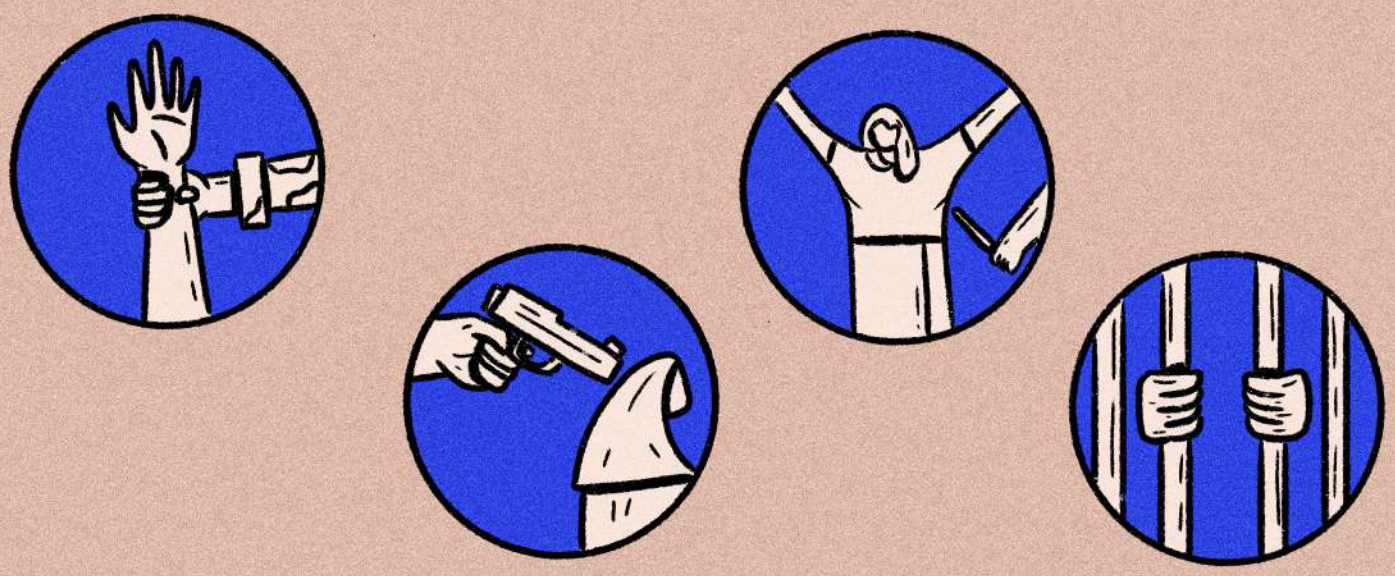
IIMM's investigations into sexual and gender-based crimes

In Myanmar, sexual and gender-based crimes have been committed against women, men, girls, boys and people of all gender identities and sexual orientations.

We treat these crimes seriously, and they are a part of all of our investigations into crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide.



Definitions:

SEX refers to a person's biological or physiological characteristics that are used to define them as male, female or intersex. For example, a female has the reproductive organs to give birth.

GENDER refers to society's expectations of how women, men, girls and boys should act and behave. People may identify with genders that are different from their sex.

Understanding sexual and gender-based crimes

I was raped in a detention facility. Is rape a serious international crime?

Yes. When committed under specific circumstances, rape and other forms of sexual violence could be a war crime, a crime against humanity or an act of genocide. Forcing family members to watch the rape of their relative could also be a serious international crime.

I wasn't raped, so I'm not sure if what I experienced was a sexual crime.

Rape is not the only sexual crime. We also investigate any form of violence to a sexual body part, forced nudity, forced marriage, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, enforced sterilization and other sexual crimes.

I was tortured because I am transgender. What crime is this?

Torture is a crime, and if you are targeted because of your sex or gender identity, this could also be a gender-based crime. Gender-based crimes can be sexual or non-sexual acts.

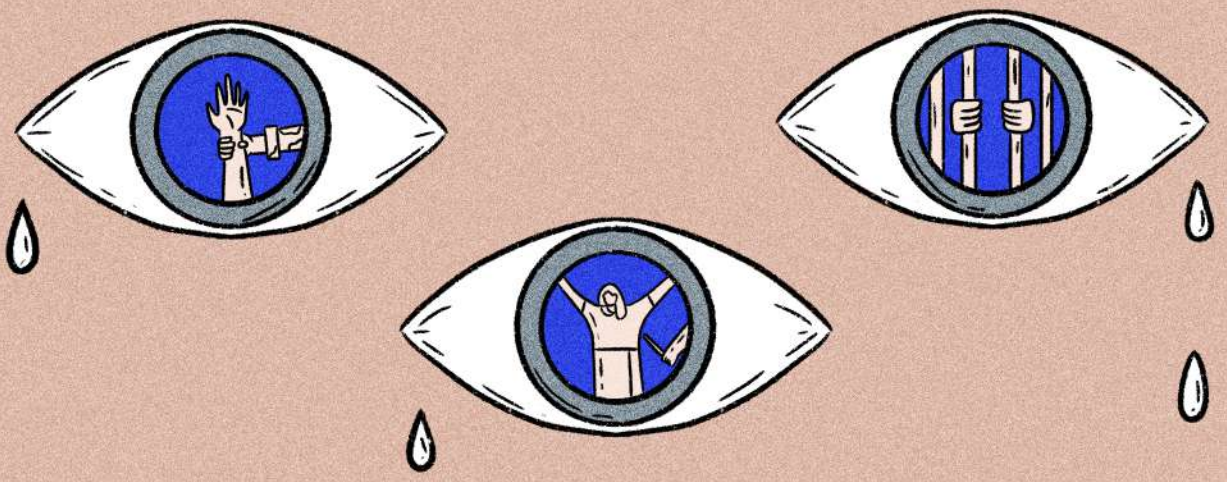
Survivors and witnesses

Our lawyers, investigators and analysts have expertise in investigating sexual and gender-based crimes and experience in interviewing survivors and witnesses.

We know that survivors and witnesses can find it difficult to talk about what they experienced.

In all our interactions with them, we prioritize their needs, well-being and safety.

If you experienced or witnessed a sexual or gender-based crime, you can talk to us confidentially.

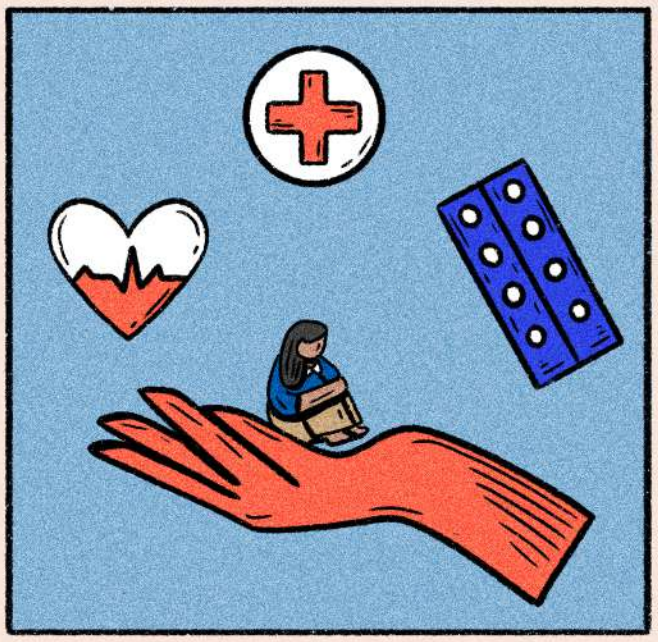


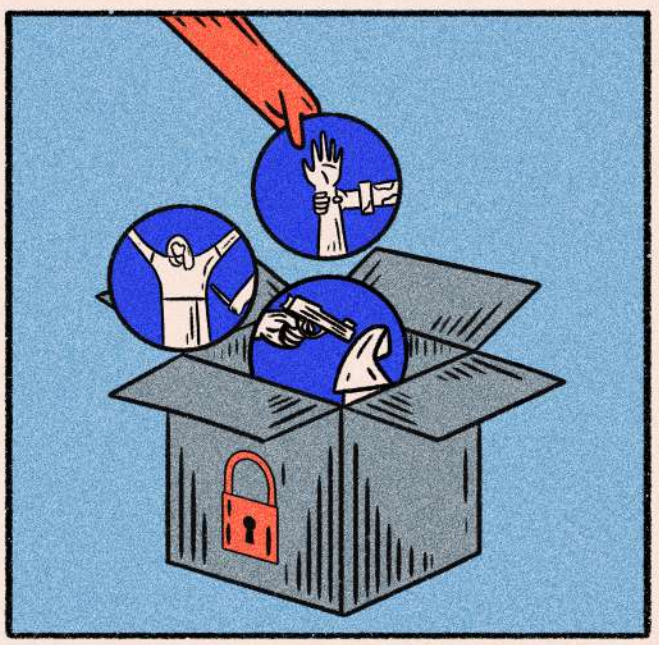
This is a voluntary process, and you can contact us directly. You do not need to reach us through another person or organization.

We listen to your experiences and collect your testimony. We share it with national, regional and international courts to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes. We will only share your testimony with your consent and for proceedings that comply with international human rights laws and standards.

We talk to you in a safe and supportive environment, taking your specific needs into account. We do our best not to cause any harm to you, your family or your community.

We can provide you with psychological support to talk about your experience or link you to organizations that specialize in assisting survivors.





Most importantly, your safety and privacy are our priority. We keep your identity and the information you share with us confidential, and we will ask for your consent before sharing it with courts or other relevant authorities.

Your voice matters

We understand that many survivors of sexual and gender-based crimes may not seek justice because they feel shame, fear retribution or may not know that what they experienced is a serious international crime.

By sharing your experience or what you have witnessed, you can help us collect the evidence needed so that the perpetrators of sexual and gender-based crimes will one day face justice.

Contact IIMM confidentially

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