

## **Abstract**

Sexual violence in conflict is not a new phenomenon, but rather something which has been perpetrated against women, men and children as long as mankind can recall. On the other hand, wartime sexual violence only began to be documented in the twentieth century, especially in light of its ties to the atrocities of World War II. While often previously labelled as a '*by-product*' of war. However, the issue of sexual violence in conflict only truly became recognised as an international security concern in 1990's, in the fallout of both the Yugoslavian Civil War and the Rwandan Genocide. This thesis explores the role of the international community of states, international governmental and non-governmental organisations, and other actors such as the international media, in producing a "norm of change" in regards to sexual violence jurisprudence in the 1990's. In order to do so, this thesis explores the role of the tribunals and transnational advocacy groups in this process. It is important to note that changes in transnational advocacy, such as the prosecution of sexual violence, are not frequently the sole result of the political will to effectuate a change in norms. Change also requires other influential actors to respond, predominantly in the form of a transnational advocacy mobilisation. This thesis uses the comparative research design which derives from the feminist theories of gender and constructivist theory of international relations in order to identify the possibility of adaptation of two distinct approaches to The Yugoslavian Civil War and The Rwandan Genocide. This thesis illustrated how a massive transnational advocacy mobilization can generate political will to prosecute laws just like in the case of the Yugoslavian Civil War.