



Democratic Republic of the Congo

By Carl von Kirchbach

POSITION OF THE DRC REGARDING RIGHTS OF WOMEN IN THE DRC

General information

The women's rights situation in the DRC is very alarming. The DRC's legal framework is lacking in many key areas, such as healthcare, civil rights and education. But there have been some strides made in urban areas. The current President Felix Tshisekedi claims to be a staunch defender of women's rights, and has instituted free maternity care in hospitals. However, especially in rural areas, change is slow going. There is very little medical personnel and there continues to be extreme violence directed towards women.

Position on the matter

Felix Tshisekedi claims to be a "feminist President" and there has been significant change under his rule. For example, the percentage of women in Government has gone from 17% to 32%, though political rivals claim this is all surface level to appease the international community, after doubts from NGOs on the legitimacy of the 2018 and 2023 elections. The DRC firmly believes that Rwanda did not stop supporting M23 after they disavowed it in 2013. Recently they have also accused Rwanda of violating their peace agreement, heightening the tensions between the nations.



Proposed solutions

The Government supports the rights of women, even though the law does not directly, and claims that the discriminatory violence in eastern DRC is caused by M23. Though the DRC does not like the UN interfering with their sovereignty, and called for the withdrawal of UN peacekeepers in 2024. In light of M23's takeover of eastern DRC, there have been few recent criticisms, so the DRC is unlikely to be in direct opposition to humanitarian aid currently. The DRC might recommend sanctions against Rwanda, as they believe them to be the originators of the issues in eastern DRC.

Potential Blocks

The DRC does not particularly like their geographical neighbours. Both Rwanda and Uganda have armed forces within the DRC's borders. However, relations with Uganda have softened, leading to potential partnership with the East African Community with the exception of Rwanda.





Democratic Republic of the Congo

By Carl von Kirchbach

[Women's rights take centre stage in DR Congo election - France 24](#)

[Foreign Policy of the DRC - Policy Center](#)
[Congo President Tshisekedi accuses Rwanda of violating peace deal | Reuters](#)
[East African Community - Wikipedia](#)

+sources from Topic Guide

