

women to sexual forms of violence, both as civilians and refugees, as well as the opportunity to challenge certain gendered assumptions through armed combat and new economic roles, holds definite repercussions for post-conflict peace building.

The first question we must ask ourselves is: **In what ways do women experience violence differently than men? What does security from violence mean for women?** Four key areas can be identified; rape, refugees/refugee camps, land mines, domestic violence, and prostitution.

Mass Rape

Increasingly, modern-day wars are the result of civil and often ethnic conflict, rather than wars between states. Rwanda and Bosnia are but two countries in recent years that have experienced some form of civil war. The nationalist and/or ethnic views that gave rise to these types of conflict, however, may have different implications for women than for men. Indeed, women may be cast as symbolic pawns in the period of pre-violence. Silva Meznaric, for example, has identified that gender served as an "ethno-marker," during a media campaign on rape in Kosovo in the late 1980s. In an attempt to more clearly demarcate ethnic lines between Serbians and Albanians in the pre-war period, the Serbian authorities not only reported cases of Albanian men raping Serbian women¹, but also distinguished the raping of Serbian women as "political" in the Criminal Code of the Republic of Serbia. According to Meznaric, "the violence of "ordinary rape" is less severely punished because victims and perpetrators are presumably not of different nationalities, whereas when a victim is of Serbian nationality, rape is qualified as a

¹In fact, the majority of reported cases involved Albanian men raping Albanian women (Meznaric,83).