

The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



GIWPS Georgetown Institute for
Women, Peace and Security

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The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security seeks to promote a more stable, peaceful, and just world by focusing on the important role women play in preventing conflict and building peace, growing economies, and addressing global threats like climate change and violent extremism. We engage in rigorous research, host global convenings,

advance strategic partnerships, and nurture the next generation of leaders. We aim to document the critical role women can and must play in peace and security, and ensure that evidence-based research is accessible to practitioners and policymakers. The Institute is headed by former US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, Melanne Verveer.


Women play a pivotal
role in preventing and
resolving conflict

Women's Role in Creating Peace

Women are critical to achieving sustainable peace. The world has seen women successfully forge peace in Northern Ireland, Liberia, and Colombia, among other places of conflict. Research affirms that when civil society groups and women's groups are included in peace negotiations, resulting peace agreements are more likely to last.

Yet women are still largely shut out of negotiations that seek to end conflicts, as well as decisions that shape post conflict recovery. This is a critical omission at a time when more than half of all peace agreements fail within the first five years, and conflict rocked more countries in 2016 than any other time in nearly 30 years.

Launched in 2011 by former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who serves as the Institute's honorary founding chair, and Georgetown University President John J. DeGioia, the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security seeks to build the evidence-based case for a focus on women's roles in peacebuilding and security.



“This is not just a woman's issue. It truly does cut to the heart of our national security and the security of people everywhere.”

Hillary Rodham Clinton
Honorary Founding Chair
Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

Women's Role in Growing Economies

Women's economic participation is essential for growing economies—and inclusive growth is critical to creating sustainable peace. Yet women face the most severe economic exclusion in fragile and conflict-affected countries, precisely the nations that most need their participation. We are embarking on new work to deepen

our understanding about constraints of women's economic opportunities in fragile and post conflict societies and evidence about what works to overcome these barriers, from business investments to policy reforms. We aim to produce practical, policy-relevant lessons for governments, development agencies, and the private sector.

Building the Evidence-Based Case for Women's Full Participation

Including women in peace and security efforts—and in the economy—is not just a moral imperative but also a smart and strategic decision. Our research highlights the effectiveness of women's full participation and the ways in which women's engagement has contributed to positive outcomes around the world. Our recent research addresses women's roles in peace

processes, transitional justice, and post-conflict politics; barriers to women's economic empowerment in conflict-affected nations; and how to prevent and punish sexual violence in times of war. We also explore women's critical role in addressing new security threats, including violent extremism, gang violence, and climate change.



Rt. Hon. David Miliband,
former UK Secretary of State,
at Georgetown University

Our research and partnerships extend around the globe



- Afghanistan
- Australia
- China
- Colombia
- DRC
- El Salvador
- Finland
- Guatemala
- Haiti
- Indonesia
- Japan
- Jordan
- Kenya
- Libya
- Mexico
- Myanmar
- Nepal
- Nigeria
- Northern Ireland
- Norway
- Philippines
- Rwanda
- South Sudan
- Sweden
- Taiwan
- Tunisia
- Ukraine
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom

Measuring How Women are Treated Around the World

Women, Peace, and Security Index

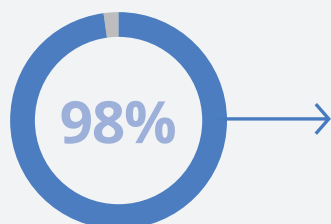
Girls and women continue to face discrimination and violence around the world. Women like Stéphanie in Haiti are pressured by their husbands not to work. Women like Samira are beaten by their partners in Afghanistan at alarming rates. Not only do these injustices affect women's lives—they also affect national wellbeing. Research shows that societies are more peaceful and prosperous where women's rights are protected and they have access to equal opportunities. Conversely, societies where women are denied their rights or where they are oppressed tend to be less stable.

A key step to improving the lives of women and girls is to measure how

countries are performing and to hold decision makers to account. That's why we created the Women, Peace and Security Index—in partnership with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo—to offer a comprehensive measure of women's wellbeing. The WPS Index tells us how women are doing in 153 countries and ranks nations accordingly. A major innovation of the index is that it captures violence against women and conflict-related deaths—as well as more traditional measures of gender equality. Over time, the index will reveal where progress is being made, and where attention and investments are needed to accelerate progress.

Explore the index at giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/

We cover 98% of the world's population and 153 countries.



Measuring women's inclusion, access to justice, and security around the world



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We know that women are often the first to feel the impact of smouldering conflicts. Their rights and security are often threatened long before gunshots are heard. This index has the potential to sensitize us to dangerous situations and could ultimately contribute to conflict prevention efforts.

Børge Brende

Former Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs
Remarks delivered at Georgetown University

A group of women, including Afghan peacebuilders, standing in a line with US officials at Georgetown University. The women are wearing headscarves and are dressed in professional attire. They are standing in front of a backdrop featuring the Georgetown University seal and the text 'GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'. The seal is circular with an eagle in the center, surrounded by the text 'COLLEGIUM GEORGIOPOLITANUM' and the year '1789'. The text 'GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY' is partially visible below the seal. The women are standing in a line, facing right. The background is a dark blue wall with gold-colored decorative elements. The overall scene is formal and professional.

Convenings & Connections

Located in the US capital, we regularly welcome foreign officials and global thought leaders for discussions on women's roles in peace and security. Our Ministerial roundtables offer an opportunity for Georgetown students to engage in intimate dialogues with foreign ministers and government

leaders. We also bring together leading researchers, policy makers, and practitioners from around the world for "Bridging Theory and Practice" workshops on topical global issues with implications for the women, peace, and security agenda.

We bring leading policy makers, practitioners, and researchers to Georgetown's campus

Secretary John Kerry, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and Mrs. Laura Bush with a delegation of Afghan women peacebuilders at Georgetown University

Celebrating Peacemakers

We shine a spotlight on trailblazers who advance the role of women in creating a more peaceful and secure world. Recipients of our awards include:

Nadia Murad

Former ISIS captive, Yazidi activist,
and Nobel Peace Prize recipient

Dr. Denis Mukwege

Congolese gynecological surgeon, humanitarian,
and Nobel Peace Prize recipient

Rose Gottemoeller

Highest-ranking civilian woman in NATO

Staffan de Mistura

UN special envoy for Syria

Miriam Coronel Ferrer

Chief negotiator of the Philippines' government
in the Mindanao peace process



Ambassador Melanne Verwee
presents an award to Yazidi activist,
Nadia Murad

Podcast and Multimedia Projects

Our new podcast, Seeking Peace, combines high-profile interviews with lesser-known stories of courageous women in conflict zones. Our oral histories project, Profiles in Peace, also captures untold stories of peacebuilders around the world and

synthesizes our original research findings. These projects provide tools for research, education, and bridgebuilding. We feature presidents, ambassadors, and men and women on the front lines of peace activism—all of whom have much to teach us.

Stay Connected

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook @giwps and on Instagram @georgetown_wps. Join our newsletter to stay up to date on the Institute's work.



Rwandan Ambassador to the US
Mathilde Mukatabana participates
in a Profiles in Peace interview

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When women are involved in the peace process... their presence influences the deliberations as well as the output of the negotiations.

Mohager Iqbal

Chair, MILF Negotiation Panel, the Philippines
Interview conducted by GIWPS research team



Fellowships and Student Opportunities


Research fellowships at the Institute are awarded to recent graduates who are top scholars with an interest in women, peace and security. Fellows – who come to us from disciplines as diverse as economics, international relations, law, and public policy – conduct desk and field research that helps close key knowledge and evidence gaps. The fellowships are

made possible by the generous support of individual and corporate donors. We also engage undergraduate and graduate students through popular on-campus events and programs, classroom instruction, research assistant and volunteer positions, and advising students interested in research and careers in the field.

We are investing in
the next generation

Learn more about the Georgetown
Institute for Women, Peace and Security
by visiting giwps.georgetown.edu





Praise for the Georgetown Institute for
Women, Peace and Security

Their work gives gravitas and
credibility to women who are taking
enormous risks for peace. Their
efforts to put ‘women, peace, and
security’ on the map have made a
big difference.

Monica McWilliams
Co-Founder of the
Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition



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