



RAPID RESPONSE TOOLKIT

DARFUR WOMEN ACTION GROUP

Darfur Women Action Group (DWAG) is taking a unique approach to fighting and preventing genocide:

- DWAG empowers the communities most affected by crises by building strong leadership among those who have been historically excluded in order to enable them to lead and foster positive change within their communities.
- DWAG connects survivors and their supporters by creating a citizen-led movement of anti-genocide activists within the United States and internationally.
- DWAG mobilizes, educates, engages and empowers these activists to become strong voices for those who have been silenced. We believe this will bring about the much-needed sustainable policy changes and change the way the international community responds to the genocide in Darfur and other mass atrocities around the world.

Therefore, we invite you to join us and help bring our mission to reality. Together, we **can** make a difference!

The Urgency of the Situation and Why You Must Act:

The genocide in Darfur began over fifteen years ago and continues unabated to this day. There are over four million people affected by the genocide. Over three million people have been forced to flee their homes and live in Internal Displacement Camps (IDCs) in Darfur. Many of those currently in these camps have been there since the genocide began but are still unable to return home.

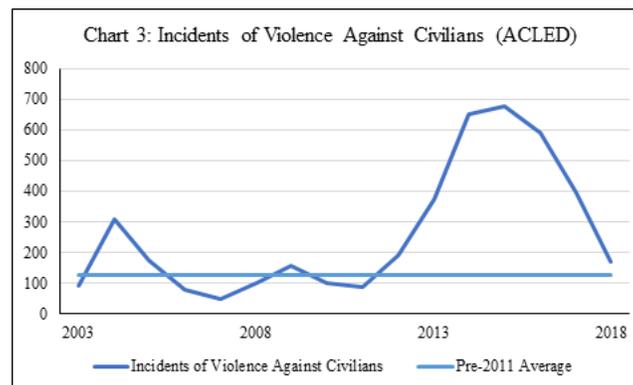
Around one million people have sought refuge in neighboring countries. There are over 373,000 people in Chad alone. Countless others live in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, Jordan, Syria, Israel and Egypt. The lives of refugees are immensely hard, and they often live in deplorable conditions.

In recent years, the violence has only increased and intensified. The genocide is now the most violent it's ever been.

In 2017, there were over 34,000 people newly displaced by the then fourteen-year-old genocide. In the first half of this year alone there were over 157 violence incidents against civilians resulting in over 130 deaths. The Sudanese Government has completely decimated over 60 villages. There are no official numbers detailing the number of rapes this year. There are many women who fear speaking out due to the stigma attached to rape, adding to the isolation rape victims often feel. Victims of rape are often left to suffer and are not given access to proper medical or psychological care.

Additionally, the Sudanese Government has increased the severity of its attacks. In 2016, the Sudanese Government used chemical weapons against civilian populations. This attack alone killed between 200 and 250 people, the majority of whom were children. Many others developed life-threatening symptoms, including "severe gastrointestinal conditions involving bloody vomiting and diarrhea; blistering and rashes on the skin which reportedly hardened, changed color and fell off; eye problems including complete loss of vision; and respiratory problems." However, the international community has not investigated the attacks, nor worked to hold the Government of Sudan accountable.

The chart below shows the average number of violent incidents against civilians before the start of the genocide and until the end of 2017.



In addition to the outright violence, rape is also being used as a weapon of war. The use of rape as a weapon of war is designed not to just inflict pain on its victims but is used to dehumanize the entire community. Rape has become a systematic tactic of genocide. In October of 2014, over 221 women and girls were raped and tortured by the Sudanese Army. The tragedy that occurred is part of a well-orchestrated plan to exterminate the Darfuri people.

These attacks are not just designed to cause physical and emotional harm. The Sudanese Government attacks Darfuris to ensure their social death as well. In 2017, over 1000 Darfuri students were forced to abandon university as the direct result of the government's abuse against them. Students were kidnapped, arrested, tortured, raped, killed for speaking out. The younger generation of Darfuris also have limited access to education. Over 60% of children in IDCs have no access to education.

The result? The inevitable creation of an entire uneducated generation of Darfuri children.

Sadly, the response from the international community has been minimal, and many countries remain silent in the face of this escalated violence.

That is why Darfur Women Action Group is determined to both maintain the attention on the horrific human rights abuses in Darfur and to change the international community's lack of an effective response to Darfur and other genocides.

And so, the Rapid Response Network was created!

About the Rapid Response Network:

The Rapid Response Network is DWAG's cohort of dedicated volunteers from the United States and from around the world who refuse to remain silent in the face of genocide. They are using their voices and their talents to speak up, amplify the voices of the victims, and encourage others to join the fight against genocide. Rapid Responders also work to rally support for Darfur Women Action Group.

Who Can Join?

We invite anyone who wants to be inspired or to inspire others to make a difference in the lives of those who need it most to become a Rapid Responder. If you are enthusiastic, energetic and passionate about human rights, women's rights, genocide prevention and want to be an activist in one of these areas, this is the program for you. As a Rapid Responder you will receive up-to-date information about the situation in Darfur which will allow you to educate yourself and those around you about the Darfur genocide. We are asking individuals from all walks of life to join our cause – whether an individual activist, college or high school student, working or retired adult – all you need is the desire to make a difference.

Goal of the Rapid Response Network Campaign:

The overall goal of the Rapid Response Network is to promote continued awareness and education about the longstanding genocide in Darfur. Rapid Responders also reach out to more people in order to rally the support of individuals who will not tolerate silence in the face of genocide and who are willing to do something to help. We will utilize our Rapid Responders Network to change the international community's ineffective response to the genocide in Darfur, as well as any future genocides.

Campaign Objectives:

- Identify interested individuals for short and long-term engagement in our advocacy efforts.
- Mobilize resources for Darfur Women Action Group.
- Build a foundation for long-term movement building.
- Promote and increase genocide awareness and education via survivors and first-hand witnesses.
- Strategize outreach processes to individuals and groups.
- Develop leadership among anti-genocide activists.

Joining the Rapid Response Network:

1. To sign up to be a Rapid Responder, e-mail campaign@darfurwomenaction.org and provide your name, e-mail, city and state of residence.
2. Be trained by DWAG leaders to be a DWAG ambassador in your state.
3. Once becoming a trained member, you may utilize our suggested ideas of engagement or create your own to help raise awareness.

Engagement Plan of Action:

The following steps will act as a guide to help individuals in working towards the campaign's goals:

Online:

Rapid Responders operate largely (but not exclusively) on social media to increase the scope of their influence. We ask that Rapid Responders engage with DWAG's social media accounts, as well as utilize their own, to expand the scope of their audience. Rapid Responders are encouraged to share news articles and events on Facebook and Twitter. We encourage Rapid Responders to share their own stories about how they got involved in anti-genocide advocacy. Through social media attention, we can increase awareness and work toward ending this long-standing genocide.

DWAG's Online Presence:

- Twitter: @DWAG6
- Hashtag: #Respond2Darfur
- Facebook: DWAG Rapid Response Network
- Facebook: Love Darfur
- Facebook Darfur Women Action Group
- Website: www.darfurwomenaction.org
- Join e-mail list for weekly updates

Offline:

In addition to online engagement, we encourage our Rapid Responders to engage in a number of other activities, all with our assistance and resources, such as the following:

- Organize movie screenings of survivors' stories to see how this genocide has devastated people's lives and the region as a whole.
- Send letters or make appointments to speak to your elected officials to express your concerns about the situation in Darfur.
- Participate in DWAG's monthly conference calls/policy briefings to receive up-to-date information on Darfur and upcoming events, as well as to train to become an anti-genocide activist.
- Hand out DWAG's educational materials to family, friends, classmates, co-workers, and anyone else who might be interested in learning about this genocide and helping the people of Darfur.

- Participate in DWAG’s events, such as protests, rallies, movie screenings, our annual symposium, and more.
- Host your own events for, such as organizing a panel and inviting a speaker from DWAG to discuss being a genocide survivor or organize a fund-raiser event to support our life-saving projects on the ground in Darfur.
- Join our team of volunteers. We have opportunities for all levels of dedication.
 - One-Time Volunteers: website design, photographer and videographer for an event.
 - Ongoing Volunteering and Internship Opportunities: marketing, graphic design, grant writing, event and fundraising, communications and media relations.

If you would like to participate in any of the aforementioned events or find more information on volunteering opportunities, DWAG’s members are able and willing to assist you every step of the way. We will provide materials, resources, and any additional assistance you may need. We are also available 24/7 to answer any questions you may have. We want to help you in every possible way so that together we can raise awareness to ultimately end the first genocide of the 21st century – the longest genocide in history.

Reward and Recognition of Rapid Responders:

DWAG will reward outstanding Rapid Responders who recruit or mobilize the most people or who become actively involved by granting the following:

- Sponsor your travel and accommodation to our annual symposium.
- Feature you in our website and possible other media platform as a DWAG hero.
- Provide you with our Certificate of Recognition that you can use for your future reference for job, school or any other professional opportunity.

Conclusion:

Since the Holocaust, leaders of the modern world have failed to respond to genocide, whenever and wherever it occurs. Genocide is the ugliest form of inhumanity and DWAG aims to change how the world reacts to it, starting with Darfur. Every action, big or small, makes a difference for the women, men, and children living in these horrific conditions. Our Rapid Responders have chosen to help the millions of suffering Darfuris by amplifying their voice, acting, and joining Darfur Women Action Group’s Rapid Response Network. Only with our collective effort can we make the world’s promise of “Never Again” a reality.