



President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20500
USA

June 13th 2012

Dear President Obama,

We write to you as people and organizations active in countries recently affected by war, conflict and genocide. In our work we encounter many women and girls who have been subjected to systematic rape, a crime that is as much a weapon of war as a bomb or gun. We also witness the stigma and hardship endured by women and girls who become mothers through no fault of their own, having been raped in conflict, and the stigma and misery attaching to their offspring.

We urge you to explicitly lift the US “no abortion” prohibition clause attached to all US foreign aid, including humanitarian medical aid directed at girls and women raped in conflict. This violates the rights of girls and women impregnated by rape in armed conflict who can reasonably be categorized “wounded and sick” persons as defined by Article 3 of the Geneva Conventions, Articles 10 of the Additional Protocol, Articles 7 & 10 of the Additional Protocol II, and Article 14 of the Convention Against Torture. They are thus entitled to non-discriminatory and comprehensive medical care, including abortions.

Thank you for reading this letter.
Sincerely,

Annabel Harris
CEO
Network for Africa

Sophie McCann
Executive Director
Network for Africa

Olivia Warham
Director
Waging Peace