

# GBV AoR HELPDESK

## Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

### Annotated bibliography of resources and texts relating to caring for children born of rape

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#### Introduction

This annotated bibliography provides an overview of resources relating to children born of rape, by building on a previous GBV AoR Helpdesk [resource list on caring for children born of rape](#) (2018) - and accompanying [drop box](#) repository of documents, which sought to identify examples of strategies, practical tools, etc. related to caring for children born out of rape. This bibliography compiles an updated list of resources given the literature on this subject has expanded since the previous publication. This report is structured according to resource type with sub-focus on country specific resources and evidence where these were identified.

A considerable portion of the literature and evidence related to caring for children born of rape is combined or integrated with information about the experiences of children's mothers as survivors of rape/sexual violence, recognizing that in childhood the challenges these children face are also tied to those of their mother. Where the focus is solely on children several texts draw on children's experiences and support needed only from the mother's perspectives. However, there is also increasing literature and research focused solely on the children's experiences, the challenges they face and the support they require provided from their own perspectives.

Although the literature on this topic has expanded in recent years, this continues to be a relatively limited area of research and evidence. This increases the importance of these existing resources for GBViE practitioners and policymakers and should encourage the development of further work in this area, as well as the development of tools to strengthen GBViE and broader humanitarian response to this population group. Further, integrating tailored support mechanisms into existing programming and policies in humanitarian settings continues to be necessary to meet the under-served needs of children born of rape.

#### Articles

**Di Eugenio, A.R. & Baines, E. (2021). 'Our Place Under the Sun': Survivor-centred approaches to children born of wartime sexual violence. *Human Rights Review*. Volume 22, 327–347.**

<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-021-00631-3>

['Our Place Under the Sun' Survivor-Centred Approaches to Children Born of Wartime Sexual Violence](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/354016096)

This article explores the reasons for children 'born of war's experience of social stigma, discrimination and exclusion impacting their life chances and opportunities, and why they are overlooked by global policy frameworks. The article argues that the type of harm these children experience makes their status as a group elusive and proposes a survivor-

centered approach drawing on the lived experiences of these children. The approach outlined recognizes the agency of children and draws attention to their expressed desire to contribute to, and participate in, processes of social reconstruction and reconciliation. The article also discusses the specific experiences of children born of war time sexual violence in Rwanda, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Northern Uganda, including reflections from the perspectives of the children themselves.

**Uwizeye, G. et al. (2021). Children born of genocidal rape: What do we know about their experiences and needs? *Public Health Nursing*. Volume 39. (Issue 1), 350-359.**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/phn.13023>

This integrative review of peer-reviewed articles published through to 2020 reporting on studies among individuals born of genocidal rape in Rwanda and former Yugoslavia identifies 4 recurring themes. These include birth origin stories associated with the crime of the father; fractured sense of belonging to the victim-mother, perpetrator-father, families and communities; intergenerational legacies of trauma and family identity; and strategies to move forward including knowing the truth about one's origin, mental health, and peer support. The article proposes that understanding increased risk of adverse health outcomes of youth born of genocidal rape could inform the design of evidence-based interventions for these and similar populations.

**van Ee, E. & Kleber, R. J. (2013). Growing up under a shadow: Key issues in research on and treatment of children born of rape. *Child Abuse Review*, Volume 22. (Issue 6), 386-397.**

<https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1002/car.2270>

<https://tinyurl.com/5n92fjry>

This article, based on an analysis of the status of children born of rape across medical and psychological research articles, historical, sociological and human rights literature, identifies mental health risk factors and key issues for future research and treatment for children born of wartime rape. The authors identify 3 key areas to guide research and clinical practice: the perception of children born of rape as secondary survivors of rape; the reality of multiple perpetrators; and the opposing rights and interests of children and their mothers, all of which entail extensive approaches to be developed to support both children and their mothers.

## *Rwanda*

**Denov, M., & Khan, S. (2019). 'They should see us as a symbol of reconciliation': youth born of genocidal rape in Rwanda and the implications for transitional justice. *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, Volume 11, 151-170.**

<https://academic.oup.com/jhrp/article-abstract/11/1/151/5481203?redirectedFrom=fulltext>

This paper discusses the findings of research conducted with 60 participants born of genocidal rape in Rwanda, giving voice to their experiences and perspectives. The paper describes how the findings highlight the complex realities of victimhood, social stigma and identity faced by these children and how these have important implications for transitional justice initiatives in Rwanda and addressing conflict-related sexual violence more broadly. The authors argue for the urgent need for inclusion of this population of youth as part of wider initiatives addressing conflict-related sexual violence and transitional justice in the aftermath of war and genocide.

**Hogwood, J., Mushashi, C., Jones, S., & Auerbach, C. (2018). "I learned who I am": Young people born from genocide rape in Rwanda and their experiences of disclosure. *Journal of Adolescent Research*, Volume 33.(Issue 5), 549-570.**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0743558417713302>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317548230\\_I\\_Learned\\_Who\\_I\\_Am\\_Young\\_People\\_Born\\_From\\_Genocide\\_Rape\\_in\\_Rwanda\\_and\\_Their\\_Experiences\\_of\\_Disclosure](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/317548230_I_Learned_Who_I_Am_Young_People_Born_From_Genocide_Rape_in_Rwanda_and_Their_Experiences_of_Disclosure)

This study outlines the experiences of a group of young people born of rape during the 1994 Rwandan genocide in having their birth histories disclosed and how this affected their sense of identity. Through interviews with 10 young people this research defines 3 thematic areas which begin to describe the complexities of learning about a new identity that resolves uncertainties but brings challenges, the process of reconstructing a positive identity, and reworking family relationships in light of a new identity. 8 sub-themes are also identified providing further detail to these young people's experiences under these themes. The paper makes recommendations based on these experiences for how these young

people and their families can be better supported.

**Kahn, S. & Denov, M. (2019). "We are children like others": Pathways to mental health and healing for children born of genocidal rape in Rwanda. *Transcultural Psychiatry*, Volume 56. (Issue 3), 510–528.**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1363461519825683>

This article, based on analysis of seven focus groups and 60 in-depth interviews with children, now young adults, born of genocidal rape in Rwanda, examines the psychological consequences of this violence for children born of rape. The findings of the study indicate that these young adults carry both their own stigmatization and marginalization as well as intergenerational trauma, all of which the authors see as symbolic of the unresolved collective trauma in Rwandan society. The findings are categorized into 5 thematic areas: 1. Absorbing and coping with hate, shame, and stigma, 2. Absorbing and managing manifestations of maternal trauma, 3. Discovering diverse pathways to self-acceptance, 4. Longing for recognition and justice, 5. Transforming the narrative, transforming society. The paper places a specific focus on the voices and perspectives of the children themselves in identifying 3 main pathways towards healing; intrapersonal, interpersonal, and social - all of which are described as interconnected. The article also highlights how individualistic, Eurocentric, therapeutic interventions to support the healing of children born of genocidal rape in Rwanda need to be replaced with survivor-driven opportunities for cultivating self-acceptance, and maternal and social acceptance. It argues that these need to be culturally embedded, alongside providing formal recognition, opportunities for meaningful connections to peers, and for these young people to contribute to Rwandan society.

## Uganda

**Baines, E. & Oliveira, C. (2020). Securing the future: Transformative justice and children 'born of war'. *Social & Legal Studies*. Volume 30. (Issue 3). 341-361**

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/0964663920946430>

[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343497614\\_Securing\\_the\\_Future\\_Transformative\\_Justice\\_and\\_Children\\_'Born\\_of\\_War'](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/343497614_Securing_the_Future_Transformative_Justice_and_Children_'Born_of_War')

This article examines the work of the Women's Advocacy Network (WAN), a community-based organization in post-conflict northern Uganda composed of survivors of forced marriage and motherhood which collectively seeks justice for their children in a process locally referred to as child tracing. The article describes how this approach brings together differently affected survivor groups to help identify the paternal relatives of their children, mediate conflict and transform fractious relationships to secure a future for their children. The research draws on 10 years of collaboration between the first author, WAN and The Justice and Reconciliation Project (JRP) another community organization based in Northern-Uganda and highlights in detail the four constituent elements of the child tracing approach; the collective search for and first contact with paternal clan relatives; conflict mediation between relatives; reparation and strengthening of relationships through ritual action; and negotiating the terms of the affected parties' relationship to the child moving forward. Case study examples are included, with the authors detailing how through this process children who once divided communities drive a collective shift towards justice.

**Denov, M. & Lakor, A. A. (2017). When war is better than peace: The post-conflict realities of children born of wartime rape in Northern Uganda". *Child Abuse & Neglect*. Volume 65. 255– 265.**

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0145213417300546>

Based on participatory research conducted with 60 children born of wartime rape and into captivity by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) in northern Uganda, this paper provides an understanding of the long-term reintegration experiences of these children and their perspectives and views on life post-conflict. Exploring the multiple challenges that these children face in the post-war period, the research describes how these children individually and collectively articulated their peacetime experiences of post war marginalization, violence and stigma as being worse than the profound violence and deprivation they experienced while in LRA captivity. The paper gives direct voice to the participants experiences and provides recommendations from children themselves on the elements of programming and policies that they see as priorities for future support to children born of rape in captivity.

## Books

**Lee, S. (2017). *Children born of war in the twentieth century* (1st ed.). Manchester University Press.**

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctvnb7q59>

This book examines how 'children born of war', including but not limited to children born of conflict related sexual violence, have been integrated into post conflict societies, with the use of participatory research methods to give children born of war (CBOW) voice and agency. It identifies significant differences in academic and advocacy attention to the challenges faced by survivors of conflict related gender-based violence and their children. Chapter 3 details the experiences of children born under occupation in various contexts during the Second World War, including those born through violent conception, and the brutal experiences of policies towards these children, bringing in their voices as adults. Chapter 5 examines the specific impacts on the life courses of children born as a result of the systematic rape campaigns in the Bosnian war, as well as exploring the application of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) for these children and how it contrasts significantly to the rights of their mothers and families. Chapter 6 explores the experiences of children conceived during the Rwandan genocide and the children born of forced marriage in Northern Uganda during the LRA war. An analysis of extensive fieldwork in Northern Uganda focuses on the ethnic undertones of the conflicts and the role of kinship in determining the integration of children born of conflict related sexual violence into these societies post-conflict, as well as exploring approaches to healing and their limitations for these children. Chapter 7 provides a case study exploring children fathered by members of peacekeeping forces through largely exploitive relationships. On the basis of these case studies the book examines challenges faced by both children and their mothers in post-conflict societies and provides a comparative analysis of these challenges over time and geographies, including shifts in the legal and political environments. The authors also highlight how many of these children across diverse contexts have shown significant resilience in spite of the many challenges they have faced.

## Country Focused Reports

### *Democratic Republic of Congo*

**UNICEF and Pole Institute. (2009). *Children born of sexual violence in conflict zones, DRC country study.***

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/d078edmc6g2147xdqndgr/AC59s5nQRkuz4hJ-81CGDhU?dl=0&e=1&preview=DRC+report+final+June+09.doc&rlkey=e425frsx00ciqjutetg3cdopy>

This report details the findings of a study carried out in partnership between UNICEF and the Pole Institute focused on the situation in eastern Congo, particularly North and South Kivu. Using a rights-based and participatory approach, 138 community members were interviewed in six sites, including 28 in-depth interviews conducted with mothers of children born of sexual violence, 7 focus group discussions and key-informant interviews with government, UN agencies, NGOs and community-based organizations. The study aims to improve understanding of program response to the needs of survivors and their children born of sexual violence to contribute to policy development, response and prevention strategies.

The findings of the study give an indication of the scope of prevalence of children born from sexual violence in eastern DRC and highlights problems that are specific to mothers and their children born of sexual violence, recognizing their needs are closely intertwined. These include issues of identity, psychosocial problems, stigmatization and social integration issues. The study also examined community perceptions of the situation of children born of sexual violence, as well as program responses in place to support children born of sexual violence, noting differences between integration into existing gender-based violence or child protection interventions versus targeted projects focused on the specific problems of these mothers and children. The report also provides recommendations for UNICEF DRC and partner organizations, UNICEF HQ and the Government of the DRC on how to support children born of rape and their mothers.

## Iraq

**Mahmood, S. S. (2016-2017). *Challenges of children born by ISIS rape in Iraq*. CERAH Working paper 49.**

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/d078edmc6g2147xdqndgr/AC59s5nQRkuz4hJ-81CGDhU?dl=0&e=1&preview=Challenges+of+Children+Born+by+ISIS+Rape+In+Iraq.pdf&rlkey=e425frsx00ciqjutetg3cdopy>

This paper examines the experience of survivors and their children born as a result of rape perpetrated by members of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), and how their exclusion from society has led to denial of their rights to education, health and economic security, and importantly citizenship. The author argues that the children born in Iraq as a result of rape by an ISIS (also known as Daesh) member share a common struggle despite the distinct experiences of their mothers as Yazidi women - and other ethnic groups - who were held captive and raped by Daesh, or as mainly Sunni women who gave birth as a result of rape through forced marriage to Daesh fighters; the second of which is likely higher in number despite less media coverage.

The paper identifies tribal governance as a significant factor in the Iraqi context which contributed to the mothers who gave birth as a result of rape abandoning their child(ren). It also explores how the Government of Iraq's reluctance (or delay) to highlight the issue of these children on the national agenda and foster policy solutions stems from fear of the detrimental impact on tribal and cultural norms. The author argues for the need for the government of Iraq to recognize the generation of stateless children as part of the post Daesh-crisis and reconciliation processes, and for the international community to apply pressure to expedite this.

## Nigeria

**UNICEF and International Alert. (2016.) *Bad blood: Perceptions of children born of conflict-related sexual violence and women and girls associated with Boko Haram in northeast Nigeria*.**

<https://www.international-alert.org/app/uploads/2021/08/Nigeria-Bad-Blood-EN-2016.pdf>

This report provides a summary of research carried out in Borno in northeast Nigeria by International Alert and UNICEF to understand the impact of communities' and authorities' perceptions of women, and their children born of rape by Boko Haram members, on safety, rehabilitation and reintegration opportunities. The report outlines the lack of services tailored to these women and their children in northeast Nigeria's camps and how existing services had not been sufficient to meet their needs. The report describes various programmatic approaches led by a government center for the rehabilitation of non-combatant children and women associated with Boko Haram, including for children born of Boko Haram. This program provided medical care, psycho-social support, counselling for post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), a 'de-radicalization' program, as well as education and livelihood programming, which facilitated community members accepting women and their children back into the community. The report also sets out numerous policy and programming recommendations to support women and their children born of rape, including ensuring reintegration and relocation plans support child protection.

## Evidence / Literature Review

**Butterby, K. & Butterby, V. (2022). *Children conceived in rape: A rapid evidence review for the Centre for Women's Justice*.**

[https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa98420f2e6b1ba0c874e42/t/62e3ac01535b560107b36d04/1659087874793/Children+conceived+in+rape\\_Rapid+evidence+review\\_Butterby\\_June+2022.pdf](https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5aa98420f2e6b1ba0c874e42/t/62e3ac01535b560107b36d04/1659087874793/Children+conceived+in+rape_Rapid+evidence+review_Butterby_June+2022.pdf)

This rapid evidence review commissioned by Durham University's Centre for Women's Justice includes a review of 93 articles related to children conceived of rape during periods of war, with a specific focus on literature that includes firsthand testimony of children themselves and reflections on the impact of birth origins upon their life course. It considers how the impacts on children who are conceived as a consequence of rape differ by the sex/gender of the child, as well as current legal provisions/frameworks concerning children conceived in rape and the legal, statutory or non-statutory support that is available for them.

**Rohwerder, B. (2019). *Reintegration of children born of wartime rape*. Institute of Development Studies.**

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d431080ed915d09d7280ce4/628\\_Reintegration\\_of\\_Children\\_Born\\_of\\_Warime\\_Rape.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d431080ed915d09d7280ce4/628_Reintegration_of_Children_Born_of_Warime_Rape.pdf) –

This rapid literature review explores some of the available evidence on the experiences of children born of wartime rape in several different countries (Bosnia, Rwanda, Uganda, and Iraq) and lessons learned from efforts to support and reintegrate them into communities. The literature explored notes that specific efforts to support and reintegrate children born of wartime rape have been scarce and the limited literature focused on the perspectives and voices of children born of wartime rape, noting their lack of inclusion in policy making as attributed to the perceived lack of data as these children are deemed a hidden population.

## Global Reports

**Global Survivors Fund. (2024). *Briefing on reparation for children born of conflict-related sexual violence: Exploring survivors' perspectives from the Global Reparations Study*.**

[https://www.globalsurvivorsfund.org/fileadmin/uploads/gsf/Documents/Resources/Policy\\_Briefs/Briefing\\_on\\_children\\_born\\_of\\_CRSV\\_web\\_Final.pdf](https://www.globalsurvivorsfund.org/fileadmin/uploads/gsf/Documents/Resources/Policy_Briefs/Briefing_on_children_born_of_CRSV_web_Final.pdf)

This briefing explores the perspectives of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence regarding the reparation needs of their children born of conflict related sexual violence. Drawing from the findings of a comprehensive Global Reparations Study (GRS), this briefing covers 16 countries with the primary focus of identifying overarching patterns, shared experiences, and distinctive challenges encountered by these children, as perceived by their mothers. The lack of direct input from children themselves is recognized as a limitation of the study, acknowledging that focusing mainly on the voices of mothers is not sufficient to fully grasp all the specific needs of children, and that much more needs to be done to give these children safe opportunities to share their voices and perspectives, so that they can receive support and participate in the design and implementation of reparation programs.

The briefing explores the experiences and challenges faced by mothers and their children born of conflict-related sexual violence including stigmatization, trauma and mental health issues; as well as the challenges specific to children, including physical health issues, increased vulnerability to neglect, violence, exploitation and abuse; and the impact of lack of legal identity. It outlines key considerations for providing reparations, including country examples of reparation programs, and priority areas of reparations identified by survivors such as to enable them to finance education, access physical and mental healthcare. According to the survivors who engaged, reparations related work should also include a component of awareness-raising with the objective of encouraging community acceptance and inclusion of children born of rape. Finally, it provides recommendations to governments, the international community and civil society organizations on reparations and other support for children born of conflict-related sexual violence.

**Neenan, J. (2017). *Closing the protection gap for children born of war: Addressing stigmatisation and the intergenerational impact of sexual violence in conflict*. LSE Centre for Women, Peace and Security.**

<https://www.lse.ac.uk/women-peace-security/assets/documents/2018/LSE-WPS-Children-Born-of-War.pdf>

This report is based on a nine month study encompassing desk-based research, an interdisciplinary workshop and fieldwork in Uganda and Colombia, building on the 2017 'Principles for Global Action: preventing and addressing stigma associated with conflict-related sexual violence'. It outlines the lack of systematic data collection on numbers and needs of children born of sexual violence, as well as the unique risks of stigmatization and discrimination they face, identifying structural gender discrimination as a common causal factor across contexts, particularly in patriarchal and patrilineal societies. It highlights the need for the protection risks of these children to be viewed through the joint lens of gender-based discrimination and children's rights, with false binaries between "women's rights" (for mothers "only") v "children's rights" (for children born of sexual violence "only") constructed by normative or policy frameworks missing the ongoing impact of gender discrimination on these children.

The author examines how the national level situations in Uganda and Colombia offer examples of the global picture of the issue and provides lessons learned from positive interventions encompassing economic empowerment of mothers,



psychosocial and health support, the critical importance of securing the right to education, transitional justice mechanisms including reparations, and stigma-reduction efforts - noting these require multi-level and multi-sectoral responses.

The report also outlines key stakeholder specific recommendations for action to close the protection gap for children born of rape for the United Nations, UN Human Rights Council, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, relevant treaty bodies, international and national courts, local and international NGOs, conflict-affected and post-conflict states and governments of Colombia, Uganda and the United Kingdom amongst others. The report's key recommendation is a detailed call for the UN to lead a comprehensive, gender-sensitive Global Study on children born of sexual violence in/link to conflict and women and girls who become pregnant through sexual violence linked to conflict.

**UN Security Council. (2022.) *Women and girls who become pregnant as a result of sexual violence in conflict and children born of sexual violence in conflict.* UN/S/2022/77**

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n22/234/37/pdf/n2223437.pdf>

This report focuses on the specific challenges and needs of women and girls who become pregnant as a result of conflict-related sexual violence, and children born of this violence. It outlines how the specific use of sexual violence as a tactic war and genocide, which came to the fore in the 1990s, has led children and their mothers to be perceived as affiliated with the parties to the conflict, provoking stigma, abuse, infanticide, abandonment or other grave violations. The report outlines relevant United Nations interventions, with a view to strengthening operational and programmatic approaches in support of children born of rape. It discusses evidence on prevalence of children born of conflict related sexual violence as well as obstacles to reporting<sup>1</sup>, and the lived experience of survivors and children born of rape living in protracted crises<sup>2</sup>.

The report details specific risks and harm faced by children born of conflict-related sexual violence, including country specific examples of stigmatization, violence and community rejection, and the impacts of intergenerational trauma including psychological trauma<sup>3</sup>. The report also details examples of discriminatory birth registration policies<sup>4</sup>, key priority actions for ensuring the rights of children born of rape, including some promising examples, and the challenges of reintegration processes<sup>5</sup>. It also includes country examples of justice and accountability mechanisms including reparations<sup>6</sup>, and signposts to model legislative provisions and guidance on the investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence, developed by the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which include specific provisions on children born of rape<sup>7</sup>.

The report finds that survivors and children born of conflict-related rape usually access services as part of programs that target broader conflict-affected populations, whilst recognizing that children born of conflict related rape may have specific needs requiring additional support to ensure their equitable access to services. Finally, it outlines lessons learned from existing evidence which point to the importance of funding immediate humanitarian relief in conflict-affected settings and sustaining that support over the medium to long term to better support children born of rape and their mothers. The report concludes with recommendations for the United Nations system and directed at the Security Council, Member States, donors, regional and intergovernmental organizations.

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<sup>1</sup> See page 3 of the report for the obstacles to reporting information.

<sup>2</sup> See page 4 of the report for the information relating to lived experience of children born of rape living in protracted crisis situations.

<sup>3</sup> See page 6 of the report for information relating to risks and harm faced by children born of conflict-related sexual violence, including country specific examples.

<sup>4</sup> See page 7 of the report for examples of discriminatory birth registration policies.

<sup>5</sup> See page 8 -9 of the report for key priority actions for ensuring the rights of children born of rape and the challenges of reintegration processes.

<sup>6</sup> See page 10 of the report for country examples of justice and accountability mechanisms

<sup>7</sup> See page 11 of the report for information on specific legislative provisions and guidance on children born of rape related to investigation and prosecution of conflict-related sexual violence.

## News and Magazine Articles

### Egypt

Farahat, M. (June 2017). *Children of rape of refugee women, and statelessness, in Egypt*. Forced Migration Review. FMR 55: Shelter in displacement.

<https://www.fmreview.org/shelter/farahat/>

This article documents the challenges and obstacles faced by women refugees or migrant women in Egypt in documenting the birth of children born from rape.

### Iraq

Loveluck, L, & Salim, M. (July 30, 2019). *Yazidi women raped as ISIS slaves face brutal homecoming choice: Give up their child or stay away*. Washington Post

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/yazidi-women-raped-as-isis-slaves-face-brutal-homecoming-choice-give-up-their-child-or-stay-away/2019/07/30/f753c1be-a490-11e9-b7b4-95e30869bd15\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/yazidi-women-raped-as-isis-slaves-face-brutal-homecoming-choice-give-up-their-child-or-stay-away/2019/07/30/f753c1be-a490-11e9-b7b4-95e30869bd15_story.html)

This article highlights the impact of community stigmatization on Yazidi women who gave birth to children as a result of rape by ISIS fighters, who are forced to either leave their community if they wish to keep their child or abandon the child to return to their community.

### Rwanda

Paquette, D. (June 11, 2017). *Rwanda children of rape coming of age*. Washington Post.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/world/2017/06/11/rwandas-children-of-rape-are-coming-of-age-against-the-odds/>

This article explores through interviews with three families the relationship between children conceived through rape during the Rwandan genocide and their mothers. Each of the stories uncovers the nuanced experiences of how these young adults found out the details of their birth, how this impacted their own sense of identity and how they have coped with this, situated alongside some of the more typical life experiences many young people have.

## Presentations

Reddy, D. (2024). *The intersecting stigmatisation and discrimination experienced by trafficked survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) and children born of war (CBOW) in Nigeria and Iraq*. SVRI Forum. Cape Town, South Africa.

[https://www.svriforum2024.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Dashakti\\_ReddyOct24.potx-131024.pdf](https://www.svriforum2024.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/Dashakti_ReddyOct24.potx-131024.pdf)

This presentation delivered at the Sexual Violence Research Initiative (SVRI) Forum in 2024 briefly presents the findings and recommendations for practice from a qualitative lived experience research study carried out in North-eastern Nigeria and North-western Iraq. The research focuses on understand the barriers and facilitators for reintegration of women and girls and their children born of conflict related sexual violence and how stigma impacts the availability, accessibility and acceptability of services and community measures for reintegration.

## Roundtables / event summaries

Global Survivors Fund. (2023). *Expert roundtable on children born of conflict-related sexual violence Breaking down barriers to accessing the rights to identity and nationality*. Outcome report.

[https://www.globalsurvivorsfund.org/fileadmin/uploads/gsf/Documents/Resources/Policy\\_Briefs/Outcome\\_report\\_roundtable\\_children\\_born\\_of\\_CRSV\\_March24\\_web.pdf](https://www.globalsurvivorsfund.org/fileadmin/uploads/gsf/Documents/Resources/Policy_Briefs/Outcome_report_roundtable_children_born_of_CRSV_March24_web.pdf)



This report details the outcomes of an expert roundtable hosted by Global Survivors Fund in June 2023, which gathered stakeholders from the humanitarian, transitional justice, child-protection sectors, including civil society representatives, victim-survivor activists, academics. The report includes actionable, comprehensive recommendations identified during the roundtable aimed at breaking down barriers for children born of conflict-related sexual violence to accessing the rights to identity and nationality, as well as providing reflections on challenges, good practices, and ongoing initiatives based on inputs from participants of the roundtable, desk research, and GSF's Global Reparations Study.

**United Nations Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. (2025). Remarks for CSW69 Side-Event: The Forgotten Victims: Addressing CRSV and Children Born of Wartime Rape.** <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/statement/remarks-for-csw69-side-event-the-forgotten-victims-addressing-crsv-and-children-born-of-wartime-rape-new-york-13-march-2025/>

This statement from the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict mentions specific provisions in the Office's *Model Legislative Provisions on the Investigation and Prosecution of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence* which provide for non-discrimination against children born as a result of sexual violence in all aspects of justice processes. It outlines the need for these children to have access to nationality and identity documents to protect them from further harm, and for them to have access to accountability including reparation from perpetrators; highlighting jurisprudence from the International Criminal Court in both the *Ntaganda* and *Ongwen* cases demonstrating that children born as a result of acts of sexual violence are direct victims entitled to reparation from their perpetrators. The statement also mentions how this has been echoed in domestic reparations programs in Bosnia and Ukraine.

## Methodology

Resources were identified through online desk-based research related to children born of rape. The search strategy used key words and phrases including 'children born' of rape, from rape, of sexual violence, of war, of conflict, of wartime rape, of/from wartime sexual violence, of/from conflict related sexual violence, as a result of rape, as a result of sexual violence, of/from genocidal rape, children of rape, children conceived of rape, children conceived of sexual violence. Searches also used terms related to response such as caring for, response, services, support, programs / programmes, policy, guidance, strategies. Only resources published in 2016 onwards were selected, except for one article published in 2013 and another from 2009. Searches were conducted on Google, Google Scholar, relevant journal libraries, as well as a search of the UNICEF online resource library. The author also mined the bibliography of key reports. Resources were also drawn from the GBV AoR Helpdesk's 2018 [resource list on caring for children born of rape](#) with the most relevant resources published from 2016 onwards included. Information relating to strategies, programs and initiatives providing support to children born of rape has been prioritized in the summaries of each resource.

## Limitations

The resources in this annotated bibliography are limited to English documents and only include publicly available online materials, with the exception of those included in the drop box from the 2018 resource list on caring for children born of rape. The search was also time limited, so this annotated bibliography does not claim to cover all available materials on the topic.

### **The GBV AoR Help Desk**

*The GBV AoR Helpdesk is a unique research and technical advice service which aims to inspire and support humanitarian actors to help prevent, mitigate and respond to violence against women and girls in emergencies. Managed by Social Development Direct, the GBV AoR Helpdesk is staffed by a global roster of senior Gender and GBV Experts who are on standby to help guide frontline humanitarian actors on GBV prevention, risk mitigation and response measures in line with international standards, guidelines and best practice. Views or opinions expressed in GBV AoR Helpdesk Products do not necessarily reflect those of all members of the GBV AoR, nor of all the experts of SDDirect's Helpdesk roster.*

### **The GBV AoR Helpdesk**

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*The Helpdesk is available 09.00 to  
17.30 GMT Monday to Friday.*

*Our services are free and confidential.*