



## Concept Note for Policy Focus Session:

### 'Stop Sexual Violence in Conflict Zones'

#### Details

**Date:** Wednesday, March 20th

**Duration:** 60 minutes

**Type:** Policy Focus Session

**Location:** NJV Athens Plaza Hotel

**Time:** 12:45–13:45

#### Background

The scourge of sexual violence against women in conflict zones is a reprehensible reality that demands immediate and decisive action. Recent commitments from Women Political Leaders (WPL) and the Munich Security Conference (MSC) underscore the urgency of addressing this crisis head-on. On the occasion of the 60th Munich Security Conference, WPL and MSC issued a resounding call to action, urging global leaders to confront and eradicate sexual violence in conflict zones.

#### The Demands:

1. **Punish the Perpetrators:** Sexual abuse during conflict is a recognized war crime, yet perpetrators often go unpunished. We demand an end to impunity for sexual violence perpetrators.
2. **Deal with Sexual Violence as a Priority:** War crimes tribunals must prioritize addressing sexual violence with the seriousness it deserves. We call for an end to the reluctance in addressing this issue.
3. **Document and Investigate:** Every instance of rape and sexual assault in conflict must be thoroughly investigated and documented to ensure justice for survivors.

4. **Strengthen Prevention:** Political and military leaders must raise awareness and emphasize that sexual violence is a grave war crime.
5. **Make it an Issue:** The risk of sexual violence must be raised in all conversations concerning armed conflicts. It is imperative that this issue receives the attention and action it deserves.

This session aims to explore practical strategies for translating international commitments into tangible actions on the ground, improving support and protection for survivors, preventing violence against women, and strengthening legal frameworks for accountability.

Join us for a vital discussion on eradicating this heinous violation of human rights and promoting peace and security in conflict-affected regions.

**Format:** The format is an interactive discussion guided by the moderator to ensure everyone's participation.

### Invited Speakers

- **Irene Charalambides**, Vice President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (*confirmed*)
- **Jeannine Mabunda Lioko**, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2019–2020) (*confirmed*)
- **Rejhana Dervišević**, Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina (*confirmed*)
- **Animu Athiei Risasi**, Founder & CEO, South Sudan Girls' Initiative (*confirmed – virtual participation*)

### Moderator

**Vasundhara Kamath**, Director of Learning & Development, Running Start

### Suggested/Guiding Questions:

1. How can we ensure that international commitments to combat sexual violence in conflict zones translate into tangible actions on the ground?

2. What steps can be taken to improve support and protection for survivors, including access to healthcare and legal assistance?
3. What are the most effective strategies for preventing violence against women in conflict zones, and how can international and local communities collaborate to implement them?
4. How can legal frameworks be strengthened to ensure accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict zones?
5. What are the key challenges in implementing international resolutions aimed at addressing violence against women in conflict, and how can we overcome them?

### Run of show/agenda:

**12.40 – 12.45:** Arrivals

**12.46–12.50:** Opening words by:

- **Irene Charalambides**, Vice President, OSCE Parliamentary Assembly

**12.50 – 12.54** First remarks/short intervention from;

**12.50–12.52 Jeannine Mabunda Lioko**, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2019–2020)

**12.52–12.54 Rejhana Dervišević**, Member of Parliament, Parliamentary Assembly of Bosnia and Herzegovina

**12.54–12.56 Animu Athiei Risasi**, Founder & CEO, South Sudan Girls' Initiative

**12.56 –13.30** – Open discussion with all participants

**13.31– 13.43** – Final remarks from participants

**13.43–13.45** – Wrap up & concluding statement from Vasundhara Kamath

**13.45** – End of Policy Focus session

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