Content Type

Case videos are in-depth discussions on a particular topic that may encompass more than one discipline. They generally last for 15 min. Case videos include explanations of key concepts and definitions, an outline of the context and analysis of topical issues and problems. Case videos will stimulate debate within the classroom as they go to the heart of cutting-edge matters within society. The questions asked at the end of the video can also be used to create interesting assignments or as methods for encouraging further, independent research outside of the classroom.

Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict in Bosnia


In this case video, Dr. Helen Turton (University of Sheffield) discusses how sexual violence is used as a strategy during armed conflicts. She begins by explaining what constitutes sexual violence and why it has been used during wars, giving examples of how and why such crimes are committed. The case study then looks in-depth at how sexual violence was used during the war in Bosnia. The video approaches the topic from a multidisciplinary perspective that includes aspects of law, politics, gender studies, and war studies. It is engaging and thought-provoking throughout.

Suggested Courses or Topics

This case video can be used on any course relating to war studies, gender studies, international law, or international relations. It will be useful for teaching topics within those courses, for example, on gender-based violence, sexual violence as a weapon of war, international criminal law, or the war in Bosnia itself.

Classroom Clips

Listed below are a few examples of clips that focus on key concepts:

- This clip provides the definitions of rape and sexual violence. Clip 2.30 – 3.56.
- This clip explains how and why sexual violence may be used as a weapon of war. Clip 4.46 – 6.15.
- Ways in which sexual violence was used in Bosnia to attack and try to destroy minority groups. Clip 9.55 – 11.24.

Research Assignment

See below for some example assignments that you might use for students

Dr. Turton explores how sexual violence was used as a weapon of war in Bosnia and discusses how the International Criminal Tribunal for Yugoslavia ruled that those rapes were war crimes and genocide (Clip 11.45 – 14.15). Find and read four research papers about when rape can be prosecuted in International Criminal Courts and tribunals and summarize how those institutions can hold people accountable for sexual violence during armed conflict.

Classroom Discussion

Here are some example questions that might be used for in-class discussion.

Dr. Turton argues that sexual violence during armed conflict is different to the same acts committed outside of armed conflicts. What parts of her arguments do you find most compelling? Do you agree that the rape of a woman is symbolic of the rape of a community? Why do military leaders order, encourage, or allow soldiers to rape during wars? Is there a difference between sexual violence against soldiers or combatants and that committed against civilians?