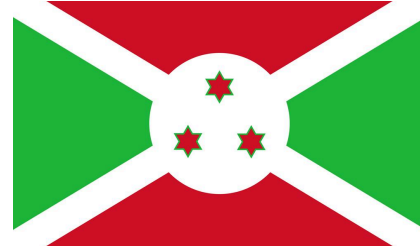




Republic of Burundi

by Levente Kardkovács

POSITION OF BURUNDI REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC



General information

Gender equality is enshrined in Burundi's 2005 and 2018 constitution. The law also mandates that women have to hold at least 30% of seats in e.g. the parliament - quotas which have been fulfilled since their introduction in 2005. Despite this, women remain underrepresented in some leadership positions where the quota is not met. The National Assembly also passed a law against gender-based violence (GBV) in 2016. This also falls short, with some articles violating human rights - such as the right to privacy - and potentially criminalizing victims. Other, more discriminatory laws, such as the Nationality Law of 2000 and parts of the 2017 Penal Code, remain in force.

Position on the matter

Burundi was flooded by 10s of thousands of refugees in 2025 due to the conflict in the Eastern DRC, many of whom are extremely vulnerable women and girls. As part of the East African Community (EAC) led Nairobi process (2022) aimed at stabilizing the Eastern DRC, Burundi has deployed troops in DRC territory, and it is likely to focus on ending armed conflict in the region as the first step towards improving the lives of women in the DRC (who are often victims of rape by men they identify as part of a military organization).

Proposed solutions

Both Burundi and the DRC have legal quotas for the percentage of women in political decision making. In the DRC this is far from being met, which is likely to be criticized by Burundi. Despite progress, discriminatory laws and social stigma around women's health and GBV persists in Burundi, so it is unlikely to push the DRC on these issues, focusing instead on ending the armed conflict and requesting aid in the form of STI medication and dignity kits for the Congolese refugees on its territory.

Potential Blocks

Burundi and the DRC maintain good relations, opposing Rwanda, due to the country's alleged support for rebel groups (M23) in the Eastern DRC. China is also a key partner through its infrastructure investments.

Read More

[Burundi Women's Day - Breaking Burundi](#)
[15 Years of Gender Quotas in Burundi - GIWPS](#)
[Burundi GBV Law 2016 - Amnesty International](#)
[Submission to the OHCHR](#)
[Burundi-DRC Relations - Wikipedia](#)
[EACRF](#)
[EAC - Nairobi Process](#)
[Burundi Intervention in the DRC](#)
[DRC Refugees in Burundi - UNHCR](#)
[DRC Refugees in Burundi - Stories from the Field](#)
[Burundi Diplomatic Relations](#)

