A global initiative to make reparations accessible for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence
The Global Survivors Fund was launched in October 2019 by Dr Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates. Its mission is to enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe. The fund gathers stakeholders in an innovative, public-private partnership to support the right to reparations. It directly addresses a gap long identified by survivors.

The idea of a Global Survivors Fund (GSF) came from the SEMA network; a Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, whose members are represented in GSF’s Board and Technical Advisory Panel.

FOCUS ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) refers to incidents or patterns of sexual violence against women, men, girls, or boys occurring in a conflict or post-conflict setting, that have direct or indirect links with the conflict itself. For instance, CRSV can take the forms of rape, forced sterilisation or sexual enslavement. It causes a cascade of consequences, including permanent physical injuries, long-term trauma, stigmatisation and broken family ties, and socioeconomic exclusion.

REPARATIONS

Different forms of reparations exist under international law, such as restitution, compensation, satisfaction, rehabilitation, and guarantees of non-repetition. Reparations can be individual or collective, material or symbolic. The duty to provide reparations lies with the parties responsible for perpetrating or failing to prevent the sexual violence, such as states and non-state actors.

Although survivors urgently need compensation to rebuild their lives and an acknowledgment of the harm and of their suffering, the pathway to official state-awarded or judicial reparations often takes longer than a lifetime. While advocating for change, GSF supports civil society in providing interim reparative measures. Though not reparations in the formal sense, these measures have the potential to transform survivors’ lives, in dignity.
THE GLOBAL SURVIVORS FUND HAS THREE MAIN PILLARS OF WORK

**ACT**

GSF acts to provide interim reparative measures to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. It supports survivors and civil society organisations in designing community-based projects, which provide individual or collective reparative measures. These can take the form of financial compensation, livelihoods, coverage of education costs, medical bills and other needs as determined by survivors. Projects can also include symbolic measures such as commemoration initiatives.

**ADVOCATE**

GSF advocates that relevant stakeholders, in particular states as duty-bearers, but also the international community take their responsibility to design and implement national reparations programmes. Advocacy takes place both at the international and national level, including through support to civil society.

**GUIDE**

GSF provides expertise and technical support to states to develop and implement effective, gender-sensitive national reparations programmes, collecting and disseminating good practice in the field of reparations.

WHAT MAKES GSF UNIQUE?

GSF argues that survivors should always have access to reparations, even in situations where states are unwilling or unable to assume their responsibilities. GSF proposes a narrative of reparations based on accessibility and of closing the implementation gap.

GSF’s survivor-centric approach is the cornerstone of its work. Its proximity to survivors allows it to co-create reparations programmes with them, designed to meet their needs and expectations. As right-holders, survivors play a key, active role in defining, implementing, and evaluating GSF projects.

GSF’s close cooperation with civil society organisations and other stakeholders produce purposeful and tailored solutions that answer challenges faced.

Through its rigorous monitoring GSF learns, adapts and builds an evidence-base for a unique and effective model of reparations.
KEY FACTS

An innovative, bottom-up approach

3 projects currently running in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, and Iraq

Scoping for new projects with survivors from Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Guatemala, Libya, Mali, Nigeria and Syria

The first Global Reparations Study is to be published. It looks at the status and opportunities for reparations for victims of CRSV in over 20 countries

A solid network of partners including the Mukwege Foundation, the SEMA network, grassroots organisations around the world, the United Nations and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

A board composed of stakeholders from diverse backgrounds including government representatives, civil society and survivors

A diverse group of committed external technical advisors

JOIN US IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAKE REPARATIONS ACCESSIBLE TO SURVIVORS

Supporting GSF in providing interim reparative measures; in transforming the international policy agenda and furthering justice, will have a life-changing impact on individuals and communities.

DONORS

globalsurvivorsfund.org

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