



Global Grassroots

CONSCIOUS SOCIAL CHANGE FOR WOMEN

Discussion Questions for Global Grassroots Short Film on Sexual Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo

By Lauren Vopni and Allison Huggins

1. How do you think that sexual violence has impacted women in Congo and the society more broadly?
2. What are the gender stereotypes and perceptions that perpetuate violence against women?
3. What are the public health implications of widespread sexual violence? In light of the AIDS epidemic, do you think that adequate measures have been taken to divert the possibility of the epidemic spreading? What are the challenges or risks of delivering treatment in such volatile areas?
4. How do you define 'peace'? An end to conflict? What types of violence continue even when formal peace has been declared? Can formal peace processes entrench other types of violence? How can we move to a more inclusive definition of 'peace' that includes not just an end to armed conflict, but a system in which civilians are protected?
5. What do we mean by the "Responsibility to Protect"? Whose responsibility is it to protect civilians affected by conflict? How can states, regional bodies and the UN system better fulfill this responsibility? From a security perspective, what measures do you think can be taken to protect women and girls from this type of violence?
6. UN Security Council Resolution 1820 defines widespread and systematic sexual violence as a threat to international security. Do you agree? What are the implications?
7. Do you think that widespread rape can constitute an act of genocide or femicide? What are the reasons that this form of violence is perpetrated? What are the implications of labeling rape an act of genocide?
8. Why do you think that certain conflicts, such as the genocide in Darfur, have received widespread attention and advocacy, while other conflicts such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo have received limited coverage of media and policymakers?
9. What do you think could be achieved through advocacy at the international level, particularly by activists in North America drawing attention to this problem?
10. Do you think that a UN Organization for women could help to give a voice to women's concerns and to develop necessary institutions to address sexual violence and violence against women more broadly?