

# CALL TO ACTION on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies:

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The *Call to Action* is a multi-stakeholder initiative launched in 2013 that aims to fundamentally transform the way gender-based violence (GBV) is addressed in humanitarian emergencies. The goal is to drive change and foster accountability so that every humanitarian effort, from the earliest phases of a crisis, includes the policies, systems and mechanisms to mitigate GBV risks, especially violence against women and girls, and to provide safe and comprehensive services for those affected by GBV.

## A ROAD MAP FOR ACTION



**Government Offices of Sweden**  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

# A Road Map for Action

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**The Challenge:** Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive and life-threatening health, human rights and protection issue. It is deeply rooted in gender inequality and norms that disempower and discriminate. GBV is exacerbated in emergencies where vulnerability and risks are high, and family and community protections have broken down. While it affects both males and females, women and girls are disproportionately affected globally.

Despite its widespread prevalence and devastating impacts, prevention of and response to GBV is still not comprehensively addressed and prioritized from the earliest stages of an emergency.

Every actor engaged in humanitarian response has an obligation to act, to take all possible measures to keep people safe and to help survivors of GBV rebuild their lives. This lifesaving work is at the heart of the humanitarian mandate. It is essential to respecting, protecting and promoting the human rights of the people we serve.

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## **The Response:**

### **A Road Map to Transform Humanitarian Practice**

The *Call to Action* is a collective commitment by partners to address GBV from the start of a humanitarian response. The *Call to Action* Road Map 2016-2020 is the operational framework for the initiative and can be found here: <https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/gbv/resources/1240-call-to-action>.

The Road Map details the priority actions that stakeholders must take to achieve the *Call to Action*

goal. It also lays out the governance structure for the initiative and its monitoring plan. *Call to Action* partners agree to make concrete, measurable commitments under the Road Map and to report annually on those commitments.

When GBV prevention and response is addressed as a lifesaving priority in humanitarian action, individuals and communities devastated by crises will be safer. Survivors will receive the essential care they deserve without delay. And local civil society organizations, including women's organizations, will be empowered and engaged as leaders in humanitarian work.

### **Become a Call to Action Partner**

Success depends on the collective action of numerous partners, each bringing their own mandates, strengths, capacities and commitments to the *Call to Action* work. Every State, national and international organization, civil society group and donor that plays a role in emergency response should join the Call to Action.

By working together and holding one another mutually accountable, *Call to Action* partners can make a fundamental and lasting difference in the way GBV is addressed in humanitarian response.

The time to act is now. Maintaining the status quo is not an option.

For more information about becoming a *Call to Action* partner, please contact Sanna Godeau ([sanna.godeau@gov.se](mailto:sanna.godeau@gov.se)) at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden.