



## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

### **ONE MORE STEP TOWARDS SEXUAL DISARMAMENT IN ARMED CONFLICT**

Sexual violence is an international crime, which continues to be perpetrated in the context of too many international conflicts, where it is used as a tactic of war. As Congolese activist Caddy Adzuba has repeatedly denounced, through sexual violence, war is waged on women's bodies, tearing them, their families and their communities apart.

International law has enshrined an absolute prohibition and an obligation to prosecute and punish these crimes, which must not go unpunished. The reality, however, is that the investigation and punishment of these crimes face multiple obstacles. Despite advances in the legal field and the creation of international criminal tribunals, whose jurisdiction covers these crimes, the fact remains that impunity continues to be the general rule.

The UN Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019) ended the unanimity and showed that the danger of regression in relation to the recognition of both the rights of survivors and the specificity of this type of violence is very real.

In this context, the approval of the new NATO Policy on preventing and responding to Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CRSV) is a very relevant milestone. In the case of Spain, this step forward by NATO is in line with our country's commitment to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda, which is a fundamental element of the feminist foreign policy concept to which Spain has adhered, and to human security contemplated in the National Defence Directive 2020, that according to the External Action Strategy (2021-2024), must be placed at the centre of the agenda.

The objective of this conference is to analyse and raise awareness of the need to prevent and combat sexual violence in armed conflicts. We will have the testimony of activists committed to the fight against sexual violence in their respective countries ; and we will also have the opportunity to debate and reflect on how to prevent and eradicate this scourge with government, international organisations and civil society organisations representatives.



## **PROGRAMME**

**21 JUNE 2021**

### **10.00 INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME**

**María Teresa Fernández de la Vega**, President of Fundación Mujeres por África

**Arancha González Laya**, Minister of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation

**Ricardo Mairal Usón**, Rector of UNED

**Margarita Robles**, Minister of Defence

### **10.30 PRESENTATION OF NATO'S POLICY ON CONFLICT RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

**Clare Hutchinson**, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security. Head of NATO's Human Security Unit.

**Miguel Fernández-Palacios**, Ambassador Permanent Representative of Spain in the North Atlantic Council (NATO).

### **11.00 TESTIMONIES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Shukria Dini**, Somali Women's Studies Centre, Somalia;

**Hibaaq Osman**, Founder and Director of Karama, MENA region.

**Kamilia Ibrahim**, Founder and Chairperson for Nuba Women's Education and Development Association (NuWEDA); Member of Karama, Sudan

**Moderator: María Angustias Caracuel Raya**, President of ADESyD; Director of *Spanish Women in International Security* (SWIIS).



## **12.30 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**

**Lieutenant General Birame Diop**, Former Chief of Defence Staff of Senegalese Armed Forces

**Alicia Cebada**, Director of WPS Program, Women for Africa Foundation; Associate Professor of Public International Law at University Carlos III.

**Ana Helena Chacón**, Ambassador of Costa Rica to Spain

**Moderator: Ana Belén Perianes**, Postdoctoral Researcher at Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado (IUGM)

## **14.00-16.00 LUNCH**

## **16.00 TESTIMONIES FROM CIVIL SOCIETY**

**Mouna Ghanem**, Founder and Director of the Syrian Women's Forum for Peace; Member of Karama, Syria

**Suzan Aref**, Founder and Director of the Organization for Women's Empowerment; Member of Karama, Iraq

**Paula Barrios**, General Coordinator of Women Transforming the World, and **Demecia Yat**, SepurZarco's Grand Mother and Colectiva Jalok U, Guatemala.

**Moderator: Andrea Arrieta Ruiz**, Doctoral Researcher at Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado (IUGM)



### 17.30 ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION

**Lcol Juan José Lucero**, Permanent Secretariat of the Observatorio Militar para la Igualdad.

**Lcol. Silvia Gil**, Chief of the Teruel Command, Guardia Civil.

**Koussay Boulaich**, Adviser to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs and Ibero-America

**Moderator: Alicia Alted Vigil**, Director of Instituto Universitario General Gutiérrez Mellado, Full Professor of Contemporary History, UNED

### 19.00 CLOSING SESSION

**Alicia Cebada Romero**, Director of the WPS Program, Fundación Mujeres por África

**Rosa Martín Aranda**, Vice-Chancellor for Research, Transfer of Knowledge and Scientific Dissemination. UNED.

**Juan Francisco Martínez Núñez**, Secretary General of Defence Policy (Ministry of Defence)

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**Registration:** [info@igm.uned.es](mailto:info@igm.uned.es).

Only those registered will receive a link to join the **Zoom** meeting.

The event will be livestreamed on **Canal UNED**

<https://canal.uned.es/live/event/60ab8b36b609237b8a2d0b85>

with simultaneous translation in English and Spanish.

**Social Media:**

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