

# Call for Papers: Perspectives on sexualized torture and gender-based torture

## Background

Traditional perspectives on torture are repeatedly challenged by contemporary debates on gender analysis of human rights violations in general and specifically in relation to sexualized torture.

Theoretical reflection aimed at a wider conceptualization of torture, including important contributions from a feminist critique, is therefore needed. The scope of analysis must be cast wide to ensure that e.g. rape, attacks on sexual integrity, and suffering inflicted on a human being based on gender identity, including but not limited to LGTBQI discrimination, genital mutilation, abortion, reproductive freedom, are properly considered torture demanding protection under the UN regime.

There is a need to develop specific tools and approaches in detecting and assessing sexual and gender-based torture. Sexual violence extends to many different groups and is specific to various contexts e.g. systematic rape as a weapon of war, sexual torture as part of interrogation, cultural shaming or revenge.

These issues further highlight the need for including a clear and reflective gender perspective in the rehabilitation of victims, which arguably requires a gender-based and culturally sensitive approach to therapy, one which is based on scientific knowledge and clinical experience, and adapted to the needs and situation of the individual. Not less significant are issues with respect to holistic rehabilitation and especially stigma which must also be addressed.

## Objective

To gather and disseminate scientific perspectives and experiences in relation to sexualized torture and gender-based violence within the wide field of institutions and bodies working against the crime of

torture, and for the right to rehabilitation and reparation, in order to strengthen ways of identifying, assessing and assisting victims of torture in their fight for justice and in their treatment.

## Call for papers

Torture Journal encourages authors to submit papers with a rehabilitation and/or legal orientation, particularly those that are interdisciplinary. We welcome papers on:

- (a) what is sexual torture? The definition and interplay between sexual-based violence, sexual torture and gender-based violence;
- (b) epidemiological studies;
- (c) stigma and dealing with societal consequences of sexualized human rights violations, both when this is performed inside and outside of detention;
- (d) discussions and case studies based on, among others, the General comments to the UN Convention against Torture, in particular General Comments No 2 & No 3;
- (e) access to justice,
- (f) prevention of rape, and domestic violence,
- (g) mapping and prevention of female genital mutilation,
- (h) human trafficking in systematic and non-systematic contexts,
- (i) particular victim groups, types of torture, specific vulnerabilities, special risks, children born of rape, social impact, special needs, national legislation, geographical areas etc,
- (j) medical diagnosis, forensic assessment and appropriate referral mechanisms of victims, and the significance that documentation has regarding obtaining asylum /residence permit, i.e. legal implications;
- (k) psychosocial and community impacts and interventions;

- (l) recommended practice when resources or conditions are limited/scarce/not optimal;
- (m) national policies and legislation; legal practices; traditional practices (traditional harmful practices);
- (n) therapies regarding psychotherapy and group therapy;
- (o) psychosocial assistance in emergency contexts;
- (p) the social impact in societies that host refugees who are survivors of sexual violence/rape/torture, and studies on sociological views;
- (q) cultural and gender-specific issues in situations of torture survivors in places of detention and/or refugee situations;
- (r) gender-violence committed in situations of emergencies – where helpers are perpetrators (emergency workers, peace keeping forces);
- (s) particular focus on sexual violence/ torture directed towards men; and,
- (t) justice and reparation for survivors/ victims of sexual torture.

### **Submission guidelines**

For general submission guidelines, please see the website (<http://irct.org/research-development/torture-journal>). Papers will be selected on their relevance to the field, applicability, methodological rigour, and level of innovation.

**Deadline for submission of abstracts by 30th June 2018** with full articles being submitted on request by 31<sup>st</sup> August.

#### **For more information**

Contact Pau Pérez-Sales, the Editor in Chief ([pauperez@arrakis.es](mailto:pauperez@arrakis.es)) or Nicola Witcombe, Editorial Assistant ([naw@irct.org](mailto:naw@irct.org))

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