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];

OUTLINE

| Chapter 8, II. 2. b) special protection of women [6] |

LEGAL SOURCE
special protection of

GCI, 12 [7] (see ICRC updated Commentary [8])

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

GCIV, 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
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]

CASES

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

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

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Further readings:


Feminist approach

Suggested readings:


**Further readings:**


**Source URL:** https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/women  
**Links**

[7]