International humanitarian law grants women general protection as civilian persons [1], and required that women members of the armed forces [2] shall in all cases benefit from treatment as favourable as that granted to men. Besides this basic protection international humanitarian law grants women special protection including:

a. protection against outrages upon personal dignity and in particular against rape [3], enforced prostitution and any form of indecent assault;
b. the protection given to expectant mothers, maternity cases and mothers of infants;
c. the rule that women deprived of liberty, i.e. civilian internees [4] or prisoners of war [5], must be confined in separate quarters from male internees and must be under the immediate supervision of women.

See Rape [3];
special protection of

GCI, 12 [7] (see ICRC updated Commentary [9])

GCII, 12 [9] (see ICRC updated Commentary [10])


GCIV, 14 [16], 16 [17], 21 [18] 27 [19], 38 [20], 50 [21], 76 [22], 85 [23], 89 [24], 91 [25], 97 [26], 124 [27], 127 [28] and 132 [29]

PI, 70 [30], 75 [31] 76 [32]

PII, 5/2 [33] and 6/4 [34]

CIHL, 134 [35]

expectant mothers

GCVI, 14/1 [16], 16 [17], 23/1 [36], 38/5 [20], 50/5 [21], 89/5 [24], 132/2 [29]

PI, 70/1 [30]; 76 [32]

PII, 6/4 [34]

maternity cases
GCIV, 21 [18]-23 [36], 89/5 [24], 91/2 [25] and 127/3 [28]

PI, 8 [37], 70 [30]

POWs


PI, 75/5 [31]

Internees

GCIV, 76/4 [22], 85/4 [23], 97/4 [26], 124/3 [27]

PI, 75/5 [31]

PII, 5/2 [33]

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Democratic Republic of the Congo, Conflict in the Kivus [Part III, paras 16, 35-37] [43]

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South Sudan: Medical Care Under Fire [45]

Democratic Republic of Congo, Involvement of MONUSCO [46]

Mali, Conduct of Hostilities [47]

Democratic Republic of Congo, Fighting with the M 23 Group [48]

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Italy, Use of force against ambulances in Iraq [59]

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Central African Republic/Democratic Republic of Congo/Uganda, LRA attacks [62]

Central African Republic, Coup d'Etat [63]

32nd International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Sexual and gender-based violence: joint action on prevention and response [64]

Geneva Call and the Chin National Front [65]


**Further readings:**


COPELON Rhonda, “Gender Crimes as War Crimes: Integrating Crimes


**Feminist approach**

**Suggested readings:**


Further readings:

