

Gender-Based Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict Areas: Iran, Afghanistan conflicts as a case on point

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The term "gender-based violence" (GBV) refers to an issue that affects public health on a worldwide scale and violates human rights. According to the expansive definition of United Nations GBV, this refers to any violent act that is committed based on socially assigned gender disparities. There is a high incidence of GBV amongst war-affected people, however, this type of violence is not unique to these populations. GBV is also linked to varying degrees of vulnerability caused by conflict and displacement. Threats of violence and injury to family members, child recruitment, and to a lesser extent, rape and forced abortion, were all committed by armed actors in conflict contexts. Abductions, rapes, and even certain cases of trafficking were recorded more often in the context of displacement, with the perpetrators typically remaining anonymous. Reproductive control, as well as physical and sexual violence within the families and intimate partnerships, were prominent in many contexts and may have been made worse by war and migration. Both survivors and service providers reported difficulties in disclosing trauma and accessing support.

Afghanistan is plagued by violence, region-specific symptoms. Women are abused. Afghan culture, traditions, attitudes, and practices create so much violence against Afghan women and girls. Afghan women cannot challenge gender conventions. Recent armed conflict has devastated Afghan populations, particularly women. Acute violence spreads anarchy and criminality. A culture of impunity, partially caused by decades of conflict and indifference to a justice strategy that would allow for a transition from and closure of major human rights offences, underlies all these sorts of violence.

There are endless abuses against women in Iran also. Under the Islamic Republic, domestic violence against women spreads to society. In the first year of marriage, 53% of Iranian women are abused by their husbands or in-laws. Killing of Mahsa Amini by the morality police of Iran is another illustration of the Islamic Republic's social, legal, and economic assault against women. The Islamic Republic's constitution guarantees equality, yet the state nevertheless discriminates against women. Islamic law allows discrimination in four of the women's provisions of constitution. Women are not protected by the constitution or civil status law.

In order to understand the settings of war and displacement, as well as the dynamics associated with GBV, I would like to carry out a qualitative study. A variety of acts of violence, including different forms of physical, psychological, economic, and sexual abuse, acts of exploitation or coercion, as well as destructive behaviours that have been passed down through the generations. This is a part of a larger, multi-phase study that is being conducted in conjunction with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to create a screening tool that can identify the cases of GBV in a confidential manner with the purpose of referral amongst internally displaced women who have survived GBV.