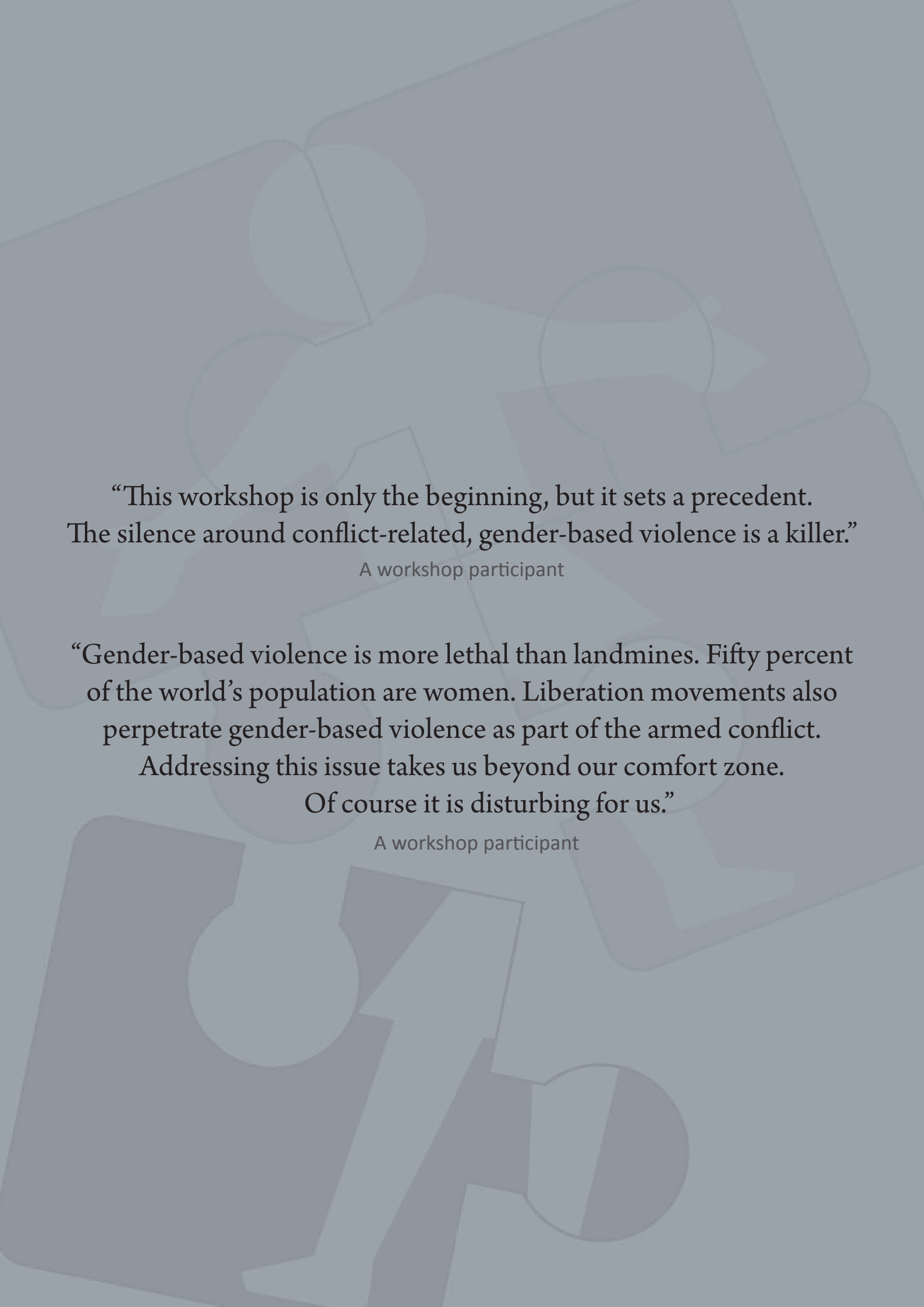


GENEVA CALL APPEL DE GENÈVE



IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING ARMED CONFLICT WORKSHOP REPORT GENEVA, 6-9 DECEMBER 2010





“This workshop is only the beginning, but it sets a precedent. The silence around conflict-related, gender-based violence is a killer.”

A workshop participant

“Gender-based violence is more lethal than landmines. Fifty percent of the world’s population are women. Liberation movements also perpetrate gender-based violence as part of the armed conflict. Addressing this issue takes us beyond our comfort zone. Of course it is disturbing for us.”

A workshop participant

IMPROVING THE PROTECTION OF WOMEN AND GIRLS DURING ARMED CONFLICT

ASIA REGIONAL WORKSHOP
GENEVA, 6-9 DECEMBER 2010



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

1. About the participants

- Setting the scene
- Seeking a gender balance
- Profile of participants
- Knowledge gaps
- Participants' expectations

2. Clarifying the issues at stake: legal, medical, psychological and social

- Definitions
- Legal framework
- Types of gender-based violence
- Definition of conflict-related, gender-based violence
- Medical, psychological and social impact

3. Improving compliance through self-examination and strengthening internal systems

- Measures to reinforce compliance by ANSAs
- Finding deterrents to sexual violence
- Strengths and weaknesses of ANSAs' internal policies and practices
- Action plans to enhance compliance

Conclusion

Annexes:

- A1. Objectives of the workshop
- A2. Agenda

Acknowledgements

WHAT IS AN ARMED NON-STATE ACTOR ?

For its operational purposes, Geneva Call uses the term “armed non-State actors” (ANSAs) to refer to organized armed entities that are primarily motivated by political goals, operate outside effective State control, and lack the legal capacity to become party to relevant international treaties. This includes armed groups, *de facto* governing authorities, national liberation movements, and non- or partially internationally recognized States.

GENEVA CALL'S MISSION

Geneva Call is a neutral and impartial humanitarian organization dedicated to engaging armed non-State actors ANSAs towards compliance with the norms of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights Law (IHRL).

Geneva Call engages ANSAs in a dialogue aimed at ensuring their adherence to, and compliance with, international humanitarian norms.

Geneva Call conducts its activities according to the principles of neutrality, impartiality and independence. Transparency is also a core working principle of the organization. As a standard operating practice, it informs stakeholders, including the Governments concerned, of its engagement efforts with ANSAs. This principle is particularly important in countries where the Government might be reticent with regard to any form of contact with ANSAs.



INTRODUCTION

Geneva Call brought together 23 participants, representing eight armed non-State actors (ANSAs) from Myanmar/Burma, Philippines and India, over four days in December 2010, to discuss the prevention and prohibition of sexual and gender-based violence linked to armed conflict. It was the first time that such a meeting of ANSA representatives has taken place to discuss this topic, and to seek to take steps towards concrete, practical solutions.

For Geneva Call, this workshop was the first step in a longer-term engagement process with ANSAs, on the issue of conflict-related, gender-based violence. As a result of its original work on anti-personnel (AP) mines, Geneva Call has established strong relationships of trust with numerous ANSAs.¹ Several of the armed actors already engaged by Geneva Call in Asia had expressed their willingness to discuss these issues further; to learn more about international standards, notably with regard to the protection of women in conflict; and to actively review their own policies and practices.

To help move this discussion forward, Geneva Call created a unique platform where ANSAs could meet safely, and freely review the ways in which their respective movements are addressing the issue, and how acts of violence perpetrated by their own members could be prevented or sanctioned. The participants also explored how they might improve their policies and practice and, where necessary, bring them in line with relevant international standards.

The present report draws upon information and insights that came from the participants during plenary and working group sessions of the workshop. The report also benefits from observations made by the facilitators and organizers of the workshop.

Definition of conflict-related, gender-based violence

Participants agreed by consensus that conflict-related, gender-based violence is :
an act of violence, including of a sexual nature, that is committed against the victim
on account of his or her gender that takes place in the context of armed conflict.

This definition not only framed the discussions within the workshop,
but provides a useful tool for future engagement work with Geneva Call.

1. ABOUT THE PARTICIPANTS

Setting the scene

Many ANSAs around the world are reluctant to address the issue of sexual and gender-based violence, so the key entry point in starting dialogue with ANSAs on this topic is to gain the support and commitment of their leadership, and to foster their willingness to discuss such sensitive subjects.

From the start, Geneva Call sought consultation, to ensure ownership by the very people whom the project had set out to influence. Once the workshop had been framed and its content defined, the ANSAs concerned agreed immediately with the proposed project. In fact, it was the ANSAs themselves who acknowledged the need for improvement in their knowledge of applicable international standards, so as to be able to build upon their own internal policies and practices on gender issues. It is very much to the credit of the eight different ANSAs that they agreed to send their representatives to the meeting, and that they engaged so constructively in such an important subject of dialogue.

The 23 participants, from eight ANSAs currently engaged in armed conflict in Burma/Myanmar, Philippines and India, are all from the same continent, yet they operate under different ideologies, political agendas and religious principles. Although the participating ANSAs had few links with one another, the regional dimension to the workshop made it easier to have an open discussion about the subject matter, and also softened any possible fear of blame.

All but one of these ANSAs are signatories to Geneva Call's *Deed of Commitment* banning AP mines. As such, the long-standing professional links between Geneva Call and the ANSAs, and their mutual understanding of their respective mandates and ways of working, were important factors in creating the circumstances conducive to a positive outcome for the event.

Seeking a gender balance

Geneva Call made it a principle of the workshop to seek a gender balance, and so insisted that ANSAs be represented, as much as possible, by both men and women from both the military and political wings of their organizations.

When dealing with the subject of sexual violence, very often there is a tendency to assume that this is a women's issue and, as such, should be discussed by women. In this respect, some female participants felt that the subject matter would be better discussed without men present. Others, however, stated that *"it is very important that men participate more in this kind of workshop, because they are the main perpetrators."*

Geneva Call recognizes that a women-only discussion is appropriate and necessary in some circumstances; for the purposes of this workshop, however, excluding men from the discussion would have limited the opportunity for fruitful debate and practical solutions that could be applied on the ground in conflict situations.

Men are part of the problem of sexual, gender-based violence; for that reason Geneva Call believes that they need to be involved in finding solutions. It is also a reality that men are almost always the key decision-makers within ANSAs, and, as such, have the capacity to actually make changes in organizational policies and practices.

Despite Geneva Call's wish to achieve the best possible gender balance, several external factors prevented the workshop from fully achieving this. For example, within one invited ANSA, there was no woman with a sufficiently representative role. In another case, the chosen women candidates could not obtain the necessary travel documents in time.

All things considered, a satisfactory ratio was achieved with nine women and fourteen men participating. In its facilitation of the workshop, Geneva Call ensured that the women were actively encouraged to redress the imbalance, and to participate fully in the debates and working groups. Although most of the workshop was carried out with men and women participating in the same working groups, for one of the working group sessions, on the identification of gaps in existing internal ANSA policy, the men and women worked in separate groups to discuss the same topic.

Profile of participants

Geneva Call developed a set of criteria so that the ANSA leadership could identify suitable candidates to take part in the workshop. Criteria included a minimum of ten years' membership, including military experience, and some management-level responsibility, including the ability to affect, influence and change policy.

The participants were senior and mid-level members of their respective ANSA:

- Commander
- Colonel
- Spokesperson
- Secretary-General
- Joint Secretary-General
- Chairman of a political branch
- Vice-chairperson of a women's branch

All the women who attended had military experience, although some worked primarily within the political wing of their organization. A number of the ANSAs represented have women's wings, created to address issues of concern to the women within the ANSAs, and sometimes to engage in community work within their constituencies.

Knowledge gaps

Based on their individual experience, and that of their constituencies, ANSAs understand the concepts which underpin International Humanitarian Law (IHL), and International Human Rights Law (IHRL). However, they often do not relate to these bodies of law as holders of obligations. Geneva Call therefore works to promote clarity amongst ANSAs as to the specific nature and scope of their responsibilities as *parties* to armed conflict, and notably with regard to the relevant international standards on sexual and gender-based violence.

Even where there is knowledge of these principles, it does not necessarily correlate with attitude and behavioural changes on the ground. Existing internal policies amongst ANSAs in Asia, regarding the protection of women and girls, range from the very weak to the well-developed. Even where policies in place *do* cover protection issues and provide for sanctions in case of violations, actual implementation is weak.

Participants' expectations

Both men and women participants had similar expectations from the workshop. One male participant hoped that the workshop would enable him to check that his organization's policies - which have a religious and cultural basis - are indeed compatible with international standards. Another participant hoped that the workshop would highlight differences between the approaches taken by the ANSAs present, and that he would then learn from these different experiences. One male participant highlighted the fact that ANSAs from three countries gathering together for such an event was an indication of their willingness to improve the protection of women and girls. A female participant wanted her ANSA to strengthen integration of the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security into its internal policies.

All hoped that the outcomes of the workshop would bring about positive impact at local level. Participants welcomed the opportunity to have a platform to discuss these international standards, and noted that, unlike States, ANSAs are generally not considered as participating in the development of international law, and therefore are less aware of, and up to date with, relevant improvements and amendments.

United Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

Over the last decade, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has adopted five resolutions on women, peace and security: 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009) and 1960 (2010). These resolutions highlight some of the particular impacts of armed conflict on women and girls, notably sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict. They demand that "*all parties to armed conflict*", State and armed non-State actors alike, take measures to enhance the protection of civilians,

and, in particular, to prevent and prohibit sexual violence in armed conflict. The resolutions also provide guidance for key stakeholders on how to address the needs of women and girls during and after armed conflict, and how to promote their empowerment.²

“In our own organization, we do not have a code of conduct or rules and regulations on how to protect women and girls because we’re more focused on political issues. However, we realize that gender issues are as important as political issues. We can prevent many things before they happen.”

A workshop participant

“In my organization, we look at these issues from a religious perspective. We are looking for this workshop to help us in harmonizing our rules with international standards.”

A workshop participant



2. CLARIFYING THE ISSUES AT STAKE: LEGAL, MEDICAL, PSYCHOLOGICAL AND SOCIAL

Definitions

It was important first of all to ensure that all participants and contributors shared a common language and definition when discussing conflict-related, sexual and gender-based violence. The workshop started out by clarifying the terms of the discussion. The participants then worked in small groups to consider examples of the types of gender-based violence that occur in their respective contexts, and to develop a definition that covers them all.

Geneva Call's expert provided the starting point for these discussions and gave the groups a review of existing definitions such as gender, gender-based violence, sexual violence, and rape, as defined in the jurisprudence of international tribunals.

Geneva Call focuses on violence against civilians that occurs within armed conflict, so it was important, in framing the discussion, to understand that there is a causal link to armed violence and conflict on the one hand, and to the wider area of protection of women and girls, on the other.

Legal framework

Although there is no single convention or definition that covers the question of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict, the question is covered in the different bodies of law, and these international standards are consistent with one other.

Rape and sexual violence, more broadly, are the only areas that have been clearly defined in the jurisprudence of the international tribunals and court. The relevant bodies of law include International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law (notably the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW), International Criminal Law and International Refugee Law. The recent United Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, namely resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889, were also presented. Geneva Call emphasized existing legal provisions under international law and clarified that these apply to *all* parties to armed conflict, including ANSAs.

Types of gender-based violence

Group discussions about the types of gender-based violence, including violence of a sexual nature, that occur in their respective contexts, generated five categories:

Sexual violence:

Rape; trafficking; forced prostitution; sexual harassment; sexual molestation; sexual assault; sexual torture (physical and psychological) inflicted on political detainees or combatants; sexual violence against civilians before, during or after military conflicts, that is rape and harassment; scraping the breasts of combatants; machismo (among State and non-State actors).

Forced marriage:

Soldiers marry women and girls against their consent; military personnel encourage marriage to females from within the ANSA community.

Violation of customs/traditions:

Not permitting the Islamic dress code; insulting women who follow the Islamic dress code; discrimination against Muslims employed in public services.

Socio-economic violence:

Discrimination in the workplace; denying or impeding food supply during armed conflict.

State/Government 'violations':

In some cases the State/Government could: give orders to soldiers to rape women and girls; force women and girls to walk ahead of soldiers to detonate landmines; force women and girls to carry ammunition and food supplies for soldiers; force women and girls to build military facilities; forced portering; and forced marriage.

The participants found it important to express the acts of sexual and gender-based violence that are perpetrated by Government forces in the framework of their respective armed conflict. They emphasized that such acts of violence have caused great suffering within their communities, and that the witnessing of it by women and men, sons and daughters, husbands and fathers, sisters and brothers, was often, in fact, a contributory factor in causing them to join the armed struggle against the State.

Definition of conflict-related, gender-based violence

Participants agreed by consensus that conflict-related, gender-based violence is an act of violence, including of a sexual nature, that is committed against the victim on account of his or her gender that takes place in the context of armed conflict.

This definition not only framed the discussions within the workshop, but provides a useful tool for future engagement work with Geneva Call. In agreeing the above definition, participants expressed in their own words what should be included under the term gender-based violence in armed conflict³:

gender-based violence in armed conflict as a tool for hatred and retaliation ...

the use of force and power against women and men to provoke demoralization and powerlessness ...

the use of rape/sexual violence to humiliate and diminish human dignity ...

acts that particularly target women and children, who are the most vulnerable ...

acts that do not recognize and respect a person's religious/cultural practices in the context of the war on terror ...

acts that disregard a person's modesty through discrimination and suspicion.

Whilst there is no contradiction in relation to international law, for the participants it was important to maintain this broader definition in order to encompass *all* possible forms of violence within the context of armed conflict. They recognized that existing legal definitions are more narrow, in the sense that they focus more on the sexual nature of the violence rather than the act of violence itself.

The participants acknowledged that men and boys are also victims of gender-based violence, whilst recognizing that, in their own contexts, women and girls are the main victims.

Medical, psychological and social impact

It is essential to also understand and address the human dimension of sexual and gender-based violence in the context of armed conflict. In order to balance the legal aspect of the workshop, Geneva Call invited psychologist Laure Wolmark to focus on the medical, psychological and social consequences for victims and perpetrators. The impact on the perpetrator, of committing sexual violence, is often given far less attention than is that on the victim, and this insight gave the participants a more complete picture of the issue. The inclusion of this aspect in the presentation was aimed at raising the awareness of the participants to the consequences of acts of sexual violence, and at enabling them to begin to seek preventative arguments

“Rape is not over because war is over”

“[S]exual and gender-based violence in armed conflict is an attack against the whole social fabric of a community. It is a transgression of social structures. It is an attack against the whole group, not just against individuals. The challenge is that such violence remains way beyond the armed conflict. Indeed, societies can become more brutal after armed conflict, and continue perpetrating sexual violence. There are life-saving actions that can be taken to treat the victims and to support them - access to medical treatment at the earliest possible stage, psychological support, and rehabilitation including the crucially important acceptance of victims by their families and communities.”

Laure Wolmark

3. IMPROVING COMPLIANCE THROUGH SELF-EXAMINATION AND STRENGTHENING INTERNAL SYSTEMS

Measures to reinforce compliance by ANSAs

One of the presenters whom Geneva Call invited to enrich the workshop was Dr Olivier Bangerter of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Advisor for the Dialogue with Armed Groups within the ICRC Unit for Relations with Arms Carriers. His presentation developed on research he had previously published through the International Institute of Humanitarian Law of San Remo⁴.

There is no single measure that an ANSA can take to increase respect of IHL by its fighters. There are, however, a number of possible measures that can be applied depending on the ANSA, and according to the particular topic. Enhancing compliance with IHL is not complicated, but it does require consistent work within the armed group as an organization.

There are four areas where measures can, and should, be taken to ensure respect of IHL by ANSA fighters, and in particular for the prevention of sexual, gender-based violence:

- **Political and policy measures:** taken at the highest level and produced as strategic documents such as public statements, unilateral declarations, constitutions or programmes, and directives.
- **Doctrinal and policy decisions:** that is: *“fundamental principles by which armed groups guide their actions in support of their ultimate objectives.”* As the doctrine provides the framework for decision-making, it is therefore crucial that doctrine be in compliance with IHL.
- **Education and training:** respect for IHL must be included in political training, in practical military exercises, and in commander training.
- **Sanctions:** policy enforcement is essential in order for it to be effective, and requires a good monitoring system of the actions of each member, and relevant sanctions measures.

Orders are shaped by such political and policy decisions. The cumulative effect of repeated orders has an impact on their enforcement; therefore orders in compliance with IHL will engender greater respect for applicable standards.

For ANSA fighters, Dr Olivier Bangerter explained, it is through experience and repetition of these standards, rather than through coercion only, that new standards of behaviour have the best chance of success. Clear orders insisting upon compliance with IHL will reduce the likelihood of violations. Breaches of such orders would then be the result of individual actions, which can be more easily and clearly sanctioned.

“It is much more efficient that an organization itself takes measures rather than trying to persuade every single fighter in the organization. However, it is not enough to repeat what the law says. The law has to be translated into the normal operations of the organization. Not only do orders need to be in accordance with IHL, they also need to be very clear regarding the fighters’ obligations.”

Dr Olivier Bangerter

Finding deterrents to sexual violence

Using their own experience, participants were then asked to consider what they thought would be the best mechanisms to deter ANSA fighters from committing acts of gender-based violence.

Deterrents identified by the ANSAs included, in no particular order:

- Sound ideological education based on revolutionary principles and/or religious teaching as an essential frame of reference for the respect of IHL.
- Systematic integration of international instruments into the policies of the movement. Examples for consideration include ensuring the participation of women in peace processes through implementing UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.
- Improvement of women's capacities to organize themselves towards the protection of their rights.
- Strong internal policies that define expected standards of behaviour and guarantee their respect, such as codes of conduct, rules of engagement, military law, constitutions, handbooks and other published materials.
- Regular and widespread education of fighters on internal policies.
- Threat of intervention by the international community to stop widespread use of sexual and gender-based violence linked to armed conflict.
- Inclusion of the issue of conflict-related, gender-based violence in the agenda of peace processes.
- Measures to keep women and children in a safe place during armed conflict.
- Formal trial and sanctions process within the movement against proven perpetrators of sexual and gender-based violence.

Facilitators observed with interest that different cultural and societal norms were also at play. As an example, some participants suggested that encouraging proper dress code, especially by women, might also play a role in preventing sexual violence.

Strengths and weaknesses of ANSAs' internal policies and practices

ANSA participants were also asked to consider and review the policies and practices on the issue within their own organization. There was no connotation of denunciation or blame in going into this exercise, and all participants, in this case grouped according to their individual ANSA, were willing to identify and list the strengths, weaknesses and gaps, in respect of their internal policies.

The **strengths** of their respective internal policies were found to be centred at the ideological, political and organizational levels. Strong training in values was seen as a significant plus, along with the existence of women's branches that, amongst other things, contribute to awareness-raising on gender equality and women's rights.

Participants noted that culturally-based norms and practices, when translated into key internal documents, encouraged the respect of internal policies, together with strong disciplinary measures laid out in codes of conduct and in key internal documents, such as constitutions, army rules and regulations. Church organizations and religious leaders were also seen to play an important role in providing guidance on behaviours.

Participants identified the following **weaknesses** in internal policies and practices:

- Many members of ANSAs (at all levels) do not understand the definition of conflict-related, gender-based violence.
- Codes of conduct do not refer to gender-based violence as a prohibited act.
- Where internal policies *do* refer to gender-based violence, they only cover the legal aspect and do not take a holistic approach to the problem.
- ANSAs struggle to achieve proper law enforcement due to lack of resources.
- ANSAs lack the expertise to develop appropriate prevention and sanctions measures.
- Women do not participate in the development of law.
- Adequate complaints mechanisms do not exist for the victims to safely and confidentially report their case.
- Lack of awareness and education amongst communities prevents discussion of the issue of gender-based violence.
- Ensuring the safety of women during armed conflict is difficult to achieve in an environment of armed violence.
- Rehabilitation available to victims of sexual violence is greatly lacking.

Reviewing the strengths and weaknesses of their own policies was a very useful exercise for the ANSAs, and helped them to identify areas for improvement. The review was equally important for Geneva Call, to enable the organization to tailor its engagement process on this issue, and to help in the on-going process of elaborating the content of a *Deed of Commitment* on sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict.

Action plans to enhance compliance

Participants were guided in the development of their action plans through short training sessions on project management, basing their plans on the strengths, weaknesses and gaps in their internal policies and practices, which they had identified during group-work sessions. The action plans, structured around an objective encouraged the development of activities/measures to be taken to reach the objective, a realistic timeframe for the implementation of the measures, and the resources needed. Finally, participants were asked to consider the risks that might jeopardize the planned implementation of their activities, and suggest risk mitigation measures.

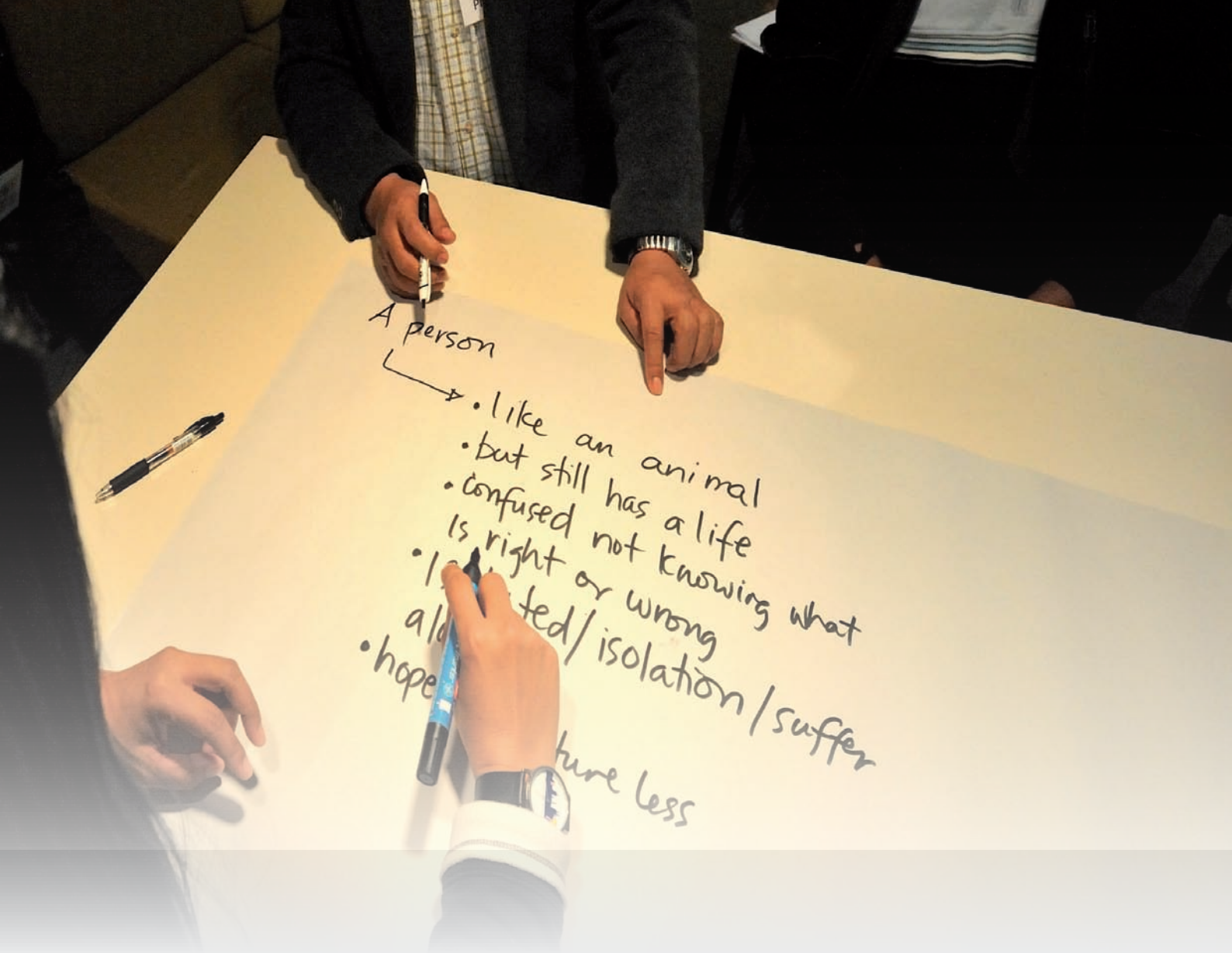
For the exercise to have meaning for the ANSAs themselves, the participants worked on the action plan for their own organization. Necessarily, the resultant plans remain specific to the respective ANSAs, and, to ensure freedom of expression, they were not even shared in plenary sessions afterwards. Nevertheless, it is possible to draw out a number of broad points.

Over and above the details of the action plans that emerged from the workshop, all participants recognized that the main objective was to change and improve attitudes, in particular towards women and girls. They recognized that influencing attitudes would be their main challenge in order to change behaviours at all levels: individual, family, community, constituency, fighter and leadership.

The workshop also included four specific communication modules aimed at building capacity in communication as an essential tool for discussion of the issue, supporting the elaboration of action plans, and helping to advocate and inform about the issue within the participants' regional contexts.

Participants proposed a number of concrete steps to begin the process of changing attitudes

1. Convince leadership. This was a key element for most participants, and the different action plans envisaged achieving this through dialogue and the provision of training for their respective central leadership (advocacy).
2. Review and revise the organization's policies and rules, including the highest policy documents, to bring them in line with international standards (research and legal framework).
3. Conduct awareness-raising through systematic and regular training for all categories and ranks within the organization (awareness).
4. Develop and include modules on gender-based violence in all training and educational programmes where these do not already exist (education).



“This workshop has been very useful. Now, we need to make sure that the policy changes have practical impact in the field. Monitoring of our action plans will be really important.”

A workshop participant

“One of the challenges for us is to convince our own people – the leadership, the community, our constituencies - that this is a global issue.”

A workshop participant



The impact of conflict-related, gender-based violence, be it on a large scale or in isolated incidents, deeply affects the victims and their families, and ripples through the social fabric of conflicted societies. This single issue is emerging as one of the major threats to the long-term stability of post-conflict societies, leaving scars and tensions that have the potential to negatively affect peace and reconciliation processes. Geneva Call hopes that this workshop will go some way towards opening up this topic, developing solutions, and seeking long-term changes in policies and behaviour.

This workshop was a unique event in many ways. Firstly, it had previously been unheard of that ANSAs gather together to discuss questions of sexual and gender-based violence, to the point of performing a critical review of their own internal policies on this issue. Secondly, all participating ANSAs had been consulted at a very early stage in the development of the project, and had expressed throughout their full approval and commitment. Thirdly, the outcomes of the workshop have proved that an engagement with ANSAs on this issue is possible.

The meeting aimed above all to bring the participants from a 'rhetorical mode' (recognizing that sexual and gender-based violence linked to armed conflict is an issue of concern that needs to be addressed), to an 'implementation mode' (identifying concrete measures to change, adapt or create policies and practices). Participants mobilized around the issue and developed concrete action plans, which they considered could be realistically implemented within their respective organizations. Although all participants are from Asia, they operate with different ideologies and political agendas, and with varying levels of resources. Whilst recognizing the specificities of each context, and each participating ANSA, the workshop triggered cohesion in the discussions because of its regional dimension. Participating ANSAs committed to following up their action plans upon return to their organization. Where requested, Geneva Call will also support the implementation of these action plans.

For certain ANSAs that have a strong revolutionary agenda, the promotion of women's rights is always an important point on the political and ideological agenda. Some ANSAs have achieved, over time, a greater exposure to legal developments at the international level and to the international community. The workshop was a good opportunity to put gender issues higher on the agenda of the leadership for those ANSAs that had not previously developed strong gender policies.

The event achieved an important consensus on the definition of conflict-related, gender-based violence, including that of a sexual nature. The agreed definition draws upon the existing international legal framework, and also incorporates the views of the participants with regards to the various forms of gender-based violence that occur in their specific contexts.

The participants showed a high level of involvement at all times throughout the four days. Although a delicate and sensitive topic, there was neither resistance nor reluctance to acknowledge and discuss the issues. Whereas the reported incidence of sexual and gender-based violence attributed to the particular ANSAs that attended the workshop is low, the participants' commitment to tackle this issue internally, and transparently, shows that engagement with ANSAs on this topic is possible.

The project also demonstrates that, whilst some ANSAs may be extremely reluctant to address changes in policies and behaviour, others are indeed willing to comply with international humanitarian standards. Where there is space for structured dialogue and improvement, the opportunity should be taken and the available space utilized. The workshop showed how relevant it is to listen more carefully to the perspectives of ANSAs on this issue, in order to better understand their point of view, and thereby to better address the incidence and impact of sexual and gender-based violence in armed conflict.

As a platform of engagement of several ANSAs with a regional dimension, the workshop also substantively complemented the bilateral contacts that Geneva Call's operational staff regularly maintains with different ANSAs. For Geneva Call, the workshop added considerable value to its ANSA engagement process, and to the ongoing drafting exercise for a new *Deed of Commitment* preventing and prohibiting conflict-related, gender-based violence.

Objectives of the workshop

The workshop set out to: create a common language on the issue; build awareness amongst relevant actors on a regional, national and international level; reinforce ownership by facilitating the further development or adaptation of existing policies and practices; and encourage the development of practical steps towards concrete implementation.

The workshop focused on:

- Developing a common understanding and definition of gender-based violence in armed conflict.
- Raising awareness as to the international standards related to gender-based violence in armed conflict, and the protection of women and girls under different bodies of international law.
- Gaining a better understanding of the policies and practices of participating ANSAs relating to the prevention and sanctioning of gender-based violence.
- Identifying gaps in policies and practice, and possible areas of change, to allow concrete actions and measures to be developed and implemented.

The workshop plans identified the following desirable outcomes:

- The participating ANSAs recognize that gender-based violence in armed conflict and the protection of women and girls are issues of concern.
- An insight is developed into the status of existing ANSA policies and practices pertaining to gender-based violence in armed conflict, and to the protection of women and girls during armed conflict.
- Gaps in ANSA's policies and practice are identified.
- Action plans for improving internal policies and practices are developed by participating ANSAs.
- Participants' skills for implementation are strengthened: communication skills (advocacy / negotiation and gender communication) and basic project management skills (development of an action plan, implementation of measures and the monitoring of the programmes).
- An interactive relationship (partnership) is developed with Geneva Call on these issues.

	DAY ONE 6 th December Monday	DAY TWO 7 th December Tuesday	DAY THREE 8 th December Wednesday	DAY FOUR 9 th December Thursday
	<i>Morning Session 9:00 am to 12:00 with a coffee / tea break</i>			
9:00	<p>Welcome and Opening</p> <p>Elisabeth Decrey Warner, President of Geneva Call: opening speech Aurélie Lamazière, Geneva Call Christine Ziegler, facilitator (90 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Opening, Welcome - Objectives and Agenda of the WS - Rules of the game - Getting to know each other - Expectations of the participant 	<p>Night Thoughts – Checking-in</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, facilitator Chris Rush, Geneva Call (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflexion of the day before - Outlook to the agenda of the day <p>«Psycho-social consequences of sexual violence in armed conflict»</p> <p>Laure Wolmark, psychologist (independent)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - incl discussion (60 mins) 	<p>Night Thoughts– Checking-in</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, facilitator Chris Rush, Geneva Call (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflexion of the day before - Outlook to the agenda of the day <p>Protection Gaps in existing policy practices (I) : Identifying the Gaps</p> <p>Group work within the NSA groups. (60 mins)</p> <p>Analysis Questions a guideline matrix</p>	<p>Night Thoughts– Checking-in</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, facilitator Chris Rush, Geneva Call (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reflexion of the day before - Outlook to the agenda of the day <p>Communication Skill Training</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Group work (60 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - advocacy and negotiation skills
9:30				
10:30	<p>GBV: a global issue of concern</p> <p>Aurélie Lamazière, Geneva Call Laure Wolmark, psychologist (45 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A global issue of concern: protection of women and girls during armed conflicts - Illustrations through film material (MSF movie) 	<p>Communication Skill Training</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Group work (60 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gender specific communication 	<p>Protection Gaps in existing policy practices (II) : Defining Actions</p> <p>Group work within the NSA groups (45 mins)</p> <p>Analysis Questions a guideline matrix</p>	<p>Discussion on Gaps, Principles and Actions</p> <p>Plenary work Method: Fish-Bowl (60 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Gain more insight into developing principles, action plans and measures
11:30	<p>GBV during armed conflict: What are we talking about?</p> <p>Group exercise Method: Brainstroming exercise</p> <p>How do you define GBV? Give examples. (30 mins)</p>	<p>Individual Journal</p> <p>(30 mins)</p>	<p>Protection Gaps in existing policy practices (III)</p> <p>Plenary discussion (45 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open points - Exchange on actions need to bridge gaps 	<p>Individual Review (Journal)</p> <p>(30 mins)</p>
12:00	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH	LUNCH

DAY ONE 6th December Monday		DAY TWO 7th December Tuesday		DAY THREE 8th December Wednesday		DAY FOUR 9th December Thursday	
Afternoon Session 14:00 pm to 18:00 with a coffee/tea break							
14:00	<p>Common definition of GBV (II)</p> <p>Plenary discussion Method: Clustering and Common definition (30 mins)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Finding a common language / understanding 	<p>«Measures ANSAs can take to improve respect for international humanitarian laws»</p> <p>Olivier Bangerter, Advisor for the Dialogue with Armed Groups, Unit for the Relations with Arms Carriers, ICRC (60 mins)</p>	<p>Action Planning Training</p> <p>Chris Rush and Katherine Kramer, Group work (60 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How to develop an action plan? - SMART goals - Identify activities - Timeframes - Review / monitoring 	<p>Thinking Back / Looking Forward</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Aurélie Lamazière Plenary and small group work (90 min)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review and Evaluation - Next Steps 			
14:30	<p>International legal standards on gender based violence during armed conflict</p> <p>Aurélie Lamazière, Geneva Call</p>		<p>Elaborate Principles, Action Plans and Measures (I)</p> <p>Group work within the ANSAs (120 mins)</p> <p>Analysis Questions a guideline matrix</p>				
15:00	<p>Key Problems related to GBV</p> <p>Group work Method: World Café</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What are types of violence? 2. Who are the victims / who are the perpetrators? 3. What are the best deterrents to stop people from committing these acts of violence? 	<p>Identification of Protection Priorities</p> <p>Plenary discussion / work Method: Mind-Mapping / Brain-Storming</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Working on the basis of the session "Key Protection Issues of Concern" - Identification of protection fields - Identification of fields of action - Setting priorities within these fields <p>(90 mins)</p>					
15:30							
16:00							
16:30	<p>Communication skill</p> <p>Christine Ziegler Individual reflection – Rapport / Empathy in Story Telling (30 mins)</p>	<p>«What do you need from Geneva Call?»</p> <p>Aurélie Lamazière, Geneva Call Katherine Kramer, Geneva Call</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Role and Activities of Geneva Call. - What do the participants need from Geneva Call? What can be expected? <p>(60 mins)</p>					
17:00	<p>Individual Journal</p> <p>(30 mins)</p>		<p>Individual Journal</p> <p>(30 mins)</p>				
17:30	<p>Closing of the day – Reflections on the day</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Aurélie Lamazière (30 mins)</p>	<p>Closing of the day – Reflections on the day</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Aurélie Lamazière (30 mins)</p>	<p>Closing of the day – Reflections on the day</p> <p>Christine Ziegler, Aurélie Lamazière (30 mins)</p>				
18:00	<p>End of the workshop day</p>	<p>End of the workshop day</p>	<p>End of the workshop day</p>				<p>Participants Depart</p>

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Donors

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Resource persons, facilitators and project staff

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Geneva Call also conveys its thanks to Christine Ziegler and her assistant Tamara Posillipo, from InterAct, who designed the structure, agenda and methodology of the workshop. Christine Ziegler moderated the entire workshop and was of great support throughout the preparations and during the event.

The workshop was orchestrated and co-facilitated by Geneva Call's Gender Issues Coordinator, Aurélie Lamazière; Katherine Kramer, Programme Director for Asia; and Christopher Rush, Senior Programme Officer for Asia. Geneva Call thanks Jessica Sinclair, Logistic assistant, in charge of all administrative and logistical aspects of the meeting, with the support of the Asia Programme Assistant, Reno Meyer. Communication Officer, Alessio di Sanzio, took photographs. Sincere thanks also to Geneva Call's three interns, Pauline Lacroix, Gaia Montauti and Rainer Gude, who shared note-taking duties.

End Notes

1. For more information on Geneva Call's mandate and the innovative mechanism that is the *Deed of Commitment*, please refer to www.genevacall.org
2. For further information on these UNSC resolutions, see "Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions in Security Sector Reform", Gender and SSR Toolkit, Tool 13, Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF) <http://www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Publication-Detail/?id=121108&lng=en>
3. The term gender-based violence in armed conflict does not have a legal basis. However, the participants were encouraged to look at all forms of violence, not only of sexual character, that are gender-based and that occur in the context of armed conflict.
4. Measures armed groups can take to improve respect for IHL, by Olivier Bangerter, in «Non-State Actors and International Humanitarian Law, Organized armed groups: a challenge for the 21st century», proceedings of the 32nd roundtable on current issues, 11-13 September 2009, International Institute of Humanitarian Law - San Remo & Franco Angeli, 2010, pp. 187-212

Photos

Cover, pages 8 and 14 - Improving the Protection of Women and Girls during Armed Conflict, Geneva Call Workshop, December 2010

Page 15 - Using media reports and imagery from Bosnia, as a recognized example of rape as a war crime, for the purposes of discussion with ANSA representatives during the Geneva Call Workshop, December 2010. In this case an example from a German newspaper is being discussed.

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