

Human Rights Centre Clinic

Reparations Praxis Hub

Partner: [Global Survivors Fund](#)

About

The Global Survivors Fund (GSF) was launched in October 2019 by Dr Denis Mukwege and Nadia Murad, Nobel Peace Prize laureates 2018. The GSF's mission is to enhance access to reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence around the globe, thus responding to a gap long identified by survivors.

Project overview

The Global Survivors Fund is establishing a Reparations Praxis Hub. This is a repository of lessons learned from the implementation of reparations for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and other victims of gross violations of human rights and serious violations of international humanitarian law. The aim is to systematise lessons derived from practical experiences, both from GSF's work across countries through the provision of interim reparative measures and from relevant domestic reparation programmes around the world. Those lessons are compiled into a selection of briefs designed to assist policymakers, civil society members, and survivors in designing or critically analysing reparation policies.

In this project, a team from the Essex Human Rights Centre Clinic will support GSF in producing a brief, addressing one of the most common challenges faced by policymakers when designing a reparation programme: *the determination of the specific forms of reparation to be provided under the programme, and the modalities for their implementation, with a particular focus on conflict-related sexual violence victims*. Although reparation may include restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition, the specific measures accorded under each category and the methods of their implementation vary from context to context, and have resulted in varying degrees of satisfaction among victims.

The team will analyse how reparation measures implemented by different programmes globally were defined, types of individual and collective measures envisaged under various policies, specific forms of reparation considered for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence, strategies followed for the inclusion of a gender perspective in their definition, the process for their selection and the role of victims and

survivors, the conditions required for their implementation, and the effectiveness of those measures in responding to identified harms.

Background

In addition to the topic the team will be working on for this project, which corresponds to number 9 below, GSF's repository is structured around a selection of 12 additional subjects that are frequently encountered when designing or implementing a reparation mechanism:

1. Survivors and other stakeholders' engagement: particularities of survivors' effective participation and a multi-stakeholder approach in the design and implementation of the programme;
2. Policy and legal instruments for the establishment of an administrative reparation programme;
3. Principles and objectives of an administrative reparation programme;
4. Scope of an administrative reparation programme and eligibility criteria;
5. Institutional setup and administration models;
6. Application forms and processes;
7. Evidentiary standards, burden of proof, and verification processes;
8. Registration and appeal processes;
9. Definition of the forms of reparation to be provided under the programme;
10. Implementation of the reparation measures;
11. Resource mobilization and funding;
12. Accountability and compliance monitoring; and
13. Evaluation.

The repository will address the main dilemmas arising under each topic based on comparative experiences, including cases of administrative reparations for conflict-related sexual violence as well as for other violations. It will also include judicial decisions when relevant.

The content will be presented in a way that offers a general explanation of each topic, with hyperlinks to sub-documents containing more detailed analyses of those dilemmas and experiences in other countries, as well as to the relevant normative or policy frameworks. The result will be a cascading structure, where the main document leads to several analytical pieces, each containing links to sources.

Project output

The Global Survivors Fund will collaborate with a project team from Essex Human Rights Centre Clinic to produce a report (totalling approximately 10-12,000 words) about experiences and lessons derived from reparation programmes and judicial decisions on the definition of forms of reparation. This will include administrative programmes and judicial decisions involving conflict-related sexual violence as well as other violations. The following exploratory questions may guide the research:

- a. *What are the different individual and collective reparation measures, that administrative reparation programmes frequently include? How are collective reparation measures handled in administrative programmes across the globe? Which experiences are most relevant for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence?*
- b. *How are these measures selected, and what are the best practices for ensuring that victims and survivors participate in their selection across different countries?*
- c. *What are the different forms of individual reparation that administrative programmes frequently envisage, such as restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, satisfaction, and guarantees of non-repetition? Which ones could be particularly relevant for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (e.g., fistula surgery, access to antiretroviral drugs, access to safe abortion services, psycho-social services, etc.)? What lessons from judicial reparations could be adapted to large-scale administrative reparation programmes?*
- d. *What are the advantages and disadvantages of providing specific forms of reparation to different types of human rights violations versus giving all victims access to the same types of reparations? What lessons have been learned in this respect? If a person suffered multiple violations, should the reparations provided be cumulative or based on the most serious violation? How have these dilemmas been resolved in other contexts, either in administrative programmes or by courts ordering judicial reparations?*
- e. *For compensation, what are the different modalities of implementation that could be envisaged (e.g., lump sum, monthly transfers, for several years, lifetime pension, etc.)? What are the advantages and disadvantages of providing a fixed sum for everyone versus scaled or aggravated sums? In practice, what principles have guided the determination of the amount for economic compensation for different violations?*

The team will also submit a 1,000-word blog in May 2025.

GSF will publish the report and sub-documents along with other tools on its repository webpage, an open-source online service directed to policymakers, civil society organisations, and survivors' groups. These tools will be shared with the organisations GSF collaborates with, and their usefulness will be tested for eventual adaptation and update.

Timeline

Phase 1: November – December 2024:

- Preliminary research, understanding the project and developing the report outline.
- Identifying a list of experts or advocates for interviews and questionnaires.
- Securing ethical approval, if necessary.
- Outline and bibliography to be submitted to the partner organisation for comments.

Phase 2: January – March 2025:

- Carrying out the interviews online.
- Research and data gathering.
- Submission of the first full draft to the partner.

Phase 3: April – June 2025:

- Revision and finalising the report.
- Blog for Global Survivors Fund, on their site or another platform, about the main findings of the project.
- Presentation of project to the partner organisation.

Initial reading

1. UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on the Right to a Remedy and Reparation (2005): <https://www.ohchr.org/en/instruments-mechanisms/instruments/basic-principles-and-guidelines-right-remedy-and-reparation>
2. Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (2014): <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Press/GuidanceNoteReparationsJune-2014.pdf>
3. A/69/518, Promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (2014): <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n14/564/67/pdf/n1456467.pdf>
4. A/HRC/42/45, Promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence – Report of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (2019): <https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g19/213/93/pdf/g1921393.pdf>

5. OHCHR Reparations Guide (2008). *Rule-of-Law Tools for Post-Conflict States: Reparations Programmes*:
<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Publications/ReparationsProgrammes.pdf>
6. De Greiff, Pablo (Ed.). (2006). *The Handbook of Reparations*. Oxford University Press:
<https://academic.oup.com/book/26106>
7. Guillerot, Julie and Gilmore, Sunneva and Sandoval, Clara (2020) *Beyond Silence and Stigma: Crafting a Gender-Sensitive Approach for Victims of Sexual Violence in Domestic Reparation Programmes*. Project Report. Reparations, Responsibility and Victimhood in Transitional Societies, United Kingdom: https://reparations.qub.ac.uk/assets/uploads/QUB-SGBV_Report_English_Web.pdf
8. Rubio-Marín, Ruth (Ed.). (2006). *What Happened to the Women? Gender and Reparations for Human Rights Violations*. Social Science Research Council: <https://www.ssrc.org/publications/what-happened-to-the-women-gender-and-reparations-for-human-rights-violations/>
9. Rubio-Marin, Ruth (Ed.). (2009). *The Gender of Reparations. Unsettling Sexual Hierarchies While Redressing Human Rights Violations*. Cambridge University Press: <https://www.cambridge.org/core/books/gender-of-reparations/D146FE42C41680766085E32DF258AC9B>
10. The REDRESS Trust (2003). *Reparation: A Sourcebook for Victims of Torture and Other Violations of Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law*: <https://redress.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/SourceBook.pdf>
11. Guillerot, Julie (2022). Reflections on the Collective Dimension of Reparations: Where We Are? Where To Go?: [QUB-Collective-Reparations-Report-SP-LR.pdf](https://reparations.qub.ac.uk/assets/uploads/QUB-Collective-Reparations-Report-SP-LR.pdf)
12. International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) (2012). *The Rabat Report: The Concept and Challenges of Collective Reparations*: <https://www.ictj.org/publication/rabat-report-concept-and-challenges-collective-reparations>

Focal point

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