and outrages upon personal dignity; and other provisions, such as GC IV Art. 27, AP I Arts. 75-77 and AP II Art. 4(2) which explicitly prohibit attacks against women, including rape, enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault.

⁸ See e.g. the ICC Statute Art. 8(2)(a)(ii) and (iii), 8(2)(b)(xxi) and (xxii), 8(2)(c)(i) and (ii), 8(2)(e)(vi). Note that even a single act of sexual violence can constitute a war crime.

⁹ ICC Statute Art. 7(1)(g); ICTY Statute Art. 5 and ICTR Statute Art. 3. Crimes against humanity are crimes that are committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians, regardless of whether they are committed in times of peace or armed conflict.

¹⁰ Rape, sexual violence and abuse may amount to genocide if committed with an intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a particular group, as defined in Art. 6(b) of the ICC Statute; Art. 2 of the ICTR Statute; and Art. II(b) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide. This has e.g. been confirmed by the ICTR in its judgment in *Prosecutor v. Akayesu* (Case No. ICTR-96-4-T).

the effect of hostilities, including any form of sexual violence, including by ending impunity and prosecuting those responsible for such crimes.¹¹ The Security Council also established a monitoring and reporting mechanisms on children in armed conflict, which includes rape and other sexual violence among the six gravest violations against children.¹²

Resources

Unless otherwise stated most of the following documents are available online at www.refworld.org

Selected tools, guidelines and principles

- **Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions** in Humanitarian Settings: Focusing on Prevention of and Response to Sexual Violence in Emergencies (IASC, 2005) – Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Bahasa at http://www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/content/subsidi/tf_gender/gbv.asp
- Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: UNHCR **Guidelines for Prevention and Response** (UNHCR, 2003)
- Gender-based Violence Tools: **Manual for Assessment, Programme Design, Monitoring and Evaluation** in Conflict-affected Settings (Reproductive Health Response in Crisis Consortium, Feb 2004)
- **Standard Operating Procedures** for Prevention of and Response to GBV (UNHCR, 2006)

Further reading

- **Abuse and Exploitation Module** (Action for the Rights of Children, 2002)
- Clinical Management of Survivors of **Rape**: Developing Protocols for Use with Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons, Rev. ed. (WHO/UNHCR, 2004)
- **Early Marriage**: A Harmful Traditional Practice: a Statistical Exploration (UNICEF, 2005)
- Good Practices in **Combating and Eliminating Violence Against Women**: Report of the Expert Group Meeting (UN Division for the Advancement of Women, May 2005)
- **Harmful Traditional Practices** Affecting the Health of Women and Children (OHCHR, Fact Sheet No. 23)
- How to use international criminal law to campaign for gender-sensitive law reform (Amnesty International, May 2005)
- It's In Our Hands: **Stop Violence Against Women** (Amnesty International, 2004)
- Potential **links between food aid, distribution of relief items and sexual exploitation** and proposed preventive/remedial actions (UNHCR, 2002)
- Women in an Insecure World: Violence against Women – **Facts, Figures and Analysis** (Eds. Vlachova and Biason, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, 2005).
- **Women, War, Peace**: Progress of the World's Women 2002, Volume 1 (Rehn and Sirleaf, UNIFEM 2002)

Websites

- United Nations Population Fund – **UNFPA** (www.unfpa.org/intercenter/violence/index.htm)
- United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees – **UNHCR** (www.unhcr.org/protect/3b83a48d4.html)
- UNIFEM **Portal on Women, Peace and Security** (www.womenwarpeace.org)
- Reproductive Health Response in Crisis Consortium – **RHPCC** (www.rhrc.org)
- World Health Organisation – **WHO** (www.who.int/gender/violence/en/)
- International Committee of the Red Cross – **ICRC** (www.icrc.org/eng/women)
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – **WILPF** (www.peacewomen.org/wpsindex.html)
- International Rescue Committee – **IRC** (www.irc.org)

¹¹ See in particular Security Council Resolution 1325(2000), op. paras. 9, 10 and 11. See also Resolutions of the Council on Protection of Civilians, including Resolution 1674(2005), and on Protection of Children in Armed Conflict, including Resolutions 1612(2005), 1539(2004), 1460(2003), 1379(2001), 1314(2000) and 1261(1999).

¹² See in particular Security Council Resolution 1612(2005) of 26 July 2005. For further information see the Report of the Secretary-General on children and armed conflict, A/59/695-S/2005/72, 9 Feb 2005.