



**RECOMMENDATIONS RESULTING FROM FEBRUARY 2013 CONFERENCE:
SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN THE RECENT CONFLICTS IN LIBYA & SYRIA**

Please note: These recommendations were compiled following the conference “Sexual Violence in the Recent Conflicts in Libya & Syria”, held in February 2013 at the University of Toronto Faculty of Law. The information provided herein is not a substitute for independent research, legal advice or legal assistance. The document is up-to-date as of February 2013 and is based on publicly available, English-language materials.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING LIBYA

To the Government of Libya

Prevention

1. The Government of Libya must work to prevent gender-based violence in prisons and detention facilities by:
 - a. Ending all torture or ill-treatment of detainees¹;
 - b. Ensuring that any information obtained as the result of torture or ill-treatment is deemed inadmissible as evidence in judicial proceedings²;
 - c. Consolidating the supervisory authority of all prisons and detention centres under the Ministry of Justice to ensure consistent and integrated oversight³;
 - d. Ensuring that minors are housed separately from adults, and that detention conditions for child detainees comply with the relevant international standards for detention and treatment of minors⁴; and
 - e. Granting the United Nations and the ICRC access to visit prisons and detention facilities⁵.

¹ Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on Libya, HRC, 19th Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/19/68 (2012) at para 127 e. [Commission on Libya]

² *Ibid* at para 127 g.

³ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, *Executive Summary Final report on sexual violence in Libya* at 14. [Special Representative]; Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 127 b.

⁴ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 14

⁵ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 127 b.

2. The Government of Libya must work to ensure that there are social and legal mechanisms in place to prevent gender-based violence, including:
 - a. Ensuring that internationally recognized human rights are enshrined in the new Constitution;
 - b. Removing all reservations to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)⁶;
 - c. Ensuring that there is robust public education and information about gender-based violence;
 - d. Re-activating the Committee on Violence against Women and Men (Ministry of Social Affairs) and the Committee on Violence against Women (Ministry of Health)⁷;
 - e. Repealing or amending laws in the *Penal Code* which establish crimes against women as lesser offences than crimes against men, including article 375 of the *Penal Code*, which provides for a lesser punishment for murder or assault if the crime was motivated by “honor”⁸;
 - f. Amending the *Penal Code* to incorporate international crimes as articulated in the *Rome Statute*.

Accountability

3. The Government of Libya must work to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence. Accordingly:
 - a. All allegations of gender-based violence must be investigated and prosecuted in accordance with international law standards⁹;
 - b. Any post-conflict amnesty must conform to Libya’s obligations under international law to hold accountable perpetrators of serious crimes, including gender-based violence¹⁰;
 - c. Persons found to have committed violations of international human rights law or international humanitarian law should be excluded from positions in any security, military, prison or judicial institutions¹¹;
 - d. All evidence of gender-based violence must be preserved in order to facilitate domestic investigations and prosecutions; and
 - e. All evidence of international crimes in Libya, including gender-based violence, must be preserved in order to facilitate the work of the International Criminal Court¹².

Survivors

⁶ A Revolution for All, Human Rights Watch, May 27, 2013 at 7. <<http://www.hrw.org/reports/2013/05/27/revolution-all-0> > [Revolution for All]

⁷ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

⁸ Revolution for All, *supra* note 6 at 7.

⁹ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 14.

¹⁰ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 127 p; Witness to War Crimes: Evidence from Misrata, Libya, Physicians for Human Rights Libya, at 37. <https://s3.amazonaws.com/PHR_Reports/Libya-WitnessToWarCrimes-Aug2011.pdf> [Physicians for Human Rights]

¹¹ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 127 q; Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

¹² Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 10 at 37.

4. The Government of Libya must work to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-victimize survivors by taking the following actions:
 - a. Implement the Action Plan to Combat Sexual Violence, which includes creating psychological support and rehabilitation centres for survivors, implementing awareness programs targeted at educating the public about sexual violence, and creating mechanisms for reparations and redress¹³;
 - b. Establish programs to provide specialized training for the handling of sexual violence cases for all officials and service providers who may come into contact with survivors of gender-based violence, including judicial, police, military and prison officials, as well as teachers, social workers and medical providers¹⁴;
 - c. Recruit and train female investigators, and encourage and support the establishment of civil society organizations to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence¹⁵; and
 - d. Ensure robust public education and information about resources available for survivors of sexual violence¹⁶.

To Non-Governmental Organizations in Libya

5. Non-governmental and civil society organizations in Libya providing services to survivors of sexual violence should ensure that all medical, psycho-social and legal support is confidential¹⁷, culturally sensitive¹⁸, non-discriminatory¹⁹, accessible²⁰, and protects the safety and security of survivors²¹.

To the United Nations and other International Governmental Organizations

Prevention

6. The United Nations and its agencies, as well as international government organizations such as the Arab League and the African Union, are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring that there are social and legal mechanisms in place to prevent gender-based violence, including:
 - a. Ensuring that conflict-related gender-based sexual violence is considered in the development of any transitional justice strategy for Libya²²;

¹³ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

¹⁴ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at paras 127 j and 127 t.

¹⁵ *Ibid.* at para 127 j.

¹⁶ *Ibid.* at para 127 k.

¹⁷ Managing Gender Based Violence Programmes in Emergencies, E-learning Companion Guide UNFPA at 29 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts). [UN Guide]

¹⁸ *Ibid.* at 76 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts).

¹⁹ *Ibid.* at 30 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts).

²⁰ *Ibid.* at 79 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts).

²¹ *Ibid.* at 29 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts).

²² Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

- b. Ensuring that conflict-related gender-based violence is addressed in the context of security sector reforms²³; and
- c. Ensuring that training on conflict-related gender-based violence is part of any capacity-building measure for Libya's national security forces²⁴.

Accountability

7. The United Nations and its agencies, as well as international government organizations such as the Arab League and the African Union, are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring accountability for of gender-based violence, including:
 - a. Working with the Libyan government to develop capacity-strengthening programs for Libya's domestic criminal justice system (with particular attention to training judges, lawyers, law enforcement agents and corrections staff on gender-based violence), and coordinate the support of the international community for such programs²⁵;
 - b. Providing dedicated expertise to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to undertake monitoring and reporting on gender-based violence²⁶, and to ensure that evidence of gender-based violence is preserved for future prosecutions at both the domestic and international level; and
 - c. Cooperating with the International Criminal Court and facilitate the arrest of indicted Libyan leaders and officials²⁷.
8. The International Criminal Court should continue to investigate allegations of conflict-related sexual violence in Libya, and to coordinate with the Libyan government, civil society groups, and other organizations working in Libya to collect necessary information and evidence.²⁸ The Court should also work to ensure that the process of collecting evidence does not unnecessarily retraumatize survivors of violence.

Survivors

9. The United Nations and its agencies, as well as international government organizations such as the Arab League and the African Union, are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-victimize survivors. Accordingly, they should work closely with government and civil society organizations to:
 - a. Provide capacity building assistance to establish support services for survivors of gender-based violence;
 - b. Assist in providing specialized training to Libyan officials and service providers for the handling of sexual violence cases, and to ensure that all personnel working on

²³ *Ibid.*

²⁴ *Ibid.*

²⁵ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at paras 129 c, 131 b; Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

²⁶ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

²⁷ Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 11 at 36, 40.

²⁸ *Ibid.* at 38.

- behalf of international government organizations are also adequately trained to be aware of gender-based violence and how to appropriately interact with survivors²⁹;
- c. Ensure that any humanitarian aid effort authorized via the Security Council is transparent and equitable³⁰, and that any future Security Council action regarding Libya takes into the account and interests of victims of human rights abuses, including survivors of sexual violence³¹; and
 - d. Facilitate communication between organizations and associations from neighboring countries who have had experience with conflict-based sexual violence with civil society organizations in Libya to assist in developing strategies and best practices.

To the Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union

Prevention

10. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring that there are social and legal mechanisms in place to prevent gender-based violence, including:
 - a. Allocating funding specifically for programs and services aimed at providing
 - i. public education and information about sexual violence; and
 - ii. specialized training for medical and social service providers and the security sector.

Accountability

11. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence, including:
 - a. Providing funding and capacity building assistance to the Libyan government to develop capacity-strengthening programs for Libya's domestic criminal justice system, with particular attention to training judges, lawyers, law enforcement agents and corrections staff on gender-based violence³²; and
 - b. Cooperating with the International Criminal Court and facilitate the arrest of indicted Libyan leaders and officials³³.

Survivors

12. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to assist the Libyan government in ensuring that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-

²⁹ Special Representative, *supra* note 3 at 13.

³⁰ Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 11 at 39.

³¹ *Ibid.*

³² Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 131 b.

³³ Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 11 at 36.

victimize survivors, such as by providing funding assistance to establish support services for survivors of gender-based violence, including medical and psycho-social services³⁴.

13. Further, the Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to take immediate steps to release funds of the Libyan government to enable implementation of these recommendations³⁵.

³⁴ *Ibid.*

³⁵ Commission on Libya, *supra* note 1 at para 131 a.

RECOMMENDATIONS CONCERNING SYRIA

To the Government of Syria

Prevention

1. The Government of Syria must work to stem the use of gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict by:
 - a. Abiding by the law of armed conflict and ensuring appropriate training on rules of engagement in military and security operations³⁶;
 - b. Granting the international community immediate access to areas in need of humanitarian assistance³⁷;
 - c. Providing immediate and unhindered access and cooperation to independent observers, journalists, and human rights monitors, including the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights; the UN Human Rights Council Commission of Inquiry on Syria; and the UN Special Rapporteur on Syria^{38 39}.

2. The Government of Syria must work to prevent gender-based violence in prisons and detention facilities by:
 - a. Ending all torture or ill-treatment of detainees⁴⁰;
 - b. Ending enforced disappearances and arbitrary arrests and detention⁴¹;
 - c. Ensuring that any information obtained as the result of torture or ill-treatment is deemed inadmissible as evidence in judicial proceedings;
 - d. Ensuring that minors are housed separately from adults, and that detention conditions for child detainees comply with the relevant international standards for detention and treatment of minors;
 - e. Publishing a list of all detention facilities and ensuring that conditions of detention meet international standards⁴²; and
 - f. Granting the United Nations and the ICRC access to visit prisons, detention facilities and hospitals⁴³.

Accountability

³⁶ Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, HRC, 21st Sess, UN Doc A/HRC/21/50 (2012) at para 153 (c).

<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/HRCouncil/RegularSession/Session19/A-HRC-19-69_en.pdf>. [Commission on Syria]

³⁷ *Ibid.* at para 153(d).

³⁸ We have never seen such horror: Crimes Against Humanity by Syrian Security Forces, Human Rights Watch, June 2011 at 51. <<http://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/reports/syria0611webwcover.pdf>> [Syrian Security Forces]; Torture Archipelago, Human Rights Watch, July 3, 2012 at 3. [Torture Archipelago] <<http://www.hrw.org/node/108415/section/3>> [Torture Archipelago]

³⁹ Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁴¹ *Ibid.*

⁴² Commission on Syria, *supra* note 36 at para 153(b).

⁴³ Syrian Security Forces, *supra* note 38 at 51; Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

3. The Government of Syria must work to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence. Accordingly:
 - a. All allegations of gender-based violence must be investigated and prosecuted in accordance with international law standards;
 - b. Members of the security forces alleged to have committed human rights abuses must be suspended from service, pending investigation⁴⁴;
 - c. Laws which immunize members of the security forces from prosecution by requiring a decree from the General Command of the Army and Armed Forces before charges can be laid (ie, Legislative Decree No. 14 and Legislative Decree 69) must be repealed⁴⁵;
 - d. All evidence of international crimes in Syria, including gender-based violence, should be preserved in order to facilitate the work of the International Criminal Court.

Survivors

4. The Government of Syria must work to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-victimize survivors by taking the following actions:
 - a. Establish programs to provide specialized training for the handling of sexual violence cases for all officials and service providers who may come into contact with survivors of gender-based violence, including judicial, police, military and prison officials, as well as teachers, social workers and medical providers;
 - b. Recruit and train female investigators, and encourage and support the establishment of civil society organizations to provide support to survivors of gender-based violence; and
 - c. Ensure robust public education and information about resources available for survivors of sexual violence.

To Armed Opposition Groups

Prevention and Accountability

5. All parties to the conflict are called upon to adopt, publicly announce and abide by the standards set out by international humanitarian law and international human rights law. Violations of the law of war or international human rights norms must be investigated and perpetrators held to account.⁴⁶
6. Humanitarian institutions must be granted access to detainees in accordance with international humanitarian law, and information concerning detainees must be provided to

⁴⁴ Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁴⁶ Commission on Syria, *supra* note 36 at para 154(a).

the relevant human rights institutions to ensure that they are not subject to mistreatment and abuse.⁴⁷

To Non-Governmental Organizations in Syria

7. Non-governmental and civil society organizations in Syria providing services to survivors of sexual violence should ensure that all medical, psycho-social and legal support is confidential, culturally sensitive, non-discriminatory, accessible, and protects the safety and security of survivors.

To the United Nations and other International Governmental Organizations

Prevention and Accountability

United Nations

8. The United Nations Security Council is called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict and to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
 - a. Demand that Syria grant international detention monitors access to all detention facilities in accordance with the requirements of international humanitarian law⁴⁸ ;
 - b. Demand that Syria grant immediate and unrestricted access to the UN Human Rights' Council Commission of Inquiry, the UN Supervision Mission in Syria, the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to investigate human rights violations, and to cooperate with these investigations⁴⁹;
 - c. Demand that Syria grant immediate access to humanitarian missions, non-governmental human rights organizations seeking to provide humanitarian assistance and foreign journalists⁵⁰;
 - d. Require states to suspend all military sales and military assistance to the Syrian government, given the risk that such weapons and technology will be used to further human rights violations⁵¹;
 - e. Adopt targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for human rights abuses in Syria⁵²;
 - f. Recognize that widespread and systematic violations of Syria's obligations under international law may amount to crimes against humanity, and refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for further investigation⁵³; and
 - g. Request that the UN Secretary-General provide regular reports on the situation in Syria, including updates on compliance with any statements or resolutions adopted by the Security Council ⁵⁴.

⁴⁷ *Ibid.* at para 154(b).

⁴⁸ Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

⁴⁹ *Ibid.*; Syrian Security Forces, *supra* note 38 at 52.

⁵⁰ Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

⁵¹ *Ibid.*

⁵² Syrian Security Forces, *supra* note 38 at 52.

⁵³ *Ibid.* at 52; Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

9. The United Nations Secretary-General is called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict and to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
 - h. Provide regular reports on the situation in Syria to the UN Security Council, including updates on compliance with any statements or resolutions adopted by the Council, and to urge the Council to take appropriate action as required⁵⁵; and
 - i. Continue to call attention to human rights violations in Syria, including the prevalence of gender-based violence, and to utilize access to Syrian authorities to assist in bringing an end to ongoing rights violations⁵⁶.
10. The United Nations Human Rights Council is called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict and to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
 - j. Monitor and report on the implementation of the recommendations set out by UN bodies relating to human rights violations and gender-based violence in the course of the Syrian conflict, including those resulting from the investigation into human rights abuses in Syria mandated by the Human Rights Council on April 29, 2011⁵⁷.
11. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict and to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
 - k. Prioritize prevention of gender-based violence as a key protection concern⁵⁸;
 - l. Ensure that refugee camps meet minimum standards for preventing gender-based violence⁵⁹;
 - m. Ensure that women and girls in refugee camps are provided with sufficient food, supplies and economic support to reduce resort to exploitative jobs, survival sex work, and early marriages⁶⁰; and
 - n. Consult with the international community to create mechanisms for identifying and protecting particularly vulnerable refugees, including prioritizing them for potential resettlement⁶¹.

The Arab League

12. The Arab League is called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict and to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:

⁵⁴ Syrian Security Forces, *supra* note 38 at 52.

⁵⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶ *Ibid.*

⁵⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸ "Syria: A Regional Crisis," International Rescue Committee, January 2013 at 19, 20.

<<http://www.rescue.org/sites/default/files/resource-file/IRCReportMidEast20130114.pdf>> [IRC]

⁵⁹ *Ibid.* at 20.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.* Note that the specific problem of early marriages is identified in "Jordan Early Marriage: a Coping Mechanism," IRIN humanitarian news and analysis, July 19, 2012.

<<http://www.irinnews.org/Report/95902/JORDAN-Early-marriage-a-coping-mechanism-for-Syrian-refugees>>

⁶¹ IRC, *supra* note 58 at 18.

- a. Maintain and strengthen targeted sanctions against individuals responsible for human rights abuses in Syria⁶²;
- b. Continue to advocate for a strong United Nations supervised mission⁶³; and
- c. Call on the United Nations Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for further investigation⁶⁴.

Survivors

13. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees is called upon to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-victimize survivors. Accordingly, the UNHCR should:
 - a. Lead a profiling exercise to identify capacity and gaps in existing services and local service providers in host countries, and to work with donors to address any identified shortfalls⁶⁵;
 - b. Ensure adequate provision of support services in refugee camps for survivors of gender-based violence, including medical and psycho-social services⁶⁶;
 - c. Ensure adequate and appropriate staffing in refugee camps for interviewing and examining survivors of gender-based violence⁶⁷; and
 - d. Ensure that all personnel at refugee camps who may come into contact with survivors of sexual violence are adequately trained to be aware of gender-based violence and how to appropriately interact with survivors⁶⁸.
14. The International Criminal Court should investigate allegations of conflict-related sexual violence in Syria, and to coordinate with organizations working in and around Syria to collect necessary information and evidence. The Court should also work to ensure that the process of collecting evidence does not unnecessarily retraumatize survivors of violence.

To International Non-Governmental Organizations

Survivors

15. International non-governmental organizations working with displaced Syrians are called upon to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery. Accordingly, organizations should support over-extended host communities by providing capacity building assistance, helping strengthen existing

⁶² They Burned My Heart, Human Rights Watch, May 3, 2012 at 10. <www.hrw.org/node/106869/section/10>

⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶⁵ IRC, *supra* note 58 at 20.

⁶⁶ This recommendation is based on problem identified in Syria: sexual assault in detention, Human Rights Watch, June 15, 2012. <<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/06/15/syria-sexual-assault-detention>>

⁶⁷ UN Guide *supra* note 17 at 76 (general recommendation for Gender Based Violence in Humanitarian Contexts).

⁶⁸ IRC, *supra* note 58 at 20.

infrastructure and partnering with local authorities, businesses and civil society organizations.⁶⁹

To Syria's Regional Neighbours

16. Syria's regional neighbours are called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict by taking the following actions:
- a. Offer safe refuge to those fleeing the conflict in Syria⁷⁰;
 - b. Cooperate with the UNCHR and humanitarian aid organizations to ensure that aid reaches individuals fleeing the conflict in Syria⁷¹; and
 - c. Adhere to the principles of international protection of refugees and *non-refoulement* as required by international law⁷².

To the Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union

Prevention

17. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to help stem gender-based violence in the ongoing conflict by taking the following actions:
- a. Allocate funding specifically for programs and services aimed at providing
 - i. increased humanitarian assistance to displaced persons in countries surrounding Syria and increased humanitarian assistance within Syria, should the security situation permit⁷³;
 - ii. increased support for the UNHCR and its work in and around Syria⁷⁴; and
 - iii. specialized training for medical and social service providers and the security sector.
 - b. Ensure that national immigration schemes conform with obligations under the *Refugee Convention*, such that Syrians seeking international protection receive timely and fair examinations of their refugee claims and Syrians fleeing the conflict are not forcibly returned to Syria⁷⁵; and
 - c. Consider extending temporary protection for all Syrians, granting them temporary residence permits and the right to work until it is safe to return to Syria⁷⁶.

Accountability

⁶⁹ *Ibid* at 19.

⁷⁰ Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 11 at 38 (recommendation originally intended for Libya).

⁷¹ *Ibid.* (recommendation originally intended for Libya).

⁷² EU: Provide Protection for Syrian Refugees, Human Rights Watch, December 23, 2012.

<http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/12/23/eu-provide-protection-syrian-refugees> [Refugee Protection]

⁷³ Physicians for Human Rights, *supra* note 11 at 36 (recommendation originally intended for Libya and as a recommendation for the United States).

⁷⁴ *Ibid.* at 39 (recommendation originally intended for Libya).

⁷⁵ Refugee Protection, *supra* note 72.

⁷⁶ *Ibid.*

18. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
- a. Send experts on gender-based violence to assist in gathering evidence of human rights violations and to provide training for local organizations to do the same⁷⁷;
 - b. Investigate and prosecute Syrian officials suspected of committing international crimes, under the principle of universal jurisdiction; and
 - c. Call on the United Nations Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for further investigation.

Survivors

19. The Governments of Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union are called upon to ensure that survivors of gender-based violence receive appropriate supports for rehabilitation and recovery, and that any measures undertaken to ensure accountability for perpetrators does not serve to further re-victimize survivors by taking the following actions:
- a. Provide funding assistance to organizations and UN agencies working with individuals fleeing the conflict in Syria to establish support services for survivors of gender-based violence, including medical and psycho-social services.

To All Countries

Accountability

20. All countries are called upon to ensure there is accountability for perpetrators of gender-based violence by taking the following actions:
- a. Investigate and prosecute Syrian officials suspected of committing international crimes, under the principle of universal jurisdiction ⁷⁸; and
 - b. Call on the United Nations Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court for further investigation ⁷⁹.

⁷⁷ Note this recommendation is based on the UK's recent initiative.UK to deploy rape investigation squad to war zones, The Guardian, May 29 2012. <<http://www.guardian.co.uk/law/2012/may/29/uk-rape-investigation-squad-war>>

⁷⁸ Torture Archipelago, *supra* note 38 at 3.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*