



**COUNCIL OF
THE EUROPEAN UNION**

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**Javier SOLANA,
EU High Representative for the CFSP,
welcomes the EU's increased commitment to supporting women in armed
conflict and to promoting the role of women in peace and security**

Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP), issued the following statement welcoming the adoption by the Council today of new commitments stepping up the EU's efforts to tackle sexual violence in armed conflict and to ensure the full and equal participation of women in the promotion of peace and security in all the EU's external policies:

"I am delighted that the EU has today adopted new commitments that make women's rights and the fight against sexual violence as a tactic of war a priority throughout the EU's external relations policies and actions.

Today's conflicts affect civilian populations in particular. Women have become strategic targets, sometimes on a massive scale, as when rape becomes a tool of war and ethnic cleansing. Violence against women as a weapon of war can terrorize and destroy entire communities. This is made worse when cases go unpunished.

Women are not only victims of war. They should also play an active role in making and keeping the peace. Based on the commitments taken today, through our crisis management operations and missions, the European Union is well placed to play a leadership role in this field."

Background

Building on existing policy commitments, the Council of the EU today adopted a series of documents on combating violence against women and all forms of discrimination against women and on implementing UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820.

[UNSCR 1325 \(of 31 October 2000\)](#) addresses the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and sets out a series of new principles stressing the importance of women's equal and full participation in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict reconstruction. [UNSCR 1820 \(of 19 June 2008\)](#) on sexual violence in conflict explicitly links sexual violence as a tactic of war with the maintenance of international peace and security.

FOR FURTHER DETAILS:

Spokesperson of the Secretary General, High Representative for CFSP

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