

Note that the subject is not specified as male or female, but as a person. Thus, the definition encompasses both genders. With this near complete definition of the crime and a with law in place, it will be possible to gather all the evidence of such violence against Armenian victims during the Genocide and present a case to the International Criminal Court. This would parallel a successful effort that is collecting data and demanding compensation on the life insurance policies purchased by Armenians before the Genocide.

To become a victim of an abhorrent crime such as sexual violence results in a lifelong psychological trauma that does not subside. To confess to it and become a statistic in a document is even more painful. In hundreds of interviews of survivors of the Armenian Genocide conducted in the Diaspora, only a handful of them (all women, of course) have found the courage to confess to that dark page in their life story. The confession was made in an emotional torrent and the secret, hitherto well kept from the closest kith and kin, entrusted to the interviewer, or rather to the machine recording their life story.

With survivors of this terrible crime who continued to live in Turkey, silence was chosen as the safest solution and the most plausible defense system. There is no doubt that horrible memories suppressed their normal life. They did not forget the ordeal and often continued to live in the same environment that constantly reminded them of the past. To challenge that, they subconsciously fought to change the circumstances and their own mindset in order to be able to cope with these

Rome Statute (1999) in defining the meaning of sexual violence. See also Lee, *The International Criminal Court* (2001).