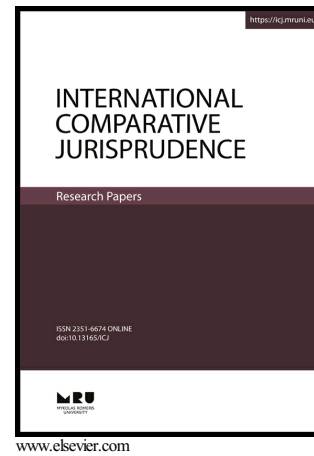


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Violated or protected. Women's rights in armed conflicts after the Second World War

Natalia Buchowska



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## **Violated or protected. Women's rights in armed conflicts after the Second World War.**

**Dr. Natalia Buchowska**

**Adam Mickiewicz University**

**Faculty of Law and Administration, Chair of Public International Law and International Organizations**

**nabu@amu.edu.pl**

### **1. Introduction**

Throughout the history, wars were accompanied by atrocities, enormous cruelty and violence, which from the contemporary legal perspective ought to be seen as mass violations of human rights. Although every armed conflict imprints cruel toll on all members of the society, regardless of their gender, age, skin color, nationality or ethnic origin, women were and still are particularly vulnerable to all forms of such violations, in particular - becoming victims of various forms of violence. Women were treated as spoils of war for the victorious armies, and rape was seen as a cruel, but also an unavoidable consequence of war, a kind of a collateral damage (Gardam & Jarvis, 2001; Seyler, 2011-2012; Moodrick-Even Khen & A. Hagay-Frey, 2013; Draper 1987; cf. Wood, 2010). The Second World War was one of the most outrageous examples in this cruel scheme (Seyler, 2011-2012) nonetheless, as it will be envisaged in Section 2.2. of this paper, XXI century's armed conflicts' violence is even more persistent and prevalent.

The aim of the paper is to answer the question of whether in any terms legal, but most of all actual position of women in the armed conflicts has changed since the Second World War. In order to achieve this goal, the Author will overview international legislation having as the main object protection of women in armed conflicts, in search for any evolution of that legal framework. The Geneva Conventions of 1949, Statutes of International Criminal Tribunals, CEDAW and the resolutions of the Security Council in the agenda "Women, Peace Security" 2000-2015 will be the main area of the research. Although the analysis would focus on the United Nations legal framework of both – binding and non-binding character – the paper will also briefly outline the documents of the Council of Europe and the

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