

Addis Ababa University

School of Graduate Studies



Institute for Peace and Security Studies

**THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS: THE CASE OF
NORTHERN CONFLICT IN WELDIYA TOWN**

BY: TIZITA MEKURIA DECHASSA

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

JUNE, 2023

**THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS: THE CASE OF
NORTHERN CONFLICT IN WELDIYA TOWN**

BY

TIZITA MEKURIA DECHASSA

**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES OF ADDIS
ABABA UNIVERSITY IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR
THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES**

ADVISOR MERCY FEKADU (PHD)

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES

INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY STUDIES

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA

JUNE, 2023

ADDIS ABABA UNIVERSITY

**SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY
STUDIES (IPSS)**

**THE IMPACT OF ARMED CONFLICT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS: THE CASE OF
NORTHERN CONFLICT IN WELDIYA TOWN**

BY

TIZITA MEKURIA DECHASSA

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF EXAMINERS

NAME

SIGNATURE

DATE

DIRECTOR OF IPSS

ADVISOR

INTERNAL EXAMINER

EXTERNAL EXAMINER

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

First and for most, I would like to thank God and his mother St. Mary for leading and making me strong in my life and preserving my study, and also giving me mental and physical strength and the opportunity to study.

Secondly, I want to express my gratitude to my advisor Mercy Fekadu (Ph.D.) for her guidance and support. I am thankful for her constructive feedback and advice. Thirdly, I would like to express my gratitude to Addis Ababa University Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) instructors and the entire staff.

Special thanks; I have no words to express my gratitude and respect to my family, Husband, and friends for their great and unlimited support. Their support has encouragement to keep on going and finish my thesis.

Table of Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT	Error! Bookmark not defined.
Table of Contents	IV
LIST OF TABLE	VII
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS	VIII
ABSTRACT.....	I
CHAPTER ONE	1
INTRODUCTION	1
1.1. Background of the Study.....	1
1.2. Statement of the Problem	2
1.3. Objectives of the Study	4
1.3.1. General Objective of the Study.....	4
1.3.2. Specific Objective of the Study	4
1.4. Research Question.....	4
1.5. Significance of the study	4
1.6. Scope of the Study.....	5
1.7. Limitation of the Study	5
1.8. Ethical Consideration	Error! Bookmark not defined.
1.9. Organization of the study	5
CHAPTER TWO	6
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK.....	6
2.1. Profile of the Conflict.....	6
2.2. Literature Review Trends in Armed conflict and.....	Error! Bookmark not defined.

2.3. Conceptual Review	14
2.3.1. The Concept of “Gender”	14
2.3.2. The Concept of Armed Conflict	15
2.3.3. Types of Conflict	16
2.3.4. Causes of Armed Conflict	16
2.3.5. Gender and Armed Conflict	17
2.3.6. Definition of Conflict-Related Violence against Women	19
2.3.7. Defining Violence against Women.....	20
2.3.8. Defining Conflict-Related Violence	21
2.4. Theories Related to Sexual Violence in Conflicts	22
2.4.1. Women as a Category.....	22
2.4.2. Local Responses: Victimization and Agency Theory	24
2.4.3. From Victimization to Agency Theory	25
2.4.4. The International Relations Perspective on War	27
2.4.5. How Women and War Relates - Why Gender Matters	28
2.4.6. Where are the Gap Lies?	31
2.4.7. The Depth of the Gap	32
CHAPTER THREE	34
RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY	34
4.1. Research Methodology.....	34
4.2. Research Design.....	34
4.2. Data Collection Methods.....	35
4.2.1. Study Population and Target Population	35
4.2.2. Sampling Techniques.....	35

4.3. Data Analysis	36
CHAPTER FOUR.....	37
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS	37
4.1. Armed Conflict and Gender-Based Violence.....	37
4.1.1 Resilience in Conflict settings	40
4.2. Sexual Violence during armed conflict.....	43
4.3.Support of local government and community to women and girl’s victim (gender-based violence).....	46
4.4.Why gender-based violence used as weapon of war	48
CHAPTER FIVE	50
CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....	50
5.1. CONCLUSION	50
5.1. RECOMMENDATION	51
REFERENCES	52
APPENDICES	64
Declaration.....	67

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1: Lists of Participant of the Study-----	66
---	----

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CRTV	Conflict Related Sexual Violence
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
GoE	Government of Ethiopia
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IR	International Relation
KI	key Informant
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
TPLF	Tigray People Liberation Front
UNHCR	United Nation Higher Commissioner for Refugees
UN	United Nation
UNSCR	United Nation Security Council Resolution
VAW	Violence against Women

ABSTRACT

The thesis argues that the impact of armed conflict on women and girls: the case of Northern conflict in Woldiyat town. The study employed a qualitative research approach and also explanatory and case study research design by using primary source of data. Most of the African country faces different kinds of armed conflict and it is a political conflict where use of armed force by two parties and it has numerous impacts on the economic, political and social condition of the country. The country Ethiopia has been experienced a civil war in November 2020-2022. The war is being fought between the Government of Ethiopia (GoE) and the Tigray People's Liberation Front (TPLF) but the Amharan regional force (fano) and militia join the conflict on the side of Ethiopian government (GoE). The northern conflict touches the Tigray, Amhara and Afar region. It affects social, political and economic condition of the regions and there was a loss of human life, destruction of property and infrastructures such as road, hospital, school, electricity, telecommunication and etc. and there was high internal displacement and risk of famine are among the most mentioned. This thesis in particular focuses on how the conflicts influence the women and girls and try to identify the sexual and gender-based violence in the conflict and also examine the support of the community and local government for the women and girls who are affected in the conflict and it also assesses why gender-based violence is used as a weapon of war in Northern conflict. Gender based violence is one of the serious impacts of conflict, it affects both the women and men's but the women and girls are particularly vulnerable to almost all forms of violence such as rape, torture, mass rape, forced pregnancy, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, and etc. Gender-based violence leads to different kinds of health problems, sexually transmitted diseases, mental and physical problems, loss of livelihood they are also neglected from different social interaction. During the war time gender-based violence has been used as a weapon of war and the women and girls have been the prime target of armed conflict and suffered its effect.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Africa is the most conflict dominated continent in the world and in the continent the number of armed conflicts increase Since the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Rwanda and Sierra Leone. The region having the maximum rate of civil wars and instabilities than other continent and somehow the conflict is common denominator of statehood. Conflict becomes customary both in Ethiopia and in Africa and a country's transition or change of leadership is not always seamless and orderly. Political instability and anarchy are present during the transition phase. Violent conflict in the Horn of Africa is more the standard than the exception (Eberechi, 2009; Siyum, 2021).

The Northern conflict started in November 4/2020 and it is an armed conflict between Ethiopian federal government and Tigray people liberation front (TPLF). According to Tofa et al., (2022) The root causes of the conflict depend on four factors, the first one is deep disagreement over the nature, history and future of the Ethiopian state; second power struggle within the previous ruling party; third growing of ethno-nationalism; in the last, the “Eritrean question” Which means Prime Minister Abiy’s acceptance of a former international arbitration decision to grant contested territory to Eritrea alarmed the Tigrayan elites, who felt that they were not sufficiently consulted. On the other hand, conflicts about the distribution of power between the federal government and Ethiopia's regions are the main source of the conflict (Deleersnyder, 2021).

The Northern conflict affects the social, political and economic situation of the region and also the country. The conflict covers not only the Tigray region; it covers the Amhara and Afar region of the country. According to Amnesty International (2023) all parties included in the conflict have also been responsible for widespread robbery, damage and destruction of residents’ village, homes and businesses centers and public properties like health facilities, schools

telecommunication centers, electric station, road and other governmental offices. When the TPLF fighters started to operate outside the Tigray region (in Amhara and Afar region) in July 2021, they have also serious violations against noncombatants in areas of the neighboring region, with rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls, and Those women and girls suffered physical and mental trauma resulting in depression, anxiety, insomnia, and emotional distress and also killings of unarmed noncombatants (Amnesty International, 2023).

Armed conflict has numerous impacts on the women, girls, Children, and it also affects the social, political and economic development of the country. The study focuses on the impact of armed conflict on the women and girls. There are different kinds of impacts that the women face in the armed conflict some of them are health problem, rape and injuries, they also psychologically affected. International humanitarian law classifies armed conflict into three, they are international armed conflict, internationalized armed conflict and non-international armed conflict (Chelimo, 2011). From the three types of armed conflict the study is part of non-international armed conflict, because this type of armed conflict is not within the two states, it is within the state, that means between Government of Ethiopian and Tigray People Liberation Front (TPLF). In the armed conflict there is different kinds of violence according to O'Moore, (1999) Violence is the use of physical forces and aggressive behavior which may be sexually, physically and emotionally abusive. Gender-based violence can be physical, sexual, psychological (emotional), or socio-economic and verbal and it can take many forms. Some of them are sexual exploitation and gender-based violence like (rape, unwanted pregnant, sexual transmitted disease (HIV ADIS)) and each violence have their own psychological consequences.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

There are different kinds of conflicts, armed conflict is one of the major causes of instability and have various dimension of effects on the people and development of the country. Most of the countries in the world face different kinds of armed conflict. According to UN Security Council (2011) armed conflicts during the period 1989-1997 indicate 103 conflicts in 69 places around the world, 33 of which were active in 1997. One third of all United Nations Member States were directly involved in at least one (1) of armed conflict and the number of conflicts raised after the

end of the cold war (UN Security Council, 2011). Most armed conflicts are fought not only by systematic armies but it is also by militias and armed civilians with little discipline and with ill-defined chains of command (Cederman & Pengl, 2019).

In the continent Africa there are more than fifteen (50) countries and most of them have been facing changes in the nature and intensity of these armed conflicts over the years. Before 1960 most of the countries fought for independence. Though, after the independence the nature of the conflict changed to control of political and economic power by different ethnic groups in many African countries. Some of them are Kenya, Somalia, Nigeria, Angola, Congo Republic, Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi and etc. Now a day, the dynamics of conflicts in the region have taken new dimensions and most of the countries have been struggling with the challenges of insurgency. Few of them are Ethiopia, Mali, Egypt, Sudan, Chad, Cameroon, Burkina Faso and etc. (Oyinlola et al., 2020).

Ethiopia has the history of armed conflict in November 2020- 2022 between government of Ethiopia (GoE) and Tigray People Liberation front (TPLF). According to Bader, (2022) reported on the title of ‘‘Ethiopians Warring Parties Should End Attacks on Women and Girls’’. The report focuses on the women and girls’ sexual violence and the Ethiopian federal allied forces; Eritrean government and Amhara forces are subjected to Tigrayan women and girls’ sexual violence and the Tigray force also subjected to the Amhara region women sexual violence. Amnesty International (2021) reported on the sexual violence of the women and girls in the conflict and who is the subject, according to the report the Ethiopian aligned force is subjected to women and girls’ sexual violence. Human rights watch study on ‘gender-based violence in the Tigray conflict’. However, Lack of adequate and specific research which assessing the impact of conflict on women and girls in weldiya town. The study seeks to address this gap by critically assessing the real challenges that the women and girls face in conflict and showing the impact of conflict on women and girls. The thesis also important to create knowledge on the impact of conflict. Therefore, the purpose of this thesis is assessing the impact of northern conflict on women and girls in weldiya town.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objective of this research divided in to two general and specific objectives

1.3.1. General Objective of the Study

The general objective of this research is Assessing the impact of armed conflict on women and girls: the case of Northern conflict in Weldiya town.

1.3.2. Specific Objective of the Study

1. To examine how the conflicts influence the women and girls.
2. To assess the sexual and gender-based violence in the conflict.
3. To examine the support of the community and local government for the women and girls who are affected in the conflict.
4. To assess why gender-based violence used as weapon of war in Tigray conflict

1.4. Research Question

1. What are the challenges that women and girls face in the conflict?
2. How sexual and gender-based violence happen in the conflict?
3. How the community and local government support the women and girls who are affected in the conflict?
4. Why gender-based violence used as weapon of war

1.5. Significance of the study

This thesis contributes to the existing body of knowledge regarding the effect of conflict on women and girls. It also provides new idea to the policy makers that mean the outcome of the research deliver preliminary data which can be an input. The study also would give readers a different perspective on the effect of conflict on women and girls. Further it uses the researcher by providing them with background data for further study on the topic.

1.6. Scope of the Study

Geographically the study was limited to the north eastern part of Ethiopia Amhara region weldiyatown. The subject matters of the research are delimited to assessing the impact of armed conflict on women and girls: the case of Northern conflict in Weldiya town.

1.7. Limitation of the Study

The major limitation of this study was categorization of the information based on their research question because the case is sensitive and depend each other. the information that was needed for the study was sensitive and also it would be possible to conduct interviews, focus group discussion and open-ended question from one side of the combatant party which would make the study biased. The limitation mentioned in the above do not adversely affect the validity of the overall study.

1.8. Organization of the study

The whole research report is divided into five chapters. The first chapter includes an introductory section that includes a problem statement, the study's purpose, the research question, its significance, its scope, its limitations, and its ethical considerations. Review of related literature based on theoretical framework and empirical research is presented in Chapter 2. The research design, methodology, study population, and sampling strategy are all presented in Chapter 3. Chapter four present with data presentation and interpretation with deep data analysis. The last Chapter contains recommendation, conclusion and also reference.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Literature Review Trends in Armed Conflict

The Northern conflict began in November 4/2020 and ended when the South Africa Pretoria Agreement November 2022. the conflict began between the government of Ethiopia (GoE) and Tigray people liberation front (TPLF). In the most Northern district of Tigray, Ethiopia has been undergoing a civil war that was once thought to be a "law enforcement operation" that would last a few weeks. Ethiopia suffered a huge loss as a result of the conflict. In the Tigray region, internet and telecommunications were down when the crisis broke out in November 2020, leaving massive information void. The war affects social, political and economic condition of the regions and there was a destruction of property, loss of human life, and infrastructures such as road, hospital, school, electricity, telecommunication and etc. and there was high internal displacement and risk of famine are among the most mentioned.

Conflicts have actually pushed societies forward. From mythological times to Ancient Greece and Rome, then through the Middle Ages, the Crusades, and all the way to World War I and World War II, historical perspectives show the roles women have played in various wars and battles throughout history. While everyone experiences pain during a conflict, its immediate and long-term impacts are particularly accentuated for women. The Women and War Special Report 2003 study highlighted the terrible problems women encounter during war, including physical safety, sexual violence, displacement, access to food, water, and shelter, the issue of absent relatives and its impact on survivors, access to personal documentation, access to sources of livelihood, as well as the situation of detention and internment (Lewis & ICRC, 2003). More focus has been placed in this report on the vulnerabilities of women in crisis situations. This study found that when the three legal systems international humanitarian law, human rights law, and refugee law in particular are viewed collectively, international law generally properly addresses the requirements of women in situations of armed conflict. Today's wars harm women

not because the law does not exist, but rather because the rules that are already in place are not being followed or respected.

Stated by Marshall (2000) War systematically rips men away from their families while taking a heavy toll on the home. The main causes of sickness throughout human history have been violent conflicts. However, because diseases spread more quickly during times of war, those who die, are hurt, or become disabled on the battlefield are directly affected. As a result, these indirect effects of war can persist for many years after a fight has ended. There is a relatively high frequency of HIV/AIDS transmission during and following times of violence. Pregnancy and childbirth become considerably riskier in several developing nations during times of violence (Rehn & Sirleaf, 2002).

Under military occupation in Rwanda, Tutsi and Muslim women from the former Yugoslavia have frequently approved of and normalized the sexual exploitation of local women by military men (Hynes, 2004). One of the negative effects of war on women's health is trauma. Every stage of military activity disrupts and destroys their source of food, shelter, and healthcare, and the subsequent effects on their children's schooling, personal relationships, and sense of community start to deepen the trauma experienced (Hynes, 2004).

In 1990, one of the few years when women and girls lost lives in battle, 211,000 of them were lost. In Rwanda, ethnic violence claimed one million lives over a three-month period. According to Amnesty International's figures, they estimate that 40–45% of those who were slain were women, and that up to 500,000 women and girls were raped and subjected to sexual torture. The majority of adult women in recent war-torn states including Bosnia, Angola, Kosovo, Herzegovina, Mozambique, and Somalia are widows. 10,000 men in Kosovo lost their lives during the fighting or went missing, and many widows came back from refugee camps. According to Hynes (2004), women head 35% of rural households in Cambodia, many of which are headed by widows.

USAID looked into the effects of lethal intrastate warfare on women in 2001. Their research revealed that rape was routinely utilized as a form of torture and warfare in all six countries: Rwanda, Cambodia, El Salvador, Georgia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina. On the other side, many

women in the post-conflict era perceived themselves as being pushed into prostitution (Scheper, 2002). Women have economic limitations after the battle because they lack property rights and find it challenging to obtain bank loans. In addition, more women entered the workforce during and after the conflict, albeit many lost their official sector jobs once the fighters returned to civilian life (Scheper, 2002).

The process of militarization and its negative effects are prevalent in many nations today. Afghan women are pushed into exile and subjected to bombs, which has proven to be a disaster in that country. Women face a different Camps condition than males do. Women's lives in camps are incredibly depressing. They had labour to do in the fields and other responsibilities to fulfil outside of their dwellings in their previous existence (before the conflict), but in the refugee camps they have no reason to leave the temporary and sparse surface they call home (Rehn & Sirleaf, 2002).

In Save the Children Report from 2005, Hausner and Save the Children drew attention to the setting of the Nepal Armed War and emphasized the following findings:

- Conflict has a tremendous impact on both internal and external migration, particularly from Nepal to India.
- In comparison to the number of men and boys, very few women and girls migrate over India's borders.
- Most women who relocate to India do so to be with their husbands rather than to seek employment.
- Women and girls who cross international borders to go to India don't seem to be at a higher risk of being victims of human trafficking than those who stay in their native villages.
- The number of women working as prostitutes in Kathmandu and along the Nepali border has surged as a result of the conflict in that country.
- Women from every caste and ethnic group in Nepal work as waiters, dancers, and sex workers in Kathmandu's dance clubs and border regions.

- People who move to India tend to mention economic factors more frequently than outright citing conflict.

Rehn and Sirleaf (2002) Report's conclusion discussed Rwandan women's experiences in conflict. The article claims "Throughout the armed conflicts, women often practice violence forced pregnancy, sexual abuse, abduction, and slavery. Their bodies have been used as envelopes to send messages to the perceived enemy". This report additionally stress "Women do not enjoy equal position with men in any society and during armed conflict, a pre-existing culture of discernment is often aggravated".

Mudrovic (2002) has been described Bosnia and Herzegovina practices additionally; violence is a global problem that disturbs both men and women through different perspectives and experiences. Gender based violence includes the physical, sexual and emotional abuse of women, sexual abuse of female children, marital rape, sexual assault, forced prostitution and trafficking in women and young girls. Women's societal standing has also been determinedly disadvantaged due to entrenched patriarchal cultural values. These values, in turn dictate roles and, in turn dictate roles and behaviours that can result in negative health outcomes.

Astgeirsdottir (2002) highlighted the Kosovo conflict setting and how it had a significant negative impact on women's and girls' lives between 1989 and 1999. The Kosovo-Albanian women's freedom of movement was severely constrained by the new policy the Serbian government enacted in the 1990s, endangering their safety. During that time, women found it difficult to complete their education, curriculum standards dropped, and unemployment significantly increased. Numerous working women lost their jobs. During the crisis' peak years, from 1998 to 1999, many women lost family members, experienced shocking violence, and felt intense insecurity and terror.

According to Astgeirsdottir (2002), women's lives were frequently neglected and exploited during the war. She also points out that the majority of articles on women focus on how little importance are placed on women's life, how few possibilities there are for education and training, how they lack access to vital health information, and how women are incapable of making

decisions. Her research led her to the following conclusions about the effects of conflict involving women:

- Vulnerability to Violence - As males leave their villages to fight in other places or are singled out for mass arrests, executions, or kidnappings, communities' demographics change.
- Physical and psychological injury - Women are frequently terrorized, raped, dismembered, kidnapped for slave trade, killed, and exploited.
- Increased poverty - Women are more at risk of malnutrition, famine, chronic illness, and mortality due to inflation and the security of essentials like food and medicine.
- Increased domestic violence rates - Additionally, there are signs that violence against women by members of their own community increases when there is conflict.
- Issues pertaining to women are sublimated - During a protracted battle, issues that specifically affect women are frequently overlooked in favour of bigger disputes.
- Mainstreaming complicated problems - When women's issues aren't disregarded, these complex conflicts are frequently reduced to ones that are more palatable, more accepted, and frequently have a ready-made solution that ignores their specifics.
- Role shift: In the majority of societies, women are often responsible for caring for children, running families, and taking care of older relatives. Women become more apparent in the family and community during unresolvable disagreements as a result of men's extended absences.

In 1994, the genocide in Rwanda was related in part to the historical absence of democracy and inclusive administration, according to Pawley's 2003 definition of the country and its women. Women experienced significant effects from the genocide, not just from a psychological, social, and economic perspective, but even from a purely demographic one. Immediately after the genocide, the Rwandan government calculated that almost 70% of its population was female.

Human Rights Watch (2000) concluded the Eastern Democratic of Congo war time since 1996 has destroyed the local economy. That situation created hardships to the women poverty rate increased women who had to provide the recourses to keep alive their families Even though doing so put them at risk of sexual violence, they continued to go to the fields to produce, the forest to

create charcoal, or the markets to barter their wares. During that time, combatants kidnapped women and girls, brought them to their bases in the jungle, and forced them to do domestic work and sexual activities, sometimes for longer than a year. In certain instances, it has been demonstrated that soldiers and combatants sexually assaulted women and girls as part of a larger onslaught in which they also harmed and killed people and pillaged and destroyed their property.

According to Chhabra's (2005) explanation of the Kashmir conflict, women who live near the Indo-Pak border experience direct and indirect physical and psychological violence as a result of being uprooted, having their families split up, losing their male relatives, and having to bear two burdens at once survival and family care. She goes on to say that militarism and conflict have severely harmed women in both countries by promoting macho culture and sexist roles. She claims that women's lack of access to limited economic resources and the social sector have further exacerbated poverty and increased hardship. Her article demonstrates widows' rights and needs. When a spouse passes away, his land, possessions, and other assets are typically not governed by the law. This makes it more difficult for women to get the things they need to keep a family running. Furthermore, it causes these women's and their children's social banishment and poverty.

Agustiana (2004) describes trauma, psychological stress, powerlessness, sadness, and insomnia as the most prevalent health issues in Indonesian war. The majority of the men and women in Indonesia's Poso district were impacted by the conflict's aftereffects. Women from Kilo-9 villages who have experienced internal displacement are the group most affected by traumatic memories associated to conflict.

Many regions of the world continue to undergo violent conflict, according to Hynes (2004). 20 of the 53 countries in Africa, on average, have had civil conflicts. He defines the Mozambique conflict and how women's participation is different, concentrating his research on that country. Women in Mozambique took part in two armed conflicts: the Civil War (1976–1992) and the National Liberation Movement (1964–1974). After the war, gender roles in Mozambique are altering and have seen certain changes at the national level. But the battle did not alter the power dynamics between the sexes: During the battle, women actively took part in the fighting, serving as both soldiers and home breadwinners. According to the 2004 United Nations Refugee

Reports, women and girls made up half of the 4.7 million refugees who were under the High Commissioner for Refugees' protection. Due of the war, this group's weakness served as a haven. Boys have less access to school and economic possibilities, and they are more vulnerable to psychological and sexual abuse since they are typically socially and culturally subordinate to men.

In a study on the causes of rape in civil war conducted by Cohen (2014), it was discovered that armed conflicts have negative effects on many facets of society based on cross-national data collected between 1980 and 2009. The survivors mostly experienced social, psychological, and physical stress. According to the findings, girls and women who were victims of armed conflict sexual violence suffered unfavourable effects. However, despite additional humanitarian involvement, the study is unable to pinpoint the particular differences that allow some people to overcome hardship on their own.

Garcia-Moreno et al. (2006) investigated the prevalence and health impacts of forced rape assault against women on a worldwide and regional scale. The results showed that being exposed to violent incidents during a disagreement had caused serious physical and social traumas, which increased the suicide incidence among Peruvian women who had experienced domestic violence. However, the study did not assess or administer the Social Acknowledgement Inventory to ascertain the severity of the impact of social stigmatization on the survivors' wellbeing.

Noe (2013), a Colombian researcher, found that CRSV was pervasive during the 20-year conflict and had tremendous impact on communities, particularly on women and girls who had suffered rape and kidnapping. 90% of the population of Acholi country, or over 1.6 million people, was compelled to evacuate their homes and dwell in temporary camps for internally displaced people in appalling conditions. They contend that a variety of humanitarian interventions, including clinical care, nutrient-rich dietary supplements, and financial help, were necessary to lessen the survivors' burden.

Descriptive research on gender-based sexual assault against women and girls living in regions that saw conflict between 2002 and 2006 was undertaken by Garca-Moreno et al. (2013). They discovered that the risk of women in a district becoming victims of forced gang rape increased

dramatically when there was a higher prevalence of battle within that region. The results showed that the survivors had endured severe physical trauma, including fractured arms and legs, burned scars, perforated genitalia, and genital dysfunction (fistula), among other things. However, compared to psychiatric post-traumatic stress disorder or social stigma, the bodily effects of trauma were much more common. They stated that in order to lessen the calamity, more humanitarian assistance was needed in clinical and medical care. The prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, somatization disorder, and substance misuse among persons in conflict-affected areas in northern Uganda has been determined by researchers to be significant. The dread of society's norm regarding the acceptance of sexual stereotypes in society was the key contributor to these psychological traumas. In this aspect, social acceptance is crucial in reducing the scope or intensity of sexual assault.

Tol et al. (2013) found that intimate partners, family members, and the community were interested in learning how to better support rape survivors in their houses in a different study from Central and West Africa. The research showed that the community was less traditional but more religious, which made it easier for the survivors to fit in.

Leech and Littlefield (2011) conducted research on the effects of sexual violence during war on women and girls living in Yugoslavia battle zones. They came to the conclusion that CRSV is a severe public health issue with detrimental effects on survivors' health. They have found that some of the negative physical health effects of CRSV include reproductive health issues such as traumatic genital ulcer disease, HIV/AIDS, and infertility. Additionally, this cohort has been found to have significant rates of behavioural health issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety disorders, suicidal ideation, and alcohol and drug misuse. The primary issue that this study didn't address was how survivors were able to cope with the incident on their own; they didn't say whether it was because of humanitarian care and assistance or whether it was because they changed their behaviour to fit the hostile environment.

The study by Saile et al. (2014) on how UN discourses on women in war and sexual and gender-based violence in conflict clearly emphasized the vulnerability of women and girls in particular, reinforcing gender stereotypes that are all too common. The results showed that women's

vulnerability is then "compensated" with protection: the "need to protect women in war" is obviously evident in many resolutions.

According to a study by Elfversson et al. (2020), 64% of gang-raped women were not reported to have experienced any psychological post-traumatic stress disorder during any of the 38 conflicts that occurred in Africa between 1989 and 2009, including both civil conflicts and interstate wars, and all 236 actives, organized armed groups. Instead, following the incident, they were leading much better lives. According to the survey, more than one in three female refugees from the DRC had been sexually assaulted and had undergone psychological trauma as a result of societal shame.

2.3. Conceptual Review

2.3.1. The Concept of “Gender”

The word "gender" is widely used today. It is widely used by the media, institutions on a national and international scale, and academics from many disciplines, including feminist scholars and non-feminist academics (Braidotti, 2002). Despite its common use, the definition of “gender” has been contested (Cossman, 2002). In many international legal contexts “the terms ‘sex’ and ‘gender’ are treated as synonyms”(Charlesworth, 2019) or the concept of “gender” is used with as meaning women’s issues in general (Vitucci, 2020).

This ambiguity around "gender" requires a practical definition, which will serve as the basis for the remainder of this thesis. For the time being, the UN Women's definition of "gender" will be employed, which describes it as a concept whereby

“Refers to the social attributes and chances connected with being male and female and the relationships among women and men and girls and boys, as well as the relations among women and those between men. These qualities, opportunities and relationships are socially built and are educated through socialization methods. They are context/time-specific and changeable. Gender determines what is expected, allowable and valued in a woman or a man in a given situation. In maximum societies there are differences and inequalities among women and men in responsibilities allocated, activities undertaken,

access to and governor over resources, as well as decision-making opportunities. Gender is part of the broader socio-cultural context (Scott, 1986).

This meaning reflects the philosophies that distinguish between sex and gender. Sex consists in the biological differences between men and women, while gender comprises all aspects of culture and social relations that contribute to have a definition of masculinity and femininity. This qualification of “gender” and the distinction between “gender” and “sex” have been also adopted by the United Nations and by the regional human rights systems.

2.3.2. The Concept of Armed Conflict

Armed conflict has no single definition. Different scholars and institution define armed conflict in different way. According to Alina and Robert, (2020) armed conflict is wars in their plurality and other procedures of violent protest through lethal weapons which oppose social groups or state. On the other hand, Armed conflict is an organized, collective and violent conflict between two or more actors, whether state or non-state actors.

ICRC, (2008) describes armed conflict as a protracted armed hostilities rising among governmental armed forces and the forces of one or more equipped groups, or between such groups arising on the territory of a State. The armed hostility must feast a minimum level of strength and the parties involved in the struggle must demonstration a minimum of organization and have the capability to sustain military operations.

Hazen, (2008) defines armed conflict as the deliberate use of illegitimate force (actual) with arms or explosives, against a person, group, public or state, which challenges people- centered security and sustainable development. There are also three types of armed conflict which is recognized by international humanitarian law; international armed conflict, internationalized armed conflict and non-international armed conflict (Chelimo,2011). According to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, common article 2 states that international armed conflict is a conflict between the legal armed forces of two different states. Internationalized armed conflict can occur when a war arises between two different parties fighting internally but the war supported by two different states (Stewart, 2003, p 315&Chelimo, 2011). Non-international armed conflicts, is a conflict between governmental forces and non-governmental armed groups, or between such groups only. The

meaning of non-international armed conflicts is the Geneva Conventions of 1949, common Article 3 (ICRC, 2008).

Non-international armed conflict mentioned as internal armed conflicts which denote the massive or vast majority armed conflicts in today's world. And also, it takes place within the boundary of the country and contains armed conflict between a State and armed groups or between armed groups and it does not include internal instabilities like riots and civil strife (Nagaveni et al, 2017).

Traditionally, non-international armed conflicts were considered as purely internal matters for States, for which no international law provisions applied (Bouvier, 2020).

2.3.3. Types of Conflict

Conflict is multi-dimensional and there is wide academic attention to the classification, type, the character and the values of conflict. According to Mubika&Bukaliya,(2015) Armed conflict classified in to four (4) types, The first one is Intra-state conflict: - which is the most common type of conflict and occurs among the armed forces of the government and an opposing civil organized group, within the state boundaries. This conflict is often determined by ethnic, religious or ideological incompatibility. Second Inter-state conflict: - the Conflict arises between two governments organizing their respective two-armed forces. The conflict occurs anywhere and often begins with an official declaration of war. Third, Non-state conflict: - the Conflict covers the use of armed forces between two organized groups, neither of which the government or the state is sponsored. The last Extra-State Conflict: - conflict occurs among a state member of the international system and a political unit or not a system member outside of its territorial boundaries. Extra-state is: state vs. independent non-state actor.

2.3.4. Causes of Armed Conflict

There are many and complex factors which lead to armed conflict within the state. Some situation increases the chance of war like incapability of government to provide good governance and security for their own population. For instance, weak Governments have little power to stop the outbreak and spread of violence that improve organized and more legitimate Governments could have prevented or controlled. Armed conflicts also seen as the fight for authority by a unit

of the elite that has been excluded from the workout of authority in dictatorial systems of one-party rule (UN organization, 2001).

A country which is afflicted by war typically also suffers sharp inequalities among social groups. Poverty is a critical factor and the other factor is based on ethnicity, religion, national identity or economic class; inequality that tends to be reflected in unequal access to political authority that too often forecloses paths to peaceful transformation. Economic decline and mismanagement are also related with violent conflicts for instance the impact of radical market-oriented economic reforms and structural adjustment forced without recompensing social policies has been seen to challenge political stability (UN organization, 2001).

According to Mubika&Bukaliya, (2015) classify causes of conflict in to the following. The first one is Limited Access to Land: - Land access and Changes in land use are significant causes in armed conflicts. Unfair land distribution and Limited access to land create patterns of economic control, leading to social exclusion for poor and landless people. Those living in poverty rarely have access to the equipment essential to initiate armed conflict. For instance, we can see Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda and Burundi. Hunger and poverty lead people to take desperate movements and take up arms to attain some degree of dignity for which they are eager to sacrifice themselves. Those situations can generate the deprivation and social tension that leads to violence and armed conflict. Second Religion and Race: - is concentrated almost entirely on the religions all competing for domination, credibility, and increasing control over their groups. Race could apply more in Africa and Asia than in another place but regardless of human rights, anti-discrimination and other current world-wide laws, there seems to remain a huge gap in people's tolerance of other races. Almost all of the world's major attempts at genocide have been centered on this issue.

2.3.5. Gender and Armed Conflict

Gender, armed conflict, and law are much closer than one may visualize. Gender is well understood as a “constitutive element of social relationships”, and as a “primary way of signifying relationships of power” (Scott, 1986). This new understanding of the term “gender” - thanks to the Western feminist theoretical elaborations of the late 1980s - made this concept also an analytical tool “to decode meaning and to understand the multifaceted contacts between

several forms of human interaction”(Scott, 1986). With this approach, Joan Scott elevated the concept of “gender” from a neutral term, originating from the differentiation between women and men in biological terms, to the core feminist concept used to explain the structural inequalities between women and men. Gender has become an analytical category with the capacity to redefine traditional paradigms for comprehending human reality. In this way, the concept assumed a scientific value relevant for all social sciences, including law.

Using gender as its central concept, “gender analysis” examines dynamics in all forms of social organization using the specific lens of power relationships between women and men. Since the “state of play in gender relations in a given institution is its gender regime”, the spaces of social organization where gender practices take place and develop are more relevant than the moments of individual interaction between men and women (Connell, 1987).

Armed conflict, as a fundamental human occurrence, cannot escape gender analysis. Indeed, considering that conflict represents one of the ways in which human beings have “interacted” throughout history, gender analysis argues that “gender shapes war and war shapes gender”(Goldstein, 2003, p127). Thus, the exclusion of the category of gender from the study of the armed conflict would lead to a partial understanding of the human phenomenon of war (Goldstein, 2003).

According to gender approach to war, the armed conflict reproduces and, in certain cases, reinforces the pre-existent social characters culturally associated with masculinity and femininity. Indeed, the “hegemonic masculinity”, the privileged masculinity reproducing the characters of power, dominance and strength, and authority, represents the stereotype of gendered order in warfare.

“ The calculation of man as intrepid fighter, on the one hand, and woman as unprotected civilian, on the other hand, have informed the reality and the traditional understanding of the war for centuries, carrying on two opposite and non-interchangeable images of the femininity and the masculinity”(Connell, 1987, p92).

Therefore, violence, power and control, as expressions of masculinity, have always been the key elements to maintain the gendered order in war. It is only when these characters are not assumed

as natural, pre-given characteristics of women and men but as cultural attributes that certain dynamics of the conflict become visible and calculated according to the sensibility of the time. As Chinkin and Kaldor puts it,

[g]iven the gendered nature of war and the way that conflict is constructed on the basis of gender relations, it can be argued that countering some of the gender asymmetries of conflict could also weaken the very way that war and conflict are constructed (Chinkin & Kaldor, 2017).

How about law? One may ask whether and to what extent armed conflict is also a gendered *legal* setting. To put it differently, the question here is whether the above-mentioned gendered aspects of armed conflict have also informed the legal regime regulating armed conflict. If one considers that the law is the system of norms devoted to the regulation of social relationships, and, as it has been said, social interactions in the warfare are intrinsically gendered, it is difficult to imagine that the IHL (International Humanitarian Law) regime could not have been influenced by the gender assumptions which govern society and war in particular at any given time (Conaghan, 2013).

2.3.6. Definition of Conflict-Related Violence against Women

During the last decades, the attention of international law scholars has turned to a great extent to the effects of wartime violence. The introduction of the 1949 Geneva Conventions reflected a new awareness about the necessity to protect human beings also during warfare and paved the way to the process of “humanization of International Humanitarian Law” (Meron, 2000). For the first time, many forms of violence and brutal atrocities committed during the conflicts, which were before considered as collateral and unavoidable effects of the war, became understood not only as morally regrettable outrages, but also as violations of international legal norms. This development of IHL (International Humanitarian Law) is also reflected in the new perception of and response to women’s experience of the warfare: several forms of violence, to which women have always been subjected to during the war, did not appear tolerable anymore. The concept of “conflict-related violence against women” will be analyzed here.

2.3.7. Defining Violence against Women

The term "violence against women" (VAW) has been legally defined in Article 1 of the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women as

several act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, sexual, physical or psychological harm or suffering to women, including fears of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether happening in public or private life (UN General Assembly, 1993).

As it might be highlighted, this explanation qualifies VAW as “gender-based violence”. “Gender-based violence against women” (GBV) is defined by the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as “violence that is directed against women because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately”(CEDAW, 1992). The qualification of VAW as “gender- based violence” expresses the intention to strengthen the gender character of this kind of violence and to consider it “as a social - rather than an individual - problem, requiring complete responses, outside specific events, individual perpetrators and victims/survivors” (CEDAW, 2017). This tactic to VAW puts the accent on the cooperative and endemic measurement of the issue, and the gendered correlation among the forms of violence and the group of people or women specifically affected by them. In this way, VAW started to be understood as a structural phenomenon with deep causes in the gendered division of roles and as the most pervasive manifestation of the patriarchal culture. In other terms, a close relation is highlighted between any form of violence against women and the discriminatory status against women worldwide (CEDAW, 2017).

Two considerations must be stressed at this point. The first one regards the distinction between VAW and sexual violence. Not all forms of VAW are sexualized, and this thesis deals both with sexualized and non-sexualized violence against women. Some crimes have both a sexualized and a non-sexualized component. For example, the crime of forced marriage has been described by Justice Sebutinde, (2008) in her concurrence in the AFRC Judgment, as

The forceful abduction and holding in imprisonment of women and girls (‘bush wives’) against their will, for purposes of sexual satisfaction of their ‘bush husbands’ and for

gender-specific forms of labor containing cleaning, cooking, washing clothes (conjugal duties).

As the abovementioned definition clarifies, the forced conjugal association involves both sexual and non-sexual acts, which cannot be considered separately because “they are integrated in this form of abuse”.

The second thought concerns the preference of the word “violence against women” instead of “gender-based violence” in this thesis. At least two reasons support this choice. First, despite the fact that the term “gender” is usually meant to imply women (or “female”), gender-specific harms can actually affect both women and men. Forms of GBV against men may include, among others, being harassed, beaten or killed for non-conformity to the dominant stereotype of masculine identity as well as forms of sexual violence such as rape, enforced sterilization, enforced nudity, enforced masturbation and genital violence (Sivakumaran, 2007).

2.3.8. Defining Conflict-Related Violence

There is not a single definition of armed conflict and the relevant definitions “fleshed out over the years through state practice, international case law, and the writings of scholars” (Akanke, 2020).

2.3.8.1. Causes of Gender Based violence (GBV)

There is no a single factor that describe gender-based violence in the society. The effect of conflicts on women and girls’ reproductive and sexual health can never be undervalued. Their reproductive, psychological and overall well-being is often strictly cooperated in times of conflict. Conflicts tend to raise the incidence of sexual violence like rape; sexually transmitted infections (STIs like HIV/AIDS) and unwanted pregnancies. According to European council, (2022) there are four types of factors can be identified, the first one is culture factor: - it is the Religious and historical traditions have sanctioned the physical punishment of women under the notion of entitlement and ownership of women or legitimize control over women’s sexuality. Cultural factors include gender stereotypes and prejudice, prescriptive expectations of masculinity, an understanding of the family domain as private and under male authority, and a general acceptance of violence as part of the public sphere like street sexual harassment of women and etc. second, legal factor: - Gender-based violence is supposed in many societies as

shameful and weak practice. Until now, the law in some countries still differentiated between the public and private spaces, which left women particularly vulnerable to domestic violence. The low level of reporting and investigation on the issue. Third, Economic factor: -When unemployment and poverty affect both men and women, this can also cause them to assert their masculinity through violent means and it also creates way for violence and poverty that become self-perpetuating. In the last, Political factor: - Most of the time politics is the standing point of civil war and other kind of war or conflict between the group and the state. More than another factor, politics leads to high level of gender-based violence because it may be seen as a weapon or a tool to attract the enemy.

In conflict-affected and humanitarian settings in Ethiopia, GBV is a major concern. Women and girls are more susceptible to GBV and major health issues as ethnic conflict and political unrest worsen. Ethiopia's current gender-sensitive legal frameworks do not sufficiently manage GBV and are not in line with international policy, despite the fact that GBV remains a public concern (Techiloet, al. 2023).

The majority of rape committed by soldiers when they invade villages and seize territory is committed against female victims of sexual violence in war; this crime is commonly oversimplified in the descriptor rape as a weapon of war (Turshen, 2019).

For the objective of winning the battle by any means necessary, including sexually abusing helpless civilian women, gender-based violence is employed as a weapon of war. Gang rapes, forced rapes inside families, and rapes by armed militias are all examples of gender-based violence. These conditions raise the chance of unintended pregnancy, failed abortions, STIs, and pregnancies and deliveries that could be fatal (Desalegn et al., 2023).

2.4. Theories Related to Sexual Violence in Conflicts

2.4.1. Women as a Category

This thesis is concerned with sexual violence against women and girls in Northern conflict; Hence this thesis concerned with how the conflicts challenge women and girls and why those women and girls are affected by gender-based violence. The study approaches the question of

responses to conflict-related sexual violence through the prism of the global Women, Peace and Security framework, which constitutes the umbrella under which all UN Security Council resolutions pertaining to conflict-related sexual violence have been subsumed and which also affect international responses.

Of course, women are not a monolithic entity. Their gender identities, and hence their experiences intersect in myriad ways with e.g. their ethnicity, class or sexual orientation (Crenshaw, 1991). While it is important to acknowledge the complex sets of identities individuals hold, women necessarily self-identify as part of a social collective of women with shared experiences (their self-identification may emphasize e.g., their ethnicity or class), but rather that women occupy similar positions in “the material organization of social relations” (Young, 1994). Nonetheless, these shared positions and experiences may become salient for (a subset of) women, as a result of which they may develop a collective consciousness as a social group, join forces and politicize gender (Young, 1994).

Men are clearly also victims of conflict-related sexual violence. That the pertinent UNSCR resolutions (1820, 1888, 1960, 2106), with one exception, discuss conflict-related sexual violence only with respect to women is a major oversight that ultimately reinforces a simplistic male perpetrator-female victim dichotomy. One can only hope that the global normative and legal framework will catch up with the rising body of scholarship that is detaching light on sexual violence against men and boys in conflict (Oosterhoff et al., 2004) and highlights their active silencing as victims (Schulz, 2018). That international criminal courts have also focused on men as victims of conflict-related sexual violence is a significant development in this regard, even though legal scholars have raised concerns about whether existing definitions of rape are truly gender-neutral (Isaac, 2016). I hope my work can enter into dialog with emerging and future work on how men respond to conflict-related sexual violence, how this response differs from that of women, and to what extent international actors incorporate men into their work related to conflict-related sexual violence (Schulz, 2018).

2.4.2. Local Responses: Victimization and Agency Theory

The literature on conflict-related sexual violence shows a tendency to dichotomize abuse and agency. If scholars mention to conflict-related sexual violence in association to (political) agency at all, they generally speak of this violence as constraining women's voice and participation (Crawford, 2017). And even where it is not explicitly formulated, the lack of attention to women's active responses to conflict-related sexual violence in the literature is noticeable. For example, (Meger, 2016) who applies a critical lens to the unintentional consequences of the international tactic to conflict-related sexual violence, containing a distortion of the variation in women's experiences, makes no mention of women's agency and active responses to this violence. In a complete review of the current literature, (Koos ,2017) laments a general lack of consideration to the agency of victims of conflict-related sexual violence and flags the cooperative coping of communities and self-help groups as an area for future research. This acknowledgement of the agency of victims (and their social support networks) constitutes an important challenge to the notion that victimization and agency are phenomena fundamentally at odds with each other. Where Koos, (2017) considers of agency in the rather narrow sense of overpowering trauma and stigma, I extend the focus in this thesis to women's, including victims', collective political agency in the contest against sexual violence and for women's rights.

In exploring the nexus of victimization and agency surrounding conflict-related sexual violence, this thesis aligns with efforts occurring in related literatures. In anthropology, (Robbins, 2013) has called on the discipline to move from the "anthropology of suffering" that has been dominant since the early 1990s towards an anthropology of the good, i.e. to study the ways people exert forward-looking agency in an attempt to improve their lives and their world, even under dire conditions and considerable constraints. Similarly, (Agustín, 2003) emphasizes that migrants use agency, even if under structural constraints, in defiance of "a growing tendency to victimize poor people, weak people, uneducated people and migrant people", i.e. "everyone on the lower rungs of power." Critical voices within criminology spotlight the dangers of unquestioningly subscribing to traditional victim frames associated with passivity and helplessness: this may undermine, deny or even take away the agency of vulnerable groups, such as those detained in immigrant detention centers or domestic violence victims (Serra & Calsamiglia, 2018).

In the research area of violent conflict specifically, scholars have approached the intersection of victimization and agency from different vantage points. In the field of transitional justice, (Ginty, 2014) has introduced the concept of everyday peace in an effort to counter dominant top-down approaches and the focus on the active (international) expert as the harbinger of change and peaceful transformation in conflict settings. Everyday peace focuses on inter- and intra-group social practices that maintain day-to-day peaceful interactions in deeply divided settings. Its central goal is to make visible individual and collective local agency in conflict settings that occur in tandem with international efforts, but are commonly ignored by the latter. A community-driven transitional justice approach that brings the local community and victims into transitional justice processes as active agents has likewise emerged (Madlingozi, 2010).

In a less institutionalized setting, (Meertens, 2001) inspects the agency of internally displaced people in Colombia and finds that they - especially internally displaced women - exhibit considerable agency in their daily struggles, in terms of ensuring survival, re-envisioning their life projects and even transforming gender roles. Similarly, (Cordero, 2005) proclaims that situations of crisis in which neither the state nor the rebel group in Peru (Sendero Luminoso) were able to represent and address the needs of the population facilitated civilians, particularly women, moving “[f]rom passive victims to social actors.” Explicitly aiming to overcome the dichotomization of victimization and agency, (Utas, 2005) introduces the concept of victims “as a form of self-representation by which agency may be effectively exercised under trying, uncertain and disempowering circumstances.” Based on the experiences of a woman during the Liberian war who was in different ways both victim and perpetrator of violence, he illustrates tactical agency in the form of strategically presenting as a victim to ensure safety and survival. While these studies illustrate that victimization and agency can and do co-occur, they do not advance theoretical explanations for these patterns, i.e., for how or why individuals and groups would move from victimization to agency.

2.4.3. From Victimization to Agency Theory

The idea of victimization and agency that I explain in this section underpins my theoretical argument of women’s mobilization in response to conflict-related sexual violence. They are not, as such, theorized and empirically tested in the papers. In this thesis, I use the term victimization

to describe the phenomenon of unjustly experiencing violence at the hand of another (Leisenring, 2006).

In discursive practice, “we find that the victim is also showed as generally lacking ‘power’, ‘inner force’, ‘responsibility’, ‘capacity for initiatives or ‘agency’. Victims are ‘not contributing in their own history’, ‘weak’, and ‘passive’” (Dahl, 2009). These patterns are prominent in the area of domestic violence as well as in relation to conflict-related (sexual) violence. Thus, practices in international law incline to “reproduce thesis of sexualisation and incapacitation at international courts” (Henry, 2014). This aligns also with Madlingozi (2010) more general observation that what he calls transitional justice entrepreneurs make a living out of representing and speaking on behalf of victims - and undermining victims’ agency, reinforcing victimhood and even producing victims in the process. How victims are narrated, perceived and constructed as weak and passive diverges fundamentally from the more technical definition of victims as individuals who have experienced harm at the hands of another. The problem is the projection of a passivity-agency dichotomy (which in reality is arguably more of a spectrum) onto a victimization-non-victimization dichotomy. The victimization-agency dichotomy is, in other words, artificially constructed.

The actor or survivor trope, which emerged in response to the negative associations with the word victim, all but erases the victimization experience, precisely because agency is treated as the inverse of victimization (Connell, 1997; Dahl, 2009). Thus, in terms of the tropes existing in popular discourse, you can be a victim or you can be an actor/ survivor. Unsurprisingly, several studies show that women who have been subjected to sexual or other violence struggle to place themselves and their experiences in either trope. While many reject a “victim identity” because they do not view themselves (and do not want to be viewed) as weak and passive, the actor narrative does not do justice to the fact that they have been harmed, have had their rights violated, and deserve recognition and support (Leisenring, 2006). Accordingly, Skjelsbaek (2006) narrative analysis of interviews with victims of wartime rape in Bosnia reveals that even women describing themselves primarily as survivors also see themselves as victims. In *Surviving Sexual Violence*, (Kelly, 1988) illustrates the complex responses of women victims of domestic violence, sexual violence or incest who have sought help in support groups in the UK: responses

include adverse psychological reactions, resistance, heightened political awareness of gendered violence and - occasionally - collective action.

2.4.4. The International Relations Perspective on War

The practice of war has long been a topic of research in the scholarly community. Whether examining historical trends, catalysts for why countries go to war, or benefits of such actions of aggression, those interested in international relations are quick to focus in on the questions surrounding war. Yet, for totally that has been and continues to be studied, feminist academics in particular are increasingly assertive for a shift in focus. In her book “War as Experience”, (Sylvester, 2013) expresses to a static tendency of international relations theory (IR) being concerned with the abstractness of war, i.e. states, organizations, laws, and norms. Devoid of people, the more orthodox philosophies of IR fail to account for the emotional, physical and social experiences of the people who make up war, instead they focus all of their energies on the abstract actors who are bloodless and lack human characteristics (Sylvester, 2013).

Nations may go to war to reserve their benefits and maintain their own security, but regardless of the reason, war is carried out by people and subsequently affects people. In her opening statement in *Experiencing War*, Sylvester (2011) speaks to the importance of using people and their experiences as the starting point for the analysis of war. The idea of Sylvester’s (2011) book is the following:

It draws our consideration away from strategic and national interest politics of war to the view of theorizing war from a starting point in individuals, the ones who experience war in a myriad of ways possible - as combatants, casualties, voyeurs, opponents, artists, healers, grave diggers, and so many other identities. What unite them all is the human body, a sensing physical entity that can touch war, and an emotional and thinking body that is touched by it in innumerable ways.

Sylvester (2011) goes further by saying, “this multi-faceted view of experience is long overdue”. The current way of analyzing war does not tell the whole story. If scholars are to continue to look at war as a result of the wider topics of anarchy, national security, self-interest, and the like, they are going to find themselves missing the smaller details. Only concentrating on the wider stages leaves a more salient and relevant piece of the puzzle lingering in the shadows; this factor

being the human component, which as Sylvester points out is where war begins. When the war breaks out there are very little who do not sense the effect of the conflict. Whether existence an agent of war or the one war is being accepted out on, the body and mind experience war at its most basic level. Take away the organizations, the states and ideas of anarchy and all you have left are the individuals who are experiencing the tumultuous event that is war. Containing the human element in the study of war is vital to drawing out a bigger and more complete picture of who war affects and how.

To understand why the consideration of the human experience during war is important one can look at the experience refugees have while in refugee camps. On a broad level there is a supposition that refugee camps are a place of reservation for those displaced during war. The term refuge literally means safety or shelter. Yet the individual practices of refugees paint a much different image of what it means to live within a refugee camp. Refugees are made to feel unimportant and childish. As one refugee put it, the reason why it is so often difficult to assist refugees is that they are not recognized as having any responsibility for their affairs at the beginning” (Harrell-Bond, 1999). Additionally, in regards to women, sexual abuse and exploitation goes rampant throughout the camps. So, while the notion of the refugee camp is to make a place of peace for those escaping the dangers of war, many refugees find they have runaway one form of victimization only to endure another.

The current tendency of international relations theory does a lot to clarify the larger phases of war. Concern of the broader influences of anarchy, state security, and self-preservation are significant. However, human practices cannot and should not be forgotten. Analyzing human experiences will add to our understanding of war because it will bring into focus not only why war is carried out, but who it affects an individual level as well.

2.4.5. How Women and War Relates - Why Gender Matters

If one is to consider the human component, the experiences of women need to be considered as they are a group that continues to be victimized by war. The idea of war being gendered in nature has long been an issue, dating back to the time of Hobbes, Rousseau, and Machiavelli. Each of these theorists discussed the dynamic of gender in their works, creating the long-standing traditional insight of men being the ones who “did war” while women were continuously

subjected to the distress as a result of war (Sylvester, 2013). There are two important ways from this understanding of war. First, by explaining men as those who “do war”, scholars are automatically deeming women to be the opposite of war. Women are the ones who either suffer at the hands of men or work to bring about peace; males are the troops who carry out the brutal actions of war. Men are masculine while women are soft and susceptible; at its most basic stage this is a gendered viewpoint on war. This leads into the second takeaway. By only seeing men in the narrative that is war; the practices of females are continuously left out of the dialogue. In this perception that women are vulnerable throughout times of war and as a result are victimized. However, this is where the story ends. Since all women are bundled under this concept, each woman's unique experiences are left unspoken. Since women are not the ones who “do war”, their practices are viewed as less significant; in other words, “...international organizations like the UN have simplified or standardized women's and girl's activities in war”(Sylvester, 2011). Generalizing the concern women and war are drawn rather than considering women's experiences on a case-by-case base. Feminist academics have selected to look past this simplified narrative of gendered warfare and hone in on the specific use of gender-based violence and exploitation that many women face during times of war.

There has been a lot of scholarly study conducted on the topic of women and war. Within the strife that result, violence against women first appears. The conflicts in Bosnia, Kosovo, and the Sudan serve as prime examples of the great lengths to which soldiers will go in order to victimize women (Mackinnon, 1998); meanwhile, the case of Japan's 80,000–200,000 Comfort Women led to the establishment of one of the largest human trafficking networks in the worldHall (2010) noted that a woman's attachment to a society's culture served as an impetus for members of the opposition to commit mass rapes in order to ethnically cleanse the enemy and bring about the downfall of civilization by eroding morals in her work on the rape of women during conflict. Women are considered to be "the place of culture"; hence, by abusing them, those who use rape as a war tactic bring disgrace on the opponent, forcing them into a position of submission (Hale, 2010).

Many women have fled combat zones because they fear being raped, hoping to find shelter once they get in a safe haven. But as Human Rights Watch (2000) noted, "Women who flee their homes in search of sanctuary from violence too frequently find that there is no meaningful

refugee- they have simply escaped violence in conflict to face a different type of violence in the refugee camps." Women are vulnerable at all stages of a conflict, including while they are living in a refugee camp, according to Bouta et al. (2005), who share this opinion.

The breakdown of society and social standards is one justification for why women in refugee camps continue to experience assault. Greece (2010) advanced the hypothesis that as society breaks down, there are less protection for women and fewer restrictions on men. Women experience degradation in their daily lives long before they are uprooted and forced into the limitations of a refugee camp. Refugee camps lack order, which makes women's vulnerabilities resulting from their status in society worse. In their investigation of the refugee camps in Tanzania, Human Rights Watch (2000) made this very point, noting that one of the reasons for sexual abuse was, "*... the collapse of traditional societal support instruments. In specific communal support systems for the safety of vulnerable individuals may no longer be present*". Additionally, the males in the camp are adjusting to their own change in status at the same time. Martin (2004) noted that "Refugee men may have a difficult time accepting either the new role of women or their own inability to fully support their families" in her investigation. Men may use their control over the female migrants to make themselves feel manlier and thus fulfill their designated role in society as a result of this form of identity problem.

Additionally, Mertus (2000) debates as a result of women being in a secondary role, they are easy targets for violence and abuse. This is compounded by the truth that they are blocked from getting access to resources that could support them overcome their conditions. Then there are the cases of Palestinian families trying to overcompensate for the loss of societal norms by using tradition to circumvent any chances of sexual abuse; these traditions can contain limiting a woman's mobility inside the camp and early marriages (Shalhoub-Kevorkian, 2009).

Finally, other refugees are not the only one's women need to be wary of. In many conflict situations it has come to light that aid workers and other government officials are complicit in acts of rape and forced prostitution within refugee camps to the point that it has become a major problem of concern (Human Rights Watch, 2000). The Human Rights Watch (2000) in specific has brought to light the association among camp officials and local prostitution rings in the case of women refugees in Tanzania.

The gamut of practices that women face during war calls for a continuing dialogue between government officials and researchers in order to further the understanding of this relationship. The next stage needs to include knowing the patterns that lead to women continuously finding themselves in a situation of submission and exploitation.

2.4.6. Where are the Gap Lies?

Women, like all others who pursue refuge outdoor zones of conflict, are observing for a place of safety for both their families and themselves. Nevertheless, as Edwards (2010) notes, the original legal definition of a refugee ignored gender and women, mentioning only race, religion, and place of origin as rights that were to be protected against discrimination. Furthermore, the diagram up of the 1951 convention saw no contribution from female voices. While legal explanations have come a long way and several states have begun to identify sexual and gender-based violence, other issues have continued prevalent within the refugee camps themselves. Upon incoming in a refugee camp, displaced people are observing to maintain their identity. Away from the center of conflict, refugees want to do nothing more than attempt to reconstruct their lives by remaining committed to their cultural and traditional beliefs. It is this strong sense of commitment that has caused women to be continuously left out of the conversation in refugee camps.

Indra (1987) spoke of the public and private sphere dynamic that carries over from traditional societies to the refugee experience. Men move around in the public compass and deal with concerns and decisions concerning the refugee camp; however, women are removed to the private compass where their main concerns include serving the family unit. Having been relegated to the private sphere, women are viewed as lacking both the class and culture to have their concerns heard, including those that directly link to their own personal safety. Even so, the honesty of refugee camps causes women to be closer to the public compass than ever before. However, as a result of being saved in the private compass for so long, they do not have the vital tools to successfully move around in the public sphere of the refugee camp. Their experiences outside of the camp hurt their chances of being active participants in the refugee society.

It is significant to remain cognizant of the truth that female refugees are not only vulnerable to subjection because of their gender, but because they are refugees as well. The perception of

refugees has become a stereotype that both host governments and the international community buy into on a regular basis. Zetter (1999) has defined the perception of refugees to contain of picturing these groups of people as both dependent and problematic. According to Zetter (1999)

“The concept of sanctuary coupled with the loss of familiar economic and social support systems and individual autonomy combine to construct a powerful image of dependency and the need for assistance”.

As was spoken to at the start of this chapter, the idea of the refugee camp is one of safety from the chaos of war; however, the overriding feelings of damage, coupled with the questioning of one’s identity, tends to cause people to be portrayed as helpless victims continuing to feel the ripple effects of war. Even though a vast number of refugees survive without dependence from formal assistance programs, the perception is that refugees are dependent and will continue to be so until they are no longer refugees (Zetter, 1999). Around the same time as Zetter Harrell-Bond (1999) was also arguing the perception of refugees. Harrell-Bond (1999) work concentrated on the idea of refugees being “packaged” as a group of helpless and starving societies who depended on continuous relief in order to remain alive. She pointed out the crux of the problem; refugees were in need of help. However, due to stereotypes, they ended up assuming a role of helplessness that was more extreme than their actual circumstances.

Before even adding the variable of gender into the calculation, women are already patented as dependent due to their position as a refugee. Additionally, there is the belief that women are always at risk in a place of refuge due to males needing to be present to provide both safety and stability. The insight is that women are inferior and without a male counterpart they will be incapable to survive (Edwards, 2010). Therefore, women have a dual vulnerability in refugee camps; not only are they dependent because of their position as a refugee, but because they are female as well.

2.4.7. The Depth of the Gap

As one can understand, women have confronted and continue to face several obstacles in refugee camps. Legal explanations and institutional orders have been put forth, but as Buscher (2010) pointed out, “...achievements in practice lag behind the achievements in policy development” (p.19). The first strategy on women was not released by the United Nations High Commissioner

for Refugees (UNHCR) until 1990, while Sexual and Gender Based Violence Guidelines and The Handbook for the Security of Women and Girls were not released until 2003 and 2008 correspondingly. Policy for women has remained a long time coming and follow through on such policy applications remains an uphill battle. Policy creativities are left unread and women largely remain outside the monarchy of the decision-making process, while ongoing to face violence (Buscher, 2010). Furthermore, even with the construction of new policies, cultural beliefs and traditional ways of life remain salient in the refugee community, both of which block women from breaking free of dependency.

The larger institutions involved in refugee situations, such as the United Nations, humanitarian organizations, and host governments continue to look at the plight of women from the top down. Recently, there has been a move towards gender mainstreaming; whereby the experiences of both men and women are grouped together in order to ensure the needs of all are addressed. This idea of gender mainstreaming perpetuates the generalizations concerning women because it works to create a solution that is one size fits all. Rather than going straight to the source and talking to women about their individual practices, broad initiatives are being placed forth with the awareness that they are going to have an effect on camp life. Therefore, it is time those analyzing refugee conditions look to a new playbook. Christine Sylvester's idea of human experiences creating a valuable input to the study of war is a necessary tool in determining the next stages in refugee policy, specifically where women are concerned. Buscher (2010) highlighted the importance of needing to go above and beyond education and policy in order to create behavioral changes throughout refugee camps. By considering human experiences, those working to improve lives may garner a more in-depth picture of the circumstances surrounding refugee women as they try to break free of their dependency and enduring cycle of exploitation. In the sections that follow, the Syrian refugee crisis and the influences Middle Eastern culture have on women refugees will be analyzed through the framework of human practices. This case study will help to demonstrate the importance of linking human experiences in order to better understand the narrative of refugee women.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. Research Methodology

The Main objective of study has Assessing how theNorthern conflict affects the women and girls in Woldiyatown. In this study the researcher has intended to interpret the impact of conflict on women and girls. The researcher finds out Qualitative research methods havebeen appropriate to this study. Qualitative research is act of data collecting and non- numerical in nature (Newman & Benz, 1998). Qualitative research method is Important to discover the underling of the Human Behavior and help to understand the filling motion of the people and it is also help to analysis the factors that motivate the people behave in a particular manner or what make people like and dislike things (Kothari, 2004). According to Bryman (2012), qualitative studies frequently emphasize the value of first-hand exposure to social contexts and creating a sympathetic social world through touch. These methodology tools made it possible to analyze the dynamics of armed violence and the life consequences for affected women. The purpose of this study is to examine the kind of challenges that women encounter in conflict, as well as to hear from them about their sentiments of resentment, suggestions for improving the situation, and goals for the future.

4.2. Research Design

The researcher has use Explanatory and case study research design. Explanatory research design is more flexible and helps to generating research question and formal hypotheses and it can address almost all type of research question. It used to examine a problem which is not be clearly defined (Kothari, 2004). Explanatory research is conduct with literature search, a focusing group discussion or case study and form hypothesis. Explanatory studies searching hypothesis which specify the nature and direction of the relationships between or among variables (Kothari, 2004). Case study approach is used to generate an in-depth understanding of complex issues of single individual a group, a community, an instance, an episode, and event, subgroup of a population, a

town or a city to explore causes of underline principles. The case study should focus on a defined subject or unit that is either very representative or exceedingly atypical, despite the fact that it is primarily a qualitative study design (Kumar, 2010).

4.3. Data Collection Methods

To generate the data, the study used primary source of data. To obtain the primary data, the researcher has used interview (semi-structured), open-ended questioners and focus group discussion (FGD). Before starting the field work the researcher have been designed semi-structured interview, open-ended questioners and focus group discussion and also the necessary qualitative equipment like audio recorders for interview the participant and for focus group discussion.

The researcher first collected the necessary data from the Women and Girls that are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence), Women's and Child Affairs Weldiya Town District, Ministry of women's and child affairs Ethiopia and United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Addis Ababa branch.

4.2.1. Study Population and Target Population

The Northern conflict affect the Tigray, Amhara and Afar regions in different zones, woredas and kebele and it make difficult and need high costs to study in those regions. Because of this reason the researcher has been study the impact of armed conflict on women and girl: the case of Northern conflict in Weldiya town only.

4.2.2. Sampling Techniques

In this study, the researcher was used purposive and snowball sampling techniques. Purposive sampling is subjective sampling or judgmental selective sampling. These sampling techniques depend on the researchers trust on their own judgment when selecting the individual, cases or members of the population that provide the best information to the study and it use to collecting the information from the appropriate sources (Newman & Benz, 1998). It was difficult to gain the participant from the Women and Girls that are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence) to gain the access the researcher used Snowball or networking sampling.

The interview and focus group discussion (FGD) has been collected from Women and Girls that are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence) and the open-ended question collected from Women's and Child Affairs Weldiya Town District, Ministry of women's and child affairs Ethiopia and United Nation High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Addis Ababa branch.

4.4. Data Analysis

When Data collection came to an end, it is the process of data analyzing, identifying and reporting the data. Data analyzing was involving critical thinking on the data obtained from primary sources of data and it has been associated with the objectives and research questions of the study. After collecting the data, it was analyzed and interpreted completely. For analyzing the data, first the audio recorded data and open-ended questioner collected through was transcribed and, which gathered data through local language (Amharic) was translated into English. In addition to this the researcher has given different marks to each of the explanations that are collected from research participants. Depending on these descriptions the researcher has categorized and themes have been generated and give the relevant figures.

The thematic data analysis approach was employed by the researcher to examine the data because it aids in recognizing, analyzing, and interpreting qualitative data patterns and their connections to the study's goals and research questions.

4.5. Ethical Consideration

This research has been familiar with the social science research protocol and code of ethics. The interview took place only if the participants agreed to be interviewed and also, they give same information about their background without any fraud, ethical concern is important for the research process because it has a direct impact on the study's performance. In this regard, a researcher has taken into account the host community's ethical values when conducting the research. As a result, the researcher has been taken into account the socio-cultural norms of the community, on which the study was conducted. To keep secret of the participant and the sensitivity of the issue their name is not mentioned in the research.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1. Armed Conflict and Gender-Based Violence

Armed conflict defined as a protracted armed confrontations rising between governmental armed forces and the forces of one or more-armed groups, or between such groups arising on the territory of a State(ICRC, 2008).Wars and armed conflicts are considering the main causes of ill health and raise the number of deaths among children, women and girls. Meanwhile the collapse of facilities such as health centres and the difficulty of delivering service and health care for the people, especially for the women and children led to the aggravation and falling health status significantly (Yaser, 2016).

The researcher interview eight (8) participant and one (1) focus group discussion (FGD) which contain 6 participants from Women and Girls that are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence).The participants those are involved in interview and focus group discussion are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence) in Northern conflict. Two open-ended questions for Ministry of women and child affairs Addis Ababa, one from women and child affairs weldiya town and also one from United Nation Higher Commissioner for Refugees (UNHSR).

In armed conflict the Women and girls are raped and making food for soldiers and serve as slaves of sex. During the Northern conflict government security institutions become weak and law enforcement system lose women and girls was higher victims of sexual abuse. War in general destroy life, economy, family and other basic and social services and displace also force to immigrate to other country. In general women has been faced with higher economic, social and psychological and physical damages (KI12, UNHSR, 20 May 2023). In the Northern conflict weldiya town has been a war zone. In the town not only, the Northern militants but also a small number of soldiers have shown the wrong thinking imposed on the society by committing sexual violence. In order to make the war all-encompassing, they have sexually assaulted many women and girls (KI13, women and child affairs weldiya town, 4 April 2013).

According to the participant from women and child affair weldya town, War in its nature destructive, affect the social, political and economic situation of the country and also affect human write, increase the number of deaths. Gender-based violence during wartime is a dehumanizing act that degrades the dignity of girls. The abuse in violence on women and girls is the tool one party uses to revenge the other and community organs having no capacity to protect themselves will be exposes to the abuse and violence (KI10, Ministry of women and child affairs, 22 May 2023).

Based on clarification from participant, the conflict has been very harsh and worse and the time has been rainy season, around July 30/2021, even if they do not escape the participant and her brothers has been out of home. After the forest for days, they came back home, finally unable to bear hunger. At the time they come home they do not find their property and food like bread, hunger has affected her family to much, at the time they couldn't do anything. The participant says that, it would have been better if her husband jointed the war, but finally he left them and went to Raya. Weather he is alive or dead has been their worry. They did not know if he was alive or dead. Her Husband has been working on Shorgum but no money for transport to bring the crop so he comes with nothing; all they had to eat was roasted barley, locally known as Kolo (KI1, Victim of GBV, 5 April 2013).

Following this, according to the other participant, husband of the participant has worked militia for nineteen years and he was joined the war. TPLF armed groups get into the town, and first they start to search for house of Militia, then the participant and their children had left their house. After three months, they came back home and her husband also back to home with his gun and he was hiding his weapon and stays like farmer, after days the TPLF armed group come home and take him to the forest and start to beat. They also put him a place called Kebero Meda and lock the house on him. After a few day TPLF armed group take him home and take away his weapon. He also affected physically and mentally. For instance, he doesn't hear properly and his mouth also dislocated (KI3, Victim of GBV, 05 April 2023).

As cited in the above, men are clearly also victims of conflict-related sexual violence. That the pertinent UNSCR resolutions (1820, 1888, 1960, 2106), with one exception, discuss conflict-

related sexual violence only with respect to women is a major oversight that ultimately reinforces a simplistic male perpetrator-female victim dichotomy.

According to the participant, the northern conflict has been challenging and had different kind of violence on both genders. For instance: The father of participant has worked as militia and went to the front with defence force, but later they are separated. The family of participant have stayed in a Forest for about 6 months, the TPLF group start disagreement among themselves and start to take people from their house, then her father was taken and suffer for a week, after a week he back to home but he faces health problem but they have no money to take him to hospital or clinic (KI3, Victim of GBV, 5 April 2023).

In times of war and conflicts the woman faces several problems and health risks that negatively affect the physical and mental well-being and health of her child pregnancy, child birth and post-natal stage and in the many phases of life (Yaser, 2016). According to one of the participants, before the war participant and her husband was victim of HIV/AIDS and on ART (antiretroviral therapy), they have a child one year and two months old. They have lost all things they possess during the conflict by TPLF group including meal, life so expensive (KI6, Victim of GBV, 06 April 2023).

During armed conflict the whole community suffers the terrible consequences of armed conflict and the women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their gender and Parties in conflict often rape women with impunity sometimes using systematic rape as a tactic of war (Alawemo&Muterera 2011).

In addition to what was stated in the above, the participant and her friends have been supporting provision to defence force in Woldiatown by collecting and preparing. As TPLF group went out from TikurWoha Area, the participant has been providing provision to defence force with other residents. Military offensive has occurred at TikurWoha, some are wounded and other killed, defence has moved out from this place, and ordered to take provision to a place called karakato, at that time the people who have enough money try to leave the weldiya town but the participants and the other people doesn't leave. The participant has one 12-year-old and two custody children, and blind aged person in the neighbour. TPLF group has been asking for meal entering people

house, and people give them what they have, the soldiers that, come at night raped, beat and killed people (KI7, Victim of GBV, 1 April 2023).

Armed conflicts and wars cause displacement of the families and local community from places of conflict to neighboring countries as displaced persons or refugees to their places believed to be safer (Yaser, 2016). According to the informants the TPLF group captured Woldiya on August 9/2021 and its surrounding in country side on July. The informant and other residents prepared meals for defence force, same member of the TPLF army arrived via Sekela and may has died as they entered the town, due to fire exchanges, during which her husband brother has died during fire exchange (KI8, Victim of GBV, 1 April 2023). The participant has stated that,

“The war or conflict has been worse, and we have suffered from hunger, death, limited access to cash as banks are closed and high cost of living”.

The participant has hidden her money in flour but it was taken away by TPLF group. Her husband has passed away one year before the conflict (Interview KI9, 31 March 2023). Based on other participant's statement, the Northern conflict was not good at all many damages has occurred, children suffer, hunger, darkness, moving to river area leaving home, house broken, demolished, house key broken (KI14, Victim of GBV, 7 April 2023).

4.1.1 Resilience in Conflict settings

Conflicts result in tremendous human suffering as well as significant economic and social costs, as history has often demonstrated. Loss of lives, devastation of institutions, infrastructure, and human capital, as well as political instability; Because the increased uncertainty brought on by wars can hinder It is difficult to escape the conflict trap due to investment and economic growth, both during and after the conflict (Fang et al. 2020). As the participant mention, she has been engaged in local drink (Tela) making before the war, and her husband labour works. By working this they bring up their two children, due to the war they have terminated education for two year,. Due to damage she was not start the work (KI1, Victim of GBV, 5 April 2013).

The Eastern Democratic of Congo war time since 1996 has destroyed the local economy. That situation created hardships to the women poverty rate increased women who had to provide the recourses to keep alive their families (Human Rights Watch, 2000).

The conflict have direct and indirect spillover effects by reducing economic activity (for example, as a result of elevated uncertainty or trade disruption) or by causing social tensions (for instance, as a result of a significant influx of refugees) in neighboring nations (Fang et.al, 2020).According to the participant, the family of the participant are 10 person living together, 5 are her children and three (3) are her husband children. before the conflict she works tea shop and sells crops but terminated after the conflict, but to administer 10 family members she started to work since everything was expensive, e.g. she argues that grinding 1 kg crop cost birr 30. She started to buy and sell crops, on Thursday market at the time of traveling loading 4 quintal (kesha) teff and 3 quintal (kesha) shorgume by bajaj inspected by TPLF group searching for weapon. Once the armed group stopped the bajaj and claimed they had stolen crop, she went out of the bajaj and narrate “it was not stolen crop and swear by the name of mother of God, St. Mary” and they leave her. They started to move but few distance travel they are stopped by 4 TPLF armed, they take the participant out of the Bajaj, they take the driver to a place called Gimbe Camp with 2 armed with the crop and 2 armed stay with the participant and even if no network they which also functioned as a her calculator. the participant started the work during the war because of her husband has a diabetic health problem so he need a food and medicine and also children provision (KI2, Victim of GBV, 5 April 2023).

The number of studies that take into account conflicts' social components is relatively few when compared to the literature on how conflicts affect economic development. Conflicts have a detrimental effect on household welfare and net income in addition to the aforementioned migration issue (Thai-Ha Le et.al, 2022). After the conflict the husband of the participant was near the woreda administration has armed him and bring him back to military now works as ordered by the government and has no support except weapon. Their children are students but due to sexual abuse and suffering they are not following education now.

According to the participant, before the conflict she sells onion in the market and rear cattle but due to injury she has sold the cattle for medication. Her husband sells wood, but after the

conflict due to illness and capacity not working. They are not able to work and educate two children, so only one child in education (KI3, Victim of GBV, 5 April 2023).

Conflicts hinder the growth of the economy. Conflict specifically has an impact on economic productivity by destroying cities and infrastructure, stopping economic activity, discouraging investment, and reducing government spending, which prevents economic progress (Thai-Ha Le et.al 2022).

According to participant, she works in her beauty salon before the conflict, but after the conflict all items were robbed, due to sexual abuse and unable to feed her children, she starts selling tea at door steps, but as living costs are high now, she does not have a job and her family is not getting appropriate meals. Other participant also Before the conflict her husband has barber shop, but all destroyed by the conflict, and after the conflict they are told to apply at justice Bureau, but nothing happened so far. The aid which came through kebele for sexually abused women and girls was also given to those having relatives, instead support has been given by individuals, due to living costs they are not able to educate a child. steps, but as life was expensive now, no job and no appropriate meals. After the conflict they need money to start work ask loan from kebele but told they need house map and other guaranty but they live in no other person to take loan for them (KI8, Victim of GBV, April 1 2023).

Citizens frequently have to choose between welfare and security during violent occurrences. Numerous empirical studies have emphasized how disputes affect human development, notably in terms of outcomes in the fields of education, health, and the job market (Thai-Ha Le et.al 2022). As the participant mention, before marriage she works in middle east, before her husband die the economy depend on his income, but after he died the responsibility of the family depend on her. she stop kebele container and started to work in a shop, As TPLF group approached she start saving money for fear of being robbed. Like other participant, she also provide provision for defence force at Tikur Woha, and as TPLF group approached she take her child and went to the country side. But then she did not escape: as the conflict spread to the rural area. Before the war at all place the community works and successful, students follow education, but after TPLF group come to the place people just work and take meals, but even if effort of the government what has been damaged by TPLF has not been possible to adjust, due to life cost and we are economic

activities it has been hard to be in hand to mouth and if continue hereafter it will be hunger and people dies(KI9, Victim of GBV, 31 March 2023).

4.2. Sexual Violence during armed conflict

As cited in the above, violence is an extremely complex phenomena including the major uncertainty between the destruction and the creation of order and it is the most elusive and difficult idea in the social sciences. In many countries especially in Africa women do not directly participate on war. However, organs participating at war one party to revenge the other or terrorize the community women are faced with higher sexual abuse and forced rape. During war as government law enforcement security institutions are lose and no accountability sexual abuse on women increases(KI12, Ministry of women and child affairs, 20 May 2023).

The after effects of encountering GBV in armed conflict include psychological, physical, and societal issues (Stabb and Mollen, 2017). Gender-based violence occurs anywhere and at any time, during the Tigray conflict there are much Gender-based violence occurred in weldiya town. In the war time gender-based violence especially rape, insult and treats, beating, loss family and other social and economic crises happened on the community especially on the women and girls (KI13, women and child affairs weldiya district, 4 April 2013). due to the conflict there has been rape, two armed TPLF men has tried to rape KI1 but her child cry one says leave her but the other has been harsh even if she was not raped she has faced body injury. She has said that

“Men the oral has faced different injury, forced to take loans, hit kidnapping, her area men, and also her uncle were taken and their whereabouts not know, also if they pass away and also in the area there has been rape, mothers with children and also raped, and hit. she says injury on women and men was different, women are hit and raped, with mental and physical injury, transmitted disease and even death”.

The biggest threat to human rights in our time is gender-based violence (GBV), which disproportionately affects girls and women (Stabb and Mollen, 2017). As stated above KI2 was economically affected, in a similar day, and two TPLF armed has raped her as she was stopped at Gimbe by 4 armed TPLF and the two takes the Bajaj and drive to camp and the rest two take her to forest and raped leave her in a forest and after hours she come to the road and went home, she

has told her family about the accident but then not able to get medication, but as the situations are on record she has got some medication. She has stated that

“during the conflict there was damage and violence like rape, hitting and robbery hunger, trusty has been high. some hid the damage occurred on them and other exagurate, hitting has been worse on men, and some are disabled”.

The effects of GBV are severe and may have traumatic aftereffects that last a person their entire life. Women who underwent physical abuse might develop undesirable pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases. Additionally, psychological trauma brought on by GBV may expose the victim to mental health issues like anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (Techiloet, al. 2023).

According the participant, during the conflict her husband has suffered and herself and 19 year old daughter has been raped by the TPLF group and the TPLF group also destroying there houses. In the area two men has been taken by the TPLF group and do not back steel and nothing known if they are alive or not. Her husband, children and neighbours have suffered, hit and disabled at higher level.

The effect of conflicts on women and girls’ reproductive and sexual health can never be undervalued. Their reproductive, psychological and overall well-being is often strictly cooperated in times of conflict. K14 mention that ,

“during the conflict i have faced forced rape and suffering on October 9/2021 when the TPLF group on the way of move out they come to house brake items, raped me and my mother, and as they try to kill my brother they entered my house and I begged to save him, next day defence force come to the area”.

In addition to on the above, The participant has been suffering a lot and one relative from Addis Ababa has come and was not able to return as roads are blocked and stayed at KI4, about 10 bullets fired at night as he went out of home: after the incident had passed, and he was found dead near by. In the area like participant women are abused, treathend with knief and suffered, but no rape on men (KI4, Victim of GBV, 06 April 2023).

According to participant, the conflict has been worse, like others participant she was raped on December 14/2021 and TPLF left on December 18/2021. 6 TPLF come to her house and takes Injera backed for the children and again she takes flour and make slice bread/ Kitta again on TPLF come and take the meal, next they come in two and ask for meal as one rape her infront of her husband neice at her aunt house and the other TPLF has made her husband suffer hitting him out side the house by a gun and they even attempt to rape her again, she has been examined and taking medicien required. To buy items, some hid the damage occurred on them and other exaggerate, hitting has been worse on men, and some are disabled. Both men and women in the area are affected and faith injury, rape facing a lot of suffering,for instance her neighbor went to tea room and come out he has been killed also a daughter and mother raped from one house (KI5, Victim of GBV, 06 April 2023).According to participant, she has been forced for rape and also suffered from hitting. Shementions that

“other women are also faced with a lot of sexual abuse, rape and suffering also men were injured in many ways that caused them suffering but not faced with rape”.

She has no drinking water at home and many people do not move during the day because they will be faced with suffering and death and many fetch water during the night.she and her two friends went to place calledKwuas Meda at Dawan to bring water many people have been fetching water and after minutes TPLF armed group come and many people fetching water started to runshe and her friend run to the forest and 3 armed TPLF group caught them and peed on them; she went home and told her husband but not her children. According to the informant, on another incident, TPLF armed group come to the area they enter her friend house and sexually abused her friend and herfriend’s child and the raped girl has gone away and they don’t know if she was in life or not(KI7,Victim of GBV, 1 April 2023).

Rape is now recognized as a deliberate weapon of war used to humiliate and demoralize the perceived enemy, frighten the populace, and force the enemy to flee. Rape is also a sexual expression of aggression and a hallmark of thrilling torture; when committed during war. Sexual abuse during armed conflict includes rape, mutilation of sexual organs, forced oral sex, forced pregnancy, and prostitution.

According to other one participant, the participant, her husband and her sister are in the home two TPLF armed group enter in the house and asked her husband to stand up and remove his cloths he has been in sports and as they see and his body they though he was a soldier and they say to “kill him and rape his wife” she say “how” and grab one of TPLF armed man neck and when the other start to separate them at this time she say for the husband “leave the house” he leave and they forcing rape her and her sister and after that her sister went away from the house but they make her suffer the whole night and the next day she meet Abune Aba Ermias and informed him and he helped her to get medication and advise her. Her younger sister was 14 years of age and due to the injury as she tries to kill herself, she has been found and given advice. Many problems as occurred on the community people and men have been killed and women forced to rape, in the area the pregnant women have been raped by 3 TPLF armed groups.

Like other participant, the TPLF armed groups come to her house and rape as her child cry. She said that

“Due to the war, we have lost our sisters and brothers and there are residents taken out of home and not returned up to know and also some who move out of the country and returned now as conditions are relatively calm the war has caused injury, disability specially on women and men at higher level life have been lost people killed and women force fully reaped”(KI9,Victim of GBV, 31 March 2023).

4.3. Support of local government and community to women and girl’s victim (gender-based violence)

Conflict affects the social political and economic condition of the country. The Tigray conflict affects the social political and economic condition of the country. it was possible to see a gap in the society’s thinking and the aid given to the women and girls who were sexually abused. Therefore, women and girls who have been sexually abused are marginalized and humiliated by the society. In addition,the aid that comes in their name given to the other person who is not concerned. During the war women and girls faced with different damage are given medication and consultancy service.

The ministry of women and child affairs has provided material, financial and technical support by gathering those from different aid institution to women and girls which is affected by Northern conflict. KI1 has stated that

“women raped by TPLF are out casted and faced with problems and me and my children has also suffered social problems moreover my brothers and sisters are suffering from hunger and problem of clothing and also support at Kebele level comes in awed name but not given to us and we don't get support”.

The she went to Guba Lafto Sub City, Debot kebele to ask about aid they said “there is no support has come and also no correct information” but at national level North Wollo was affected by the war but there is nothing. And the aid used for benefit of themselves and family. The TPLF armed group went out of the area they have got some medical support and help after that many support is said it comes by their name but they don't get any support instead the community has out stated them and put them in stress.

The office has provided support to women and girls affected by war, by coordinating various sector office and individuals to collect and deliver various hygiene products, clothing and dry food (KI11, Minister of women and child affair, 22 May 2023). At the government level after TPLF armed group move out of the place medication and 7,000-birr support given but after that 3 soap and modes provided but the suffering caused was heavy and cannot be rehabilitated in 1 or 2 years. KI4 before the conflict has been student and after the conflict, she was not able to continue her education as the place is rural support was not given.

After KI5 face accident of rape her husband relatives has told him to divorce her but he says no saying that she was his children mother and case the same with him the area people also say that they will come again and her children are in a worry also she and her husband. the support from the government was not that match and support come from people outside of the country or instance a person coming to Woldiya has given financial support and in a similar manner by some organizations but as support is said it has come through kebele and they went there they are told to contact woreda and as they went, they are informed to contact zone (KI7, Victim of GBV 1 April 2023).

After a time KI8 husbands families has been advising her husband and got hard on him that he shall divorce his wife and her husband want divorce but she has told him that she has helped him escape fighting like a man but he has told her to move out of home before he kill her and for some time they are separated and their spiritual father has made agreement between them as she share her fillings the love and consideration before the conflict now do not exist because the injury caused on her by TPLF armed group has caused heat from her husband and other men.

4.4. Why gender-based violence used as weapon of war

In 1994, Rwanda was ravaged by genocide. Nearly a million people are estimated to have been killed in just over a hundred days. The Rwandan genocide is infamous, however, for its effect on women due to genocide rape. In the same period, about 250,000 to 500,000 women were estimated to have been raped. "Rape was systematic and was used as a 'weapon' by the perpetrators of the massacres. The Rwandan genocide is only one example of rape being used as a 'weapon'. Unfortunately, sexual and gender-based violence are mainstays in most conflicts around the world (Akash Sriram, 2021).

The violence against women and girls was used as a weapon of war during the Tigray war cannot be stated with certainty, but two reasons can probably be stated. The first one is to creating international diplomatic pressure and to impose fear on the society (KI10, Minister of women and child affair, 22 May 2023). the violence against women and girls was used as a weapon of war during the Tigray war is firstly because of low morale and luck of discipline on the society which is involved in the war such as soldiers, other civilian, and secondly, they consider violence against women and girls as a political weapon (KI11, Minister of women and child affair, 22 May 2023).

War pushes away human rights unless it is a must it will be good there is no war. However, if a country is forced to have war parties participating in a war they shall obey war laws, Geneva Convention stated as humanitarian law principles. Specially targeting innocent people, they shall not have sexual abuse human rights means persons only for being persons shall be respected and given rights and these rights shall be obeyed during war or in the absence of war organs participating in a war causing this kind of acts as they have done war crime the international community shall make them accountable (KI12, UNHCR, 20 May 2023).

According to the participant, the idea that the sexual violence against women and girls during the Tigray war was used as a weapon of war is correct, because the war is not limited only by weapon it includes violence against women and girls, which is prohibited at the international level and human rights provisions, and does not criminalize the individual or group those involved in the violence, and it used as a strategy for diplomatic pressure (KI10, Minister of women and child affair 22 May 2023). KI12 say that,

‘‘depending on United Nations Human Rights Commission and Ethiopian Human Rights Commission on joint observation and disseminated rape or during the Tigray War many women and girls are confirmed to have faced sexual abuse’’.

Sexually abused women and girls are subjected to severe physical abuse, such as leg and hand broken (health problem), their facial features and clothing, also same of them are and the desperate conditions of some of the interviewed girls were understood.

Women and girls who have been sexually assaulted have a hard time with the community after their trauma. After the conflict, they came out in public to seek medical and other help. Instead of sympathy and help, the acts of isolation and shaming are widely seen. As a result, the education of the children who were raped by their mother is disrupted, the families of their husbands try to separate them, and the situations of shaming are widely happened.

CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1. CONCLUSION

The conflict influences the overall well-being of the society. War and armed conflict basic causes of different kinds of health problem and increase the number of deathson women and girls. In the times of armed conflict, sexual abuse, including: mutilation of sexual organs, rape, forced oral sex, forced pregnancy, and prostitution, is used as a postponement of the battlefield. In the Tigray war different kinds of destruction on infrastructure and violence happened on the society. As the researcher mention on the above the conflict touches the three regions of the country but the study focus on Amhara region Weldiya town. Armed conflict changes the social relations and structures. Women as well as men are victims of detention and ‘disappearance’.

The Northernconflictwas caused various degrees of damage to many residents of the community and has caused physical and mental health problem on women as well asmen. There were cases of insults, beatings and mutilations and disappearances of men, and sexual violence against women and girls, such as rape, beatings and insults, occurred widely. As a result, sexually abused women and girls are exposed to physical and mental harm.

Women and girls who have been sexually assaulted live in the society where they live in isolation, insults, and their husbands and children are left behind.After the war, the government registered women and girls who had been sexually assaulted in the area and provided them with treatment and support. After that, the support that comes on their behalf does not go to the victims in the kebele or district.

The women and girls who were sexually assaulted before the war, who used to work as tea houses and manage the families, were injured when the wealthy residents of the area left.During the conflict, their possessions and the things they used to do their daily work were broken and looted, so there is a situation where they are unable to eat three meals a day due to the economic situation, they are still in.

5.1. RECOMMENDATION

The Tigray conflict one of the internal conflicts it affects not only the Tigray region, directly it affects the three region of the country and also the rest of the region also indirectly affected by the conflict. The conflict affects the social, political and economic situation of the country and also recorded high number of death and gender-based violence. It is challengeable to regret. So up on the finding, the paper recommends the following recommendations:

- By considering the effect of the war and learning from the history of other African countries, trying to resolve the conflict through negotiations before entering into a war. The country needs peace, so peaceful power struggle is good than conflict.
- Although it is impossible to go back and return the sexual impact which was done on women and girls but motivate them by giving psychological support.
- In order to develop prevention strategies and action plans to safeguard women and children, particularly in humanitarian circumstances, GBV must be appropriately incorporated into national policy.
- Most of the women and girls who have been sexually assaulted have a weak source of income and the material they used to work before the conflict was destroyed so they need the support of the government to back the work and support their economy.
- Women and girls who have been sexually assaulted have a hard time with the community after their trauma, so creating awareness to the community based on gender-based violence and how to care them.
- Creating awareness based on gender-based violence to the leaders in Woldya city's kebele and district, as well as the bodies working on women and children.
- Also, to ensure that the support given to women and girls who have been sexually assaulted reaches directly to the victims and if there is an attempt to minimize the work done by connections and relatives.
- They (women and girls Victim of gender-based violence) also need justice and accountability.

REFERENCES

- Agustiana, E. T. (2004). *Women and Peace-building, Central Sulawesi and North Maluku*. Kementerian PPN/Bappenas. <https://books.google.com.et/books?id=7OKemgEACAAJ>
- Agustín, L. M. (2003). Forget Victimization: Granting agency to migrants. *Development*, 46(3), 30–36. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10116370030463005>
- Antoine A. Bouvier (2020), *International Humanitarian Law and the Law of Armed Conflict: Peace Operations Training Institute*
- Akande, D. (2020). Classification of Armed Conflicts. In B. Saul & D. Akande (Eds.), *The Oxford Guide to International Humanitarian Law*. Oxford University Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=PPJJzQEACAAJ>
- Akash Sriram (2021), Women and wars: How conflict affects women, DHNS, <https://www.deccanherald.com/specials/women-and-wars-how-conflict-affects-women-959646.html>
- Amnesty International. (2021, August 10). *Ethiopia: Troops and militia rape, abduct women and girls in Tigray conflict – new report*. <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2021/08/ethiopia-troops-and-militia-rape-abduct-women-and-girls-in-tigray-conflict-new-report/>
- Amnesty International. (2023). *Amnesty International Report 2022/23*. <https://www.dirittoantidiscriminatorio.it/app/uploads/2023/04/REPORT-AMNESTY-INTERNATIONAL-2023.pdf>
- Astgeirsdottir, K. (2002). Women and Girls in Kosovo: The Effects of Armed Conflicts On the Lives of Women, The Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls. In UNFPA (Ed.), *The impact of armed conflict on women and girls: A UNFPA strategy for gender mainstreaming in areas of conflict and reconstruction* (pp. viii, 140 p.). UNFPA. <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/469655>

Bouta, T., Frerks, G., & Bannon, I. (2005). *Gender, Conflict, and Development*. World Bank. https://books.google.it/books?id=r5meOmjpi_8C

Braidotti, R. (2002). The Uses and Abuses of the Sex/Gender Distinction in European Feminist Practice. In G. Griffin & R. Braidotti (Eds.), *Thinking Differently: A Reader in European Women's Studies*. Bloomsbury Academic. https://books.google.it/books?id=PzrXM6LeQ_kC

Bryman, A. (2012). *Social research methods* (4th Ed.). Oxford University Press.

Buscher, D. (2010). REFUGEE WOMEN: TWENTY YEARS ON. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 29(2), 4–20. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/45054452>

CEDAW, (1992). *General recommendation No. 19: Violence against women*. <http://www.oursplatform.org/resource/cedaw-committee-general-recommendation-no-19-violence-women/>

CEDAW. (2017). *General recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, updating general recommendation No. 19*. 19 p. <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/1305057>

Cederman, L.-E., & Pengl, Y. (2019). *Global Conflict Trends and their Consequences*. <https://apadresearch.com/document/global-conflict-trends-and-their-consequences/>

Charlesworth, H. (2019). Foreword. In S. H. Rimmer & K. Ogg (Eds.), *Research Handbook on Feminist Engagement with International Law*. Edward Elgar Pub. <https://books.google.it/books?id=qy6UDwAAQBAJ>

Chelimo, G. C. (2011). Defining Armed Conflict in International Humanitarian Law. *Inquiries Journal/Student Pulse*, 3(04). <http://www.inquiriesjournal.com/a?id=1697>

Chhabra, S. (2005). *GENDER PERSPECTIVE IN PEACE INITIATIVES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES*.

Chinkin, C., & Kaldor, M. (2017). *International Law and New Wars*. Cambridge University Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=M-G4DAEACAAJ>

- Cohen, D. K. (2014). Sexual violence in armed conflict: Introducing the SVAC dataset, 1989–2009. *Journal of Peace Research*, 51(3), 418–428. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0022343314523028>
- Cohn, C. (1987). Sex and Death in the Rational World of Defense Intellectuals. *Signs*, 12(4), 687–718. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3174209>
- Conaghan, J. (2013). *Law and Gender*. Oxford University Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=tWz1ngEACAAJ>
- Connell, P. (1997). Understanding Victimization and Agency: Considerations of Race, Class and Gender. *Political and Legal Anthropology Review*, 20(2), 115–143. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/24506235>
- Connell, R. (1987). *Gender and power: Society, the person, and sexual politics*. Stanford University Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=qywNrBHAGxwC>
- Cordero, C. (2005). Social Organizations: From Victims to Actors in Peace Building. In C. O. N. Moser & F. C. Clark (Eds.), *Victims, perpetrators or actors? : Gender, armed conflict and political violence*. Zed Books. <https://books.google.it/books?id=kTFdA5bPnO4C>
- Cossman, B. (2002). Gender Performance, Sexual Subjects and International Law. *Canadian Journal of Law & Jurisprudence*, 15(2), 281–296. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0841820900003623>
- Crawford, K. F. (2017). *Wartime Sexual Violence*. Georgetown University Press; JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/j.ctt1t89jxd>
- Crenshaw, K. (1991). Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence against Women of Color. *Stanford Law Review*, 43(6), 1241–1299. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1229039>
- Dahl, G. (2009). Sociology and Beyond: Agency, Victimization and the Ethics of Writing. *Asian Journal of Social Science*, 37(3), 391–407. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/23655205>

Deleersnyder, A.-E. (2021). *Ethiopia's Tigray conflict: Exposing the limits of EU and AU early warning mechanisms*.

<https://www.kas.de/documents/272317/12679622/Ethiopia+Tigray+conflict.pdf>

Desalegn, S., Kasseye, E., Gebeyaw, G., & Meshelemiah, J. C. (2023). The Challenges of Women Housed in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps During an Armed Conflict in Ethiopia. *Affilia*, 38(1), 55-74.

Eberechi, I. (2009). Armed Conflicts in Africa and Western Complicity: A Disincentive for African Union's Cooperation with the ICC. *African Journal of Legal Studies*, 3, 53–76. <https://doi.org/10.1163/221097312X13397499736903>

Edwards, A. (2010). Transitioning Gender: Feminist Engagement with International Refugee Law and Policy 1950–2010. *Refugee Survey Quarterly*, 29(2), 21–45. <https://doi.org/10.1093/rsq/hdq021>

Elfversson, E., Gusic, I., Ha, T.-N., & Meye, M.-T. (2020). Geocoding as a Method for Mapping Conflict-Related Violence. In *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Peace and Conflict Studies* (pp. 1–11). Springer International Publishing. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-11795-5_214-1

Garcia-Moreno, C., Jansen, H. A. F. M., Ellsberg, M., Heise, L., & Watts, C. H. (2006). Prevalence of intimate partner violence: Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *Lancet (London, England)*, 368(9543), 1260–1269. [https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(06\)69523-8](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(06)69523-8)

García-Moreno, C., Pallitto, C., Devries, K., Stöckl, H., Watts, C., & Abrahams, N. (2013). *Global and Regional Estimates of Violence against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence*. World Health Organization. <https://books.google.com.et/books?id=ZLMXDAAAQBAJ>

Ginty, R. M. (2014). Everyday peace: Bottom-up and local agency in conflict-affected societies. *Security Dialogue*, 45(6), 548–564. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010614550899>

- Goldstein, J. S. (2003). *War and Gender: How Gender Shapes the War System and Vice Versa*. Cambridge University Press. https://books.google.it/books?id=KXs_LS5g57MC
- Greece, M. (2010). Gerecke, M. (2010). Explaining sexual violence in conflict situations. In L. Sjoberg & S. Via (Eds.), *Gender, War, and Militarism: Feminist Perspectives*. Praeger. <https://books.google.it/books?id=om3yy1JoS34C>
- Hale, S. (2010). Rape as a marker and eraser of difference: Darfur and the Nuba Mountains (Sudan). In L. Sjoberg & S. E. via (Eds.), *Gender, War, and Militarism: Feminist Perspectives: Feminist Perspectives*. ABC-CLIO. <https://books.google.it/books?id=g5Nx DwAAQBAJ>
- Harrell-Bond, B. E. (1999). *The Experience of Refugees as Recipients of Aid*. <https://books.google.it/books?id=ZfYxYAAACAAJ>
- Hausner, S. L. & Save the Children. (2005). *The Movement of Women: Migration, Trafficking, and Prostitution in the Context of Nepal's Armed Conflict*. Save the Children. <https://books.google.it/books?id=k4vaAAAAMAAJ>
- Henry, N. (2014). The Fixation on Wartime Rape: Feminist Critique and International Criminal Law. *Social & Legal Studies*, 23(1), 93–111. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0964663913499061>
- Human Rights Watch. (2000). *Seeking protection: Addressing sexual and domestic violence in Tanzania's refugee camps* (p. 151). Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/reports/2000/tanzania/>
- Hynes, H. P. (2004). On the battlefield of women's bodies: An overview of the harm of war to women. *Women's Studies International Forum*, 27(5), 431–445. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.wsif.2004.09.001>
- Indra, D. (1987). Gender: A Key Dimension of the Refugee Experience. *Refuge: Canada's Journal on Refugees*, 6(3), 3–4. <https://doi.org/10.25071/1920-7336.21503>

Isaac, M. (2016). The prosecution of sexual violence against men in armed conflict in international criminal law: past omissions and future prospects for the enhancement of the visibility of the male victimhood.

Kelly, L. (1988). *Surviving Sexual Violence*. University of Minnesota Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=YJFsQgAACAAJ>

Koos, C. (2017). Sexual violence in armed conflicts: Research progress and remaining gaps. *Third World Quarterly*, 38(9), 1935–1951. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01436597.2017.1322461>

Kothari, C. R. (2004). *Research methodology: Methods and techniques*. (1st ed.). New Age International.

Workie, K., Tinsae, T., Salelew, E., & Asrat, B. (2023). Gender-based violence and its associated factors among internally displaced women in Northwest Ethiopia: a cross-sectional study. *BMC women's health*, 23(1), 1-7.

Krause, J., Krause, W., & Bränfors, P. (2018). Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations and the Durability of Peace. *International Interactions*, 44(6), 985–1016. <https://doi.org/10.1080/03050629.2018.1492386>

Krishna, K., Center for Development Information, & United States Agency for International Development. (2000). *Aftermath, Women and Women's Organizations in Postconflict Societies: The Role of International Assistance*. Center for Development Information and Evaluation, U.S. Agency for International Development. <https://books.google.it/books?id=uOVGAAAAYAAJ>

Kumar, R. (2010). *Research Methodology: A Step-by-Step Guide for Beginners*. SAGE Publications. <https://books.google.com.et/books?id=df5cBAAQBAJ>

Leech, T. G. J., & Littlefield, M. (2011). Social support and resilience in the aftermath of sexual assault: Suggestions across life course, gender, and racial groups. *Surviving Sexual Violence: A Guide to Recovery and Empowerment*, 296–317.

Leisenring, A. (2006). Confronting “Victim” Discourses: The Identity Work of Battered Women. *Symbolic Interaction*, 29(3), 307–330. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.1525/si.2006.29.3.307>

Lewis, H. & ICRC. (2003). *Women and War: Special Report*. [http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/5KCDYC/\\$File/Women_War_special_report_8-3-03.pdf](http://www.icrc.org/web/eng/siteeng0.nsf/htmlall/5KCDYC/$File/Women_War_special_report_8-3-03.pdf)

Lolaksha Nagaveni , Preethi and Anand Amit (2017) *International and Non-International Armed Conflicts and Application of International Humanitarian Law as Lex Specialis*. *Chotanagpur Law Journal*, 11 (11). pp. 78-91. ISSN 0973-5858

Mackinnon, C. A. (1998). Rape, Genocide, and Women’s Human Rights. In S. G. French, W. Teays, & L. M. Purdy (Eds.), *Philosophical Perspectives* (pp. 43–54). Cornell University Press. <https://doi.org/doi:10.7591/9781501724213-005>

Madlingozi, T. (2010). On Transitional Justice Entrepreneurs and the Production of Victims. *Journal of Human Rights Practice*, 2(2), 208–228. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jhuman/huq005>

Marshall, D. R. (2000). *Women in War and Peace: Grassroots Peacebuilding*. U.S. Institute of Peace. <https://books.google.it/books?id=NzePAAAAMAAJ>

Martin, S. F. (2004). *Refugee Women*. Lexington Books. https://books.google.it/books?id=OwnVdg_mH_sC

Meertens, D. (2001). The Nostalgic Future: Terror, Displacement and Gender in Colombia. In C. O. N. Moser & F. C. Clark (Eds.), *Victims, perpetrators or actors? : Gender, armed conflict and political violence*. Zed Books. <https://books.google.it/books?id=kTFdA5bPnO4C>

Meger, S. (2016). *The Fetishization of Sexual Violence in International Security*. Blackwell Publishers. <https://books.google.it/books?id=0U3AzgEACAAJ>

Meredeth Turshen, (2019) Chapter 4 Violence against Women in the New African Wars

In: War and Sexual Violence
DOI: https://doi.org/10.30965/9783657702664_005

Meron, T. (2000). The Humanization of Humanitarian Law. *The American Journal of International Law*, 94(2), 239–278. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/2555292>

Mertus, J. (2000). *War's Offensive on Women: The Humanitarian Challenge in Bosnia, Kosovo, and Afghanistan*. Kumarian Press. <https://books.google.it/books?id=YCC4QgAACAAJ>

Mudrovic, Z. (2002). Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Post-Conflicts Regions: The Bosnia and Herzegovina Case. In UNFPA (Ed.), *The impact of armed conflict on women and girls: A UNFPA strategy for gender mainstreaming in areas of conflict and reconstruction* (pp. viii, 140 p.). UNFPA. <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/469655>

Newman, I., & Benz, C. R. (1998). *Qualitative-quantitative Research Methodology: Exploring the Interactive Continuum*. Southern Illinois University Press. <https://books.google.com.et/books?id=xumf1ABFz8cC>

Noe, D. (2013). *Violent Behaviour: The effect of civil conflict on domestic violence in Colombia* (Courant Research Centre: Poverty, Equity and Growth - Discussion Papers No. 136). Courant Research Centre PEG. <https://EconPapers.repec.org/RePEc:got:gotcrc:136>

O'Moore, M. (1999). Defining Violence: Towards A Pupil Based Definition. *Education and Culture*. <http://schoolbullying.eu/doc/Violencedefinition.pdf>

Oluwakemi Alawemo, Jonathan Muterera (2011), The Impact of Armed Conflict on Women: Perspectives from Nigerian: Institute of Peace and Conflict, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nigeria and American University - School of Business Economics, and Entrepreneurship https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=1766186#

Oosterhoff, P., Zwanikken, P., & Ketting, E. (2004). Sexual torture of men in Croatia and other conflict situations: An open secret. *Reproductive Health Matters*, 12(23), 68–77. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0968-8080\(04\)23115-9](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0968-8080(04)23115-9)

Oyinlola, M., Adeniyi, O., & Adediji, A. (2020). *Armed conflict and economic growth in Africa* R <https://aercafrica.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/B10-Oyinlola-Adeniyi-and-Adediji-NP.pdf>

Powley, E. (2003). *Strengthening Governance: The Role of Women in Conflict Prevention*. https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/08/10_strengthening_governance_the_role_of_women_in_rwanda_s_transition.pdf

Rehn, E., & Sirleaf, E. J. (2002). *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment*. xix, 163 p. : <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/486564>

Robbins, J. (2013). Beyond the suffering subject: Toward anthropology of the good. *The Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute*, 19(3), 447–462. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/42001631>

Saile, R., Ertl, V., Neuner, F., & Catani, C. (2014). Does war contribute to family violence against children? Findings from a two-generational multi-informant study in Northern Uganda. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 38(1), 135–146. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2013.10.007>

Scheper, E. E. (2002). *Role of Women in Violent Conflict Prevention and Negotiation*. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/resource/role-of-women-in-violent-conflict-prevention-and-negotiation/>

Schneider, E. M. (1993). Feminist and the false dichotomy of victimization and agency: *New York Law School Law Review*, 38, 387–400. https://digitalcommons.nyls.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=2129&context=nyls_law_review

Schulz, P. (2018). The “ethical loneliness” of male sexual violence survivors in Northern Uganda: Gendered reflections on silencing. *International Feminist Journal of Politics*, 20(4), 583–601. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14616742.2018.1489732>

Scott, J. W. (1986). Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis. *The American Historical Review*, 91(5), 1053–1075. JSTOR. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1864376>

Serra, J., & Calsamiglia, A. (2018). Do We See Victims' Agency? Criminal Justice and Gender Violence in Spain: *Critical Criminology*, 26, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10612-017-9379-2>

Shalhoub-Kevorkian, N. (2009). *Militarization and Violence against Women in Conflict Zones in the Middle East: A Palestinian Case-Study*. Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511626852>

Sivakumaran, S. (2007). Sexual Violence Against Men in Armed Conflict. *European Journal of International Law - EUR J INT LAW*, 18, 253–276. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ejil/chm013>

Siyum, B. A. (2021, October 15). Underlying Causes of Conflict in Ethiopia: Historical, Political, and Institutional? *Proceedings of The 2nd World Conference on Social Sciences Studies*. 2nd World Conference on Social Sciences Studies. <https://doi.org/10.33422/2nd.3sconf.2021.10.102>

Skjelsbaek, I. (2006). Victim and Survivor: Narrated Social Identities of Women Who Experienced Rape During the War in Bosnia-Herzegovina. *Feminism & Psychology - FEM PSYCHOL*, 16, 373–403. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0959353506068746>

Snoubar Yaser (2016), Impact of Wars and Conflicts on Women and Children in Middle East: Health, Psychological, Educational and Social Crisis; *European Journal of Social Sciences Education and Research*

VL – 6, DOI - 10.26417/ejser.v6i2.p211-215

Stabb, Sally and Mollen, Debra (2017), Gender-Based Violence and Armed Conflict: A Community-Informed Socioecological Conceptual Model From Northeastern Uganda: DOI - 10.1177/0361684317705086 VL - 41

Susan McKay (1998) The Effects of Armed Conflict on Girls and Women, Peace and Conflict, 4:4, 381-392, DOI: 10.1207/s15327949pac0404_6

Sylvester, C. (2011). *Experiencing War*. Taylor & Francis. <https://books.google.it/books?id=LIdaBwAAQBAJ>

Sylvester, C. (2013). War as Experience: Contributions from International Relations and Feminist Analysis. *War as Experience: Contributions from International Relations and Feminist Analysis*, 1–150. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203100943>

Thai-Ha Le, Manh-Tien Bui, Gazi Salah (2022), Economic and social impacts of conflict: A cross-country analysis

Tofa, M., Kifle, A. A., & Kinkoh, H. (2022). Political and Media Analysis on The Tigray Conflict in Ethiopia; *Eropean Institute for Peace*.

Tol, W. A., Stavrou, V., Greene, M. C., Mergenthaler, C., Garcia-Moreno, C., & van Ommeren, M. (2013). Mental health and psychosocial support interventions for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence during armed conflict: A systematic review. *World Psychiatry : Official Journal of the World Psychiatric Association (WPA)*, 12(2), 179–180. <https://doi.org/10.1002/wps.20054>

UN General Assembly. (1993). *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women: Resolution 48/104*. United Nations. <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/179739>

UN Security Council. (2011). *Security Council Resolution 1996*. 8 p. <http://digitallibrary.un.org/record/706698>

United Nation Population Fund (HNFPA) (2001), the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Girls: A Consultative Meeting on Mainstreaming Gender in Areas of Conflict and Reconstruction

Utas, M. (2005). Victimcy, Girlfriending, and Soldiering: Tactic Agency is a Young Woman's Social Navigation of the Liberian War Zone. *Anthropological Quarterly*, 78(2), 403–430.

Vitucci, M. C. (2020). The protection of sexual orientation in international law: Beteween the principles of non-discrimination and human dignity. *Europa Ethnica*, 76(3+4), 115–119. <https://doi.org/10.24989/0014-2492-2019-34-115>

Xiangming Fang, Siddharth Kothari, Cameron McLoughlin, and Mustafa Yenice (2020), the Economic Consequences of Conflict in Sub-Saharan Africa Prepared: IMF Working Paper African Department

Young, I. M. (1994). Gender as Seriality: Thinking about Women as a Social Collective. *Signs*, 19(3), 713–738. JSTOR. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3174775>

Zetter, R. (1999). International perspectives on refugee assistance. In A. Ager (Ed.), *Refugees: Perspectives on the Experience of Forced Migration*. Pinter.
<https://books.google.it/books?id=g966AAAAIAAJ>

APPENDICES

Key informant interview 1 (KI1), 05 April 2023

Key informant interview 2 (KI2), 05 April 2023

Key informant interview 3 (KI3), 05 April 2023

Key informant interview 4 (KI4), 06 April 2023

Key informant interview 5 (KI5), 06 April 2023

Key informant interview 6 (KI6), 06 April 2023

Key informant interview 7 (KI7), 1 April 2023

Key informant interview 8 (KI8), 1 April 2023

Key informant interview 9 (KI9), 31 March 2023

Key informant open- ended questioner 10 (KI10), 22 May 2023

Key informant open- ended questioner 11 (KI11), 22 May 2023

Key informant open- ended questioner 12 (KI12), 20 May 2023

Key informant open-ended questioner 13 (KI13), 4 April 2013

Key informant Focus group discussion 14 (KI14), 7 April 2023

1. Semi- Structured Interview Guide Questions

1.1. For Women and Girls that are Victims of (Gender-Based Violence)

1. Please describe the conflict?
2. How has the conflict affected you and your community?
3. What did you do (where you a student, employee etc.) before the conflict? How has the conflict affected your employment status/ educational status?
4. Could you describe a typical work/school day from morning to evening before the conflict? How has this changed after the conflict?
5. Do you believe the men/boys in your community have been affected in similar ways as you?
6. How has the conflict affected girls in your community? How is this different from the way the conflict affected the boys?

2. Open- ended Questions

2.1. For Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations

1. How do you perceive armed conflict affect the women and girls?
2. How are women specifically vulnerable during periods of armed conflict?
3. Why Violence against women and girls is being used as a “weapon of war” in Tigray war
4. How your organizations support those women and Girls Affected by Conflict?

3. Focus Group Discussion Questions

2.1. FGD For women and girls that are victims of (gender-based violence)

1. Please describe the conflict?
2. How has the conflict affected you and your community?
3. What did you do (where you a student, employee etc.) before the conflict? How has the conflict affected your employment status/ educational status?
4. Could you describe a typical work/school day from morning to evening before the conflict? How has this changed after the conflict?
5. Do you believe the men/boys in your community have been affected in similar ways as you?

6. How has the conflict affected girls in your community? How is this different from the way the conflict affected the boys?
7. Were there any government or non-governmental institutions that have tried to tackle the Situation you have just described?
8. How did they try to tackle it? Have you or any one you know benefited from the Intervention? How?

4. Open- ended Questions

4.1. For Women's and Child Affairs weldiya District

1. What is your perspective on armed conflict and gender-based violence?
2. Many scholar and Analysts have referred to sexual violence cases in Tigray as a 'weapon of war' do you agree with that statement? Why?

3. Observation

1. Observe the physical condition of the respondent (victims of gender-based violence)
2. Observe the way of their life style and social interaction
3. Observe the neighborhood or shelters where the victims are hosted

Declaration

Declare that this study is my original work and has not been presented for a degree at any other University, and all sources of material used for the thesis have been accordingly acknowledged.

Tizita Mekuria

Signature _____ Date _____

This study is submitted for examination with my approval as an advisor of the candidate

Mercy Fikadu (PhD)

Signature _____ Date _____