

# Sexual Violence

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## Risk Mapping

Before deploying a risk assessment should be carried out to assess the following:

- Places, situations and people that constitute a higher risk.
- Which groups or individuals are likely to commit assaults?
- The times when risk of attack increases.

## Higher Threat Attackers

The following constitute a higher risk to journalists and NGO's:

- Demobilised/unemployed soldiers
- Armed robbers and carjackers
- Home invaders
- Government soldiers during conflict
- Paramilitaries
- Street gangs (rite of passage)

## Higher Risk Groups

- Local female staff
- Ethnic groups
- Western journalists/NGO
- Relocated staff in area with few or no social ties
- Female heads of households
- Widows
- Teenage girls (less risk of HIV)
- Isolated women in male domain

## High Risk Areas

- Areas where militias operate
- Periphery of refugee camps
- Prisons and police stations
- Hotels, swimming pools and gyms

- Private residencies (Home invasion)
- Taxis
- Driving – carjacking
- Civil disturbances

## Times of Increased Risk

- After dark
- During festivities and celebrations
- During aid distribution
- During civil disturbances/protests
- Defeated armed groups fleeing
- Victorious armed groups entering towns
- Enforced close proximity – sharing hotel rooms, tents and vehicles
- Over familiarity with local staff
- Embedded

## Reducing Vulnerability

- Look and act confident
- Select hotel and room carefully
- In hostile environment, use hotels with security guards
- Stay with colleagues or host family
- No gender ID outside residence or in phone book
- Male voice on answerphone
- Report anonymous calls – change number if necessary
- Avoid isolation
- Have a distraction when travelling – book – not ipad/ereader
- Wear sunglasses if practical – avoids eye contact
- Dress inconspicuously (local dress?)
- Remember – dress, behaviour and hairstyle can be viewed as overtly sexual

- Adopt a culturally sensitive approach to dress
- Learn some local phrases
- Wear a wedding ring?
- Use vetted local support staff
- Be aware that gestures of familiarity with colleagues can be misinterpreted
- Maintain contact with management
- Seek up to date information from colleagues

## Actions in Crowds

- Travel with male companion
- Dress down
- Stay on the edge of crowds
- Have a car nearby for rapid escape
- Have an escape route and emergency meeting point
- Have someone watch your back
- Don't wear ponytail or heavy necklaces
- Carry a rape whistle
- If surrounded – fight!

## Acquaintance Rape

### Attack Pattern

- Invasion of personal space
- Desensitization
- Isolation

### Options

- Passive resistance: Talking and thinking your way out of the situation. May be the only solution if the attacker is armed
- Aggressive resistance:
  - Verbal – Yelling and Shouting
  - Physical – Very successful in acquaintance rape. Needs 100% commitment. Aim is to break away and escape

- Submission.
  - If you can't fight back, don't
  - Object is to survive
  - Submission is not surrender – it doesn't lessen the severity of the crime

## Stranger Rape

### Assessment

You have a number of options if an attack takes place. Consider:

- The type of rapist
- The environment
- Your own capabilities
- Numbers involved
- Weapons

### Options

- Submission. You may be in fear of losing your life. The objective is to survive. Remember submission is forced. You are not giving in – you are surviving
- Passive Resistance. Talk to the attacker, try to make him change his mind. Local language may help.
- Active Resistance:
  - Screaming, using car horn, shouting for help.
  - Running away
  - Fighting back
  - Weapons
  - Soiling

### Evidence Gathering

After an assault consideration should be given to evidence gathering and medical assistance.

- Bagging clothing – paper not plastic bag
- Clip finger nails

“Always a little further”

- Use of tampon
- Not bathing
- Use of birth control
- STD's