59th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual Full-Day Discussion on Women's Rights

Part 1: Gender-based violence against women and girls in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings

24 June

Thank you, Mr. President.

Speaking on behalf of many girls and young women across the globe — and standing by those whose voices remain unheard — we represent the She Leads UN Youth Cohort.

Watching the news is becoming frustrating, as we are left with no option but to witness the struggles of women, girls, and children living in conflict areas — struggling to survive — and see how lives are being shattered.

Conflict and humanitarian crises unleash unspeakable horrors. Women and girls are being raped and brutally tortured. These are not just crimes against individuals — they are attacks on humanity itself. In all of this, women and girls pay the highest price — from risking their lives in search of food to trying to secure a place to sleep with their children.

According to UN Women in 2024, approximately 35% of women worldwide have experienced physical or sexual violence, and gender-based violence increases in conflict settings.

We urge Member States to:

- Fund protection programs and survivor services for women and girls in conflict areas.
- Take active action — holding perpetrators accountable, with no impunity.
- Amplify women's voices in recovery and peacebuilding.

This fight has no gender. This is everyone's fight. Let's speak with one voice, stand up, speak out, and take action.

Thank you.