

DAY TEN: 4th DECEMBER :

'Rape as a Weapon of War'

At the end of the war in Kosovo in June 1999, women and girls, who - as they fled to safety - were dragged by Serbian police, paramilitaries or soldiers from the columns of refugees fleeing Kosovo and raped, sometimes repeatedly, before they were sent on their journey. In the aftermath of war, another phase of enforced disappearances, murders and rapes began as the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) embarked on revenge attacks against Kosovo Serb and Romani civilians. Many survivors have never even spoken about what happened to them. Some, counselled by NGOs, are able to talk about their experience but few have spoken publicly about what they endured. They have been silenced by the deeply entrenched social stigma, which still overshadows wartime rape.

<https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/EUR7075582017ENGLISH.PDF>

Question

What is my reaction to this horrific true story?

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Global Facts

- Rape and sexual abuse are not just a product of war but are used as a deliberate military strategy. (*Amnesty International*)
- Systematic rape is used as a tool of ethnic cleansing. More than 20,000 girls and women have been raped in Bosnia since 1992.¹
- While it is undisputed that strategic rape is an unlawful tactic of war, no state has ever been held accountable, nor any individual prosecuted for its use.
<http://globaljusticecenter.net/documents/Rape%20as%20a%20Tactic%20of%20War%20fact%20sheet.pdf>

Pope Francis met with the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner Nadia Murad, a survivor of ISIS enslavement and an advocate for human rights and persecuted Iraqi minorities.

Murad, who first met Pope Francis at a weekly general audience in 2017, returned to the Vatican for a private audience with the pope after receiving the Nobel prize for her "efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict."

<https://catholicherald.co.uk/news/2018/12/21/pope-francis-meets-nobel-peace-prize-winner-nadia-murad/>

Rape and sexual violence is used as a deliberate weapon of war in the same way that guns and tanks are, to terrorise civilian populations, to humiliate, scar and destroy whole ethnic groups or religious or political opponents, cheaply, silently and devastatingly.

William Hague, UK Foreign Secretary (2012)

CEDAW

(Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)

Adopted 1979 with the aim of:

- ✓ Ending violence against women
- ✓ Achieving gender equality during peace and war

Suggest you read the Convention during the **16 Days** www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/

UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

SDG 16 Target 16.2: 'End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children.'

UNHCR 16. a: 'Strengthen relevant national institutions, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime.'

http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/Metadata_16.a.1_3_March2016.pdf

ACTION

- Support any campaign to eliminate weapons of war.
- Befriend an asylum seeker from a conflict zone who may have suffered greatly.

Read: <http://www.stoprapenow.org/take-action/>
<https://nobelwomensinitiative.org/>

Prepared by 'Future We Need' (FWN) a faith-based group with members from the Columbans, Franciscans, Josephites, Mercy, Presentation and Salesians.

(Updated 2019)

¹ <https://www.unicef.org/sowc96pk/sexviol.htm>

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

is a systematic and widespread human rights violation. It cuts across age, socio-economic, educational and geographic boundaries.



www.google.ie/search?q=images+of+orange+the+world+for+free

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence...



49 Countries have no laws to protect women from domestic violence. <http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/violence-against-women-cause-and-consequence-inequality>.

“GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE - A GLOBAL EPIDEMIC ... endangers the life of women & girls with negative consequences not only for them, but also for their children & communities. Ending this scourge is integral to the development of women’s human capital & unleashing their contribution to economic growth.” (Feb. 2018 - World Bank study)
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2018/02/01/more-than-1-billion-women-lack-legal-protection>

DAY 10...

4th

December

Rape as a Weapon of War

CHILD MARRIAGE....



www.google.ie/search?q=Photos+of+child+brides+pixabay

New data (2018) confirm that practice of child marriage has continued to decline around the world, with accelerated progress in the last 10 years. However, **12 MILLION GIRLS** are still married in childhood each year (UNICEF 2018).

