

# ‘Morally Despicable’: Trump Administration Threatens to Veto UN Resolution Combating Rape as Weapon of War

The U.S. is reportedly opposing the resolution over language on reproductive health for victims of rape

By [Jake Johnson](#)

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*In what critics [denounced as the Trump administration’s latest attack](#) on women’s rights across the globe, U.S. officials are reportedly threatening to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution seeking to end the use of rape as a weapon of war over its language on reproductive health.*

According to the *Guardian*—which [first reported](#) on U.S. opposition to the measure late Monday—Trump officials are objecting to the resolution’s “language on victims’ support from family planning clinics.”

“In recent months, the Trump administration has taken a hard line, refusing to agree to any U.N. documents that refer to sexual or reproductive health, on grounds that such language implies support for abortions,” the *Guardian* reported. “It has also opposed the use of the word ‘gender,’ seeing it as a cover for liberal promotion of transgender rights.”

The Trump administration’s opposition to the measure, proposed by Germany, quickly sparked international outrage.

“If we let the Americans do this and take out this language, it will be watered down for a long time,” an anonymous European diplomat told the *Guardian*. “It is, at its heart, an attack on the progressive normative framework established over the past 25 years.”

Heather Barr, acting co-director of the women’s rights division at Human Rights Watch, [tweeted](#):

“In the latest step in Trump’s war on women, U.S. opposes healthcare for survivors of rape during war. Yes, you read that right.”

Others also took to Twitter to condemn the Trump administration’s efforts:

The Trump administration is so obsessed with ensuring women remain walking

incubators that it is willing to destroy an anti-rape resolution.

US threatens to veto UN resolution on rape as weapon of war, officials say  
<https://t.co/Gk8vQ5m39h>

— Mona Eltahawy (@monaeltahawy) [April 22, 2019](#)

A reminder of how morally despicable the US is on the global stage  
<https://t.co/irjQpVKWSa>

— Jonathan "Boo and Vote" Cohn (@JonathanCohn) [April 22, 2019](#)

Pramila Patten, U.N. special representative on sexual violence in conflict, told the *Guardian* that the resolution's passage is now in serious doubt due to U.S. opposition.

"We are not even sure whether we are having the resolution [Tuesday], because of the threats of a veto from the U.S.," Patten said.

The resolution seeks to improve monitoring of sexual violence in conflict, punish perpetrators, and increase support for victims.

Patten said the language on reproductive health "is being maintained for the time being and we'll see over the next 24 hours how the situation evolves."

"It will be a huge contradiction that you are talking about a survivor-centered approach and you do not have language on sexual and reproductive healthcare services, which is for me the most critical," said Patten.

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