



Provisional programme

Sexual violence in conflict: delivering justice for survivors and holding perpetrators to account

Monday 25 – Wednesday 27 February 2019 | WP1651

Challenges within the rules-based international system highlight the need to strengthen justice and accountability for conflict-related sexual violence, putting survivors at the centre – one of the objectives of the UK's Preventing Sexual Violence In Conflict Initiative (PSVI). In the lead up to the UK-hosted PSVI international conference in November 2019, the UK is consulting with a range of stakeholders on how to strengthen justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and ensure perpetrators are held to account. This Wilton Park event is an opportunity to produce concrete recommendations for action by governments, international agencies and NGOs that will achieve this. The conference, one of a number of milestones being delivered in the run up to the international conference, aims to give space to governments, NGOs, investigators, prosecutors and judges to identify challenges and make proposals on how to strengthen justice at the national and international levels. These could include the creation of an independent permanent international investigatory body, the use of sanctions against conflict-related sexual violence, restorative justice including reparation funds and enhanced coordination and standards for those gathering evidence for investigations.

The UK will host the PSVI international conference in November 2019, five years since the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. The event, hosted by Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence, will celebrate progress, address remaining challenges, and secure commitments to action. Areas of focus will include tackling survivor stigma, children born of sexual violence (CBoSV), ensuring service provision for all survivors, and working with militaries, faith and the media. Efforts to strengthen justice and bring perpetrators to account will build on previous initiatives such as the development of the International Protocol on Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. Launched at the 2014 Summit, the Protocol was developed in collaboration with over 200 gender and sexual violence experts, in order to strengthen the evidence base for bringing perpetrators to justice. The second edition, launched in 2017, was designed as a practical

tool for experts working in the field to gather evidence of crimes and enable future prosecutions.

The Wilton Park event will develop proposals including from ongoing consultations hosted by Lord Ahmad, in order to:

- Generate recommendations and proposals for the international community to take forward at the meeting in November 2019
- Exchange good practice and lessons learned – what works and what doesn't
- Explore options towards increased accountability, including broader frameworks and mechanisms
- Consider wider societal, legal and political drivers that impact on prosecution rates
- Strengthen and develop expert networks

Discussion throughout will be based on a case study approach, drawing on successful initiatives from countries, recognising the need for approaches to be tailored to national/community contexts with a survivor-centred approach.

In association with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Monday 25 February

1300

Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1445-1515

Welcome to Wilton Park

Julia Purcell

Programme Director, Wilton Park

Introduction to conference

Rosy Cave

Head, Gender Equality Unit, Office of the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

1515-1630

1. Delivering justice: current challenges and future prospects

What are the current challenges in achieving justice and accountability under international and national mechanisms? How to overcome obstacles to the delivery of justice for survivors and holding perpetrators to account at community, national and global level? What about broader solutions, including non-judicial or alternative judicial processes?

Patricia Sellers

Special Advisor on Gender for the Office of the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court, The Hague

Ingrid Elliot

Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) International Criminal Justice Expert, UK Government's Stabilisation Unit, London

Philip Grant

Director, TRIAL International, Geneva

1630-1715

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1715-1830

2. Ensuring survivor centred justice: implications and recommendations

What are the opportunities, challenges and implications of a survivor centred approach to justice at the international and national level? What does justice mean to survivors and how to ensure a survivor centred approach? How to build on existing key mechanisms for engaging and communicating with survivors, ensuring their voices are heard?

Kolbassia Haoussou

Survivors Advocate and Survivors Speak OUT Coordinator, Freedom from Torture, London

Esther Dingemans

Director, Dr Denis Mukwege Foundation, The Hague

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 26 February

0700-0800

Yoga (optional)

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915-1045

3. Strengthening judicial processes

How far is the established international architecture, including the ICC, effective in delivering survivor centred justice and holding perpetrators to account? What additional mechanisms and frameworks could be implemented? How to share expertise and ensure effective cross-border prosecutions? What role is there for sanctions as a preventative measure? In what ways do societal attitudes and structural stigma affect decision making and outcomes of justice processes, from investigations to verdicts and appeals? What mechanisms have been effective in overcoming this?

Gloria Atiba-Davies

Head, Gender and Children Unit, International Criminal Court, The Hague

Arminka Helic

Member, House of Lords, London

Chloe Dalton

Director, J.D.H. Office Ltd, London

Yvette Szepesi

Cluster Coordinator, Department of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Hague

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1245

4. Survivor centred justice: thinking more broadly

What alternatives to legal processes could be used to increase accountability? How effective are initiatives such as Truth and Reconciliation Commissions and other forms of reparation and restorative justice in promoting justice for survivors? What does justice mean for survivors and what other ways can this be realised? How to ensure positive engagement from community and faith leaders?

Chair: Joanna Roper

Foreign Secretary's Special Envoy for Gender Equality, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

Chris Dolan

Director, Refugee Law Project, Kampala

Melinda Reed

Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice, The Hague

1300-1400

Buffet lunch

1400-1500

Free time

Briefing for session 6 facilitators (Common room)

Garden tour (optional)

1500-1630**5. Building a case and strengthening accountability**

What mechanisms can assist in ensuring international standards when gathering evidence of sexual violence in conflict situations? How are prosecution rates impacted by wider societal, legal and political drivers? How can existing methods of evidence gathering, storage and preservation be developed to improve consistency and coordination? In what ways can sustainable local and international capacity be built? Which mechanisms aid in ensuring and sustaining survivor engagement? How to ensure investigations protect survivors and witnesses?

Stephanie Barbour

Senior Sexual and Gender-based Violence Adviser, Commission for International Justice and Accountability (CJA)

Gabriel Oosthuizen

Programme Director, Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI), The Hague

Nina Tavakoli

Barrister, Red Lion Chambers, London

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1830**6. Identifying practical steps**

Four parallel breakout groups to identify:

- practical steps for delivering justice for survivors and holding perpetrators to account
- specific recommendations for the international community to take forward.

1830

Debrief for session 6 facilitators (Library)

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Wednesday 27 February**0800-0900**

Breakfast and checkout

0915-1000**7. Recommendations**

Reflections and feedback from the previous day's breakout groups.

1000-1045**8. Ways forward: response to recommendations**

Discussion on recommendations highlighted in previous sessions, bringing insight as to how recommendations could be practically implemented on national, regional and international levels.

1045-1115

Tea/coffee

1115-1130

9. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1130-1245

10. Looking ahead: next steps

Discussion of conclusions and suggested next steps, including participants sharing their personal actions.

Rosy Cave

Head, Gender Equality Unit, Office of the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

Closing remarks

Lord (Tariq) Ahmad of Wimbledon

Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict;
Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London

1300

Buffet lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

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