



Under Attack: Gendered Consequences for Health in Conflicts

Tuesday, 10 March 2026

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm

Conference Room D – United Nations Headquarters, New York

Objective

This side event, hosted by the Permanent Mission of Finland to the UN, in partnership with the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (OSRSG-SVC), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the UN and the Permanent Mission of Panama to the UN, will focus on the gendered health consequences of conflicts and seeks to explore the interlinkages between conflict and access to justice and health, with particular attention to mental health and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR). The aim is to identify practical approaches to support human rights in conflict-affected settings, learning from experiences and best practices from a variety of contexts.

Drawing from global lessons learnt from different conflict-affected areas, including insights of the Ukrainian Masha Foundation, the recipient of Finland's International Gender Equality Prize 2025, the event will give examples on how strengthening psychological and psychosocial support and SRHR services are critical to women and girls suffering from the consequences of armed conflicts and conflict-related sexual violence. Furthermore, the event will discuss how access to justice should be anchored in the critical service continuum, highlighting the role of women and girls as active agents in shaping responses, supporting resilience and contributing to recovery.

Conflicts and crises affect women and girls disproportionately, deepening existing inequalities. The Women, Peace and Security Agenda (1325) highlights the importance of addressing gendered impacts of conflicts. Understanding the lived realities of women and girls and challenges they face in everyday life is vital, as it ensures that interventions – whether health, psychosocial support or access to justice – are responsive, inclusive and effective. Without addressing the consequences of conflicts for women and girls in all their diversity, it is not possible to achieve meaningful justice and build an equal and fair society.

The event brings together representatives from UN Member States, civil society and the UN system to exchange views and share experiences on how to strengthen gender equality, mental health and psychosocial support, and access to SRHR in conflict settings.

Agenda

Welcoming remarks:

H.E. Ms. Sanni Grahn-Laasonen, Minister of Social Security of Finland

Opening remarks:

H.E. Ms. Diene Keita, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Keynote address:

H.E. Ms. Pramila Patten, United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Panel Discussion:

Ms. Oksana Nechyporenko, Co-Founder of Masha Foundation (Ukraine), Winner of Finland's International Gender Equality Prize 2025

Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng, UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health

Ms. Lucia D. Pascale Solages, founding member and General Coordinator of NÈGÈS MAWON (Haiti)

Moderator: Ms. Letitia Anderson, UN Action Network Coordinator, OSRSG-SVC

Closing remarks:

H.E. Ms. Maryna Slobodnichenko, Deputy Minister of Health of Ukraine