

On interaction with civilians affected by conflict-related sexual violence



Sexual violence during wartime is a serious violation of international humanitarian law, international criminal law, and international human rights law. It is often a particularly brutal and public crime, not committed in isolation, but rather as a part, for example, of mass killing or looting.

Conflict-related sexual violence is used by the aggressor as a weapon and tactic of warfare.



Scan the QR-code to go to the digital version

The most common acts of conflict-related sexual violence are:

rape

forced prostitution

sexual slavery

enforced sterilization and forced abortion

forced nudity

genital mutilation

threats and attempts to commit acts listed above

compulsion to watch acts listed above

Any individual may be affected by conflict-related sexual violence, regardless of gender and age. However, sexual violence is most often committed against women and girls.

While performing their duties, servicemen of the Armed Forces of Ukraine may come into contact with survivors of sexual violence.

IN CASE OF INTERACTION



Treat victims with dignity and respect

Consider that the affected persons have a traumatic experience of interaction with military personnel and/or representatives of armed groups. Respect the choice of survivors and/or witnesses regarding their (un)willingness to communicate with and receive assistance from military personnel. For example, victims may be afraid of people in military uniforms or men, etc. Do not share personal information about the affected person.



Do not traumatize the person again

The psychological effects of the trauma may manifest themselves in different ways - tears, anger, silence. Avoid situations and attitudes that can cause reliving of traumatic events and trigger overwhelming emotions and reactions, even if the affected person acts and appears calm.



Don't be biased or negative

Be aware and make sure that your tone, words, body language, jokes, or other actions do not accuse, embarrass, insult, judge, humiliate, ridicule, or intend to convince the affected person that nothing happened.



Inform survivors and/or witnesses about the possibility of contacting the relevant services

Survivors may need various types of assistance: medical, psychological, legal, etc. However, they should seek help only based on their own free will. If the injured person turns to you, provide emergency medical aid (if necessary) and inform the contacts:

Medical assistance:

103

National Police:

102

Contact center for providing free legal assistance:

0 800 213 103

National hotline for prevention of domestic violence, human trafficking, and gender discrimination:

116 123 or **0 800 500 335**

Government hotline for combating human trafficking, preventing and combating domestic violence, gender-based violence, and violence against children:

1547

Office of the Prosecutor General:

<https://warcrimes.gov.ua/>



Do not collect evidence

Do not take physical objects or other potential evidence from victims or their locations, even if requested. Military personnel cannot ensure and guarantee the integrity of such evidence.