



It's Time: Survivors Hearing on Reparations Kinshasa, 22-23-24 November 2021 Concept note

1 Aim of the event

The Conjugal Slavery in War (CSiW), the Global Survivors (GSF) and various grassroots organisations from 12 countries in Africa, in collaboration with the panel responsible for supporting the DRC during its presidency before the African Union (le Panel chargé d'accompagner la RDC à la présidence de l'Union Africaine), are organising the high-level event ***It's Time: Survivors Hearing on Reparations***. The Hearing will take place in Kinshasa, between 22 and 24 November 2021. The event aims to provide a platform for survivors of conflict related sexual violence to share their testimonies, views, perceptions and reflections around reparations, participation, and co-creation of reparations. The hearing will also provide a platform for survivors, activists, experts, and other relevant stakeholders to engage with one another on these issues, and to draft the ***Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights of Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence to Participate and Co-Create Gender Based Reparations***.

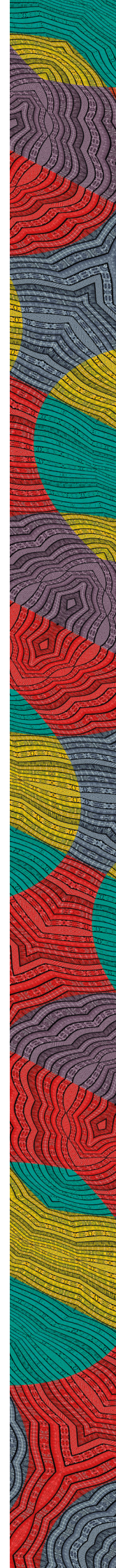
The event will bring together survivors from Sierra Leone, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, the Democratic Republic of Congo, the Central African Republic, Rwanda, Mali, South Sudan, Guinea, Chad and Kenya.

2 Issues and questions to be considered

Notwithstanding the increased attention to the need to have a survivors-centred approach as well as provide transformative reparations to survivors, and the progress made in terms of research and policy development, several questions require further analysis and elaboration:

- *What are the needs and expectations of the survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and reparative justice?*
- *How do these expectations relate to international and national laws?*
- *What does a genuine survivors-centric and gender sensitive approach look like?*
- *What does survivors' participation in the design, implementation and monitoring of reparations entail?*
- *How can co-creation of reparations with survivors take place?*
- *What kinds of measures and modalities are preferred by the survivors and how do we implement them?*
- *What are survivors' expectations regarding the implementation of reparations?*
- *What are the responsibilities of the duty bearers (states and international community) regarding developing and implementing gendered sensitive and survivors-centric reparations programmes?*
- *What is the role of the civil society and survivor advocacy groups?*
- *Are there different meanings of reparations and how does this diversity impact survivors' and community organizations' expectations?*
- *What is the role of the international community and how can it encourage compliance with requirements of international law and survivors-centric approach for the purpose of addressing the survivors needs and rights? How do reparations relate to transitional justice and transformation mechanisms?*

To answer these and other related questions, CSiW and the Global Survivors Fund, together with grassroots organisations from different countries in Africa, are organizing the hearing in Kinshasa.



3 Background

This event was initiated by the CSiW, together with 6 grassroots organisation in Africa, including Solidarité féminine pour la paix et le développement intégral (SOFEPADI) in DRC, Women's Forum Sierra Leone (WFSL), Solidarité pour l'Épanouissement des Veuves et des Orphelins visant le Travail et l'Auto-promotion (SEVOTA) in Rwanda, Aiding Disadvantaged Women and Girls Association (ADWANGA) in Liberia, Development Research and Project Centre (dRPC) in Nigeria, and Refugee Law Project (RLP) in Uganda. Many of these organizations were involved in the development of the Nairobi Declaration on Women's and Girls' Right to a Remedy and Reparation (2007) for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in situations of conflict. This consortium of organisations invited the Global Survivors Fund to support and co-organise the event. The expected synergies between the CSiW and the GSF permitted to increase the number of countries covered by including the Central African Republic, Guinea, South Sudan, Mali, Chad, and Kenya. It also permitted both partners to further work on survivors' participation and co-creation of transformative reparations.

4 Why a Hearing?

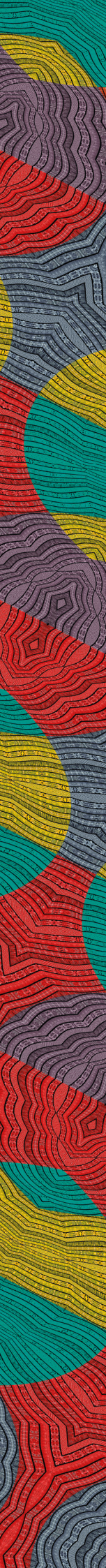
One of the advantages of a Survivors Hearing is the ability to create a more complete record of reparation needs than is possible in international criminal trials. While this hearing draws on the research and the partnership work of CSiW, the Survivors Hearing brings a new angle by looking at transformative reparations and conflict-related sexual violence. More practically, by bringing survivors together to look at how gender intersects with other forms of violence that can amount to different experiences of risks, harm and perceptions on adequate repair, the hearing will shed light on how best to craft reparations with a gender sensitive approach, and whether and how such reparations could have a transformative dimension.

As a knowledge mobilization project, it will share knowledge of the full range of, and forms of reparation needs for women, men, and children affected by conflict-related sexual violence in post-conflict situations in Africa. It will also share knowledge about different measures and their differential impact on survivors as a result of their socio-economic and political context and the harms they have suffered and are suffering. This Hearing will expand networks of survivors/researchers/stakeholders/ knowledge holders and share and compare knowledge and experiences of reparations among victims' groups, civil society, and policymakers worldwide.

This Hearing creates the potential for further partnered research opportunities, including the creation of an advisory network on transformative reparations.

The Global Survivors Fund is currently undertaking a multi-country study on the needs and opportunities for reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) in about 20 countries, including DRC, CAR, Liberia, Nigeria, Uganda, South Sudan, Sudan, Mali, and Libya. The purpose of the study has been to facilitate an advocacy tool and process that sets out the scope and scale of conflict-related sexual violence, survivors' perceptions about the substance and delivery of reparations and political opportunities for reparations and recommendations on the ways forward.

The initial findings of this study and Country briefings prepared by the GSF will be used as a resource of information/starting point for discussions during the Hearing. The objectives and the outcomes of the Survivors Hearing are aligned with the Global Survivors Fund 2021- 2023 Strategic Plan. According to its Strategic Plan, the Fund will fulfil its mission to enhance access to reparations and other forms of redress for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence by acting to deliver interim reparations, advocating for duty bearers to accept their responsibilities to implement reparations and guiding states and civil society in developing survivors-centric and effective/transformative reparations programmes. The Survivors Hearing will enable the fund to advance on three pillars of its Strategic Plan: Act, Advocate and Guide.



5 Key outcomes of the hearing

Joint efforts will be used to draft the ***Kinshasa Declaration on the Rights of Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence to Participate and Co-Created Gender Based Reparations***, which will be the result of all the work carried out with survivors pre- during and post- the Hearing, particularly through focus group discussions, by all partners involved in the project, experts, CSOs, and other relevant stakeholders attending the hearing. The Declaration aims to fill an existing gap in practice on how to fulfil the right that survivors have, to participate in the design, implementation, and monitoring of reparations in a form that ensures co-creation and effective participation. An advocacy strategy will be co-created with survivors to ensure that Declaration is taken up by all relevant actors working on reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. The hearing's conversations will contribute toward the creation of an advocacy network comprised of survivors, civil society organizations and experts.

