

## More about the Principles

Sexual violence occurs in many different forms. Since no universal view exists as to what makes an act “sexual”, many forms deemed by survivors to be sexual violence risk being overlooked. As a consequence, victims of these acts are at risk to be ignored or forgotten.

During the Call it what it is campaign, the Women’s Initiatives for Gender Justice gathered input from more than 500 survivors, civil society, legal practitioners, academics, and policy makers from around the world.

The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence were developed to address this gap in laws and policies, and provide practitioners with a better understanding of the various forms of sexual violence.

The Declaration can be used to better understand sexual violence and identify more victims, to teach others about the topic, and to inform law and policy making processes.

A good understanding of all forms of sexual violence is important to close the gap between how the violence is perceived and experienced by victims, and how it is addressed by practitioners.

