



ALLIANCE FOR DIRECT ACTION AGAINST RAPE IN CONFLICTS AND CRISES

"Look at me. I lost my dignity, I lost my possessions, I lost my marriage and I lost my womanhood. Do you understand what I am going through? I lost all that I ever owned and worked for." - Raped Liberian Woman

Sexual violence is a brutal crime. It affects millions - mostly women and children - in war and disaster zones around the world. The vast majority of rape survivors - caught up in conflicts and crises - receive **little or no sustained help** because conventional programmes have limited coverage or are difficult to access by those in desperate need.

Most raped women in most circumstances of armed conflict or crises have no means to get heard, and **no access to justice**. Where legal remedy and protection are theoretically possible, the rule-of-law system can work perversely to add insult to injury. There is **widespread impunity**. Prevalent attitudes range from denial of the magnitude of the problem, to disbelief, blame transference, or downright resignation and even cynicism.

There is increasing global awareness of the problem. But words must turn into focused action, and much more must be done to extend the range of endeavours against sexual violence. A particular feature is the limited involvement of men as leaders, advocates, and activists: **men's involvement is crucial**.

Thus, the *Alliance's* mission is straightforward:

We bring practical help to women suffering from or threatened by sexual violence in conflicts and crises, and, thereby, we seek to prevent such further violence.

We do this with **direct targeted action**. We believe the best way to protect the vulnerable and deter future sexual violence is to start with practical help to women directly touched by actual or threatened sexual violence. We seek to:

- **Rebuild** broken lives
- **Redress** wrongs and bring personal safety
- **Report** reality
- **Reduce** future sexual violence, especially through mobilising Men.

Rebuild broken lives AllianceDARC helps raped women to recover their physical health, re-establish emotional and mental equilibrium, repair social links, reduce stigma and restore self-confidence - so as to face the future with dignity and self-respect. The *Alliance* supports local partners in expanding tailor-made healthcare, psychosocial and livelihood support - so that survivors and their dependents/families receive easy "user-friendly" help. Practical help will include targeted healthcare including reproductive health and HIV prophylaxis; psychological and peer group support; and imparting skills and economic assistance to make a new living.

Redress wrongs and bring personal safety AllianceDARC helps to re-establish access to personal justice for raped women and foster personal safety for women at serious risk of sexual violence.

- ❖ Our local partners are encouraged to develop mechanisms for identifying, investigating and seeking legal action in rape cases with the aim that *all reported cases are registered and followed up in some way (with the informed consent of those affected), so to*



promote a culture of "**zero tolerance**". Where the rule-of-law machinery is systematically failing or obstructing justice, specific detailed analysis will be made publicly available so as to motivate improvements.

- ❖ We seek to mobilise volunteers (mostly from within the country - but may include international volunteers too) to live in the community alongside women-at-risk, to provide practical witness and **protection-through-presence**.

Report reality AllianceDARC will independently ascertain and disseminate specific facts, figures and analyses to focus attention on situation-specific causes and precise response and prevention measures. A new-style sexual violence reporting system will collate data from various sources and, as coverage improves, provide a population-based picture of the prevalence and determinants of sexual violence. This will examine sexual violence in relation to *setting, context, perpetrators, vulnerabilities, risks and outcomes*. It will have certain predictive value and enable a focus on vulnerabilities in parallel with an understanding of the intent of perpetrators. **It will permit early recognition of trends and thus be useful as a protection and prevention tool.**

Reduce sexual violence, especially through mobilising Men AllianceDARC will mobilise and motivate men to play an active role in the campaign against sexual violence. Through a community and media-based approach to reach men in conflict affected countries where rape is a particular feature of prevalent conflict, the campaign will be tailored to specific cultural and social circumstances, drawing on insights from local partners and the reporting system described above. An intended consequence is to encourage a culture shift in prevalent norms and to create a supportive climate for the efforts of local partners of the *Alliance*. The campaign will also involve the active support of men in countries where *Alliance* members are receiving support.

HOW DOES AllianceDARC FUNCTION?

The Alliance was initiated in 2006 at the inspiration of Dr Mukesh Kapila, formerly at the United Nations and with the UK Government Department for International Development (DFID). His experiences in Sudan, Afghanistan, Sierra Leone and elsewhere motivated this call for more direct and concerted action.

The Alliance welcomes individual and institutional members. Collaborators include the Aegis Trust, Africa Humanitarian Action (AHA), the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre), the Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the International Centre for Migration and Health (ICMH), the International Organization for Migration (IOM), Solidarité Féminine pour la Paix et le Développement Intégral (SOFEPADI), and World Vision International (WVI). Support is also coming from members of the public in many countries, as well as from international organisations, private sector and government donors. Major initial funders include the Government of Sweden, Pfizer Inc. and the Pears Foundation.

The AllianceDARC has a small office in Geneva where it is registering as a charitable association. It will also be registered in the UK and USA. It has minimal staffing to maximise resources for practical action in the field.

For more information please see www.alliancedarc.org or contact the Alliance Coordinator, Nichole McGarry at nichole@alliancedarc.org +41 79 830 4223 or at AllianceDARC, IOM - 1.103, 17 route des Morillons 1211 Geneva 19, Switzerland.



SUPPORTING AllianceDARC

If you would like to help or join AllianceDARC, please complete the support form or send the information requested there, by email to: membership@alliancedarc.org

Individual Membership: The standard annual membership subscription for individuals is US\$100, and those who can afford to do so, are encouraged to contribute more. The membership subscription can be reduced or waived for low income members who are otherwise contributing to the work of the *Alliance*.

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP

I would like to support the *Alliance for Direct Action against Rape in Conflicts and Crises*. My contact details are as below.

Name:

Email:

Contact Number:

Address:

PLEASE SELECT:

- I would like to join as a member and wish to contribute a membership subscription ofcovering years, and an additional contribution of..... (Total :.....).***
PLEASE INDICATE CURRENCY IN WHICH YOU CAN CONTRIBUTE. BUT DO NOT SEND MONEY. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED WITH THE APPROPRIATE PAYMENT MODALITIES.
- I would like to join as a member but I am unable to make a financial contribution at this moment. I MAY/ MAY NOT (please delete as appropriate) be able to do so in the future.***
- In addition, I can also help the Alliance in the following way:***

For more information, please contact: Nichole McGarry, Alliance Coordinator:

nichole@alliancedarc.org +41 79 830 4223

INSTITUTIONAL MEMBERSHIP - NGOs, civil society groups, corporate bodies, clubs, associations and other entities who wish to join the *Alliance* as institutional members are invited to write to the Coordinator requesting membership, outlining the work that is done by their organization, and indicating potential areas of co-operation and financial or other support.