

WAR CRIMES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Accounting for the Differentiated Impact of CRSV Patterns in Building a System of Support for Survivors





TO END RAPE
AS A WEAPON
OF WAR



Analytical Review
«WAR CRIMES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:
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System of Support for Survivors»

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Analytical Review

«WAR CRIMES OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION:

Accounting for the Differentiated Impact of CRSV Patterns in Building a System of Support for Survivors»

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Founded in 2019 by HRH the Grand Duchess Maria Teresa of Luxembourg, the organisation Stand Speak Rise Up!—co-founded by Chékéba Hachemi and supported by renowned international figures such as Dr. Mukwege, Pramila Patten, Professor Yunus, Céline Bardet, and others—works to support conflict-related sexual violence survivors, as well as children born of rape. The association carries out both field-based projects and high-level advocacy led by its Board of Directors. It funds holistic initiatives around the world that focus on the recovery and socio-economic integration of survivors and children born of sexual violence..

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Introduction

Each armed conflict in the world has something in common and something unique – and the very balance between the common and the unique is itself unique.

What is common are the approaches to analysis: identifying needs, interests, positions, mapping the balance of power, etc.

What is unique are the specific combinations of those same needs, interests, positions, and balances of power.

Therefore, it is impossible to unambiguously and fully apply models that worked in some armed conflicts to others. Based on Ukraine's experience of resisting Russian armed aggression, it can now be stated that it is important to consider the differences in the impact of war consequences on various categories of people, depending on the trends in how those impacts are shaped. This is connected to the fact that, among survivors, subgroups emerge due to different reasons, and attention to assisting those subgroups is focused from the very beginning—and sometimes remains that way. Meanwhile, other subgroups remain entirely or partially overlooked. Sometimes this happens because the number of people in such subgroups is small, which makes it difficult to identify clear trends in their needs and the barriers to accessing resources necessary to meet those needs.

For example, veteran policy, while declaring support for both men and women veterans, still does not adequately account for differences in their gender roles and the gendered interpretation of problems and needs.

Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (hereinafter CRSV) came to Ukraine together with Russia's aggression that began in February 2014.

Sexual violence at checkpoints and in places of illegal detention was recorded during the first documentation in August 2015 by the Women's Information Consultative Center and the Ukrainian Helsinki Human Rights Union. Out of 36 interviews conducted in Kramatorsk, Sloviansk, and Druzhkivka (Donetsk Region), six mentioned cases of CRSV. Survivors' unwillingness to speak about the trauma they had endured, the impossibility of filing complaints with the police from temporarily occupied territories, and the lack of political will within government bodies—all of this meant that the facts collected at the time did not become a driving force for developing mechanisms to counter CRSV at the state level.

Much later, in 2019, Iryna Dovhan—who in 2014 was tortured for her pro-Ukrainian position in the temporarily occupied part of Donetsk region—founded and headed the NGO SEMA Ukraine, which brought together women survivors of CRSV.

The large-scale invasion of Ukraine by Russia in 2022 gave impetus to the emergence of new civil society organizations and to comprehensive steps in helping survivors access medical, social, psychological, economic, and legal resources.

The mechanisms are still far from perfect, but they are developing, changing, and being supplemented.

Differentiation in the context of survivors of violence refers to recognizing the diverse experiences and needs of those affected, rather than treating all survivors as a homogeneous group. This requires acknowledging that different forms of violence, perpetrators' behaviors, and individual circumstances lead to unique impacts on survivors, which demand individualized approaches to documenting crimes, supporting survivors, providing targeted assistance, and advancing global advocacy.

Purpose of the Review

The purpose of the review is to identify groups of survivors and provide recommendations for developing algorithms to assess their needs, particularly in cases of multiple indicators of war crimes.

Methodology

The methodology is based on a feminist approach to assessing situations, which involves taking into account differences in gender roles, the gendered interpretation of problems and needs, and the identification of trends related to CRSV. The review analyzes open sources from Ukrainian governmental authorities and international organizations, as well as information collected by the Women's Information Consultative Center (hereinafter – WICC) in the process of communication with survivors.

Ethics of Preparing the Review

Given the high level of sensitivity surrounding the issue of CRSV, the text does not provide details of the crimes committed or references to sources about them, even in cases where such examples are publicly available.

Information about perpetrators is presented in full, to the extent available. At the initiative of the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, within the framework of the Stand Speak Rise Up! project, WICC began collecting and publishing information on criminal proceedings related to suspects accused of committing CRSV starting in 2022.¹

¹ <https://wicc.net.ua/post/vstanovleni-pidozryuvani-u-vchynenni-snpk>

Profiles of Perpetrators and Survivors

Notices of suspicion (criminal prosecution), information from the Prosecutor General's Office, data from the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Ukraine, testimonies of survivors and witnesses, and other sources make it possible to form an incomplete yet fairly detailed picture of the main trends in the commission of CRSV crimes and, accordingly, of the different groups of survivors. This, in turn, enables the individualization of services provided both to those who are officially recognized as survivors (victims in cases where formal testimony has been given and status obtained) and to those who suffer from profound vicarious trauma (secondary trauma or trauma as witnesses).

For this level of detail, the profiles of perpetrators and survivors are essential.

Profile of the Perpetrator/Offender

Perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence belong to russian state structures as well as to illegal armed groups formed in the temporarily occupied territories of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

The average age of offenders is 30 years (ranging from 19 to 67), with ranks from private to colonel, across all branches of the military and security services (including the FSB²). Their involvement in the armed aggression of the russian federation against Ukraine demonstrates both the pervasive spread of CRSV among russian forces and their collaborators, as well as the complete impunity for this type of crime.

Profile of the Survivor

Conflict-related sexual violence has occurred and continues to occur in the context of other violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law against the civilian population. Civilians are targeted because of their actual or perceived affiliation with a political, ethnic, or religious minority, or because of their actual or perceived sexual orientation and gender identity.³

As of September 1, 2025, since the beginning of russia's full-scale armed aggression against Ukraine, prosecutors have recorded 376 cases of CRSV (137 men and 239 women, including 20 minors—19 girls and 1 boy)⁴.

² The Federal Security Service of the russian federation

³ <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

⁴ Information from the Prosecutor General's Office

Within the framework of the project on urgent interim reparations for survivors of sexual violence committed by Russian military personnel, as of August 25, 2025, a total of 1,208 applications have been received (819 from men, 362 from women, and 27 concerning children—20 girls and 7 boys). Reparations under the project have been approved for 762 individuals (488 men, 260 women, and 14 children—2 boys and 12 girls).⁵

Most investigations fall within Donetsk and Kherson regions, while the fewest are in Sumy and Odesa regions. In total, 10 regions and the Autonomous Republic of Crimea (ARC) are covered: Donetsk, Zaporizhzhia, Kyiv, Luhansk, Mykolaiv, Odesa, Sumy, Kharkiv, Kherson, Chernihiv, and ARC.

Gradually, applications are also beginning to come from those currently outside Ukraine—in Poland, Finland, Germany, and other countries.

Differentiation of CRSV Survivors

On April 24, 1863, U.S. President Abraham Lincoln issued “General Orders No. 100: Instructions for the Government of Armies of the United States in the Field,” widely known as the “Lieber Code” after its principal author, Francis (Franz) Lieber. The Lieber Code established rules of conduct during combat for Union soldiers throughout the American Civil War. Even today, it remains the foundation of most provisions of the laws of war for the United States and is referenced in the preface to the Department of Defense’s Law of War Manual. The Lieber Code inspired other states to adopt similar rules for their militaries and served as a template for international efforts in the late 19th century to codify the laws and customs of war.

This groundbreaking legal manual, a byproduct of the U.S. Civil War, is inextricably associated with Berlin-born Francis Lieber, a naturalized U.S. citizen and scholar. Despite its flaws and imperfections when viewed from a 21st-century perspective, Articles 44 and 47 of the Lieber Code were ahead of their time, as each explicitly referenced rape.

According to Article 44, “All wanton violence committed against persons in the invaded country,” including, among other things, “all rape,” was “prohibited under penalty of death, or such other severe punishment as may seem adequate for the gravity of the offense.”

According to Article 47 of the Lieber Code, “Crimes punishable according to all penal codes, such as arson, murder, maiming, assaults, highway robbery, theft, burglary, fraud, forgery, and rape, if committed by an American soldier in a hostile country against its inhabitants, are to be punished not only as at home, but in all cases in which death is not inflicted, the severer punishment shall be preferred.”

⁵ <https://www.ombudsman.gov.ua/en/news/tags/globalniy-fond-tikh-khto-perezhiv-nasilstvo>

It is no surprise that the Lieber Code is an integral part of modern legal manuals in the field of international law focused on armed conflict, now known as international humanitarian law (IHL), also referred to as the law of war or the law of armed conflict.

Anyone, regardless of sex, age, or other characteristics, can be affected by sexual violence. In this sense, the Lieber Code was ahead of its time, as it referred to survivors without regard to gender.

Women and girls, due to traditional gender roles, have long been the first to typically suffer from CRSV.

Men and boys are also affected by sexual violence, particularly during detention. Most perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence are men.

This does not yet have sufficient statistical confirmation, as underreporting of sexual violence is a much more common feature of conflict. In addition, CRSV continues to be predominantly understood in society as exclusively rape, although the realities of, in particular, Russia's war against Ukraine demonstrate a significant diversification of its manifestations and forms.

All reports of conflict-related sexual violence must be carefully studied before drawing conclusions.

Each individual experiences trauma differently. A survivor may experience a wide range of emotions or may become numb (unable to feel or process emotions due to trauma).

People who have survived violence may choose to share their experiences with others of any gender. The decision must be made autonomously.

There are many reasons why survivors may prefer not to seek services or disclose their case (for example, due to stigmatization).

The context in which CRSV occurs is crucial for the activities of all structures providing assistance—at every stage and for every category of survivors. This is underscored by the Murad Code, in particular Principles 6 and 8.

PRINCIPLE 6. KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXTS

6.1 Know the context: We will ensure that our team and those acting on our behalf base their work on a good understanding of the context in which the SCRSV⁶ took place and of the immediate environment around the survivor. We will identify positive and negative, direct and indirect impacts of the elements in this Principle on survivors, their families and communities, and our work, and will ensure this understanding informs our preparation and work.

⁶ Systematic and Conflict Related Sexual Violence (SCRSV)

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1jIDDS7FrGmVXbKMroTQAUde-ENF0krPa/edit?tab=t.0>

6.2 Understand culture: We will identify relevant cultural and social norms, attitudes, traditions, rites and customs, as well attitudes about children, their decision-making and the age of adulthood.

6.3 Understand gender: We will assess gender dynamics, norms, violence and inequalities, and understand how they create risks of revictimisation and barriers to survivor support and other rights.

6.4 Understand stigma towards SCRSV and survivors: We will identify, risk assess and mitigate harmful misunderstandings, assumptions, attitudes and behaviour (known as ‘stigma’) within communities in relation to sexual violence and survivors.

6.5 Identify community dynamics: We will analyse group dynamics around survivors, such as power structures, competition for resources, politicisation of justice, intermediary motivations, gatekeepers (those who can control or influence access to survivors), empowering influences, and drivers which silence, pressurise or harm survivors and their families.

6.6 Recognise individual, compounded and collective harms: We will analyse different connected harms caused by SCRSV to individuals and collectively to groups such as families and communities, and how harms are compounded by multiple forms of discrimination.⁶

6.7 Be familiar with laws and practices: We will familiarise ourselves with relevant formal and informal laws and practices (including ancestral systems). Such laws and practices may, for example, provide avenues to legal recourse for survivors, discriminate or perpetuate discrimination, criminalise a survivor for what has happened, fail to recognise a survivor as a victim of a crime, or legally require that we report information about crimes to authorities. We will discuss these with a survivor before they share their experience, so they can consider whether or not, and how, to proceed.

6.8 Understand appropriate communications and interactions: We will work to understand the significance and impact of all forms of our communication and interactions in the context, ensuring gender, age, disability, social, cultural and context sensitivity and respect. We will identify and use inclusive and non-harmful forms of communication which reflect survivors’ identities, and respect non-harmful social norms and practices. We will also seek to understand cultural and other aspects of communication, including mannerisms, derogatory terms, common expressions and euphemisms, and gaps in language relating to SCRSV or the survivor.

6.9 Minimising negative repercussions: We will identify the risks of and minimise any negative repercussions from our work within a community.

6.10 Community-based sustained support: We recognise the important role of trusted community-based groups and support systems for the continuity of

support for survivors, building trusted relationships, empowering survivors and for tackling negative attitudes in the community towards survivors. Such groups can include survivor networks, women's organisations, LGBTQI+ organisations, organisations for children, and organisations for persons with disabilities. Whenever appropriate, we will seek to work with such groups.

PRINCIPLE 8. GATHER INFORMATION FROM OTHER SOURCES

8.1 Look for SCRSV information which is not from or about survivors: We recognise that useful information about SCRSV is not always from or about a survivor. We will seek to collect and use such information about SCRSV from wider sources (such as statistics, expert reports or analysis, and perpetrator information) as this information poses less risk for survivors, and can mitigate over-reliance on survivor information.

For the differentiation of survivors of violence, several frameworks and approaches are used:

1. By individual characteristics and their combinations

- Gender
- Age
- Civilian / Military
- Pregnancy
- Alone or with others

2. By type of violence and conditions of commission

- Forms of CRSV (rape, forced pregnancy, forced sterilization, forced abortion, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, coercion to engage in sexual intercourse with a third party, coercion to witness sexual intercourse, sexual slavery, trafficking in persons for the purpose of sexual exploitation, forced circumcision, forced castration, mutilation or infliction of violent acts on sexual organs, forced sexualized nudity, any other form of sexual violence, as well as threats and attempts to commit it⁷)
- Torture
- Forced labor (labor slavery)
- Unlawful detention
- Systematic nature

3. By individual circumstances and experiences:

⁷ Law of Ukraine "On Legal and Social Protection of Persons Affected by Sexual Violence Related to the Armed Aggression of the Russian Federation against Ukraine, and on the Provision of Urgent Interim Reparations to Them" <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/4067-20#Text>

- “Children born of war” (children born as a result of CRSV)
- Mothers of “children born of war”
- Other relatives of “children born of war”
- Imprisoned persons and the influence of criminal subculture on the treatment of those who have experienced sexual violence
- Survivors during the 2014+/2022+ periods
- Indicators of crimes against humanity
- Indicators of genocide
- Survivors together with others (with children, with spouse, with other relatives, with other people)
- Presence at the time of CRSV—alone/with others (with children, with spouse, with other relatives, with other people)
- Attempted suicide after experiencing CRSV
- Stigmatization by close relatives
- Stigmatization within the community

The context in which CRSV occurs imposes exhausting consequences on survivors. Survivors often do not report what happened to them due to fear, cultural issues, stereotypes, and stigma. Social welfare mechanisms, healthcare infrastructure, law enforcement, societal perceptions, justice, and correctional systems may be insufficient or unfavorable, creating barriers to ensuring social justice.

The Importance of Differentiating CRSV Survivors in a Survivor-Centered / Trauma-Informed Approach

Differentiation matters for several reasons:

- **Effective Interventions:**

Adapting support and interventions to specific needs maximizes their effectiveness.

For example, the number of women who experienced CRSV during visible pregnancy and provided testimony about it remains small today; however, the actual number of such survivors and their specific needs are unknown, requiring an individualized approach.

The emotional state during pregnancy is more susceptible to various fluctuations associated with the anticipation of childbirth, which means that a factor such as CRSV inevitably has a negative impact on the condition and health of the expectant mother. At present, this group of children does not fall under the category of those recognized as affected by Russia’s aggression. Nevertheless, it cannot be denied that such children may face significant health impacts and transgenerational trauma.

- Improved Outcomes:

Understanding the nuances of each survivor's experience can lead to better outcomes in terms of mental health, physical well-being, and social integration.

The widespread perception of CRSV exclusively as rape leads survivors of other forms of violence to self-exclude from the category of survivors, thereby reducing the base of identified needs and the formation of resources to address them.

For example, the forced undressing of women and their inspection by men at checkpoints had certain temporal limitations, and today this form of CRSV is practically no longer occurring, since checkpoints between the warring parties are no longer operational. Even among CRSV survivors, this type of crime is not always perceived as CRSV or as something that requires separate attention. At the same time, in one interview conducted by the WICC in 2015, a situation was described at a checkpoint where a militant threatened a survivor with rape; the threat was compounded by accompanying circumstances, leading to the fact that, more than a year later, the survivor would still stop every time she passed the place where the checkpoint had been.

“Once, in my youth, I faced the threat of rape, and after this incident (at the checkpoint) I feel as if I had been raped a second time (even though there was no rape in either case).”

These words of a survivor force us to reflect more deeply on the impact of sexual violence in general, and CRSV in particular, on a person's life and health, their emotional state, and the longevity of these effects.

The forced complete undressing of men at checkpoints, or in public transport in the presence of a large number of strangers, was widely practiced—and continues to be practiced—in the temporarily occupied territories, allegedly to “identify signs (tattoos) of belonging to Ukrainian “nationalist movements” or to service in the Anti-Terrorist Operation/Armed Forces of Ukraine.”

- Reducing the Risk of Further Harm:

By identifying risk factors and vulnerabilities, interventions can be developed to prevent future revictimization and promote safety.

Among the specific examples that deserve attention, in our view, the most urgent today are the risk factors affecting women who gave birth to children as a result of CRSV, as well as their children and other close relatives (family members, guardians, foster parents, etc.).

Their risk factors and vulnerabilities remain insufficiently studied, their legal status is not fully regulated at all stages, and there is no clear vision regarding aspects of the

child's development and future—depending on whether they will grow up in their biological family, be adopted, or placed in alternative care.

- Empowerment:

Recognition and validation of individual experience can empower survivors to heal and rebuild their lives.

Today, in supporting survivors of various traumatic events, post-traumatic growth (PTG) is increasingly referenced as a counterpoint to PTSD. Post-traumatic growth (PTG) refers to positive psychological changes that occur in a person as a result of overcoming a traumatic event or a difficult life situation. Unlike post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is the consequence of trauma, PTG is the process of positive/constructive re-evaluation of life, the acquisition of new meaning, and personal growth. This process is impossible without an individualized approach, reflection, and consideration of one's own experience in all its particularities.

It is also important to note that stereotypes, prejudices, and unfounded assumptions strongly influence all of the above. Widespread misconceptions about survivors of sexual violence—or about persons who have endured conflict-related sexual violence—can obstruct the development of individualized approaches in providing assistance⁸:

- Elderly women cannot be survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.
- Men cannot be raped; they can only be perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence.
- Many survivors of sexual violence lie about being raped or provide false reports.
- People who have survived sexual violence will cry, be distressed, or show emotional reactions.
- Only women can interact with and interview survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.
- All survivors of sexual violence want to receive medical care and report it to the police.

Such generalizations form persistent structures of prejudice and stigma. Even when compelling evidence points to the contrary, those who hold such biases deny the need to consider all individual particularities, arguing that “there are not many such people.” This exclusion is extremely dangerous, as it leads to yet another harmful consequence.

⁸ <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/2020.08-UN-CRSV-Handbook.pdf>

«Competition of Vulnerabilities»

In the social context, the concept of competition can intersect with vulnerability in complex ways, sometimes exacerbating it and sometimes potentially mitigating it. While competition can generally stimulate innovation and efficiency, it can also lead to marginalization and increased vulnerability of certain individuals or groups—especially in situations where these groups and individuals have not yet gained sufficient experience in defending their own vulnerabilities. As a marker of structural violence, “competition of vulnerabilities” is widespread, particularly in the field of human rights protection. For many groups, this issue has already passed its “growing pains” stage and no longer has such an overarching impact. For CRSV survivors, however, this process is still at an early stage of its development and influence, though it is already becoming visible.

It is important to recognize that vulnerability is rarely experienced in isolation. Social factors such as race, gender, social origin, and disability, among others, often intersect to create unique experiences of vulnerability for different individuals and groups.

Building a more just society—where everyone has access to opportunities and resources—is essential to minimizing the negative consequences of the “competition of vulnerabilities.” This is why differentiating groups of CRSV survivors and ensuring balanced attention in shaping and providing support may be the key to preventing the harmful effects of such competition. Authorities, civil society, and international organizations working in this field must pay particular attention to this issue. Equally, survivors themselves and their organizations must keep it in focus, consciously building their own development strategies and avoiding situations where they are supported only as a “trending” topic, used to enhance others’ public image rather than to build real mechanisms of support.

In conclusion, the relationship between competition and vulnerability in social contexts is complex and multifaceted. While competition can be a driving force for positive change, it can also exacerbate existing inequalities and create new forms of vulnerability. Understanding the interplay of these forces is critical to building more just and equitable societies.

Recommendation

The symposium “Conflict-Related Sexual Violence: Where Are We Now?” organized by the Women’s Information Consultative Center together with the French NGO WeAreNotWeapons on November 25–26, 2024, aimed, among other objectives, to broaden the range of CRSV survivor groups and to advance the development of individualized support. Comments and proposals resulting from the symposium are presented in Annex 1.

This review complements the recommendations developed at the symposium and helps identify next steps both in Ukraine and in other countries that devote attention to CRSV issues.

Response and support for survivors of CRSV must take into account:

- Survivor-centered approach
- Legal mechanisms
- Psychological and medical support
- Social and community support
- Preventive measures

For each of these components, it is necessary to focus on strategic directions for implementing a holistic approach to supporting survivors through the lens of a gender-sensitive perspective.

Survivor-Centered / Trauma-Informed Approach

To complement foundational documents and recommendations with differentiation of survivor groups and a description of minimum standards for each group.

Legal Mechanisms

To conduct an expert review of adopted legal and regulatory acts to assess whether they address the needs of different groups of CRSV survivors, and to ensure that these needs are taken into account when drafting amendments and additions to new legal and regulatory acts.

Psychological and Medical Support

To develop support protocols with differentiation of survivor groups.

Social and Community Support

To increase the visibility of different groups of CRSV survivors and models of individualized support in addressing their needs.

Preventive Measures

In implementing one of the core principles of reparations—“Never Again”—it is essential to consider the differentiation of survivor groups, taking into account the gender dimension and the individualization of meeting their needs.

By applying a differentiated approach to survivors of violence, specialists can better address their diverse needs and promote more effective and holistic recovery.

Comments and proposal of the Symposium
“Conflict Related Sexual Violence in Ukraine: Where Are We Now?”
25 – 26 November 2024

Institutional Mechanism

- Lack of an effective referral mechanism (system, algorithm) for survivors between various service providers.
- *Lack of analysis of the existing referral system.*
- Low decentralization of services for survivors. No case managers at the community level.
- Insufficient leadership of local coordination councils on gender policy, combating human trafficking, and preventing domestic violence.

Access to Resources and Service Provision

- *No analysis of patterns and trends in CRSV (Conflict-Related Sexual Violence).*
- Lack of detailed categorization of survivor groups and an algorithm for assessing their needs.
- Information channels about available services do not cover all relevant audiences. *No problem analysis related to preferable communication channels.*
- Insufficient crisis communication skills among service providers.
- Lack of monitoring of services, particularly newly established structures and organizations.
- Insufficient high-quality psychological services.
- Outdated standards for social services.
- Lack of standards for psychological rehabilitation. Rehabilitation is often replaced with rest.
- Undefined "service packages" (medical, psychological, social).
- Low capacity of social services to provide support to survivors.
- Lack of identification, communication, and support for survivors outside SEMA and Alumni organizations. *No problem analysis.*

Active Role of Survivors and Capacity Building Support

- Lack of systematic institutional support for capacity-building of SEMA and Alumni organizations.
- Lack of systematic support for individual capacity-building of survivors.
- Insufficient "soft skills" development among survivors, particularly in public diplomacy.

Work with Families

- No comprehensive approach to working with survivor families, including legislative frameworks. *No problem analysis.*
- Lack of public informational and educational efforts to prevent biased stereotypes and promote understanding of the need to support survivor families.
- No work on intergenerational trauma, particularly targeted work with survivors' children. *No problem analysis.*
- Lack of rehabilitation retreats for families.
- No programs developed for survivor families that account for gender-specific needs, especially when both spouses are affected. *No problem analysis.*
- No comprehensive approach to assisting women separated from their children while in captivity, especially those with small children. *No problem analysis.*

Access to Justice

- Discrepancy between terminology in international documents and a survivor-centered approach (e.g., victim versus survivor; CRSV - sexual or sexualized violence; reparations versus compensation). *Lack of comprehensive analysis.*
- Lack of targeted approaches to investigating CRSV cases from 2014 to February 24, 2022. *No analysis of patterns, trends, or communication channels with potential survivors.*
- No systemic reform of the justice system with a survivor-centered approach (training for law enforcement; specialized investigators like those for minors; mass crime investigations; dedicated units in law enforcement agencies such as police or security services; systematic work on vicarious trauma, etc.). *Lack of a comprehensive analysis of the justice system from a survivor-centered perspective.*
- No unified evidence database allowing investigators to verify whether survivors have already testified to avoid repetitive questioning. Not all investigators have access to the complete database.
- No mandatory legal counsel for survivors (only suspects have the right to defense, while survivors lack guaranteed legal assistance).
- Survivor exhaustion due to the length and complexity of pretrial and trial proceedings—e.g., when survivors initially report captivity and later disclose CRSV, a new proceeding is opened. Even video testimonies face delays due to air raid alerts and power outages, which prolong the process and exhaust survivors.
- Lack of emotional support for survivors during legal proceedings, such as psychological assistance in court. Psychologists could provide professional explanations when survivors are unable to testify at specific moments. Survivors often feel unprepared for questions that imply doubt, although judges require additional information to make objective decisions.
- Survivors lack the right to choose the gender of their judge. Automatic case allocation does not allow for this preference unless the system is adjusted to

offer gender-based choices for survivors. *No analysis of the need for such an option.*

- *No analysis of institutional culture of courtroom to ensure alignment with survivor-centered approaches.*

Readiness of Contact Persons

Support for those providing support

- Professional burnout and vicarious trauma.

Media

- Lack of an effective mechanism of mass media responsibility for violations of communication ethics (mandatory signing of informed consent before starting a conversation, familiarization with the code of conduct and cancellation of accreditation for its violation)
- Survivors lack the skills to say STOP when the media asks traumatizing questions
- Lack of psychological support for survivors before talking to the media

Project Support

- Lack of a mandatory exit strategy after the end of the project, so that the survivors are not suddenly left alone with their problems
- Over-bureaucratization of NGOs is, in particular, due to the demands of donors
- Lack of comprehensiveness of the topic of CRSV for donors who have different programs of general coverage of survivors (the expert report of the Council of Europe On the means of legal protection and compensation mechanisms for persons affected by the war in Ukraine does not contain information on the CRSV mechanism)

Annex 2

Materials prepared by the Women's Information Consultative Center on CRSV to support the development of a differentiated approach for various groups of survivors
(in Ukrainian)

