

THE HAGUE PRINCIPLES ON SEXUAL VIOLENCE

Addressing sexual violence starts with understanding all forms of sexual violence. The Hague Principles on Sexual Violence were developed to enhance the understanding of what constitutes an act of sexual violence from the perspective of survivors. The Principles seek to ensure that violence is not overlooked or trivialized.

THE PRINCIPLES CAN BE USED BY ACTIVISTS AND NGOS TO:

- Educate the public: Organize events within communities, with church or traditional leaders. Start a campaign, including on social media, to raise awareness and explain what sexual violence entails (refer to the Guide for Survivor Activists for concrete ideas). Reach out to radio shows and other media.
- Educate practitioners: Use and refer to the Principles in the curriculums of trainings. Organize roundtables with practitioners to enable the exchange of experiences and best practices. Ensure a diverse audience and broad participation, for example by including legal officers of judges and junior staff.
- Organize marches: To raise awareness among the population and to call stakeholders to action.
- Build networks: Reach out to other practitioners and NGOs **for** cooperation, **to** exchange best practices and build coalitions.
- Share widely: Disseminate the Principles in your network by, for example, including a link on your website.
- Advocate for change: Engage with policy makers and politicians to make policies and law more inclusive (refer to the following section for concrete demands).
- Hold to account: Remind governments of their pledges and commitments to address sexual violence, for example under the Women, Peace and Security and Sustainable Development Goals frameworks. Hold them to account to fulfill their obligations under domestic and international law, for example human rights law.