Violence against Women in Conflict

Strasbourg, 23rd November, 2009

The Brussels Ad Hoc Working group on Violence against Women in Conflict - VAWIC
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MEMBERS

OBSERVERS
the Brussels offices of UNFPA, UNHCR, UNICEF and UNIFEM; Human Rights Watch, ISIS Europe and The Norwegian Refugee Council

Connects 36 organisations based in Brussels and in EU MS
Violence against Women and Girls

- VAW is a global problem, multi-faceted and complex
- VAW must be addressed by understanding how it relates to women’s social and economic disadvantage and discrimination

This means:
- challenging gender inequality
- promoting women’s access to human rights
- creating social, political and economic environments in which women/girls are empowered to enjoy those rights
Comprehensive approach to address multiple needs

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EU COMMITMENTS AND POLICIES

- EU and Member States engagements
  - Living up to existing global commitments
  - Turning policy into action

- Current opportunities to address VAW in Conflict:
  - ECHO gender policy
  - EC/DG Dev Gender Action Plan
  - European External Action Service
THANK YOU

The Brussels Ad Hoc Working Group on Violence against Women in Conflict
“Unless a country’s constitutional, legal, judicial and electoral frameworks deal with gender equality,

no matter what happens after the conflict,

no matter how peaceful a transition,

the entire country will never have a fair chance at development, and violence against women will continue to inhibit its progress”

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IS A GLOBAL PROBLEM

- Globally, women (15-44 yrs old) are more likely to be maimed or die as a result of male violence than through cancer, malaria, traffic accidents or war combined.
- At least 1 in every 3 women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime — with the abuser usually someone known to her.
- In developing countries worldwide, nearly half of the 331 million girls will be married before the age of 20. Girls in some communities are betrothed in infancy and married as early as 8 or 9 years old.

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