

U.S. NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY & SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS

March 2013

The [United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security](#) (NAP) was issued by executive order by President Barack Obama in 2011. The plan sets out U.S. government commitments on advancing and institutionalizing improved attention to both how women are affected by conflict and how women can participate more fully in restoring peace. Recognizing sexual and gender-based violence as an increasingly frequent characteristic of conflict, it affirms U.S. support for services that address such violence, including sexual and reproductive health services for women in conflict (p. 6).

WHAT DOES IT SAY ABOUT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND RIGHTS?

The NAP notes that violence against women, and specifically sexual violence, is used as “a deliberate tactic for purposes of humiliation, terror, societal destruction, and ethnic cleansing” (p. 6). It states that, “women, particularly survivors of sexual violence, require access to sexual and reproductive health services” (p. 9). To address sexual violence and gender-based violence as tools of war, the plan includes a framework with three distinct objectives that incorporate women’s sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

Objective	U.S. Government Commitments Related to SRHR
Protection from Violence (pp 16-19)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide appropriate medical, psychosocial, and legal services for vulnerable women and girls • Develop programs that address harmful norms and practices that contribute to sexual and gender-based violence
Conflict Prevention (pp 20-21)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased access of women and girls to health services, including reproductive and maternal health care • Ensure the inclusion of a broad range of perspectives from women and youth to inform policy, strategy, and programming decisions
Access to Relief and Recovery (pp 21-22)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support access to reproductive health in emergencies and humanitarian settings • Ensure that U.S. Government crisis response and recovery teams have access to appropriate gender expertise • Provide support for survivors of conflict, torture, and sexual violence through direct services, including sexual and reproductive healthcare

RELATED POLICIES AND INITIATIVES

The NAP highlights the U.S. Global Health Initiative as critical to promoting stability through efforts to reduce maternal mortality by investing in access to voluntary family planning, prenatal care, obstetric care and HIV testing and counseling (p. 9).

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

In August 2012, the U.S. Department of State issued an [Implementation Plan of the United States National Plan on Women Peace and Security](#), which provides guidance for how the State Department (in Washington, U.S. embassies and consulates) can advance the NAP. The Ambassador-at-Large for Global Women’s Issues leads coordination of NAP implementation.

ABOUT THE CENTER FOR HEALTH AND GENDER EQUITY (CHANGE)

[The Center for Health and Gender Equity \(CHANGE\)](#) is a U.S.-based nongovernmental organization that promotes the sexual and reproductive health and human rights of women and girls worldwide through education and advocacy efforts that affect the development and implementation of U.S. policies.