



My
body
is
no
battlefield.

Bombs, war and destruction are not the only reasons that women flee their countries: they also flee because sexualised violence is something they suffered or fear that they or their children will be subjected to.

War has always been conducted on the bodies of women.

Women Seeking Refuge

Rape is grounds for asylum



Our demands relating to women refugees and sexualised wartime violence

During war and while seeking refuge, women and girls are subjected to violence. The perpetrators include spouses, police officers, rebels, traffickers, other refugees, and workers or volunteers in refugee accommodation. So women find themselves in their very own war – one that is being conducted against them because of their gender.

1. Family reunification has to be made possible for all refugees

Limiting family reunification to 1000 people per month has a particular impact on refugee women. They are the ones who are stuck in refugee accommodation along the refugee routes – sometimes for years. They are the ones facing the very real threat of forced prostitution, forced or child marriage and other forms of sexualised violence.

2. Abandon plans for all-in-one “Anchor” refugee facilities

The Grand Coalition in Germany is planning all-in-one refugee processing facilities, known by their acronym “AnKER”, which could house up to 1500 people. These create conditions that increase the likelihood of sexualised violence against women. So medica mondiale is calling for an alternative: rapid, decentral provision of accommodation for women and families, as well as the introduction of concepts to prevent violence in all refugee accommodation. Furthermore, staff should receive training on how to deal with traumatised people.

3. No further “safe countries of origin” to be designated

Sexualised violence against women occurs in countries such as Kosovo. The designation of so-called “safe countries of origin” threatens the impartial test of an individual’s grounds for asylum, leading to unequal treatment of different refugees.

4. Sexualised wartime violence has to be finally accepted as grounds for asylum

Many refugee women were raped during the conflicts in their home countries. This is not reflected in the acknowledgement of their grounds for seeking asylum. medica mondiale is funding and assisting counselling services to prepare them for their interviews. For this aspect, the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees also needs to employ staff and interpreters who have the necessary specialist knowledge on the issue of sexualised violence.

5. Support survivors of sexualised violence in their countries of origin

Most women who experience violence during war remain in their own countries as internally displaced people or flee to neighbouring countries. medica mondiale funds long-term aid for them, as well as projects on the prevention of sexualised violence. These offers of assistance need to be financed as part of a feminist approach to foreign, development and security policy.

Please contact us for further information.

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