



**150 years of humanitarian action**  
**Council of Delegates of the International**  
**Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement**  
Sydney, Australia, November 2013



## OUTLINE OF WORKSHOP 9

<b>MOVEMENT RESPONSES TO SEXUAL AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN ARMED CONFLICT, AND DISASTERS</b>
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**Organizing / co-sponsoring National Societies:** Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, Swedish Red Cross (tbc)

**Chair:** Dr Helen Durham

*The chair will outline the legal framework, focus on the theoretical gender issues and discuss the context, definitions and progress made since the workshop held at the 31st International Conference in 2011.*

**Rapporteur:** Dr Fawzi Amin, Secretary-General, Bahrain Red Crescent (tbc)

**Speakers/presenters:**

1. A Secretary-General from a National Society of a country affected by sexual and gender-based violence to speak about its practical experience of responding in the context of armed conflict or other situations of violence.
2. A Secretary-General from a National Society of a country affected by sexual and gender-based violence to speak about its practical experience of response in the context of disaster.
3. Representatives to speak on Movement coordination and possibilities for future development and coordination of efforts in order to improve programming on the ground.

In order to allow for clarity of discussion, prior to the workshop organizers will supply speakers with agreed definitions of 'sexual violence' and 'gender-based violence' – distinguishing between the response to and prevention of sexual violence in conflict on the one hand, and gender-based violence prevention, mitigation and response in disasters on the other – as well as the different approaches, contexts and legal frameworks. The chair will confirm these. The definitions/explanatory notes will be made available to participants at the workshop as well as in materials circulated prior to the event.

**Substance support staff:**

- Representatives from co-sponsoring National Societies: Australian Red Cross, Canadian Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross and Swedish Red Cross
- Sophie Graven Minnig – ICRC, Women and War Advisor
- Siobhán Foran – Federation, Senior Officer, Gender & Diversity, Programme Services Division

### **Rationale/Objectives:**

Over recent years, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has gained a better understanding of the ways in which sexual and gender-based violence occurs in armed conflict, and disasters, and of its devastating consequences for victims (women, men, girls and boys), their families and entire communities. The objective of this workshop is to build upon this work and generate information-sharing about operational activities that respond to mitigate and prevent sexual and gender-based violence, and to identify future areas of cooperation and coordination within the Movement on this issue, particularly in the lead up to the 32nd International Conference in 2015.

The workshop will bear in mind: obligations on governments to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls, and in particular Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820 and 2106 on Women, Peace and Security,<sup>1</sup> which relate specifically to sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations; the need to build upon momentum generated by previous work in this area (in particular the workshop hosted by the Swedish Government and Swedish Red Cross at the 31st International Conference in 2011); and the IFRC Strategy on Violence Prevention, Mitigation and Response (2011-2020), as well as the Strategic Framework on Gender and Diversity Issues (2013-2020), supported by the network of National Societies worldwide, as they relate to sexual and gender-based violence in situations of disaster.

The workshop will aim to identify and explore several examples of good practice, as well as to highlight challenges in responding to and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster, and in particular to note whether there are any complementary response or prevention/mitigation patterns or lessons to be learned from the various approaches of National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC. The workshop will also serve as a forum for distributing existing resource material to participants (via USBs).

### **Guiding questions:**

1. What lessons have been learned from past work in responding to and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster?
2. What are some of the challenges/gaps in implementation faced by National Societies, the Federation and the ICRC in responding to and preventing sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict and disaster?
3. What are the differences and commonalities between sexual and gender-based violence arising from conflict, and that arising from disasters?
4. How can different components of the Movement better work together, into the future, to improve and develop the response to, and the prevention of, sexual and gender-based violence?

### **Expected outcome:**

- Better understanding and awareness of issues and some of the ongoing activities and best practices within the Movement relating to sexual and gender-based violence.
- Discussion of any areas for development of response to sexual and gender-based violence in both armed conflict and disaster, and of the potential for increased communication and cooperation between National Societies working on sexual and gender-based violence issues.
- Clarify how National Societies can work to raise awareness and support governments with regard to enhancing the protection of women in armed conflict, and in particular the requirement to “enhance their capacity to prevent, monitor and document acts of sexual violence and other serious violations of international humanitarian law.”<sup>2</sup>

- Clarify how National Societies can work to raise awareness and support governments with the development of a legal response to all forms of gender-based violence and ensure sexual and gender-based violence is addressed through disaster prevention and mitigation and disaster-response laws in national legal frameworks.

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<sup>1</sup> See the agreed conclusions of the 57th session of the Commission on the Status of Women.

<sup>2</sup> As described in Objective 2.2 of the action plan annexed to Resolution 2, "Four-year action plan for the implementation of international humanitarian law," from the 31st International Conference.