

1325+10 WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

10th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 ►



United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security

On 31st October 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. UNSCR 1325 is a landmark legal and political document that for the first time in the Council's history obliges all actors involved in conflict and peace issues – United Nations, Government and non-State entities – to ensure the effective participation of women in decision-making pertaining to peace and security, and to provide the necessary physical and legal protections to them in conflict-affected settings.

Often dubbed as the 'women's resolution', UNSCR 1325 is first and foremost about peace and security. It is rooted in the premise that women's participation in and contributions to the process and substance of peace and security decision making, will improve the chances of attaining viable and sustainable peace. It is also rooted in the knowledge that gender equality itself is a source of sustainable peace. It recognizes that if half the population faces discrimination and violence, peace is not viable. Moreover, UNSCR 1325 (and subsequent resolutions) acknowledges that violence against women – especially sexual violence – is itself a gross provocation and threat to peace and security.

In adopting the resolution, the Security Council provided the international community an entry point to address and adopt an inclusive approach to all phases of peace building to better address the challenges of the 21st century.

The resolution calls upon all countries to increase representation for women in peace processes, and to take account of and to consult and include women's peacemaking efforts. The Secretary-General is requested to increase the participation of women at decision making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes; appoint more women as Special Representatives and envoys; and expand their role in peacekeeping operations, particularly among military observers, police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.

The year 2010 marks the 10th anniversary of this landmark resolution.



This anniversary is an opportunity to reaffirm the core message of that landmark text: sustainable peace is possible only with women's full participation — their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace. (...) I count on all partners to support the United Nations in translating women's priorities into real and meaningful action.

Ban Ki-moon, UN Secretary-General

Statement: Global Open Day for Women and Peace, 7 June 2010

Follow-up Resolutions on UNSCR 1325



To consolidate and reaffirm UNSCR 1325, three additional Resolutions – Resolution 1820, 1888, and 1889 – were adopted to strengthen the priority concerns for women and girls with particular focus on sexual violence prevention, improved leadership on women, peace and security issues, increased engagement of civil society, and more detailed attention and comprehensive approach to gender in post-conflict recovery work including in health, education, employment and other sectors.

Resolution 1820

Adopted in 2008, UNSCR 1820 confronts the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. The resolution recognizes that sexual violence can exacerbate situations of armed conflict and impede the restoration of international peace and security. It affirms that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide. It also affirms the Council's intention, when establishing and renewing State-specific sanction regimes, to consider imposing "targeted and graduated" measures against warring factions who committed rape and other forms of violence against women and girls.

Resolution 1888

UNSCR 1888 was adopted in 2009 to further address the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict by requesting high-level leadership, comprehensive legal and judicial reforms and more comprehensive reporting systems. It emphasizes the importance of technical support to and awareness raising and training of military and police personnel in addressing the issue of sexual violence in armed conflict. Furthermore, the resolution requests the United Nations to consider sanctions when patterns of sexual violence are prevalent in war zones or post-conflict societies as well as to identify women protection advisors, where appropriate, among gender advisors and human rights protection units to focus on the protection needs of women and girls in specific contexts.

Resolution 1889

Resolution 1889, sponsored by the Vietnamese government and adopted at the Security Council in 2009, builds directly on UNSCR 1325. It focuses specifically on women's particular needs in conflict and post-conflict situations, their participation in all stages of peace processes and highlights the importance of gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery processes and sectors. It emphasizes the critical need for partnership with Civil Society Organizations. In addition, UNSCR 1889 requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of UNSCR 1325. It encourages Member States to take measures leading to improved socio-economic conditions and greater physical security including women's and girl's equal access to education in the post-conflict period, income generating activities, and access to health and other services.

Key issues related to women, peace and security

Women are at the forefront of peace efforts. Despite the inherent risks and difficulties, women individually, in groups and formal organizations, demonstrate extraordinary resilience and commitment to sustaining peace and normalcy in crisis settings. They are active leaders and often the first group of stakeholders to publicly demand peace negotiations. With limited resources they seek to work with both state and non-state actors to build awareness and understanding of human rights, protection of civilians, and peaceful transformation of conflict. Time and again, women's daily contributions to peace both politically and in the humanitarian sphere, their stories of survival and protection of more vulnerable people – the young, the elderly and the sick – are ignored. This denial of their resilience contributes to their disempowerment.

The Asia-Pacific region presents considerable diversity in conditions and challenges related to women, peace and security. Conflict and post-conflict experiences and their impacts on women and girls differ greatly depending on age, location, ethnicity and the socio-cultural context. A mapping of actions and activities related to women, peace and security carried out in Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, and Viet Nam indicated the common issues and pressing difficulties faced by women and girls in the context of UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions. These include:



- ▶ **Gender inequality and deep rooted patriarchal structures and systems.** These underpin the higher vulnerabilities faced by women and girls in conflict and post conflict settings and their exclusion from peace processes. They experience disadvantages in the public and private domain despite carrying out the additional burden of providing and caring for their family well-being.
- ▶ **Extensive presence of sexual and other forms of gender-based violence.** Civilians – particularly women and children – are increasingly becoming the casualties of conflict by experiencing violence against women including harassment and rape.

- ▶ **Poor documentation of the incidence and scale of violence against women and girls.** This impedes legal reform and the improvement of protection and accountability mechanisms. Socio-cultural attitudes and practices towards women and the absence of acknowledgment of gender-based violence as a crime against women accompanied by lawlessness and impunity further increase gender-based violence in conflict.
- ▶ **Grievances originating from previous conflicts are not sufficiently addressed.** Countries that are currently in a post conflict situation continue to face past grievances. There is urgent need to acknowledge and address sexual and gender-based violence during post conflict and to implement steps to prevent such atrocities in the future.
- ▶ **Mass exodus and lack of protection of refugee and internally displaced women and girls.** Displacement accompanied by fear and breakdown of family structures have caused an increased level of domestic violence, sexual abuse, exploitation and psychosocial trauma.
- ▶ **Negligible representation of women in peace and decision-making processes.** Even in countries where women are active in all aspects of conflict – as combatants, state security personnel, sole breadwinners for households, researchers, activists, journalists and politicians – their involvement in the negotiation of the peace accord and the subsequent peace process including reconstruction and recovery processes is minimal.



UNFPA's country-based interventions on UNSCR 1325

Numerous governments in the region with support from civil society and United Nations entities are actively engaged in addressing issues related to women, peace and security. National Action Plans have at present not been enacted in most countries though there are promising developments. Examples of UNFPA's active engagement drawn from the mapping of actions and activities related to UNSCR 1325 in selected countries of the region include:

Indonesia

- ▶ Support in drafting of a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325;
- ▶ support in drafting of a Province Action Plan for Aceh;
- ▶ engendering the draft law of Social Conflict Management;
- ▶ provision of training on UNSCR 1325;
- ▶ close cooperation with civil society representatives on issues related to women, peace and security.

Nepal

- ▶ Prevention and comprehensive response to survivors of conflict related gender-based violence;
- ▶ documentation of sexual violence during conflict;
- ▶ establish linkages of comprehensive services such as legal aid, reproductive health and psychosocial services;
- ▶ awareness raising and provision of training to United Nations staff, security and peacekeeping personnel as well as civil society on content and implementation of UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 1820 and related issues including HIV/AIDS;
- ▶ support of the government in developing corresponding National Action Plans and a gender-sensitive constitution;
- ▶ support to media networks in monitoring on UNSCR 1325 and 1820 implementation.



Sri Lanka

- ▶ Promotion of women's participation in decision-making, peace processes and other dimensions of humanitarian work;
- ▶ conduction of research on the impact of conflict on women and girls;
- ▶ provision of training to front line workers on law reforms including rape laws;
- ▶ coordination and cooperation with Non-Governmental Organizations to promote, protect and strengthen women's rights including the establishment of the Civil Society Forum on UNSCR 1325;
- ▶ support to displaced women and girls during repatriation and resettlement.

Timor-Leste

- ▶ Awareness-raising of the issue of gender-based violence among the civil society;
- ▶ support in the establishment of a working group for drafting a National Action Plan on gender-based violence including the broad principles of UNSCR1325;
- ▶ provision of training on gender and gender-based violence, including UNSCR 1325 for the United Nations Police and the national police as part of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste human rights induction course for the police.

National Action Plans

National Action Plans exclusively focusing on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 are still rare. At present, only nineteen countries have developed such National Action Plans worldwide. While some countries in the Asia and the Pacific prepared draft documents and are pursuing enacting and implementation, the Philippines is the only country that created and released a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 in the region.

The Philippine National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

The Philippine National Action Plan was released in March 2010 and is a collaborative product of the government and the civil society. Covering the years 2010 – 2016, the National Action Plan concentrates on four purposes and includes specified outcomes and indicators to track progress in the areas of:

- 1) Protection and prevention: to ensure the protection and prevention of violations of women's human rights in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.
- 2) Empowerment and participation: to empower women and ensure their active and meaningful participation in areas of peacebuilding, peacekeeping, conflict prevention, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.
- 3) Promotion and mainstreaming: to promote and mainstream gender perspective in all aspects of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding.
- 4) Capacity development and monitoring and reporting: to institutionalize a monitoring and reporting system to monitor, evaluate and report in order to enhance accountability for the successful implementation of the National Action Plan and achievement of its goals.

Cognizant of their role as stewards of peace, the women and men who produced this National Action Plan collectively affirm the primacy of peace and nonviolence in achieving a just, gender-sensitive society where every Filipino woman is empowered as peace builder, enjoying her human rights and safe from gender-based violence in conflict and post conflict situations.

The Philippine National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security: Implementing the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 (Draft as of June 8, 2010)

Launch of a Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security

In order to commemorate the 10th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325, the UN Thematic Working Group on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, set up the Regional Task Force on Women, Peace and Security. The Task Force is co-chaired by UNFPA and UNIFEM and core activities include the organization of the Launch of a Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security and the organization of a Capacity Development Workshop on UNSCR 1325.

Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security

The Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security consists of outstanding women and men leaders in the area of women, peace and security from Asia and the Pacific. It is set up for the purposes of advocacy and analysis as well as a platform for coordination of work on women, peace and security in the region. It is the first group of its kind globally and is thought to provide a model for emulation in other regions. UNFPA and UNIFEM co-chair the secretariat of this Regional Advisory Group.

Vision Statement

"As members of the Regional Advisory Group on Women, Peace and Security, we commit ourselves to playing a leading role in promoting the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325 by working together for the prevention and elimination of gender-based violence during and after armed conflict and strengthening the role of women in peace-building, conflict prevention and resolution in countries of our region (draft...)"

From conflict and crisis to renewal: generations of change



The release of *State of World Population 2010*

The release of *State of World Population 2010*, published by UNFPA, coincides with the 10th anniversary of resolution 1325. It is the first time that the report is based on documentations from the field in a sample of countries that have experienced conflict or disasters and are on the road to recovery, however rocky the path and uncertain the destination.

State of World Population 2010 explores how conflict and protracted humanitarian emergencies affect women and girls – and men and boys – and shows how many women and young people have overcome seemingly insurmountable obstacles and have begun rebuilding their lives and laying the foundation for peace and renewal of their societies.

Resolutions may guide governments' and the international community's response to conflict and establish the framework for actions to protect women and assure their participation in peace building and reconciliation, but they are not substitute for grassroots efforts to empower women and to build long-term resilience to crisis of any sort, whether war, an earthquake or any other catastrophe.

Thoraya Ahmed Obaid, Executive Director, UNFPA, in: State of World Population 2010



UNFPA – because everyone counts. UNFPA, the United Nations Population Fund, is an international development agency that promotes the right of every woman, man and child to enjoy a life of health and equal opportunity. UNFPA supports countries in using population data for policies and programmes to reduce poverty and to ensure that every pregnancy is wanted, every birth is safe, every young person is free of HIV/AIDS, and every girl and woman is treated with dignity and respect.

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