Denis Mukwege

"You can't operate against violence. You can only abolish it."

Member of The Elders, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Global Campaigner on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, Gynaecologist and founder of the Panzi Hospital, Democratic Republic of Congo

- Founded the Panzi Hospital in Bukavu, 1999
- Awarded the United Nations Human Rights Prize, 2008
- Awarded the Sakharov Prize, 2014
- Awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, 2018
- Ran as a Presidential candidate in the DRC elections, 2023
- Joined The Elders, 2024

Work with The Elders

Denis Mukwege joined The Elders in March 2024

Doctor and Campaigner on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence

Denis Mukwege, 69, is a gynaecologist, a Nobel Peace Laureate and an outspoken advocate for the rights of survivors of sexual violence.

He was born in Bukavu in the Democratic Republic of Congo, and studied medicine in France, specialising in obstetrics and gynaecology. He holds a PhD in medical sciences from the Université Libre de Bruxelles where he is a Professor.

For over 20 years, Denis Mukwege has been treating survivors of sexual violence and women with severe gynaecological problems at the Panzi Hospital, which he founded in 1999.

The Hospital and Panzi Foundation are renowned for their pioneering work in specialized responses to sexual gender-based violence, and their work in advocating for the rights and empowerment of Congolese women.

Nobel Laureate, 2018

Denis Mukwege received the 2018 Nobel Peace Prize for *his "efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict"*, together with the Yazidi activist Nadia Murad.

His efforts to draw attention to the protection of women and advocate for those responsible for sexual violence to be brought justice make Dr Mukwege one of the world's most respected activists on human rights and gender equality.