

Gender in multidimensional peacekeeping operations: Sexual violence in conflict

Revolevna K.

Kazan Federal University, 420008, Kremlevskaya 18, Kazan, Russia

Abstract

© 2014, Mediterranean Center of Social and Educational Research. All rights reserved. Sexual violence, abuse and mass rapes became a method of warfare long ago. Women and children are the most vulnerable category of the population becoming victims of crimes of all parties to the armed conflict. In most cases, their security and protection is the task of UN peacekeeping missions and regional organizations in peacekeeping. However, the reverse side of the Peacekeeping Operations "medal" is commitment of acts of violence by the peacekeepers. This situation undermines credibility of the UN and evokes a negative attitude of the civilians to UN personnel and members of the military contingent of operation. This article describes the problem of commitment of sexual harassment and abuse by the peacekeepers, UN activities to resolve the situation, as well as issues regarding prevention, investigation and punishment for such crimes at the present stage.

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Keywords

Criminal jurisdiction, Gender training for peacekeepers, Peacekeeping forces, Responsibility of peacekeepers, Safety and protection of women and children, Sexual abuse, Sexual exploitation, Sexual harassment, The United Nations