The Forgotten Women of Wartime: The United Nations Resolutions and the Democratic Republic of the Congo

Favour Imhomoh
Dr. Nichole M. Garcia
Graduate School of Education, Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey

Research Question

How can the wartime experiences of Congolese women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo inform the United Nations Resolutions 1325 and 1820?

Introduction

- “Conflict related sexual violence is as destructive as any bomb or bullet.”—General, Ban Ki Moon.
- 276 female students abducted from the school grounds in Chibok province in Borno State, Nigeria.
- The Congo is considered the “Rape Capital of the World.”

Proposed Methodology

Phenomenological study:
A phenomenological method is a shared understanding that a group of individuals experience as a phenomena.

Participants:
- Congolese women between the ages of 18 and 30.
- The women would have lived through the civil wars and the Kivu Conflict.

Interviews:
- Audio Recorded
- Individual interviews of 25 participants for the duration of 30-60 minutes.
- Focus groups of 6-8 participants for the duration of 60 minutes

Data Analysis:
- Field notes.
- Transcribe.
- Open-coding for themes and patterns.

Discussion

- The United Nations taking an initiative to reform their Resolutions.
- This study informs how the United Nations drafts wartime Resolutions.
- Dr. Denis Mukwege, an advocate for the women of the DRC, sets an example of how to treat sexual violence survivors.
- This study advocates that more research needs to center the lived experiences of women and war.
- Recovery and rehabilitation incentives can expand policies that server civilians globally.

Selected References


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