

United Nations



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OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN CONFLICT

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## Beyond Borders: Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for CRSV Prevention and Recovery

Organized by Bibliothèques Sans Frontières, Université Côte d'Azur, Ville de Paris and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

**Thursday 27 November 2025, Hôtel de Ville de Paris**

### **Background & Rationale**

Drawing from the success of the 2024 Nice Symposium “*Combating Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Normative Frameworks and Operational Action*”, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), under the strategic leadership of the UN Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (SRSG-SVC), is seeking to pursue and expand its innovative partnerships with Bibliothèques Sans Frontières (BSF), Université Côte d’Azur and the Ville de Paris across different conflict settings to turn the policy of preventing conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) into practice. This partnership stands as a compelling example of effective collaboration between public, private, academic and civil society actors, as highlighted in *Sustainable Development Goal 17 – Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development* which recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to achieve the SDGs globally.

2025 saw proliferating and escalating conflicts marked by widespread patterns of CRSV, amid record levels of displacement, rising militarization, and a shrinking civic space. Despite mounting needs, humanitarian access was curtailed or blocked by parties to conflict. The 2024 *Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Report of the United Nations Secretary General* (hereinafter referred to as ‘the Report’) which serves as a global advocacy instrument and an official public record, paints a

disturbing picture of sexual violence being used as a tactic of war, torture, terrorism and political reprisal.

The Report covers 21 country situations, including 14 conflict settings, four post-conflict settings, and three additional situations of concern, for which credible information is currently available based on cases documented and verified by the UN. It documents more than 4,500 UN-verified cases of CRSV committed in the course of 2024, which represents a 25% increase from the number of cases recorded in 2023 (3,688 cases). Most incidents targeted women and girls (93 per cent). While the Report conveys the severity and brutality of verified incidents, it does not purport to reflect the full scale or prevalence of this crime.

While significant normative progress has been achieved at the global level, the partnership between OSRSG-SVC and BSF demonstrates how commitments can be translated into tangible change that prevents further harm to survivors and supports long-term recovery. Indeed, CRSV often leads to long-lasting consequences, including social exclusion, loss of livelihood, serious health issues, and intergenerational trauma. Survivors and at-risk groups must be protected and empowered through comprehensive and multisectoral assistance, including medical, psychosocial, safety/security, livelihoods and justice services. Indeed, the fight against impunity for sexual violence is a cornerstone of the healing journey for survivors. From the very first interactions with judicial authorities—through investigations, prosecutions, trials, and sentencing—it is imperative that all actors adopt a survivor-centered and trauma-informed approach. This means placing the survivor’s well-being, safety, and dignity at the heart of every step of the justice process. True accountability is not simply about punishing perpetrators, but also about recognizing the harm suffered, restoring trust in institutions, and ensuring that survivors are supported throughout their pursuit of justice.

Building on the success of the 2024 Nice Symposium which led to the development of a Group of Friends of the sexual violence in conflict mandate, a dynamic platform to exchange innovative ideas and solutions to address CRSV, this event will explore three key avenues for prevention and mitigation, with the aim of ensuring that survivors are supported in rebuilding their lives. Throughout the day, the event will explore how various levels of government and public affairs, most notably cities, can play a vital role in supporting survivors.

## **Expected Outcomes**

Statements by the panelists, academia and senior United Nations officials, as informed by the perspectives of survivors and civil society representatives, will *foster more effective cross-sectoral partnerships aimed at addressing this scourge*. The event will make the case for developing new and expanding existing innovative partnerships between public, private and civil society actors.

## Event format

All activities below are taking place in Ville de Paris on November 27<sup>th</sup> 2025. Some activities overlap.

## Hackathon

Throughout the day, BSF's annual hackathon will take place in parallel to ongoing panels and discussions. The hackathon will bring together over 100 corporate employees to collectively imagine future NGO projects aimed at making access to knowledge a driver of resilience and empowerment for women and girls around the world.

## Morning Session: Symposium

The Symposium will provide a cross-sectional perspective on the issue of CRSV, with Under-Secretary-General Pramila Patten providing the opening Keynote Speech. This will be followed by a panel that brings together experts and actors involved in combating CRSV entitled '*Confronting Drivers of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Survivor-Centered Approaches to Justice, Reparations and Survivor Support*'.

While significant normative progress has been achieved through a series of United Nations Security Council resolutions, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC) continues to track emerging concerns related to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) globally, including small arms and light weapons, displacement, food insecurity, trafficking, abductions and sexual slavery.

This year's report of the United Nations Secretary-General on Conflict Related Sexual Violence raises the alarm about several striking trends:

Firstly, **displaced and refugee** women and girls continue to be exposed to heightened risks of sexual violence, which also inhibit safe return.

Second, **food insecurity** is increasing the risk of exposure to sexual violence and exploitation, as humanitarian access is curtailed or blocked by belligerent parties. The unprecedented level of **attacks on humanitarian workers** has hampered access to lifesaving support.

Third, the accelerated **drawdowns and transitions of UN peace operations** have diminished the capacity of the UN system to reach and support survivors, notably in Mali, Sudan and the DRC. Operational continuity must be maintained through all configurations of the UN country presence, including through the deployment of Women Protection Advisers, currently present in less than half of the countries covered by the CRSV mandate.

Fourth, non-State armed groups, including **UN-designated terrorist groups**, continue to use sexual violence to consolidate their **control over territory and lucrative natural resources**, and to incentivize the recruitment of fighters. This tactic **strengthens violent extremist groups, criminal networks**, including through **abduction and trafficking** as part of a political economy that turns pain into profit.

Fifth, the **proliferation of small arms and light weapons** continues to fuel conflict-related sexual violence. UN data indicates that firearms are used in 70-90 percent of recorded cases, despite the Arms Trade Treaty requiring States Parties to halt the transfer of weapons to actors implicated in gender-based violence.

Finally, patterns of conflict-related sexual violence persist in both **formal and informal detention settings, including against Prisoners of War**, as a method of torture to humiliate and intimidate, in order to extract information. This has been documented in Myanmar, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Yemen and Ukraine, as well as against men, boys and migrants in Libya.

To conclude the morning's discussions, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières will share updates on its innovative projects to prevent CRSV, equip professionals supporting survivors, and create safe spaces that make access to knowledge a driver of recovery. The activities carried out in Ukraine as part of the partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and UNFPA will be the subject of a fuller presentation and assessment during a tripartite dialogue.

## [Symposium Agenda \(Auditorium\)](#)

<b>Time</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Allocated Time</b>
08:30	<i>Registration in Foyer de l'Auditorium</i>	<i>Welcome Coffee and Registration</i>	30'
09:00	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Mr. <b>Jean-Christophe Martin</b> , Professor, Université Côte d'Azur	5'
09:05	<b>Keynote Speech</b>	Ms. <b>Pramila Patten</b> , Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	15'

09:20	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>'Confronting Drivers of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Survivor-Centered Approaches to Justice, Reparations and Survivor Support'</i>	<p><b>Moderator</b> Mr. <b>Jean-Christophe Martin</b>, Professor, Université Côte d'Azur</p> <p><b>Speakers</b> Ms. <b>Alizéa Ciftcisoy</b>, Chief Analyst, Office central de lutte contre les crimes contre l'humanité et les crimes de haine, Ministère de l'Intérieur Ms. <b>Sophie Havard</b>, First Deputy Public Prosecutor and Head of the Crimes against Humanity and War Crimes Unit, National Anti-Terrorism Prosecutor's Office (Parquet national antiterroriste) of France Ms. <b>An Michels</b>, Clinical Psychologist and trauma expert, International Criminal Court</p>	60'
<i>10:20 Break (10')</i>			
10:30	<b>Panel Discussion cont.</b>	<p><b>Moderator</b> Mr. <b>Jean-Christophe Martin</b>, Professor, Université Côte d'Azur</p> <p><b>Speakers</b> Ms. <b>Apolline Pierson</b>, VOICE Team leader, Mukwege Foundation Ms. <b>Lorraine Dumont</b>, Doctor in Public Law, Human Rights Expert/Consultant and Lawyer Ms. <b>Isabelle Fouchard</b>, Research Fellow, Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne University</p>	60'
11:30	<b>Panel Discussion</b>	Q&A with the audience and the 6 panelists	20'
11:50	<b>Presentation</b> <i>From Ideas Box to AI: Innovating for Global Resilience</i>	Mr. <b>Jérémy Lachal</b> , Managing Director and Co-founder, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières	5'
11:55	<b>Discussion</b> <i>How we work together in Ukraine?</i>	Mr. <b>Jérémy Lachal</b> , Managing Director and Co-founder, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières Ms. <b>Lindsay Forslund</b> , Deputy Coordinator, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Ms. <b>Yuliia Kutsokon</b> , GBV Programme Assistant UNFPA Ukraine	20'
<b>12:15 Lunch Break</b>			

## Afternoon session: High-level Conference

The Conference - open to a wider audience - will consist of opening remarks from the Mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, followed by Mr. Jean-Christophe Martin, Professor at the Université Côte d'Azur and two panel discussions. They will be followed by a keynote speech by Mr. Patrick Weil, President of Bibliothèques Sans Frontières. The Closing Remarks of the Conference will be provided by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict.

### High-level Conference Agenda (Salle des Fêtes)

Time	Activity	Description	Allocated Time
14:00	Arrival		30'
14:30	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Ms. <b>Anne Hidalgo</b> , Mayor, City of Paris	15'
14:45	<b>Keynote speech</b>	Mr. <b>Jean-Christophe Martin</b> , Professor, Université Côte d'Azur	5'
14:50	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Addressing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence through a Survivor-Centered Approach: The Journeys and Needs of Survivors</i>	<b>Moderator</b> Ms. Giuila Foïs  <b>Speakers</b> Ms. <b>Esther Mujawayo</b> , Rwandan sociologist and psychotherapist Ms. <b>Alisa Kovalenko</b> , Ukrainian documentary filmmaker and former soldier in the Ukrainian Volunteer Army (tbc) Mr. <b>Christopher Mambula</b> , Programme Manager for the Democratic Republic of Congo, Médecins Sans Frontières Ms. <b>Michelle Perrot</b> , Director of Advocacy and Youth Engagement, Plan International France Ms. <b>Véronique Nahoum-Grappe</b> , Anthropologist specialising in the wars in the former Yugoslavia, School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences (EHESS), Paris	75'
16:05	<b>Video message</b>	Mr. <b>Denis Mukwege</b> , Founder, Panzi Foundation	5'

16:10	<b>Panel Discussion</b> <i>Prevent, Repair, Judge: How to Fight Impunity</i>	<p><b>Moderator</b> Giuilà Foïs</p> <p><b>Speakers</b> Ms. <b>Céline Bardet</b>, Founder and Director, We Are NOT Weapons of War Mr. <b>Thomas Andrieu</b>, President, National Court of Asylum (Cour nationale du droit d’asile) Ms. <b>Chékéba Hachemi</b>, Co-founder, Stand Speak Rise Up! Ms. <b>Rachel Lindon</b>, Lawyer, Lindon Attorneys-at-Law Ms. <b>Marie-Caroline Saglio-Yatzimirsky</b>, President, Centre Primo Levi Ms. <b>Fatou Bensouda</b>, former Prosecutor, International Criminal Court</p>	65’
17:15	<b>Keynote speech</b>	Mr. <b>Patrick Weil</b> , President, Bibliothèques Sans Frontières	5’
17:20	<b>Closing remarks</b>	Ms. <b>Pramila Patten</b> , Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict	10’