

OPEN LETTER
MAKING SENIOR UN LEADERSHIP ACCOUNTABLE FOR SEXUAL
ABUSE/EXPLOITATION BY UN PERSONNEL IN PEACE OPERATIONS

Dear Secretary General

We, the undersigned, congratulate the United Nations and the Security Council for recognizing the experiences of women in conflicts and war. UN Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) and 1820 (2008) articulate the critical role of women in peacemaking and peace building, and that the protection needs of women during conflict and crisis are essential elements of peace and security.

Despite these milestones, women and girls continue to experience alarming forms of exploitation and violence – including sexual violence in many countries worldwide. While the UN has made many efforts, it is most disappointing that parts of the system are still implicated in such abuse in conflict areas. Even one incident, is one too many.

It is time to put words into action. SCR 1820 demands zero tolerance. We know that you have the means to take a historic leadership role in this matter, by taking the following steps:

1. State publicly and strongly that there will be no impunity for UN personnel who engage in any form of exploitation, including sexual abuse.
2. Take leadership and action on this matter.
3. Personally hold responsible the Special Representatives of the Secretary General (SRSGs), who are your most senior representatives in UN missions for any violation, and seek their resignation in such cases.
4. Do everything in your power to bring any UN personnel involved in Sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) to international justice.

We believe that the credibility of the entire UN system is at stake. We urge you to do what is right and take immediate action regarding the above. We support you wholeheartedly in this endeavour.

We look forward to your response.

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Thank you and yours sincerely

cc.

Member states of the Security Council
President of the General Assembly

Signatories to the statement present at the 61th DPI/NGO Annual Conference, honoring
the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

Other Signatories: