



## No Peace Without Justice: Ending Impunity for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence Crimes in Yemen

19 June 2026

**Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition** – On the International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Justice4Yemen Pact (J4YP) Coalition renews its commitment to advocating for survivors, exposing patterns of conflict-related sexual violence, and demanding accountability for those responsible for these violations while ensuring that they do not escape justice.

Statistics indicate that more than **10.95 million women and girls in Yemen**<sup>1</sup> are at risk of gender-based violence amid the collapse of legal and service structures. This reality has driven many to resort to harsh coping mechanisms such as child marriage, which affects **approximately 30% of girls in Yemen**. Women and girls from minority and marginalized communities are subjected to targeted attacks, including torture, violence, and exploitation, reflecting deeply rooted discrimination within society.

The United Nations has **documented** the continued occurrence of sexual violence against women and girls in the context of the conflict, including sexual assaults and so-called “**virginity tests**” carried out by armed groups as a tool to suppress opponents and activists. Reports confirm that sexual violence is no longer an isolated incident but rather an organized strategy used to terrorize and dismantle communities, with increasing cases of rape, forced marriage, and sexual slavery, particularly in remote areas. This violence has expanded to include structural forms of abuse, such as **restrictions on women’s movement** and harassment at checkpoints, as documented in Taiz Governorate, hindering women’s access to essential services and increasing their vulnerability.

Survivors suffer from a lack of medical and psychological support, with fewer than **5% of health facilities** providing specialized services for sexual violence cases. The collapse of the justice system and the weakness of laws that do not even recognize marital rape further exacerbate women’s suffering and reinforce impunity. Moreover, the significant funding gap in the humanitarian response plan, of which only **29% was funded in 2025**, has led to the **closure of many safe spaces** and the reduction of protection services in 2026, leaving survivors without vital support.

Reports also show that technology has contributed to the escalation of sexual violence through online blackmail and cyber-harassment, amid **weak responses** from authorities and the absence

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). (2026). *Periodic situation report 2026*. United Nations Population Fund.



of effective protection mechanisms on social media platforms. Human rights organizations have documented the use of cyber blackmail as a tool of political repression against women activists, taking advantage of weak national legislation and the lack of an effective legal framework to combat such crimes.

It is not only women who suffer. [Children](#) are also subjected to sexual violence in detention facilities and training centers, with reports documenting multiple incidents committed by parties to the conflict. [Marginalized women](#) likewise face repeated targeting due to the nature of their work and the social stigma that increases their vulnerability to violence.

The Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition affirms that sexual violence in Yemen constitutes a systematic war crime aimed at destroying individuals and communities. The Coalition calls for justice and full accountability for all perpetrators of these crimes and stresses the need to include sexual violence as a priority issue within transitional justice processes in any future political settlement.

The Coalition also calls on the international community and the United Nations to:

- Ensure independent and effective investigations into conflict-related sexual violence crimes.
- Integrate survivors' needs into transitional justice and reparations processes.
- Expand safe psychological, legal, and health support services for survivors.
- Protect women human rights defenders and activists from violence and digital blackmail.
- Strengthen secure documentation and accountability mechanisms and end impunity.

**Silence in the face of sexual violence is not neutrality; it is a contribution to its continuation.** The Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition will continue working toward a Yemen where human dignity is protected, survivors' voices are heard, and justice is achieved without discrimination or exclusion.

#### Justice4Yemen Pact Coalition Members

- Center for Strategic Studies to Support Women and Children (CSWC)
- SAM Organization for Rights and Liberties
- Abductees' Mothers Association (AMA)
- Amal Women's and Sociocultural Foundation (AWSF)
- Free Media Center for Investigative Journalism
- Marib Dam Foundation for Social Development (MDF)
- Musaala Organization for Human Rights
- Watch For Human Rights
- Studies and Economic Media Center (SEMC)
- Yemeni Coalition for Monitoring Human Rights Violations (YCMHRV)

