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Climate Justice, Environmental Justice, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights

Introduction

Climate change¹ and environmental degradation² are inextricably linked to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), resulting in detrimental impacts to individuals, especially those in vulnerable or marginalized populations.³ The direct and indirect impacts of climate disasters exacerbate barriers to accessing sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and pose increased risks to SRHR generally.⁴ Global warming caused by climate change is creating stronger, more devastating natural disasters that are expected to significantly increase in the next several decades.⁵ It is also creating extreme temperatures, water scarcity, and rising

sea levels, among many other effects.⁶ Further, as the earth continues to warm, exponentially increasing impacts to the environment, there is an urgent need to ensure guarantees for SRHR through adaptation, mitigation, and building resilience. Environmental degradation has grave impacts on reproductive health through, for example, increasing exposure to toxic chemicals that can affect fertility and pregnancy outcomes, as well as by undermining the social determinants of health.⁷ Environmental degradation disproportionately impacts historically marginalized and underserved populations, including low-income, rural, and indigenous communities.⁸ Further, climate change and environmental degradation are directly connected to one another: Many of the effects of climate change exacerbate environmental degradation as competition increases for scarce resources and corporations respond to environmental changes through, for example, increased use of pesticides.⁹

As the only global legal advocacy organization dedicated to reproductive rights, with expertise in both constitutional and international human rights law, the Center is uniquely positioned to strengthen SRHR protections and guarantees during the climate crisis and in response to environmental degradation and to hold actors accountable for related reproductive rights violations. This position paper highlights the intersections between climate justice,¹⁰ environmental justice,¹¹ and SRHR; provides examples of the ways the Center is advancing legal and policy initiatives to address and create accountability for related SRHR violations. The Center is grateful for the internal and external stakeholders who provided critical inputs into developing this document.



Impacts of climate change and environmental degradation on sexual and reproductive health and rights

Impacts of climate change on SRHR

Climate change resulting from global warming increases the incidence of extreme weather events, including extreme heat, droughts, and natural disasters such as powerful storms.¹² These weather events create and exacerbate barriers to individuals' ability to exercise their reproductive rights. For example, natural disasters force individuals to unexpectedly flee from their homes, result in closures of health facilities, and limit access to transportation, all of which make it more difficult for SRH providers, medicines, and supplies to reach communities, especially those that have been historically underserved and marginalized such as low-income, rural and indigenous populations.¹³ In addition, humanitarian responses often underfund and underprioritize the immediate need for access to SRH services and re-building access within communities, further resulting in adverse SRH outcomes.¹⁴

Extreme weather events also reduce access to safe and clean water, which in turn poses risks to SRH, especially maternal health. For example, as rising sea levels infiltrate drinking water in coastal areas, the increased salinity of water can lead to adverse pregnancy outcomes, including pre-term births, high risk labors, and maternal death.¹⁵ Further, exposure to extreme heat from rising temperatures impedes access to SRH services by making it difficult, or even dangerous, to travel long distances to reach health clinics, or for health professionals to reach rural communities.¹⁶ Evidence-based research has demonstrated that pregnant people are at risk of adverse health outcomes, including premature and still births, in extreme heat due to their compromised ability to thermoregulate.¹⁷

Forced migration stemming from natural disasters and other aspects of climate change limits access to SRH services and creates a greater need for services in displacement areas. Although the need for care does not diminish, availability and access to services is severely limited. According to a 2021 World Bank report, an estimated 216 million people will be forced to leave their homes by 2050 as a result of climate change.¹⁸ This includes 105 million people in Africa (86 million in Sub-Saharan Africa alone), 89 million people in Asia and the Pacific regions, and 17 million people in Latin America.¹⁹ In addition, UNHCR estimates that about 20 million people are currently displaced every year from the impacts of climate change.²⁰





Impacts of environmental degradation on SRHR

Environmental degradation, including air and water pollution, deforestation, extractive industries and mono-cultivation, the use of toxic chemicals in pesticides and other widespread agents, and carcinogens in household products, toiletries, and food, all have negative consequences on SRH.²¹ Ongoing research continues to demonstrate the causal link between exposure to toxic chemicals and detrimental SRH impacts; specifically, exposure to toxic chemicals can lead to miscarriages, pre-term birth, reproductive cancers, and infertility. For example, the use of the chemical glyphosate and DBCP in pesticides has been associated with miscarriages and infertility.²² In addition, exposure to water pollution has been shown to adversely impact reproductive health, including fertility,²³ endocrine disruptions,²⁴ premature birth,²⁵ and low birth weight of infants.²⁶

Carcinogens in toiletries such as baby powder have been linked to reproductive cancers in women.²⁷ Ingesting small amounts of toxic chemicals through food has been shown to also impact reproductive

health.²⁸ Notably, corporations and other private actors play a central role in the creation of environmental toxins that negatively impact SRH,²⁹ as many of these stem from commercial products, pollution from factories, improper disposal of toxic waste in factories, and the use of dangerous chemicals in commercial food production and farming.³⁰

Further, environmental degradation, especially pollution and exposure to toxic chemicals, disproportionately impacts low-income and marginalized communities, who often also face greater barriers to accessing SRH services, thereby exacerbating the adverse effects of exposure to toxins.³¹ This disparate impact has been recognized as environmental racism, “a form of systemic racism in which people of color are disproportionately burdened with health hazards through policies and practices that force them to live in proximity to sources of toxic waste such as sewage works, mines, landfills, power stations, major roads, and emitters of airborne particulate matter.”³² A sustainable legal framework that ensures legal protections and guarantees for SRHR must address and remedy the impacts of environmental racism and other discriminatory effects of both climate change and environmental degradation.

Addressing environmental degradation and climate change together

Environmental degradation and climate change are intertwined, as efforts to mitigate the impacts of climate change can exacerbate environmental harms. For instance, rising temperatures can provide a more hospitable climate for invasive insects,³³ resulting in agricultural companies spraying higher quantities of pesticides, consequently increasing risks of adverse health outcomes.³⁴ As a result, it is critical that climate change and environmental degradation are jointly addressed in order to identify and address the full spectrum of SRHR issues that may result from efforts to address, mitigate, and respond to climate change and environmental degradation.



Addressing the linkages between climate change, humanitarian settings, and SRHR

Humanitarian settings,³⁵ including conflict and slow-onset disasters, often have an inherent climate justice component. The consequences of climate change, including extreme temperatures, sea level rise, drought, food scarcity, and the increasing number of natural disaster emergencies, have created far more disaster situations and climate and conflict refugees, while also exacerbating barriers to accessing SRH services in existing humanitarian settings.³⁶ Increasing resource scarcity resulting from extreme weather events will fuel conflict as communities compete for shrinking resources.³⁷ Overall, access to SRH services in humanitarian settings is extremely limited,³⁸ and there is a well-documented increase in sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in these contexts, coupled with inadequate protections for migrants and refugees.³⁹ Efforts to address SRHR in humanitarian settings are often siloed due to the lack of strong networks and partnerships among governments and organizations that work in the field, who often operate in parallel, speaking different languages, using different legal and policy frameworks, and engaging in separate global and regional processes. For more information about SRHR in humanitarian settings, please refer to the Center's publication, [*Accountability for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings*](#).

Strengthening international, regional and domestic laws and policies on SRHR, climate justice, and environmental justice

The current global momentum around climate justice across all levels of governance presents a cross-cutting opportunity within the international legal and policy framework to advance climate justice, environmental justice, and SRHR by establishing stronger protections for gender equality and clear obligations around the right to health.⁴⁰ There are also opportunities to leverage international humanitarian law to ensure accountability for the realization of SRHR during climate

disasters.⁴¹ In addition, there are significant opportunities for establishing more explicit legal protections for SRHR and holding actors accountable for reproductive rights violations. (For more information on the current international legal framework around SRHR, climate justice, and environmental justice, see *Climate Justice, Environmental Justice, and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights: International Legal and Policy Framework*.)



The Center's expertise in international law and policy and extensive track record of establishing strong human rights norms on key and emerging reproductive rights issues positions us to develop stronger international legal guarantees in response to the climate crisis and environmental degradation. Building on our decades of leadership developing normative legal frameworks, we will further strengthen international and regional human rights norms on climate justice, environmental degradation and sexual and reproductive health and rights, while also leveraging these mechanisms to hold states accountable for reproductive rights violations.

Leadership in Creating Norms and Holding States Accountable at the United Nations

In partnership with other civil society organizations, the Center is working to strengthen norms and create greater accountability for SRHR violations related to climate change and environmental racism at the United Nations. The Center has played a key role in supporting the passing of UN Human Rights Council resolutions on SRHR and humanitarian settings, such as resolution 45/29 *Promoting, protecting, and respecting women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations*. Through submissions to the Committee on the Rights of the Child for their *General Comment No. 26 on children's rights and the environment with a special focus on climate change*, the Center has strengthened recognition of states' obligations to address SRHR in responding to the climate crisis and strengthened recognition of complementarity of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.⁴² In 2022, in partnership with reproductive health and justice organizations, the Center submitted a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination during its periodic review of the United States highlighting the disproportionate impact of exposure to environmental toxins, water and air pollution, and heat exposure on pregnant people of color. The report highlighted that, in many cases, exposure is not inevitable, but is the result of environmental racism effected through government policies that deprioritize the safety and well-being of marginalized communities. As the international political and legal norms continue to evolve to explicitly recognize states' obligations to address the effects of climate change and environmental degradation on SRHR, they can increasingly be translated into stronger legal guarantees and be more effectively leveraged to hold states to account for their human rights obligations.



Addressing the Impact of Toxic Chemicals on SRHR in Latin America

The Center is currently addressing human rights violations associated with environmental degradation in several countries in Latin America. The Center recently received a grant from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), in partnership with the organization Fos Feminista, to launch a multi-year project identifying and addressing the impact of toxic chemicals on reproductive health. The project, *Pathways to Reproductive Justice: Intersectional feminist approaches to advancing health and rights in Latin America*, will span three years (2022 – 2025) and employs research, litigation, and advocacy efforts. The Center and its partners are documenting toxic chemicals' harm to reproductive health and seek recognition of States' obligations to protect people and the environment from exposure to toxic agrochemicals. Also, the Center will use the scientific



Leveraging Regional Human Rights Mechanisms to Hold States Accountable

The Center is collaborating with Fos Feminista and other regional partners across Latin America to advocate before regional and international human rights bodies to address the reproductive rights violations that rural women experience as a result of exposure to toxic chemicals as well as sexual and reproductive health inequalities. Adopting an intersectional approach that centers racial and ethnic inequalities, this initiative will build human rights norms and secure recommendations from human rights bodies on SRHR violations stemming from environmental toxins. The Center and Conde Abogados are currently litigating a case before the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to hold Colombia accountable for the death of Yaneth Valderrama, a *campesina* woman who died from severe exposure to the toxic herbicide glyphosate.⁴⁴ In September 1998, Yaneth was 14 weeks pregnant when the government planes flew over her family's property and covered her in glyphosate. A few hours after the exposure, Yaneth experienced symptoms such as cramps and shortness of breath. She later miscarried at the hospital. Over the next several months, Yaneth's condition deteriorated, and her symptoms got worse until her internal organs began to fail. In March 1999, Yaneth died of simultaneous failures of her nervous, immune and respiratory systems.

Twenty-four years later, Yaneth's family still has not received recognition or compensation from the Colombian government. Although criminal, disciplinary, and administrative judicial proceedings were initiated, none were able to hold the Colombian government accountable for its role in Yaneth's death. The case currently before the Inter-American Commission argues that the Colombian government violated Yaneth's rights to life, health, equality, and non-discrimination, freedom of movement, right to environmental participation, and judicial guarantees. Further, the case argues that Colombia exercised intersectional and indirect discrimination against Yaneth, as a pregnant woman living in a rural community.

evidence produced by its partners to demonstrate the link between toxic chemicals, such as glyphosate, and damage to reproductive health in Argentina, Brazil, and Colombia and develop legal and advocacy strategies to address the SRH impacts of toxic chemicals before the executive and legislative branches of these states' governments. In 2021, in collaboration with Universidad del Valle, the Center issued a groundbreaking report, [*Reproductive Health and Glyphosate: An Overview from a Gender and Reproductive Rights Perspective*](#), detailing the SRHR impacts of spraying glyphosate in Colombia. From 1992–2015, the Consejo Nacional de Estupefacientes (Colombian Narcotics Council) aggressively sprayed glyphosate in rural areas to eradicate illicit drug crops. Glyphosate is a known carcinogen that can also result in detrimental reproductive health impacts, including miscarriage and low birth weight.⁴³ People living in communities that were in the path of aerial spraying program experienced negative health consequences from the exposure to glyphosate. As a result of this report, the Comisión de la Verdad de Colombia (Colombian Truth Commission) recognized the harmful effects spraying glyphosate has on reproductive health and called for reparations for those harmed by the spraying as well as a permanent end to widespread spraying of glyphosate.

The Colombian government did not account for the specific impacts of the glyphosate program on rural communities nor the possible health consequences for pregnant women.

Yaneth's case represents the first case before a regional human rights body that seeks accountability for SRHR violations resulting from exposure to environmental toxins. In addition, it is one of the first cases where the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights will consider states' SRHR obligations to apply the *precautionary principle* in the American Convention on Human Rights, which calls for States to take measures and sometimes refrain or altogether stop an action if the stakes are high and the scientific evidence about an environmental or human health hazard is inconclusive. This case also represents a nascent area of litigation that requires further investment due to the lack of precedent focusing on the SRHR impacts of the widespread use of toxic chemicals.

Technical Assistance to Governments Seeking to Ensure SRHR in Responding to Climate Change

Governments have an essential role to play in ensuring that SRHR is prioritized in their climate change and disaster preparedness and response plans. In Nepal, the Center is working with the local government of Nepal and two national-level organizations to advance SRHR in humanitarian settings resulting from natural disasters. The project aims to increase the accessibility and quality of comprehensive sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services without discrimination for women and girls in Kailali, one of the districts most impacted by natural disasters in Nepal, and with Godawari Municipality Local Government (in Kailali district). This multi-faceted, two-year project will establish and strengthen community-led systems for rights-based accountability and participation to increase access to SRH services in disaster settings. The Center and partners will also advocate for the inclusion of human rights-based accountability and gender-responsive frameworks in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery mechanisms, and equip

humanitarian actors and response systems to ensure that health service delivery models in disaster settings are human rights-based and gender responsive. In the United States, the Center has worked with a member of Congress to draft legislation establishing a pilot program to provide grants for local and state health departments to test creative solutions to protect pregnant people and children from climate-related issues, including, for example, by installing air conditioning units in public housing, and building temperature-controlled enclosed spaces at bus stops.

Amplifying the Efforts of Local Organizations

Local and grassroots organizations, predominantly led by people of color and indigenous communities, have been on the frontlines of addressing environmental degradation and climate change on SRHR. The Center provides these organizations with technical support related to human rights law and reproductive rights and supports these organizations to elevate their work before United Nations and regional human rights bodies. In Latin America, the Center is working closely with local organizations to provide technical advocacy assistance on environmental degradation issues as a component of the SIDA grant. In the United States, Center attorneys have provided technical assistance to grassroots organizations to support their work addressing environmental justice issues that have been exacerbated by climate change, including extreme heat, water scarcity, and toxic chemicals. Throughout these projects, Center staff has strived to remain cognizant and respectful of the organizations and communities leading in this space, recognizing that as they represent those most impacted by climate change and environmental racism, it is critical that our work is responsive to their priorities and reflects the legal and policy solutions they are championing.

Endnotes

- 1 For the purposes of this paper, climate change is defined as long-term shifts in temperature and weather patterns. Climate change is exacerbated by human behavior and innovation, and results in global warming that is having detrimental environmental impacts around the world. See United Nations, *What Is Climate Change?*, <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/what-is-climate-change> (last visited Aug. 23, 2023).
- 2 For the purposes of this factsheet, environmental degradation is the pollution of air, land and water, the mismanagement of toxic chemicals and waste, and exposure to toxic chemicals in store-bought products and food. See *Environmental Degradation*, Oxford Dictionary of Environment and Conversation (3rd ed. 2017); World Medical Association, *WMA Statement on Environmental Degradation and Sound Management of Chemicals* (2020), <https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-statement-on-environmental-degradation-and-sound-management-of-chemicals/>; Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women [hereinafter CEDAW Committee], *General Recommendation No. 37 on Gender-Related Dimensions of Disaster Risk Reduction in the Context of Climate Change*, U.N. Doc. CEDAW/C/GC/37 (2018) [hereinafter CEDAW Committee, General Recommendation No. 37].
- 3 See, e.g. CEDAW Committee, *General Recommendation No. 37*, ¶¶ 5, 44; Women Deliver, *The Link Between Climate Change and Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights – An Evidence Review* (2021), <https://womensendeliver.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/Climate-Change-Report-1.pdf>.
- 4 International Center for Research on Women, *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a Climate Issue: Recommendations for U.S. Foreign Policy and Assistance* (Apr. 22, 2021), https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ICRW-SRHR-is-a-Climate-Issue_04.22.pdf.
- 5 National Resources Defense Council, *What Are the Effects of Climate Change?* (Oct. 24, 2022), <https://www.nrdc.org/stories/what-are-effects-climate-change#weather>.
- 6 *Id.*
- 7 David R. Boyd (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment), *Women, Girls and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*, ¶¶ 29-33, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/52/33 [hereinafter Special Rapporteur, *Girls and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*]. For the scientific studies on the link between toxic chemicals and adverse effects on sexual health, see *infra* notes 21-32.
- 8 *Id.*, at 15, 29, 38; Women Deliver, *supra* note 3, at 9, 23-24.
- 9 For evidence that climate change is leading to an increased use of pesticides see Cliff Zinyemba et al., *Climate Change, Pesticides and Health: Considering the Risks and Opportunities of Adaptation for Zimbabwean Smallholder Cotton Growers*, 18 *INTERN. J. ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH* 121, 127-128 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph18010121>. Regarding the link between climate change and scarce resources see, e.g., UN High Commissioner for Refugees, *Climate Change and Disaster Displacement*, <https://www.unhcr.org/us/what-we-do/how-we-work/environment-disasters-and-climate-change/climate-change-and-disaster> (last visited Oct. 13, 2023); Amit Chandra et al, *Climate Change, Migration, and Health: Strategic Opportunities for Health Security*, 20 *HEALTH SECURITY* 1-3 (2022), https://pdf.usaid.gov/pdf_docs/PA00ZPWP.pdf.
- 10 “Climate justice” recognizes the climate crisis as a social and political issue, in addition to an environmental one. Climate justice acknowledges that those that are the least responsible for the climate crisis are disproportionately affected by its consequences. Climate justice calls for the redressing of these injustices in fair and equitable ways, with a solution to the climate crisis that both reduces emissions and redistributes power in society. See, e.g., Friends of the Earth, *What’s Climate Justice?* (Dec. 15, 2022), <https://climate.friendsoftheearth.uk/resources/whats-climate-justice>.
- 11 “Environmental justice” recognizes that environmental harms disproportionately impact low-income and historically marginalized communities, including indigenous communities. The term is defined as “the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income, with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies.” Environmental justice “will be achieved when everyone enjoys: The same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards, and [e]qual access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.” United States Environmental Protection Agency, *Environmental Justice* (Sept. 6, 2023), <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice>.
- 12 See, e.g., National Resources Defense Council, *supra* note 5.
- 13 Women Deliver, *supra* note 3, at 9, 23-24.
- 14 *Id.*; International Center for Research on Women, *Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) is a Climate Issue: Recommendations for U.S. Foreign Policy and Assistance* (Apr. 22, 2021), https://www.icrw.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/ICRW-SRHR-is-a-Climate-Issue_04.22.pdf.
- 15 Aneire Ehmar Khan et al., *Drinking Water Salinity and Maternal Health in Coastal Bangladesh: Implications of Climate Change*, 119 *ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PERSPECTIVES* 1328 (2011), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3230389/>.
- 16 See Susan Williams et al., *Extreme Heat and Health: Perspectives from Health Service Providers in Rural and Remote Communities in South Australia*, 10 *INTERN. J. ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH AND PUBLIC HEALTH* 5565 (2013), <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph10115565>; The Commonwealth Fund, *The Impact of Climate Change on Our Health and Health Systems* (May 4, 2022), <https://www.commonwealthfund.org/publications/explainer/2022/may/impact-climate-change-our-health-and-health-systems>.
- 17 Jonathan C. K. Wells, *Thermal Environment and Human Birth Weight*, 214 *J. THEORETICAL BIOLOGY* 413 (2002), <https://doi.org/10.1006/jtbi.2001.2465>.
- 18 World Bank Group, *Groundswell Part II: Acting on Internal Climate Migration*, iv (Sept. 13, 2021), <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/36248>.
- 19 *Id.*
- 20 UN High Commissioner for Refugees, *Climate Change and Disaster Displacement*, <https://www.unhcr.org/climate-change-and-disasters.html> (last visited Sept. 20, 2023).
- 21 Nathaniel DeNicola & Ann E. Borders, *ACOG Committee Opinion Number 832: Reducing Prenatal Exposure to Toxic Environmental Agents*, COMMITTEE ON OBSTETRIC PRACTICE, THE AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OBSTETRICIANS AND GYNECOLOGISTS (2021), <https://www.acog.org/clinical/clinical-guidance/committee-opinion/articles/2021/07/reducing-prenatal-exposure-to-toxic-environmental-agents>; Philip J. Landrigan, *Pesticides and Human Reproduction*, 178 *JAMA INTERNAL MED* 26 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamainternmed.2017.5092>.
- 22 See, e.g., Fabian Mendez et al., *Effects of Glyphosate Exposure on Reproductive Health: A Systematic Review of Human, Animal and In-Vitro Studies*, 14 *EXPOSURE AND HEALTH* 635 (2022), <https://doi.org/10.1007/s12403-021-00442-4>; Medardo Avila-Vazquez et al., *Environmental Exposure to Glyphosate and Reproductive Health Impacts in Agricultural Population of Argentina*, 9 *J. ENV’T PROTECTION* 241 (2018), <https://doi.org/10.4236/jep.2018.93016>; Sarah C. Krzastek et al., *Impact of Environmental Toxin Exposure on Male Fertility Potential*, 9 *TRANSLATIONAL ANDROLOGY AND UROLOGY* 2797 (2020), <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/34811111/>.

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- 23 Andrea Di Nisio & Carlo Foresta, *Water and Soil Pollution as Determinant of Water and Food Quality/Contamination and its Impact on Male Fertility*, 17 REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY AND ENDOCRINOLOGY (2019), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC6321708/>.
 - 24 Andressa Gonsioroski et al., *Endocrine Disruptors in Water and Their Effects on the Reproductive System*, 21 INT'L J. MOLECULAR SCIENCE 1929 (2020), <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7139484/>.
 - 25 Gina Waterfield et. al., *Reducing Exposure to High Levels of Perfluorinated Compounds in Drinking Water Improves Reproductive Outcomes: Evidence from an Intervention in Minnesota*, 19 ENV'T HEALTH 42 (2020), <https://ehjournal.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12940-020-00591-0>.
 - 26 *Id.*
 - 27 Damián Verzeñassi et al., *Cancer Incidence and Death Rates in Argentine Rural Towns Surrounded by Pesticide-Treated Agricultural Land*, 20 CLINICAL EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GLOB. HEALTH (2023), <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cegh.2023.101239>; Joshua E. Muscat & Michael S. Huncharek, *Perineal Talc Use and Ovarian Cancer: a Critical Review*, 17 EUR. J. OF CANCER PREVENTION 139 (2008), <https://doi.org/10.1097/cej.0b013e32811080ef>.
 - 28 Jane Muncke et al., *Impacts of Food Contact Chemicals on Human Health: a Consensus Statement*, 19 ENV'T HEALTH 25 (2020), <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12940-020-0572-5>.
 - 29 For example, Johnson & Johnson had to pay over \$100 million in damages following lawsuits from people who had developed ovarian cancer caused by toxic chemicals in Johnson & Johnson's baby powder. Jeff Feely, *J&J to Pay More Than \$100 Million to End Over 1,000 Talc Suits*, BLOOMBERG, Oct. 5, 2020, <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-10-05/j-j-to-pay-more-than-100-million-to-end-over-1-000-talc-suits>.
 - 30 *See e.g.*, Muncke, *supra* note 28 (highlighting that ingesting small amounts of toxic chemicals through food has been shown to also impact reproductive health); Jose Adolfo Tellez v. Dole Food Company Inc., No. 2:2004cv03216, C. D. Cal. (2004) (litigation in Nicaragua involves farmworkers who are holding private actors accountable for exposure to pesticides that the actors knew would harm reproductive health). Although Johnson & Johnson has been held accountable in the US for the toxic chemicals in their baby powder, they continue to sell contaminated powder in other countries. Tiffany Hsu, *Johnson & Johnson Investors Reject Proposal to End Global Talc Sales*, N.Y. TIMES, Apr. 28, 2022, <https://www.nytimes.com/2022/04/28/business/johnson-johnson-baby-powder.html>.
 - 31 David R. Boyd (Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment), *Women, Girls and the Right to a Clean, Healthy and Sustainable Environment*, ¶¶ 13, 15, 29, 38 U.N. Doc. A/HRC/52/33; Linda Giudice et al., *Climate Change, Women's Health, and the Role Of Obstetricians and Gynecologists in Leadership*, 155 OBSTETRICS & GYNECOLOGY 345, 346, 350 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.1002/ijgo.13958>.
 - 32 World Economic Forum, *What Is Environmental Racism and How Can We Fight it?* (Jul. 31, 2020), <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/07/what-is-environmental-racism-pollution-covid-systemic/>.
 - 33 Sandra Skendžić et al., *The Impact of Climate Change on Agricultural Insect Pests*, 12 INSECTS 440 (2021), <https://doi.org/10.3390/insects12050440>.
 - 34 Cliff Zinyemba et al., *supra* note 9, at 127-128.
 - 35 According to the UN Human Rights Council, humanitarian settings include “humanitarian emergencies, forced displacements, armed conflicts and natural disasters, including sudden-onset natural disasters and slow-onset events.” Human Rights Council, *Resolution 45/29: Promoting, Protecting, and Respecting Women's and Girls' Full Enjoyment of Human Rights in Humanitarian Situations*, at 2, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/RES/45/29 (Oct. 13, 2020).
 - 36 Women Deliver, *supra* note 3; Bharat H. Desai & Moumita Mandal, *Role of Climate Change in Exacerbating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against Women: A New Challenge for International Law*, 51 ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY AND LAW 137 (2021), https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/report/role-of-climate-change-in-exacerbating-sexual-and-gender-based-violence-against-women-a-new-challenge-for-international-law/epl_2021_51-3_epl-51-3-epl210055_epl-51-epl210055.pdf.
 - 37 United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, *Conflict and Climate* (Jul. 12, 2022), <https://unfccc.int/blog/conflict-and-climate>.
 - 38 *See, e.g.*, Center for Reproductive Rights, *Accountability for Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights in Humanitarian Settings* (2021), <https://reproductiverights.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SRHR-humanitarian-settings-6-2021.pdf>.
 - 39 *See, e.g.*, United Nations General Assembly, *Report of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants*, ¶ 48, U.N. Doc. A/77/189 (July 19, 2022).
 - 40 *See, e.g.*, International Court of Justice, *Obligations of States in Respect of Climate Change: Latest Developments* (Aug. 9, 2023), <https://www.ici-cij.org/sites/default/files/case-related/187/187-20230804-pre-01-00-en.pdf> (approving a resolution a resolution to request an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on climate change); *Solicitud de Opinión Consultiva sobre Emergencia Climática y Derechos Humanos a la Corte Interamericana de Derechos Humanos de la República de Colombia y la República de Chile* [Request for Advisory Opinion on Climate Emergency and Human Rights to the Inter-American Court of Human Rights of the Republic of Colombia and the Republic of Chile], INTER-AM. CT. H. R., (Jan. 9, 2023), https://www.corteidh.or.cr/docs/opiniones/soc_1_2023_es.pdf (the Inter-American Court of Human Rights received a request from the Governments of Chile and Colombia to consider the human rights impacts of the climate change emergency); Association of Swiss Senior Women for Climate Protection v. Federal Department of the Environment Transport, Energy and Communications (DETEC) and Others, No. A-2992/2017 (2016) (considering the impacts of climate change on the lives and health of elderly women).
 - 41 *See, e.g.*, Center for Reproductive Rights, *supra* note 38.
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