

April 22, 2019

Dear Members of the UN Security Council:

We write on behalf of Global Doctors for Choice (GDC), an international network of physicians from a range of specialties committed to improving women's reproductive health and rights. GDC is committed to the provision of high-quality medical care grounded in science and to the defense of human rights. We have members in more than 30 countries, and they know first-hand the terrible consequences women suffer when they have no access to reproductive health services.

We write to support the inclusion of references to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and safe termination of pregnancy in the resolution emanating from the upcoming debate on sexual violence in conflict. We applaud the recommendations of the report from the UN secretary-general on conflict-related sexual violence, and its inclusion of strengthening services for the survivors of sexual violence by ensuring comprehensive sexual and reproductive care. With the widespread and systematic gang rapes of women and girls in Burma; institutionalized sexual slavery by ISIS in Syria and Iraq; and the rape of young girls in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, among other places, pregnancies become a devastating reality that accompanies these heinous crimes. It is, therefore, all the more urgent to ensure sexual and reproductive health services, including access to emergency contraception, safe termination of pregnancy and HIV prevention.

As doctors, our duty is to our patients. We are shocked by the insensitive attempts to eliminate or water down mention of services that are so vital. As a global network of physicians, we urge you to stand firm in the defense of women.

[The Board of Managers of Global Doctors for Choice](#)