

International and Regional Laws and Instruments related to Gender Equality and the Security and Justice Sector

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1. International Laws and Instruments

United Nations General Assembly (UN GA)

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| UN GA | Universal Declaration of Human Rights | A/RES/217A | 10 December 1948 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, for the first time, lays out fundamental rights that are to be universally enjoyed and protected.</p> | | | |
| | The Universal Declaration of Human Rights states the entitlement of each individual to enjoy their rights and freedoms "...without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status" (Art. 2). Article 3 states that "[e]veryone has the right to life, liberty and security of person". Article 7 stipulates that "[a]ll are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law." | All Tools | |
| <p>UN GA International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights A/RES/2200A (XXI) 16 December 1966</p> | | | |
| | 'All persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law. In this respect, the law shall prohibit any discrimination and guarantee to all persons equal and effective protection against discrimination on any ground such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.' (Art. 26) | All Tools | |
| <p>UN GA International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights A/RES/2200A (XXI) 16 December 1966</p> | | | |
| | "The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status." (Article 2(2)) | All Tools | |
| | "The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant." (Article 3) | | |
| <p>UN GA Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) A/RES/34/180 18 December 1979</p> | | | |
| <p><i>Background:</i> CEDAW represents the international bill of rights for women and mandates a comprehensive agenda for action by states to guarantee the enjoyment of these rights.</p> | | | |
| | CEDAW seeks to end discrimination against women, defined as "...any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field" (Art. 1). The Convention holds States Parties responsible for adopting appropriate legislation and other measures to prohibit discrimination against women and establish legal protection of the equal rights of women. It specifically requires States to ensure women's right to the same employment opportunities, promotion, job security, equal remuneration and equality before the law. Under CEDAW, States Parties undertake: '(c) ... to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination; (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation' (Art. 2). | All Tools | |
| | States Parties undertake: '(a) To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle; (b) To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women; (c) To establish legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men and to ensure through competent national tribunals and other public institutions the effective protection of women against any act of discrimination; (d) To refrain from engaging in any act or practice of discrimination against women and to ensure that public authorities and institutions shall act in conformity with this obligation; ... (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women; (g) To repeal all national penal provisions which constitute discrimination against women' (Art. 2). | Tools 4, 7 | |
| | CEDAW specifies a range of areas in which States Parties must guarantee women's equality, including in public and political life, education, health, employment and family life. In particular, States Parties must accord to women equality with men before the law, a legal capacity identical to that of men and the same opportunities to exercise that capacity. Women shall be given equal rights to administer property and be treated equally in all stages of procedure in courts and tribunals (Art. 15). | | |

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| UN GA | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) | A/RES/34/180 | 18 December 1979 |
| | Parliaments play a crucial role in ensuring that a State's CEDAW obligations are met: they can firmly establish the principle of equality of men and women in their country's legal system, abolish discriminatory laws and work towards establishing new laws that effectively prohibit discrimination against women. Of particular relevance to parliamentary oversight is the right of women '[t]o participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government,' (Art. 7-b). | | Tool 7 |
| UN GA | International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW) | A/RES/45/158 | 18 December 1990 |
| | <i>Background:</i> ICMW represents the international bill of rights for migrant workers and prescribes a comprehensive agenda for action by states to guarantee the enjoyment of these rights. | | |
| | The Convention stipulates that "migrant workers and members of their families shall be entitled to effective protection by the State against violence, physical injury, threats and intimidation, whether by public officials or by private individuals, groups or institutions" (Art 16, para. 2). | | Tool 6 |
| UN GA | Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women | A/RES/48/104 | 20 December 1993 |
| | The Declaration calls on States to refrain from engaging in violence against women and to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women. States are called upon to provide women who have been subjected to violence access to the mechanisms of justice; prevent re-victimisation; ensure adequate government budgets for activities related to the elimination of violence against women; and collaborate with and enhance the work of the women's movement and non-governmental organisations. The Declaration also calls on States to '[t]ake measures to ensure that law enforcement officers and public officials responsible for implementing policies to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women receive training to sensitize them to the needs of women' (Art. 4-i). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 12 |
| | According to Article 4, States shall: '(c) Exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and, in accordance with national legislation, punish acts of violence against women, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State or by private persons; (d) Develop penal, civil, labour and administrative sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence; women who are subjected to violence should be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered ...'; and '(i) Take measures to ensure that ... public officials responsible for implementing policies to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women receive training to sensitize them to the needs of women'. | | Tools 2, 4, 5, 7, 12 |
| | The Declaration stipulates that 'States should... (e) Consider the possibility of developing national plans of action to promote the protection of women against any form of violence ... (h) Include in government budgets adequate resources for their activities related to the elimination of violence against women' (Art. 4). | | Tools 7, 8 |
| UN GA | Resolution no 52/86: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Measures to Eliminate Violence against Women | A/RES/52/86 | 2 February 1998 |
| | The annex of the Resolution provides concrete examples of state action taken by the police to combat violence against women. States are urged: '... to empower the police to respond promptly to incidents of violence against women'; 'to encourage women to join police forces, including at the operational level' (Annex para. 8). | | Tool 2 |
| | The Resolution urges Member States to '... review and evaluate their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies and practices relating to criminal matters, in a manner consistent with their legal systems, to determine if they have a negative impact on women and, if they have such an impact, to modify them in order to ensure that women are treated fairly by the criminal justice system;' (para. 1). They are urged '... to promote an active and visible policy of integrating a gender perspective into the development and implementation of all policies and programmes in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice which may assist in the elimination of violence against women so that, before decisions are taken, an analysis may be made to ensure that they entail no unfair gender bias;' (para. 3). The resolution also calls on Member States to '... review, evaluate and revise their criminal procedure, as appropriate, in order to ensure that ... [w]omen subjected to violence have an opportunity to testify in court proceedings equal to that of other witnesses and that measures are available to facilitate such testimony and to protect their privacy;' (para. 7 (c)). | | Tools 2, 4, 7, 12 |
| | Additionally, Member States are urged '[t]o provide for or to encourage mandatory cross-cultural and gender-sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials, practitioners and professionals involved in the criminal justice system that deal with the unacceptability of violence against women, its impact and consequences and that promote an adequate response to the issue of violence against women' (Annex para. 12 (a)). | | |

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| UN GA | Resolution no 52/86: Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Measures to Eliminate Violence against Women | A/RES/52/86 | 2 February 1998 |
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| UN GA | Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons especially Women and Children, supplementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime | A/RES/55/25 | 15 November 2000 |
| | This Protocol calls for assisting and protecting victims of trafficking in persons and taking into account their age, gender and special needs (Art. 6-4). States Parties shall '... provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention of trafficking in persons' and this training shall address 'human rights and child- and gender-sensitive issues' and encourage 'cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society' (Art. 10-2). | | Tools 2, 6, 12 |
| | This Protocol stipulates that '[e]ach State Party shall consider implementing measures to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons, including...in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society, ... the provision of: (a) [a]ppropriate housing; (b) [c]ounselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand; (c) [m]edical, psychological and material assistance; and (d) [e]mployment, educational and training opportunities' (Art. 6 (3)). Also, the Protocol mandates that all policies, programmes and other measures established in accordance with the article on prevention of trafficking in persons shall include cooperation with non-governmental organizations, other relevant organizations and other elements of civil society (Art. 9 (3)). | | Tools 6, 9, 12 |
| UN GA | Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities | A/RES/61/106 | 13 December 2006 |
| | "States Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discrimination, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure the full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms" (Article 6(1)). | | Tool 1 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 63/155: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women | A/RES/63/155 | 18 December 2008 |
| | The General Assembly urges States to continue to develop strategies and approaches to eliminate all forms of violence against women. This document gives particular attention to strategies related to legislation, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation, such as: '(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women...;' 'c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women, including the reasons for low reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women ...;' '(k) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence ... and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women who are subjected to violence;' '(l) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim are in place;' '(m) Ensuring that effective legal assistance is available to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, <i>inter alia</i> , legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered...' (para. 16).' | | Tools 2, 4, 7 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 65/228: Strengthening crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women | A/RES/65/228 | 21 December 2010 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution adopts the guidelines of the <i>Updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Women in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice</i> which are annexed to the resolution and urges Member States to advance effective crime prevention and criminal justice strategies that address violence against women. | | | |
| The Resolution urges Member States “to evaluate and review their legislation and legal principles, procedures, policies, programmes and practices relating to crime prevention and criminal justice matters [...] to determine if they are adequate to prevent and eliminate violence against women or if they have a negative impact on women and, if they do, to modify them in order to ensure that women enjoy fair and equal treatment” (para. 9). | | | |
| Member States are invited to “establish a multidisciplinary, coordinated response to sexual assault that includes specially trained police, prosecutors, judges, forensic examiners and victim support services to contribute to the well-being of the victim and increase the likelihood of the successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of the offender and to prevent revictimization” (para. 13). | | | |
| Also, the Resolution calls upon “Member States to set up and strengthen mechanisms for the systematic collection of data on violence against women with a view to assessing the scope and prevalence of such violence and to guiding the design, implementation and funding of effective crime prevention and criminal justice responses” (para. 15). | | | |
| The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures elaborate comprehensive measures and interventions that Member States are urged to put in practice in the realm of criminal law; criminal procedure; actions of the police, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials; sentencing and correction; victim support and assistance; training; research and evaluation; and crime prevention measures. | | | |
| The updated Model Strategies and Practical Measures urge Member States to “ensure that all police officers, prosecutors and other criminal justice officials receive regular and institutionalized training to sensitize them to gender and child-related issues and to build their capacity with regard to violence against women” (para 16 (c)). They are to put in place mandatory gender and child-sensitivity training modules for police, criminal justice officials and professionals involved in the criminal justice system. These modules should cover the issues of “unacceptability of all forms of violence against women and on their harmful impact and consequences on all those who experience such violence” (para. 20 (a)) and enable the criminal justice professionals to “identify and respond appropriately to the specific needs of women victims of violence” (para. 20 (c)). | | | |
| UN GA | UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) | A/RES/65/229 | 21 December 2010 |
| The Bangkok Rules have been developed to complement and supplement the UN's <i>Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners</i> and the <i>Standard Minimum Rules for Non-custodial Measures</i> in connection with the treatment of women prisoners and alternatives to imprisonment for women offenders. The 70 rules cover such issues as the economic inequality that deprives many women of access to justice; the heightened discrimination women prisoners may suffer; the need for gender-sensitive risk assessment and classification of prisoners; and the need for gender-specific health and hygiene services. The Bangkok Rules address particular safety and personal security concerns associated with women prisoners, such as developing alternatives to strip searches and invasive body searches; excluding pregnant women, women with infants and breastfeeding mothers from punishment by close confinement or disciplinary segregation; and providing immediate protection, support and counselling to women prisoners who report abuse, and investigation of their claims. The rules also ask that pre- and post-release programmes take into account the stigmatization and discrimination that women face once released from prison. | | | |
| Rule 46 of the Bangkok Rules stipulates that '[p]rison authorities, in cooperation with probation and/or social welfare services, local community groups and non-governmental organizations, shall design and implement comprehensive pre- and post-release reintegration programmes which take into account the gender-specific needs of women.' The role of the non-governmental organizations or other community services is also stressed in relation to their involvement in the provision of non-custodial means of protection to women (rule 59). In order to monitor the conditions of detention and treatment of women prisoners, inspectorates, visiting or monitoring boards or supervisory bodies shall include women members (rule 25(3)). | | | |

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| UN GA | UN Rules for the Treatment of Women Prisoners and Non-custodial Measures for Women Offenders (the Bangkok Rules) | A/RES/65/229 | 21 December 2010 |
| | <p>The Bangkok Rules require that female prison staff receive equal access to training as male staff (rule 32). Staff employed in women's prisons shall undergo capacity-building that enables them to address the special social reintegration requirements of women prisoners and manage safe and rehabilitative facilities (rule 29). All staff assigned to work with women prisoners should also be provided with training on gender sensitivity, prohibition of discrimination, sexual harassment, women's health and the gender-specific needs of women prisoners (rules 32 and 33). Prison staff shall also be trained to detect mental health-care needs and risk of self-harm and suicide among women prisoners and to offer assistance by providing support and referring such cases to specialists (rule 35). In addition, rule 33(3) states that '[w]here children are allowed to stay with their mothers in prison, awareness-raising on child development and basic training on the health care of children shall also be provided to prison staff, in order for them to respond appropriately in times of need and emergencies.' The regular training curricula of all prison staff should include gender and human rights, with a particular focus on their link to HIV, stigma and discrimination (rule 34).</p> | | Tools 5, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 66/128: Violence against women migrant workers | A/RES/66/128 | 19 December 2011 |
| | <p><i>Background:</i> The resolution recognizes particular vulnerability of women and their children at all stages of the migration process and emphasizes efforts towards protecting women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse (p. 3).</p> <p>The resolution “[u]rges States to adopt effective measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and to take action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups” (para. 15).</p> | | Tools 2, 6 |
| | <p>Governments are called “to put in place penal and criminal sanctions in order to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms that victims can access effectively and that allow their views and concerns to be presented and considered at appropriate stages of proceedings, including other measures that will allow victims to be present during the judicial process, when possible, and to protect women migrant workers who are victims of violence from revictimization” (para. 14).</p> | | Tools 4, 6, 7 |
| | <p>Paragraph 17. “encourages Governments to promote coherence between migration, labour and anti-trafficking policies and programmes concerning women migrant workers, based on a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective, to ensure that the human rights of women migrant workers are protected throughout the migration process, and to enhance efforts to prevent violence against women migrant workers.”</p> | | Tool 6 |
| | <p>Governments are called “to incorporate a human rights, gender-sensitive and people-centred perspective in legislation, policies and programmes on international migration [...] and, where necessary, to conduct impact assessment studies of such legislation, policies and programmes in order to identify the impact of measures taken and the results achieved in regard to women migrant workers” (para. 5).</p> | | Tools 6, 7 |
| | <p>Governments are encouraged “to formulate and implement training programmes for their law enforcers, immigration officers and border officials, diplomatic and consular officials, prosecutors and service providers, with a view to sensitizing those public-sector workers to the issue of violence against women migrant workers and imparting to them the necessary skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions” (para. 16).</p> | | Tools 2, 4, 6, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 67/48: Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control | A/RES/67/48 | 3 December 2012 |
| | <p><i>Background:</i> The resolution recognizes “valuable contribution of women to practical disarmament measures carried out at the local, national, subregional and regional levels in the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict, and in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” (p.1). It stresses that “the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control should be further developed”, especially since “equal, full and effective participation of both women and men is one of the essential factors for the promotion and attainment of sustainable peace and security” (p.1).</p> <p>The resolution “[u]rges Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the UN and specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict” (para. 1). Likewise, Member States are called upon to “support and strengthen the effective participation of women in organizations in the field of disarmament at the local, national, subregional and regional levels” (para. 3). Finally, states should empower women, including through capacity-building efforts, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts” (para. 4).</p> | | Tools 1, 3 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 67/144: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women | A/RES/67/144 | 20 December 2012 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution underlines the “need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and [...] peace and security issues” (p. 3). States and international community are called upon to “place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering, of women and girls living in situations of [armed and other types of conflicts and terrorism and hostage-taking]” (para. 12). | | | |
| The resolution highlights “the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed-conflict and post-conflict resolution process, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes” (para. 13). | | | Tool 4 |
| The resolution urges “States to continue to develop their national strategies, translating them into concrete programmes and actions and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and by increasing the focus on prevention, protection and accountability in laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments” (para. 18). | | | Tools 7, 15 |
| The resolution urges “States to “[establish] appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators” (para. 18 sub (h)). | | | |
| “States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress” (para. 15). | | | |
| Likewise, States should develop or improve “specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good-practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to protect and assist them in an impartial, supportive and effective manner, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society” (para. 18 sub (v)). | | | Tools 2, 4, 9, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 67/145: Trafficking in women and girls | A/RES/67/145 | 20 December 2012 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution recognizes the importance of exploring the link between migration and trafficking in persons in order to further efforts to protect women migrant workers from violence, discrimination, exploitation and abuse (p. 3). | | | |
| Governments are called “to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence” (para. 20). | | | Tools 4, 6, 7, 8 |
| Governments should “provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination” (para. 28). | | | Tools 2, 4, 6, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 68/191: Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls | A/RES/68/191 | 18 December 2013 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution raises concern about the “high level of impunity with regard to gender-related killing of women and girls, and [recognizes] the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes” (p. 3). | | | |
| Member States are invited “to strengthen the criminal justice response to gender-related killing of women and girls, in particular measures to support the capacity of Member States to investigate, prosecute and punish all forms of such crime and provide reparation and/or compensation to victims and their families or dependents, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws” (para. 6). | | | Tools 2, 4, 7 |
| The resolution invites “Member States to address the existing problems of underreporting by enhancing data collection and analysis, as well as sharing relevant data, in accordance with national laws, and related information on gender related killing of women and girls, in order to inform the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of laws, policies and programmes” (para. 7). | | | Tool 15 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 69/147: Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls | A/RES/69/147 | 18 December 2014 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution acknowledges "that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world and represents [...] a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace [and] security" (para. 3). | | | |
| | The resolution "[s]tresses the need for the exclusion of killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes and to address such acts during all stages of the armed conflict, conflict resolution and post-conflict situations, including through transitional justice mechanisms, while ensuring the full and effective participation of women in such processes" (para. 14). Paragraph 15. "stresses the importance of ensuring that in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and in natural disaster situations, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women's access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support to victims and survivors, [...] and reintegration measures, as well as by taking steps to increase women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding missions and processes and post-conflict decision-making." | | Tools 1, 3, 4 |
| | States are urged to ensure "that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool against recidivism as part of an integrated response to violence against women, and that they consider the safety of women and girls as the highest priority" (para. 20 (cc)). | | Tool 5 |
| | The resolution calls "States to [establish] appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators" (para. 20 (k)). | | Tools 7, 15 |
| | "States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing and adequate training and access to information to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress, including in peacekeeping missions and processes and special political missions" (para. 17). | | Tools 2, 3, 4, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 69/151: Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly | A/RES/69/151 | 18 December 2014 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution reaffirms "that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality" (p. 2). | | | |
| | The resolution "[re]affirms the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design [and] implementation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres" (p. 2). | | Tools 1, 8 |
| | The resolution "[re]affirms the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the [...] monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres" (p. 2). | | Tools 11, 15 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 69/194: UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures on the Elimination of Violence against Children in the Field of Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice | A/RES/69/194 (annex) | 18 December 2014 |
| <i>Background:</i> The UN Model Strategies and Practical Measures are designed to facilitate the delivery of integrated strategies for violence prevention and child protection by the Member States. They underline effective measures that Member States need to take in preventing and responding to all forms of violence against children; upon children coming to contact with the justice system as victims, witnesses or alleged or recognized offenders. | | | |
| | Guiding principle of the document, among others, is that all strategies and measures to prevent and respond to violence against children need to be designed and implemented from a gender perspective which specifically addresses gender-based violence (para. 7 (e)). | | |
| Member States should review and update their criminal law to ensure the criminalization of gender-related violence against a child and, specifically, gender-related killing of girls (para. 11 (i)). | | | |
| Preventing the victimization of children is recognized as a crime prevention priority. Therefore, Member States are urged to adopt measures to prevent violence within the family and the community, including gender-related violence (para. 13 (b)). | | | |
| With regard to establishing effective detection and reporting mechanisms on violence against children, Member States need to ensure that “safe child- and gender-sensitive approaches, procedures and complaint, reporting and counselling mechanisms are established by law” (para. 19 (d)). | | | |
| With regard to offering effective protection to child victims of violence through the criminal justice process Member States are urged to “ensure that criminal justice and other relevant professionals, in dealing with cases of child victims of violence, pay particular attention to child- and gender-sensitive approaches” (para. 20 (d)). | | | |
| With regard to ensuring effective investigation and prosecution of incidents of violence against children Member States are urged to adopt child-sensitive and gender-sensitive investigation and prosecution practices (para. 22 (g)). | | | |
| With regard to strengthening capacity and training of criminal justice professionals Member States are called to “design and implement mandatory, cross-cultural gender- and child sensitivity training modules for criminal justice professionals on the unacceptability of all forms of violence against children and on the harmful impact on and consequences for all those who experience such violence” (para. 28 (e)). Furthermore, as part of capacity building initiatives aimed at developing specialized expertise among criminal justice professionals “police officers, prosecutors, judges and other criminal justice professionals [are to] receive regular and institutionalized training to sensitize them to gender- and child-related issues” (para. 28 (g)). | | | |
| The document calls upon Member States to take into account the distinctive needs of girls and their vulnerability to gender-based violence. It recognizes that because detention of children of itself can be conducive to various forms of violence against children, Member States need to ensure the separation of children from adults and separation of girls from boys (para. 38 (c)). Finally, treatment and support needs to be “offered to detained children with special needs, including to girls who are pregnant, give birth and/or raise children in detention” (para. 38 (f)). Member States need to ensure “that the dignity of girls is respected and protected during personal searches, which shall only be carried out by female staff who have been properly trained in appropriate searching methods” (para 41 (c)). Also, “alternative screening methods, such as scans, [need to be implemented] to replace strip searches and invasive body searches in order to avoid the harmful psychological and possible physical impact of such searches” (para. 41 (d)). Obligation to adopt and implement clear policies and regulations on the conduct of staff aimed at providing maximum protection for girls deprived of their liberty from any physical or verbal violence, abuse or sexual harassment is likewise specified (para. 41 (e)). | | | |
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| UN GA | Resolution no. 70/1: Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development | A/RES/70/1 | 25 September 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development seeks “to [inter alies] realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls” (Preamble). | | | |
| <p>Sustainable Development Goal 5 entitled “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls” seeks to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls (5.1); eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls (5.2); eliminate all harmful practices (5.3); ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life (5.4), and adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (5.5).</p> <p>Goal 16 entitled “Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”, among other, implies ensuring equal access to justice for all (16.3); ensuring responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision making at all levels (16.7), and promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development (16.b).</p> <p>The resolution specifies that “[a]ll forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls will be eliminated, including through the engagement of men and boys [and that the] systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda is crucial” (para. 20).</p> | | | All Tools |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 70/175: UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners (the Nelson Mandela Rules) | A/RES/70/175 | 17 December 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution supersedes previous UN GA resolution entitled Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, from 1955; which has established the universally acknowledged minimum standards for the detention of prisoners. Taking into account the progressive development of international law pertaining to the treatment of prisoners, the UN has revised the former standard. | | | |
| <p>The Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners apply to all prisoners without discrimination, but include a number of provisions directly addressed to female prisoners and their children. The Rules stipulate that men and women shall so far as possible be detained in separate institutions – and otherwise, in entirely separate premises of an institution which receives both men and women (rule 11). There shall be special accommodation in women’s prisons for necessary prenatal and postnatal care and treatment (rule 28). Women prisoners shall be attended and supervised only by women staff members (rule 81(3)). In an institution for both men and women, that part of the institution set aside for women shall be under the authority of a responsible woman staff member and no male member of the staff shall enter there unless accompanied by a woman staff member (rule 81(1)(2)).</p> | | | Tool 5 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 70/176: Taking action against gender-related killing of women and girls | A/RES/70/176 | 17 December 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution stresses “the high level of impunity with regard to gender-related killing of women and girls and the fact that violence against women and girls is among the least prosecuted and punished crimes in the world” (p. 2). | | | |
| <p>The resolution “[u]rges Member States to adopt integrated and comprehensive responses to violence against women in order to reduce risks of gender-related killing through early intervention and risk assessment, exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish gender-related killing of women and girls, ensure equal protection of women under the law and equal access to justice, consider adopting an integrated, multidisciplinary and gender-sensitive approach to the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of gender-related killing of women and girls to minimize the risk of secondary victimization in the criminal justice system and develop appropriate mechanisms and enhance capacities for forensic investigations to identify human remains and missing persons” (para. 7). Likewise, paragraph 8 “[e]ncourages Member States to criminalize, prosecute and punish rape and other forms of sexual and gender-related violence against women and girls committed in all situations, including situations of conflict, taking into account international standards, and urges, where appropriate, relevant stakeholders to support the development and strengthening of the capacities of national institutions, in particular law enforcement, judicial [...] and of local civil society networks to provide sustainable assistance and access to justice to women and girls affected by gender-related violence.”</p> | | | |

| UN GA | Resolution no. 71/167: Trafficking in women and girls | A/RES/71/167 | 19 December 2016 |
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| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution “[r]ecognizes that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to effectively differentiate between and respond to the risks faced by women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of [...] exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age sensitive approach into all anti-trafficking efforts” (p. 4). | | | |
| Governments need “to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls, and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities, without fear and with due regard for the protection of their privacy and their identity, and are available, when required, to the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate [...] legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered” (para. 40). | | | Tools 2, 4, 6 |
| The resolution is urging Governments “to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and [to] ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials [...] and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity and observes the principles of non-discrimination” (para. 38). Likewise, Governments, and relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations need “to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel about the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked” (para. 47). | | | Tools 2, 3, 4, 6, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 71/170: Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: domestic violence | A/RES/71/170 | 19 December 2016 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution recognizes “that violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, is rooted in historical and structural inequality in power relations between men and women [which] seriously violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by women and girls” (p. 3). Also, it stresses that “domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains the most prevalent and least visible form of violence against women of all social strata across the world” (p. 4). Finally, the resolution raises concern “about the high level of impunity with regard to gender related killing of women and girls, also known as femicide [while] recognizing the key role of the criminal justice system in preventing and responding to gender-related killing of women and girls, including in ending impunity for such crimes” (p. 5). | | | |
| The resolution “stresses the importance of ensuring that, in armed conflict and postconflict situations and in natural disaster situations, the prevention of and response to all forms of violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence, are prioritized and effectively addressed, including, as appropriate, through the investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators to end impunity, the removal of barriers to women’s access to justice, the establishment of complaint and reporting mechanisms and the provision of support to victims and survivors” (para. 9). | | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4 |
| The resolution “urges States to take effective action to protect victims of all forms of violence, including domestic violence, including by: Establishing and/or strengthening police [...] response protocols and procedures to ensure that all appropriate actions are taken to protect victims of domestic violence, to identify acts of violence and to prevent further acts of violence and psychological harm, taking into account the need to ensure and maintain the privacy and confidentiality of the victim” (para. 16(d)). | | | Tool 2 |
| States are called “to take effective action to prevent and eliminate domestic violence without delay, including by: Taking measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, protecting and assisting the victims and investigating and punishing acts of violence receive ongoing, adequate and gender- and culturally sensitive training to be aware of gender-specific needs, as well as of the underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of domestic violence” (para. 14. (d)). | | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 71/278: UN action on sexual exploitation and abuse | A/RES/71/278 | 10 March 2017 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Resolution “[condemns and expresses] deep concern about, sexual exploitation and abuse by UN personnel throughout the system, as well as by non-United Nations personnel serving under a mandate of the Security Council, and [underscores] the commitment of Member States to [strengthen] measures to address sexual exploitation and abuse” (p. 1). | | | |
| The resolution “stresses the importance of States holding accountable those responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse, in a timely and appropriate manner, and that prevention and accountability are critical for the United Nations and its Member States to demonstrate their collective commitment to the zero-tolerance policy and for maintaining the trust of the international community and providing justice for victims” (para. 3). It “underscores that troop- and police-contributing countries bear the responsibility for investigating and holding their personnel accountable for acts of sexual exploitation and abuse in accordance with their national laws” (para. 11). | | | Tools 1, 2, 3 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 72/162: Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto: situation of women and girls with disabilities | A/RES/72/162 | 19 December 2017 |
| Calls for states to ensure access to justice and accountability mechanisms and remedies for the effective implementation and enforcement of laws aimed at preventing and eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls with disabilities (para. 14(b)). | | | Tools 2, 4 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 72/154: The girl child | A/RES/72/154 | 19 December 2017 |
| Urges efforts, including legislation, to realization of the human rights of girls, including access to justice, and fighting impunity for sexual violence against girls. | | | Tools 2, 4, 7 |
| Highlights sexual exploitation and abuse of and trafficking in women and children, including by military and police peacekeepers. | | | Tools 2, 3 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 73/146: Trafficking in women and girls | A/RES/73/146 | 17 December 2018 |
| Highlights recruitment of victims of human trafficking through the internet and encourages specialized training for law enforcement and criminal justice practitioners, immigration officials (para. 24, 39). | | | |
| Encourages Governments to prevent, combat and eradicate human trafficking in the context of international migration and ensure coherence between the laws on and measures responding to migration, labour and human trafficking (para. 33, 44). | | | Tools 2, 4, 6, 7, 12 |
| Calls upon Governments to ensure that military and peacekeeping personnel are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls (para. 49). | | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| UN GA | Resolution no. 73/ 148: Intensification of efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls: sexual harassment | A/RES/73/148 | 17 December 2018 |
| Calls on states to address violence against women based upon multiple and intersectional factors (para. 5) and to address structural and underlying causes and risk factors (para. 8). | | | Tool 1 |
| Encourages national legislative authorities and political parties to adopt codes of conduct and reporting mechanisms regarding sexual harassment, intimidation and any other form of violence against women in politics (para. 7). | | | Tool 7 |
| Urges legislation and policies on sexual harassment, prohibiting and considering, where appropriate, criminalizing sexual harassment, exercising due diligence by taking protective and preventive measures, ensuring appropriate complaints mechanisms and reporting procedures, as well as accountability ... including through adequate enforcement by the police and the judiciary (para. 8(e)); legal protection to support and assist victims of violence (para. 9). | | | Tools 2, 4, 7 |
| Addresses collection of data (para. 15). | | | Tool 15 |

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| UN GA | Resolution no. 74/127: Violence against women migrant workers | A/RES/ 74/127 | 18 December 2019 |
| | Urges legislation and policies, in accordance with their commitments and obligations under international law, to prevent and respond to gender-related killing of women and girls, taking into account the particular difficulties faced by women migrant workers in accessing justice (para. 12), legislative provisions and judicial processes to provide women migrant workers access to justice (para. 33), and penal and criminal sanctions to punish perpetrators of violence against women migrant workers and intermediaries, and gender-sensitive redress and justice mechanisms (para. 34). | | Tools 4, 7 |
| | Urges measures “facilitating effective access to justice and effective action in the areas of law enforcement, prosecution, prevention, capacity-building and victim protection and support” (para. 14). | | Tools 2, 4 |
| | Urges measures to put an end to the arbitrary arrest and detention of women migrant workers and action to prevent and punish any form of illegal deprivation of the liberty of women migrant workers by individuals or groups (para. 35). | | Tools 2, 5 |
| | Encourages training for law enforcement officials, immigration officers and border officials, judiciary, prosecutors on violence against women migrant workers skills and attitude to ensure the delivery of proper, professional and gender-sensitive interventions, including for those in detention facilities. | | Tools 2, 4, 5, 6, 12 |

United Nations Human Rights Council (UN HRC)

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| UN HCR | Resolution on trafficking in persons, especially women and children: regional and subregional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons | A/HRC/14. L.4 | 11 June 2010 |
| | The HRC emphasises that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, return and reintegration should be developed through, <i>inter alia</i> , a gender sensitive approach. The Council calls upon Governments ‘[t]o promote the provision of gender- and age-sensitive responses which adequately address the needs of women, children and men as victims ...’ (para. 7 (c)). | | Tool 6 |
| UN HCR | Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in prevention | A/HRC/14/L.9/Rev.1 | 15 June 2010 |

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| UN HCR | Resolution 17/11 Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: ensuring due diligence in protection | A/HRC/RES/17/11 | 17 June 2011 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution “[e]mphasizes that women should be empowered to protect themselves against violence and, in this regard, stresses the need for legal and policy measures that promote the full enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights by eliminating discrimination against women, promoting gender equality, empowering women and promoting their full autonomy” (para. 4). | | | |
| In paragraph 5, the HRC urges States: | | | |
| <p>“(e) To develop and, where necessary, strengthen policing systems and judicial procedures to provide adequate protection for women who have been subjected to violence, including by ensuring conducive environments for women and girls to report acts of violence against them, timely and thorough investigation of all allegations of violence, effective and victim-sensitive collection and processing of evidence, especially forensic evidence, effective protection of victims and their families from acts of retaliation, respect for the privacy, dignity and autonomy of all victims, as well as necessary victim protection measures, such as restraining or expulsion orders and adequate witness protection.</p> <p>(f) To place a high priority on removing gender bias from the administration of justice and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials to deal appropriately with violence against women, including by providing systematic gender-sensitivity and awareness training, as appropriate, for police and security forces, prosecutors, judges and lawyers, integrating gender into security sector reform initiatives, developing protocols and guidelines, and enhancing or putting in place appropriate accountability measures for adjudicators.</p> <p>(g) To encourage the removal of all barriers to women’s access to justice and ensure access to effective legal assistance for all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensure that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered.</p> <p>(i) To promote an increase in the number of women lawyers, judges, prosecutors and law enforcement officials where women are underrepresented in these professions, and to take steps to address any barriers that may be preventing women from entering these professions, including through the use of appropriate incentives, as important steps towards enhancing women’s awareness of their rights and the ability of the judiciary and law enforcement officials to be more sensitive to the specific and differentiated needs of women and girls who face targeted, compounded and structural discrimination.</p> <p>(l) To establish a multidisciplinary, coordinated response to sexual assault that prevents the re-victimization of women and includes specially trained police, prosecutors, judges, forensic examiners, victim support services and, where appropriate, testimonial aids and other accommodations, to contribute to the well-being of victims, ensure that they are able to participate fully, and increase the likelihood of the successful apprehension, prosecution and conviction of perpetrators.”</p> | | | |
| The resolution urges States to “monitor the effectiveness of laws, policies, programmes and measures aimed at protecting women and girls facing any form of violence, including monitoring actions taken by State agencies in relation to the investigation and prosecution of cases of violence and to convictions and sentencing” (para. 5(p)). | | | |
| UN HCR | Resolution 17/19 Human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity | A/HRC/RES/17/19 | 14 July 2011 |
| The HRC expresses grave concern at acts of violence and discrimination, in all regions of the world, committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation and gender identity. It “Requests ... a study ... documenting discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, in all regions of the world, and how international human rights law can be used to end violence and related human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity;” and “Decides...to have constructive, informed and transparent dialogue on the issue of discriminatory laws and practices and acts of violence against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity.” | | | |

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| UN HCR | Resolution 20/12. Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence | A/HRC/RES/20/12 | 5 July 2012 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The resolution deals with the provision of remedies for women subjected to violence. It highlights "that women who are subjected to violence should be provided with access to the mechanisms of justice and, as provided for by national legislation, to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, and information about their rights in seeking redress through such mechanisms" (p. 2). Furthermore, it points out "that effective remedies for women and girls should aim to have a transformative effect by addressing the root causes of violence against them" (p. 2).</p> | | | |
| <p>UN HRC "urges States to ensure that remedies for women and girls subjected to violence, whether judicial, administrative, policy or other measures, are available, accessible, acceptable, age- and gender-sensitive and adequately address victims' needs, including by protecting confidentiality, preventing stigmatization, revictimization or further harm to victims, allowing reasonable time for women subjected to violence to come forward to seek redress, ensuring reasonable evidentiary standards, providing necessary translation services and minimizing the complexity of procedures" (para. 4). States are also urged "to place a high priority on removing gender bias from the administration of justice [...] to deal appropriately with violence against women, including by providing systematic gender sensitivity and awareness training, as appropriate, for police and security forces, prosecutors, judges and lawyers, integrating gender into security sector reform initiatives, developing protocols and guidelines and enhancing or putting in place appropriate accountability measures for adjudicators" (para. 5).</p> | | | |
| UN HCR | Resolution 23/25 Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: preventing and responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence | A/HRC/RES/23/25 | 14 June 2013 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The resolution stresses "the importance of law enforcement pursuing adequate investigations and prosecutions for rape and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated on any ground against women and girls, and recognizing that a lack of accountability unacceptably reinforces social normalization of and tolerance for these crimes" (p. 2).</p> | | | |
| <p>States are urged "to increase measures to protect women and girls from all forms of violence, including sexual violence, by addressing their security and safety, including through, inter alia, awareness-raising, involvement of local communities, crime prevention laws ..." (para. 5).</p> | | | Tools 7, 9 |
| <p>UN HRC "[u]rges States to take meaningful steps to address the harmful attitudes, customs, practices, stereotypes and unequal power relations that underlie and perpetuate rape and other forms of sexual violence by, inter alia: [m]easuring the effectiveness of policies and programmes to prevent sexual violence, including by carrying out regular evaluation and monitoring, and collecting and disseminating data disaggregated by sex [...]" (para. 4(d)).</p> | | | Tools 12, 15 |
| UN HCR | Resolution 26/15 Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: violence against women as a barrier to women's political and economic empowerment | A/HRC/RES/26/15 | 26 June 2014 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The resolution "[u]nderlines the detrimental impact of sexual violence in armed conflict on women's participation in the resolution of conflict, post-conflict transition, reconstruction, and peacebuilding processes" (para. 4).</p> | | | |
| <p>UN HRC is urging "States and all segments of society, including all levels of government, civil society organizations, the private sector and the media, as well as community and religious leaders, to take meaningful steps to address the harmful attitudes, customs, practices, stereotypes and unequal power relations that underlie and perpetuate violence against women and girls, including by designing, implementing and evaluating national policies, programmes and strategies aimed at transforming social norms that condone violence against women and girls, and to counteract attitudes by which women and girls are regarded as subordinate to men and boys or as having stereotyped roles that perpetuate practices involving violence or coercion" (para. 2).</p> | | | Tools 1, 8, 9 |

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| UN HCR | Resolution 29/14 Accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: eliminating domestic violence | A/HRC/RES/29/14 | 2 July 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution pinpoints that domestic violence, including intimate partner violence, remains the most prevalent form of violence affecting women of all social strata across the world; emphasizes that such violence is a violation, abuse or impairment of the enjoyment of their human rights [and] a form of discrimination [of women]; [that it is] a societal problem and a manifestation of unequal power relations, and is intrinsically linked with gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate such violence" (p. 2). | | | |
| The resolution "calls upon States to take effective action to respond to domestic violence, including by: [a]ccelerating efforts to develop, review and strengthen inclusive policies, including by allocating adequate resources to address the structural and underlying causes of domestic violence against women and girls, to overcome gender stereotypes, ..., to promote zero tolerance for such violence and to remove the stigma of being a victim and survivor of violence, thus creating an enabling and accessible environment where women and girls can easily report incidents of violence and make use of the services available, including protection and assistance programmes" (para. 9 (c)). | | | Tools 1, 8, 9 |
| The resolution "calls upon States to take effective action to respond to domestic violence, including by: [p]roviding training to relevant public officials in law enforcement, the administration of justice [...] to be aware of, and responsive, sensitive and diligent with regard to the nature, incidence, underlying causes and short- and long-term impact of domestic violence" (para. 9 (f)). | | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |
| UN HCR | Resolution 32/2 Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity | A/HRC/RES/32/2 | 30 June 2016 |
| UN HRC deplores acts of violence and discrimination, in all regions of the world, committed against individuals because of their sexual orientation or gender identity (Article 2) and appoints an Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Article 3). | | | Tool 1 |
| UN HCR | Resolution 32/19 Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls | A/HRC/RES/32/19 | 1 July 2016 |
| UN HRC is calling "States to take effective action to prevent violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls, by: enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials to deal appropriately with all forms of violence against women and girls, including against indigenous women and girls, by providing systematic gender sensitivity training, as appropriate, for police and security forces [...] integrating gender considerations into security sector reform initiatives, developing protocols and guidelines [...]" (para. 7 (d)). | | | Tools 1, 2, 12 |
| UN HRC is calling "States to take effective action to prevent violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls, by: [r]emoving gender bias and other forms of discrimination from the administration of justice, and enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials to deal appropriately with all forms of violence against women and girls, including against indigenous women and girls, by providing systematic gender sensitivity training, as appropriate, for [...] prosecutors, judges and lawyers [...] and enhancing or putting in place appropriate accountability measures for adjudicators" (para. 7 (d)). | | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 12 |
| The resolution "[c]alls upon States to take effective action to prevent violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls, by: [m]easuring the effectiveness of policies and programmes to prevent violence against women and girls, including by carrying out regular evaluation and monitoring, and ensuring that they do not put indigenous women and girls at any additional risk" (para. 7 (f)). | | | Tools 11, 15 |
| UN HRC is calling "States to take effective action to respond to violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls, and to protect all victims and survivors by: [a]dopting and funding policy reforms and programmes, and) support education, in order to sensitize, train and strengthen the capacity of public officials and professionals, including the judiciary, the police and the military, as well as those working in the areas of [...] justice, defence and immigration" (para. 14 (b)). | | | Tools 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 12 |

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| UN HCR | Resolution 35/10 Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls | A/HRC/RES/35/10 | 22 June 2017 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution emphasizes the “important role that men and boys can play in preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls, including by challenging gender stereotypes and the negative social norms, attitudes and behaviours that underlie and perpetuate such violence and further developing and implementing measures that reinforce non-violent actions, attitudes and values, and encouraging men and boys, alongside women and girls, as agents and beneficiaries of gender equality, to take an active part in efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls” (p. 3). Also, men and boys can play an important role “when developing and implementing policies, programmes and strategies for gender equality and for preventing and eliminating violence against women and girls” (p. 3). | | | |
| UN HRC is calling States “to take immediate and effective action to respond to violence against women and girls and to protect all victims/survivors by: [h]olding persons in positions of authority, such as teachers, religious leaders, traditional authorities, politicians and law enforcement officials, accountable for not complying with and/or upholding laws and regulations relating to violence against women and girls, in order to prevent and respond to such violence in a gender-sensitive manner, to end impunity and to avoid the abuse of power leading to violence against women and girls and the revictimization of victims/survivors of such violence” (para. 10 (c)). | | | Tools 1, 2, 7 |
| The resolution “recognizes the critical role of men and boys in preventing and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls in both the public and private spheres, and urges States to design and implement national policies and programmes that address the roles and responsibilities of men and boys in the promotion of gender equality” (para. 6). | | | Tools 1, 7, 8 |
| UN HCR Resolution 35/18 Elimination of discrimination against women and girls | | | |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution recognizes “that legal provisions related to gender equality create the framework from which women’s rights can most comprehensively be promoted, protected and fulfilled, and constitute an essential mechanism for women’s and girls’ full and equal enjoyment of all human rights, and [recognizes] that laws alone are insufficient to eliminate discrimination against women and girls and must be accompanied by supportive and sustainable environments in all sectors of society in which they can be meaningfully implemented” (p. 2). It is also recognized “that discrimination against women and girls is inherently linked to deep-rooted gender stereotypes, that discriminatory attitudes, behaviours, norms, perceptions, customs and harmful practices have direct negative implications for the status and treatment of women and girls, and that gender-biased environments impede the implementation of legislative and normative frameworks that guarantee gender equality and prohibit discrimination against women and girls” (p. 2). Finally, the resolution acknowledges “that ending discrimination against women and girls is critical to ensure peace, security, sustainable development and respect for human rights, that everyone benefits from the achievement of gender equality and that the negative impact of gender inequality and discrimination, including violence against women and girls, is borne by society as a whole, and therefore emphasizing that men and boys, by taking responsibility themselves as agents and beneficiaries of change and by working alongside women and girls, are essential in the achievement of gender equality, the empowerment of women and girls and to efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence” (p. 2-3). | | | |
| UN HRC is calling States to “consider reviewing all proposed and existing legislation on the basis of respective international obligations, with a gender-responsive perspective, involving, when necessary, independent experts, women human rights defenders, women’s and girls’ community-based organizations, feminist groups and youth-led organizations, and other relevant stakeholders” (para. 3 (c)). | | | Tools 1, 7, 9 |
| States are urged “to create and support an enabling environment for the full participation of women’s civil society organizations and women human rights defenders in the creation, design and implementation of all relevant legislation and policies relevant to the human rights of women, as well as when adopting and implementing good practices conducive for the sustainable application of equality and empowerment measures for women [...]” (para. 13). | | | |
| UN HRC is calling States to “promote laws and programmes that facilitate good practices relating to women’s and girls’ empowerment and to the elimination of discrimination against them by conducting systematic, comprehensive and regular gender analysis of the law and programmes and its potential impact” (para. 3 (d)). | | | Tools 4, 7, 15 |

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| UN HCR | Resolution 38/5 Accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls in digital contexts | A/HRC/RES/38/5 | 5 July 2018 |
| Addresses violations, abuses, discrimination and violence against women and girls in digital contexts, <i>inter alia</i> harassment, stalking, bullying, threats of sexual and gender-based violence, death threats, arbitrary or unlawful surveillance and tracking, trafficking in persons, extortion, censorship and the hacking of digital accounts, mobile telephones and other electronic devices, with a view to discrediting women and girls and/or inciting other violations and abuses against them. | | | |
| Calls for review of laws and policies to address these forms of violence against women and girls, with integration of gender perspectives and participation of women and girls and cooperation with civil society. Calls for mainstreaming a gender perspective into criminal justice systems and into efforts to prevent and combat digital technology-mediated and transnational organized crime (para. 10). | | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9 |

United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee)

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| CEDAW Committee | General Recommendation No. 19: Violence against women | A/47/38 | Adopted on Committee's 11th session, 1992 |
| The CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation 19 states that '[g]ender-sensitive training of judicial and law enforcement officers and other public officials is essential for the effective implementation of the Convention' (para. 24-b). | | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |
| CEDAW Committee | General Recommendation No. 26 on women migrant workers | CEDAW/C/2009/WP.1/R | 5 December 2008 |
| The Recommendation refers to States' obligations to respect, protect and advance the human rights of women throughout the migration cycle (para. 3). Countries of transit '...should ensure that their border police and immigration officials are adequately trained, supervised and monitored for gender-sensitivity and non-discriminatory practices when dealing with women migrants...' (para. 25-a). Paragraph 26-g calls on States to provide mandatory gender-sensitivity training to criminal justice officers, border police and immigration authorities. | | | Tools 2, 4, 6, 12 |

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| CEDAW Committee | General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations | CEDAW/C/GC/30 | Adopted on Committee's fifty-sixth session, 2013 (date of distribution: 1 Nov 2013) |
| <i>Background:</i> The Committee states that "protecting women's human rights at all times, advancing substantive gender equality before, during and after conflict and ensuring that women's diverse experiences are fully integrated into all peacebuilding, peacemaking and reconstruction processes are important objectives of the [CEDAW] Convention" (para. 2). | | | |
| | Paragraph 46 covers the issue of equal participation: "(b) Ensure women's equal representation at all decision-making levels in national institutions and mechanisms, including in the armed forces, police, justice institutions and the transitional justice mechanisms (judicial and non-judicial) dealing with crimes committed during the conflict." | | |
| | Paragraph 69 integrates wider security sector reform framework with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration politics and recommends that States parties to CEDAW: | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 | |
| | "(b) Undertake gender-sensitive and gender-responsive security sector reform that results in representative security sector institutions that address women's different security experiences and priorities; and liaise with women and women's organizations; | | |
| | (c) Ensure that security sector reform is subject to inclusive oversight and accountability mechanisms with sanctions, including the vetting of ex-combatants; establish specialized protocols and units to investigate gender-based violations; and strengthen gender expertise and the role of women in oversight of the security sector". | | |
| | The Committee has recommended that States parties "[u]se gender-sensitive practices (for example, use of female police officers) in the investigation of violations during and after conflict to ensure that violations by State and non-State actors are identified and addressed" (para. 17 (d)). When it comes to combating gender-based violence, the Committee has recommended the "adoption of codes of conduct and protocols for the police" and "gender-sensitive investigative procedures" (para. 38 (c)). | Tool 2 | |
| | Paragraph 69 of this General recommendation deals with the issue of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. In it, CEDAW Committee recommends that States parties to CEDAW: | | |
| | "(d) Ensure women's equal participation in all stages of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration ...; | | |
| | (e) Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes specifically target female combatants and women and girls associated with armed groups as beneficiaries and that barriers to their equitable participation are addressed; and ensure that psychosocial and other support services are provided to them; | Tool 3 | |
| | (f) Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes specifically address women's distinct needs in order to provide age-specific and gender-specific disarmament, demobilization and reintegration support, including by addressing the specific concerns of young mothers and their children without targeting them excessively and exposing them to further stigma." | | |
| | Likewise, with regard to combating gender-based violence, the Committee has recommended the "adoption of codes of conduct and protocols for the [...] military, including peacekeepers" (para. 38 (c)). | | |

| CEDAW Committee | General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations | CEDAW/C/GC/30 | Adopted on Committee's fifty-sixth session, 2013 (date of distribution: 1 Nov 2013) |
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| | <p>Paragraph 81 prescribes the obligations of States parties to CEDAW vis-à-vis securing women's access to justice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "(a) Ensure a comprehensive approach to transitional justice mechanisms that incorporates both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations, which are gender sensitive and promote women's rights; (b) Ensure that substantive aspects of transitional justice mechanisms guarantee women's access to justice, by mandating bodies to address all gender based violations, by rejecting amnesties for gender-based violations and by ensuring compliance with the recommendations and/or decisions issued by transitional justice mechanisms; (c) Ensure that support for reconciliation processes does not result in blanket amnesties for any human rights violations, especially sexual violence against women and girls, and that such processes reinforce efforts to combat impunity for such crimes; (d) Ensure that all forms of discrimination against women are prohibited when re-establishing the rule of law during legal reform, establish criminal, civil and disciplinary sanctions where appropriate and include specific measures aimed at protecting women against any act of discrimination; (e) Ensure that women are involved in the design, operation and monitoring of transitional justice mechanisms at all levels so as to guarantee that their experience of the conflict is included, their particular needs and priorities are met and all violations suffered are addressed, and ensure their participation in the design of all reparations programmes; (f) Adopt the appropriate mechanisms to facilitate and encourage women's full collaboration and involvement in transitional justice mechanisms, including by ensuring that their identity is protected during public hearings and their testimony is taken by female professionals; (g) Provide effective and timely remedies that respond to the various types of violations experienced by women and ensure the provision of adequate and comprehensive reparations, and address all gender-based violations, including sexual and reproductive rights violations, domestic and sexual enslavement, forced marriage and forced displacement, sexual violence and violations of economic, social and cultural rights; (h) Adopt gender-sensitive procedures in order to avoid revictimization and stigmatization, establish special protection units and gender desks in police stations, undertake investigations confidentially and sensitively and ensure that, during investigations and trials, equal weight is given to the testimony of women and girls as to that of men; (i) Combat impunity for violations of women's rights and ensure that all human rights violations are properly investigated, prosecuted and punished by bringing the perpetrators to justice; (j) Enhance criminal accountability, including by ensuring the independence, impartiality and integrity of the judicial system, by strengthening the capacity of security, medical and judicial personnel to collect and preserve forensic evidence relating to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict contexts, and by enhancing collaboration with other justice systems, including the International Criminal Court; (k) Enhance women's access to justice, including through the provision of legal aid and the establishment of specialized courts, such as domestic violence and family courts, providing mobile courts for camps and settlement settings and for remote areas, and ensure adequate protection measures for victims and witnesses, including non-disclosure of identity and the provision of shelters; (l) Engage directly with informal justice mechanisms and encourage appropriate reforms, where necessary, in order to bring such processes into line with human rights and gender." <p>It is recommended that States parties: [e]stablish early warning systems and adopt gender-specific security measures to prevent the escalation of gender-based violence and other violations of women's rights, [and to include] gender-related indicators and benchmarks in the results management framework of such early warning systems" (para. 33 (c) and (d)).</p> <p>As part of combating gender-based violence, States parties are recommended to conduct gender-sensitive training of professionals (para. 38 (c)).</p> | | Tools 2, 4, 15 |
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| CEDAW Committee | General recommendation No. 32 on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women | CEDAW/C/GC/32 | Adopted on Committee's fifty-ninth session, 2014 (date of distribution: 14 Nov 2014) |
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Background: With this general recommendation the Committee "seeks to ensure that gender equality and nondiscrimination obligations are upheld by States parties to the Convention in respect of women asylum seekers and refugees throughout the displacement cycle, with a focus on asylum processes" (para. 3).

This General recommendation outlines that "[w]here detention of women asylum seekers is unavoidable, separate facilities and materials are required to meet the specific hygiene needs of women. The use of female guards and warders should be promoted. All staff assigned to work with women detainees should receive training relating to the gender-specific needs and human rights of women" (para. 34).

"States parties should ensure that their border police and immigration officials are adequately trained, supervised and monitored for gender-sensitivity and non-discriminatory practices when dealing with women asylum seekers and refugees. They should ensure that they adopt and implement a gender-sensitive approach of a proper identification system for women asylum seekers and refugees that is not based on prejudices and stereotyped notions of women, including for victims of trafficking and/or sexual exploitation" (para. 34).

Tools 5, 6, 12

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| CEDAW Committee | Joint general recommendation No. 31 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women/general comment No. 18 of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on harmful practices | CEDAW/C/GC/31-CRC/C/GC/18 | Adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at fifty-ninth session and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (date of distribution: 14 Nov 2014) |
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Background: The joint general recommendation states that "harmful practices are grounded in discrimination based on sex, gender and age, among other things, and have often been justified by invoking sociocultural and religious customs and values, in addition to misconceptions relating to some disadvantaged groups of women and children. [Likewise] harmful practices are often associated with serious forms of violence or are themselves a form of violence against women and children" (para. 7). The recommendation confirms that both "Conventions include provisions that cover harmful practices as human rights violations and oblige States parties to take steps to ensure that they are prevented and eliminated" (para. 10).

Paragraph 73 enlists obligations connected to training and puts forward the following recommendations to States parties to CEDAW:

(b) Provide training to individuals involved in alternative dispute resolution and traditional justice systems to appropriately apply key human rights principles, especially the best interests of the child and the participation of children in administrative and judicial proceedings;

(c) Provide training to all law enforcement personnel, including the judiciary, on new and existing legislation prohibiting harmful practices and ensure that they are aware of the rights of women and children and of their role in prosecuting perpetrators and protecting victims of harmful practices;

(d) [...] provide specialized training also for [...] services focused on the rights of women and the education and police and justice sectors".

Tools 2, 4, 7, 12

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| CEDAW Committee | General recommendation No. 33 on women's access to justice | CEDAW/C/GC/33 | Adopted on Committee's sixty-first session, 2015 (date of distribution: 3 Aug 2015) |
| <i>Background:</i> The Committee has stipulated that women are impeded from realizing their right to access to justice on a basis of equality due to number of obstacles. "These obstacles occur in a structural context of discrimination and inequality owing to factors such as gender stereotyping, discriminatory laws, intersecting or compounded discrimination, procedural and evidentiary requirements and practices, and a failure to systematically ensure that judicial mechanisms are physically, economically, socially and culturally accessible to all women". | | | |
| The Committee has recommended States parties to "[d]evelop protocols for police [...] for the collection and preservation of forensic evidence in cases of violence against women, and train sufficient numbers of police and legal and forensic staff to competently conduct criminal investigations" (para. 51 (k)). | | | Tool 2 |
| The Committee has identified six interrelated and essential components as necessary to ensure access to justice: justiciability, availability, accessibility, good quality, provision of remedies for victims and accountability of justice systems. In connection to each one of these, the Committee has formulated recommendations aimed at enhancing women's access to justice. E.g. with regard to justiciability, "States parties [need to ensure] that justice system professionals handle cases in a gender-sensitive manner" (para. 15 (c)). Adopting indicators to measure women's access to justice is a mark of the good quality of justice systems (para. 18 (b)). When it comes to the issue of accountability of the justice systems, the Committee has recommended that States parties "[c]onduct and facilitate qualitative studies and critical gender analyses of all justice systems, in collaboration with civil society organizations and academic institutions, in order to highlight practices, procedures and jurisprudence that promote or limit women's full access to justice" (para. 20 (e)). | | | |
| This General recommendation recognizes the impact of stereotypes and gender bias in the justice system and the importance of undertaking capacity-building initiatives. It is recommended that States parties take "measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for all justice system personnel and law students, to eliminate gender stereotyping and incorporate a gender perspective into all aspects of the justice system" (para. 29 (a)). Likewise, obligation to provide "capacity-building programmes for judges, prosecutors, lawyers and law enforcement officials on the application of international legal instruments relating to human rights, including the Convention and the jurisprudence of the Committee, and on the application of legislation prohibiting discrimination against women" was put forward (para. 20 (e)). | | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7, 9, 12, 15 |
| <p>Paragraph 51 contains additional recommendations for the States parties to CEDAW connected to justice reform:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "(c) Take effective measures to protect women against secondary victimization in their interactions with law enforcement and judicial authorities, and consider establishing specialized gender units within law enforcement, penal and prosecution systems; (g) Use a confidential and gender-sensitive approach to avoid stigmatization, including secondary victimization in cases of violence, during all legal proceedings, including during questioning, evidence collection and other procedures relating to the investigation; (h) Review rules of evidence and their implementation, especially in cases of violence against women, and adopt measures with due regard to the fair trial rights of victims and defendants in criminal proceedings, to ensure that the evidentiary requirements are not overly restrictive, inflexible or influenced by gender stereotypes; m) Closely monitor sentencing procedures and eliminate any discrimination against women in the penalties provided for particular crimes and misdemeanors and in determining eligibility for parole or early release from detention". | | | |
| States parties to CEDAW should ensure "that mechanisms are in place to monitor places of detention, pay special attention to the situation of women prisoners and apply international guidance and standards on the treatment of women in detention" (para. 51 (n)). Also, the Committee recommended to States parties to "[k]eep accurate data and statistics regarding the number of women in each place of detention, the reasons for and duration of their detention, whether they are pregnant or accompanied by a baby or child, their access to legal, health and social services and their eligibility for and use of available case review processes, non-custodial alternatives and training possibilities" (para. 51 (o)). | | | Tool 5 |

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| CEDAW Committee | General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19 | CEDAW/C/GC/35 | 14 July 2017 |
| <i>Background:</i> The general recommendation understands gender-based violence against women as a social, structural and systemic problem, "rooted in gender-related factors such as the ideology of men's entitlement and privilege over women, social norms regarding masculinity, the need to assert male control or power, enforce gender roles, or prevent, discourage or punish what is considered to be unacceptable female behaviour. These factors also contribute to the explicit or implicit social acceptance of gender-based violence against women, often still considered as a private matter, and to the widespread impunity for it" (para. 19). | | | |
| The general recommendation specifies that "States parties must have an effective and accessible legal and legal services framework in place to address all forms of gender-based violence against women committed by State agents, whether on their territory or extraterritorially" (para. 22). "States parties are responsible for preventing such acts or omissions by their own organs and agents" through a plethora of prescribed measures and activities (para. 23). | | | Tools 1, 7 |
| The recommendation elaborates the established standard from CEDAW on State parties' due diligence obligations for acts or omissions of non-State actors. The Committee recommends to State parties implementation of extensive legislative measures; e.g. criminalization of all forms of gender-based violence, ensuring that victims have access to justice and to an effective remedy, revocation of all legal measures discriminatory against women, etc. (para. 29). The Committee recommends the implementation of preventive measures, stressing the need to "[a] dopt and implement effective legislative and other appropriate preventive measures to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence against women, including patriarchal attitudes and stereotypes, inequality in the family and the neglect or denial of women's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, and to promote the empowerment, agency and voices of women" (para. 30 (a)). | | | |
| The Committee recommends that State parties to CEDAW "[p]rovide mandatory, recurrent and effective capacity-building, education and training for the judiciary, lawyers and law enforcement officers [...]" (para. 30 (e)). With regard to prosecution of cases of gender-based violence, the Committee recommends that State parties to CEDAW "[e]nsure effective access of victims to courts and tribunals; ensure authorities adequately respond to all cases of gender-based violence against women, including by applying criminal law and as appropriate ex officio prosecution to bring the alleged perpetrators to trial" (para. 32 (a)). | | | Tools 2, 4 |
| The Committee has recommended States parties to "[d]evelop and evaluate all legislation, policies and programmes in consultation with civil society organisations, in particular women's organisations, including those that represent women who experience intersecting forms of discrimination. States parties should encourage cooperation among all levels and branches of the justice system and the organisations that work to protect and support women victims/survivors of gender-based violence, taking into account their views and expertise" (para. 34 (a)). | | | Tools 7, 9 |
| This General recommendation outlines the provision of capacity-building, education and training for the judiciary, lawyers and law enforcement officers and specifies that it needs to be mandatory, recurrent and effective. It specifies that "this education and training should include: "impact of gender stereotypes and bias, leading to gender-based violence against women and inadequate responses to it; [and the] understanding of trauma and its effects, the power dynamics that characterise intimate partner violence, the varying situations of women experiencing diverse forms of gender-based violence; this shall include the intersectional discrimination affecting specific groups of women" (para. 30. (e) (i) and (ii)). | | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |

United Nations Security Council (UN SC)

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| UN SC | Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1325 (2000) | 31 October 2000 |
| In SCR 1325 the UNSC recognised women's particular roles and needs in conflict and post-conflict situations. The Resolution stresses the importance of women's "...equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution' (Preamble). Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict (Art. 1). It calls for supporting local women's peace initiatives; protecting women and girls from gender-based violence; ensuring the human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the police and the judiciary; bringing an end to impunity for those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and sexual and other violence against women and girls; and gender-sensitive DDR. | | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7 |
| The Council invites Member States to incorporate information relating to the protection, rights and particular needs of women, as well as the importance of women's involvement in peace-keeping and peacebuilding measures, into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel who are preparing for deployment (Art. 6). It also '[e]mphasises the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes including those relating to sexual violence against women and girls ...' (Art. 11). | | | Tools 2, 3, 4, 12 |

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| UN SC | Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1325 (2000) | 31 October 2000 |
| | It '[e]ncourages all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants' (Art. 13). | | Tool 3 |
| | SCR 1325 '[u]rges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict...' (Art. 1). | | Tool 8 |
| UN SC | Resolution 1820 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1820 (2008) | 19 June 2008 |
| | UN SCR 1820 (SCR 1820) demands that states take special measures to protect women and girls from sexual violence in armed conflict and ensure access to justice and assistance for victims. SCR 1820 emphasizes the role of peacekeepers in protecting civilians and urges greater numbers of female peacekeepers. It requests that the UN, in consultation with women and women's organisations, develop mechanisms in DDR and SSR processes to protect women from violence. SCR 1820 also '[u]rges the Secretary-General and his Special Envoys to invite women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and encourages all parties to such talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels' (Art. 12). | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 9 |
| | Article 3 '[d]emands that all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence, which could include, <i>inter alia</i> , ... vetting armed and security forces to take into account past actions of rape and other forms of sexual violence' The UNSC calls upon Member States to comply with their obligations to prosecute persons responsible for rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict, and to ensure that all victims of sexual violence, particularly women and girls, have equal protection under the law and equal access to justice (Art. 4). | | Tools 2, 3, 4 |
| | SCR 1820 '[e]ncourages troop and police contributing countries, in consultation with the Secretary-General, to consider steps they could take to heighten awareness and the responsiveness of their personnel participating in UN peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, including women and children, and prevent sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations...' (Art. 8) | | Tools, 2, 3, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 1888 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1888 (2009) | 30 September 2009 |
| | SCR 1888 demands that 'all parties to armed conflict immediately take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence, including measures such as ... vetting candidates for national armies and security forces to ensure the exclusion of those associated with serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including sexual violence' (Art. 3). Article 17 urges including sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes, in particular during the vetting of armed and security forces. Furthermore, the UNSC urges States to undertake comprehensive legal and judicial reforms to ensure that survivors of sexual violence have access to justice, are treated with dignity throughout the justice process, are protected and receive redress for their suffering (Art. 6). It encourages States to increase access to health care, psychosocial support, legal assistance and socio-economic reintegration services for victims of sexual violence and provide police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities (Arts. 13 and 19). It urges countries contributing police to UN peace-keeping operations to take actions such as providing pre-deployment and in-theatre awareness training to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse (Art. 21). | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 12 | |
| | The UNSC suggests 'measures such as, <i>inter alia</i> , ... vetting candidates for national armies and security forces to ensure the exclusion of those associated with serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, including sexual violence' (Art. 3). It urges inclusion of sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes, as well as in DDR and SSR arrangements (Art. 17). | | Tools 1, 2, 3 |
| | The UNSC urges States to undertake comprehensive legal and judicial reforms to bring perpetrators of sexual violence in conflicts to justice and to ensure that survivors have access to justice, are treated with dignity throughout the justice process and are protected and receive redress for their suffering (Art. 6). The UNSC also urges inclusion of sexual violence issues from the outset of peace processes in all UN-sponsored peace negotiation agendas, in particular in the areas of justice and reparations (Art. 17). | | Tool 4 |
| | SCR 1888 recognises that support for women's organisations and networks is essential for consolidating peace as well as for promoting the equal and full participation of women (para. 14). | | Tool 9 |

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| UN SC | Resolution 1888 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1888 (2009) | 30 September 2009 |
| | The UNSC 'encourages Member States ... to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities; and requests the Secretary-General to continue and strengthen efforts to implement the policy of zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations; and urges troop and police contributing countries to take appropriate preventative action, including pre-deployment and in-theater awareness training ...' (Arts 19 and 21). | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 1889 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1889 (2009) | 5 October 2009 |
| | UN SCR 1889 'urges Member States, international and regional organisations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes ... including by enhancing their engagement in political and economic decision-making at early stages of recovery processes, through <i>inter alia</i> ... supporting women's organizations, and countering negative societal attitudes about women's capacity to participate equally...' (Art. 1). SCR 1889 urges gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict recovery processes; funding and programming for women's empowerment activities. It calls for DDR processes to address the needs of women associated with armed groups/forces. The UNSC highlights the role civil society plays in ensuring that women's empowerment be taken into account during post-conflict needs assessments and planning (Art. 9). Furthermore, the UNSC 'encourages Member States in post-conflict situations, in consultation with civil society, including women's organizations, to specify in detail women and girls' needs and priorities and design concrete strategies, in accordance with their legal systems, to address those needs and priorities...' (Art. 10). | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 9 |
| | SCR 1889 '... emphasizes the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for all forms of violence committed against women and girls in armed conflicts, including rape and other sexual violence' (Art. 3). The UNSC encourages Member States in post-conflict situations to specify in detail women's and girls' needs and priorities and design concrete strategies to address those needs, including gender-responsive law enforcement and access to justice (Art. 10). | | Tools 2, 4 |
| UN SC | Resolution 1960 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/1960 (2010) | 16 December 2010 |
| | UN SCR 1960 stresses the need to end impunity and take appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence in situations of armed conflict. | | Tools 1, 3 |
| | SCR 1960 encourages Member States to deploy greater numbers of female police personnel to UN peacekeeping operations, and to provide all police personnel with adequate training on sexual and gender-based violence (Art. 15). | | Tools 2, 12 |
| | SCR 1960 'calls upon parties to armed conflict to make and implement specific and time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, <i>inter alia</i> , issuance of clear orders through chains of command prohibiting sexual violence and the prohibition of sexual violence in Codes of Conduct, military field manuals, or equivalent; and further calls upon those parties to make and implement specific commitments on timely investigation of alleged abuses in order to hold perpetrators accountable' (Art. 5). It encourages Member States to deploy greater numbers of female military personnel to UN peacekeeping operations, and to provide all military personnel with adequate training on sexual and gender-based violence (Art. 15). | | Tools 3, 12 |
| | SCR 1960 encourages the Secretary-General to engage with, amongst others, civil society organisations, health-care service providers and women's groups to enhance data collection and analysis of incidents, trends, and patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence (Art. 8). | | Tool 9 |
| | SCR 1960 encourages Member States to use the Secretary-General's scenario-based training materials for peacekeepers on combating sexual violence (Art. 11). The UNSC also encourages Member States to provide all military and police peacekeeping personnel with adequate training on sexual and gender-based violence (Art. 15). | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |

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| UN SC | Resolution 2106 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/2106 (2013) | 24 June 2013 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution recognizes that sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations disproportionately affects women and girls [...] while also affecting men and boys and those secondarily traumatized as forced witnesses of sexual violence against family members; and emphasizing that acts of sexual violence in such situations not only severely impede the critical contributions of women to society, but also impede durable peace and security as well as sustainable development (p. 1-2). | | | |
| The resolution is requesting from the Secretary-General and relevant UN entities to assist national authorities, with the effective participation of women, in addressing sexual violence concerns explicitly in: security sector reform processes and arrangements, justice sector reform initiatives, including through legislative and policy reforms that address sexual violence; training in sexual and gender-based violence of justice and security sector professionals and the inclusion of more women at professional levels in these sectors; effective vetting processes in order to exclude from the security sector those who have perpetrated or are responsible for acts of sexual violence; and judicial proceedings that take into account the distinct needs and protection of witnesses as well as survivors of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, and their family members (para. 16). | | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12 |
| The resolution “[u]nderlines the important roles that civil society organizations, including women’s organizations, and networks can play in enhancing community-level protection against sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and supporting survivors in accessing justice and reparations” (para. 21). | | | |
| UN SC | Resolution 2122 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/2122 (2013) | 18 October 2013 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution acknowledges that “women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality are critical to efforts to maintain international peace and security, and [emphasizes] that persisting barriers to full implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) will only be dismantled through dedicated commitment to women’s empowerment, participation, and human rights, and through concerted leadership, consistent information and action, and support, to build women’s engagement in all levels of decision-making” (p. 1). | | | |
| UN SC “[r]ecognizes the continuing need to increase women’s participation and the consideration of gender-related issues in all discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding, and in this regard” (para. 7). Finally, it “[e]ncourages troop- and police-contributing countries to increase the percentage of women military and police in deployments to United Nations peacekeeping operations [...]” (para. 9). | | | Tools 1, 2, 3 |
| The resolution highlights “the need for continued efforts to address obstacles in women’s access to justice in conflict and post-conflict settings, including through gender responsive legal, judicial and security sector reform and other mechanisms” (para. 10). | | | Tools 1, 4 |
| UN SC “encourages troop- and police-contributing countries to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training to carry out their responsibilities, and relevant United Nations entities to make available appropriate guidance or training modules, including in particular the United Nations pre-deployment scenario-based training on prevention of sexual and gender-based violence” (para. 9). | | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 2151 on the Maintenance of International Peace and Security | S/RES/2151 (2014) | |
| <i>Subject:</i> Security sector reform: challenges and opportunities | | | |
| Recognizes “the interlinkages between security sector reform and other important factors of stabilization and reconstruction, such as ... rehabilitation of former combatants including in particular women and children, ... protection of civilians, including in particular women and children, as well as gender equality and human rights issues”. | | | Tool 1 |
| Recognizes that security sector reform needs to be inclusive of all segments of the society, including civil society (para. 4). | | | Tool 9 |
| Underscores the importance of women’s equal and effective participation and full involvement in all stages of the security sector reform process,... the inclusion of more women in the security sector, and effective vetting processes in order to exclude perpetrators of sexual violence from the security sector (para. 19). | | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, 14 |

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| UN SC | Resolution 2242 on Women, Peace and Security | S/RES/2242 (2015) | 13 October 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution reaffirms “that women’s and girls’ empowerment and gender equality are critical to conflict prevention and broader efforts to maintain international peace and security [and reiterates] the important engagement by men and boys as partners in promoting women’s participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations” (p. 2). | | | |
| UN SC “[u]rges Member States [...] to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, and resolution of conflict, ... further encourages the meaningful participation of civil society organizations at international and regional peace and security meetings, as appropriate, including donor conferences to help ensure gender considerations are integrated in the development, prioritization, coordination, and implementation of policies and programmes” (para. 1). Likewise, UN SC encourages “Member States to increase their funding on women, peace and security including through more aid in conflict and post-conflict situations for programmes that further gender equality and women’s empowerment, as well as through support to civil society, and to support countries in armed conflict and post-conflict situations, including through capacity-building, in their implementation of women, peace and security resolutions” (para. 3). The resolution “[u]rges Member States and the United Nations system to ensure the participation and leadership of women and women’s organizations in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism which can be conducive to terrorism, including through countering incitement to commit terrorist acts, creating counter narratives and other appropriate interventions, and building their capacity to do so effectively” (para. 13). | | | Tools 1, 7, 9 |
| UN SC “[e]xpresses deep concern over continuing allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by United Nations peacekeepers and non-United Nations forces, including military, civilian and police personnel, urges police - and troop contributing countries to provide robust pre-deployment training on sexual exploitation and abuse and vetting of their peacekeeping personnel [...]” (para. 9). | | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 2272 on UN peacekeeping operations | S/RES/2272 (2016) | 11 March 2016 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution deals with and “expresses concern about allegations and under-reporting of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers and non-UN forces, including military, civilian and police personnel”. | | | |
| UN SC “[c]alls upon Member States deploying non-United Nations forces authorized under a Security Council mandate to take appropriate steps to investigate allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, hold perpetrators accountable and repatriate units when there is credible evidence of widespread or systemic sexual exploitation or abuse by those units” (para. 8). Likewise, UN SC is urging “all troop-contributing countries to take the steps necessary to conduct investigations of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse by their personnel and to conclude such investigations as expeditiously as possible, in line with the Secretary-General’s request, further urges all troop- and police-contributing countries to take appropriate steps to hold accountable those personnel responsible for sexual exploitation and abuse” (para. 11). | | | Tools 2, 3 |
| The resolution “urges further efforts by all troop- and police contributing countries to deliver robust sexual exploitation and abuse pre-deployment training” (para. 10). | | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 2382 on UN peacekeeping operations | S/RES/2382 (2017) | 6 November 2017 |
| <i>Subject:</i> UN support to police reform | | | |
| Urges states deploying police to ensure that they are trained on sexual and gender-based violence (para. 6(a)) and encourages sharing of good practice on deploying female police (para. 13) | | | Tools 2, 12 |
| UN SC | Resolution 2395 on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts | S/RES/2395 (2017) | 21 December 2017 |
| Encourages Counterterrorism Committee Executive Directorate to hold consultations with women and women’s organizations to inform its work and to integrate gender as a cross-cutting issue throughout its activities (para. 28). | | | Tool 9 |

| UN SC | Resolution 2467 on Women and Peace and Security | S/RES/2467 (2019) | 23 April 2019 |
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| <i>Background:</i> The resolution further addresses sexual violence in conflict. | | | |
| | Demands all parties to armed conflict "to make and implement specific time-bound commitments to combat sexual violence, which should include, inter alia, issuance of clear orders through chains of command and development of codes of conduct prohibiting sexual violence and establishment of related enforcement procedures to ensure accountability for breaching these orders, commitments by individual commanders..." (para. 1) | Tool 3 | |
| | "Encourages national authorities in this context to strengthen legislation to foster accountability for sexual violence, stresses the critical role of the domestic investigation and judicial systems of member states to prevent and eliminate sexual violence in conflict and to ensure accountability for those responsible" (para. 3). | | |
| | "Calls upon ... justice sector reform efforts, to strengthen legislation and enhance investigation and prosecution of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations consistent with fair trial guarantees under international law, which could include enacting, if not yet established, victim and witness protection laws and providing, where appropriate, legal aid for survivors, and establishing, where appropriate, specialized police units and courts to address such crimes, removing procedural impediments to justice for victims such as restrictive limitation periods for filing claims, corroboration requirements that discriminate against victims as witnesses and complainants, exclusion or discrediting of victims' testimony by law enforcement officials and within judicial and other proceedings, and lack of facilities for closed hearings" (para. 14). | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 | |
| | "Urges Member States to strengthen access to justice for victims of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations, including women and girls, who are particularly targeted, including through the prompt investigation, prosecution and punishment of perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence, as well as reparations for victims" (para. 15). | | |
| | "Encourages Member States to adopt a survivor-centered approach ... ensuring that prevention and response are non-discriminatory and specific, and respect the rights and prioritize needs of survivors, including groups that are particularly vulnerable or may be specifically targeted ..." (para. 16). | | |
| | Emphasizes "that all efforts to document and investigate sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations should take into account the specific needs of survivors, be well-coordinated, and respect safety, confidentiality and informed consent of survivors as well as independence and impartiality ..." (para. 8). | Tool 2 | |
| | Encourages the "strengthening of efforts to monitor and document sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and ... calls for a more systematic, reliable and rigorous approach to gathering accurate, reliable timely and sex-disaggregated information ... in such a way that will not put at risk survivors" (para. 9). | Tool 15 | |
| | "calls for pre-deployment and in-mission training of troop-and police-contributing country contingents to include training on sexual and gender-based violence and encourages integration of this competence into the performance and operational readiness standards against which troops and police are assessed" (para. 24). | Tools 2, 3, 12 | |
| | "Calls upon Member States and the United Nations to support affected countries to address sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations in the context of security sector reform processes including to enhance the capacity of military structures to address and prevent sexual violence related crimes, and put in place safeguards through vetting to prevent individuals credibly suspected of committing sexual violence related crimes from being recruited, retained or promoted within the security forces; encourages Member States to promote the equal opportunity of women at all levels of national police service positions and other security positions" (para. 26). | Tools 1, 2, 3 | |
| | "Encourages Member States ... to ensure the integration of gender analysis and training into national disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes, including ensuring that women formerly associated with armed groups, as well as ex-combatants, are able to access trauma services, resocialization and reintegration initiatives" (para. 27). | Tools 3, 12 | |
| | "victims of sexual violence, committed by certain parties to armed conflict ... should have access to national relief and reparations programmes, as well as health care, psychosocial care, safe shelter, livelihood support and legal aid and that services should include provisions for ... men and boys who may have been victims of sexual violence in conflict including in detention settings" (para. 28). | Tools 1, 5 | |
| | "... sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations may constitute a gender related form of persecution for the purposes of determining eligibility asylum or refugee status" (para. 31). | Tool 6 | |
| UN SC | Resolution 2493 on Women and Peace and Security | S/RES/2493 (2019) | 2019 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution emphasizes the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and the roles of civil society. | | | |
| | Urges states to commit to promote "the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective, and remain committed to increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping". | Tools 1, 2, 3, 9 | |

2. Regional Laws and Instruments

African Union (AU)

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| AU | African Charter on Human and People's Rights | | 27 June 1981 |
| | The State shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions. (Article 18(3)). | | Tool 1 |
| AU | African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child | | 11 July 1990 |
| | The Charter stipulates that 'Every child shall be entitled to the enjoyment of the rights and freedoms recognized and guaranteed in this Charter irrespective of the child's or his/her parents' or legal guardians' race, ethnic group, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national and social origin, fortune, birth or other status' (Article 3). States Parties shall 'undertake to protect the child from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse and shall in particular take measures to prevent: (a) the inducement, coercion or encouragement of a child to engage in any sexual activity; (b) the use of children in prostitution or other sexual practices; (c) the use of children in pornographic activities, performances and materials' (Article 27(1)). Article 29 provides that 'States shall take appropriate measures to prevent: (a) the abduction, the sale of, or traffic of children for any purpose or in any form, by any person including parents or legal guardians of the child'. States shall also 'undertake to provide special treatment to expectant mothers and to mothers of infants and young children who have been accused or found guilty of infringing the penal law' (Article 30(1)). | | Tools 1, 5 |
| AU | Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa | | 11 July 2003 |
| | The Protocol stipulates that 'States Parties shall combat all forms of discrimination against women through appropriate legislative, institutional and other measures' (Art. 2-1). States Parties shall 'include in their national constitutions and other legislative instruments ... the principle of equality between men and women and ensure its effective application'. States Parties shall ensure 'increased and effective representation and participation of women at all levels of decision-making' (Art. 9-2) and that 'women have the right to a peaceful existence and the right to participate in the promotion and maintenance of peace' (Art. 10-1). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |
| | Article 8 provides that 'women and men are equal before the law and shall have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure: effective access by women to judicial and legal services, including legal aid; support to local, national, regional and continental initiatives directed at providing women access to legal services, including legal aid ...; that law enforcement organs at all levels are equipped to effectively interpret and enforce gender equality rights; that women are represented equally in the judiciary and law enforcement organs; [and] reform of existing discriminatory laws and practices in order to promote and protect the rights of women.' | | |
| AU | Solemn Declaration of Gender Equality in Africa | | 8 July 2004 |
| | With this Declaration, Member States undertake to '[e]nsure the full and effective participation and representation of women in peace process including the prevention, resolution, management of conflicts and post-conflict reconstruction in Africa' (Art. 2). States commit within two years to launch public campaigns against gender-based violence and reinforce legal mechanisms to protect women and end impunity for crimes committed against them (Art 4). Member States also commit to report annually on progress made in gender mainstreaming. | | Tool 1 |
| AU | Gender Policy | Rev 2/Fe 10, 2009 | 10 February 2009 |
| | The AU Gender Policy commits the Organs of the AU, the Regional Economic Communities and Member States to promote the effective participation of women in peacekeeping and security, including their participation in reconciliation efforts during post conflict reconstruction and development. Gender will be integrated in policies, programmes and activities on conflict and peace using the frameworks of SCR 1325 and 1820. Regional consultative platforms will be created for sharing knowledge and promoting harmonization of strategies (Commitment 8). | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 8 |

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| AU: Commission | Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform | | 2013 |
| <i>Background:</i> The document pronounces that Member States have an “obligation to apply the principles of gender equality and women’s empowerment [...] in SSR processes” (p.3). | | | |
| The document elaborates on the <i>core African principles for security sector reform</i> (“which encompass those values that are particularly relevant for or unique to the African continent”). One of the core principles is SSR and gender, under which it is stated: “SSR will adhere to the principles of gender equality and women’s empowerment [...] The entire SSR process will, therefore, include women-specific activities, gender awareness and responsive programming, and aim to bring about transformative possibilities for gender equity within the security sector” (p.11 (i)). | | | |
| The document contains a section on ‘Gender mainstreaming in the security sector’, which specifies: | | | |
| “The African Union is committed to the principle of gender equality [...] Therefore, security sector reform on the African continent should be able to address the security needs and ensure the participation of men, women, boys and girls. It follows that any SSR process should be a result of consultation between men and women from diverse social groups including women’s organizations. | | | |
| In particular, an SSR process will aim to achieve the following: | | | |
| (a) Endeavour to implement gender best practices and women focused activities at all levels and in all the elements of the security sector; (b) Improve the mechanisms for the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence with the aim of ending all violence against women; | | | |
| (c) Involve women at all levels of SSR processes including in leadership positions, with the aim of creating gender balance in security sector institutions; | | | |
| (d) Address specific needs of women and girls formerly associated with armed forces or groups as well as wives and widows of former combatants; | | | |
| (e) Provide gender, international human rights and humanitarian law training to all security personnel; and (f) Increase the recruitment, retention and advancement of women in all security sector institutions” (p. 23). | | | |
| Policy prescribes that the “AU advises Member States to commit themselves to strengthening instruments for democratic oversight of the security sector. ... seeking to promote and uphold good governance principles, the rule of law, respect for the legal framework including human rights and gender equality” (p. 19). In addition, and with regard to the role of African civil society organizations in security sector reform; the document states that this role includes to “[p]romote and defend gender best practices in the security sector” (p. 29 (e)). | | | |
| AU: Executive Council | Declaration “Combating violence against women and girls in Africa, particularly the role of security organs in ending it” - Algiers platform on the role of security organs in ending violence against women and girls | EX.CL/981(XXIX) Add.1 | Tools 1, 9 15 July 2016 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Algiers platform was adopted by the directors and inspectors general of African Police Forces, participating at the conference meeting in Kigali. | | | |
| The Algiers Platform puts forward the following recommendation, connected with legal and regulatory area: | | | |
| “- Elaboration of national programmes of action aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women by 2030 based, among other things, on guidelines on dealing with identified cases, within the framework of the response of security services to achieve the objectives of sustainable development; | | | |
| In the area of professionalization of organs in charge of enforcing the law: | | | |
| - Development of the professionalism of African security organs with a view to strengthening their effectiveness by promoting the different partnership formulas and improving data collection for the elaboration of adequate policies for ending violence against women and girls; | | | |
| - Fostering policies for the recruitment of women at all levels of security organs, while ensuring that women have access to posts of responsibility” (para. 10). | | | |
| The Algiers Platform puts forward the following recommendation, connected with the issue of professionalization of organs in charge of enforcing the law: | | | |
| “Organization of training courses for officials responsible for implementing the law on preventing and combatting violence against women and girls throughout the Continent, on the basis of international instruments on human rights, incorporating relevant experiences and best practices in that area” (para. 10). | | | |

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| AU | Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment 2018-2028 | | 2018 |
| | Emphasises laws, policies and institutions, as well as women's security and leadership. Security commitments include reducing and criminalizing violence against women and girls and changing social attitudes. | | Tools 1, 4 |

African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR)

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| ACHPR | Resolution on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation for Women and Girls Victims of Sexual Violence | 111 | 28 November 2007 |
| | The Commission urges States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to '[e]nsure that police and military forces ... receive adequate training on the principles of international humanitarian law, women's rights and the children's rights' (Art. 2). | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| | The Commission urges States Parties to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights to criminalise all forms of sexual violence, ensure that perpetrators and accomplices are held accountable by the justice system and ensure that members of the judiciary receive adequate training on the principles of international humanitarian law, women's rights and children's rights (Art. 2). The Commission calls for efficient reparation programmes that will give victims of sexual violence access to information, rehabilitation and compensation, and stresses that women must participate in developing, adopting and implementing such programmes (Art. 2). | | Tools 4, 7, 12 |
| ACHPR | Resolution on Protection against Violence and other Human Rights Violations against Persons on the basis of their real or imputed Sexual Orientation or Gender Identity | 275 | 12 May 2014 |

Background: The resolution was passed in connection with the ACHR's identified "failure of law enforcement agencies to diligently investigate and prosecute perpetrators of violence and other human rights violations targeting persons on the basis of their imputed or real sexual orientation or gender identity" (Preamble).

ACHR "[s]trongly urges States to end all acts of violence and abuse, whether committed by State or non-state actors, including by enacting and effectively applying appropriate laws prohibiting and punishing all forms of violence including those targeting persons on the basis of their imputed or real sexual orientation or gender identities, ensuring proper investigation and diligent prosecution of perpetrators, and establishing judicial procedures responsive to the needs of victims" (para. 4).

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| ACHPR | Resolution on the Situation of Women and Children in Armed Conflict | 283 | 12 May 2014 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The resolution expresses concern "that laws aimed at protecting women and children from violence are insufficient, discriminatory or non-existent and that legal definitions of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence are inadequate, especially in conflict situations" (Preamble). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |

The resolution calls on Member States to "conduct independent and effective investigations into all crimes of sexual and gender-based violence, and prosecute and punish perpetrators to end impunity" (para. 1). Likewise, the resolution specifies that training on investigating and prosecuting crimes of sexual and gender-based violence should be provided to members of the police, forensic examiners, prosecutors, lawyers, and judges (para. 1).

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| ACHPR | Guidelines on the Conditions of Arrest, Police Custody and Pre-Trial Detention in Africa (the Luanda Guidelines) | | 9 March 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Luanda Guidelines are meant to assist AU States Members in implementing obligations from the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights in the specific context of arrest, police custody and pre-trial detention. They identify women as one of the groups to be afforded special care. | | | |
| | The Luanda Guidelines call on AU Member States to "develop legislation, procedures, policies and practices that are designed to protect the rights and special status and distinct needs of women and girls who are subject to arrest, police custody or pre-trial detention" (Art. 32 (a)). | Tools 2, 5, 7 | |
| <p>The Luanda Guidelines prescribe safeguards for arrest and detention for women. They state:</p> <p>"If arrest, custody and pre-trial detention is absolutely necessary, women and girls shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Only be searched by female law enforcement officials, and in a manner that accords with women's or girls' dignity. ii. Be held separately from male detainees. iii. If they have caretaking responsibilities for children, be permitted prior to or on admission to make arrangements for those children, including the possibility of a reasonable suspension of detention, taking into account the best interests of the children. iv. Be provided with the facilities necessary to contact their families, including their children, their children's guardians and legal representatives" (Art. 32 (b)). | | | |
| ACHPR | Banjul Declaration of the 59th Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights under the theme "Women's Rights: Our Collective Responsibility" | | 4 March 2017 |
| <i>Background:</i> The resolution expresses concern "that laws aimed at protecting women and children from violence are insufficient, discriminatory or non-existent and that legal definitions of crimes of sexual and gender-based violence are inadequate, especially in conflict situations" (Preamble). | | | |
| | ACHPR specifies that "States should strengthen access to justice for victims of sexual violence and other forms of violence against women, and work towards strengthening justice systems and eradicating a culture of impunity" (para. 18). | Tool 4 | |
| | ACHPR specifically acknowledges that "States should give regard to the gendered nature of conflicts in Africa and the disproportionate impact of conflicts on women and children" (para. 65). | Tool 1 | |
| | The resolution calls States to "[...] provide women's units in prisons with adequate facilities for female inmates and in particular female inmates with children" (para. 44) and "increase the number of female police officers" (para. 44) and develop and provide training "on women's rights to prison and police officers" (para. 45). | Tools 2, 5, 12 | |
| ACHPR | Guidelines on Combating Sexual Violence and its Consequences in Africa | | May 2017 |
| <i>Background:</i> The goal of these <i>Guidelines</i> is to guide and support Member States of the African Union in effectively implementing their commitments and obligations to combat sexual violence and its consequences. | | | |
| | The guidelines set out legal frameworks and the obligations of states, and aspects of prevention and response including training of professionals, investigation, victim protection, reparations, as well as monitoring and data. | Tools 2, 4, 7, 12, 15 | |
| ACHPR | Resolution on the Need to Adopt Legal Measures for the Protection of Women Human Rights Defenders in Africa | 409 | 13 November 2018 |
| <i>Background:</i> Aims to address the increase in the number of acts of discrimination, arrests, cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, acts of torture, stigmatising practices, attacks, death threats and assassinations, sexual abuse and rape and other risks faced by women human rights defenders as well as those working in the area of women's rights and gender-related issues. | | | |
| | Calls on states to adopt specific legal measures for protection of women human rights defenders and prosecute acts of intimidation and reprisals. | Tools 1, 7 | |

Arab League

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| Arab Women Organization | Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women 2011 – 2020 | 5156/2011 | 2011 |
|-------------------------|--|-----------|------|

Background: The aim of the Arab Strategy for Combating Violence against Women is to provide a general framework for protecting women against violence, which Arab countries can then translate into their own national action plans (p. 13). The Strategy's general objectives are to promote Arab women's rights, protect them from all forms of violence and reduce the effects of violence (p. 17).

The Strategy formulates as its strategic objective "to institutionalize the monitoring and evaluation process related to programs on women's protection against violence through the Arab Women Organization" (p. 21). As part of its monitoring scheme, the Strategy formulates, as one of the measures: "[d]eveloping measurable quantitative and qualitative indicators on women's protection from violence, in cooperation with the Arab States" (p. 21).

Tools 11, 15

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| League of Arab States | Executive Action Plan on "Protection of Arab Women: Peace and Security" | | 13 September 2015 |
| Adopted by the Ministerial Council of the League of Arab States, the Action Plan aims to support efforts to implement the commitment of States to protect women in conflicts and to reinforce their political participation in peace building processes. | | | |
| It contains a range of measures to support women's civil society's participation in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and countering terrorism. | | | Tool 9 |
| It addresses legislation, policies and reforms to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including guidelines and training for police and army. | | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12 |

Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

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| ASEAN: Ministerial meeting | Declaration on the Advancement of Women in the ASEAN Region | | 5 July 1988 |
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The declaration calls upon ASEAN's member states to promote and implement the equitable and effective participation of women and integrate in national plans the specific concerns of women and their roles as active agents in and beneficiaries of development

Tools 1, 8

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| ASEAN: Ministerial meeting | Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women in the ASEAN Region | | 30 June 2004 |
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Background: The declaration calls upon ASEAN's member states to undertake efforts to fully implement goals with regard to eliminating violence against women and monitoring their progress (p. 1).

The declaration calls upon ASEAN's member states to "encourage greater regional and bilateral cooperation in the systematic research, collection, analysis and dissemination of data, including disaggregated by sex, age, and other relevant information, on the extent, nature and consequences of violence against women and girls, and on the impact and effectiveness of policies and programmes for combating violence against women" (para. 1). Likewise, Member States are called to "encourage gender mainstreaming to eliminate all forms of violence against women through policies and programmes as well as systems, procedures and processes" (para. 3).

Tool 15

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| ASEAN: Summit | The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women and Violence against Children in the ASEAN Region | | 9 October 2013 |
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Background: The Declaration calls towards "intensifying efforts of ASEAN Member States to [...] respond to all forms of violence, abuse and exploitation of women and children particularly for those who are in vulnerable situations, including domestic violence, women and children who are sexually exploited" (Preamble).

The Declaration specifies that "ASEAN Member States, individually and/or collectively, express common resolve to eliminate violence against women and violence against children in the region through the following measures: Integrate legislations, policies and measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and violence against children and to protect and assist the victims/survivors in the national development plans and programmes with timebound targets, adequate resources, and gender responsive planning and budgeting" (para. 2).

Tools 7, 8, 15

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| ASEAN: Summit | ASEAN Convention Against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children | 21 November 2015 |
| <i>Background:</i> The Convention outlines a framework for regional action in preventing and combating trafficking in persons, placing emphasis on the protection of victims of trafficking in persons. It recognizes that trafficking in persons, especially women and children, is, among other, caused by the demand for their exploitation (Preamble). | | |
| The Convention mandates that State Parties undertake cross-border cooperation among their border control agencies to prevent and detect trafficking in persons (Art. 13). | Tool 6 | UNHCR |
| | | |
| ASEAN | 2016-2025 ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the Elimination of Violence against Women | 2016 |
| <i>Background:</i> ASEAN Regional Plan of Action aims to guide regional and national implementation of the ASEAN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Elimination of Violence Against Children by translating those commitments into strategies and actions to be undertaken at regional and national levels. Its Regional Plan of Action covers 2016 – 2025. It contains a list of national and regional level indicators. | | |
| Action no 3 targets 'Legal framework, prosecution and justice system'. The document specifies that "[w]hether in customary or religious law and the formal justice system, cases should be resolved with respect for the human rights of victims/survivors and in accordance with relevant international obligations on gender equality and international human rights standards. All duty-bearers in the justice sector are to be held accountable for guaranteeing the safety, protection and dignity of victims/survivors (national level)." (para. 25). Member States, acting at their national level, should "[r]eview, monitor and evaluate the implementation of laws on VAW, in relation to the criminal justice system. This could include comprehensive investigations into how the criminal justice system responds to different forms of VAW, such as monitoring court decisions, judicial processes, investigations and quality and effectiveness of legal aid and other justice services to victims/survivors" (para. 27). Furthermore, at national levels, they are to "[d]evelop jurisprudence to recognize "battered woman syndrome" and to eliminate gender stereotyping in carrying out court decisions" (para. 29). When it comes to establishing national-level mechanisms for women's access to justice, Member States need to create enabling environment; remove barriers they face; provide effective and affordable / free legal assistance for impoverished victims/survivors; provide access to just and effective redress and remedies, and provide reparation from the harm that they have suffered" (para. 30). Likewise, they need to "[c]reate and/or strengthen law enforcement and prosecutor units, court systems and/or legal processes to respond to VAW and provide adequate funding for [...] specialized training on VAW" (para. 33 (ii)). Finally, they are to "[e]nsure the accountability of duty-bearers on VAW incidents that occur during or after situations of conflict, disasters and situations of unrest through legal and judicial process and transitional justice mechanisms and with the full and effective participation of women in such processes" (para. 36). | Tools 2, 4, 7, 12, 15 | CEDAW |
| The Regional Plan of Action specifies that "ASEAN [is] to recognise and work towards enforcement of cross-border protection orders across jurisdictions, and ensure / enhance that immigration laws and administrative procedures do not prevent women from leaving or addressing violent situations due to fear of deportation, loss of legal status or revoked custody over the children" (para. 35). | Tool 6 | UNSC |
| The Regional Plan of Action mandates the development and implementation, at the national level, of "protocols, manuals and training activities for relevant stakeholders to increase capacity to collect, interpret and use data on VAW for policy and programs to monitor change" (para. 42). Member States are to "[e]valuate the impact of policies and programs so as to contribute towards development of evidence-based policies, programs, plans of actions, and laws" (para. 48). | Tools 12, 15 | AU |
| The Regional Plan of Action covers the topic of capacity building and, at the national level, mandates the development of "training programs and manuals for multi-disciplinary teams and other relevant professionals/ service providers, such as [...] police, prosecutors, judges, for the provision of well-coordinated, gender-sensitive, culture-sensitive and survivor-centered services" (para. 38). | Tools 2, 4, 12 | ACHPR |
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Council of Europe (COE)

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| CoE | European Convention on Human Rights | | 4 November 1950 |
| | Article 14 of the Convention states that '[t]he enjoyment of the rights and freedom set forth in this Convention shall be secured without discrimination on any ground such as sex, race, colour, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, association with a national minority, property, birth or other status.' | | Tool 1 |
| CoE | Council of Europe Convention on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings | CETS No.197 | 16 May 2005 |
| | Article 17 stipulates that each Party shall promote gender equality and apply gender mainstreaming to develop, implement and assess measures for identifying victims (Article 10), protecting their private life and identity (Article 11), assisting them with their recovery (Article 12), providing them a recovery and reflection period (Article 13), issuing them residence permits (Article 14), offering them compensation and legal redress (Article 15) and facilitating their repatriation and return (Article 16). | | Tool 6 |
| CoE | Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) | CETS No. 210 | 11 May 2011 |
| | <p><i>Background:</i> The Istanbul Convention is a legally binding instrument which recognizes "the structural nature of violence against women as gender-based violence, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men" (Preamble). Moreover, it acknowledges "that women and girls are exposed to a higher risk of gender-based violence than men" (Preamble). By utilizing a holistic approach, it prescribes a plethora of comprehensive prevention and protection standards (for State Parties to comply with) aimed at eliminating violence against women and domestic violence and promoting substantive equality between men and women, including by empowering women.</p> <p>Mandates the due diligence obligation for State Parties. First of all, "[p]arties shall refrain from engaging in any act of violence against women and ensure that State authorities, officials, agents, institutions and other actors acting on behalf of the State act in conformity with this obligation." Second, "[p]arties shall take the necessary legislative and other measures to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, punish and provide reparation for acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention that are perpetrated by non-State actors" (Art. 5).</p> | | Tools 1, 7 |
| | Obliges State Parties to "take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the offences established in accordance with this Convention are punishable by effective, proportionate and dissuasive sanctions, taking into account their seriousness. These sanctions shall include, where appropriate, sentences involving the deprivation of liberty which can give rise to extradition" (Art. 45). The Convention prescribes comprehensive obligations that parties need to undertake and standards to fulfill in the realm of prevention; protection and support; substantive and procedural law, investigation, prosecution, protective measures; and international cooperation. | | Tool 7 |
| | Obliges State Parties to undertake the necessary measures "to adopt and implement State-wide effective, comprehensive and co-ordinated policies encompassing all relevant measures to prevent and combat all forms of violence covered by the scope of this Convention and offer a holistic response to violence against women." Furthermore, these policies shall "place the rights of the victim at the centre of all measures and [be] implemented by way of effective co-operation among all relevant agencies, institutions and organisations" (Art. 7). | | Tool 8 |
| | Article 6 states that "[p]arties shall undertake to include a gender perspective in the implementation and evaluation of the impact of the provisions of this Convention and to promote and effectively implement policies of equality between women and men and the empowerment of women". | | Tools 11, 15 |
| | Article 15 obliges State Parties to conduct training of professionals. "Parties shall provide or strengthen appropriate training for the relevant professionals dealing with victims or perpetrators of all acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention, on the prevention and detection of such violence, equality between women and men, the needs and rights of victims, as well as on how to prevent secondary victimisation." This training needs to include "training on co-ordinated multi-agency co-operation to allow for a comprehensive and appropriate handling of referrals in cases of violence covered by the scope of [the] Convention". | | Tool 12 |

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| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Conflict Prevention and Resolution: the role of Women | 1385 | 23 June 2004 |
| | The Parliamentary Assembly notes that '[t]he maintenance and promotion of international peace and security cannot be realised without fully understanding the impact of armed conflicts on women and without appropriate measures being taken to ensure their empowerment and security' (para. 7). It therefore calls upon the governments and parliaments of its Member States to, <i>inter alia</i> , penalise all forms of violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations, support women's participation in peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction, and encourage research on women's peacebuilding activities and the impact they have had on peace processes (para. 8 (i)). | | Tools 1, 7 |
| | Through this Resolution the Assembly calls on member states' governments and parliaments to increase the percentage of women delegations participating in national, regional and international meetings on peace and security and in formal peace negotiations (Art. 8.ii.c). The Assembly also calls on governments and parliaments '... to facilitate the input of women's peace groups and organisations into key peace conferences at all levels through systematic consultation with them, ensuring that their problems and priorities are reflected in the official peace process' (Art. 8.iii.a). | | Tools 7, 8, 9 |
| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Recommendation on Human Rights of Members of the Armed Forces | 1742 | 11 April 2006 |
| | The Parliamentary Assembly '... considers that the Council of Europe should pay greater attention to the issue of the status of women in the armed forces. A great many female soldiers are subjected to sexual harassment. The issues of access to military duties and to specific posts in the armed forces, career structures and equal rights are all relevant to discrimination against women, a matter requiring in-depth consideration in itself' (para. 6). | | Tool 3 |
| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Tackling discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity | 1948 | 27 June 2013 |
| | <i>Background:</i> This resolution acknowledges "that prejudice, hostility and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity remain a serious problem" facing the CoE member states (para 2). | | |
| | In matters of incitement to harassment or violence on grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, the resolution calls upon Council of Europe member States to: "train police, judiciary and administration officials on homophobia, transphobia and the prohibition of discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity" (para. 9.2.4). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 12 |
| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Discrimination against transgender people in Europe | 2048 | 22 April 2015 |
| | The CoE PA calls for anti-discrimination legislation and policies to address the widespread discrimination faced by transgender people, and training to sensitise law-enforcement officials and members of the judiciary. | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7, 12 |
| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Equality and non-discrimination in the access to justice | 2054 | 24 April 2015 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The CoE PA states that access to justice is oftentimes hampered by practical and legal barriers and that for groups of people who are particularly subject to discrimination it is harder to overcome them. Henceforth, removing obstacles that are "preventing individuals from understanding and exercising their rights and seeking redress in the event of a violation" is needed in order to achieve equal access to justice for all (para. 2-3). | | |
| | "The Assembly calls on member States to step up their efforts to remove legal, social, economic and cultural barriers to women's access to justice and, for this purpose, to: [...] carry out an in-depth analysis of the impact of gender on access to justice, in particular by collecting gender-disaggregated data, and adopt gender-sensitive policies taking account of the specific barriers to access to justice encountered by women" (para. 6 (2)). Also, the Assembly calls for carrying out "national studies to evaluate the scale of the obstacles faced by [people particularly subject to discrimination] and implement tailored measures to tackle them" (para. 7 (1)). Finally, member States are invited to "provide specific training to the police and to legal professionals, including lawyers and judges, on discrimination issues" (para. 7 (2)). | | Tools 2, 4, 7, 12, 15 |

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| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Women in the armed forces: promoting equality, putting an end to gender-based violence | 2120 | 21 June 2016 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The CoE PA recognizes that women are the minority within the military, "especially among the higher ranks" (para. 2). "Women who join the armed forces are faced with an environment designed by and for men. They face many forms of discrimination and are confronted with rigid career plans and mentalities that are still rooted in a purely male approach to the armed forces" (para. 3). In addition, sexual harassment and assault against women are recognized as being frequent within the armed forces (para. 4).</p> | | | |
| <p>In relation to recruitment and career management for members of the armed forces, the resolution calls on the Council of Europe member States to undertake the following extensive measures: [...] adapt recruitment campaigns so as to eliminate stereotypes and attract more women into the armed forces, including in operational roles; [...] open all positions in all corps of the armed forces to women; [...] put in place proactive policies for recruiting women and including them in roles from which they have previously been excluded; look at the physical criteria applied in recruitment to these professions and the advisability of running pilot projects to promote the recruitment of women in these professions; [...] work actively to promote the assignment of women to overseas deployments, including in operational roles; include gender advisors in each overseas deployment by an armed force, at all stages of preparation and deployment; [...] systematically incorporate the gender dimension in all deliberations on the introduction, continuation or abolition of military service; [...] carry out research into the reasons for the difficulties encountered in recruiting greater numbers of women for military duties, the reasons why the military careers of women are often shorter than those of their male counterparts and the reasons why women and men leave the armed forces before retirement age or the end of their contracts" (under para. 6 (1)).</p> <p>Moreover – in relation to the creation of a climate more conducive to gender equality within the armed forces - member States are, inter alia, called to: "make an active commitment at all levels of the chain of command to change mentalities and the internal culture in the armed forces so that all differences are positively accepted and turned to account" (para. 6 (2.1)); to "include gender advisors in all bodies so that gender is taken into account systematically and as an integral part of everyday work" (para. 6 (2.3)); to "ensure that equipment and uniforms are suitable for women's bodies and that living quarters are adapted for accommodating both men and women" (para. 6 (2.5)).</p> <p>Likewise, the resolution prescribes obligations for member States with regard to policy making on combating gender-based violence in the armed forces; in relation to, inter alia, adopting and ensuring "the systematic application of a zero-tolerance policy vis-à-vis gender-based violence" (para. 6. (3.2)): making sure that "all levels in the chain of command [are] aware of the need for such a policy" (para. 6 (3.3)) and defining "effective penalties and [applying] them to the perpetrators of violence" (para. 6 (3.7)).</p> <p>Finally, resolution calls for the inclusion of "teaching on the gender dimension in all stages of military training and [making] sure that both women and men teach in military academies" (para. 6 (2.2)).</p> | | | |
| <p>CoE Assembly acknowledges the significant role that parliaments have in the democratic scrutiny of the armed forces. It calls on the national parliaments of member States to: "actively seek gender balance in the parliamentary bodies dealing with the armed forces" (para. 7 (1)); "actively follow, through parliamentary debates, questions and reports, the implementation by their country of Resolution 1325 (2000) and other United Nations resolutions on the theme of "women, peace and security", in particular concerning the situation of women in the armed forces, and take legislative initiatives to achieve the relevant objectives" (para. 7 (2)); "conduct parliamentary inquiries into the situation of women in their country's armed forces, in particular concerning the treatment by the armed forces of complaints of harassment and other forms of gender-based violence" (para. 7 (3)), and "encourage independent bodies, such as parliamentary commissioners, ombudspersons and equality committees, which have the requisite powers in relation to the armed forces, to conduct inquiries into these matters" (para. 7 (4)).</p> | | | Tool 7 |
| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Protecting refugee women and girls from gender-based violence | 2159 | 26 April 2017 |
| <p><i>Background:</i> The CoE PA specifically underlines that "responsibility to help and protect asylum-seeking and refugee women is not limited to cases of violence perpetrated in destination countries. They should receive adequate assistance to overcome the trauma they have experienced in their countries of origin or during transit" (para. 3).</p> <p>"[T]he Assembly calls on Council of Europe member and observer States to take concrete measures to address gaps in protection and mitigate risks: [...] with regard to women's safety in transit and reception facilities". Among other, it recommends the organization of training for police officers and guards on "identifying and assisting victims of gender-based violence" (para. 5 (2.5)).</p> | | | Tools 2, 6, 12 |

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| CoE Parliamentary Assembly | Resolution on Promoting the human rights of and eliminating discrimination against intersex people | 2191 | 12 October 2017 |
| The CoE PA calls on states to ensure that anti-discrimination legislation effectively applies to and protects intersex people, and suggests raising awareness among lawyers, police, prosecutors, judges of this. | | Tools 2, 4, 7 | |
| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on the Protection of Women against Violence | Rec (2002)5 | 30 April 2002 |
| The Committee of Ministers recommends that member states include the treatment of domestic violence and other forms of violence affecting women in the basic training programmes of members of the police force and judicial personnel and 'encourage the inclusion of questions concerning violence against women in the training of judges' (Appendix paras. 8 and 11). | | Tools 2, 4, 12 | |
| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on the European Prison Rules | Rec (2006)2 | 11 January 2006 |
| This instrument contains several rules for improving the treatment of women prisoners, including: Rule 19 (7): 'Special provision shall be made for the sanitary needs of women.' Rule 34 (1): '...the authorities shall pay particular attention to the requirements of women such as their physical, vocational, social and psychological needs when making decisions that affect any aspect of their detention.' Rule 34 (2): 'Particular efforts shall be made to give access to special services for women prisoners who have experienced physical, mental or sexual abuse.' Rule 34 (3): 'Prisoners shall be allowed to give birth outside prison, but where a child is born in prison the authorities shall provide all necessary support and facilities.' Rule 81 (3): 'Staff who are to work with specific groups of prisoners, such as ... women, juveniles or mentally ill prisoners, shall be given specific training for their specialised work.' Rule 85: 'Men and women shall be represented in a balanced manner on the prison staff.' | | Tools 5, 12 | |
| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on gender equality standards and mechanisms | Rec (2007)17 | 21 November 2007 |
| This Recommendation identifies elements of effective national gender equality legislation and mechanisms such as: legislation that prohibits sex-based discrimination in all aspects of life and society and ensures <i>de jure</i> gender equality, including effective sanctions to address violations of the law; specialised institutional mechanisms for enforcing gender equality legislation; and guidelines for including a gender perspective in the drafting of legislation and in the designing of policies in all areas (para. 15). Other measures for preventing and eliminating violence against women include: legislation and effective judicial procedures for preventing violence against women, protecting the victims, punishing the perpetrators, and protecting victims and witnesses from retaliation; services to support and protect victims of violence, such as women's shelters and hotlines; intervention programmes for perpetrators of violence; and financial and other support for NGOs working in these areas (para. 52). | | Tools 4, 7, 9 | |
| The Committee of Ministers recommends that Member States undertake regular assessment of the incidence of abuse of the human rights of women in conflict situations (para. 58-iii) and of women's participation in structures and mechanisms for social reconstruction in post-conflict situations (para. 58-v). They recommend development of methods, tools and instruments for gender analysis/gender impact assessment and gender budgeting (para. 72-vi). Member States should develop and use such tools and instruments (e.g. checklists, manuals, handbooks, statistics, questionnaires, software, surveys, forecasts) for gender analysis/gender impact assessment of laws and policies (para. 75-iv). | | Tools 11, 15 | |
| The Committee of Ministers recommends that Member States adopt educational programmes and specific training for all professionals involved in interventions with victims of violence, including the judiciary and the police (para. 52-vii); and put in place training to prevent and combat trafficking in human beings and to identify and assist victims and protect their human rights (para. 55-vi). Where they contribute to peacekeeping forces, Member States should develop systematic training for members of peacekeeping operations which takes into account gender equality concerns and focuses on the prevention of violence against women and trafficking in human beings (para. 58-vii). | | Tools 2, 3, 6, 12 | |

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| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on measures to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity | CM/Rec (2010)5 | March 2010 |
| | <p>Recommends that member states ensure that legislative and other measures are adopted and effectively implemented to combat discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity, to ensure respect for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. States should ensure that victims of discrimination have access to effective legal remedies before a national authority, and there are sanctions plus reparation for victims of discrimination.</p> | | Tools 1, 7, 15 |
| | Provision should be made for a well-founded fear of persecution based on sexual orientation or gender identity as a valid ground for the granting of refugee status and asylum. | | Tool 6 |
| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on the role of women and men in conflict prevention and resolution and in peace building | Rec (2010)10 | 30 June 2010 |
| | <p>The Recommendation calls upon Member States to:</p> <p>(1) acknowledge that equality between women and men, strengthening the role of women in society and making full use of their knowledge and expertise promote peace and are a prerequisite for conflict prevention and resolution and peace building;</p> <p>(2) integrate a gender perspective into conflict prevention and resolution and peace building activities, including the allocation of necessary budgetary resources;</p> <p>(3) ensure a balanced participation of women and men at all levels of decision making in local, regional, national and international institutions, and mechanisms for conflict prevention and resolution, including peace negotiations and the democratisation of societies after conflicts;</p> <p>(4) ensure that women and men representing all spheres of society take part in conflict prevention and resolution and peace building using multitrack diplomacy".</p> | | Tool 1 |
| | <p>The Committee of Ministers recommends that Member States, as part of their gender mainstreaming strategy, undertake the following:</p> <p>'[s]et up mechanisms for enhancing gender mainstreaming in all processes of conflict prevention and resolution and peace building, and adopt measures to involve both women and men in all processes' (Appendix, para. 6).</p> <p>'Explore the use of gender budgeting of all conflict prevention and resolution and peace building activities to ensure a more efficient use of resources' (Appendix, para. 7).</p> <p>'Integrate a gender perspective in the recruitment processes of international staff and in the training given to staff taking part in conflict prevention and resolution, and peace building missions' (Appendix, para. 8).</p> | | Tools 8, 12 |
| | The Committee of Ministers recommends that Member States 'publish gender-disaggregated data and statistics on the participation of women and men in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building and monitor progress in this area' (Appendix, para. 9). | | Tool 15 |
| CoE: Committee of Ministers | Recommendation on preventing and combating sexism | CM/Rec (2019)1 | 27 March 2019 |
| | Recommends measures to prevent and combat sexism and its manifestations in the public and private spheres, through legislation, policies and programmes, drawing on the definition and guidelines appended. Highlights intersectionality, and roles of police and justice sector. | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |
| European Union (EU) | | | |
| European Communities | Treaty of Amsterdam Amending the Treaty on European Union, the Treaties Establishing the European Communities and Certain Related Acts | | 2 October 1997 |
| | This is the first international treaty to expressly highlight discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. According to Article 2-7, '...the Council, acting unanimously on a proposal from the Commission and after consulting the European Parliament, may take appropriate action to combat discrimination based on sex, racial or ethnic origin, religion or belief, disability, age or sexual orientation'. | | Tool 1 |

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| European Parliament | Resolution on Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution (2000/2025(INI)) | 2000/2025(INI)) | 30 November 2000 |
| | The Resolution '[c]alls on the Commission and the Member States to gender sensitize peace and security related initiatives', including the provision of gender training of military personnel 'so that respect for women becomes a matter of course and a female-friendly atmosphere prevails in the army' (para. 8). Furthermore, it '[c]alls on the Council and the Member States to promote the gender sensitisation of peace, security and reconstruction operations in which they participate, and to that end ... ensure that all military personnel – male as well as female – and specifically peacebuilding, peacekeeping, and peace-enforcement personnel have thorough gender training' (para. 14-b). | Tools 3, 12 | UNGA |
| European Parliament | Resolution on Homophobia in Europe | P6_TA (2006)0018 | 18 January 2006 |
| | The European Parliament Resolution '[c]alls on the Commission to ensure that discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in all sectors is prohibited ..' (para. 4). It calls on all Member States '..to take any other action they deem appropriate in the fight against homophobia and discrimination on grounds of sexual orientation and to promote and implement the principle of equality in their societies and legal systems' (para. 10) and '[u]rges Member States to enact legislation to end discrimination faced by same-sex partners in the areas of inheritance, property arrangements, tenancies, pensions, tax, social security etc' (para. 11). | Tools 1, 4, 7 | UNHCR |
| European Parliament | Resolution on gender mainstreaming in EU external relations and peace-building/nation-building | 2008/2198(INI) P6_TA (2009)0372 | 7 May 2009 |
| | The European Parliament states that the realisation of women's human rights and women's empowerment is essential to successful implementation of the EU's external policies in conflict resolution, security and peacebuilding. The Parliament asks the Commission to 'address and prioritise, in a more consistent and systematic manner, gender inequalities in the programming and implementation of the external assistance instruments, in particular as regards the provision of assistance for the reform of the security sector' (para. 11). The Parliament also emphasises quotas as 'an indispensable means of ensuring gender equality in peace and security missions and in decision-making in national and international reconstruction processes, and of guaranteeing the political presence of women at the negotiating table' (para. 29). | Tool 1 | CEDAW |
| European Parliament | Resolution on priorities and outline of a new EU policy framework to fight violence against women | P7_TA (2011)0127 | 5 April 2011 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The resolution underlines that "no single intervention will eliminate gender-based violence, but a combination of infrastructural, legal, judicial, enforcement, educational, health, and other service-related actions can significantly reduce it and its consequences" (para. A). | | UNSC |
| | Paragraph 2 of this resolution lays out a comprehensive policy approach against gender-based violence. It puts forward "demands on Member States to ensure training for officials likely to come into contact with cases of violence against women – including law enforcement [...] staff – in order to detect, identify and properly deal with such cases, with a special focus on the needs and rights of victims". | Tools 2, 12 | AU |
| European Parliament and the European Council | Directive establishing minimum standards on the rights, support and protection of victims of crime | OJ L 315 p. 57-73 (CELEX number: 32012L0029) | 25 October 2012 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The resolution underlines that "no single intervention will eliminate gender-based violence, but a combination of infrastructural, legal, judicial, enforcement, educational, health, and other service-related actions can significantly reduce it and its consequences" (para. A). | | ACHPR |
| | Article 25 of this Directive prescribes that officials likely to come into contact with victims, such as police officers, court staff, judges and prosecutors, receive both general and specialist training to a level appropriate to their contact with victims to increase their awareness of the needs of victims and to enable them to deal with victims in an impartial, respectful and professional manner. | Tools 2, 4, 12 | ARAB |
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| Council of the EU | EU Concept for ESDP support to Security Sector Reform | Doc 12566/4/05 REV 4 | 13 October 2005 |
| | This document suggests that the EU consider providing assistance in training armed forces, border guards and customs officers in gender issues; as well as educating the police sector in gender issues. | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 6, 12 |
| Council of the EU | Council Conclusion on Promoting Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming in Crisis Management | Doc 14884/1/06 REV 1 | 13 November 2006 |
| | The Council of the EU underlines the importance of promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in the context of Common Foreign and Security Policy and European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP) and emphasises that a '...gender perspective needs to be fully integrated in peace building...' (para. 6), and that a '...gender perspective should be incorporated in EU policies and activities on Security Sector Reform (SSR) and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)' (para. 8). | | Tool 1 |
| | DDR programmes should ensure that female combatants are identified and registered early and that both sexes can participate equally in these programmes. Women need to be ensured equal access to the assistance package to which they are eligible under the DDR programme and to be involved in economic reintegration activities.' | | Tool 3 |
| | The Council underlines the importance of 'addressing gender perspective in the context of rule of law activities. Gender equality could also be promoted in post conflict situations through legal reforms in the justice sector, <i>inter alia</i> , through revising discriminatory laws, such as laws concerning inheritance, family relations, property and employment, and through empowering women to access rule of law and economic and social justice institutions' (para. 9). The Council emphasises 'the importance of including measures against sexual and gender-based violence in transitional justice mechanisms. (para. 10). | | Tools 4, 7 |
| | The Council emphasises the importance of training military and civilian personnel participating in ESDP operations, including those at the highest command, in gender equality, human rights and gender-based violence, and encourages Member States to intensify such training efforts (para. 5). | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| Council of the EU and the European Commission | EU Concept for support to Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) | | December 2006 |
| | The EU Concept emphasizes that '[p]articular attention should be given to the complexities of gender issues, addressing the special needs and roles of women, men, girl and boy ex-combatants, non-fighters and their dependents. A gender-sensitive approach should be adopted from the early planning stage to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of DDR' (para. 48). | | Tools 3, 15 |
| Council of the EU | Revised indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security | 12525/16 | 20 September 2016 |
| | The indicators span four thematic areas: prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery, and include the following. | | |
| | Number and proportion of women among EU staff participating in UN peacekeeping operations at all levels, including military and police staff. | | Tools 2, 3 |
| | Extent to which WPS and gender is mainstreamed in Security and Justice Sector Reform projects / programmes (as per the Gender Policy Marker) and involvement of civil society organisations in the projects. | | Tools 1, 9, 15 |
| | Number and proportion (measured annually) of men and women specifically trained on gender and UNSCR 1325-related matters among civilian and military staff employed by the EU and its Member States participating in CSDP and UN peacekeeping missions and operations. | | Tools 2, 3, 12 |
| Council of the EU | Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security | 15086/18 | 10 December 2018 |
| | Welcomes and annexes a new EU Strategic Approach to Women, Peace and Security, which sets out basic principles and identifies areas where enhanced implementation of the WPS agenda is required, including the strengthening of local, national and regional ownership, capacity building and training as well as monitoring, evaluation and reporting procedures. | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 15 |

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Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

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| OSCE: Parliamentary Assembly | Ottawa Declaration | | 8 July 1995 |
| | Calls on the participating States to ensure that all persons belonging to different segments of their populations be accorded equal respect and consideration in their constitutions, legislation and administration and that there be no subordination, explicit or implied, on the basis of ethnicity, race, colour, language, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national or social origin or belonging to a minority (para. 29). | | Tools 1, 7 |
| OSCE | OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality | MC.DEC/14/04 | 7 December 2004 |
| | The OSCE Action Plan: - states that '[e]qual rights of women and men and the protection of their human rights are essential to peace, sustainable democracy, economic development and therefore to security and stability in the OSCE region' (Preamble). It directs OSCE Participating States, the Secretariat, institutions and missions to ensure that a gender perspective is integrated into OSCE activities, programmes and projects, focusing in particular on women's empowerment and the participation of women as well as men in public, political and economic life, and developing attitudes conducive to bringing about equality between women and men (para. 32). - encourages the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly to '[c]ontinue to have on its agenda the issue of equal opportunities for men and women in national parliaments as well as within the OSCE and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly ...' and to produce '... reports on the status of women in the OSCE area and seek to raise awareness by making such material available to all participating parliaments' (para. 44-h). | | Tools 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 15 |
| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Decision on Women in Conflict Prevention, Crisis Management and Post-conflict Rehabilitation | MC.DEC/14/05 | 6 December 2005 |
| | The Decision encourages participating States to '... develop national rosters of potential women candidates ... and take active steps to ensure that women are fully informed of and encouraged to apply for positions in the area of conflict prevention and post-conflict rehabilitation processes, in particular for senior management positions' (para. 3). It calls on participating States and OSCE structures '... to support and encourage ... projects aimed at women's participation in building sustainable peace; to empower women's organizations; to support women's peace initiatives through the media and workshops on human rights and gender equality; and to raise awareness among women concerning the importance of their involvement in political processes' (para. 6). | | Tool 1, Policy Brief on WPS and SSG/R |
| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Preventing and Combating Violence against Women | MC.DEC/15/05 | 6 December 2005 |
| | The Ministerial Council urges "participating States, with the support and assistance of the OSCE, to take all necessary legislative, policy and programmatic monitoring and evaluation measures to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the human rights of women and to prevent and combat all forms of gender-based violence against women and girls" (para. 1); and "to promote the full involvement of women in judicial, prosecutorial and law enforcement institutions and to ensure that all relevant public officials are fully trained and sensitized in recognizing, documenting and processing cases of violence against women and children" (para. 4 V); and to "to take all necessary steps to prevent gender-based violence against women and girls during and after armed conflict and emergencies, including the bringing to justice of perpetrators of crimes, and to take special measures to address the needs of women and girls in the post-conflict environment" (para. 7) and "tasks the Permanent Council to encourage the development by relevant OSCE institutions and structures of programmes, projects and policies to assist participating States, at their request, in combating violence against women and girls and providing assistance for victims" (para. 11). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |

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| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Decision on Women's participation in political and public life | MC.DEC/7/09 | 2 December 2009 |
| | The Ministerial Council calls on the Participating States to '[c]onsider possible legislative measures, which would facilitate a more balanced participation of women and men in political and public life and especially in decision-making;' (para. 2). The Ministerial Council also calls on the Participating States to introduce open and participatory processes that enhance participation of women and men in all phases of policy development (para. 5) and support non-governmental and research bodies in identifying specific challenges to women's participation in political and public life (para. 8). | | Tools 1, 7 |
| OSCE: Permanent Council | OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons | FSC.DEC/2/10 | 26 May 2010 |
| | "Acknowledging the negative impact that armed conflict has on women and children, and in support of UNSCR 1325 (2000) "Women, Peace and Security" and UNSCR 1674 (2006) on "the protection of civilians in armed conflict" and consistent with both Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 on the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality and Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/05 on women in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation' (Preamble) ... The participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe decide to (...) adopt for implementation the Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons". Possible measures to implement: | | Tool 3 |
| | (3) FSC to give more consideration to gender aspects of SALW. (a) FSC to explore the application of gender aspects in the development of post-conflict SALW programmes, such as disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration projects; and (b) FSC to explore a list of recommendations to ensure the identification and integration of gender aspects in post-conflict SALW programmes (Preamble). | | |
| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Decision No. 3/11 Elements of the conflict cycle, related to enhancing the OSCE's capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support, and post-conflict rehabilitation | MC.DEC/3/11 | 7 December 2011 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The decision reiterates "the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building" (p. 13). The decision "[u]rges participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes" (para. 14). | | |
| OSCE Permanent Council | OSCE Strategic Framework for Police-Related Activities | PC.DEC/1049 | 26 July 2012 |
| | The document establishes that "The OSCE's police-related activities shall be guided by the norms, principles and standards defined by documents of the United Nations and the OSCE, such as the Charter of the United Nations, relevant UN conventions on police-related activities, the Helsinki Final Act, the Copenhagen Document, and various OSCE decisions on police-related activities. These documents emphasize, inter alia, the importance of the rule of law; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including gender and minority issues; police-public partnerships; effective and accountable criminal justice systems; and enhanced co-operation among participating States and international and regional organizations. The development of high standards of professional skills and the sharing of best practices are among the key elements of the OSCE's police-related activities (para. V-10). (...) – Supports, where appropriate, efforts to create multi-ethnic police services, and promotes gender mainstreaming and initiatives to raise gender awareness ... (para. V-14). | | Tool 2 |

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| OSCE Permanent Council | Enhancing OSCE Efforts to Implement the Action Plan on Improving the Situation of Roma and Sinti Within the OSCE Area, with a Particular Focus on Roma and Sinti Women, Youth and Children | MC.DEC/04/13 | 6 December 2013 |
| | The Ministerial Council calls on OSCE participating States to "Prevent further marginalization and exclusion of Roma and Sinti and address the rise of discrimination and violent manifestations of intolerance against Roma and Sinti, including against Roma and Sinti migrants, by: (...) Taking measures to ensure the security, well-being and health of Roma and Sinti women, youth and children, including by addressing domestic violence, early marriages and trafficking in human beings, including, where necessary, by providing access to rehabilitative support" (para. 2.12); support the empowerment of Roma and Sinti women, including by "... Stepping up their efforts to ensure that Roma and Sinti women can enjoy and exercise their human rights and increasing efforts to combat discrimination against them at all levels, including, where necessary, in the areas of education, employment, health care and housing, and engaging in partnership with Roma and Sinti civil society organizations and Roma and Sinti people to this end" (para. 4.1); "Promoting the effective and equal participation of Roma and Sinti women in public and political life, including through the promotion of women's access to public office, public administration and decision making positions" (para. 4.2). | | Tool 1 |
| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Decision No. 7/14 Preventing and Combating Violence against Women | MC.DEC/7/14/Corr.1 | 5 December 2014 |
| | <i>Background:</i> The decision reiterates "that the full and equal exercise by women of their human rights is essential to achieving a more peaceful, prosperous and democratic OSCE area and that the OSCE participating States are committed to making equality between men and women an integral part of their policies" (p. 38). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |
| OSCE: Ministerial Council | Decision No. 4/18 Preventing and Combating Violence against Women | MC.DEC/4/18 | 7 December 2018 |
| | The decision calls on the participating States to: "Ensure access to justice, effective investigation, prosecution of perpetrators, as well as provide, while respecting their rights and privacy, adequate protection, rehabilitation and reintegration support for victims of all forms of violence against women and girls (para. 1); "take action, including through awareness-raising and capacity-building for the armed forces, law enforcement agencies, judicial systems and other legal professionals, on preventing and combating all forms of violence against women and girls" (para. 2); "adopt measures, as appropriate, to encourage education on gender equality, human rights and non-violent behaviour thus contributing to the prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls, which can include: harmful practices, sexual violence, domestic violence, as well as sexual harassment" (para. 3); "organize awareness-raising campaigns on the risks of specific forms of violence facing women and girls, including through digital technologies, and on their rights and the support available for victims of such violence (para. 4); take action to address violence, abuse, threats, and harassment, including through digital technologies, directed at women" (para. 5). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |

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| OAS | Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) | A-61 | 9 June 1994 |
| | The Convention calls upon security sector actors in government, the justice sector and law enforcement agencies to prevent, punish and eradicate physical, sexual and psychological violence against women that occurs within the family; within other interpersonal relationships; in the community; or that is perpetrated or condoned by the state or its agents (Art. 2). | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 5, 6 |
| | The Convention requires that States use '... due diligence to prevent, investigate and impose penalties for violence against women' (Art. 7-b). | | |
| | States Parties agree 'to promote the education and training of all those involved in the administration of justice, police and other law enforcement officers as well as other personnel responsible for implementing policies for the prevention, punishment and eradication of violence against women' (Art. 8-c). | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |
| OAS | Inter-American Program on the Promotion of Women's Human Rights and Gender Equity and Equality | AG/RES. 1732 (XXX-O/00) | 5 June 2000 |
| | <i>Background:</i> Inter American Commission of Women of the OAS drafted the Program, which was adopted by the General Assembly of the OAS | | |
| | The Program recommends that the governments of the States Parties '[s]upport the provision of continuing gender education and training for judiciary and legislative staff and for law enforcement officers of both sexes ...' (section IV-1-13). | | Tools 2, 4, 12 |
| | This Program recommends that Member States of the OAS '... ensure that a gender perspective and equality of opportunity between men and women are integrated into public policies relating to all spheres of society and government' (IV-1-4). | | Tool 8 |
| OAS | Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance | A-68 | 5 June 2013 |
| | The Convention commits States to undertaking "...prevent, eliminate, prohibit, and punish, in accordance with their constitutional norms and the provisions of this Convention, all acts and manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance" (Art. 4), including all acts of violence and criminal activity motivated by racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance. | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 5 |
| | The Convention requires that States '...undertake to ensure that the victims of racism, racial discrimination, and related forms of intolerance receive equitable and non-discriminatory treatment, equal access to the justice system, expeditious and effective proceedings, and fair compensation in the civil or criminal sphere, as applicable' (Art. 10). | | |
| OAS | Human Rights, Sexual Orientation and gender identity and expression | AG/RES. 2807 (XLIII-O/13) | 6 June 2013 |
| | The General Assembly resolves: | | |
| | 1. To condemn all forms of discrimination against persons by reason of their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression, and to urge the states within the parameters of the legal institutions of their domestic systems to eliminate, where they exist, barriers faced by lesbians, gays, and bisexual, transsexual, and intersex (LGBTI) persons in equal access to political participation and in other areas of public life, and to avoid interferences in their private life. | | Tool 1 |
| OAS | Inter-American Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Persons with Disabilities | A-65 | 8 June 2013 |
| | The Convention commits States to adopting "Measures to eliminate discrimination gradually and to promote integration by government authorities and/or private entities in providing or making available goods, services, facilities, programs, and activities such as employment, transportation, communications, housing, recreation, education, sports, law enforcement and administration of justice, and political and administrative activities." (Art. 3-a) | | Tools 1, 2, 4, 7 |

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| OAS | Inter-American Convention on Protecting the Human Rights of Older Persons | A-70 | 15 June 2015 |
| | The Convention commits States to "...promote, protect and ensure the recognition and the full enjoyment and exercise, on an equal basis, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of older persons, in order to contribute to their full inclusion, integration, and participation in society" (Art. 1). It requires that States 'Adopt and strengthen such legislative, administrative, judicial, budgetary, and other measures as may be necessary to give effect to and raise awareness of the rights recognized in the present Convention, including adequate access to justice, in order to ensure differentiated and preferential treatment for older persons in all areas' (Art. 4-c). | | Tools 1, 4, 7 |
| OAS | Resolution on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 1/2/ | AG/RES.2928 (XLVIII-O/18) | 05 June 2018 |

The General Assembly resolves:

'To urge member states within the parameters of their domestic justice institutions to continue to strengthen their institutions and public policies focused on preventing, investigating, and punishing acts of violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons, and to ensure that victims of discrimination and violence enjoy access to justice and appropriate remedies under conditions of equality' and 'To encourage member states to consider producing and collecting data on violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, or expression in order to contribute to the preparation of effective public policies to prevent and respond to violence and discrimination suffered by LGBTI persons' (XII).

'To encourage member states to promote women's leadership at all levels and in all areas of public, political, and civil life as well as in the private sector, in order to strengthen democratic governance' (XIV).

'To reaffirm its commitment to strengthening the Mechanism on the Implementation of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women (MESECVI) and its Committee of Experts, and to follow up on the full implementation of the Convention by promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, by addressing the multiple and intersectional forms of discrimination and violence suffered by women belonging to vulnerable groups' and 'Contributing to the strengthening of the MESECVI States Parties' technical capacities for implementing the Convention of Belém do Pará from an approach based on intersectionality and the human rights of women throughout their entire life cycle, with emphasis on prevention and redress' and 'Assisting the States Party in identifying intersectoral responses to issues related to violence against women' and 'Raising the awareness of society as a whole regarding violence against women' and finally 'To insist on the importance of earmarking by states of adequate budgets for the prevention of violence against women and for victim attention, in particular for the creation and strengthening of comprehensive protocols for victims of sexual violence' (XV).

Tools 1, 2, 4, 7, 15

Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)

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| Organization of Islamic Cooperation | Action Plan for the Advancement of Women | | November 2016 |
| | The Action Plan aims to provide supportive framework for both individuals and collective efforts to improve the status of women in the Muslim world. Its aims include combating all forms of gender-based violence, human trafficking and other harmful traditional practices against women and girls, addressing the needs of women in armed conflict; and ensuring representation of women at all levels of decision making. | | Tools 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 12 |

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