



PERMANENT MISSION OF HUNGARY  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK

**International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict:  
The Importance of a Survivor-Centred Approach**

*19 June 2019*

**Intervention by  
H.E. Ambassador Katalin Bogyay  
Permanent Representative**

Special Representatives of the Secretary-General Ms. Virginia Gamba and Pramila Patten,  
Excellencies,

First of all, I would like to thank the Permanent Mission of Argentina and the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General for organising this year's International Day on this crucial topic, as well as the speakers for their inspiring remarks.

Hungary aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

Distinguished Delegates,

The scourge of sexual violence in conflict, tragically, left its mark on Hungary as well during the World Wars, and therefore, we do understand and stand strong for today's survivors around the world.

As it was affirmed by H.E. Mr Péter Szijjártó, Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary at the Security Council Open Debate on 23 April, sexual violence in conflict is an impediment to international peace and security. It constitute war crimes, may amount to crimes against humanity and constitute elements of genocide. The Council's resolution 1820, as well as Resolution 2467 adopted this April set out the way forward, but implementation remains insufficient. Hungary is especially appalled by the use of sexual violence as a means to destroy and displace religious minorities.

A true survivor-centered approach should be personalised and also community-based, serving all those who have been affected directly and also indirectly by violence, including survivors, who may be women, girls, men or boys, as well as the families of survivors and children born as a result of rape.

Assistance should cover imminent needs, such as comprehensive health-care and psychosocial support, shelter, access to justice, and also long-term assistance, including legal and socio-economic support to survivors and their children.

These actions require professionalised support in humanitarian response, peacekeeping, the security and judicial sector, as well as a wider enabling environment, where relatives, traditional and religious leaders and the wider community all partner to eliminate stigma, foster re-integration, inclusion, which supports healing and builds resilience. Only if we are successful in this, can we claim long-term victory over perpetrators and put an end to conflict-related sexual violence.

On the long run, we should focus on prevention as well as achieving gender equality through fighting harmful social norms and fostering women's participation in all aspects of life.

Thank you.