

## CARE International Media Briefing



### Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict 10-13 June 2014, London

#### About the Summit

The [Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) on 10-13 June 2014 at ExCeL Conference Centre, London will be the largest-ever gathering on this subject. UK Foreign Minister William Hague will co-chair the summit with Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

All the governments that have endorsed the [UN Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) have been invited, together with legal, military and judicial practitioners and representatives from multilateral organisations, NGOs and civil society.

#### Goals of the Summit

- To improve the investigation and documentation of sexual violence in conflict
- To provide greater support, assistance and reparation for survivors of sexual violence
- To ensure responses to sexual and gender-based violence and the promotion of gender equality are fully integrated in all peace and security efforts, including security and justice sector reform
- To improve international strategic co-ordination.

#### CARE International's position on the Summit

CARE International welcomes the convening of a Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. We acknowledge that justice for survivors has been woefully inadequate, and recognise the important focus on impunity and the launch of a new protocol to document and prosecute sexual violence.

However, to truly meet the scale and ambition of this Summit, which seeks to end sexual violence in conflict, we believe that a more comprehensive approach must be adopted: one that also tackles entrenched gender inequality in times of peace as well as war. We are therefore calling on states, multilateral agencies and NGOs to:

***Scale up innovative programmes to engage men and boys on gender equality and gender-based violence (GBV) prevention in conflict-affected countries. Men and boys are both perpetrators and survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. They can also be allies and champions in preventing it. More countries should follow the example of Bosnia, Croatia, Kosovo and Serbia by integrating teaching on gender equality and ending violence into their national education curricula.***

Download our full policy position paper [here](#).

### CARE's work on engaging men and boys in the Balkans

In the Balkans, we have worked with young men to address the culture of violence that has remained since the war. CARE has collaborated with schools to introduce a social norms lifestyle campaign that utilises social media, drama and sport activities, as well as hold workshops on gender roles, violence and sex, encouraging adolescent boys in the Balkans region to ask "What does it mean to be a man?" [Studies have shown that it works](#), with significant shifts in misogynistic attitudes that for years were once considered the norm.

Governments in the Balkans have recognised that this approach can really make a difference with Croatia already adding compulsory teaching onto their school curriculum, and work under way in Serbia, Kosovo and Bosnia-Herzegovina to accredit the programme for all secondary schools.

### CARE's call for teaching on gender equality and ending violence against women to be added to all national curricula

With the support of Laura Bates, founder of the [Everyday Sexism Project](#), CARE is calling for governments worldwide to follow the example of the Balkans and include teaching on gender equality and ending violence against women in their national curricula.

Ahead of the Summit, we have launched a [petition](#) hosted on [www.change.org](http://www.change.org) that calls for schools around the world to teach young people about sexual consent and respectful relationships by putting it on national education curricula and so give it the crucial recognition it deserves.

The Everyday Sexism Project is active in 18 countries including the UK, USA, Canada, Australia, France, Germany and the Netherlands.

### CARE at the Summit

We are hosting two events at the Summit about our work on engaging men and boys. Media are welcome to attend these events and we can arrange interviews with panellists before or after these events.

#### When the soldiers come home

Panel event, Wednesday 11 June, 15:00–16:30, ExCeL Conference Centre, London

Laura Bates, founder of the Everyday Sexism Project, will ask experts from the UK, Rwanda and the Balkans what happens when the trauma of war moves from the front line to the family, exploring how to work with men and boys to combat the cycle of violence when war ends.

Panellists include:

- **Laura Bates**, campaigner, author and founder of Everyday Sexism Project (Chair)
- **Dr Walter Busuttil**, Medical Director & Consultant Psychiatrist at [Combat Stress](#), the UK's leading mental health charity for combat veterans
- **Edouard Munyamaliza**, Executive Secretary, [Rwanda Men's Resource Centre](#) (CARE partners in Rwanda) and a commissioner on Rwanda's National Unity and Reconciliation Committee
- **Sasa Ostojic**, Young Men Initiative team leader, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and [member](#) of the UN Secretary General's Network of Men Leaders working to end violence against women.

## Tackling root causes of violence against women: Engaging men and boys

Roundtable event, Wednesday 11 June, 13:00-14:30, ExCel Conference Centre, London

Panellists will discuss what more donors, governments and non-governmental organisations can do to engage men and boys in preventing sexual and gender-based violence.

Panellists include:

- **Catherine Russell**, US Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues (Welcome)
- **Sofia Sprechman**, Director of Programmes, CARE International, and author of a new report on tackling gender-based violence (Chair)
- **Dr Gary Barker**, International Director of Promundo-DC, the US office of Brazilian NGO [Instituto Promundo](#) which works internationally to promote gender equity and to reduce violence against children, women and youth
- **Innocent Zahinda**, Leader of the [UN Team of Experts on Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- **John Crownover**, Young Men Initiative Programme Advisor, CARE Balkans, and Co-Chair of the Engaging Men and Boys Working Group, CARE
- **Stephenie Foster**, Senior Advisor at the Office of Global Women's Issues, US Department of State.

For more information on our Summit events and on the panellists click [here](#).

## CARE spokespeople at the Summit

In addition to the above panellists, the following CARE spokespeople are also available for interview at the Summit:

- Alice Allan, Global Head of Advocacy, CARE International, and advisor to William Hague on the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative Steering Group
- John Plastow, Chief Executive, CARE International UK
- Yawo Douvon, Country Director, CARE Democratic Republic of Congo.

## What our spokespeople will be saying

1. We welcome William Hague's attempt to tackle violence in war but his focus on ending impunity is too narrow.
2. We will not end warzone rape and sexual violence unless we tackle the root causes of the violence. This means working with men and boys to confront the everyday inequality facing women.
3. We call on ministers attending the Summit to use this moment as a time to galvanise action on changing global attitudes to women.
4. Sign our [petition](#) that calls for schools around the world to teach young people about sexual consent and respectful relationships by putting it on the national curriculum and so give it the crucial recognition it deserves.

## CARE press office contacts

For more information about the Summit and CARE's work on sexual violence in conflict, and to arrange interviews with any of the above, contact:

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## More information about CARE's work on sexual violence in conflict

### Conflict-related sexual violence

Sexual violence is widespread across the world and happens during, before and after conflict. CARE uses the term Conflict-Related Sexual Violence as it describes the on-going violence made possible by conflict, rather than concentrating solely on sexual violence during a period of war. Women can be particularly vulnerable after war when they are displaced, living in camps.

In eastern **Democratic Republic of Congo** (DRC) it is estimated that an average of 40 women are raped daily as a weapon of war.<sup>1</sup> In northern **Uganda**, a third of all women have experienced sexual violence.<sup>2</sup> In some parts of **Somalia** where there is relative peace, high levels of sexual violence persist, with women in internally displaced persons (IDP) camps particularly vulnerable, having lost their clan protection.<sup>3</sup>

Historically, more than 250,000 **Rwandan** women were raped during the genocide of 1994.<sup>4</sup> Up to 50,000 women were raped during war in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** in the 1990s.<sup>5</sup> And, in terms of current conflict, sexual violence has been reported in **Syria, Afghanistan and South Sudan**.<sup>6</sup>

### Examples of CARE's programmes tackling sexual violence and working with men and boys to prevent violence against women

#### **In Rwanda, CARE works with the Rwanda Men's Resource Centre:**

[Rwanda Men's Resource Centre](#) (RWAMREC) was founded in October 2006 by nine men with experience in gender and human rights. It was created in an effort to engage men and boys in the

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_war\\_peace/facts\\_figures.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/facts_figures.html)

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.equalitynow.org/take\\_action/adolescent\\_girls\\_action461](http://www.equalitynow.org/take_action/adolescent_girls_action461)

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.unocha.org/somalia/coordination/clusters/protection/gbv-working-group>

<sup>4</sup> [http://www.unifem.org/gender\\_issues/women\\_war\\_peace/facts\\_figures.html](http://www.unifem.org/gender_issues/women_war_peace/facts_figures.html)

<sup>5</sup> M. Olujic, V. Nikolic-Ristanovic, cited in Ward, [If Not Now, When? Addressing Gender-based Violence in Refugee, Internally Displaced, and Post-Conflict Settings. A Global Overview](#), RHRC Consortium, 2002.

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.guardian.co.uk/global-development/2013/jan/14/syrian-women-girls-sexual-violence>;  
<http://www.afghanwomennetwork.af/Gender%20based%20Violence%20in%20Afghanistan.pdf>

fight against gender-based violence, following reports of rape and other violations of women's and children's rights in Rwanda.

RWAMREC believes that men must be engaged to influence or prevent their peers from committing violence. They promote the idea of bringing all men on board in the fight against sexual violence by creating forums for men and women to discuss issues that contribute to gender-based violence such as alcoholism, gambling, domestic violence and polygamy. The approach uses personal stories of change to help men in the community work towards a non-violent and more equal relationship with women.

RWAMREC lobbies parliamentarians and policy makers to implement policies that tackle the root causes of gender inequality. It also tries to stop the cycle of violence from reaching the next generation, by operating outreach programmes in colleges and schools to teach young men how to challenge their attitudes on violence.

### **CARE's work with men and boys in the Balkans**

A culture of violence has remained in the Balkans since the war, affecting the development of young men and women. CARE has pioneered an approach that shows men and boys can be allies and champions for change. This work with young men has helped change attitudes and behaviour – and could stop the cycle of violence from spreading to the next generation.

CARE found that after taking part in the Young Men Initiative:

- boys had more equitable attitudes towards women
- boys were less likely to think violence was acceptable — both violence against women and as a general solution to their problems
- boys had more open ideas about what it meant to be a man.

Prejudices concerning 'typical women's work' and what it means to be a man are discussed and questioned in the workshops. Mislav Mandir, one of the participants, said he now no longer believed that "to be a real man, you have to fight". Uros Radulovic said: "I began to respect girls and women more, and also respect people's opinions, differences and diversity."

For more information on CARE's work on conflict-related sexual violence [click here](#).