

NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue

Fact Sheet – Inclusive Security *Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (CR SGBV)*



NATO Engages Event Aim: In July 2018, NATO’s Public Diplomacy Division and its [partners](#) will host ‘[NATO Engages: The Brussels Summit Dialogue](#)’ on the margins of the main NATO Summit in Brussels. The event will serve as an ideal platform to deepen and amplify the Summit’s core themes. It will do so by engaging a diverse range of opinion formers, policymakers, and multipliers, including younger audiences and digital influencers. The themes of the event seek to complement the main Summit agenda. One of the topics for the main plenary on-the-record sessions includes “Inclusive Security.”

Inclusive Security Aim: A topic of significant importance to the Alliance is that of Inclusive Security. All partners are keen to ensure that discussions on Women, Peace, and Security, Children and Armed Conflict, and the protection of civilians have a leading role in the ‘NATO Engages’ programme.

Inclusive Security Categories: The Inclusive Security collective includes Children and Armed Conflict, Cultural Property and Protection, Protection of Civilians, and Women, Peace, and Security including Conflict-Related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence. Each component has a bearing on the others.

NATO and CR SGBV Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (CR SGBV) is inserted in a larger spectrum of wartime violence among massacres and other atrocities, employed as a strategy to intimidate and undermine morale. CR SGBV is recognized as a tactic of war, and it is also increasingly used as a tactic of terrorism. Consequently, it is understood not only as a personal tragedy but also as a security threat.

The phenomenon is multifaceted and besides rape includes sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, enforced sterilization, forced marriage and other forms of sexual violence equally grave. While women and girls are indeed often the primary targets of CR SGBV, it is also strategically perpetrated against men and boys, aiming to destroy entire communities by tearing the social fabric.

The long-term destructive effects of CR SGBV as well as its use by extremist and terrorist groups pose significant threats to global peace and human security. NATO, as a key actor in the security sector, recognizes the need to prevent and respond to CR SGBV. Combating CR SGBV is a vital cross-cutting topic in NATO’s population-centric Inclusive Security approach.

Committed to combating CR SGBV the Alliance adopted, in 2015, a practical tool for commanders in operations, the Military Guidelines on Prevention of, and Response to, CR SGBV that include NATO's definition of CR SGBV: "Any sexual and/or gender-based violence against an individual or group of individuals, used or commissioned in relation to a crisis or an armed conflict."

Furthermore, NATO's Action Plan for the implementation of the PoC Policy (2017); the Report and Action Plan on Enhancing the Role in the International Community's Fight against Terrorism (2017); the Military Concept for the PoC (2018); and the WPS Policy and Action Plan, help ensure that CR SGBV is mainstreamed into the analysis, planning, conduct, execution, and assessment of the Alliance's operations, missions, training, and exercises.

The Alliance remains committed to continuing its multiple efforts to combat CR SGBV. Ultimately, addressing sexual violence, NATO does more than help individual victims, it sets a tone for the respect for fundamental dignities and human rights. By doing this the Alliance can lay a foundation for lasting stability.

Teamwork:

This is a collaborative project that encompasses close cooperation with the NATO command structure and the international community including the Office of the UN CR SGBV on Sexual Violence in Conflict as well as civil society and NGOs.

Champions and Leaders:

Clare Hutchinson, NATO CR SGBV for Women, Peace, and Security, Director General's IMS GENAD, hutchinson.clare@hq.nato.int

Milestone Events:

12 July 2018, NATO HQ, Brussels, Belgium, NATO ENGAGES: The Brussels Summit Dialogue <https://nato-engages.org/>

Websites:

NATO Headquarters, www.nato.int, and www.nato.int/1325

NATO ACT <http://www.act.nato.int/gender-advisor>, Gender Education & Training Package for Nations

Allied Command Transformation, www.act.nato.int

Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, www.shape.nato.int

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