North Atlantic Treaty Organization

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**Topic I: Combatting Conflict-Related Violence Against Women and Girls**

 **Topic II: Increasing NATO’s Ability to Respond to Cyber Security Concerns**

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1. **Combating Conflict-Related Violence Against Women and Girls**

Armed conflicts increasingly target civilians exposing them to uttermost violence.[[1]](#footnote-1) Civilians are caught in brutalities of prolonged conflicts such as civil wars, world wars and even war on terror. In conflict, gender-based violence reaches a high. Human trafficking is also exacerbated during the times of conflict, resulting in more levels of violence. Women and girls are more subjects of sexual violence but there have been male victims.[[2]](#footnote-2) The absence of conveyance of basic administrations to the populace experienced during struggle and circumstances of hardship and insecurity can disproportionately affect explicit gatherings of the populace, including ladies and young ladies – again frequently expanding on previous circumstances of segregation. Young ladies can confront extra obstruction in getting to instruction including because of dread of focused assaults and dangers against them and the extra providing care and family unit duties that frequently they are obliged to expect. Ladies are additionally compelled to search for elective wellsprings of employment as family endurance comes to rely vigorously upon them. Access to health care and many other services are disrupted making unplanned pregnancy and other sexual and reproductive health services obsolete during conflict. Ladies and young ladies ought not exclusively be viewed as casualties of contention and instability. They have verifiably had and keep on having a job as soldiers, as a component of composed common society, as human rights protectors, as individuals from obstruction developments and as dynamic operators in both formal and casual peacebuilding and recuperation forms. Post-struggle circumstances and changes can be seen as an open door for change of the cultural structures and standards set up before the contention so as to guarantee more prominent delight in ladies' human rights. However, ladies' avoidance from strife counteraction endeavors, post-struggle progress and reproduction forms have been matters of worry for the global network. In its ongoing goals, the Security Council has shown that demonstrations of sexual and sex-based brutality can be utilized as a strategy of psychological warfare and has likewise settled the nexus between dealing, sexual viciousness, fear-based oppression and transnational sorted out wrongdoing. Conflict related sexual violence is now being deemed as a threat to international peace and security rather than a weapon of war.[[3]](#footnote-3) The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the Human Rights Center at the University of California-Berkeley School of Law, and Women in International Security (WIIS) all came together and established the Missing Peace Initiative for the combatting the topic of conflict related sexual violence.

1. **Increasing NATO’s Ability to Respond to Cyber Security Concerns**

Cyber threats to the security of the alliance and getting more frequent, complex, destructive and coercive. NATO continues to adapt to the evolving cyber threat landscape. NATO and its allies rely on powerful resilient cyber defenses to fulfil the Alliance’s core tasks of collective defense, crisis management and cooperative security. The alliance needs to be well prepared to defend its networks and operation advancing cyber threats and attacks it comes across. Cyber defense is a major part of NATO’s core task of collective defense. It has been affirmed that international law applies in cyberspace. NATO’s focus in cyber defense is to protect its own networks and enhance resilience.[[4]](#footnote-4) In July 2016, Allies reaffirmed NATO’s defensive mandate and recognized cyberspace as a domain of operation in which NATO must defend itself as effectively as it does in the air on land and at sea. Allies also pledged in July 2016 to enhance their cyber defenses as a matter of priority. They have been known to have upgraded their defenses since then. NATO also reinforces its capabilities for cyber education, training and exercises. Allies are committed to enhancing information-sharing and mutual assistance in preventing, mitigating and recovering cyber-attacks. NATO cyber rapid reaction teams are always on standby to assist allies, 24 hours a day, if requested and approved.[[5]](#footnote-5) In February 2019, Allies endorses a NATO guide that sets out several tools to further strengthen NATO’s ability to respond to significant malicious cyber activities. NATO and European Union (EU) are working through a technical arrangement on Cyber Defense which was signed on February 2016. Both organizations are strengthening their cyber defense in the areas of information exchange, training, research and exercises. NATO is intensifying its cooperation with industry through the NATO Industry Cyber Partnership. NATO recognizes that its allies stand to benefit from a norm based predictable and secure cyberspace.[[6]](#footnote-6) NATO's adjustment in the post-cold war period has remembered a developing job for reacting to digital assaults. This article investigates the definitional and hypothetical issues in examining the rising digital security field and tries to give a framework of the principle key difficulties that digital assaults present for NATO. The article assesses the institutional structures and procedures set up by NATO to go up against digital dangers and proceeds onward to investigate the degree of transoceanic solidarity around NATO's rising principle for digital protection. It is contended that NATO's reaction to digital security is established in its earlier adjustment to the changing security condition of the 1990s and the risk from worldwide fear-based oppression post 9-11. All the more as of late, digital assaults from state and state-supported on-screen characters have offered driving force to NATO's developing digital security precept. The article finds that in spite of late discussions over digital observation, there is an impressive level of solidarity inside the coalition on the principle digital security issues. As a multilateral security association with a solid institutional establishment, NATO is likewise moderately all around put to react to quickly developing digital dangers.

1. Ibid. “Women's Human Rights and Gender-Related in Situations of Conflict.” OHCHR. https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/PeaceAndSecurity.aspx. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Ibid. Holen, Sine Vorland, and Lotte Vermeij. “Combating Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.” NATO Review. Nato Review, October 26, 2017. https://www.nato.int/docu/review/articles/2017/10/26/combating-conflict-related-sexual-violence/index.html. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. “Preventing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.” United States Institute of Peace, April 8, 2019. https://www.usip.org/programs/preventing-conflict-related-sexual-violence. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Nato. “Cyber Defence.” NATO, December 18, 2019. https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics\_78170.htm. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. “NATO's Cyber Defence: Strategic Challenges and Institutional Adaptation.” Taylor & Francis. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14702436.2015.1108108?src=recsys&journalCode=fdef20. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. “NATO's Cyber Defence: Strategic Challenges and Institutional Adaptation.” Taylor & Francis. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/14702436.2015.1108108?src=recsys&journalCode=fdef20. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)