

War, Conflicts, and HIV

1. Vocabulary Building

conflict	争い	isolated	孤立
torture	拷問	refugees	難民
ethnic cleansing	難民浄化	survive	切り抜けて生き残る
target	標的	trafficking	売買(麻薬などの)
impregnated	妊娠された	prostitution	売春



2. Reading



Violence against women, especially rape, has been widespread in recent wars. From conflicts in Bosnia and Herzegovina to Peru to Rwanda, girls and women have been raped, put in prison, or tortured.

Rape is often used as a weapon of war in 'ethnic cleansing'. More than 20,000 Muslim girls and women were raped in Bosnia after fighting began in April 1992. Teenage girls have been a particular target in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia, according to The State of the World's Children 1996 report. The report also says that impregnated girls have been forced to give birth to 'the enemy's' child.

Violence affects women of all ages. For example, in some attacks in Rwanda, almost every teenage girl who survived an attack by the military was later raped. Many of those who became pregnant were thrown out by their families and communities. Some left their babies behind; others committed suicide.



In addition to rape, girls and women are also forced into prostitution and trafficking during times of war. Sometimes top officials in the government and military know it is happening, and this makes it difficult to stop. During World War II, women were taken from their families, put in prison and forced to satisfy the sexual needs of occupying soldiers. Many Asian women were also involved in prostitution during the Vietnam War. The also continues in today's conflicts.

In a conflict area, families are often not able to stay together. This makes women and girls especially at risk of violence. Nearly 80 percent of the 53 million people who have to leave their homes because of war today are women and children. When fathers, husbands, brothers and sons are taken away to fight, they leave women, the very young and the elderly to take care of themselves. These people often have to go to camps to find food and shelter.

Another problem is sexual violence in these camps. The number of rapes was reported to be very high at camps for Somali refugees in Kenya in 1993. The camps were in isolated areas, and hundreds of women were raped in night attacks or while looking for firewood.

Finally, sexual violence against women and girls means there is a high risk of infection with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including HIV/AIDS. There are several reasons why it is easier for women and girls to catch diseases during war time: as refugees, they move from place to place, there are soldiers traveling over wide areas, and there is a lack of health services and public education. These are also reasons why it is more difficult to treat the diseases.

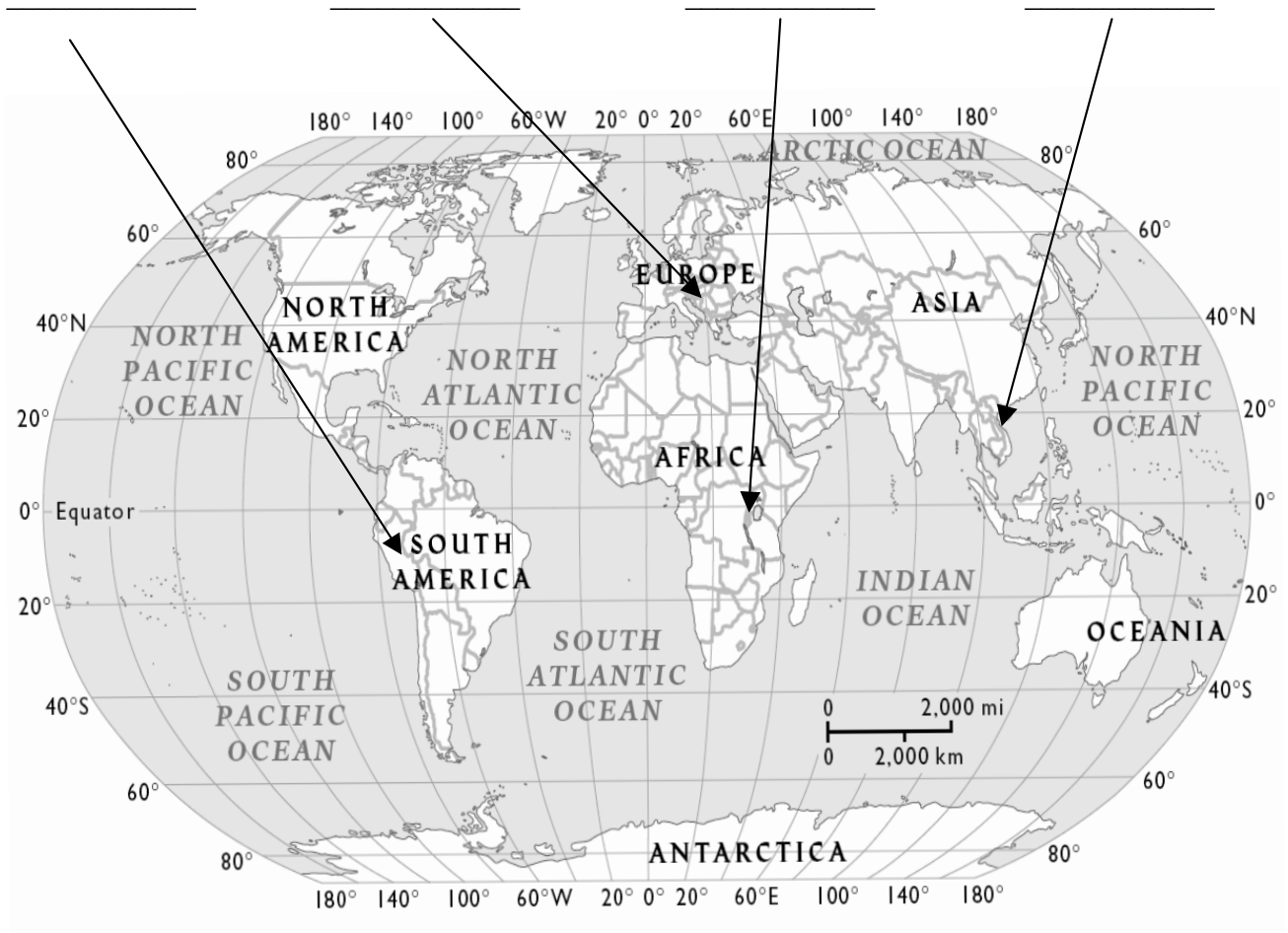
Adapted and abridged from: <http://www.unicef.org/sowc96pk/sexviol.htm>

War, Conflicts, and HIV

3. Reading Comprehension Questions

1. What might happen to women who are caught in wars? (circle all that are true)
 - a. They might receive an education
 - b. They might be separated from their families
 - c. They might be forced to work as prostitutes
 - d. They might be raped
 - e. They might get good medical care
2. How many girls were reported to have been raped in the fighting in Bosnia? _____
3. What sometimes happens when women give birth to “the enemy’s” child? _____
4. Why is it hard to stop forced prostitution during war time? _____
5. What percent of today’s refugees are women and children? _____
6. Name three reasons why it is easier for women and girls to become infected with diseases during war time:
 - a. _____
 - b. _____
 - c. _____
7. On the map below, label the places mentioned in the article.

Rwanda Peru Bosnia Vietnam



4. Act Out the Scene - Hotel Rwanda

“Hotel Rwanda” trailer from http://www.rottentomatoes.com/m/hotel_rwanda/trailers.php

Paul: My name is Paul Rusesabagina. I am the house manager of the most luxurious hotel in the capital of Rwanda. A place that my family and I happily called our home. Until the day everything changed.



Daughter: Daddy...

Son: There are soldiers on the streets.

Voice: They're killing everyone.

Voice: It's a massacre.

Paul: The United Nations are here now.

UN Peace Keeper: We're here as peace keepers, not as peace makers.

Guard: We've got trouble at the gate.

Paul: This is a four-star hotel, not a refugee camp. I have no means to protect these people.



Narrator: When a country descended into madness...

Doctor: They're killing Tutsi children to wipe out the next generation.

Narrator: And the world turned its back...

Paul: How can they not intervene? Hundreds of thousands are dying.

Reporter: If people see this, Paul, they'll say, Oh, my God, that's horrible, and then go on eating their dinners.

Narrator: One man had to make a choice...

Paul: All of the whites are leaving, even the UN soldiers.

UN Peace Keeper: All the superspowers, everything you believe in, Paul. They're not going to stop this slaughter.

Paul: We have been abandoned. There will be no rescue. We can only save ourselves.

Woman: We can't give up.



Narrator: United Artists presents the true story of a man who fought impossible odds...



Paul: I cannot leave these people to die.

Son: Papa!

Narrator: To save everyone he could...

Paul: They say you led the massacres.

Soldier: You will tell them the truth.

Paul: I will tell them nothing unless you help me.

Narrator: And created a place...

Paul: Go inside the hotel.

Narrator: Where hope survived...

Tatyana: You're a good man, Paul.

Paul: We need to help one another. That is the only thing that is keeping us alive.

Narrator: HOTEL RWANDA.

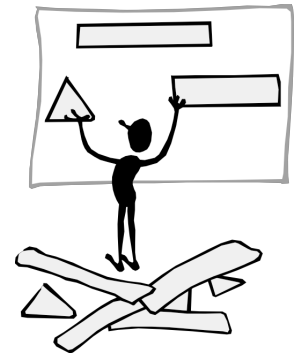


5. Putting it Together

What have you learned in this unit?

Discuss the following questions with a partner or in small groups.

1. How is war related to the spread of AIDS?
2. Why are women especially vulnerable?
3. In your opinion, when crimes such as rape happen during war time, what should the following groups do:
 - a. The United Nations
 - b. Humanitarian organizations (for example, Doctors Without Borders and UNICEF)
 - c. World leaders
 - d. The international community (you and me)
4. YOUR QUESTION:



6. Additional Reading

Reasons for Conflicts: Looking at Congo

It starts with a hospital room full of women who have been gang-raped and then shot in the vagina. I am standing in a room in the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, the only hospital that is trying to deal with the bushfire of sexual violence in Eastern Congo. Most have wrapped themselves deep in their blankets so I can only see their eyes, staring blankly at me. Dr Denis Mukwege is speaking. “Around ten percent of the gang-rape victims have had this happen to them,” he says softly, his big hands tucked into his white coat. “We are trying to reconstruct their vaginas, their anuses, their intestines. It is a long process.”

“We suddenly had so many women coming in with post-rape lesions and injuries I could never have imagined. Our minds just couldn’t take in what these women had suffered.” The competing armies had discovered that rape was an efficient weapon in this war. Even in this small province, South Kivu, the UN estimates 45,000 women were raped last year alone. “It destroys the morale of the men to rape their women. Crippling their women cripples their society,” he explains, shaking his head gently. There were so many militias around that Dr Mukwege had to keep his treatments secret – the women were terrified of being kidnapped again and killed.

In Congo there is a place called Kalehe. Here is where men, women and children – lots of children – dig with their hands in the ground, looking for coltan. Coltan is a metal that is used in your mobile phone, lap-top computer, or Playstation – and 80 percent of the world’s supplies are located in the Democratic Republic of Congo.

Militias, not the government, control these mines. They also control diamond and other mineral mines. They capture local people, hold them at gunpoint, and force them to work in the mines. The militias then sell the minerals to many British, American and Belgian companies.

The country will pay people to join the Congolese National Army, but only \$5 a month. If they join one of the militia groups that control a gold mine or a diamond mine or a cassiterite mine or a coltan mine, they can get \$60 a month. As long as we in the outside world are still buying these minerals, the conditions in Congo will not improve.

Excerpt adapted and abridged from

Congo's tragedy: the war the world forgot by Johann Hari

05/18/06 "The Independent" http://www.friendsofthecongo.org/pdf/congo_tragedy_indep_may_06.pdf

and “**The War The World Ignores**”: **A Look at War-Devastated Congo & The Country’s First Multi-Party Elections in 45 Years**

07/08/06 <http://www.democracynow.org/article.pl?sid=06/08/07/1436229#transcript>