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Thank you for inviting me to speak.

I'm grateful to be here because I think this is such an important conversation, and any space which highlights the injustice women experience and has the courage to consider solutions is both welcome, and indeed necessary.

But I must confess that I had real trouble engaging with the Summit. I have really struggled with a number of things including what has felt like a disconnect between *sexual violence in conflict* and wider context of sexual violence, and indeed violence against women - here at home and in other geographical spaces.

So let me start by saying:

It is crucial that we locate SV in wider context of VAWG, that we recognise sexual violence as a cause and consequence of gender inequality. SV has a disproportionate impact on woman and girls, quantitatively and qualitatively; even if you want to quibble about who the victims are, it is also worth thinking about the other ways that sexual violence is gendered in that even when the victim are boys and men, the perpetrators are in most cases men. This has real implications for how we construct masculinity, both inside and outside of conflict settings, and about our insistence on maintaining and facilitating hyper-masculine spaces where violence is normalised.

What can we do to prevent this from happening?

We must begin to deal with our silos and intersectional failures. I say intersectional failures because we sometimes discuss gender and violence without speaking about ethnicity, class, economic status, disability, geopolitical issues etc.

We must examine how many states in the North are too often complicit in the development of conflict in the South. This is not a naive 'it's all been done to people'. But we must increasingly hold a critical position where we 'follow the money' we must think about the sale of arms, militarisation, the relentless hunger (including my own, I must add) for consumer goods such as mobile phones.

We must consider the shrinking of the social and welfare state across the globe, which is occurring alongside the rise of the security state. We must talk about how companies such as G4S, who are here today at this venue, and who are employed by many states are right here in the UK - bidding against vital, expert women's RapeCrisis services to provide service to vulnerable women and girls.

AND

Just a reminder, we have obligations to prevent violence against women and girls have a range of international obligations, which if we began to meet e.g through CEDAW, or through really taking account of the Beijing declaration and Beijing platform for action, we may actually create a seismic shift.

Speaking of Beijing. I had a read of the document a few days ago. It is such a fantastic space of aspiration, and of courage, and such a space to think about what's possible.

But we are also in a great space and place around our timing - the Post-2015 agenda, Beijing+20 - opens space for reflection and action.

We have the opportunity in the next 18 months, to establish binding commitments which calls on all governments to look at home as well as 'over there', to make the connection between the woman that is raped here and *there* and to consider the value of the life of the young woman that is gang raped anywhere - Delhi, Brazil, the democratic republic of Congo, London or Liverpool.

As part of this process, we should be asking for:

***A STAND ALONE gender goal that is truly intersectional and that deals with all the areas where women experience inequality***

It ***IS*** time to act!

Time to act to end sexual violence in conflict

Time to act to end all sexual violence

Time to act to end all conflict

Time to act end all violence against women and girls

Time to act to PREVENT the ongoing construction of harmful, dangerous masculinities

Time to act to create an equal world, one which has shifted the landscape beyond that which we know right now.

If you are not already doing so I invite you to join a global community of activists, who have long known that *the time to act has always been NOW!*