



Marie Vlachová and Lea Bignon (eds)

Women in an Insecure World

Violence against Women

Facts, Figures and Analysis

Women constitute the most numerous group of the world's population exposed to systematic and persistent violence. The victims are claimed in conflict, but also next door. The causes are complex, but eventually point to the simple fact that for all too many, a woman's life and dignity are worth less than a man's. This situation is simply intolerable.

Developing the concept of democratic principles and standards of national security sectors, the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) had to face the fact that security and safety is not enjoyed equally by men and women. Further, violence against women impedes the creation of a well-functioning security sector – that is, institutions capable of providing an adequate level of security for all citizens. Violence against women occurs in varying contexts – at the domestic and community levels, in situations of armed conflict and under repressive governments. In many cases it is a conscious policy, and often deliberate acts by individuals that are punishable by law.

Women in an Insecure World takes stock of the scope and magnitude of violence experienced by women in daily life, during armed conflict and in post-conflict situations. It aims to increase awareness among governments, donors, policy makers, academics, experts and civil society about the pervasive forms of violence against women. It also highlights the active role of women in peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction. For what makes women's role in combating violence indispensable is not the omnipresence and magnitude of their victimisation, but the fact that women demonstrate the capacity to overcome the trauma of violent acts, to survive and help in the survival of others, and to contribute actively to defending and building peace. The book provides analytical data and statistics, legal documents and policy recommendations, complemented by feature stories and illustrations. Over 60 different authors, representing the major international organisations, governments, NGOs and Think Tanks dealing with gender issues, have contributed to this book.

Contents: Introduction. Roots and Scope of Gender-based Violence. Part I: Violence Against Women in Daily Life. Part II: Women in War and Armed Conflicts. Part III: Women in Post-conflict Situations. Part IV: Strategies and Solutions. Conclusions and Recommendations.

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