

## Statement on the UN Security Council Resolution 2467

25 April 2019

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice welcomes the efforts of Germany during their Presidency of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to sponsor the first resolution addressing conflict related sexual violence since 2013.

Ahead of next year's 20th anniversary of landmark UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security which acknowledges the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the April 23rd UNSC Open Debate around the issue of sexual violence in conflict and the language put forward for what eventually became [Resolution 2467](#) (2019), was another encouraging advance in the effort to combat sexual violence in conflict at the international level. Ultimately, however, the failure of Resolution 2467 (2019) to include the right to sexual and reproductive health services for survivors of conflict related sexual violence leads to a significant setback in the international commitment to victims.

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice supports elements of the 2019 Resolution, including the call on states to adopt a survivor-centered approach in combatting sexual violence in conflict and in addressing survivor's needs. We also welcome its strong focus on accountability for these heinous crimes. However, despite these important advancements, the removal of language calling on states to uphold sexual and reproductive rights results in a Resolution that fundamentally does not recognize the needs of survivors. Such disregard for sexual and reproductive rights will lead to even further stigmatization and trauma for women and girls who may be forced to carry to term children conceived as a result of rape in conflict.

"Despite the call for concrete commitments in the fight against sexual violence in conflict, Resolution 2467 fails to recognize the critical right of access to sexual and reproductive health services. This omission, resulting from pressure from the United States and others, is a disservice to survivors. We call on the states that voiced the critical need to respect the right of survivors of sexual violence to access sexual and reproductive health services to continue advocating for a true survivor-centered approach, and to work toward a Resolution that includes the explicit recognition of this right" said Women's Initiatives Executive Director Melinda Reed. "The right of sexual violence survivors to comprehensive reproductive and sexual health services should not be subject to debate."

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice remains steadfast in its work alongside dedicated states, NGOs and others to ensure that meaningful progress on increasing accountability for conflict related sexual violence is made. Full implementation of Resolution 2467 requires the continued resolve of the UN and its member states in the years to come, and efforts to pass a Resolution with clear reference to the right of access to sexual and reproductive health services must continue.

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Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice is an international women's human rights organisation that works to achieve gender justice. We aim for equality through and in the law, including increased accountability for sexual and gender-based crimes. We work to include gender perspectives and increase female participation in justice mechanisms and strive to elevate the voices of local actors and victims to international structures such as the ICC. Current programme countries include the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. Find more about our *Call it what it is* campaign [here](#).

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