



European Humanitarian Forum

Stepping up the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence in Emergencies

21 March 2022, 10:30-12:15

Panelists:

Flemming Møller Mortensen, Minister for Development of Denmark; *Pramila Patten*, UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict; *Sofia Sphrechmann Sineiro*, Secretary General of CARE International; *Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus*, Executive Director of the World Health Organisation; *Elizabeth Campbell*, Deputy Assistant Secretary at United States Bureau of Population, Migration and Refugees; *Paul O'Brien*, Chair of the European Board and the National Director of Plan International Ireland; *Shoko Arakaki*, Director of the Humanitarian Office in the United Nations Population Fund; *Mairi Macrae*, Senior Advisor at Women of colour in Emergencies (WECIE)

Interventions from the floor:

Lauratuulia Lehtinen, Director of the Unit for Humanitarian Assistance and Policy; *Emma Hickey*, Deputy Director for Humanitarian Department, Ireland; *Marriet Schuurman*, Director for Stability and Humanitarian Aid, Netherlands; *Pit Köhler*, Head of Division Multilateral Assistance, Federal Foreign Office of Germany; *Tristan Burnett*, Director, International Organisation for Migration; *Franziska Obholzer*, Senior Policy Advisor for Women's Protection and Empowerment

Executive Summary:

The debate took place within the framework of the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Emergencies launched in 2013 and supported by the European Union. Panellists investigated how early and sustained action can prevent, mitigate and address sexual and gender-based violence in emergencies. The session focused as well on concrete actions and tangible impacts needed to intensify engagement on the ground and to strengthen the involvement of local actors.

The session reiterated the plea to join the call to action and stressed the importance to prevent, mitigate and respond to GBV. This must be a priority in humanitarian response and an integral part of national health policy. Panellists noted that awareness raising on GBV should be accompanied by several and strong measures aimed at persecuting perpetrators, strengthening governments and providing guidance on persecution and accountability.

Several further key elements were addressed during this session: from the mental health and the psychosocial support necessary to help survivors and foster resilience, to prevention, considered as a fundamental aspect. On this matter, the UN will launch a holistic prevention strategy in June 2022 with two central messages: strong emphasis on addressing root causes and focus on survivors and justice.

Among the possible measures that were raised was the need for all humanitarian actors to take the necessary measures to fight against GBV. It is also essential that women and communities should be more represented within these organizations, which are mostly led by men. In addition, the partnership approach of the different organizations is necessary in order to ensure the mobilization of all stakeholders and a better coordination, with the development of a service map.

To conclude panellists focused on the importance of involving women-led organisations and local communities in order to develop efficient and contextually appropriate interventions and finally they stated the need of adequate, flexible and multi-year funding capable to provide the support and the engagement with women-led organisations.