



## Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing®

### UNITED NATIONS ACTIVITY REPORT

Film premiere of "[The Uncondemned](#)"

The film was shown to raise awareness about populations vulnerable to human trafficking in times of crisis and conflict.

The premiere was held on 19 October 2016 at the United Nations Headquarters, New York City, New York, USA.

#### Report Submitted by Constance Sobon Sensor, STTI United Nations Liaison

The movie is a documentary about a group of young lawyers and activists who defied the odds to do what had never been done: prosecute rape as an act of genocide before an international court. This is the story of their relentless fight for that landmark conviction, revealing for the first time the three Rwandan women who bravely came forward to testify despite the danger. It captures the remarkable story of determination, resilience, and courage that forever changed the course of international judicial history and gave birth to hope and justice for all victims of genocide and sexual violence in conflict. The panel discussion was led by New York Times writer Elizabeth Rubin, and featured the film's co-director Michele Mitchell, the three Rwandan genocide survivors featured in the film who testified before the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda in 1997, and Yazidi survivors of ISIL (Da'esh) atrocities in Iraq who are today fighting for accountability and justice. Pierre-Richard Prosper, former US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes and the leading trial lawyer in the Akayesu case was also featured in the film and present on the panel. The film opened with a quote from Genghis Khan to draw attention to the fact that this film is not only about the women of Rwanda, but also about a universal problem that continues today when rape is a war crime used to demoralize and victimize women as an act of genocide. To make this point, the panel featured the Rwandan women from the film and a young girl from Iraq who is still fighting to bring her captors to justice. This was a powerful presentation, especially when the Rwandan women spoke, having been brought to the UN from their country to be part of this panel. They affirmed that working toward justice is part of the healing process, and one woman humbly stated, "We are common women in the village, yet people come to the village to learn from us." An 18-year-old girl was one of 1,500 girls kidnapped by ISIS in Iraq for 10 months, where she was raped, harassed, battered, and held in involuntary incarceration until she and some others tied 18 scarves together and escaped out of a window to freedom. Hearing these stories is a powerful way to bring the trauma of war crimes against women to the spotlight and allows healthcare providers to understand the journey toward recovery and consider strategies they can use to promote healing.