**FORUM:** Human Rights Council

**QUESTION:** The question of women in areas of conflict

**MAIN SUBMITTER:** The French Republic

**CO-SUBMITTERS:** Argentina, Australia, Human Rights Watch, Ukraine, Paraguay, Turkey, UNDP, Guatemala, Zimbabwe, Kenya, Angola, Central African Republic, Finland, The Bahamas, Gabon

THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL,

*Acknowledging* the need for equity and support of female empowerment to achieve universal equality of the sexes,

*Convinced* *by* the key part played by women in peacekeeping missions during and after armed conflicts,

*Recognising* the need for female representation in all levels of government and peacekeeping responsibilities, to set positive examples for aspiring females,

*Alarmed by* the vulnerability of women in areas of conflict due to their common treatment as inferior and their exposure to physical and sexual violence and exploitation,

*Further alarmed by* the low levels of security and women’s sense of safety in refugee camps,

*Concerned by* the lack of education of over 10 million girls as a result of conflict interference,

*Further concerned by* the high maternal mortality and child marriage rates that surround areas of conflict,

*Recalling* the importance of the topics discussed in the 1979 *Adoption of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,*

*Further recalling* the agreements that took place in the 1995 Beijing *Platform for Action,*

*Believing in* the importance of the work done by the *United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), UN Women, UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action), Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE)*, and other organisations,

1. Calls for the unification of UNFPA, UN Women, UN Action and IANWGE to form the new Coalition of Women in Areas of Conflict (CWAC), whose funds will be allocated to the:
2. creation of safe spaces in conflict areas, refugee camps and post-conflict areas where women can:
3. receive medical and psychological support both in groups and individually,
4. receive age-specific educational support and counselling to reduce the risk of sexual exploitation and open their future to job opportunities,
5. receive empowering talks by other females in relation to their situation,
6. acquire new skills such as first aid, self-defense or economic independence,
7. receive specific maternal care and food resources for newborns,

b. amelioration of existing refugee camps to reduce sexual violence through:

1. introducing overnight patrolling of the camps,
2. increased lighting at night,
3. introducing locks in toilets,

c. creation of worldwide campaigns to raise awareness and funds on the issue;

2. Encourages countries to endorse female representation in all levels of peacekeeping and governmental issues to make women’s voices heard and their situation in conflict and in the daily life considered and, in the long term, bettered;

3. Stresses the need for diversity within female representation, to help the empowerment of women of all races and beliefs;

4. Requests the holding of annual conventions on *Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women* to maintain initiatives promoting equality updated and flexible to changing times*;*

5. Endorses the harsher condemnation of sex offenders if they have taken advantage of the instability of the area of conflict to commit the attack or have done so in a refugee camp;

6. Proposes that asylum is granted for victims fleeing from gender-related threats and applications are classified by the following demographic criteria:

a. sexual orientation and identity,

b. ‘honour’ crimes,

c. female genital mutilation,

d. forced marriages,

e. rape or sexual violence,

f. forced sterilisation,

g. domestic violence;

7. Further calls for the governments of European countries to encourage more female officers to work within the refugee camps to ensure the safety of the general populace whilst also promoting the image of women that can be empowered and have authority, similar to Security Council resolution 1324 which called for an increase in female peacekeepers;

8. Asks for CWAC to design a programme with the goal to enable an equal amount of male and female teachers to work within the refugee camps, which would give young women a sense of empowerment and equality;

9. Further encourages countries to re-evaluate their laws concerning rape crimes and to change these if necessary to prohibit rape crimes against all people;

10. Further requests the World Bank to open up funds which will give the possibility for NGOs to spread over the areas of conflict to inform women about

a) their rights during times of conflict,

b) their possibilities to report violence.