



Pat-MedMUNC III General Assembly

Eliminating Rape and Other Forms of Sexual Violence

The perpetration of the crime of rape and other forms of sexual violence has been a concern of the global community for some time. A number of international and regional legal and policy instruments that are focused on the promotion of gender equality and the prevention and elimination of violence against women explicitly list rape and other forms of sexual violence among those requiring action. Rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict and related situations has also been the subject of specific attention. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (resolution 48/104) identifies three settings in which physical, sexual and psychological violence against women occurs, referring to violence in the family, with specific mention of marital rape; violence within the general community, with specific mention of rape and sexual abuse; and violence perpetrated or condoned by the State.

Recent Developments

United Nations conferences on women have, since 1975, progressively emphasized the need to eliminate violence against women, including sexual abuse and rape. The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995, identified violence against women and women and armed conflict as 2 of 12 critical areas of concern requiring urgent action. Violations of the human rights of women during armed conflict, including systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy, and the use of such treatment of women as a deliberate instrument of war, have been condemned at United Nations conferences since the early 1990s, when the General Assembly dealt with the issue of rape and abuse of women in several conflict situations, denouncing the use of rape as a weapon of war. The International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda have recognized sexual violence, including rape, as acts of torture, crimes against humanity and as an element of genocide in some circumstances.

Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security constitutes a

milestone in addressing violence against women, including rape and other forms of sexual violence, in situations of armed conflict. The Security Council has also given guidance to United Nations missions to strengthen the response to rape and sexual violence, as well as the implementation of the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse.

Points to Consider

- Is rape used in your country as a violent force against women?
- What has your country done to help prevent and eliminate rape within your country or within other countries?
- How can one enforce measures to eliminate rape and other forms of sexual manifestations?