

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

TOPIC A: Gender-based violence in global crises

In times of global crises, whether triggered by conflict, natural disasters, or pandemics, an often-overlooked yet pervasive issue emerges: gender-based violence (GBV). This insidious form of violence, rooted in deeply ingrained gender stereotypes and power imbalances, disproportionately affects women and girls but can impact individuals of all genders.

When crises strike, the breakdown of societal structures and systems that protect individuals can create fertile ground for GBV to flourish. Refugee camps, displacement, and instability heighten vulnerability, making women and girls particularly susceptible to exploitation, abuse, and violence. Accessing basic necessities like food, shelter, and healthcare often comes with additional risks for these populations.

Organizations worldwide are actively working to address this growing concern. Initiatives range from establishing safe spaces within conflict zones to providing trauma-informed training for aid workers to support survivors. Additionally, efforts to educate communities about GBV prevention and to strengthen protections for women and marginalized groups are being implemented. However, the scale of the challenge remains immense. As global crises, such as armed conflicts, natural disasters, and forced displacement, become more frequent and severe, so too does the risk of GBV, disproportionately affecting women and girls who are often most vulnerable during such times.

Raising awareness about GBV in crises is crucial. By acknowledging this issue as a fundamental human rights concern, we can motivate support for prevention and response efforts. Increasing access to support services, such as hotlines, shelters, and legal aid, is essential for survivors. Moreover, ensuring that GBV is addressed as a priority in every humanitarian response is imperative.

In conclusion, gender-based violence in crises is not merely a collateral damage of disasters; it is a systemic issue that demands urgent attention. By recognizing the correlation of crises and GBV, we can work towards a more equitable and just world where everyone is protected from harm, regardless of their gender.

1. What are the main types of gender-based violence that occur during global crises (e.g., conflict, natural disasters, displacement)?
2. Why are women, girls, and marginalized groups more vulnerable to GBV during times of crisis?
3. How do different types of crises (conflict vs. natural disasters vs. pandemics) affect the prevalence and nature of gender-based violence?
4. How can we ensure that humanitarian response plans include gender-sensitive strategies to address GBV?



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5. What role do local organizations, including women's groups and grassroots movements, play in preventing and responding to GBV in crisis zones?
6. How can we improve data collection and reporting systems to get accurate, timely information on GBV in crises?
7. What kind of support (legal, medical, psychological) should be prioritized for survivors of gender-based violence in crisis situations?
8. How can technology be used to prevent and document gender-based violence during crises?

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0020729202000383>

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<https://www.unicef.org/protection/gender-based-violence-in-emergencies>

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<https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>

<https://www.fao.org/gender/news/news-detail/gender-based-violence-a-crisis-within-crises/en>



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