



Women in the Democratic Republic of Congo

Written by Carl von Kirchbach

Notable History:

Women have never had a lot of rights in the DRC. Married women still may not open a bank account, accept a job, obtain a commercial license, or rent or sell real estate without permission from their husbands.

DRC is a very fractured Nation, as struggles to control various Mineral assets, ethnic tensions, and aggressive interventions from neighbouring states, have led to food shortages, poverty and a weakened healthcare system.. The second Congolese War (1998-2003), also known as Africa's world war, is the bloodiest conflict since World War 2 and its main staging ground was the DRC. After this war, the Congolese government tried to integrate the Armed militias involved in the Conflict into a unified Military. Over the years these militias have repeatedly rebelled, and destabilized the nation. Violence on the border between Rwanda and the DRC persists, especially in northern and southern Kivu, provinces of the DRC, where M23 holds the ground since 2022.

Women's rights in DRC:

Health and physical wellbeing:

The DRC has a rate of 1.05 Doctors nurses and midwives per 1000 people, which is significantly below the sustainability index. This of course leads to higher maternal mortality rates. Additionally married women may only use contraceptives with the permission of their husbands leading to an AIDS Crisis.

71.79% of People with HIV in DRC are women, but only 58% of these women are being treated, in comparison with the 73% of their male counterparts.

In the eastern DRC, specifically in North and south Kivu, sexual violence has doubled since 2023 when M23 seized control of the land. The Armed non-state groups have a history of Human trafficking, especially of women and children further endangering these.

Inside of DRC there is systematic violence against activists and their families trying to improve women's lives, both by individual vigilantes, but also by Armed Organisations.

Basic Rights:

In addition to the things noted in the beginning Article 45 of DRCs civil code states that a woman's husband has rights to the woman's property even if explicitly stated differently in the marriage contract. Additionally women are paid much less than their male counterparts, and are very rarely promoted.

Child Marriage is another notable problem in the DRC. 37% of girls are married before they become adults, and annulment is very difficult to access. The practice is technically illegal in DRC but lacks any form of enforcement.

Education:

According to a report by the World Economic Forum, Women have a notably lower literacy rate and have much lower participation in higher education. This exasperates the gender based divide for the access of better jobs.

Economic situation of DRC:

After the major devastation of the first and second Congo wars in the late 90s, the Democratic Republic of Congo has struggled to rebuild and progress both economically and socially. The DRC continues to be one of the poorest nations in the world, despite large amounts of natural resources. According to the Fragile States index (FSI) DRC was the 5th least stable nation in the world, further complicating the task of cementing women's rights in the area.

Tips for the Resolution:

UN Women is not one of the Committees with the capabilities to impose laws on member Nations. The recommended Operative clauses for the resolution include: Urges, Recommends, Encourages, Calls upon, Reaffirms, Requests, Therefore the Resolution should have precise requests from member states, specifically some sort of precise voluntary financial technical and logistical support. You do not have to deal with the Rwandan-Congolese Conflict yourselves, as that breaches the scope of our sessions.

Read More

[Women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - Wikipedia](#)

[Economy of the Democratic Republic of the Congo - Wikipedia](#)

[Corruption Perceptions Index 2025 - Transparency.org](#)
[fragilestatesindex.org](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo - UN Women](#)

[Democratic Republic of the Congo | UN Women Transparency Portal](#)

[Democratic Republic of Congo: UN expert warns of abuses against women human rights defenders and their families in South Kivu | OHCHR](#)

[UN condemns M23 violence against human rights defenders in DRC - JURIST - News](#)
[March 23 Movement - Wikipedia](#)

[Global Gender Gap Report 2025 - World Economic Forum](#)

[Sexual violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo - Wikipedia](#)

[Report on increased recent cases of sexualised violence in eastern DRC - Physicians for Human Rights](#)

[RDC : faire l'égalité de sexes et l'autonomisation des femmes et des filles une réalité à l'horizon 2029. \[in French\]](#)