



CONJUGAL SLAVERY IN WAR  
ESCLAVAGE CONJUGAL EN TEMPS DE GUERRE



**Conjugal Slavery in War (CSiW) Impact story  
of 5-years of development programming**

# BACKGROUND

- Conjugal Slavery in War was an SSHRC-funded Partnership Grant (2015–2020) aimed at documenting cases of so-called forced marriage in conflict situations, placing the data in historical context, and influencing the international prosecution of crimes against humanity, as well as local reparations programs for survivors of violence.
- With the active participation of community-based organizations in Africa, this project helped strengthen both individual and organizational capacities to prevent violence. It also advanced understanding of the use of conjugal slavery as a tool of war through evidence-based research.
- Through archival, qualitative, and legal research, the partnership explored the experiences of men and women who were subjected to or involved in enslavement during conflicts in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Mali
- This impact story is documented by the development Research and Projects Center (dRPC), a CSiW primary partner and stakeholder in global community of justice for Conflict-related GBV survivors

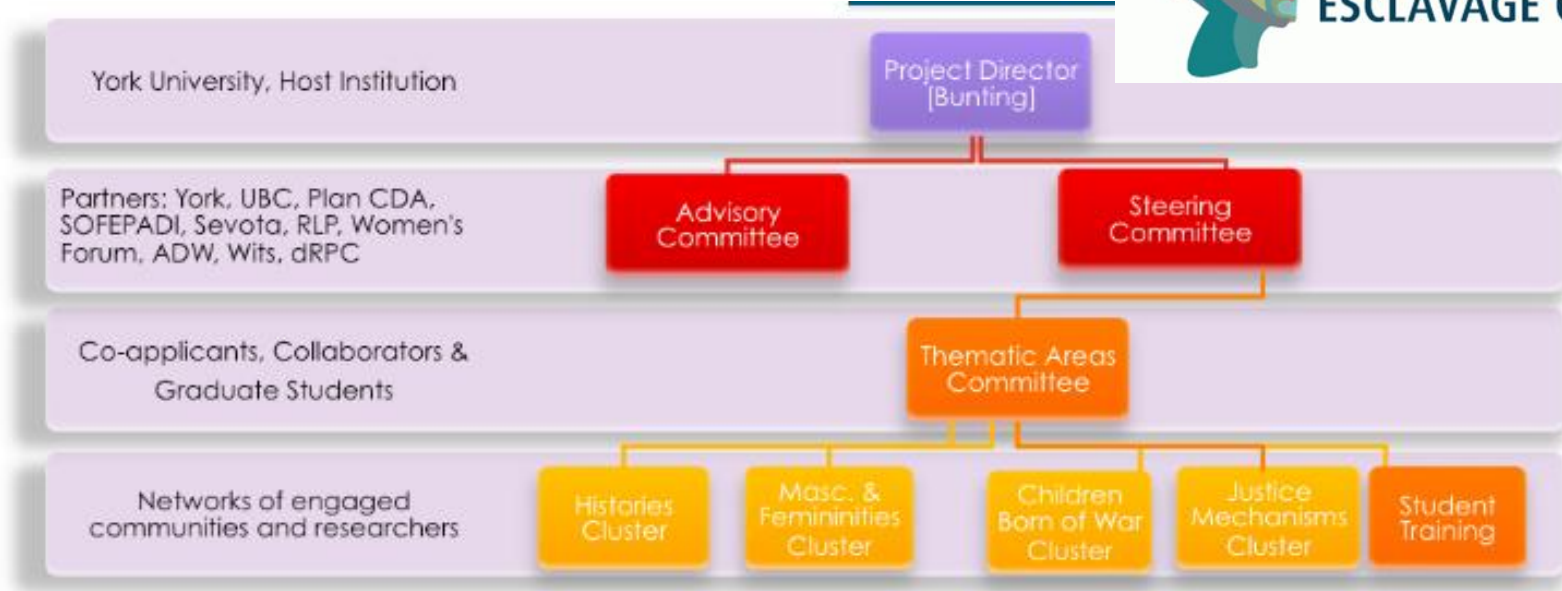


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# Project Structure and Partners



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## PROJECT ACTIVITIES

Key activities conducted under the project included:

1. Capacity building for community-based organizations
2. Research, and knowledge production
3. Conferences and Institutes

### Partners World Map



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## CAPACITY BUILDING - RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DATA ANALYSIS TRAINING, KIGALI, RWANDA - 2019

Research Methodology and Data Analysis Training – Kigali, Rwanda (2019): The specific training needs of CSiW partners were identified through partner evaluations conducted in 2016 and 2017. Based on these identified needs, a training workshop was organized to enhance research and professional skills by bringing together academic and CSiW partners.

The workshop provided capacity-building opportunities for community-based partners, equipping them with the necessary tools to conduct fieldwork effectively. Additionally, it strengthened collaborative linkages and initiatives within the partnership in a supportive mentoring and research training environment.

The workshop focused on:

- ☐ Research Ethics
- ☐ Data Collection using the Kobo Collect toolbox
- ☐ Qualitative Data Analysis
- ☐ Knowledge Mobilization and Dissemination through infographics
- ☐ Video Advocacy



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## Research and Knowledge Production

The project resulted in the creation of several knowledge products for conflict-affected countries in Africa, including the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Uganda, and Mali.

These products include policy briefs, country briefs, research articles, and collections, all aimed at informing policy, advocacy, and justice efforts.

Among the policy briefs produced, key publications include *The Gender Equality and Peacebuilding Imperatives of Supporting Children Born of War*, *Children Born of War + WPS*, *Liberia: Children Born Out of War Study*, and *Locating Men and Boys in WPS Resolutions*. These briefs contribute to a deeper understanding of gender dynamics in post-conflict settings and inform strategies for peacebuilding and support for survivors.



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CONJUGAL SLAVERY IN WAR (CSW) PARTNERSHIP

## POLICY BRIEF 1.2

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### MASCULINITIES + WPS

#### About the Series

*Forward Looking Strategist in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda*  
A Policy Brief Series maps new policy priorities in recognition of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (Beijing-25) and the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 in 2020. The series will examine the WPS agenda in relation to men and boys as victims of sexual violence; men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality, masculinities, children born of war, disabilities, and sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI).

#### About the Author

This report was researched and written by Diego Mallon, a fourth-year student at the University of British Columbia. He is specializing in International Relations and Sociology with a thematic focus on environmental politics and sustainability and development. His professional interests include research and data analysis in public policy.

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#### Summary

- This policy brief (1.2) examines why masculinities matter to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. It identifies UNSC resolutions that reference men and boys and provides a review of the literature on masculinities and warlike.
- Masculinities refer to norms and expectations of what it means to be a man. Gender norms are socially constructed, contextually embedded and shaped by power dynamics that are flux, overlapping and change over time and space.
- The brief outlines different concepts of masculinities: hegemonic, militarized, shameless, downward, and gendered.
- Masculinities are not articulated in the WPS agenda, although men and boys are represented both explicitly (as policymakers, diplomats, etc.) and implicitly (as perpetrators of violence as well as secondary victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and allies in the promotion of gender equality).
- Masculinities matter to the WPS agenda for how they (re)produce, maintain and render men and women vulnerable to gender-based violence. Patriarchal gender norms, combined with other global structures such as capitalism, racism, and xenophobia, play a role in causing, or at least normalizing and legitimizing, militarism and war. To dismantle militarism is to challenge what is considered an ideal masculine identity in wartime, and/or undoing hierarchies of value between and among masculinities and femininities.

#### Masculinities in WPS Resolutions

UNSCR 1325 (2000) recognizes the importance of distinguishing between sex, which is a biological fact, and gender, which is a social construct. Article 12 states, "Gender must be understood from the perspective of social relations based on sex. It involves roles, responsibilities, attitudes, behaviours and perceptions that have been shaped by society and specifically assigned to men and women" (UNSCR 1325, 2000). The resolution further

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IPIC CBoW Policy Brief

### The Gender Equality and Peacebuilding Imperatives of Supporting Children Born of War

Lead researcher: Heather Tasker, York University

Collaborators: Dr. Teddy Atim, Dr. Sylvie Bodineau

This publication was produced for the International Policy Ideas Challenge funded by Global Affairs Canada and Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, Government of Canada

#### Overview

Sexual violence in times of war and conflict has long been an under-recognized atrocity only recently has gaining prominence in international policies and agendas. The challenges faced by children born as a result of this violence remain largely unseen and unaddressed in programmes and policy.

Research has shown that children born of forced or exploitative sexual relations in times of war (children born of war CBoW) are a specifically vulnerable population, under-recognized and underserved across many contexts. CBoW often live in poverty, lack access to formal education, and experience community stigma, partly because of their fathers' participation in armed conflict. There is a possibility of intergenerational trauma resulting from the violence mothers experienced. These challenges intersect to constrain the potential of CBoW and infringe on their rights to a safe childhood and fulfilling future. Our research, alongside recent work by Atim, Mazurana and Marshak (2018); Denov (2015, 2020); and Lee (2017), point to the importance of better understanding the needs of CBoW and the development of policy initiatives for their support and social inclusion grounded in the advancement of their rights.

This policy brief describes the central concerns facing children born of conflict-related sexual violence in sub-Saharan Africa and suggests key policy developments to address these needs. It draws on the expertise of community based actors and organizations working to advance gender equality and support survivors of violence, to explain their support needs, as well as the long term peacebuilding and gender equality imperatives. The research findings result from consultations with community partners in Liberia, Uganda, Nigeria, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone, and on sixty-nine (69) interviews they conducted with children born of war in Liberia, Uganda, and Sierra Leone.

Most contemporary research on CBoW in Africa has been conducted in Uganda; less is known about CBoW in West and Central Africa. Relatedly, there are few support programs available for CBoW in most countries. Interviews conducted in 2018 by CSW partners in Sierra Leone, Liberia, and Uganda show some similarities of experience, along with significant differences. These specificities must be better understood. Across conflict and post-conflict contexts we see little recognition of the unique needs of CBoW.

Sexual violence in conflict results from pre-existing gender inequality and leads to stigmatization and social isolation for survivors and their children. Preliminary research has shown that girls who are CBoW are often married earlier and have fewer opportunities to attend school. Policy



CONJUGAL SLAVERY IN WAR (CSW) PARTNERSHIP

## POLICY BRIEF 1.1

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### LOCATING MEN AND BOYS IN WPS RESOLUTIONS

#### About the Series

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#### About the Author

This report was researched and written by Almira Rodriguez De la Cruz, a graduate student at the School for Public Policy and Global Affairs (SPGPA) at the University of British Columbia (UBC). She is based in Vancouver, British Columbia. She completed a BA Honours in International Relations, Political Science, and Sociology at the University of Toronto (UofT).

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#### Summary

- The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda comprises 9 resolutions: 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), and 2467 (2019), which establish institutional structures to mainstream gender across global peace and security priorities.
- This is the first policy brief (1.1) of a series that examines the WPS agenda. It aims to locate men and boys in WPS resolutions and evaluate whether their representation has evolved throughout the years.
- For the first 17 years of the WPS agenda, resolutions 1325, 1820, 1889, and 1960 included men and boys by default, referring to gender broadly and assuming men and boys are the main perpetrators of violence.
- Since 2011, there was a broader effort to represent men and boys in WPS resolutions: 2106, 2122, and 2242. This effort, however, was limited to that of 'referring' or 'engaging' them as allies in promoting gender equality.
- In 2019, resolution 2467 recognized men and boys as victims of sexual violence and other forms of gender-based abuse for the first time.
- Sexual violence against men and boys in times of armed conflict is a neglected area. Although it is becoming increasingly apparent that this form of violence is widespread, sexual violence against men and boys remains an under-theorized and under-researched topic.
- Adding men and boys to the list of potential victims is not enough to understand the gendered dynamics and its implications of this, nor does it automatically mean adequate services will be provided.
- Understanding early socialization of masculinities is fundamental to explaining the root causes of violent behaviour in war.

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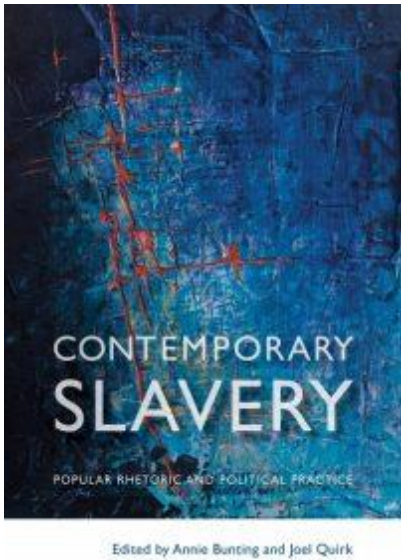
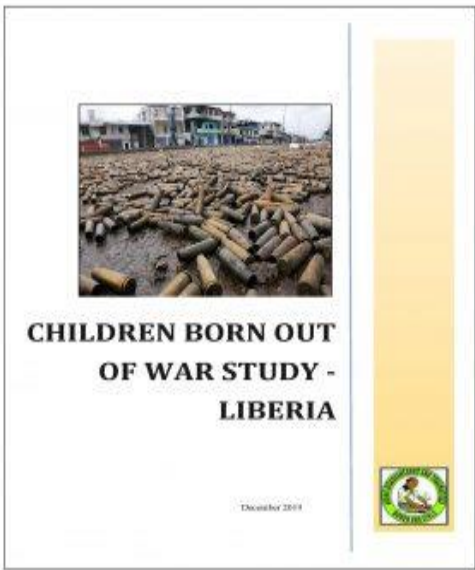
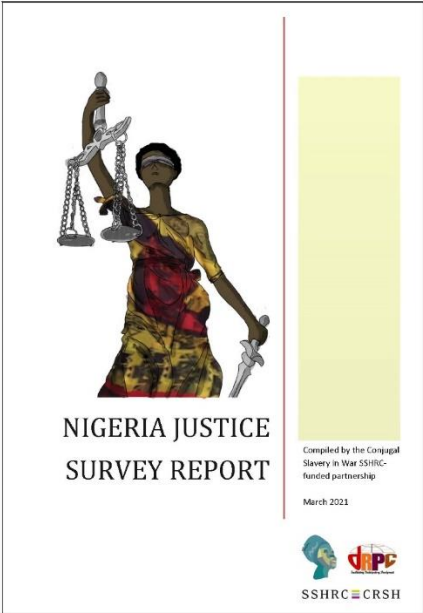
## Research and Knowledge Production

Beyond policy briefs, the project also generated a range of research reports and analyses. Notable publications include the Nigeria Justice Survey Report, Building Resilience and Resistance to Child, Early, and Forced Marriage through Acquiring Skills: Findings from Implementation Research in Nigeria, and Mapping the Development of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda. Additional research explored themes such as Child Tracing in Post-Conflict Northern Uganda: A Social Project to Unite Children Born of War with Their Paternal Clans. Other significant studies examined the experiences of male survivors in We Were Controlled, We Were Not Allowed to Express Our Sexuality, Our Intimacy Was Suppressed: Sexual Violence Experienced by Boys and the broader issues of justice and gender politics in Spaces of International Gender Justice: A Reply to Baldez and DeLaet and Gender Politics and Geopolitics of International Criminal Law in Uganda.





# Knowledge Products Published and Disseminated

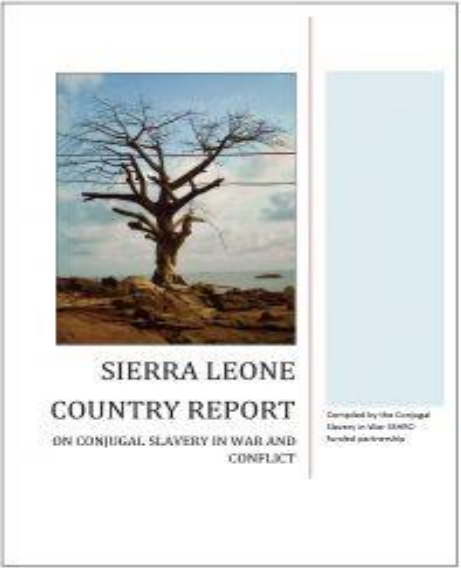
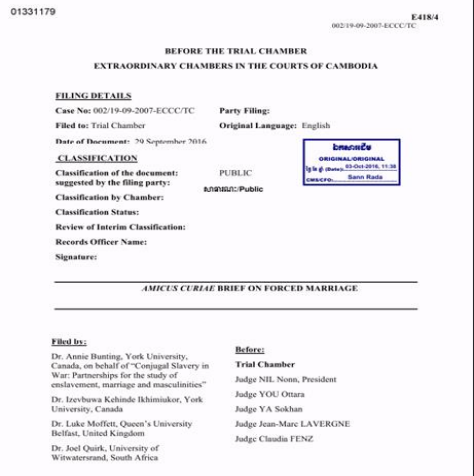
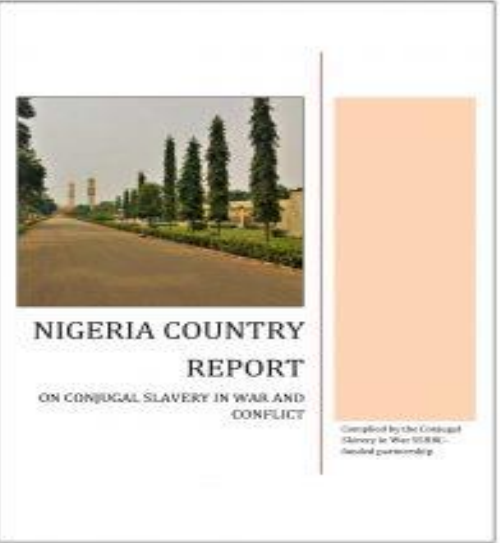
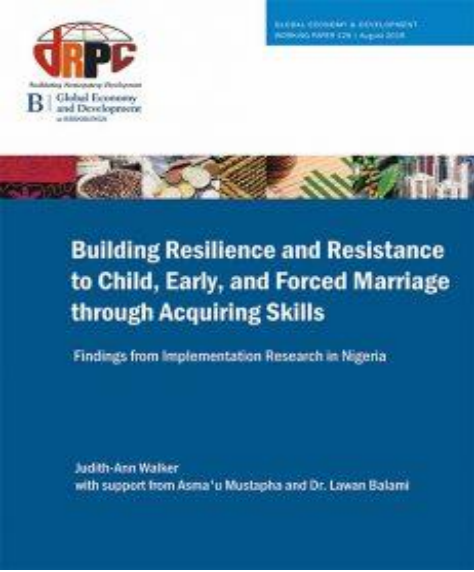
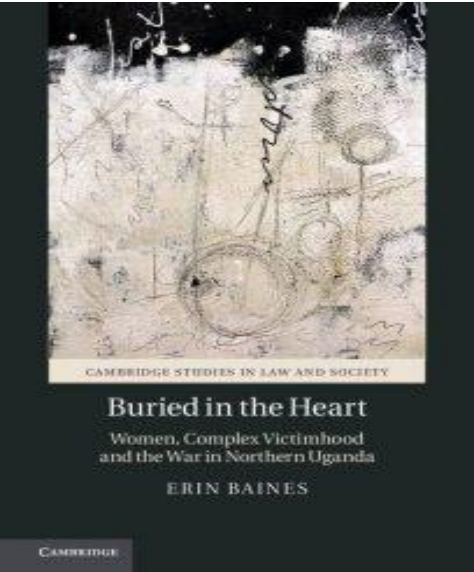
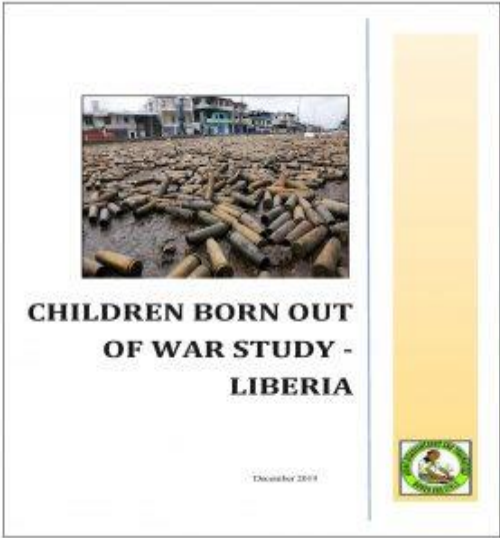


Country-specific research provided further insights into localized experiences of wartime violence and its aftermath. The country briefs include the *Sierra Leone Country Report on Children Born of War*, *Nigeria Country Report, Forced Marriage Inside the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)*, *Uganda Country Report*, and *SEVOTA's Psychosocial Approach: Impacting the Identity of Children Born of Sexual Violence During the Rwandan Genocide*.

The project also contributed to understanding the complex victimhood of women in conflict through works such as *Buried in the Heart: Women, Complex Victimhood, and the War in Northern Uganda* and *Women Survivors and Their Children Born of Wartime Sexual Violence in Northern Uganda*. Furthermore, legal advocacy was supported through documents like the *Amicus Brief to ECCC*.

Through these knowledge products, the project has contributed to shaping global discussions on post-conflict justice, gender-based violence, reparation and the rights of children born of war, while also supporting evidence-based policy interventions and advocacy efforts.

Knowledge Products





**1. Enslavement, conflict and forced marriage in Africa: Methods, ethics, and knowledge production in Africa (Jozi Institute) June 25-28, 2018, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, SA:** The Johannesburg Institute deliberations focused on different ways in which knowledge regarding patterns of enslavement, conflict, and marriage in sub-Saharan Africa is collected and disseminated. Important themes that were discussed during the conference include: Justice and reparation needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, Ensuring the accuracy of data of modern-day slavery, Research methods used by Civil Society Organizations, Ethics in research, Managing expectations of research participants and Knowledge sharing and dissemination

The institute led to the production of the following:

- ❑ Publication of a collection titled “Research as more than extraction? Knowledge production and Gender-based Violence in African conflicts” in 2020 by Beyond Trafficking and Slavery/openDemocracy in London under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 licence. [https://csiw-ectg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CSiW\\_Research\\_as\\_more\\_than\\_extraction.pdf](https://csiw-ectg.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/CSiW_Research_as_more_than_extraction.pdf)
- ❑ Publication of a book titled “Research as More Than Extraction Knowledge Production and Gender-Based Violence in African Societies” by Ohio University Press under Studies in Conflict, Justice, and Social Change series - <https://www.ohioswallow.com/9780821425251/research-as-more-than-extraction/>



Research as more than extraction?  
Knowledge production and sexual violence in post-conflict African societies  
Annie Bunting, Allen Kironde and Joel Clark (eds)



openDemocracy



2. **The Summer Institute - Men's & Women's Relations in Coercive Settings - May 16, 2017:** The Summer Institute featured discussions and presentations on the experiences of male and female survivors of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, particularly within the context of the **Lord's Resistance Army (LRA)** in Uganda. The sessions explored relationships formed in captivity, challenges faced by survivors, justice, reparations, and broader gender and historical perspectives on coercion and forced marriage.

### Key Discussions & Findings:

#### ❑ Relationships in Captivity:

1. All relationships in the **LRA** were **forced**, though some survivors developed affection over time.
2. **Young girls (Ting Ting)** were kept by commanders until maturity, after which they were married off.
3. **Widows underwent rituals** before being assigned new husbands among the fighters.
4. Women had no power to end relationships—only **commanders** could do so, usually for accusations of witchcraft or disrespect.

#### ❑ Challenges Faced by Survivors:

1. **Stigma & social exclusion**—Survivors struggle with reintegration into society.
2. **Economic hardships**—Raising and educating children born of war is difficult.
3. **Children born in captivity**—While the **LRA valued these children**, society often rejected them.
4. **Marriage difficulties**—Women remarried struggle with co-parenting and community acceptance.
5. **Lack of fatherly guidance & identity**—Children born of war often grow up without paternal support.

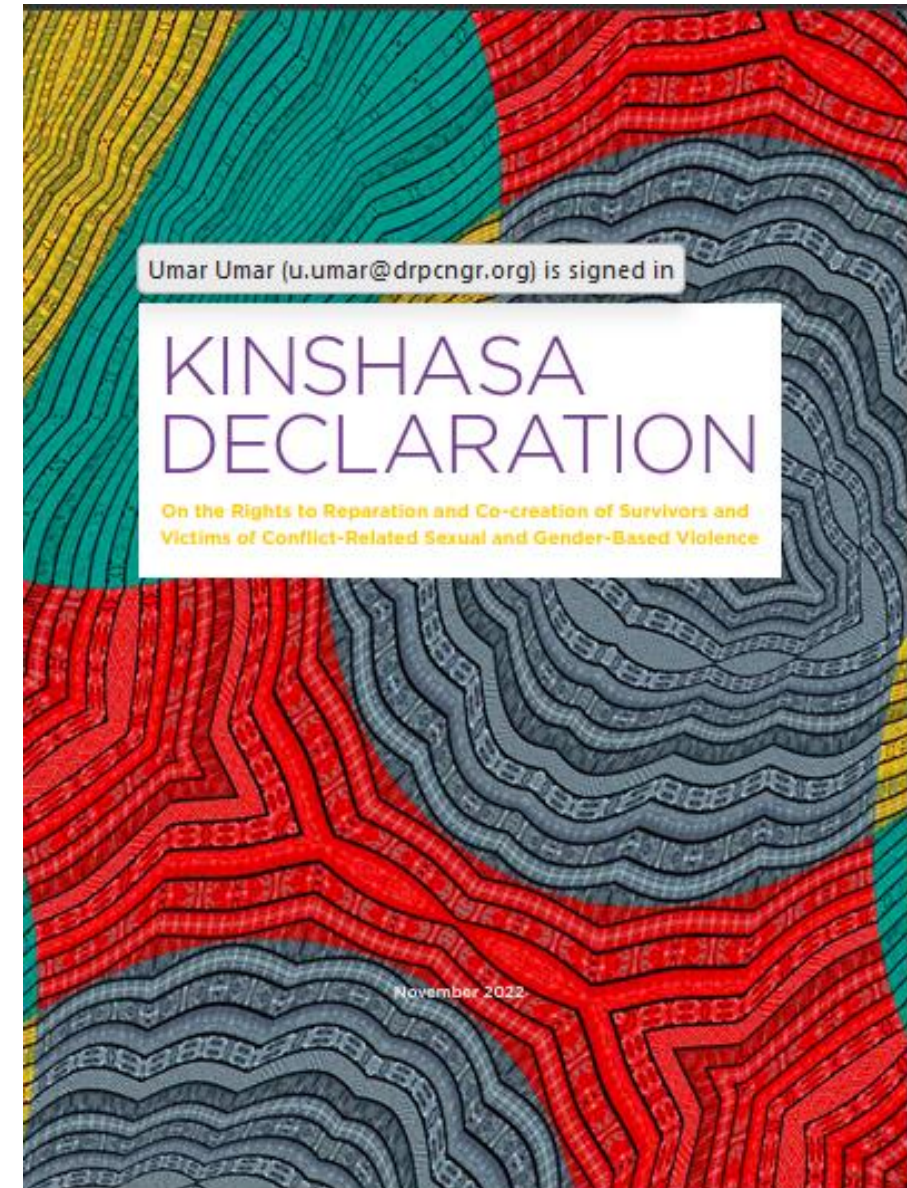


## Post-CSiW Partnerships and Collaborations

After the closure of the project, the CSiW partnership collaborated with the Global Survivors Fund (GSF) and grassroots organizations from 12 African countries. Together, they organized the Survivors' Hearing for Reparations for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence, held in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, from 22-24 November 2021.

The event provided a platform for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to share their testimonies, views, perceptions, and reflections on reparations, participation, and the co-creation of reparations.

The event culminated in the production of the Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights to Reparation and Co-creation for Survivors and Victims of Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, 2022 - <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/torture/sr/cfis/cfi-ga79/subm-identifying-documenting-investigating-cso-global-survivors-fund>.





# Post-CSiW Partnerships and Collaborations





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