

SOGC STATEMENT ON CONFLICT-RELATED SEXUAL VIOLENCE (CRSV)

In light of recent and ongoing global events, the SOGC expresses its strong condemnation of rape and gender-based sexual violence being used as a weapon of war. This abhorrent practice must stop.

In 2008, the United Nations Security Council [adopted Resolution 1820](#) to demand the “immediate and complete cessation” of all acts of sexual violence in conflict. Yet conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) is still being utilized as a weapon of war. The practice is widespread and has devastating consequences for the victims, survivors, their families, and communities, and it creates lasting harm over generations. It is a violation of our shared humanity.

The International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO) and the Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation [have called on healthcare professionals](#) across the world to support initiatives to [end the use of conflict-related sexual violence \(CRSV\)](#) as a weapon of war. In October 2023, the Society of Obstetricians and Gynecologists of Canada become a signatory to the [Red Line Initiative](#) to end CRSV. We call on all our partner organizations to join us in supporting this initiative.

Every year on November 25th, the world recognizes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. In Canada, we recognize the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence beginning on November 25th and ending on December 10th, Human Rights Day. In Canada, we also observe the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women every year on December 6th.

As a professional organization, the SOGC continues to advocate for women’s health issues in Canada while also working with our international and global colleagues. The SOGC is committed to advancing women’s health at home and around the world. The protection of women and girls from this terrible violence is an essential part of protecting their health.

References

[United Nations Security Council, Resolution 1820 \(2008\)](#)

[Dr. Denis Mukwege Foundation](#)

[Mukwege D, Conry JA. A call to action: Drawing a red line to end conflict-related sexual violence. Int J Gyne Obstet 2023.](#)

[The Red Line Initiative](#)

[Government of Canada. 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence](#)