



Amman-Al Quds Model United Nations
نسخة الأمم المتحدة لعمان والقدس

UN Women TOPIC 2

Strengthening Protection Mechanisms Against Gender-Based Violence and Exploitation in the Democratic Republic of Congo's Conflict Zones.

Gender-based violence in the eastern part of DRC is known to be widespread and systematic. Armed groups routinely use rape, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy to exert control over populations. State forces have also been implicated. These violations are common in Ituri, North Kivu, and South Kivu, where militias operate near mining zones, displacement camps, and poorly governed rural areas. Access to health care, legal aid, and protection is limited or entirely absent in these regions.

The Congolese legal system recognizes sexual violence as a criminal offense, but unfortunately, enforcement is weak. The judiciary suffers from underfunding, political interference, and lack of rural access. Mobile courts have been deployed in some provinces with UN backing, but they are inconsistent and rarely reach remote areas. Survivors

often cannot afford transportation, documentation, or legal representation. In some cases, perpetrators are released after community-level negotiations or bribery.

Protection mechanisms inside IDP camps are fragmented. Some camps are managed by local authorities, others by international NGOs. Coordination is inconsistent. Nighttime lighting is rarely installed. Separate facilities for women and girls are often missing. Camp-based reporting systems rely on male intermediaries. Few humanitarian workers are trained in trauma-informed GBV response. These conditions make reporting dangerous or pointless for survivors.

At the community level, informal women's associations have played a central role in protection and care. Many provide emergency shelter, basic counseling, and connect survivors with legal or medical aid. These groups operate with little funding and almost no state recognition. Their ability to monitor and intervene is limited by security risks, social stigma, and lack of logistical support. Most have no legal authority or access to institutional backing.

Militarized control over territory also limits protection. In areas where armed groups manage daily governance, civilian reporting is often treated as collaboration with external forces. Retaliation is common. International actors are restricted in movement and dependent on state cooperation. Peacekeeping mandates include civilian protection, but operations are stretched and response time is slow. MONUSCO bases are often far from where incidents occur.

Delegates must examine the actual flow of authority, money, and information. Strengthening protection requires decentralizing resources, increasing oversight of mobile justice mechanisms, and embedding long-term GBV response into humanitarian coordination.

Protection systems must be tied to functioning infrastructure and local actors already doing the work. Without that, new mechanisms will mirror the existing failures.