

The 1994 Genocide in Rwanda devastated the Tutsi community. Both Hutus and the Rwandan National Guard used sexual violence as a form of a genocidal tactic to destroy the Tutsi community. Hutu perpetrators degrade Tutsi women and terrorize the Tutsi community, leaving women with physiological trauma and unwanted pregnancies. Hutu perpetrators also used rape to dehumanize and weaken the Tutsi community and to further their political goals during the genocide. The sexual violence was worsened by the negative stigma surrounding rape in Rwanda and the spread of sexually transmitted diseases. The general public in Rwanda looked down upon unmarried and pregnant women. This