

# VIOLENCE GENDER & WASH

## A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

**Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services**

### Toolset 7: International legal framework

#### This toolset includes:

**International and regional legal instruments (protocols, conventions and agreements) and a key protection-related standard, all of which have relevance to violence and WASH.**

#### Introduction

Vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH can prevent girls, women and sometimes boys and men from achieving international rights that are bound in international human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. These rights include the:

- Right to water and sanitation;
- Rights to life, liberty and security;
- Rights to equality between men and women and to non-discrimination;
- Rights to a standard of living and education;
- Rights to protection from all forms of violence, sexual exploitation and abuse; and
- Rights to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health.

Understanding how violence that is linked to WASH impacts on a range of human rights is important for advocacy to encourage action on – and for the increased allocation of resources to – reduce vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH.

This document provides an overview of key clauses from a range of international and regional instruments. Some of the instruments are legally binding on their signatories, and others are considered 'soft law'.

Please refer to the original documents for the exact wording of each clause.



Matthew Fryer / University of Winchester

#### International protocols, conventions and agreements included in this toolset

**These protocols, conventions and agreements and examples have been split into the following groups:**

**TS7-A. Instruments that are legally binding to the signatories**

**TS7-B. Instruments that are not legally binding**

**TS7-C. Regional documents of relevance**

**TS7-D. Key protection standards of relevance**

### About this document

This document is one part of the 'Violence, Gender and WASH: A Practitioner's Toolkit – Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services'.

This toolkit has been developed by Sarah House, Suzanne Ferron, Dr Marni Sommer and Dr Sue Cavill, on behalf of WaterAid with contributions from a wide range of organisations and individuals. It was funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) through the Sanitation and Hygiene Applied Research For Equity (SHARE) Consortium and co-published by a number of organisations.

Details of co-publishing organisations can be found on the back page of this document. The acknowledgements, acronyms, definitions and an overview of the toolkit are included in [BN1](#).

### Copyright and request for feedback

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### Citation for this publication

House, Sarah, Suzanne Ferron, Marni Sommer and Sue Cavill (2014) *Violence, Gender & WASH: A Practitioner's Toolkit – Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services*. London, UK: WaterAid/SHARE.

The authors of these materials would be very happy to receive feedback from users of the materials contained within, whether positive or negative, so that it can be used if the materials are updated at a later date.

We would also be interested to receive feedback where the methodologies have been used and their impacts evaluated in respect to reducing violence linked to WASH programmes or services. This will add to the general body of evidence on the best ways to improve policy and programming.

Please send any feedback to: [gbv@wateraid.org](mailto:gbv@wateraid.org)

### Promising good practices

This toolkit brings together a range of examples of *promising* good practice that have the potential to reduce vulnerabilities to violence associated with WASH programmes and services. The approaches have been selected on the basis of case study examples where some successes have already been seen, from good practice guidance already being recommended within the WASH sector or across sectors, and also some selected based on best judgement and common sense. These are approaches and strategies that at least give those who are vulnerable a say in the programme and service provision, which encourage communities to develop their own strategies for prevention of violence, provide opportunities for peer support, and encourage ethical behaviours from staff – and are therefore likely to be effective in helping to reduce vulnerabilities.

There is a critical need to increase understanding of the links between violence and WASH, on appropriate ways to improve policy and programming, and for testing and evaluation of the same.

Every effort has been made to obtain permission for the inclusion of materials, and also to verify that information is from reputable sources, but checks have not been possible for all entries.



This material has been funded by UK aid from the Department for International Development (DFID). However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the Department's official policies.

## What 'violence' means in this toolkit

The main focus of this toolkit is the forms of violence that occur because of the differences in power between males and females. This is known as 'gender-based violence' (GBV). A large proportion of GBV is aimed at women and girls, because in most societies they face discrimination and hold less power than men and boys. However, violence that is associated with the gender roles assumed by men and boys can also make them the object of violence. People who have other gender and sexual identities, such as those who are lesbian, bisexual, gay, transsexual and intersex (LBGTI) may also face GBV.

We also consider violence against those from specific social groups, particularly those who may be in vulnerable, marginalised or special circumstances; and we consider violence that may occur between people of the same gender, such as between women or between men, or between men and boys.

The forms of violence that are the main focus in this toolkit are: sexual violence (rape, assault, molestation and inappropriate touching), psychological violence (harassment, 'eve-baiting', bullying or other actions which may cause fear, stress or shame), physical violence (beating or fighting leading to injury and death) and socio-cultural violence (social ostracism, discrimination, political marginalisation or social norms that have negative impacts).

## International law

Treaties and rules of customary international law are two of the most important sources of international law.

### Treaties

Treaties are the main source of international law. They are written, legally binding instruments, setting out the rights and obligations of two (bilateral) or more (multilateral) states on a specific issue. Treaties are also commonly designated as: 'conventions', 'covenants' or 'protocols'.

Examples of multilateral treaties: The UN Charter, the 1949 Geneva Conventions and their 1977 Additional Protocols, the 1966 International Covenants on Civil and Political and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the 1989 Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

### Customary international law

Customary international law is also an important source of international law. It consists of unwritten rules created by practice that is adhered to by states

out of a sense of legal obligation. Customary rules are binding on all states, regardless of whether the state has explicitly consented to be bound by the rule in question or if the rule may also be found in treaty form.

Examples of customary norms: prohibition of slavery, prohibition of torture, prohibition of genocide, prohibition of indiscriminate attacks against the civilian population, prohibition of 'refoulement' (i.e. not expelling someone who has the right to be a refugee) etc.

### Soft international law

'Soft' international law is an important body of non-treaty standards usually adopted within the framework of the United Nations system (declarations, bodies of principles, standard minimum rules etc.).

Although not legally binding, soft law serves to interpret and elaborate treaty provisions and to develop new standards in emerging areas of international law.



Rod Shaw / WEDC, Loughborough University

**TS7-A - Instruments that are legally binding to the signatories**

<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-1</u></a>	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted 1966 (entered into force 1976)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-2</u></a>	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted 1979 (entered into force 1981)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-3</u></a>	Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted 1989 (entered into force 1990)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-4</u></a>	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol, adopted 2006 (entered into force 2008)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-5</u></a>	Geneva Convention (IV) relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 1949 and Additional Protocols I (1977) and II (1977)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-A-6</u></a>	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on the protection of women and girls in conflict situations, 2000

**TS7-B - Instruments that are not legally binding**

<a href="#"><u>TS7-B-1</u></a>	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
<a href="#"><u>TS7-B-2</u></a>	Beijing Protocol for Action, 1995
<a href="#"><u>TS7-B-3</u></a>	UN Secretary-General's Bulletin, Special Measures for the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 2003
<a href="#"><u>TS7-B-4</u></a>	UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 1993; and Elimination on All Forms of Violence Against Women... 2003
<a href="#"><u>TS7-B-5</u></a>	United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000

**TS7-C - Regional documents of relevance**

<a href="#"><u>TS7-C-1</u></a>	Organisation of African Unity, The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990 (entered into force 1999)
<a href="#"><u>TS7-C-2</u></a>	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 1995

**TS7-D - Key protection standards of relevance**

<a href="#"><u>TS7-D-1</u></a>	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Professional Standards for Protection Work (good practice guidance)
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## TS7-A - Instruments that are legally binding to the signatories

<b>TS7-A-1</b>	<b>International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, adopted and opened for signature, ratification and accession by General Assembly resolution 2200A (XXI) of 16 December 1966, entry into force 3 January 1976, in accordance with article 27</b>
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b><u>Article 2 –</u></b></p> <p>The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.</p> <p><b><u>Article 3 –</u></b></p> <p>The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights set forth in the present Covenant.</p> <p><b><u>Article 7 –</u></b></p> <p>(a) Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work.</p> <p>(b) Safe and healthy working conditions.</p> <p>(c) Equal opportunity for everyone to be promoted in his employment to an appropriate higher level, subject to no considerations other than those of seniority and competence.</p> <p><b><u>Article 11 –</u></b></p> <p>The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions.</p> <p><b><u>Article 12 –</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The State Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.</li> <li>2. The steps taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(b) The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene</li> <li>(c) The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CESCR.aspx</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>



## TS7-A-2

**Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted 1979 (entered into force 1981)****Relevant clauses**

Adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly, often described as an international bill of rights for women. The convention entered into force on 3 September 1981.

The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, an expert body established in 1982, is composed of 23 experts on women's issues from around the world. In 1999 the UN General Assembly adopted the Optional Protocol to the CEDAW Convention.

By ratifying the Optional Protocol, a state recognises the competence of the committee to receive and consider complaints from individuals or groups within its jurisdiction.

**Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:**

Noting that:

- The Charter of the United Nations reaffirms faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women;
- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms the principle of the inadmissibility of discrimination and proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex;
- The States Parties to the International Covenants on Human Rights have the obligation to ensure the equal rights of men and women to enjoy all economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights;
- The international conventions concluded under the auspices of the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women;
- The resolutions, declarations and recommendations adopted by the United Nations and the specialized agencies promoting equality of rights of men and women.

Concerned, however, that despite these various instruments extensive discrimination against women continues to exist...

Recalling that discrimination against women violates the principles of equality of rights and respect for human dignity, is an obstacle to the participation of women on equal terms with men, in the political, social, economic and cultural life of their countries, hampers the growth of the prosperity of society and the family and makes more difficult the full development of the potentialities of women in the service of their countries and of humanity...

Concerned that in situations of poverty women have the least access to food, health, education, training and opportunities for employment and other needs...

Convinced that the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields...

Aware that a change in the traditional role of men as well as the role of women in society and in the family is needed to achieve full equality between men and women...

Determined to implement the principles set forth in the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women and, for that purpose, to adopt the measures required for the elimination of such discrimination in all its forms and manifestations, have agreed on the following:

TS7-A-2  
continued**Part I**

**Article 1** – For the purposes of the present Convention, the term ‘discrimination against women’ shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field.

**Article 2** – States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree...

- (e) To take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women by any person, organization or enterprise.
- (f) To take all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women.

**Article 3** – All measures including legislation to ensure full development and advancement of women... for the purpose of guaranteeing them... enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on basis of equality with men.

**Article 4** – Temporary measures to redress the balance of gender equality... including protecting maternity rights shall not be considered discriminatory.

**Article 5** – States Parties shall take all appropriate measures:

- (a) To modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women, with a view to achieving the elimination of prejudices and customary and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes or on stereotyped roles for men and women.

**Article 6** – States Parties shall take all appropriate measures, including legislation to suppress all forms of traffic in women and exploitation of prostitution of women.

**Part II**

Women on equal terms to men have the right to formulate government policy, hold public office and participate in non-governmental organisations and associations.

**Part III**

**Article 10** – States the rights of women on an equal basis to men to access education at all levels, scholarships and that there will be elimination of any stereotypical concept on the roles of men and women at all levels.

**Article 11** – States the rights of women on an equal basis to men to employment with the same conditions of service, rights to health and safety at work and the prohibition of the imposition of sanctions or dismissal on the grounds of maternity leave.

**Article 14** – Rural women’s role and recognition of their special situation and their right to participate in and benefit from rural development.

- (h) To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

TS7-A-2  
continued

#### Part IV

##### Article 15 –

1. State Parties shall accord to women equality with men before the law.

##### Article 16 –

1. Elimination of discrimination against women in all matters related to marriage and family relations.

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#### Part V

Article 17 – Establishment of a Committee on Elimination of Discrimination against women with a four-year term.

#### Reference

Source: <http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/> [Accessed 4 June 2013].

<http://www.cedaw2011.org/index.php/about-cedaw> [accessed 23 October 2013].



TS7-A-3	Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted 1989 (entered into force 1990)
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b>Article 6 (Survival and development)</b> – Children have the right to live. Governments should ensure that children survive and develop healthily.</p> <p><b>Article 12 (Respect for the views of the child)</b> – When adults are making decisions that affect children, children have the right to say what they think should happen and have their opinions taken into account.</p> <p><b>Article 16 (Right to privacy)</b> – Children have a right to privacy. Governments should protect them from attacks against their way of life, their good name, their families and their homes.</p> <p><b>Article 17 (Access to information; mass media)</b> – Children have the right to get information that is important to their health and well-being.</p> <p><b>Article 19 (Protection from all forms of violence)</b> – Children have the right to be protected from being hurt and mistreated, physically or mentally.</p> <p><b>Article 22 (Refugee children)</b> – Children have the right to special protection and help if they are refugees (if they have been forced to leave their home and live in another country), as well as all the rights in this Convention.</p> <p><b>Article 23 (Children with disabilities)</b> – Children who have any kind of disability have the right to special care and support, as well as all the rights in the Convention, so that they can live full and independent lives.</p> <p><b>Article 24 (Health and health services)</b> – Children have the right to good quality healthcare – the best healthcare possible – safe drinking water, nutritious food, a clean and safe environment, and information to help them stay healthy.</p> <p><b>Article 27 (Adequate standard of living)</b> – Children have the right to a standard of living that is good enough to meet their physical and mental needs.</p> <p><b>Article 28 (Right to education)</b> – For children to benefit from education, schools must be run in an orderly way – without the use of violence. Any form of school discipline should take into account the child's human dignity. Therefore, governments must ensure that school administrators review their discipline policies and eliminate any discipline practices involving physical or mental violence, abuse or neglect.</p> <p><b>Article 34 (Sexual exploitation)</b> – Governments should protect children from all forms of sexual exploitation and abuse. This provision in the Convention is augmented by the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.</p> <p><b>Article 39 (Rehabilitation of child victims)</b> – Children who have been neglected, abused or exploited should receive special help to physically and psychologically recover and reintegrate into society. Particular attention should be paid to restoring the health, self-respect and dignity of the child.</p> <p><b>Article 38 (War and armed conflicts)</b> – Governments should do everything they can to protect and care for children affected by war.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/">http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p> <p>United Nations Children's Fund (no date) FACT Sheet: <i>A summary of the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child</i>, New York, USA: UNICEF.</p>

TS7-A-4	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Optional Protocol, adopted 2006 (entered into force 2008)
Relevant clauses	Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:
	<p><b>Preamble</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(e) Recognizing that disability is an evolving concept and that disability results from interaction between persons with impairments and attitudinal and environmental barriers that hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis.</li> <li>(h) Recognizing also that discrimination against any person on the basis of disability is a violation of the inherent dignity and work of the human person.</li> <li>(m) Recognizing the valued existing and potential contributions made by persons with disabilities to the overall well-being and diversity of their communities, and that the promotion of the full enjoyment by persons with disabilities of their human rights and fundamental freedoms and of full participation by persons with disabilities will result in their enhanced sense of belonging and in significant advances in the human, social and economic development of society and the eradication of poverty.</li> <li>(o) Considering that persons with disabilities should have the opportunity to be actively involved in decision-making processes about policies and programmes, including those directly concerning them.</li> <li>(q) Recognizing that women and girls with disabilities are often at greater risk, both within and outside the home, of violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation.</li> <li>(s) Emphasizing the need to incorporate a gender perspective in all efforts to promote the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms by persons with disabilities.</li> </ul> <p><b>Article 1 – Purpose</b></p> <p>To promote, protect and ensure all human rights and freedoms by all persons with disabilities, and to promote respect for their inherent dignity.</p> <p><b>Article 2 – Definitions</b></p> <p>‘Discrimination on the basis of disability’ means any distinction, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability which has the purpose or effect of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal basis with others, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable accommodation.</p> <p><b>Article 3 – General principles:</b></p> <p>The principles of the present Convention shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) Respect for inherent dignity, individual autonomy including the freedom to make one’s own choices, and independence of persons.</li> <li>(b) Non-discrimination.</li> <li>(c) Full and effective participation and inclusion in society.</li> <li>(d) Respect for difference and acceptance of persons with disabilities as part of human diversity and humanity.</li> <li>(e) Equality of opportunity.</li> </ul>

**TS7-A-4**  
continued

- (f) Accessibility.
- (g) Equality between men and women.
- (h) Respect for the evolving capacities of children with disabilities and respect for the right of children with disabilities to preserve their identities.

**Article 4 – General obligations**

- (c) To take into account the protection and promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities in all policies and programmes.

**Article 5 – Equality and non-discrimination**

1. State Parties recognise that all persons are equal before and under the law are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection and equal benefit of the law.

**Article 6 – Women with disabilities**

1. State Parties recognize that women and girls with disabilities are subject to multiple discriminations, and in this regard shall take measures to ensure full and equal enjoyment by them of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.
2. Ensure full development, advancement and empowerment of women.

**Article 7 – Children with disabilities**

1. States Parties shall take all necessary measures to ensure the full enjoyment by children with disabilities of all human rights and fundamental freedoms on an equal basis with other children.

**Article 9 – Accessibility**

To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas.

State Parties shall also take appropriate measure: (a) To develop, promulgate and monitor the implementation of minimum standards and guidelines for the accessibility of facilities and services open or provided to the public...

**Article 15 – Freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment**

**Article 16 – Freedom from exploitation, violence and abuse**

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social, educational and other measures to protect persons with disabilities, both within and outside the home, from all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, including their gender-based aspects.
2. States Parties shall also take all appropriate measures to prevent all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse by ensuring, inter alia, appropriate forms of gender- and age-sensitive assistance and support for persons with disabilities and their families and caregivers, including through the provision of information and education on how to avoid, recognize and report instances of exploitation, violence and abuse. States Parties shall ensure that protection services are age-, gender- and disability-sensitive.
3. In order to prevent the occurrence of all forms of exploitation, violence and abuse, States Parties shall ensure that all facilities and programmes designed to serve persons with disabilities are effectively monitored by independent authorities.

**TS7-A-4**  
**continued**

4. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to promote the physical, cognitive and psychological recovery, rehabilitation and social reintegration of persons with disabilities who become victims of any form of exploitation, violence or abuse, including through the provision of protection services. Such recovery and reintegration shall take place in an environment that fosters the health, welfare, self-respect, dignity and autonomy of the person and takes into account gender- and age-specific needs.
5. States Parties shall put in place effective legislation and policies, including women- and child-focused legislation and policies, to ensure that instances of exploitation, violence and abuse against persons with disabilities are identified, investigated and, where appropriate, prosecuted.

**Article 22 – Respect for privacy**

No person with disabilities, regardless of place of residence or living arrangements, shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful interference with his or her privacy, family, or correspondence or other types of communication or to unlawful attacks on his or her honour and reputation.

**Article 24 – Education**

States Parties shall ensure that persons with disabilities are able to access general tertiary education, vocational training, adult education and lifelong learning without discrimination and on an equal basis with others. To this end, States Parties shall ensure that reasonable accommodation is provided to persons with disabilities.

**Article 25 – Health**

State Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure access for persons with disabilities to health services that are gender sensitive.

**Article 27 – Work and employment**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to work, on an equal basis with others; this includes the right to the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted in a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities.

**Article 28 – Adequate standard of living and social protection**

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right without discrimination on the basis of disability.

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures:

- a) To ensure access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs...

**Reference**

Source: <http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/> [accessed 4 June 2013].

United Nations Enable, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. <http://www.un.org/disabilities/default.asp?id=150> [accessed 18 Dec 2013].

TS7-A-5	Geneva Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, 12 August 1949 and Additional Protocols I (1977) and II (1977)
<p><b>Relevant clauses</b></p>	<p><b>Provisions Common to the Territories of the Parties to the Conflict and to Occupied Territories</b></p> <p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b>Article 27</b> – Protected persons are entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honour, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs. They shall at all times be humanely treated, and shall be protected especially against all acts of violence or threats thereof and against insults and public curiosity.</p> <p>Women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault.</p> <p>Without prejudice to the provisions relating to their state of health, age and sex, all protected persons shall be treated with the same consideration by the Party to the conflict in whose power they are, without any adverse distinction based, in particular, on race, religion or political opinion.</p> <p>Note that the Geneva Conventions consist of four conventions (1949) and a series of additional protocols which added to the conventions. Some refer to international armed conflicts, some to non-international armed conflicts (i.e. internal to a country).</p> <hr/> <p><b>Protocol Additional (Protocol I) – Relates to the protection of victims of international armed conflicts</b></p> <p><b>Article 55</b> – Includes a requirement to protect the natural environment and thereby not prejudice the health or survival of the population.</p> <p><b>Articles 76 and 77</b> – Includes specific measures in favour of women and children, including that they shall be the objects of special respect and will be protected against rape, forced prostitution and any forms of indecent assault.</p> <hr/> <p><b>Protocol Additional (Protocol II) – Relates to the protection of victims of non-international armed conflicts</b></p> <p><b>Article 14</b> – Relates to the protection of objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population. It notes that it is prohibited to attack, destroy, remove or render useless, objects indispensable to the survival of the civilian population, which include drinking water installations and supplies and irrigation works.</p>
<p><b>Reference</b></p>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Treaty.xsp?action=openDocument&amp;documentId=AE2D398352C5B028C12563CD002D6B5C">http://www.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/Treaty.xsp?action=openDocument&amp;documentId=AE2D398352C5B028C12563CD002D6B5C</a> [accessed 11 October 2013.]</p>

TS7-A-6	UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)
Relevant clauses	<p>Focus: Guidance on the protection of women and girls in conflict situations [the resolution does not have a formal title]</p> <p>Adopted by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting on 31 October 2000</p>
	<p>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and / or WASH:</p> <p><b>In the Preamble</b></p> <p>Recalling also the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action'... Recognising that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.</p> <p>10 – Calls on all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.</p> <p>12 – Calls upon all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design.</p>
Reference	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf">http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>



## TS7-B - Instruments that are not legally binding

TS7-B-1	Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b>Article 1</b> – All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights....</p> <p><b>Article 2</b> – Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.</p> <p><b>Article 3</b> – Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.</p> <p><b>Article 5</b> – No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.</p> <p><b>Article 7</b> – All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.</p> <p><b>Article 12</b> – No one shall be subjected to arbitrary interference with his privacy, family, home or correspondence, nor to attacks upon his honour and reputation. Everyone has the right to the protection of the law against such interference or attacks.</p> <p><b>Article 21</b> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone has the right to equal access to public service in his country.</li> </ol> <p><b>Article 23</b> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.</li> <li>Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.</li> <li>Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.</li> <li>Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.</li> </ol> <p><b>Article 25</b> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.</li> <li>Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.</li> </ol> <p><b>Article 26</b> –</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.</li> </ol>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/">http://www.protectionproject.org/resources/law-library/international-conventions/</a> [accessed 4 June 2013].</p>

TS7-B-2	Beijing Protocol for Action, 1995
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>The Beijing Protocol for Action</b> – is based upon the following strategic areas: (SO – Strategic Objective)</p> <p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p>A. The persistent and increasing burden of <u>poverty</u> on women</p> <p>B. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to <u>education and training</u></p> <p>C. Inequalities and inadequacies in and unequal access to <u>healthcare and related services</u></p> <p>D. <u>Violence against women</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO D.1</b> – Take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women.</li> <li>— <b>SO D.2</b> – Study the causes and consequences of violence against women and the effectiveness of preventative measures.</li> <li>— <b>SO D.3</b> – Eliminate trafficking in women and assist victims of violence due to prostitution and trafficking.</li> </ul> <p>E. The effects of armed or other kinds of conflict on women including those living under foreign occupation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO E.5</b> – Provide protection, assistance and training of refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women.</li> </ul> <p>F. Inequality in economic structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO F.1</b> – Promote women's economic rights and independence, including access to employment and appropriate working conditions and control over economic resources.</li> <li>— <b>SO F.5</b> – Eliminate occupational segregation and all forms of employment discrimination.</li> <li>— <b>SO F.6</b> – Promote harmonisation of work and family responsibilities for women and men.</li> </ul> <p>G. Inequality between men and women in the sharing of power and decision-making at all levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO G.2</b> – Increase women's capacity to participate in decision-making and leadership.</li> </ul> <p>H. Insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the advancement of women</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO H.2</b> – Integrate gender perspectives in legislation, public policies, programmes and projects.</li> <li>— <b>SO H.3</b> – Generate and disseminate gender-disaggregated data and information for planning and evaluation.</li> </ul> <p>I. Lack of respect for the inadequate promotion and protection of the <u>human rights of women</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>SO I.1</b> – Promote and protect the human rights of women through the full implementation of all human rights instruments, especially CEDAW.</li> </ul> <p>J. Stereotyping of women and the inequality in women's access to and participation in all communication systems, especially in the media</p>

**TS7-B-2**  
**continued**

**K. Gender inequalities in the management of natural resources and in the safeguarding of the environment**

- **SO K.1** – Involve women in environmental decision-making at all levels.
- **SO K.2** – Integrate gender concerns and perspectives in policies and programmes for sustainable development.

**L. Persistent discrimination against and violation of the rights of the girl child**

- **SO L.1** – Eliminate all forms of discrimination against the girl child.
- **SO L.2** – Eliminate negative cultural attitudes against girls.
- **SO L.3** – Promote and protect the rights of the girl child and increase awareness of her needs and potential.
- **SO L.7** – Eradicate violence against the girl child.

**Reference**

Source: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>  
[accessed 11 October 2013].

TS7-B-3	UN Secretary-General's Bulletin, Special Measures for the Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Sexual Abuse, 2003
<p><b>Relevant clauses</b></p>	<p>This bulletin takes into consideration General Assembly Resolution 57/306 of 15 April 2003, 'Investigating into sexual exploitation of refugees by aid workers in West Africa'.</p> <p>This bulletin is important in relation to GBV, specifically sexual GBV in the form of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.</p> <p><b><u>Section 1 – Definitions</u></b></p> <p>Provides definitions of terms. 'Sexual exploitation' means any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power, or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another. Similarly, the term 'sexual abuse' means the actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions.</p> <p><b><u>Section 2 – Scope of application</u></b></p> <p>Outlines scope of application, all staff of United Nations including United Nations forces and links to other bulletins on international humanitarian law and procedures for handling cases of sexual harassment.</p> <p><b><u>Section 3 – Prohibition of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse</u></b></p> <p>Reiterates existing general obligations under the United Nations Staff Regulations and Rules and gives sanctions including summary dismissal.</p> <p><b><u>Section 4 – Duties of heads of departments, offices and missions</u></b></p> <p>Places duty on heads of departments, offices and missions to inform staff of the bulletin and take appropriate action in accordance with established rules and procedures for dealing with cases of staff misconduct where necessary.</p> <p><b><u>Section 5 – Referral to national authorities</u></b></p> <p>Allows in some circumstances for cases to be referred to national authorities for criminal prosecution.</p> <p><b><u>Section 6 – Co-operative arrangements with non-United Nations entities or individuals</u></b></p> <p>-</p>
<p><b>Reference</b></p>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.refworld.org/docid/451bb6764.html">http://www.refworld.org/docid/451bb6764.html</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>

TS7-B-4	<p><b>United Nations General Assembly (1993) Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (A/RES/48/104). Resolution adopted by the General Assembly, 85th plenary meeting, 20 December 1993 ... and</b></p>
<p><b>Relevant clauses</b></p>	<p><b>United Nations General Assembly (2003) Elimination of all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century' (A/RES/57/181). Resolution adopted 4 February 2003.</b></p> <p>From the Resolution adopted 4 February 2003</p> <p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reaffirming further the call for the elimination of violence against women and girls, especially all forms of commercial sexual exploitation, as well as economic exploitation, including trafficking in women and children, female infanticide, crimes committed in the name of honour, crimes committed in the name of passion, racially motivated crimes, the abduction and sale of children, dowry-related violence and deaths, acid attacks and harmful traditional or customary practices, such as female genital mutilation and early and forced marriages.</li> <li>• Stressing the importance of the empowerment of women as a tool to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcome document of the twenty-third special session.</li> <li>• Also stresses the need to treat all forms of violence against women and girls of all ages as a criminal offence punishable by law, including violence based on all forms of discrimination.</li> </ul> <p>8. Urges Member States to strengthen awareness and preventive measures for the elimination of all forms of violence against women, whether occurring in public or private life, by encouraging and supporting public campaigns to enhance awareness about the unacceptability and the social costs of violence against women, inter alia, through educational and media campaigns in co-operation with educators, community leaders and the electronic and print media.</p> <p>11. Encourages States Parties to include in their reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and other relevant treaty bodies, wherever possible, sex-disaggregated data and information on measures taken or initiated to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including crimes identified in the outcomes documents of the twenty-third special session.</p>
<p><b>Reference</b></p>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/reports.htm">http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/vaw/reports.htm</a> [provides a useful overview of the different international instruments relevant to women].</p> <p><a href="http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm">http://www.un.org/documents/ga/res/48/a48r104.htm</a> and <a href="http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N94/095/05/PDF/N9409505.pdf?OpenElement">http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N94/095/05/PDF/N9409505.pdf?OpenElement</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p> <p><a href="http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N02/550/15/PDF/N0255015.pdf?OpenElement">http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N02/550/15/PDF/N0255015.pdf?OpenElement</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>

<b>TS7-B-5</b>	<b>United Nations Millennium Declaration, 2000</b> <b>Resolution adopted by the General Assembly [without reference to a Main Committee (A/55/L.2)] 55/2. United Nations Millennium Declaration</b>
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b>I – Values and principles</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equality: No individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equal rights and opportunities of women and men must be assured.</li> <li>• Freedom: Men and women have the right to live their lives and raise their children in dignity, free from hunger and from the fear of violence, oppression or injustice.</li> </ul> <p><b>IV – Protecting our common environment</b></p> <p><b>23</b> – Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To stop the unsustainable exploitation of water resources by developing water management strategies at the regional, national and local levels, which promote both equitable access and adequate supplies.</li> </ul> <p><b>V – Human rights, democracy and good governance</b></p> <p><b>25</b> – Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To respectfully and uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.</li> <li>• To combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women.</li> </ul> <p><b>VI – Protecting the vulnerable</b></p> <p><b>26</b> – Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Special provision for the protection of children and encourages the Convention on the Rights of the Child.</li> </ul> <p><b>VII – Meeting the special needs of Africa</b></p> <p><b>28</b> – Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help Africa build up its capacity to tackle the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic and other infectious diseases.</li> </ul>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm">http://www.un.org/millennium/declaration/ares552e.htm</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>



## TS7-C - Regional documents of relevance

TS7-C-1	The African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, 1990 (entered into force 1999)
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</p> <hr/> <p><b>Part 1 – Rights and duties</b></p> <p><b><u>Chapter 1 – Rights and Welfare of the Child</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Article 10</u></b> – Children have a right to privacy.</p> <p><b><u>Article 11</u></b> – Includes, governments should also take special measures in respect of female, gifted and disadvantaged children, to ensure equal access to education for all sections of the community.</p> <p><b><u>Article 13</u></b> – Every child who is mentally or physically disabled has the right to special protection to ensure his or her dignity, promote his self-reliance and active participation in the community.</p> <p><b><u>Article 14</u></b> – Every child shall have the right to enjoy the best attainable state of physical, mental and spiritual health. This includes the provision of nutritious food and safe drinking water, as well as adequate healthcare.</p> <p><b><u>Article 16</u></b> – Children should be protected from all forms of torture, inhuman or degrading treatment and especially physical or mental injury or abuse, neglect or maltreatments including sexual abuse.</p> <p><b><u>Article 27</u></b> – Children should be protected from all forms of sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.</p>
<b>Reference</b>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/afchild.htm">http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/africa/afchild.htm</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>

TS7-C-2	Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, 1995
<b>Relevant clauses</b>	<p><b>Articles noted below have relevance to violence and/or WASH:</b></p> <p>REAFFIRMING the principle of promoting gender equality as enshrined in the Constitutive Act of the African Union as well as the New Partnership for Africa's Development, relevant Declarations, Resolutions and Decisions, which underline the commitment of the African States to ensure the full participation of African women as equal partners in Africa's development.</p> <p><b><u>Article 2 – Elimination of Discrimination Against Women</u></b></p> <p>2. States Parties shall commit themselves to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of women and men through public education, information, education and communication strategies, with a view to achieving the elimination of harmful cultural and traditional practices and all other practices which are based on the idea of the inferiority or the superiority of either of the sexes, or on stereotyped roles for women and men.</p> <p><b><u>Article 3 – Right to Dignity</u></b></p> <p>4. States Parties shall adopt and implement appropriate measures to ensure the protection of every woman's right to respect for her dignity and protection of women from all forms of violence, particularly sexual and verbal violence.</p> <p><b><u>Article 4 – The Rights to Life, Integrity and Security of the Person</u></b></p> <p>2. States Parties shall take appropriate and effective measures to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enact and enforce laws to prohibit all forms of violence against women including unwanted or forced sex, whether the violence takes place in private or public.</li> <li>Adopt such other legislative, administrative, social and economic measures as may be necessary to ensure the prevention, punishment and eradication of all forms of violence against women.</li> <li>Identify the causes and consequences of violence against women and take appropriate measures to prevent and eliminate such violence;</li> <li>Actively promote peace education through curricula and social communication in order to eradicate elements in traditional and cultural beliefs, practices and stereotypes which legitimise and exacerbate the persistence and tolerance of violence against women.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Article 5 – Elimination of Harmful Practices</u></b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prohibition, through legislative measures backed by sanctions, of all forms of female genital mutilation, scarification, medicalisation and para-medicalisation of female genital mutilation and all other practices in order to eradicate them.</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Article 9 – Right to Participation in the Political and Decision-Making Process</u></b></p> <p>1. States Parties shall take specific positive action to promote participative governance and the equal participation of women in the political life of their countries through affirmative action, enabling national legislation and other measures to ensure that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>women participate without any discrimination in all elections...</li> </ol> <p><b><u>Article 11 – Protection of Women in Armed Conflicts</u></b></p> <p>3. States Parties undertake to protect asylum-seeking women, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, against all forms of violence, rape and other forms of sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such acts are considered war</p>

**TS7-C-2**  
**continued**

crimes, genocide and/or crimes against humanity and that their perpetrators are brought to justice before a competent criminal jurisdiction.

**Article 12 – Right to Education and Training**

1. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to:
  - (a) Eliminate all forms of discrimination against women and guarantee equal opportunity and access in the sphere of education and training.
  - (b) Eliminate all stereotypes in textbooks, syllabuses and the media, that perpetuate such discrimination.
  - (c) Protect women, especially the girl child from all forms of abuse, including sexual harassment in schools and other educational institutions and provide for sanctions against the perpetrators of such practices.
  - (d) Provide access to counselling and rehabilitation services to women who suffer abuses and sexual harassment.
2. States Parties shall take specific positive action to:
  - (b) Promote education and training for women at all levels and in all disciplines, particularly in the fields of science and technology.

**Article 13 – Economic and Social Welfare Rights**

- (a) Promote equality of access to employment;
- (c) Ensure transparency in recruitment, promotion and dismissal of women and combat and punish sexual harassment in the workplace.

**Article 16 – Right to Adequate Housing**

Women shall have the right to equal access to housing and to acceptable living conditions in a healthy environment.

**Article 19 – Right to Sustainable Development**

- (b) ensure participation of women at all levels in the conceptualisation, decision-making, implementation and evaluation of development policies and programmes.

**Article 22 – Special Protection of Elderly Women**

The States Parties undertake to:

- (b) Ensure the right of elderly women to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on age and the right to be treated with dignity.

**Article 23 – Special Protection of Women with Disabilities**

The States Parties undertake to:

- (a) Ensure the protection of women with disabilities and take specific measures commensurate with their physical, economic and social needs to facilitate their access to employment, professional and vocational training as well as their participation in decision-making.
- (b) Ensure the right of women with disabilities to freedom from violence, including sexual abuse, discrimination based on disability and the right to be treated with dignity.

**Reference**

Source: <http://www.achpr.org/instruments/women-protocol/>  
[accessed 11 October 2013].

## TS7-D - Key protection standards of relevance

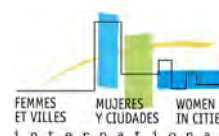
TS7-D-1	International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Professional Standards for Protection Work
<p><b>Relevant clauses</b></p>	<p><b>Carried out by humanitarian and human rights actors in armed conflict and other situations of violence.</b></p> <p>Definition of protection – developed from ICRC led workshops 1996–2000</p> <p><i>‘... all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law ,i.e. human rights law, international humanitarian law and refugee law. Human rights and humanitarian organizations must conduct these activities in an impartial manner (not on the basis of race, national or ethnic origin, language or gender).’</i></p> <p><b>Sections noted below have relevance to GBV and/or WASH:</b></p> <p><b><u>Chapter 1 – The overarching principles in protection work</u></b></p> <p>Respecting the principle of humanity, impartiality and non-discrimination.</p> <p>2. Non-discrimination and impartiality must guide protection work including... on the basis of race, colour, sex....</p> <p>5. Protection actors must contribute to the capacity of the actors to ensure that there are no harmful effects from their action... ‘Do no Harm’.</p> <p><b><u>Chapter 4 – Promoting complementarity</u></b></p> <p>25. Protection actors should seek to share their analysis in order to contribute to a better understanding of the protection issues and their impact on various populations at risk.</p> <p>28. When a protection actor learns of serious abuse or violations of international humanitarian or human rights law, and it lacks capacity or the requisite mandate to take action, it should alert other organisations which have the capacity or mandate.</p> <p><b><u>Chapter 5 – Managing sensitive protection information</u></b></p> <p>32. Protection actors seeking protection information bear the responsibility to assess threats to the persons providing information, and to take necessary measures to avoid negative consequences for those from whom they are seeking information.</p> <p>38. Protection actors must undertake an analysis of the associated risks for the interviewees and the interviewer before conducting interviews.</p> <p>Notion of informed consent is detailed.</p> <p><b><u>Chapter 6 – Ensuring professional capacity</u></b></p> <p>Ensuring ethical conduct of the staff.</p> <p>50. Protection actors must adopt an institutional code of conduct and ensure compliance.</p>
<p><b>Reference</b></p>	<p>Source: <a href="http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0999.htm">http://www.icrc.org/eng/resources/documents/publication/p0999.htm</a> [accessed 11 October 2013].</p>
<p><b>Endnote</b></p>	<p><sup>1</sup> Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Force on Humanitarian Action and Human Rights (2004) <i>Frequently Asked Questions on International Humanitarian, Human Rights and Refugee Law in the Context of Armed Conflict</i>. Geneva, Switzerland: IASC.</p> <p><sup>2</sup> Ibid.</p>



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The toolkit is co-published by:



This material has been funded by UK aid from the Department for International Development (DFID). However, the views expressed do not necessarily reflect the Department's official policies.

## Commitments of co-publishing organisations

It should be noted that the organisations co-publishing this resource might not currently practice all of the recommendations proposed within it.

Co-publishing the resource provides an indication of the organisations' commitment to help their staff become increasingly aware of the issues relating to violence and WASH, and that they will continue to work to improve their organisation-wide commitment, policies, strategies, plans and programming over time to reduce vulnerabilities to violence related to WASH wherever it is realistically possible.

**VIOLENCE  
GENDER  
& WASH**

## A PRACTITIONER'S TOOLKIT

**Making water, sanitation and hygiene safer through improved programming and services**

## Toolset 7

**International legal framework**