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## Sexual exploitation and abuse: latest UN quarterly update



**UNMISS/Nektarios Markogiannis** | An art exhibition in Juba, supported by the UN mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), seeks to educate people about gender and sexual based violence. (May 2019)

## 5 September 2019 | Peace and Security (/en/news/topic/peace-and-security)

**In the second quarter of 2019, the United Nations received 38 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) involving UN personnel, including civilian and uniformed personnel from peacekeeping operations, as well as those from agencies, funds and programmes, according to the latest figures released on Thursday.**

Spokesperson for the Secretary-General, Stéphane Dujarric, told reporters at UN Headquarters in New York, that not all allegations have been fully verified, and many are in the preliminary assessment phase, with just one of the 38 allegations substantiated through an investigation, and eight pending further investigation by Member States.

Additionally, two allegations were found to not be substantiated, while 16 cases are in the process of being investigated. Of those, 14 are under preliminary assessment to determine if there is sufficient information for them to remain active. Two allegations, meanwhile, remain under review as limited information has been provided, and four have been closed.

In total, 43 victims have come forward with allegations. Of those, 19 are women, 10 are girls, and 10 females of unknown age. There is one male, two boys, and one unknown victim, whose gender has not been identified.

Of the allegations, 12 are categorized as sexual abuse, “actual or threatened physical intrusion of a sexual nature, whether by force or under unequal or coercive conditions,” as defined by the UN.

Nineteen cases were considered sexual exploitation, meaning, “any actual or attempted abuse of position of vulnerability, differential power or trust, for sexual purposes, including, but not limited to, profiting monetarily, socially or politically from the sexual exploitation of another.”

Another 10 allegations have been categorized as “other,” while two are of unknown nature, Mr. Dujarric reported.

**Various concrete initiatives have been put in place to date, including:**

- Transparent and harmonised quarterly reporting (<https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/secretary-generals-reports>) by the UN chief on the matter.
- Improved support to survivors with the appointment of a global Victims’ Rights Advocate, as well as several field-based ones, and the setting-up of a Victims Assistance Tracking database to ensure services are provided to survivors and victims, adequately and systematically.
- Strengthened Member State engagement with the creation of: a Voluntary Compact which more than 100 countries have adopted; and the Circle of Leadership (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2018/09/1021112>), launched in September 2018 and which has been endorsed by 74 members so far.
- Mandatory training sessions for staff across the UN system.
- Community-based complaint mechanisms in all UN humanitarian and peacekeeping operations.
- And the launch in 2018 of a system called “Clear Check,” to prevent UN staff dismissed as a result of substantiated SEA allegations – or those who resigned or were separated during an investigation – from being re-employed.

Of the 38 allegations, 24 are related to agency personnel, funds and programmes, and 14 are related to civilian and uniformed personnel in peace operations.

This quarter also saw 39 allegations involving non-UN personnel working for implementing partners—those mandated by the UN to carry out its programmes. These involve 42 victims, and 39 perpetrators.

The United Nations is steadfast in its implementation of the Secretary-General's strategy to combat sexual exploitation and abuse. From this quarter onwards, the organization will publish monthly updates on the status of previously reported allegations, dating back to 2017, when the current reporting framework began.

Strengthening engagement with Member States, and encouraging their Governments to join the Secretary-General's Circle of Leadership (<https://www.un.org/preventing-sexual-exploitation-and-abuse/content/circle-leadership>) on prevention, launched in September of last year, is another measure the organization is taking to stamp out further incidents.

Finally, Secretary-General António Guterres is continuing to encourage all Member States to become signatories to the Voluntary Compact, (<https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/note-correspondents/2017-09-29/note-correspondents-voluntary-compact-preventing-and>) to which 101 States have committed so far, in a firm commitment to implementing a Zero Tolerance policy.

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**Encouraging progress made in 2018, in 'zero tolerance' effort to end sexual exploitation and abuse across UN** (<https://news.un.org/en/story/2019/03/1034901>)



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**The UN's unyielding effort to tackle sexual abuse and exploitation: our quarterly update** (</en/story/2019/05/1039491>)

**30 May 2019** | **UN Affairs** (</en/news/topic/un-affairs>)

In the first quarter of 2019, according to latest figures released on Thursday, the United Nations recorded a total of 37 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) against UN personnel, including civilian and uniformed personnel from peacekeeping operations, agencies, funds and programmes. So far, most of these allegations remain under investigation.



(/en/story/2019/03/1034901)

## Encouraging progress made in 2018, in ‘zero tolerance’ effort to end sexual exploitation and abuse across UN (/en/story/2019/03/1034901)

**18 March 2019 | UN Affairs (/en/news/topic/un-affairs)**

The United Nations recorded a total of 259 allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) during 2018, according to the latest report (<https://undocs.org/en/A/73/744>) by Secretary-General António Guterres presented to the General Assembly. Although the figures rose compared with the previous two years, the report shows increased awareness among UN and UN-related staff, and improved and harmonized reporting tools across the Organization.

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## 3,300 paedophiles

The dossier claims United Nations aid workers have raped 60,000 people and estimate that the organisation employs 3,300 paedophiles

**EXCLUSIVE**

[Tom Newton Dunn](#)

12 Feb 2018, 22:00 Updated: 13 Feb 2018, 20:22

12 Comments

**A WHISTLE blower has claimed UN staff could have carried out 60,000 rapes in the last decade as aid workers indulge in sex abuse unchecked around the world.**

The claim is in a bombshell dossier that former senior United Nations official Andrew Macleod handed over to DFID Secretary Priti Patel last year.

THE SUN, A NEWS UK COMPANY



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## **A whistle blower has claimed UN staff could have carried out 60,000 rapes in the last decade**

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In it, Professor Macleod also estimated there are 3,300 paedophiles working for the world body's various agencies alone.

Thousands more “predatory” sex abusers specifically target aid charity jobs to get close to vulnerable women and children.

And there has been an “endemic” cover-up of the sickening crimes for two decades, with those who attempt to blow the whistle just getting fired.

Sharing his dossier with The Sun, Prof MacLeod last night warned that the

spiralling abuse scandal was on the same scale as the Catholic Church's.



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**Professor MacLeod has warned that the spiralling abuse scandal was on the same scale as the Catholic Church's**

The respected academic said: "There are tens of thousands of aid workers around the world with paedophile tendencies, but if you wear a UNICEF T-shirt nobody will ask what you're up to.

"You have the impunity to do whatever you want.

"It is endemic across the aid industry across the world".

"The system is at fault, and should have stopped this years ago."

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## **Professor MacLeod is campaigning for far tougher checks on aid workers in the field**

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Professor MacLeod worked as an aid boss for the UN all over the world, including high profile jobs in the Balkans, Rwanda and Pakistan – where he was chief of operations of the UN's Emergency Coordination Centre.

He is campaigning for far tougher checks on aid workers in the field as well as the abusers among them to be brought to justice, and wants the UK to lead the fight.

The professor's grim 60,000 figure is based on UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's admission last year that UN peacekeepers and civilian staff abused 311

victims in just one 12 month period over 2016.

The UN also admits that the likely true number of cases reported against its staff is double that, as figures outside of war zones are not centrally collated.

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**Last year UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres's admitted that UN peacekeepers and civilian staff abused 311 victims in just one 12 month period over 2016**

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Prof MacLeod also estimates that only one in 10 of all rapes and assaults by UN staff are reported, as even in the UK the reporting rate is just 14 per cent.

Based on evidence from Prof MacLeod, ex-Cabinet minister Priti Patel – who resigned in November last year -

today accused senior officials at DFID of being part of the cover up.

Ms Patel said senior DFID staff tried to talk her out of making a critical speech about aid workers' sex abuse, arguing that it was only by UN soldiers and to claim otherwise was "over-stepping the mark".

Britain is one of the top 10 contributors to the UN budget, handing over £2bn a year.

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**On Monday ex-cabinet minister Priti Patel accused senior officials at DFID of being part of the cover up** Credit: Alamy Live News

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Prof MacLeod insisted that meant the "difficult truth" that "child rape crimes

are being inadvertently funded in part by United Kingdom tax-payer”.

He added: “I know there were a lot of discussions at senior levels of the United Nations about ‘something must be done’ but nothing effective came of it, and if you look at the record of whistleblowers, they were fired.

“We are looking at a problem on the scale of the Catholic Church – if not bigger.”

Senior Tory MP Conor Burns, who is Boris Johnson’s parliamentary aide, dubbed the Oxfam furore as just “the tip of an iceberg in finding out what has been going on”.

## **Penny Mordaunt last night vowed to “step up our work to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse across the UN”** Credit: PA:Press Association

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Mr Burns was a university friend of Prof MacLeod and called for him to be listened to very seriously.

Mr Burns added: “I believe that there has been systematic, organised and covered-up activity going on over many, many years”.

Penny Mordaunt tonight vowed to “step up our work to tackle sexual exploitation and abuse across the UN and other international organisations”.

In September last year, PM Theresa May also threatened to withhold cash from the UN and demanded it “win back trust”.

No10 today insisted there will be “zero tolerance” towards any acts of sexual abuse.

But Downing Street ducked out of ordering any investigation into Ms Patel’s allegations, despite their seriousness.

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DFID also said “there no current investigations” into any senior officials turning a blind eye to abuse.

One angry Tory MP said Theresa May was refusing to act because the claims.

Commons Development Select Committee chair Stephen Twigg announced his MPs will grill aid bosses and ministers over the scandal as soon as Parliament returns from its half term break next Tuesday.

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