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 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 are still largely shut out of negotiations that seek to end conflicts, as well as decisions that shape post conflict recovery. More than half of all peace agreements fail in the first five years after adoption. Yet we know that women are critical to achieving sustainable peace. We saw it in Northern Ireland, Liberia, Colombia, and other places of conflict around the world.

The Institute was 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 in order to build the evidence-based case for a focus on women, peace, and security. The Institute continues to demonstrate and advocate for advancing women’s rights and addressing gender inequalities in order to attain sustainable peace.
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 and the Economy

We know that women face unique challenges accessing economic opportunities everywhere, and that women can be disproportionately affected by a state’s fragility. At the same time, conflict can disrupt traditional norms and open up new opportunities for women – from the market place to the parliament. We are embarking on new work to deepen our understanding about constraints of women’s economic opportunities in fragile situations, 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. The International Council on Women’s Business Leadership (ICWBL), housed at the Institute, also examines pressing issues in international business and economic policy as they pertain to women’s economic participation and advancement.
Building the Evidence-Based Case for Women’s Full Participation

Like women’s rights more broadly, including women in peace and security efforts—and in the economy—is not just a moral imperative but a smart and strategic imperative. Our country case studies demonstrate the effectiveness of women’s full participation and the ways in which women’s engagement has contributed to positive outcomes around the world. We also explore women’s critical role in addressing new security threats, including violent extremism and climate change.

Our research and partnerships extend around the globe

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

Our new global index captures both peace and security—and women’s inclusion and justice—for the first time ever. In partnership with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo, we drew on recognized international data sources to construct the Women Peace and Security Index, ranking 153 countries and covering more than 98 percent of the world’s population. The associated tools and analysis highlight key achievements and deficits. We hope our Index will be a tool that everyone working to advance the role of women in peace and security can use.
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 sensitise 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
Located in the US capital, we regularly welcome foreign officials and global thought leaders for discussions on women’s role in peace and security. We bring together top researchers, policy makers, and practitioners for “Bridging Theory and Practice” conversations on topical global issues with major implications for the women, peace, and security agenda. Our Ministerial roundtables offer an opportunity for Georgetown students to engage in intimate dialogues with foreign ministers and government leaders.
We bring together top researchers, policy makers, and practitioners

Secretary John Kerry, Secretary Hillary Clinton, and Mrs. Laura Bush with a delegation of Afghan women peacebuilders at Georgetown University
We shine a spotlight on the work of trailblazers who have advanced the role of women in creating a more peaceful and secure world. Recipients of our awards include peace-builders in Colombia who helped to secure their nation’s historic peace agreement, the UN’s SRSG for Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Bangura, UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, Philippines’ chief negotiator Miriam Coronel Ferrer, British Foreign Secretary William Hague, Congolese humanitarian Dr. Denis Mukwege, NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, and Guatemalan Attorney General Claudia Paz y Paz.
Georgetown President John J. DeGioia presents an award to UN SRSG for Sexual Violence in Conflict Zainab Bangura
Profiles in Peace

Our multimedia project, Profiles in Peace, captures untold stories of peacebuilders around the world and synthesizes our original research findings. Our videos provide tools for research, education, and bridge-building. We feature presidents, ambassadors, and men and women on the front lines of peace activism and negotiations across the globe, all of whom have much to teach us. Our social media presence, newsletter, and new podcast help to amplify the reach of these Profiles in Peace.
In the peace talks, the women’s coalition had an enormous role to play. And, in fact, had they not been at the table, there may not have been a chapter on reconciliation.

Monica McWilliams  
Co-Founder of the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition  
Remarks delivered at Georgetown University
Fellowships and Student Opportunities

Recent graduates can participate in research fellowships that are awarded to top candidates interested in advancing the agenda of the Institute. 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 in the field of women, peace, and security.

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
The women within my country have played a very crucial role before the war, during the war and the conflict time, and especially their constructive role of being in every process of building our country and building our state.

Atifete Jahjaga
Former President of Kosovo
Remarks delivered at Georgetown University