

OUR APPROACH

The three focus areas of our work are: holistic care, survivors' voices, and justice and accountability.



HOLISTIC CARE

QUALITY CARE FOR SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE



VOICE

SURVIVOR-LED ACTIVISM FOR SOLIDARITY AND RECOGNITION, AND TO END STIGMA



JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

PREVENT CRSV AND END IMPUNITY

HOLISTIC CARE

We promote the model of holistic care to survivors of wartime sexual violence pioneered at Panzi Hospital DRC as a human rights standard globally, and we facilitate its roll out to other (post) conflict zones. We continue to tailor this care model to suit the diverse contexts and survivors' needs outside DRC - ideally embedded to existing healthcare systems. Built on four pillars: medical, psychological, socio-economic, and judicial, the holistic care approach recognises that survivors' needs are interdependent and it is crucial for survivors to be at the centre of their own healing process.



SURVIVORS' VOICES

For victims and survivors of war crimes, a supportive community can provide newfound power to rebuild their lives by creating a sense of shared experience and common purpose. We connect survivors globally through the SEMA Network as well as multiple national survivor networks. By coming together, victims and survivors can support one another, share resources and knowledge, and advocate for their rights, increasing their ability to heal and create a better future.

Since its establishment in 2017, SEMA, the Global Network of Victims and Survivors to End Wartime Sexual Violence, currently represents survivors of conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) from over 25 countries. With tremendous courage, survivors have come together to speak out, tell their truths, and to seek solutions for themselves and their communities. SEMA — which means “speak out” in Swahili — provides a safe place for them to share the experiences that have for so long been hidden and ignored, call for the changes needed to end the violence and achieve justice. You can learn more about the global network at

www.semanetwork.org.

JUSTICE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

We advocate for an end to the complicit silence and tolerance of sexual violence crimes committed in conflict, pushing for changes in policy and institutional behaviour to end impunity and ensure survivor-centred reparations and redress, and tackling the obstacles to justice that allow perpetrators to avoid facing the consequences of their actions. In 2019, together with SEMA members, Dr Mukwege and Nadia's Initiative, we have worked to establish the Global Survivors Fund: an innovative mechanism which mission is to ensure survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have access to reparations, and other forms of redress, globally.

Whereby reparations focused on the aftermath of conflict-related sexual violence, we also aim to strengthen the existing prevention mechanisms through the Red Line Initiative. The Red Line Initiative is rooted in the belief that sexual violence as a method of warfare can be prevented and must be prioritised as a wholly unacceptable tactic of warfare. The Mukwege Foundation believes that clear and robust action is needed to address this systemic problem.

Together with international law experts, the SEMA Network has developed Survivors' Call to Action - demanding states to hold each other accountable and meet their obligations to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence.

