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PEACE AND SECURITY



The
United Arab Emirates
Panel Series on
**Women,
Peace and
Security**

2014-2015

The
United Arab Emirates

Panel Series on

**Women,
Peace and
Security**

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This year, the United Nations will complete three critical policy reviews in the area of international peace and security: the first comprehensive review of UN peace operations in 15 years, a review of our peacebuilding architecture, and the High-Level Review on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It is also a year when we will set new Sustainable Development Goals for the post-2015 global development agenda and make preparations for the first-ever World Humanitarian Summit.

The concurrence of these high-level reviews and agendas is not a coincidence: there is clear recognition of the need for transformative change across the United Nations system. Our current models and practices are no longer relevant to the world's increasingly unpredictable global peace and security challenges and do not allow for appropriate reaction and response. Yet, the United Nations is being asked to reach more people than ever before with emergency assistance. Not since the end of the Second World War have there been so many refugees and displaced persons. The proliferation of new conflicts and the escalation of old ones are unraveling the gains and dividends of peace and development and exacerbating existing inequalities.

Insecurity has increased exponentially in the wake of a new wave of violent extremism that directly and explicitly targets women's rights as its first order of business. Although we have made strides in ensuring women's participation and inclusion within normative and legal frameworks, alarmingly, women's lived

experience of peace and security has taken considerable steps backwards.

This worrying trend impacts on our capacity to further our collective goals of sustainable peace. Women's leadership in peace and security and the protection of women's rights should never be an afterthought in international security. Yet, all too often this is the case.

We have the normative mandates, the recommendations, and the evidence that women's leadership is a crucial ingredient of our operational effectiveness in all areas, whether in boosting economic recovery, negotiating peace, or protecting the population. Still, we continue to treat women's participation as an 'add on'; as if it is something that we can choose to integrate only once the political will, resources, and individual leadership line up. This year, we must move from the ad hoc to the systematic. We must translate our commitments into action and accountability at all levels, sustained by dedicated political and financial support.

The series of panel discussions on Women, Peace and Security organized by the United Arab Emirates, in partnership with UN Women, has served as an important forum for gender equality and women's empowerment. The discussions have provided an avenue through which to pursue new and emerging challenges, fill gaps in our collective knowledge, and engage Member States and UN agencies, as well as civil society partners, in a valuable stock-taking of progress thus far that will shape the agenda for the next fifteen years.

These panel discussions have invited analysis and information sharing, innovative thinking, and fresh approaches to the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The series of six panels dealt with themes

such as new technology in peacekeeping efforts, humanitarian intervention, climate change and violent extremism – always using a gendered lens to assess both their specific impact on women, and how women can best harness their capabilities as actors for positive change.

The series has brought together policy influencers and decision-makers from Member States and civil society. It has hosted influential expert-panelists, including economist Jeffrey Sachs, and the Executive Director of the Georgetown University Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Ambassador Melanne Verveer. The feedback received from each panel has informed the Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), for which UN Women served as the Secretariat.

UN Women is grateful to the UAE for their leadership and collaboration over this past year. I hope that this is the beginning of a deep and productive partnership in the area of Women, Peace and Security.

Events such as this panel series raise awareness of issues and increase their visibility. It has usefully prompted deliberation on the commitments Member States and other actors intend to make during the Security Council's High-Level Review on Women, Peace and Security in October. The Review and subsequent actions provide an opportunity for the international community to make a positive change in direction, through which we can – and must – harness the potential of all to contribute to peace, security, and development.

*Dr. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations
Executive Director, UN Women*



Women constitute half of the world's population and yet remain marginalized from decision-making in peace and security efforts worldwide. At the same time, they possess unique talents, perspectives, and experiences necessary to ensure inclusive peacebuilding, while bearing a disproportionate burden brought on by war and violence. In order to understand the critical impact their participation makes – whether in conflict prevention and resolution, mitigation of humanitarian crises, post-conflict reconstruction, justice and rule of law, or an array of other fields – evidence and experience-based analyses are critical.

This book is based on a series of breakthrough policy dialogues initiated by the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations and the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security that were held between October 2014 and May 2015. In leveraging our respective expertise, the Institute and the Mission brought together key stakeholders from a variety of different disciplines and sectors to focus on some of the most critical peace and security issues of our time. Our goal was to shape public discourse, raise awareness, and mobilize United Nations Member States on solutions to preventing and resolving conflict, as well as to advance stability and prosperity by better understanding the role of women in peace and security.

The discussions focused on crosscutting themes that are highly relevant to current conflicts, from South Sudan to Syria and from Afghanistan to Myanmar. International policymakers need to advance policy innovations to effectively counter extremism and adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change. These threats are universal and indiscriminate. Not only is violent extremism a security issue, but it is also one with many complex gender dimensions, where women are victims, perpetrators, and agents of prevention. Even today, climate change is not traditionally seen as a security issue, but its consequences on livelihoods, human rights, and migration have propelled it into a first order security concern. The cumulative impacts of climate change on these issues are particularly severe on women, who often struggle to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of this global phenomenon. By framing cli-

mate change as an issue inextricably linked to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the series of panel discussions sought to expand the application of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The interconnected nature of the topics covered in this book demonstrate that we can no longer afford to work in silos if we are to effectively address the collective challenges that confront us. In bringing together academic experts, civil society activists, donor agencies, United Nations entities, Member States, and others, we hope we have underscored not only the interrelated nature of these issues, but also the need for greater cross-sector collaboration in addressing them. As policymakers, diplomats, and practitioners, we are grateful to everyone who participated in this series of discussions and whose insights inform this book.

*Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh
Permanent Representative of the United
Arab Emirates to the United Nations*

*Ambassador Melanne Verwee
Executive Director of the Georgetown
Institute for Women, Peace and Security*



Evolution of Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

Panel Series Annex

“The tenets laid out in Security Council resolution 1325 affirm the central principle that women at all levels must play an active and meaningful role in conflict prevention, resolution, protection, and peacebuilding.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, 28 May 2015

UNSCR
1325

UNSCR 1325 (2000)¹ was the first resolution to acknowledge the importance of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding, and governance.² This resolution laid out an international legal framework to address not only the disproportionate and unique impacts of war and armed conflict on women, but also the role that women play in the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of such conflict. Further, it calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.³

UNSCR
1820

UNSCR 1820 (2008)⁴ became the first resolution to recognize sexual violence in conflict as a tactic of war, either when used systematically to achieve military or political ends, or when opportunistic and arising from cultures of impunity.⁵ Until this resolution was adopted, sexual violence was seen as an inevitability of war. UNSCR 1820 (1888) recognizes that sexual violence in conflict can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, and acknowledges that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security. This resolution reinforces UNSCR 1325 (2000) and highlights that rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide, and demands that parties to armed conflict take immediate and appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence.

UNSCR
1888

UNSCR 1888 (2009)⁶ strengthens and builds upon UNSCR 1820 (2008) by laying out a framework to address and respond to sexual violence in conflict, deploying expertise, and improving coordination amongst stakeholders. This resolution demands that all parties to armed conflict take appropriate measures to protect civilians, including women and children, from all forms of sexual violence. Further, it established the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, who serves as the UN spokesperson and advocate on sexual violence in conflict. This resolution also mandates that peacekeeping missions protect women and children from sexual violence in armed conflict, and calls for the creation of gender advisors and human rights protection units.

UNSCR
1889

UNSCR 1889 (2009)⁷ urges all actors to increase the participation of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. This resolution stresses the need for accountability and strengthens the monitoring and implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) through a set of global indicators. Further, this resolution reinforces calls for mainstreaming gender perspectives in all decision-making processes, especially in the early stages of post-conflict peacebuilding.⁸ UNSCR 1889 (2009) strongly encourages cooperation with civil society, particularly women's organizations.

UNSCR
1960

UNSCR 1960 (2010)⁹ provides an accountability system for stopping sexual violence in conflict. It requests lists of perpetrators and annual reports on parties suspected of committing or being responsible for patterns of rape and other forms of sexual violence in conflict. It stipulates strategic, coordinated, and timely collection of information for and briefings to the Security Council on sexual violence in conflict, and calls for countries to establish specific time-bound commitments to address the issue.¹⁰

UNSCR 2106

UNSCR 2106 (2013)¹¹ builds upon previous resolutions to combat sexual violence in conflict, and reiterates that all actors, including not only the Security Council and parties to armed conflict, but all Member States and United Nations entities, must do more to implement previous mandates and combat impunity for these crimes.

UNSCR 2122

UNSCR 2122 (2013)¹² addresses the participation, protection, and prevention pillars that UNSCR 1325 (2000) originally laid out. This resolution positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security, underlining that women's economic empowerment greatly contributes to stabilizing societies emerging from conflict.¹³ UNSCR 2122 (2013) established stronger measures to enable women to participate in conflict resolution and recovery, and obliges the Security Council, the United Nations, regional organizations, and Member States to dismantle the barriers, create the space, and provide seats at the table for women. This resolution calls for the development and deployment of technical expertise for peacekeeping missions and United Nations mediation teams supporting peace talks; improved access to timely information and analysis on the impact of conflict on women and women's participation in conflict resolution; and strengthened commitments to consult or include women directly in peace talks. It sets out the need for humanitarian aid to ensure access to the full range of sexual and reproductive health services, including for pregnancies resulting from rape.¹⁴

“During, and, not least, after conflicts, we must ensure that the voices of women are heard.”

–Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

ENDNOTES

¹ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [on women and peace and security]*, 31 October 2000, S/RES/1325 (2000), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f4672e.html>.

² UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [on women and peace and security]*, 31 October 2000, S/RES/1325 (2000), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f4672e.html>.

³ Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Landmark resolution on women, peace and security. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>.

⁴ UN Security Council. *Security Council resolution 1820 (2008) [on acts of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflicts]*, 19 June 2008, S/RES/1820 (2008), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/485bbca72.html>.

⁵ UN Women. Global Norms and Standards. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards>.

⁶ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) [on acts of sexual violence against civilians in armed conflicts]*, 30 September 2009, S/RES/1888 (2009), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ac9aa152.html> [accessed 19 August 2015].

⁷ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1889 (2009) [on women and peace and security]*, 5 October

2009, S/RES/1889 (2009), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4acdd8512.html>.

⁸ UN Women. Global norms and standards. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards>.

⁹ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1960 (2010) [on women and peace and security]*, 16 December 2010, S/RES/1960(2010), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/4d2708a02.html>.

¹⁰ UN Women. Global norms and standards. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards>.

¹¹ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 2106 (2013) [on sexual violence in armed conflict]*, 24 June 2013, S/RES/2106 (2013), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/51d6b5e64.html>.

¹² UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 2122 (2013) [on women and peace and security]*, 18 October 2013, S/RES/2122 (2013), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/528365a44.html>.

¹³ UN Women. Global norms and standards. <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards>.

¹⁴ *Id.*



The United Arab Emirates Panel Series on Women, Peace and Security

Panel Series Introduction • 2014-2015

“There is no question anymore that gender-inclusive peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh, Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations, 28 May 2015

The field of Women, Peace and Security (WPS) focuses on the vital role that women play in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as the ways in which violent conflict affect women. On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325), the first of its kind to acknowledge the importance of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, post-conflict peacebuilding, and governance.¹ UNSCR 1325 (2000) laid out an international legal framework to address not only the disproportionate and unique impacts of war and armed conflicts on women, but also the role that women play in the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of such conflict.

The WPS agenda at the level of international policy-making, particularly at the United Nations, is framed by a suite of Security Council resolutions including, and, in addition, to UNSCR 1325 (2000), which provides a four-pillar framework to support its goals: participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery. This resolution urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in United Nations peace and security efforts. Further, it calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.² This resolution laid the groundwork for six subsequent resolutions on WPS: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013).

Over the past fifteen years, there has been a growing consensus that the well-being of women in conflict and post-conflict settings and their participation

in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding is no longer a niche issue - it is directly related to the maintenance of international peace and security. Yet, despite the seven Security Council resolutions on WPS, women's perspectives on all aspects of conflict-prevention, resolution, protection, and peacebuilding continue to be underrepresented. Moreover, adequate understanding of and appreciation for the gendered dimensions of peace, conflict, and insecurity remain lacking amongst policymakers and practitioners. Even with growing bodies of evidence and research, the vision of UNSCR 1325 (2000) remains unrealized fifteen years since its adoption. It is crucial that the international community works together, across sectors and at various levels, to bolster implementation.

In recognition of the fifteen-year anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and in preparation for the annual High-Level Review on Women, Peace and Security, the Secretary-General commissioned a Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (Global Study). The Global Study highlights good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for action.

The United Arab Emirates Panel Series on Women, Peace and Security was convened in support of and to inform the Global Study, in partnership with the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and UN Women. The UAE has chosen to place the WPS agenda at the forefront of its priorities at the United Nations due to a strong conviction that women must be considered agents of their own progress and equal partners in peace and security efforts. A key goal of this series was to explore

emerging and urgent issues within the WPS field, reflecting the current state of the world.

The global context is changing rapidly, characterized by a volatile mix of political, economic, and security factors, exacerbated by trends including the growing impact of non-state actors and violent extremism, and demographic pressures. The rise of Da'esh (ISIS) has systematically been coupled with widespread accounts of sexual assault and systematic rape intended to destabilize and terrorize communities. Ever-more complex and protracted conflicts have forcibly displaced over 55 million people,³ a greater number than at any other time since the Second World War. The Syrian conflict has continued for over four years, with over four million registered refugees, alone.⁴ United Nations peace operations have evolved to address the changing nature of conflict and threats to the global world order. These operations not only have the responsibility of monitoring borders and ceasefires, but are also increasingly becoming multidimensional operations, charged with protecting civilians, state-building, and often deployed where there is no peace to keep.

In recognition of the ever-changing global context, the United Arab Emirates Panel Series on Women, Peace and Security examined topics ranging from the role of women in countering violent extremism, to how to best utilize modern technology in peacekeeping operations to better protect women and girls; from the role women play in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change, to the transformative impact that transitional justice can have on the lives of

women; from gender-responsive humanitarian intervention, to examining how United Nations review processes can effectively recognize women as central actors in development and security efforts.

Through examining these critical topics, panel discussions in this series brought to light the important and necessary contributions that women make in international peace and security efforts. Empowering women and including their perspectives, as part of inclusive peacebuilding, is essential to creating functional, just, and stable societies. The policy dialogues also highlighted what is working, what remains a challenge, and how different stakeholders can, or should, work together. As the United Nations celebrates its 70th anniversary, there is great opportunity to enhance how the international community approaches peace and security.

ENDNOTES

¹ UN Security Council, *Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) [on women and peace and security]*, 31 October 2000, SRES/1325 (2000), available at: <http://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f4672e.html>.

² Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women. Landmark resolution on women, peace and security. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>.

³ Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. ECHO Factsheet. The European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. 2015. ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/refugees_en.pdf.

⁴ UNHCR. Syria Regional Refugee Response. 16 August 2015. <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/regional.php>.



The Role of Women in Countering Violent Extremism

Panel One • 27 October 2014

“If one were to look at the condition of women, particularly in those ways in which oppression is rearing its ugly head, and the denial of women’s rights, those very conditions should be a clue to all of us, a predictor of instability and insecurity that follows.”

– Ambassador Melanne Verveer, Executive Director,
Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

Recommendations

- UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism (CVE) should further recognize the role of women in prevention and response frameworks.
- Effective CVE strategies must be coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches that include high-level diplomacy and leverage military action with governance, development, and human rights programming that includes the promotion of gender equality.
- Intracultural and cross-cultural dialogue and exchange can play a critical role in dissuading violent extremists.
- It is important to not essentialize women and assume that their natural disposition will be towards peace simply because they are mothers.
- CVE requires culturally relevant solutions and local knowledge.



“[A woman] shouldn’t look at herself as a victim, but as a leader - how she can protect her family and her community.”

– Suaad Allami, Sadr City Women’s Center and Legal Clinic

PANEL ONE SPEAKERS



SUAAD ALLAMI, Founder and Director, Sadr City Women’s Center and Legal Clinic



NAUREEN CHOWDHURY FINK, Head of Research and Analysis, Global Center on Cooperative Security



RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, Lead Author, Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000)



JOY ONYESOH, Founder and President, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Nigeria



CAROLIN SCHLEKER, Human Rights Officer, New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



MUHAMMED RAFIUDDIN SHAH, Officer-in-Charge, UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force



MELANNE VERVEER, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute For Women, Peace And Security

Full biographies begin on page 85

The role of women in propagating and countering violent extremism (CVE) is an understudied but critical security issue of the 21st century. There is an increasing recognition of the need to situate counter-terrorism and violent extremism responses more firmly within a Women, Peace and Security framework, as there are considerable synergies between these agendas. CVE effectively will require a coordinated and holistic response that combines military action with governance, human rights, and development programming to address root causes,

and includes as a core part of this response the principle of gender equality. Research and experience demonstrate that women can enable, support, benefit from, be victims of, counteract, and prevent violent extremism. Their roles and experiences are not monochromatic, but rather diverse and shaped by context, community, and history. It is important that countering violent extremism efforts recognize women not only as victims, but as partners in prevention and response frameworks, and agents of change. CVE programs must take a holistic approach and

“Violent extremism is a global reality that is not confined to any one region, nor representative of any religion, but rather is derived from radical ideologies. Radical doctrines such as those propagated by ISIS are an insult to Islam and in opposition to universal tenets of Islam and of UAE society, such as religious tolerance and the active participation of women in society.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations



focus on the development indicators that may lead to violent extremism. By addressing everyday needs, we can help create an environment that allows for women, their families, and communities to fully participate in the prevention of violent extremism in their own societies.

Delinking Terrorism and Religion

Today's narrative of extremism often perpetuates misconceptions of extremism as inherently religious in nature, often linked to Islam. It is important

to recognize from the outset that violent extremism can manifest in many forms and out of various religious or non-religious motivations. Non-religious extremist groups have wreaked havoc and pursued political agendas for centuries. One recent example is the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka, which engaged in insurgent activities against the government of Sri Lanka for many years and yet did not have a religious coloring to their motivations or ambitions.¹ Islamic fundamentalism is only one example of extremism, although it receives the most attention from scholars, policymakers, and media outlets.

Impacts of Violent Extremism on Women's Lives

Women are differentially impacted by conflict, including extremism and terrorism. Time and again, as extremist groups have increased in influence, their territorial advance has been coupled with targeted, strategic attacks on women's rights and freedoms – from denying girls the opportunity to attend school, to expelling women from workplaces and public life, to restrictions on travel and dress and various forms of sexual and gender-based violence. The calling card of extremist groups is the same – it is a push back on women's rights, including the attempt to control women's bodies as a tool of warfare. The kidnappings of hundreds of

“Create spaces for women, have them dialogue, harness their potential, and give them an opportunity to speak their minds. Most of the women already have the solutions.”

– Joy Onyesoh, *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Nigeria*



Nigerian schoolgirls in 2014 by Boko Haram, for example, signaled a much broader, violent extremist campaign for territorial and intellectual control. Likewise, the rise of Da'esh (ISIS) has been coupled with widespread sexual assault and systematic rape intended to destabilize and terrorize communities.

Women Propagating Violent Extremism

Women have supported or partaken in violent extremism for as long as it has existed, including as suicide bombers, recruiters, domestic servants, masterminds, soldiers, and many other roles. This is true throughout history and beyond the terrain of Islamist groups. The responses to this aspect of women's involvement are few. Additional research is required to develop a more nuanced understanding of the grievances that move women towards violent extremism and the pathways that strengthen their resilience against them. A 2014 study by the Institute for Strategic Dialogue based on social media postings of female Western migrants to Da'esh found numerous reasons migrants cited for their decision to join extremist groups.² Like male extremists, they included hope of comradeship, search for adventure, as well as ideological reasons. Mia Bloom summarizes the frequent motivating factors for women as the "five Rs": revenge, redemption, relationship, respect, and rape.³

It is also important to not only understand why women promote violent extremism, but



“The role of women in preventing terrorism and, especially, in countering violent extremism has indeed become a matter of growing importance in view of the fact that women’s contributions to counter-radicalization and extremism is often underestimated. And yet, the inclusion of their perspectives in the counter-terrorism debate is a necessity. It has indeed become important to integrate women’s perspectives into national and regional counter-terrorism programs.”

– Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah, UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force



also how they do so. For example, the use of social media to promote extremist ideologies has become a very effective way to recruit new members, including women. The normalization of violence and desensitization of armed conflict coupled with poverty and oppression could be factors pushing women towards extremist groups, but there are no clear-cut explanations.

Women Countering Violent Extremism

Women engage in multiple ways as leaders in countering extremism. Women's placement in families and communities gives them access to grassroots populations that can serve as a major asset for

“Women have played very important roles in conflict prevention and mitigation, and 1325 has long recognized the important roles played by women in international peace and security, as powerful agents of change and preventers.”

– Naureen Chowdhury Fink, Global Center on Cooperative Security

“Ultimately, this is about gender equality. We can’t counter, we can’t end, we can’t prevent or ensure the full participation of women unless we respect the fact that they have an equal role to play.”

– Ambassador Melanne Verwee,
Executive Director, Georgetown Institute
for Women, Peace and Security



intelligence gathering, engaging civil society, and promoting positive change. Women are often uniquely positioned to provide essential information to those working to counter extremism. In many cases, CVE practitioners engage with only certain community gatekeepers and neglect the input of women and women’s civil society groups who may also have access or intelligence. A 2014 report by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development concluded that women often have better access to vulnerable individuals, making them a key ally for intelligence operations that tend to work primarily with self-proclaimed, and largely male, community leaders.⁴ Indeed, women’s central role in the family makes them more likely to notice changes in behavior and more able to intervene in the radicalization of their children.⁵ Anecdotal evidence also shows that family ties are a strong predictor of extremism, and that women are central to understanding how to leverage the role of the family in promoting positive change.

A number of innovative programs have been initiated to capitalize on women’s unique position in the community, including Mother’s Schools that teach women how to notice and address signs of radicalization in their children, counter-narrative work to engage women in putting forward alternative visions, and capacity building for women’s groups.⁶

Despite the great potential for engaging women in counter-terrorism, we must also be careful when securitizing women’s roles. By doing this, we run the risk of further marginalizing women and women’s organizations, potentially making them targets for extremist groups, particularly if they are seen as serving an external agenda.⁷ In many situations, efforts



to counter terrorism and violent extremism have resulted in an adverse impact on women’s rights and women’s rights organizations. For example, funds used to combat terrorism have been diverted from budgets addressing broader socio-economic conditions, under-resourcing the issues that are often of priority to women. Additionally, some anti-terrorism laws limit the flow of funds to small civil society organizations, pressuring women’s organizations that could otherwise be potential partners in combating extremism.⁸

Recommendations

UN Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism and CVE should further recognize the role of women in prevention and response frameworks.

While terrorism was not mentioned in resolution 1325 (2000), the most recent Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), 2122 (2013), refers to the Security Council’s intention to increase its attention to WPS issues in all thematic areas of work on its agenda, including in relation to peace and security threats caused by terrorist acts. The Security Council adopted resolution 2178 (2014), which focuses on the emerging threat posed by foreign terrorist fighters and calls for the need to empower women as a prevention response to the spread of violent extremism. In addition, during its annual Open Debate on WPS on 28 October 2014, the Security Council adopted a Presidential Statement, which reiterated the role of women’s participation and empowerment as a buffer to the spread of extremism while also noting the specific consequences of violent extremism on the rights of women and girls.

“Using a human rights approach ensures that the rights of women are never used as a bartering tool to appease terrorists or to make compromises with terrorists.”

– Carolin Schleker, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



Effective CVE strategies must be coordinated, multi-sectoral approaches that include high-level diplomacy and leverage military action *with* governance, development, and human rights programming that includes the promotion of gender equality. As extremist groups continue to grow in power and influence, so too does the focus on military solutions to stop their progress. These groups take advantage of the lack of governance and rule of law, insecurity, and inequality, which are exacerbated through conflict. As such, a military and security response, while limiting their capabilities, ultimately cannot stop the spread of ideology.

Intracultural and cross-cultural dialogue and exchange can play a critical role in dissuading violent extremists.

Intolerance is, in part, bred out of ignorance. Dialogue is necessary between and within cultures through social interaction and education. Women can, and must, have a safe space to engage in these types of dialogues, as they are often the first to reach across divides and build bridges. Peace is in the interest of women who are impacted differentially by conflict and also tasked with the business of living – of keeping families intact and ensuring livelihoods.

It is important to not essentialize women and assume

that their natural disposition will be towards peace simply because they are mothers.

The traditional roles ascribed to women in many societies as wives and mothers often uniquely position them to act as powerful agents of prevention. Yet, while mothers are their children’s first teachers, what is taught is not always peaceful and tolerant. When considering how to engage and empower women for countering violent extremism, it is important to understand the varied roles of women in this area including the motives that move women towards violent extremism.⁹

Countering violent extremism requires culturally relevant solutions and local knowledge.

It is important to remember that women are not a monolithic social group. Their potential and their power will be shaped by their self-perception and how their communities perceive them. In order for any interventions to be effective, they must have local buy-in from communities, including within and beyond the household.



“Local knowledge is crucial in the negotiations and the political maneuvering must take place to ensure a women’s rights agenda that is sustainable and long-term.”

– Radhika Coomaraswamy, Lead Author, *Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000)*

ENDNOTES

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Utilizing Modern Technology in Peacekeeping Operations to Improve Security for Women and Girls

Panel Two • 25 November 2014

“Protecting civilians is one of our biggest challenges in peacekeeping, and it requires that we be innovative to broaden our responses, and to use all means necessary. Technology is complementary to this as we face ever-changing and increasing complexities.”

– David Haeri, *Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support*

Recommendations

- Leveraging modern technologies can improve operations on all fronts, especially with regard to the protection of civilians, particularly women and children.
- Technology is not gender neutral, and it must be deployed with this understanding in order to be effective.
- Verify the validity of crowd-sourced reporting and maintain the confidentiality of data.
- Tailor the deployment of technology to specific actors.

PANEL TWO SPEAKERS



DAVID HAERI, Director, Policy, Evaluation and Training Division, Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support



HERVÉ LADSOUS, Under-Secretary-General, Department Of Peacekeeping Operations



SARAH WILLIAMSON, Founder and Managing Director, Protect the People

Full biographies begin on page 85



The Department of Peacekeeping Operations has historically utilized technology to enhance missions in order to fulfill its mandate to protect civilians. Today, the advent of modern technologies and the rapid development of new platforms for intelligence have necessitated that we look more deeply into how these technologies impact conflict and post-conflict societies, as well as how they impact women, specifically. Despite a persistent ‘digital divide’ between the developed and developing world in terms of access to technology, there are a multitude of ways in which technology can be leveraged to improve peacekeeping operations as it becomes more and more available in conflict settings. Being able to predict emerging threats, react quickly and efficiently to instances of violence, and understand community needs are essential to effective peacekeeping in a changing terrain of vio-

“By making these technologies available to women and ensuring they are developed with gender-sensitive criteria, women are better able to protect their families and communities through information-sharing, reporting, documenting abuses, and coordinating responses to crises.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations



“It is of paramount importance that sex-disaggregated data be collected as a matter of course, so that we can be sure that our responses are sensitive to [women’s] needs. Beyond that, of course, women must engage in the dialogue about technology and the best uses of it for their protection.”

– Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations

lent conflict. Leveraging modern technologies can improve operations on all of these fronts, especially with regard to the protection of civilians, particularly women and children.

Monitoring

Early-warning monitoring, observing instances of violence, and predicting future threats are the areas where the potential for new technologies to enhance conflict prevention is greatest. The majority of environments in which peacekeepers are working today are not conventional peacekeeping situations, and, increasingly, peacekeeping missions begin in the midst of conflict. These uncertain contexts require intelligence-led peacekeeping that necessitates being able to predict and mitigate emerging threats. Aerial and satellite imagery is a powerful tool to monitor combatant movement and tailor interven-

tions to the needs to local populations. Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) have revolutionized the work of the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DR Congo (MONUSCO), not only in monitoring combatant activity, but also in tracking migration and the movements of civilians being pushed from their homes by attacks, the majority of whom are women and children.¹ UAVs and other geospatial intelligence tools can serve as deterrents to violence if combatants know that their movements can be detected, and that they can be held accountable for crimes committed. Collecting and archiving this data also allows for predictive analysis. Attempts to create a coordinated platform to unify reports are laying the groundwork for a historical database of conflict data that could be mined by analysts to predict patterns in future instances of violence.² In conflicts like the



“What I think we can all agree on is that the continued violation of physical integrity of the populations that the UN is meant to protect requires innovative approaches – and it also requires cooperation with the private sector, which is developing a lot of the tools and technologies that are being used today.”

– Sarah Williamson, *Protect the People*

DR Congo, where sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) targeted at women and girls is rampant, geospatial technology can pinpoint emerging threats and better protect vulnerable populations. The Expert Panel on Technology and Innovation in UN Peacekeeping made a strong recommendation for the use of drones, or the capacity for aerial visualization, in all UN missions, calling them “simply too useful a tool... to do without,” but also underlining the importance of transparency in their use.³

Reporting

In addition to big data that can provide a more comprehensive set of analytics, technology opens new avenues to collect micro-level conflict data: eyewitness reports of violence, individual reports of SGBV, and local views on community needs. Platforms for crowd-sourced data range from mainstream social media platforms to specialized software applications developed for specific contexts. Women are uniquely positioned to contribute to these information streams as they tend to be attuned to community-level happenings and trends. This data can be a major asset for peacekeepers in targeting aid and adapting to local specificities. One MONUSCO program, Community Alert Networks (CAN), involves a Short Message Service (SMS) reporting tool that allows civilians to register reports of violence directly to UN peacekeeping forces.⁴ Though this kind of self-reporting can be more difficult to verify, it can be used to corroborate other information streams and helps

to underscore the seriousness of claims that may otherwise be disregarded. This is particularly useful for women who can use SMS technology to safely report and document instances of SGBV. In these cases, technology can provide an extra layer of safety for reporters as community contributors can often be targeted for collaborating with peacekeeping forces, and women, in particular, face a backlash for reporting on crimes of SGBV. In the case of MONUSCO's CAN system, mobile phones distributed for the purpose of early warning monitoring were given to identified community focal points, primarily men. Women were often unwilling to approach a man to report instances of SGBV, leading to underreporting through the CAN system.⁵ Additionally, despite the opportunity for SMS tools to be used as a safety buf-

fer for reporters, they also come with the potential for abuse. Peacekeeping forces must put in place strong systems for maintaining data privacy and confidentiality. Geocoded text messages and other identifiers tied to SMS submissions leave women in a vulnerable position if data is published or if data security is breached.⁶

Voice and Agency

The same technologies that allow women to report SGBV can be harnessed to improve women's voice and agency in conflict and post-conflict settings. Improving women's access to information and avenues through which to share their opinions helps ensure that their voices are part of important



“It is important to think not just of women as victims, but women as empowered actors who can shape the nature of the peace process, the nature of legislation, and other aspects which may come from peace agreements, and most critically, I would say, in constitution-making.”

– David Haeri,
*Departments of Peacekeeping
Operations and Field Support*

discussions about political transitions, peacemaking, and community development. Including women's voices in post-conflict recovery is critical in ensuring that institutions address their needs as countries transition out of conflict.⁷ Even basic steps, such as installing streetlights and increasing access to clean water, can make a marked difference in the safety and security of women and girls. Yet, in many cases, women are not consulted in reconstruction efforts. An initiative in South Africa called Violence Prevention through Urban Upgrading sought to change this trend by incorporating community input and crime data when redesigning a downtown area. This initiative proved successful, with a visible drop in assault in the areas transformed by the project, where women had been consulted on matters of personal safety in public spaces.⁸



“Big data, such as social media and mobile phones, have increasingly been used in conflict situations to coordinate emergency relief and share information. Eyewitness reports from emails, text messages, and social media can be plotted on interactive maps to create crisis maps in disaster and conflict situations, allowing humanitarians and the communities affected to better respond and deliver assistance.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United Arab
Emirates to the United Nations

Innovative programming by democracy and development NGOs has shown anecdotally that women’s voices and political participation can be successfully amplified through the use of mobile technology. An initiative in Kenya introduced an SMS platform to report citizen input to local government authorities and found that women in the rural Isiolo county – who feared backlash for participating in traditional public forums – were able to use SMS technology to share their dissatisfaction on budgetary priorities, successfully halting the budget process.⁹ These lessons and tactics could be transferred to peacekeeping operations in order to ensure that women’s input is taken into account in the post-conflict reconstruction process.

Barriers to Women’s Access to Technology

There is a ‘digital divide’ between the developed and the developing world, as well as between men and women, where women in developing countries are less likely to have access to new technologies. Across the developing world, nearly 25% fewer women than men have access to the internet, and that gap reaches 35% in the Middle East and South Asia, and almost 45% in parts of sub-Saharan Africa.¹⁰ A 2013 global survey by Groupe Speciale Mobile Association (GSMA) found that women are 21% less likely to own a mobile phone than men, increasing to 23% in Africa, 24% in the Middle East, and 37% in South Asia.¹¹ In times of conflict, the

marginalization of women is exacerbated by a lack of access to communications technology, which can provide women in remote areas with the ability to better protect themselves, their families, and their communities.

Despite these barriers, surveys also found that women who do have access to mobile and internet technology are using it to enhance their own safety, security, and economic empowerment. 93% of women surveyed by GSMA said they felt safer because of their mobile phones. In addition to providing a tool that can bolster community security, mobile phones provide a measure of personal safety to women. Women surveyed in Egypt, Uganda, Mexico, and India reported lack of access, lack of ability, and cultural norms as the greatest barriers to accessing the internet. Targeted programs, policy

changes, and initiatives by internet and mobile providers can make a difference in mitigating these challenges and connecting women to the internet and to tools they can use to increase their personal security and to contribute to wider peacekeeping and stability operations.

Recommendations

Leveraging modern technology can improve peacekeeping operations, especially with regard to the protection of civilians, particularly women and children. Technology opens new avenues to collect micro-level conflict data: eyewitness reports of violence, individual reports of SGBV, and local views on community needs. Providing women with the technology for monitoring and reporting, such as through SMS technology, allows them to contribute to these information streams. This is extremely





useful, as women tend to be attuned to community-level happenings and needs.

Technology is not gender neutral, and it must be deployed with this understanding in order to be effective.

In addition to the gender gap in access to technology, there are a number of other gendered factors that must be taken into consideration when using modern technology to improve security for women. When MONUSCO distributed mobile phones in the DR Congo to aid in reporting instances of violence, community liaisons worked mainly with local leaders, who were primarily men. Thus, the majority of mobile phones were given to men, and women were less likely to report instances of SGBV, as to do so would require approaching either a male community leader or a man in their own family. Even in cases where safety is not a risk, as in anonymous community polling or through the use of SMS tools for engaging with elected officials, if only men are able to access and use these platforms, the data collected may not reflect women's voices. Understanding who has access to and control of techno-

logical tools is necessary in order to provide a safe and confidential way for women to monitor and report violence and to voice their opinions.

Verify the validity of crowd-sourced reporting and maintain the confidentiality of data.

This is a significant challenge for peacekeepers, but the need to preserve the confidentiality of data remains paramount, particularly for women. With tools such as social media or SMS reporting, selection, recall, and reporting biases all tend to be inevitable. Peacekeeping operations must develop systems to not only triage the large amounts of reports, but also to ensure that reporters' identities are safeguarded in sensitive cases. Especially in instances of SGBV, identifying victims can lead to social stigmatization and backlash against them by their families or communities, or even new attacks. While modern technology can facilitate protected reporting of these crimes, it can also expose victims through identifiable usernames or phone numbers if data is leaked. It is also important that data security and data analysis keep up with developments in technology.

Tailor the deployment of technology to specific actors. There are different actors in any peacekeeping situation, and each of these actors has different technological capabilities and access. It is necessary to tailor initiatives to police, military, humanitarian agencies, civil society organizations, political actors, and civilians that are useful and usable to each group. Improving peacekeeping through new technologies requires partnering with the private sector so that those who are developing new tools are doing so in a gender-sensitive manner, and partnering with local communities to understand how and by whom technologies are used on the ground.

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“Real opportunities, I think, for women and girls [are] through technological shifts to raise social issues and to bring the attention of the world to some of the most egregious crimes against them, including sexual violence and abuse of women in areas of conflict.”

– *Hervé Ladsous, Under-Secretary-General, Department of Peacekeeping Operations*

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Women, Peace and Security in the Context of Climate Change

Panel Three • 15 January 2015

“By recognizing the critical role that women play in fighting climate change, we will enhance the impact of our actions.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the
United Arab Emirates to the United Nations

Recommendations

- Increase linkages between the climate change and WPS agendas in policymaking and practice.
- Empower women to prevent, mitigate, and adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change.
- Implement gender-informed policies and increase women's leadership in decision-making positions.
- Recognize the contributions of rural women to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change.
- Engage the private sector in responses to climate change in a gender-sensitive manner.



The Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS) provides a useful framework to further explore the linkages between climate change and its potential impacts on peace and security from a gender perspective. Yet, when the WPS agenda was first concretized through the UN system in resolution 1325 (2000), it did not address insecurities for women that arise from climate-related development and conflict challenges. Nor did this resolution provide any specific guidance on integrating women as agents of mitigating climate-related degradation and social tension. However, principles from resolution 1325 (2000) are applicable to the field of climate change. It is critical that the international community recognizes this linkage and catalyzes policymaking and practice that bridge the WPS and climate change agendas.

“Climate change poses one of the most significant challenges to the achievement of sustainable development, disproportionately impacting women and girls.”

– Lakshmi Puri,
Deputy Executive Director,
UN Women

PANEL THREE SPEAKERS



ELEANOR BLOMSTROM, Program Director and Head of Office, Women's Environment and Development Organization



LAKSHMI PURI, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women – Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships



SUSAN MARKHAM, Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, United States Agency for International Development



JEFFREY D. SACHS, Special Advisor to the UN Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

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“We need an increase in funding on education to make this the center of the sustainable development agenda – the education of women and girls is critical to addressing climate change and to alleviating poverty.”

– Jeffrey D. Sachs, Special Advisor to the Secretary-General on the Millennium Development Goals

Climate change remains one of the most significant challenges to the achievement of sustainable development, adversely affecting women and girls, who constitute the majority of the world’s poor.¹ The impacts of climate change – extreme weather, droughts, and floods, amongst many others – have increased the vulnerability and insecurity of women and girls around the world. This is exacerbated by a lack of robust decision-making power for women within local communities, which impedes the ability of women to participate in community-based adaptation and mitigation strategies. At the international policy-making level, women remain under-represented in leadership and decision-making processes. Yet, women play a vital role in ensuring food, water, and energy security for their families and are keenly aware of potentially successful mitigation and adaptation strategies.

Community-Level Tensions

In the developing world, women farmers produce 45-80% of all food.² Approximately two-thirds of female workers in these countries are engaged in agricultural work; in Africa alone, 90% of the female labor force works in the agricultural sector.³ Within rural communities, women are primarily responsible for providing food, clean water, and energy to their households. The onset of droughts, floods, soil erosion, and other forms of land degradation have made these processes more difficult, exacerbating existing drivers of conflict, such as poverty, weak institutions, and political instability.⁴ All of these factors have implications for gender equality.

Women are forced to travel farther to acquire necessities, such as fuel and water, and have become



“Women are already trying to adapt to climate change in innovative, small scale ways. However, their contributions are rarely recognized, valued, or supported. This results in lost opportunities. We need to be looking to women who are on the front lines to not only help them, but also to learn from them.”

– Susan Markham, United States Agency for International Development

more vulnerable to gender-based violence when they leave the protection of their communities on these long journeys, especially in conflict-affected settings.⁵ Furthermore, the additional time spent procuring such necessities has impacted the amount of time that women and girls can spend on their education⁶ and other vital activities, such as caring for their families. Overall, women and children around the world spend approximately 140 million hours per day collecting water for their families and communities.⁷

Natural Disasters

During natural disasters, women comprise one of the most vulnerable populations. “A lack of access to information and resources, entrenched gender stereotypes and inequalities, and cultural restrictions makes women and girls among the most

susceptible to climate risks.”⁸ On average, women and children are 14 times more likely to die during natural disasters than men.⁹ For example, in the 1991 cyclone disaster that killed 140,000 in Bangladesh, 90% of the victims were women.¹⁰ More recently, in the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami, nearly one in five displaced women died—more than twice the mortality rate of displaced men.¹¹

Unfortunately, women tend to have less access to early warning systems and disaster-preparedness trainings than their male counterparts.¹² Further, when there is not a coordinated effort to ensure gender-sensitive disaster reduction and response, there is an increase in sexual and gender-based violence, as well as in public health problems.¹³ Women have difficulty safely accessing shelter, food, and health-care, and when women attempt to access these resources, they might find themselves exposed to ha-

rassment and other unsafe situations.¹⁴ As such, it is crucial that emergency humanitarian relief seeks to understand and address the specific needs of women and girls.

Forced Migration

It is estimated that by 2050, anywhere between 25 million and one billion people will be forced to migrate due to the impacts of climate change, depending on the size and magnitude of a number of climate scenarios.¹⁵ Climate change has led to higher levels of displacement, where people are forced to leave their communities due to environmental degradation and natural disasters.

In the context of depleted natural resources or natural disasters, many people are forced to migrate in search of livelihoods. Women and men face different challenges in migration, where women are often left disproportionately vulnerable due to structural, cultural, social, and economic challenges. When male family members migrate, female

members are often left without a breadwinner and must cope with an environment of reduced security for their families. As de facto heads of household, women are often required to perform their traditional roles as caregivers, in addition to earning income to support their families. Additionally, when women must migrate in search of work, they are increasingly vulnerable without the security of their communities. They are often easy targets for exploitation by human traffickers and smugglers when negotiating so-called work contracts.

Gender-Informed Climate Policy

At the international level, women remain underrepresented in climate change poli-

“It’s not enough to have women at the table and then hope that effects trickle down to the grassroots. Empowering the middle is critical, and connecting the international, national, and local is inseparable to creating change.”

– Eleanor Blomstrom,
Women’s Environment and
Development Organization



cy-making. Within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), there has been significant progress towards closing this gap, though challenges remain.

A total of 40 (10.6%) of the 376 UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP) decisions reference gender.¹⁶ Out of the five main areas of negotiations within the UNFCCC – adaptation, capacity-building, finance, mitigation, and technology – adaptation boasts the most gender-sensitive language, with a total of ten decisions integrating gender references.¹⁷ This contrasts to the mitigation area of negotiation, which has the lowest number of references to gender.¹⁸ Additionally, only a handful of these decisions refer to gender balance and increasing women’s participation on boards and bodies and the need for a gender-sensitive approach and gender balance.¹⁹

UNFCCC boards and bodies, which have a specific mandate²⁰ to target gender balance, also lag behind on implementation. The highest concentration of women within a UNFCCC body is the Consultative Group of Experts, where 40% of current members are women, followed by the Standing Committee on Finance, which comprises 37% of female participation.²¹ One-quarter of the Adaptation Committee members are women.²² Fewer than 15% of the members on the Technology Executive Committee, the Climate Technology Centre and Network Advisory Board, and the Green Climate Fund Board are comprised of women.²³

Empowerment and Solutions

As women serve as the primary providers of food, fuel, and water for their families, they remain acutely aware of ways to mitigate and adapt to the im-



pacts of climate change.²⁴ The international community must seek their involvement to effectively combat this threat—after all, “women’s participation and leadership in addressing...these challenges has never been more relevant or urgent.”²⁵ Women need to share this knowledge within their communities and hold greater decision-making power regarding community adaptation and mitigation strategies. Gender equality and women’s empowerment must be incorporated into adaptation and mitigation policies and programs at the national and international levels.²⁶ However, it is not only important to have women in leadership positions; the international community must “empower the middle,”²⁷ which is essential for connecting the local, national, and international levels of climate change policies.²⁸ Empowering women is critical to finding sustainable solutions to the defining crises of our time – climate change, and its potential impacts on peace and security from a gender perspective.

Recommendations

Increase linkages between the climate change and WPS agendas in policymaking and practice. Through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), the Security Council stated that it will increase the attention given to women and peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, such as climate change. As women continue to bear a disproportionate burden to the impacts of climate change, as well as during conflict, it is crucial that they are active in designing and implementing mitigation and adaptation responses.

Empower women to prevent, mitigate, and adapt and respond to the impacts of climate change. Educating and empowering women and girls is central to finding sustainable solutions. We must dispel the myth that women are only victims of climate change, and provide them with the tools to implement climate solutions.



Implement gender-informed policies and increase women’s leadership in decision-making positions. Women on the frontlines are already adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change. It is crucial that we harness this knowledge and integrate it into local and national strategies, as well as international climate change treaties and decisions.

Recognize the contributions of rural women to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. As the primary providers of food, fuel, and water in rural communities, women remain acutely aware of techniques to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It is crucial that we look deeper into what these women are doing on the front lines – both seeking to support and learn from them.

Engage the private sector in responses to climate change in a gender-sensitive manner. The private sector is powerful, influential, and controls significant resources. It cannot be perceived solely as a culprit of climate change but, instead, must be tapped as a source for positive change. Protecting and empowering women is central to the bottom line.



“We must ensure that responses to climate change including adaptation and mitigation strategies are based on the realities of the environment, the risks of conflict, and the differing needs of men and women.”

– Lakshmi Puri
Deputy Executive Director, UN Women



“Millions of women around the world are on the front lines of climate change, and the impacts of shifting temperatures, recurring droughts, erratic rainfall, extreme weather events, and increased insecurity due to climate change affect their lives in profound ways.”

– Lakshmi Puri
Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

ENDNOTES

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¹⁸ *Id.*

¹⁹ *Id.* (Prior to Lima (COP 20), a total of five decisions referenced gender balance and eight acknowledged the need for a gender-sensitive approach).

²⁰ Decision 36/CP.7. “Improve the participation of women in the representation of Parties in bodies established under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change or the Kyoto Protocol.” 2001, COP7; Decision 23/CP.18. “Promoting gender balance and improving the participation of women in UNFCCC negotiations and in the representation of Parties in bodies established pursuant to the Convention or the Kyoto Protocol.” 2012, COP18.

²¹ UN FCCC/CP/2013/4. Report on gender composition: Conference of the Parties Twentieth session Lima, 1–12 December 2014 Item 17 of the provisional agenda Gender and climate change.

²² *Id.*

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ See, e.g., “Climate change and gender: economic empowerment of women through mitigation and adaptation?” Deutsche Gesellschaft für Technische Zusammenarbeit (GTZ). Oct. 2010. (“The role of women in mitigation measures should not be under-estimated. Developing countries have the potential to reduce or store greenhouse gases, particularly in areas in which women are already active. Thus providing energy for the household is usually a woman’s job and she often resorts to the energy-inefficient open burning of biomass, e.g., firewood. The use of efficient energy systems at the household level (e.g., special cooking stoves and ovens) could reduce emissions and harness the potential of women as actors for mitigation measures.”).

²⁵ Lakshmi Puri. Panel Discussion on Women, Peace and Security in the Context of Climate Change. 15 January 2015; As recent COP Decision 23/CP.18 highlighted, the international community must “recognize the importance of women’s empowerment and their full participation on equal terms with men in all spheres of society, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power.” COP Decision 23/CP.18.

²⁶ Susan Markham. Panel Discussion on Women, Peace and Security in the Context of Climate Change. 15 January 2015.

²⁷ Eleanor Blomstrom. Panel Discussion on Women, Peace and Security in the Context of Climate Change. 15 January 2015.

²⁸ *Id.*



A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All

Panel Four • 24 February 2015

“With reparations and other forms of restorative justice, we can change the post-conflict narrative for survivors of wartime rape from one of uncertainty, poverty, and rejection to one of hope, dignity, and empowerment.”

– Zainab Hawa Bangura, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Recommendations

- Include women in the design, delivery, and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.
- Create interventions that strategically address women’s lack of participation in transitional justice processes.
- Utilize transitional justice mechanisms to address systemic discrimination.
- Incorporate local voices and marginalized groups into the transitional justice process to foster context-specific conceptions of justice that meet the needs of affected communities.
- When designing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, target female combatants, female support workers, and wives and dependents of male combatants, not only their male counterparts in armed groups.
- View reparations as a tool for human development, integral to supporting women’s economic empowerment and social reintegration.



“Victims in affected communities [are] to have a say – a say in the processes that ensure their well-being and justice. This is what will unleash the transformative impact of transitional justice.”

– Ilwad Elman, Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre

PANEL THREE SPEAKERS



MAYESHA ALAM, Associate Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



JAN ELIASSON, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



ZAINAB HAWA BANGURA, Under-Secretary-General, Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict



ILWAD ELMAN, Director of Programs and Development, Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre



RUBEN CARRANZA, Director, Reparative Justice Program, International Center for Transitional Justice



FIONNUALA NÍ AOLÁIN, Dorsey and Whitney Chair in Law, University of Minnesota Law School; Professor of Law, University of Ulster’s Transitional Justice Institute

Full biographies begin on page 85

Transitional justice provides a set of mechanisms to foster political and social reconciliation after conflict, acknowledge harms suffered, and provide redress to victims. For societies transitioning to peace, transitional justice can be a critical element in building democracy and provide an avenue through which to strengthen the rule of law and reform judicial institutions. Mechanisms of transitional justice include reparations, truth commissions, criminal tribunals, and institutional reform, among others. However, the field continues to struggle with the underrepresentation of women’s voices, experiences, and leadership in transitional justice processes.¹ This has the potential to undermine the quality of peace and reconciliation achieved because griev-

ances against women are left unaddressed and their conflict narratives do not help form the history of the conflict and its resolution. At the same time, women continue to be marginalized in transitioning societies, and women’s rights, more broadly, remain at the periphery of international human rights law.

Although not explicitly mentioned, transitional justice is inextricably linked with the UNSCR 1325 (2000) framework, cutting across the participation, prevention, and protection pillars. Understanding the post-conflict needs of women and girls is essential to creating transitional justice mechanisms that foster secure and peaceful communities. Transitional justice has become a criti-



In the wake of conflict, women have an essential role to play in building stability and prosperity. Transitional justice needs to take into account the opinions, needs, and rights of women if we are to address the full range of wrongs experienced by them.”

– Jan Eliasson,
Deputy Secretary-General
of the United Nations

cal component of efforts to strengthen the rule of law and integral to peacebuilding. A transformative approach to transitional justice involves addressing not just the consequences of violations committed during the conflict, but the structural context of discrimination, which enabled these violations to occur both during and before the conflict.² Employing this approach involves addressing the full range of rights violations women experience during conflict, and promoting women’s access and active participation in the design and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.

“Ensuring transformation requires engagement with economic empowerment for women. In the transition from war to peace, there are unique opportunities for individuals, states, and international organizations to seize the transformative moments to enable women to live full economic and political lives.”

– Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, University of Minnesota Law School; University of Ulster’s Transitional Justice Institute



Economic and Social Empowerment

Transitional justice experts have repeatedly stressed that women must be economically empowered in post-conflict societies. The long-term sustainability of transitional processes is dependent on the economic stability of society, and women – who comprise the majority of the world’s poor – are disproportionately affected by poverty in post-conflict settings. Ensuring transitional justice mechanisms include socio-economic rights violations as part of their mandates provides a critical opportunity to acknowledge and respond to the full range of rights violations suffered by women during conflict that stem from their systemic marginalization and exclusion.³ This is also important because poverty in the aftermath of conflict exacerbates the effects of other harms suffered and can make women vulnerable to exploitation and destitution.

Transitional justice should play an important role not only in prosecuting perpetrators, but also in empowering victims. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Zainab Hawa Bangura, cited an example from Sierra Leone where women victims of sexual violence were provided with small business grants. The success of this program was felt not only by the women, whose businesses thrived and who were once again respected as productive members of society, but also by the broader community. Women’s economic productivity paves the way for their economic independence, but the dividends of this empowerment are manifold, uplifting families and societies writ-large. These women hired staff, including

ex-combatants, bolstering economic activity in their villages. Moreover, the greatest rate of participation by women political candidates was observed in regions throughout the country where the program was implemented.⁴ These types of innovative interventions can bolster women's voice and agency in society, create jobs for other women and men, and contribute to economic growth.

Land reform and property rights for women are also central to successfully implementing transitional justice mechanisms and affecting long-term change and stability. Land management is one of the largest sectors for women's employment, and access to land cuts across a number of key issues, from resettlement, to security, to economic livelihood. Women lack ownership capacity in many places as a matter of both law and custom, and this inhibits their ability to rebuild their lives post-conflict, particularly in cases where they have been displaced, or their male relatives have been killed.⁵ Rule of law reform must emphasize the legal rights of women to acquire, inherit, retain, and own land and other assets. Economic and social rights go beyond mere capacity building and primary education, where transitional justice initiatives historically have focused. The transition from war to peace is dependent on the transformational value of human capital, and goals for women's empowerment should be more ambitious than basic literacy or small-scale loans.⁶

Specific Recognition of Gender Equality

The international community must facilitate women's participation and leadership in the design and implementation of transitional justice mecha-

“In order to best respond to the needs of women after conflict, it is essential that we anchor our approach to justice in a way that is not merely transitional, but transformative... This approach offers a more inclusive and equitable conception of justice, and implies long-term and sustainable changes that not only provide redress to victims and survivors, but also enable them to envision a new future.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United
Arab Emirates to the United Nations



nisms to ensure that they have a transformative impact.⁷ This includes specific recognition that incorporating a gender-sensitive perspective in these processes is key to promoting inclusive outcomes.⁸ References to women and gender must be explicit and consistent, rather than ad hoc, and should be recognized in all peace agreements and government structures. Gender-responsive budgeting that sets aside earmarked resources should be a minimum starting point to guarantee that women's needs are not only mentioned, but given the funding to be addressed as part of transitional justice processes.

There must be an expanded understanding of what the international community means by “women” in the transitional justice context.⁹ Without an appreciation of the varied roles and experiences of women in conflict, it is too easy to assume that women are only victims of atrocity or sexual violence. Though transitional justice mechanisms must take into account the challenges faced by survivors of sexual violence, this narrow understanding of women's roles can marginalize women who experienced conflict in other ways.¹⁰ For instance, if women's actions in combat are not considered for the purposes of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) programs, female combatants, female support workers, and the wives and dependents of male combatants are unlikely to receive the benefits of mechanisms targeting armed groups.¹¹ Ensuring that gender differentials are taken into account in all transitional justice mechanisms is crucial to ensuring that these processes respond to the needs and capacities of all members of the community. This also includes recognizing that women play a multitude of roles during conflict – survivors, victims, combatants – that must be addressed in transitional justice processes.



“In order to be truly transformative, transitional justice has to provide something to women that helps them move forward, rather than live in the past... While reporting, documenting, and arbitrating crimes are important, this is a narrow way of conceptualizing justice. What is it that women need to move beyond the pain caused by harms suffered and towards power over their own lives?”

– Mayesha Alam, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



Consultation

It is paramount that transitional justice initiatives are developed in active and long-term consultation with the communities that they are designated to help.¹² This process includes interventions that address the structural inequalities that prevent women from participating in the first place, and instituting specific measures to encourage women's active and meaningful participation. Encouragingly, some of the most radical and transformative proposals driving transitional justice have come from grassroots women and women's organizations.¹³ Ilwad Elman, a civil society activist from Somalia, detailed the difficulties of implementing transitional justice in regions where customary systems still dominate. Successes in Somalia are due to momentum built by activism on the ground and by indigenous political will, not by external organizations. Incorporating local solutions and voices can re-conceptualize what justice means to a particular community. Rwanda's Gacaca courts are another example of hybrid community-driven initiatives that combined traditional mechanisms with international justice norms. Conversely, donor-driven transitional justice mechanisms are not always the most valuable to local reconciliation and progress, and it is essential to examine who is making decisions about how funds are allocated.¹⁴

Women are often not consulted in the design of transitional justice mechanisms or informed of opportunities to engage in processes, in part because of the sociocultural marginalization of women, low literacy levels, or physical distance from venues in which formal processes occur. Interventions are needed that do not arbitrarily "add women" into the existing processes of transitional justice bodies, but



“What are reparations for? Are reparations meant only to deal with physical integrity violations and their consequences? Or are reparations meant to transform the situations of those being repared so that the violations they experience will not happen again?”

– Ruben Carranza, *International Center for Transitional Justice*

intentionally and strategically address the underlying structural inequalities that prevent women from accessing and benefiting from these processes. Specific measures can include outreach programs, quota provisions to ensure that women are represented in these processes at leadership levels, procedures for protecting the security and dignity of victims and witnesses, measures to compensate for time constraints and mobility, including travel and child care costs, ensuring processes take place in local languages, and, if necessary, the provision of identity documents to facilitate women's participation.

Reparations

Of all the measures designed to seek redress for past human rights violations, reparations are the most directly victim-focused of justice tools, and the justice mechanism most consistently prioritized

by women post-conflict. Reparations can provide acknowledgement of their rights as equal citizens, a measure of justice, crucial resources of recovery, and contribute to transforming underlying gender inequalities in post-conflict societies. However, despite their importance to victims and potential transformative impact, reparations are routinely left out of peace negotiations or sidelined in funding priorities in the immediate aftermath of conflict. It is also widely acknowledged that reparations programs have generally failed to address the needs of women or to adequately respond to the gender-specific harms suffered during periods of conflict.

Reparations, when administered in a gender-sensitive, comprehensive manner, can have a formidable, transformative impact on women and their families in post-conflict societies. “As we have seen century after century, war after war, justice is not merely

about punishing perpetrators, it is about empowering victims [and] ... the symbolic power [of reparations] is to recognize that the victim is a holder of rights that will be enforced.”¹⁵ Reparations robustly link economic empowerment, dignity, and social change.

The role of donors is especially important as the allocation of reparations is often subject to budget decisions by external funders. It is necessary that these funders recognize that reparations have major implications in the lives of recipients. Experience has shown that without explicit attention to women as beneficiaries, it is easy for certain groups of women to be left out: “When we talk about women as beneficiaries we have to be more specific and thoughtful in implementation.”¹⁶ To effectively structure reparations programs, gender-responsive budgeting is crucial.



“Overwhelming evidence confirms that respect for women’s rights promotes peace and sustainable development. This is especially true in conflict-ridden societies where wounds and feelings are raw. During and, not least, after conflicts, we must ensure that the voices of women are heard.”

– Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



In regards to design, the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence marked a critical step in laying out an international framework for the development and delivery of reparations to victims, and also recognized the need for an innovative approach.¹⁸ This mechanism has both the symbolic power to recognize victims’ rights and grievances, as well as create opportunities for agency and empowerment, if used correctly.¹⁹ Reparations should not only be a one-time cash stipend, but rather a tool for human development and a mechanism to support women’s economic empowerment and social reintegration. For reparations to be truly transformative, they have to go beyond monetary compensation to include land restitution, access to credit, and skills development.²⁰

“Transitions from conflict to peace offer unique moments for renegotiating the social and political compact. It is precisely because core assumptions, systems, and institutions are up for renegotiation that the transitional state offers a unique site for advancing the equality of women. We all grapple with the ‘reality gap’ between grand ambition of the WPS agenda and the stark realities of women’s daily lives marked by inequality. We must remain seized of the redemptive capacity that transitional societies offer to advance women’s material interests and equality.”

– Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, University of Minnesota Law School;
University of Ulster’s
Transitional Justice Institute



Recommendations

Include women in the design, delivery, and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms.

Transitional justice mechanisms offer women opportunities to participate in and influence peacebuilding processes. This can be achieved by ensuring the participation of women's rights groups and victims in shaping and monitoring transitional justice processes. New thinking about how women and girls can be incorporated into transitional justice institutions is needed for women to be truly effective and lead to long-term, sustainable peace and justice. This includes recognizing that women play an array of roles during conflict – as survivors, victims, combatants – and this should be reflected in the transitional justice process.

Create interventions that strategically address women's lack of participation in transitional justice

processes. Interventions are needed that do not simply “add women” into the existing processes of transitional justice bodies, but intentionally and strategically address the underlying structural inequalities that prevent women from accessing and benefiting from these processes. This can include outreach programs, quotas, procedures for protecting the security and dignity of victims and witnesses, providing remuneration for childcare costs and travel, providing identity documents, and conducting processes in the local language.

Utilize transitional justice mechanisms to address systemic discrimination.

Recommendations made by truth commissions and reparations initiatives can challenge discriminatory practices that contribute to women's vulnerability during repression and conflict. Addressing the structural context of discrimination that allowed violations to take place both during

and before conflict is necessary to hold perpetrators accountable and provide redress for victims.

Address socio-economic violations through transitional justice processes.

Socio-economic discrimination and violations are often linked to the root causes of conflict. The pluralities of harm faced by women in conflict and post-conflict settings are entangled with their continued economic marginalization. Addressing these violations in transitional justice processes can help to acknowledge and better respond to the full range of violations that women experience during conflict.

Incorporate local voices and marginalized groups into the transitional justice process to foster context-specific conceptions of justice that meet the needs of affected communities.

If used holistically, transitional justice mechanisms have the opportunity to transform a post-conflict society by encouraging holistic human development and empowering marginalized groups. Solutions from local communities and grassroots organizations are more likely to be suited to the needs and aspirations of affected communities, and are key to context-specific conceptions of justice.

When designing disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs, target female combatants, female support workers, and wives and dependents of male combatants, not only their male counterparts in armed groups.

If women's actions in combat are not considered for the purposes of disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration programs, female combatants are unlikely to receive the benefits of mechanisms targeting armed groups. This serves to restore physical

security during the disarmament and demobilization phase and lays the foundation for a more sustainable development process through reintegration assistance.

View reparations as a tool for human development, integral to supporting women's economic empowerment and social reintegration.

Women consistently prioritize reparations as a key tool to seek redress for past human rights violations. As the most directly victim-focused justice tool, reparations serve as a tool for human development and a mechanism to support women's economic empowerment and social reintegration by providing redress for crimes committed, a measure of justice for victims, and economic resources vital for recovery.

“If reparations are to be socially transformative, then justice must not only be done, it must be seen to be done. It may never be possible to make amends for this crime, but the symbolic power of reparations is to recognize that the victim is a holder of rights that will be enforced.”

– Zainab Hawa Bangura,
Under-Secretary-General, Special
Representative of the Secretary-General
on Sexual Violence in Conflict

“So if I have one message to you today it is this: We have to do more than strengthen the gender balance in transitional justice mechanisms. We must address the root causes of inequality. We come back to that all the time. Our aim should be justice that is not merely transitional, but transformative. The kind of justice we need addresses the context that makes discrimination possible. It covers all violations of women’s rights during conflict. And it promotes women’s full participation in all institutions.”

– Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

ENDNOTES

¹ See Mayesha Alam. *Women and Transitional Justice*. Palgrave Macmillan: New York, 2014; see also “Gender Justice.” ICTJ. 2015. <https://www.ictj.org/our-work/transitional-justice-issues/gender-justice>.

² See, e.g., “A Window of Opportunity: Making Transitional Justice Work for Women.” pp. 19-20. UN Women. Oct. 2012. www.unwomen.org/~media/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2012/10/06B-Making-Transitional-Justice-Work-for-Women.pdf.

³ Laplante, L.J., “Transitional Justice and Peace Building: Diagnosing and Addressing the Socioeconomic Roots of Violence through a Human Rights Framework”, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, vol. 2, no. 3, pp. 331-355. 2008.

⁴ Zainab Hawa Bangura. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015.”

⁵ Kindi, F. I., 2010. *Challenges and Opportunities for Women’s Land Rights in the Post-Conflict Northern Uganda*. MICROCON Research Working Paper 26, Brighton: MICROCON.

⁶ Fionnuala D. Ní Aoláin. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015.

⁷ Annika Bjorkdahl. “Advancing Women Agency in Transitional Justice.” *Gender-Just Peace and Transitional Justice*. Working Paper No. 1 (2013). lup.lub.lu.se/record/3955128/file/3955129.pdf.

⁸ See, e.g., WIDER Working Paper Sirkku Hellsten, *Transitional Justice and Aid*. UNU-Wider. Jan. 2012. http://www.wider.unu.edu/publications/working-papers/2012/en_GB/wp2012-006/ (Due to the unique experience of women – both during conflict and in the period of reconciliation— gender issues

need to be given special emphasis during the transitional process. Furthermore, transitional justice process needs to pay special attention to the gender dimensions of the underlying conflict, since, “as countries slide deeper into conflict, [generally] any previous political gains made by women are also lost as society is repatriarchalized through violence.”).

⁹ Mayesha Alam. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015.

¹⁰ See Laura C. Turano, “The Gender Dimension of Transitional Justice Mechanisms.” *NYU J. Int’l L. and Politics*. Vol. 43: 1045, 1046. 2013. nyujilp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/43.4-Turano.pdf (“The overwhelming focus on sexual violence obscures the full range of women’s experiences.”).

¹¹ Bouta, Tsjeard. 2005. *Gender and Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration: Building Blocs for Dutch Policy*. The Hague: Conflict Research Unit, Clingendael. <http://www.oecd.org/derec/netherlands/35112187.pdf>.

¹² Kieran McEvoy, Lorna McGregor. *Transitional Justice from Below: Grassroots Activism and the Struggle for Change*. p. 69 Hart Publishing: Portland, 2008 (“The transitional justice processes which have involved substantial local consultations have provided, “a better understanding of the dynamics of past conflict, patterns of discrimination and types of victims.”).

¹³ Ruben Carranza. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015.

¹⁴ *Id.*

¹⁵ Zainab Hawa Bangura. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable

Peace for All. 24 February 2015.

¹⁶ Mayesha Alam. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015. (For example, in Guatemala, reparations provided access to land for widows, but not to single or married women due to cultural assumptions about family structures).

¹⁷ “Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.” The United Nations. June 2014. www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/GuidanceNoteReparationsJune-2014.pdf.

¹⁸ See, e.g., González et al. (“Cotton Field”) v. Mexico (Inter-American Court of Human Rights 16 November 2009) para 450; Special Rapporteur on Violence Against Women, “Reparations to Women Who Have Been Subjected to Violence,” 17, U.N. Doc. A/HRC/14/22 (2010) para 31 (Advances in international law and policy including the Secretary General’s Guidance Note on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence have recognized the need for reparations to be transformative in design, implementation and impact, subverting instead of reinforcing gender hierarchies and systemic marginalization).

¹⁹ Critically, “reparations [must] respond to gender-specific impacts of abuses, which include, but go well beyond rape and other forms of sexual violence.” “Transitional Justice and Women’s Rights: Four Countries to Watch This Year. Nepal: Providing Women with the Support They Need.” ICTJ. 2014. <https://www.ictj.org/news/transitional-justice-womens-rights>.

²⁰ Jan Eliasson. Panel Discussion on A Transformative Approach to Transitional Justice: Building a Sustainable Peace for All. 24 February 2015.



Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum

Panel Five • 5 May 2015

“The evidence is clear: if we first lift up the health of women and their children, we will also lift up the foundations for both peace and prosperity.”

– H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid, Maternal and Newborn Health Advocate

Recommendations

- Address the gender gap in humanitarian action to respond to the distinct and shared needs of women and men.
- Ensure accountability amongst all actors for the implementation of gender-responsive humanitarian action.
- Enable the effective participation of women in the design, delivery, implementation, and monitoring of humanitarian programming.
- Strengthen the link between the humanitarian and development continuum through enhanced risk programming, preparedness, and resilience building.
- Prioritize women's empowerment and gender equality in times of crisis as a life-saving issue.
- Address structural funding gaps that marginalize women and girls with predictable and flexible funding for gender.
- Institutionalize consistent implementation of the Gender Marker throughout the humanitarian programming cycle.
- Systemize the collection and utilization of sex- and age-disaggregated data.

“Work on women’s empowerment and gender equality should continue in times of crisis. We all know that crisis responses are never only six months – we mentioned over 17 years today as the duration. Surely we have an obligation to do better in those circumstances.”

– Julie Lafrenière, Oxfam Canada

PANEL FIVE SPEAKERS



YANNICK GLEMAREC, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN Women



DAVID MILIBAND, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee



KYUNG-WHA KANG, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs



H.R.H. PRINCESS SARAH ZEID, Global Maternal and Newborn Health Advocate



JULIE LAFRENIÈRE, Head, Gender-Based Violence and Conflict Initiative, Oxfam Canada

Full biographies begin on page 85

The humanitarian world is facing an unprecedented strain on its resources: “The cost of assisting refugees and internally displaced people reached \$128 billion last year, a 267% rise from 2008.”¹ The global refugee population is the largest it has been since the Second World War,² and approximately 80%³ of the world’s 55 million⁴ refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) are women and children.

Women and girls are disproportionately affected during conflict and crises. In these situations, women are further marginalized, excluded from decision-making, and prevented from living in dignity. Women and girls suffer disproportionately from sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); sexual exploitation, human trafficking, female genital mutilation, domestic violence, and forced marriages

increase significantly in crisis contexts due to profound vulnerabilities, additional exposure to risk, weak or absent rule of law, and a lack of adequate prevention and response services.⁵ Understanding gendered differences and inequalities can help target assistance and ensure that the unique needs of women and girls are met. It can also highlight opportunities to draw on women and men as resources based on their particular capabilities, which can improve the effectiveness of humanitarian assistance.

According to David Miliband, President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee, “Services only work when women and girls are agents of their own change, and not passive recipients.”⁶ Further, evidence demonstrates that robust engagement by



“We’ve also learned that it’s not enough to just target women and girls. Interventions focused on transforming beliefs and attitudes related to gender need to also target those with the power to change them, namely men and boys.”

– *David Miliband, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee*

women in peace and security efforts can enhance humanitarian efforts,⁷ bolster economic revitalization,⁸ and prevent a relapse into violence.⁹ Beyond evidence that indicates women’s participation is strategically valuable, the tenets laid out in UNSCR 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) call for women’s active and meaningful inclusion in decision-making on priority areas of action, as well as the allocation of resources in humanitarian crises. This includes strengthening women’s machineries, women’s organizations, and civil society organizations through capacity building in humanitarian action and early recovery efforts. In addition to building capacities, tapping women’s coping capacities and indigenous knowledge on early warning can provide unique insight that will help humanitarian actors create more effective programming.

Despite the evidence and strong normative frameworks that call for women’s inclusion in decision-making processes, several roadblocks exist. These include a lack of attention to the interplay between gender, complex humanitarian crises, and development, as well as inadequate funding and a lack of accountability. The international community’s focus must be on women’s empowerment and gender equality both in times of crisis, and in times of peace, with an eye towards interventions that foster long-term development. Further, it is crucial that women participate in the design, delivery, and implementation of humanitarian policies and programs to ensure that they benefit from these interventions. Yet, there is currently no official, defined mechanism to ensure women’s participation within the humanitarian coordination architecture.

“We cannot achieve long-term change that transforms the lives of those living in poverty or those affected by conflict and natural disasters if half of the world’s population isn’t included in the consultations, design, or implementation, whether of latrines, or camps, or peace processes.”

– *Julie Lafrenière, Oxfam Canada*



Gender, Complex Humanitarian Crises, and Sustainable Development

The nature of conflict and displacement has become more complex in recent years.¹⁰ While the number of wars between states is at a record low in 2015, the size of the refugee and displaced population is at an all-time high, greater than at any point since the Second World War due to the prevalence of civil wars and the rise of violent extremism.¹¹ Further, unlike the archetypal image of refugees residing in refugee camps, 80% of the people presently in need of aid are *not* in camps, but rather live in urban centers.¹² The current system of delivering humanitarian

relief was built for short-term displacement, but, today, we are dealing with protracted humanitarian crises¹³ where the average duration of displacement is now 17 years.¹⁴

Displacement can either produce opportunities for women and girls to take on new roles in society, or deepen existing inequality amidst new threats and uncertainties.¹⁵ In the rush to provide urgent humanitarian assistance, such as food and shelter, gender considerations are often not prioritized. Humanitarian response mechanisms that fail to be gender-responsive may result in unequal access to humanitarian support, lack of protection from SGBV, and inadequate engagement of women in decision-making processes. This puts women at risk of further marginalization. However, providing essential services for women and their families can help alleviate immediate suffering, including the trauma and humiliation that comes from displacement.

“Progress to ensure gender-equitable and community-driven humanitarian action requires political will, leadership, financing, and formal mechanisms to efficiently incorporate gender considerations into humanitarian interventions.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United
Arab Emirates to the United Nations

While issues surrounding humanitarian action are certainly complex, there are a host of basic needs demanded by displaced women and girls that must be met, such as safe access to latrines, food distribution, secure transportation to schools, livelihood opportunities, and other necessities. For example, a focus on “locks, latrines, and lights” in humanitarian planning dramatically enhances physical security.¹⁶ The U.S. Department of State’s *Safe from the Start* initiative is another example of programming intended to protect women and girls.¹⁷ *Safe from the Start* seeks to prevent and respond to SGBV in all humanitarian emergencies.¹⁸

Additionally, successful programming recognizes the intimate relationship between humanitarian ac-



tion and development. Rather than rush to set up systems that discount unique vulnerabilities that women face in post-conflict settings, humanitarian actors must consult with these populations and seek to understand their concerns. Needs must be met in ways that enable women and girls to feel safe accessing services and foster sustainable, long-term development. Additionally, women’s rights organizations and movements must be galvanized—they are often forgotten actors who can bridge the divide between development and humanitarian action.¹⁹ One way to ensure these goals are met in the post-2015 agenda is to include targeted language in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to encourage all actors to prioritize these issues.

While Goal Five of the SDGs clearly articulates its goal to “attain gender equality, empower women and girls everywhere,”²⁰ the SDGs currently present a striking inadequacy: There is not a single target under Goal Five that references women and girls in conflict situations.²¹ There are opportunities, however, to imbue the SDGs with increased attention to women and girls in conflict settings. For example, there is space to entertain these concerns when Member States delineate indicators for each goal and series of targets, notably: Target 5.1 “end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere”; Target 5.2 “eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation”; Target 5.3 “eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilations”; and Target 5.5 “ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life,” to cite a few relevant targets. There is also a potential entry point when drafting indicators under Goal 16, which includes general targets on eliminating violence, and could enable real progress if broken down by gender.

“Violence is deeply rooted in gender inequality and discrimination and, therefore, solutions must tackle the structural, societal, and cultural issues that underpin it.”

– David Miliband,
President and CEO, International
Rescue Committee





“Less than 2% of overall investments in peace and security target women. Why? One of the reasons is structural funding gaps and the way we fund humanitarian efforts.”

– Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women

Funding

Another area that requires the attention of the international community is how to improve current funding mechanisms and funding decisions to uphold the promotion of gender equality and empower women. As of June 2015, it is estimated that humanitarian partners require \$18.8 billion to meet the needs of the 78.9 million most vulnerable people across 37 countries; only \$4.8 billion has been committed so far, leaving a \$14 billion funding gap.²² Funds needed today are five times greater than in 2004, when humanitarian partners requested \$3.4 billion to aid 45 million people.²³ The humanitarian system is overburdened by unprecedented demands as a result of complex and protracted crises, where the average duration of displacement is now 17 years;²⁴ this not only creates generational impacts within communities, but also places a huge stress on financial resources.²⁵



Inadequate financing is one of the key reasons for the lack of progress on the WPS agenda—in fact, less than 2% of overall investment in peace and security targets women. UN Women, along with Member States and civil society partners, has initiated the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action, to secure new sources of funding, expertise, knowledge generation, and action.²⁶ In terms of funding interventions, there is also an incredible missed opportunity for synergy between humanitarian, peacebuilding, and development financing. These discussions are currently happening in separate tracks, but bringing them together would better utilize limited and diminishing resources.²⁷ One possible approach to eliminate fragmented funding and to ensure sustainability is to create a UN trust fund that would combine both development and humanitarian assets into a single stream of funding.²⁸

Accountability

Despite good intentions, evaluations of humanitarian effectiveness show that gender equality results are still weak, and that the majority of interventions are still gender blind. There is a need to develop better methods and rigorously implement policies and tools, such as the IASC Gender Policy²⁹ and Gender Marker,³⁰ to hold all actors accountable to the commitments made in normative frameworks, including UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

The international community must first bring clarity to what is meant by “accountability,” and recognize that accountability exists at various levels: accountability of Member States vis-à-vis their people, accountability of humanitarian actors’ vis-à-vis do-



“Gender- and age-disaggregated data collection is still not consistent practice, and there is an acute failure to document the vulnerabilities of women and girls and crises.”

– *Kyung-wha Kang, Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator*

nors, and accountability to affected populations.³¹ Presently, the application of gender-responsive strategies is inconsistent, at best, and often highly dependent on individuals.³² Member States must energize each other and require individual leaders and actors to hold themselves to account.

Formal mechanisms are needed to ensure responsibility in the implementation of normative frameworks that encourage gender-responsive humanitarian action. For example, the IASC Gender Marker is a coding tool that determines whether a humanitarian project is designed in a way that will benefit women and men, and girls and boys equally, or advance gender equality. Unfortunately, the Gender Marker has not yet been widely employed in the humanitarian field, even though its use is mandatory for humanitarian response plans that utilize pooled funds. In programs that did use this tool in the past four years, fewer than 2% of the programs coded addressed inequalities that women and girls face.³³ In addition to making the IASC Gender Marker mandatory to track allocation of funds for gender equality across *all* humanitarian projects, donors should also demand that humanitarian actors collect and report sex- and age-disaggregated data so that needs will be concretely assessed, programs will be efficiently designed, and progress towards gender goals will be firmly monitored.

Recommendations

Address the gender gap in humanitarian action to respond to the distinct and shared needs of women and men. Humanitarian action should be grounded in a gender analysis that not only addresses differential needs, but also ensures that the rights,



capabilities, and capacities of women and men are upheld. Humanitarian action is the first step in addressing the needs of the displaced, and if it fails to meet the distinct needs of women and girls in crisis, it can entrench inequality and impede sustainable development for years to come. In fact, gender-responsive humanitarian action can potentially be transformative in nature through the institutionalization of programming that can strengthen gender-responsive governance, bolster women’s economic security, and advance women’s rights.

Ensure accountability amongst all actors for the implementation of gender-responsive humanitarian action. Member states, humanitarian actors, donors, and the affected population must hold one another to account and require that humanitarian responses institute gender-informed programming. Formal mechanisms should also be developed to ensure accountability for the implementation of normative frameworks that position gender equality as an essential component of humanitarian response.

“We must tear down the old and dysfunctional separations between development and humanitarian efforts and redesign our interventions at national and global level for risk management, investing in people’s personal resilience, preparedness, response, and recovery.”

– *H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid, Maternal and Newborn Health Advocate*

Enable the effective participation of women in the design, delivery, and implementation of humanitarian programming. Engaging women in humanitarian action at all levels will help to ensure that the specific needs and capacities of women are addressed. This includes listening to displaced women and incorporating their perspectives into service delivery. Women’s traditional roles as carers and providers for families means they are well placed to advise agencies on appropriate sanitation, water, feeding, and health care services, and to advise on effective and appropriate security. Services and programs will only work when women and girls are actively involved in humanitarian programming – from planning to evaluation – not just as passive recipients. It is crucial to examine the mechanisms, existing social mobilization structures, and funding



required to enable the meaningful participation of women in humanitarian programming. It is also important to recognize the obstacles that serve as a barrier to participation, such as a lack of local capacity and physical security threats, and how to overcome these challenges.

Strengthen the link between the humanitarian and development continuum through enhanced risk programming, preparedness, and resilience building. Today, the average duration of displacement is approaching seventeen years. Addressing basic needs must be integrated with long-term development goals in order to address the full range of needs of the affected population. In turn, creating this link has the potential to strengthen the fabric of governance, participation, and equality.

Prioritize women’s empowerment and gender equality in times of crisis as a life-saving issue. Noting the nature of today’s protracted humanitarian crises and the increasing duration of displacement, humanitarian action must address gender inequalities and work to prevent gender-based violence. This can be done by supporting local women’s rights organizations who have the potential to bridge the divide between humanitarian and development actors.

Address structural funding gaps that marginalize women and girls with predictable and flexible funding. Just 2% of peace and security investments target women. Yet, there is widespread evidence demonstrating that robust engagement by women in peace and security efforts can enhance humanitarian efforts, bolster economic revitalization, and prevent a relapse into violence. Predictable and flex-

“What we’ve learned in our nearly twenty years of women’s protection and empowerment work is that we have to address the violence targeted at women in order to really support their protection and empowerment – and that this absolutely must start with the provision of services.”

– David Miliband, President and CEO, International Rescue Committee



ible funds should be designated to programming that prioritizes gender equality and women’s empowerment. Member states can utilize the UN’s 15% target as a standard, which earmarks aid flows to areas of crisis and conflict to address women’s needs and further gender equality. Additional funding through dedicated mechanisms, such as the Global Acceleration Instrument and others, as outlined in Security Council resolution 2122 (2013), can support in addressing structural funding gaps.

Institutionalize consistent implementation of the Gender Marker throughout the humanitarian programming cycle. Monitoring and evaluation is key to measuring the effectiveness of programming. By standardizing the way in which humanitarians measure gender-specific programming, we can more consistently track results and allocate funding for

programs that support and advance gender equality. The Gender Marker should be embedded in donor’s funding policies, as well, so commitments are recorded at the resource level.

Systematize the collection and utilization of sex- and age-disaggregated data. This data is still not consistently collected, and there is an acute failure to document the vulnerabilities of women and girls in crises. Even when data is collected, it is not necessarily utilized in programming. Humanitarian actors must collect disaggregated data in order to concretely assess needs, design programs efficiently, and monitor progress towards gender equality goals. This data will not only improve the effectiveness of humanitarian programming, but also can provide additional evidence for gender equality programming, more broadly.

ENDNOTES

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² *Id.*

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⁴ Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. ECHO Factsheet. The European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. 2015. ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/refugees_en.pdf.

⁵ See, e.g., "Women in an Insecure World." DCAF. Sept. 2005. pp. 14-18. www.unicef.org/emerg/files/women_insecure_world.pdf.

⁶ David Miliband. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

⁷ For example, involving women community members in water and sanitation planning decisions improves services, according to a 15-country study. This is due to the fact that women often have a direct knowledge of the water and sewer services, and the needs of their community. See B. Gross, C. van Wijk, and N. Mukherjee, "Linking Sustainability with Demand, Gender, and Poverty: A Study in Community Managed Water Supply Projects in 15 Countries." IRC International Water and Sanitation Centre, NL. 2001. http://www.wsp.org/publications/global_plareport.pdf.

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⁹ Yannick Glemarec. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015. Furthermore, former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has acknowledged, "[T]here is no policy more effective [in promoting development, health, and education] than the empowerment of women and girls. And I would venture that no policy is more important in preventing conflict or

in achieving reconciliation after a conflict has ended." Michelle Bachelet, "9. Women as Agents of Peace and Stability: Measuring the Results." National Defense University. 2014. ndupress.ndu.edu/Books/WomenontheFrontlinesofPeaceandSecurity/WPSSectionIII.aspx.

¹⁰ David Miliband. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

¹¹ See "World Refugee Day: Global forced displacement tops 50 million for first time in post-World War II era." UNHRC. June 20, 2014. <http://www.unhcr.org/53a155bc6.html> ("The number of refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced people worldwide has, for the first time in the post-World War II era, exceeded 50 million people."); Max Roser, "War and Peace after 1945: # Number of state-based armed conflicts by type, 1946-2007." <http://ourworldindata.org/data/war-peace/war-and-peace-after-1945/>.

¹² Refugees and Internally Displaced Persons. ECHO Factsheet. The European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection. 2015. ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/thematic/refugees_en.pdf ("Almost two third of the world's refugees now live in urban areas.").

¹³ See, e.g., "Forced Migration Review: Protracted Displacement." Refugee Studies Centre, Oxford University. Issue 33. Sept. 2009. www.fmreview.org/FMRpdfs/FMR33/FMR33.pdf.

¹⁴ Global Humanitarian Overview. Status Report. Programme Support Branch, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. June 2015. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO-status_report-FINAL.pdf.

¹⁵ See, e.g., "Women, Peace and Security." United Nations. 2002. pp. 111, 120-122. www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/eWPS.pdf.

¹⁶ Dale Buscher. "Preventing gender-based violence: getting it right." Humanitarian Exchange Magazine. Feb. 2014. www.odihpn.org/humanitarian-exchange-magazine/issue-60/preventing-gender-based-violence-getting-it-right ("The three 'L's': lighting, locks and latrines – is one piece of prevention. Yet even this most basic level of protection, along with well-placed, well-lit water points and the establishment of neighbourhood watches and external security patrols, is unevenly implemented.").

¹⁷ Safe from the Start: Preventing and Responding to Gender-Based Violence (GBV) from the Onset of Emergencies. U.S. Dept. of State. www.state.gov/j/prm/policyissues/issues/c62378.htm ("The goal of Safe from the Start is: To reduce the incidence of GBV and ensure

quality services for survivors from the very onset of emergencies through timely and effective humanitarian action.").

¹⁸ "Safe from the Start." UNHCR. www.unhcr.org/pages/53f305846.html ("We will do this by deploying dedicated staff; insisting that everything we do, from shelter to sanitation to education to health care and more, is done with this as a priority; and by underscoring the accountability of staff to take all possible steps to prevent and respond to SGBV in different operational contexts.").

¹⁹ Sarah Zeid. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

²⁰ Open Working Group proposal for Sustainable Development Goals. UNDESA. 2015. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg-sproposal>.

²¹ David Miliband. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

²² Global Humanitarian Overview. Status Report. Programme Support Branch, Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. June 2015. http://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/GHO-status_report-FINAL.pdf.

²³ *Id.*

²⁴ *Id.*

²⁵ Yannick Glemarec. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

²⁶ This program was initiated to bridge funding that would allow rapid, flexible financing to key actors to ensure in particular women's participation and protection needs. See Mr. Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN Women. May 5, 2015. The United Arab Emir-

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²⁷ Kyung-wha Kang. Panel Discussion on Gender-Responsive Humanitarian Intervention in the Aftermath of Conflict: The Humanitarian-Development Continuum. 5 May 2015.

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²⁹ Inter-Agency Standing Committee Policy Statement: Gender Equality in Humanitarian Action. June 20, 2008. http://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/legacy_files/IASC%20Gender%20Policy%2020%20June%202008.pdf.

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³³ Ashley Binetti. "Emerging Humanitarian Frontiers." Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. June 11, 2015. <http://blog.giwps.georgetown.edu/emerging-humanitarian-frontiers/>.



The Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Harmonizing the High-Level Review Processes

Panel Six • 28 May 2015

“Women’s leadership in peace and security and the protection of women’s rights should come first and never be an afterthought in international security.”

– Jan Eliasson, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations

Recommendations

- Encourage women's meaningful participation in all peace and security endeavors.
- Acknowledge that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is not only a women's issue.
- Build systematic political accountability into our institutions, policies, and societies to advance women's participation.
- Recognize that women in the security sector offer distinct advantages and entry points for peacebuilding and augment their perspectives into the overall peace and security architecture.
- Designate greater resources to Women, Peace and Security efforts, including increased funding for women's groups on the ground.
- Address structural issues to achieve meaningful peace for all.



“If sustainable peace implies setting a country and people on a path to a shared future of equality, rights, and justice, gender equality must clearly be a key objective of all that we do to build peace.”

– Saraswathi Menon,
Advisory Group of Experts on
the Peacebuilding Architecture

PANEL SIX SPEAKERS



RADHIKA COOMARASWAMY, Lead Author, Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000).



YOUSSEF MAHMOUD, Senior Adviser, International Peace Institute



HON. LGEN. ROMÉO DALLAIRE, Founder, The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative



SARASWATHI MENON, Member, Advisory Group of Experts on the Peacebuilding Architecture



JAN ELIASSON, Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations



MELANNE VERVEER, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute For Women, Peace And Security



YANNICK GLEMAREC, Assistant Secretary-General, Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme, UN Women

Full biographies begin on page 85

Challenges facing the global community are changing rapidly, characterized by a volatile mix of political, economic, and security factors, exacerbated by trends including the growing impact of non-state actors and violent extremism, demographic pressures, and ever-more complex and protracted conflicts. To improve the UN's response to this concern, a number of high-level reviews have been carried out, tasked with enhancing the UN system's ability to build resilience, and prevent

and respond to the rapidly evolving context. These three high-level review processes are on (1) Women, Peace and Security (WPS); (2) Peace Operations; and (3) the Peacebuilding Architecture. As the international community's understanding of the links between political, security, and development processes underpinning conflict have grown, the time is ripe for all review processes and the post-2015 development agenda to reflect this reality and recognize women as central actors in all development



“It is critical that we recognize that women in the security sector as offering distinct advantages and entry points for peacebuilding and augment their perspectives into the overall peace and security architecture. Such an approach would not only benefit the peacekeeping operations, but also the empowerment of women in their local communities and national forces.”

– Hon. LGen. Roméo Dallaire,
The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative

and security efforts. There is great potential to reform how the international community approaches peace and security—and empowering and including women as an untapped resource to achieve this reform is critical.

Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000)

In preparation for the 2015 High-level Review on Women, Peace and Security, the Secretary-General commissioned a Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) (Global Study). The Study presents an invaluable opportunity to take stock of progress, review trends over time, fill knowledge and data gaps, critically examine persistent and emerging challenges, and capture lessons learned and good practices across regions.¹

“We have, in recent years, established beyond a doubt that women’s participation and inclusion makes humanitarian assistance more effective, strengthens the protection efforts of our peacekeepers, contributes to the conclusion of peace talks and sustainable peace, and accelerates economic recovery.”

– Yannick Glemarec, Deputy Executive Director, UN Women



The Global Study sought to bring the voices, experiences, and suggestions of women from conflict and post-conflict societies to the Security Council. First and foremost, insights from women on the ground highlighted their diverse experiences of conflict, proving a one-size-fits-all approach to 1325 will not succeed. Some populations prioritized increasing the presence of women in security forces, while others focused on healing and recovery after disastrous conflict. Each intervention must begin with a context-specific mapping of needs, and the meaningful participation of women in that mapping is essential. Women around the world emphasized that the UN must take the lead in breaking the cycle of militarization, instead employing a broader human security approach, including directing more resources to early warning systems, data collection, prevention of conflict mechanisms, strengthening rule of law, and promotion of dialogue at all levels.

Radhika Coomaraswamy, the Global Study’s lead author, shared five key recommendations: (1) The creation of an informal expert group in the Security Council for WPS issues; (2) The creation of a UN Tribunal on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse to deal with abuse by peacekeepers; (3) At the field level, in missions, the creation of a Senior Gender Advisor in the office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General supported by gender technical experts in each of the technical units of peace operations; (4) Resident co-coordinators of the UN system must have WPS as one of their priority areas in their mandates, especially in conflict situations, and there should be UN Women offices in all conflict-affected areas; and (5) Linking field and headquarters: There should be an Assistant Secretary-General



“Women’s organizations at the local and national level are the drivers of change; donor policies must not divide them, they must unite, deepen, and push the agenda forward.”

– Radhika Coomaraswamy, Lead Author, *Global Study on SCR 1325 (2000)*

in UN Women in charge of conflict, crisis, and emergency.² These proposed measures, among others from the Global Study, seek to ensure that gender is a truly a crosscutting platform in international peace and security endeavors.

Peace Operations Review

The Secretary-General established a High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations to make a comprehensive assessment of the state of UN peace operations today, and the emerging needs of the future, such that Peace Operations remain an indispensable and effective tool in promoting international peace and security.³ The WPS agenda naturally

intersects with efforts to improve UN peacekeeping operations, including efforts to reduce sexual and gender-based violence and ensure justice, rehabilitate female child soldiers, and increase women’s active inclusion in peacekeeping missions; measures have been taken to ensure that gender equality, as well as women, peace and security elements, are highlighted throughout this important review. For example, the terms of reference for the panel specifically prioritize gender across all areas of the panel’s deliberations, and have called on the panel to ensure “positive synergy” between the Panel and the Global Study on Resolution 1325. Further, the panel has held dedicated consultations with women’s organizations and women affected by conflict.

The challenges of sexual violence in conflict have major implications for peacekeeping. Rape is used as a destabilizing weapon of war that tears apart communities and is intended to impact generations, often by impregnating women and infecting victims with HIV. Hon. LGen. Roméo Dallaire noted that missions are often unprepared to deal with complex scenarios, despite the paramount importance of addressing sexual violence. Protection of civilians entails not only how peacekeepers confront and help survivors of rape in the countries where they work, but also the promotion of a zero-tolerance policy where peacekeepers themselves do not become the abusers. A 2013 report from the UN Office of Internal Oversight Services named sexual exploitation as a significant problem, with 60 allegations in 2012 alone.⁴

Peace operations must also take into account girl soldiers and other female combatants. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

“We need to build systematic political accountability in our institutions, policies, and societies. We need radical attitudinal change led by governments. They need to take the lead in unlocking women’s potential, ensuring their security, and creating opportunities for their participation in decisions that affect their lives and the whole society.”

–Youssef Mahmoud,
International Peace Institute





programs in the past have not been adequately designed to take into account the unique needs of women fighters or how to reintegrate those women who have played supporting roles in conflicts. DDR programs also frequently underestimate the number of female combatants, as traditional security rhetoric tends to view women as victims rather than perpetrators, or their selection process favors male fighters by requiring a gun exchange or by asking commanders to identify militia members.⁵ In Liberia, a UN DDR program anticipated 2,000 women and ended up disarming over 22,000.⁶ Girl soldiers, who make up an estimated 40% of child soldiers across the globe, made up less than 5% of enrollees in child soldier DDR programs in the DR Congo and Sierra Leone.⁷ If girl soldiers and female combatants are not appropriately considered in mission mandates and DDR, they will not obtain the rehabilitative services required to facilitate an effective, sustainable peace after the conflict has ended. Without the necessary support, they must self-demobilize and can fall prey to sexual exploitation, human trafficking, and a life of poverty without medical and psychosocial care to help them move past the horrors of war.

The Peace Operations review called for the inclusion of women in all aspects of peacekeeping. In 2014, women comprised approximately 3% of military personnel, and 10% of police personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions.⁸ Dallaire reminded Member States that women are a “force multiplier,” noting that “women can offer valuable, new, and innovative perspectives to create strategies and approaches for dealing with child soldiers through new insights, tactics, and techniques.”⁹



“The evidence base since resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000 has grown and further confirmed the qualitative and quantitative contributions that involving women at every stage of these processes makes societies more stable. There is no question anymore that gender-inclusive peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding contributes to the maintenance of international peace and security.”

– Ambassador Lana Nusseibeh,
Permanent Representative of the United Arab
Emirates to the United Nations



Peacebuilding Architecture Review

In December 2015, an Advisory Group of Experts was appointed to conduct a review of the peacebuilding architecture of the UN system, using case studies of Burundi, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, and Timor-Leste to develop recommendations on the functioning, resources, and modes of engagement of the UN peacebuilding architecture and the entities engaged with it.

Peacebuilding itself spans a long continuum—from early warning systems, to peacekeeping operations, through the transition to a post-conflict society. Women’s needs should be addressed in all aspects of peacebuilding, including transitional justice mechanisms, security sector reform, strengthening of the rule of law, economic empowerment programs, and state-building. Gender inequality is often exacerbated during times of war and unrest, and implications of this pervade into the post-conflict setting, manifesting in areas as diverse as increased occurrences of domestic violence and the social isolation of victims of sexual assault. Yet, while women and girls have unique vulnerabilities, a powerful tenet of the WPS agenda is the shift in seeing women as victims of violence to agents of change whose meaningful participation is essential to achieving lasting peace. “Throughout this long continuum from conflict prevention to the consolidation of peace, the potential

“How do we make the international security architecture more responsive in integrating the centrality of 1325’s framework across all areas of peace and security? [From] decision-making in the Security Council to Special Envoys, from UN Women to DPA, from DPKO to so many of the other places in which these discussions take place.”

– Ambassador Melanne Verwee, Executive Director, Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



contribution of women is not fully tapped,” noted Saraswathi Menon, a member of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Peacebuilding Architecture.¹⁰

Sustainable peace must have gender equality as a key objective. In the aftermath of conflict, there is a brief window of opportunity to strengthen women’s participation and empowerment. However, the benefits of this opportunity are often not fully realized due to inadequate funding. A 2015 report found that less than 2% of all aid to peace and security in fragile states from the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development Assistance Committee targeted gender quality as a principal objective.¹¹ Yannick Glemarec, Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme at UN Women, made several recommendations: to dramatically increase the funds that are directly channeled to women’s groups on the ground; to track investments on gender equality as part of our spending in peace operations; to immediately increase the capacity and coordination of our field offices and the gender expertise in our field missions; and for the Security Council to establish a mechanism to review the WPS implications of relevant thematic or country-specific deliberation.¹²

Sustainable peace can only be achieved through inclusive processes that recognize the unique needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities of women and men, girls and boys. Peacebuilding efforts must prioritize social services and social infrastructure, tackle impunity for violence, address security sector reform, ensure access to justice for women, address women’s economic recovery, and empower women to participate in state-building and governance. Menon ended with a poignant call for inclusivity: “If



sustainable peace implies setting a country and people on a path to a shared future of equality, rights, and justice, gender equality must clearly be a key objective of all that we do to build peace.”¹³

Harmonization

There is a strong normative framework on WPS—seven UN Security Council resolutions that demonstrate international commitment to the principles of protection, prevention, participation, and gender mainstreaming. However, implementation has been mixed, at best. The high-level review panels share this primary concern, and it is critical that the international community think about how the review processes can ensure the mainstreaming of the WPS agenda throughout all peace, security, and development tracks.

Gender-inclusive peacekeeping, peacemaking, and peacebuilding contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security — one of the paramount, charter-based responsibilities of the United Nations. The international community must recognize that comprehensive implementation of 1325 cannot be pursued in isolation. At the heart of that task is ensuring that these high-level reviews have been harmonized accordingly, and that recommendations are consistently implemented. Women need to be included in formal processes, and also recognized and supported in informal processes; their views must be integrated into peace and security analyses, and decision-makers should use a gender lens, incorporating the perspectives of women when making policy decisions.

Member States must take the lead in unlocking women's potential, ensuring their security, and creating opportunities for their participation in decisions that affect their lives and society. Part of this process entails understanding the multiple roles that women play in peace and conflict, and how women access and exercise power from customary and traditional structures. Further, Member States must analyze current and/or proposed legislation addressing women's empowerment and gender equality, and identify how women perceive the political, social, economic, and environmental contributors and consequences of armed conflict, and provide resources to women's civil society organizations and projects prioritizing gender equality. Finally, governments should disaggregate data to obtain a better understanding of how programs and policies impact women.



Peacebuilding should prioritize services and infrastructure, including for sanitation and water, in order to reduce the unequal burden of care as well as tackle impunity and ensure justice, deal with long-term trauma as a result of violence, and support gender-sensitive security sector reform. Establishing sustainable peace means instituting economic recovery that explicitly addresses women's economic empowerment. Finally, state-building and governance arrangements need to empower women to participate as peacemakers, citizens, and leaders. This is an essential part of building national capacity and inclusive institutions.

Recommendations

Encourage women's meaningful participation in all peace and security endeavors. While wom-



en and girls have unique vulnerabilities, a powerful tenet of the WPS agenda is the shift in seeing women as victims of violence, to agents of change whose meaningful participation is essential to achieving lasting peace. Women's participation should be encouraged at all stages of peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding in order to ensure that laws, policies, and programs reflect the distinct needs and capacities of half of the population.

Acknowledge that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is not solely a women's issue. The WPS agenda rightly recognizes that the participation of

women in the prevention, mitigation, and resolution of conflict is critical to the maintenance of international peace and security. The meaningful participation of women as leaders and decision-makers in *all* peace and security issues is essential to achieving a sustainable peace for all – women and men, girls and boys.

Build systematic political accountability into our institutions, policies, and societies to advance women's participation. Member States can take the lead in implementing programs and policies that promote and further the role of women in all



sectors. This can unleash women's potential, ensure their security, and create opportunities for their participation in decisions that affect their lives and society.

Recognize that women in the security sector offer distinct advantages and entry points for peacebuilding and augment their perspectives into the overall peace and security architecture. Women, men, girls, and boys face different security threats that require tailored responses. Increasing the number of women in the police, military, and peace operations can potentially broaden trust and provide a unique perspective on gender-specific concerns, such as sexual violence.

Designate greater resources to Women, Peace and Security efforts, including increased funding for women's groups on the ground. In the immediate aftermath of conflict, there is a brief moment of op-

portunity to strengthen women's rights and leadership, and through this, accelerate recovery and stability. Yet, this is precisely the period in which these countries experience a funding gap, with women's organizations the most adversely affected. In fact, only 2% of all aid to peace and security in fragile settings target gender equality as a principal objective.¹⁴ It is crucial that dedicated funding be allocated to WPS efforts, and this should include tracking investments on gender equality as part of spending on peace operations.

Address structural issues to achieve meaningful peace for all. This includes prioritizing efforts to combat impunity and foster justice, dealing with long-term trauma as a result of violence, supporting gender-sensitive security sector reform, promoting measures to address women's economic empowerment, and taking steps to empower women to participate as peacemakers, citizens, and leaders.

“Women can offer valuable, new, and innovative perspectives to create strategies and approaches for dealing with child soldiers through new insights, tactics, and techniques that have, to date, not been employed in the efforts to end the use of child soldiers.”

– Hon. LGen. Roméo Dallaire, *The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative*

ENDNOTES

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¹² Yannick Glemarec. Panel Discussion on The Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Harmonizing the High-Level Review Processes. 28 May 2015.

¹³ Saraswathi Menon. Panel Discussion on The Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: Harmonizing the High-Level Review Processes. 28 May 2015.

¹⁴ “Financing UNSCR 1325: Aid in support of gender equality and women’s rights in fragile contexts.” OECD, March 2015. <http://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/Financing%20UN%20Security%20Council%20resolution%201325%20FINAL.pdf>.

BIOGRAPHIES



Mayesha Alam is the Associate Director of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security. In this role, she manages the Institute's various research projects, the Profiles in Peace oral histories project, major convenings, the Hillary R. Clinton Fellowship program, the Summer Graduate Research Fellows program, and the online repository. She is also in charge of operations at the Institute, and supports the Executive Director in fundraising and building external relations. Ms. Alam is an Adjunct Faculty in the School of Foreign Service where she co-teaches a

graduate seminar on women, peace and security. She is the author of *Women and Transitional Justice: Progress and Persistent Challenges* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). Ms. Alam also holds a Visiting Research Fellowship at The University of Cambridge's Centre for Science and Policy.

Ms. Alam has previously worked in the U.S. and internationally for The World Bank, the United Nations and several NGOs. Originally from Bangladesh, she received her M.A. in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University and her B.A. in International Relations and Biology from Mount Holyoke College.

Ms. Alam has previously worked in the U.S. and internationally for The World Bank, the United Nations and several NGOs. Originally from Bangladesh, she received her M.A. in Conflict Resolution at Georgetown University and her B.A. in International Relations and Biology from Mount Holyoke College.



Suaad Allami is the founder and director of Sadr City Women's Center and Legal Clinic (Baghdad, Iraq). A leader in the women's rights movement, Ms. Allami has practiced law in Iraq's family courts for 17 years. In 2007, she

opened Iraq's first all-female legal clinic under the aegis of Women in Progress, which she founded and directs. Her oversight of the first continuing education conference for women lawyers attracted nearly 100 lawyers from across Baghdad, and the Iraq Women's Foundation honored her work in 2008, naming her Female Lawyer of the Year. She was also one of eight women to receive the 2009 International Women of Courage Award from Sec-

retary of State Hillary Clinton and First Lady Michelle Obama. The United Nations Assistance Mission to Iraq also appointed Ms. Allami as Operations Supervisor of humanitarian food aid to orphaned children in Baghdad and Sadr City. She oversaw the distribution of 2,350 family food packages; 6,000 Iftar food packages, taken to break the fast each evening during Ramadan; and 2,000 kits for orphaned students. Her NGO continues to work with internally-displaced persons and refugees, providing them with emergency humanitarian, legal, and financial assistance. Her organization also provides psycho-social treatment for women and children who experienced violence, including sexual and gender-based violence, at the hands of ISIS and other criminal groups.



Zainab Hawa Bangura of Sierra Leone assumed her position as Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict at the level of Under-Secretary-General on 4 September 2012. In this capacity, she serves as Chair of the interagency network, UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action).

Ms. Bangura has over 20 years of policy, diplomatic, and practical experience in the fields of governance, conflict resolution, and reconciliation in Africa. She served most recently as Minister of Health and Sanitation for the Government of Sierra Leone and was previously Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation - the second woman in Sierra Leone to occupy this position. She was also Chief Adviser and Spokesperson of the President on bilateral and international issues. Ms. Bangura has been instrumental in developing national programs on affordable health, advocating for the elimination of genital mutilation, managing the country's Peace Building Commission, and contributing to the multilateral and bilateral relations with the international community. She has deep experience engaging with State and non-State actors on issues relevant to sexual violence, including engaging with rebel groups.

Ms. Bangura has on-the-ground experience with peacekeeping operations from within the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where she managed the largest civilian component of the Mission, promoting capacity-building of government institutions and community reconciliation. She is an experienced and results-driven civil society, human, and women's rights campaigner and democracy activist, fighting corruption and impunity, notably as Executive Director of the National Accountability Group, Chair and Co-Founder of the Movement for Progress Party of Sierra Leone, as well as Coordinator and Co-founder of the Campaign for Good Governance.

She has received numerous national and international awards, including the Africa International Award of Merit for Leadership, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellowship, the Bayard Rustin Humanitarian Award, the Human Rights Award from the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, the National Endowment for Democracy's Democracy Award, and the African American Institute's Distinguished Alumna Award.

Ms. Bangura is a former fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London, with Diplomas in Insurance Management from the City University Business School of London and Nottingham University. She received her B.A. from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.

Ms. Bangura is a former fellow of the Chartered Insurance Institute of London, with Diplomas in Insurance Management from the City University Business School of London and Nottingham University. She received her B.A. from Fourah Bay College, University of Sierra Leone.



Eleanor Blomstrom is the Program Director and Head of Office at the Women's Environment and Development Organization (WEDO). She manages internal and external relationships and partnerships, including with staff, funders, and coalition and project partners. She works closely with program staff in strategic development, implementation, and monitoring of WEDO programs and projects. With a particular focus on sustainable development, climate change, and urbanization, her work incorporates research, capacity building, and global-level advocacy at multiple UN fora, including the UNFCCC and related to the post-2015 development agenda. Ms. Blomstrom represents WEDO as organizing partner of the

Women's Major Group for Sustainable Development. Prior to WEDO, Ms. Blomstrom worked on climate change projects ranging from green roofs to waste management to adaptation with the Earth Institute, the Clinton Foundation, and the World Bank. She has community development experience in the areas of agriculture and women's empowerment with organizations in Nicaragua and Nigeria. Her current work is informed by a professional background in bilingual elementary education with a focus on race and gender equity in public schools. Ms. Blomstrom holds a Master of International Affairs in Urban and Environmental Policy from Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs and a Bachelor's degree in Environmental Sciences.



Ruben Carranza is the Director of the Reparative Justice Program at the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ). He currently works with victims' communities and reparations policymakers in Nepal, Timor-Leste, Indonesia, the Philippines, Iraq, Palestine, Liberia, Ghana, South Africa, and Kenya. He also provides advice on issues involving reparations and war crimes tribunals including the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia (ECCC) and the International Criminal Court (ICC).

From 2001–2004, Mr. Carranza was the commissioner in charge of litigation and investigation in the Philippine commission that successfully recovered \$680 Million in ill-gotten assets of the family of Ferdinand Marcos hidden in banks in Switzerland, the U.S. and other foreign countries. He concurrently served on the UN Ad Hoc Committee that drafted the 2003 UN Convention Against Corruption. He was involved in litigation against the Marcos family filed in the U.S. by victims of human rights violations of the Marcos dictatorship based on the Alien Tort Claims Act (ATCA). He worked with civil society on proposed reparations measures for victims of the Marcos

Ruben Carranza *con't*

dictatorship and counseled families of the disappeared, former political detainees, and other victims groups.

From 1998–2000, Mr. Carranza was an Assistant Secretary of National Defense in the Philippines, where he developed his expertise in security, peacebuilding, and conflict issues in Asia, including those involving China, Japan, and members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN). He has done significant research, writing, and fieldwork on the relationship among transitional justice, corruption, and economic crimes.

Mr. Carranza is from the Philippines. He obtained his B.A. and LL.B. degrees from the University of the Philippines and an LL.M. from New York University (NYU) in 2005 as a Global Public Service Law Program scholar.



Naureen Chowdhury Fink is Head of Research and Analysis at the Global Center on Cooperative Security. She focuses on the international and multilateral response to terrorism and related challenges, such as violent extremism, armed conflict, political instability, and the role of the United Nations. She came to the Global Center after five years at the International Peace Institute, where she developed the counterterrorism portfolio and published on international efforts to promote deradicalization and vio-

lent extremism, regional counter-terrorism cooperation in South Asia, terrorism and political violence in Bangladesh, and the UN counter-terrorism program. She has also worked closely with the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate on developing their initiatives in South Asia. Prior to that, she worked with the Middle East Programme in Chatham House and the World Intellectual Property Organization and World Trade Organization in Geneva. She holds a B.A. from the University of Pennsylvania, an M.A. from the Courtauld Institute of Art, and an M.A. in War Studies from Kings College, London.



Radhika Coomaraswamy is the lead author of the Global Study on the Implementation of SCR 1325 (2000). She previously served as Under-Secretary General for Children in Armed Con-

flict under both Secretary-General Kofi Annan and Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon. She is a lawyer by training and formerly the Chairperson of the Sri Lanka Human Rights Commission, and is an internationally known human rights advocate who has done outstanding work as Special

Radhika Coomaraswamy con't

Rapporteur on Violence against Women (1994-2003). In her reports to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, she has written on violence in the family, violence in the community, violence against women during armed conflict, and the problem of international trafficking. Ms. Coomaraswamy is a graduate of the United Na-

tions International School in New York. She received her B.A. from Yale University, her J.D. from Columbia University, an LL.M. from Harvard University, and honorary PhDs from Amherst College, the University of Edinburgh, the University of Essex, and the University of Leuven.



Hon. LGen. Roméo Dallaire had a distinguished career in the Canadian Military, achieving the rank of Lieutenant-General and Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources. After his retirement, he founded the namesake

organization The Roméo Dallaire Child Soldiers Initiative in 2007 with the mission to end the recruitment and use of child soldiers globally. He currently spends his time shaping the dialogue within public discourse to create momentum towards tangible solutions to the child soldier issue, and works with the team at the Initiative to advocate their pioneering work.

In 1994, General Dallaire commanded the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR). His experiences there became the subject of the book *Shake Hands with Devil: The Failure of Humanity in Rwanda*, which was awarded the Governor General's Literary Award for Non-Fiction in 2004 and was the basis of a full-length feature film released in 2007. Medically released in 2000

due to post-traumatic stress disorder, General Dallaire has worked as an author, lecturer, and humanitarian, conducting research on conflict resolution and child soldiers at the Harvard Kennedy School. His most recent book, *They Fight Like Soldiers Die like Children – The Global Quest to Eradicate the Use of Child Soldiers*, introduces the child soldier phenomenon and solutions to eradicate it. General Dallaire also helped reform the assistance provided to the new generation of veterans of the Canadian Forces particularly affected by post-traumatic stress disorder.

He was appointed to the Senate effective March 24th, 2005 and was the Vice-Chair of the Senate Standing Committee on National Security and Defense, as well as President of the Senate Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, and left in 2014 after a 9 year tenure to dedicate his time to humanitarian causes. He was appointed with Bishop Desmond Tutu to the United Nations Secretary General's Advisory Committee on Genocide Prevention in the spring of 2006 and is the Fellow at the Montreal Institute of Genocide

Hon. LGen. Roméo Dallaire con't

Studies, Concordia University. He has been an officer in the Order of Canada since 2002, a recipient of the Pearson Peace Medal in 2005, and

a Grand Officer of the Order of Quebec in 2006. He holds honorary doctorates and fellowships from over three dozen universities in Canada.



Jan Eliasson was appointed Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on 2 March 2012. He took office as Deputy Secretary-General on 1 July 2012.

Mr. Eliasson was from 2007-2008 the Special Envoy of the UN Secretary-General for Darfur. Prior to this, Mr. Eliasson served as President of the 60th session of the UN General Assembly. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the US from September 2000 until July 2005. In March 2006, Mr. Eliasson was appointed Foreign Minister of Sweden and served in this capacity until the elections in the fall of 2006.

Mr. Eliasson served from 1994 to 2000 as State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, a key position in formulating and implementing Swedish foreign policy. He was Sweden's Ambassador to the UN in New York 1988-92, and also served as the Secretary-General's Personal Representative for Iran/Iraq.

Mr. Eliasson was the first UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and was in-

involved in operations in Africa and the Balkans. He took initiatives on landmines, conflict prevention, and humanitarian action. From 1980 to 1986, Mr. Eliasson was part of the UN mediation missions in the war between Iran and Iraq, headed by former Prime Minister Olof Palme. From 1993 to 1994 Mr. Eliasson served as mediator in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict for the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). He has been a Visiting Professor at Uppsala University and Gothenburg University in Sweden, lecturing on mediation, conflict resolution, and UN reform. Mr. Eliasson has had diplomatic postings in New York (twice) Paris, Bonn, Washington (twice), and Harare, where he opened the first Swedish Embassy in 1980.

Prior to his appointment as Deputy Secretary-General, Mr. Eliasson also served as Chair of Water Aid/Sweden and as a member of the UN Secretary-General's Advocacy Group of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Mr. Eliasson graduated from the Swedish Naval Academy in 1962 and earned a Master's degree in Economics and Business Administration in 1965. He was born on 17 September 1940 in Goteborg, Sweden. He is married with three children.



Ilwad Elman is the Director of Programs and Development at the Elman Peace and Human Rights Centre, a national scoped, non-profit, and non-governmental organization in Somalia.

The organization works in all areas of human rights, with Ms. Elman's key areas of focus being the socio-economic reintegration of children and youth disassociated from armed forces and groups, as well as supporting survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. She has five years of experience working on Human Rights, Gender Justice, Protection of Civilians, and Peacebuilding in Somalia.

In addition to her work with the organization, Ms. Elman leads various coordination groups in south and central Somalia. To this extent, she chairs the child protection working group in Afgoye, Lower-Shabelle; the Gender Based Violence Case Management group in Mogadishu; co-chairs the Child Protection working group in Mogadishu alongside UNICEF; chairs the Street Children Task Force in Mogadishu; chairs the Practitioners' Net-

work for Civilian Casualty Recording; and serves as the Special Rapporteur for the Civil Society Human Rights Universal Periodic Review Action Group.

Ms. Elman completed the Mandela Washington Fellowship, a flagship program of President Barack Obama for Young African Leaders in 2014. In the same year, she was appointed Ambassador to Somalia for Youth to End Sexual Violence. As a social activist, Ms. Elman organizes TEDx events in Somalia (Technology, Entertainment, and Design). In continuity of her global outreach and international platforms, she was invited to brief the UN Security Council in New York on the annual thematic debate of Protection of Civilians (PoC) in 2015. The delivery of her statement to the Council marked an important milestone whereby civil society was invited to speak before the Council in the PoC debate for the first time. Ms. Elman envisions a Somalia where youth and women are decision-makers in the processes that ensure their wellbeing and a world where they are free to define the scopes of their own lives.



Yannick Glemarec was appointed Assistant Secretary-General and Deputy Executive Director for Policy and Programme for UN Women on 6 March 2015. In this capacity, he is responsible

for setting the direction and guiding the planning, coordination, management, and oversight of all activities and services provided by the Programme and Policy Bureau. He serves as one of two Deputies to the Executive Director of UN Women.

Yannick Glemarec *con't*

Mr. Glemarec joined the United Nations in 1989. He has held increasingly responsible positions with UNDP Country Offices in Viet Nam, China, and Bangladesh. He served as UNDP Executive Coordinator for the Global Environment Facility and Director of Environment Finance in New York from June 2007 to January 2012 and then as Executive Coordinator of the Multi-Partner Trust

Fund Office from February 2013 to March 2015.

He holds a PhD from the University of Paris in Environmental Sciences, and two Master's Degrees in Hydrology and in Business Administration. He has authored and co-authored several publications in the field of disaster risk management, sustainable development, clean energy, and climate finance.



David Haeri is the Director of the Policy, Evaluation and Training Division in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and Field Support (DFS).

He was previously Chief of the Peacekeeping Best Practices Section at DPKO. He is a board member of the UN Capital Development Fund and an advisory board member of the Conflict Prevention and Peace Forum.



Kyung-wha Kang (Republic of Korea) is the Assistant Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator in the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

the establishment of that Office's support structure for the Universal Periodic Review and chaired the United Nations Development Group's human rights mainstreaming mechanism.

Ms. Kang has been Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights at the level of Assistant Secretary-General since January 2007. During her tenure with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, she has been responsible for that entity's overall management. Ms. Kang also led

Before joining the United Nations, Ms. Kang was Director General of International Organizations at the Republic of Korea's Ministry for Foreign Affairs and Trade. She served as Minister in her country's Permanent Mission to the United Nations from September 2001 to July 2005, during which period she chaired the Commission on the Status of Women.

Kyung-wha Kang con't

Before joining the Foreign Ministry in 1998, Ms. Kang assisted the Speaker of the National Assembly in the fields of women's advancement and parliamentary diplomacy. Earlier in her career, she worked for the Korean Broadcasting System's news bureau and international radio bureau, and lectured in universities both in her own country and in the United States.

Ms. Kang graduated from Yonsei University with a B.A. in Political Science and Diplomacy. She also has an M.A. in Mass Communication and a PhD in Intercultural Communication from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst, in the United States. Born in 1955 in Seoul, Ms. Kang is married to Yillbyung Lee and they have two daughters and one son.



Hervé Ladsous is the Head of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. He took over from the former Under-Secretary-General, Mr. Alain Le Roy, on 3 October 2011. Mr. Ladsous has extensive experience in the

diplomatic field. He is recognized by his peers in all parts of the world for his capacity to build consensus. He brings to the position acute political judgement, strong crisis-management capacities - especially in the area of peacekeeping - and a profound understanding of the challenges facing the United Nations.

Mr. Ladsous has held an extensive number of positions in the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs since he joined in 1971. As a junior diplomat, he was posted to Hong Kong, Canberra, Beijing, and the Permanent Mission to the UN in Geneva. Having served as Deputy-Director General of the

Department for the Americas, he was appointed Chargé d'affaires a.i. in Haiti. He then became Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN in New York.

Mr. Ladsous served as the French Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) in Vienna, and Ambassador of France to Indonesia and Timor-Leste. He then held senior positions in Paris including Spokesperson of the Ministry and Director General for Asia and Oceania. More recently, Mr. Ladsous served as Ambassador of France to the People's Republic of China, and as Chief of Staff (Directeur de Cabinet) for the French Minister of Foreign and European Affairs.

Mr. Ladsous holds a Degree in Law and a Diploma in Chinese and Malay Indonesian from the National School of Oriental Studies in France. Born in 1950, he is married and has three children.



Julie Lafrenière works with Oxfam Canada's Center for Gender Justice where she serves as Head of the Gender-Based Violence and Conflict Initiative. Ms. Lafrenière is a lawyer who has worked on human rights and women's rights in Canada and internationally, with a particular focus on violence against women in humanitarian settings. She is a member of the Steering Committee for Canada's Women, Peace and Security Network. She has worked for

a variety of actors, including the United Nations, international NGO networks, and local civil society organizations. Prior to joining Oxfam, Julie worked for the global Gender-based Violence Area of Responsibility Working Group (GBV AoR). In this role, she supported the revisions to the 2005 IASC Guidelines for Gender-based Violence Interventions in Humanitarian Settings - a resource that establishes standards across all areas of humanitarian response related to prevention of and response to GBV, particularly sexual violence in the early stages of an emergency.



Youssef Mahmoud is a Senior Adviser at the International Peace Institute (IPI) supporting the Africa, Middle East, and peace operations programs and serves as focal point on mediation policies and practices. Before retiring from the United Nations in January 2011, he was the Secretary-General's Special Representative and Head of the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT). From 2007 to 2009, he served as Executive Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the UN Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Burundi (BINUB).

Prior to these assignments, he held several other senior positions, notably as United Nations Resident Coordinator in Guyana, Director in the UN Department of Political Affairs, and Head of the Office of the Undersecretary-Secretary-Gener-

al for Political Affairs. Before joining the United Nations in 1981, Mr. Mahmoud was Assistant Professor at the University of Tunis. He teaches graduate courses at Columbia University and New York University on peacebuilding challenges in Africa and on post-conflict policies in fragile settings.

Over the past two years, he has focused his attention on the post-authoritarian transitions in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen. He is leading an IPI initiative aimed at supporting the development of an Arab think tank to serve as a forum through which civil society leaders from these countries could exchange knowledge, experiences, and lessons learned arising from their efforts to address the challenges and opportunities presented by these transitions.

Mr. Mahmoud has a Master's degree in American Studies from the University of Tunis, an M.S. in Linguistics, and a PhD in Socio-Linguistics from Georgetown University, Washington, DC.



Susan Markham is the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. In this role, she is working to improve the lives of citizens around

the world by advancing equality between females and males, and empowering women and girls to participate fully in and benefit from the development of their societies. USAID recognizes that promoting gender equality and female empowerment is fundamental to our mission to end extreme poverty and promote resilient, democratic societies while advancing our security and prosperity. As Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment, Ms. Markham works with senior leadership and mission staff to fully integrate gender equality and female empowerment into USAID's policies, programs, and strategies.

Ms. Markham comes with an extensive background in both domestic and international women's political empowerment. She most recently served as Director of Women's Political Participation at the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Through this senior leadership role, she supported the aspirations of women around the world to be equal and active partners in shaping and leading democratic societies. NDI's programs create an environment where women can advocate on matters of policy, run for political office, govern effectively, and participate meaningfully in every facet of civic and political life.

Ms. Markham previously directed EMILY's List Campaign Corp program and later the Political Opportunity Program to recruit, train, and support women candidates running for statewide, legislative, and local offices in 35 U.S. states. She served as Director of Senate Services at the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, and managed several statewide campaigns. Ms. Markham has also worked as a senior strategist at the Campaign Workshop, where she consulted for the Child Nutrition Initiative, California List, and the New Organizing Institute. Ms. Markham started her career as a political fundraiser, serving as the Finance Director for the Ohio Democratic Party, and Executive Director of Participation 2000 (a multi-candidate political action committee).

Susan has a B.A. in Political Science and International Studies from the Ohio State University. She received her Master's degree in Public Policy and Women's Studies from George Washington University.

Ms. Markham's work has taken her to over 35 countries around the world where she has conducted trainings, facilitated working groups, engaged political parties and civil society organizations, and addressed numerous conferences on the importance and best practices of increasing women's involvement in the political process. She will be integral in helping USAID to improve the lives and livelihoods of women and girls around the world.



Saraswathi Menon is a member of the Advisory Group of Experts on the Peacebuilding Architecture. She was formerly the Director of the Policy Division at UN Women. Ms. Menon brings extensive experience as a researcher and academician, as well as in the United Nations system. She was most recently the Director of Policy Division at UN Women. Prior to this assignment, she was the Director of the United Nations Development Programme's (UNDP) Evaluation Office. Ms. Menon's career includes experience in both policy and program

areas. She served as United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Mongolia, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Nepal, and Deputy Chief of the Regional Programme and Policy Division in UNDP's Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific. Before joining UNDP, she lectured in sociology at Madras University in India. She holds both a Master of Arts and Master of Philosophy degree in Sociology, as well as a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

Prior to joining UNDP, Ms. Menon taught at Madras University in India.



David Miliband is the President and CEO of the International Rescue Committee (IRC). He oversees the agency's relief and development operations in over 40 countries, its refugee resettlement and assistance programs throughout the United States, and the IRC's advocacy efforts in Washington and other capitals on behalf of the world's most vulnerable people.

Mr. Miliband had a distinguished political career in the United Kingdom over fifteen years. From 2007 to 2010, he served as the youngest Foreign Secretary in three decades, driving advancements in human rights and representing the United Kingdom throughout the world. As Secretary

of State for the Environment in 2005/6, he pioneered the world's first legally binding emissions reduction requirements. His accomplishments have earned him a reputation, in former President Bill Clinton's words, as "one of the ablest, most creative public servants of our time".

Earlier, Mr. Miliband was Minister for Schools (2002–2004) and Head of Downing Street's Number 10 Policy Unit (1997–2001). He has also been a Member of Parliament representing South Shields. He is Co-Chair of the Global Ocean Commission.

Mr. Miliband graduated from Oxford University in 1987 with a first class degree in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, and received his Master's degree in Political Science in 1989 from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, which he attended as a Kennedy Scholar. He is married

David Miliband con't

to the violinist Louise Shackelton, and they have two sons.

Miliband's parents were refugees from Belgium

and Poland to the UK in the 1940s. As the son of refugees, he brings a personal commitment to the IRC's work.



Fionnuala Ní Aoláin is concurrently the Dorsey and Whitney Chair in Law at the University of Minnesota Law School and Professor of Law at the University of Ulster's Transitional Justice Institute in Belfast, Northern Ireland.

Professor Ní Aoláin is the recipient of numerous academic awards, including a Fulbright scholarship, the Alon Prize, the Robert Schumann Scholarship, a European Commission award, and the Lawlor fellowship. She has published extensively in the fields of emergency powers, conflict regulation, transitional justice, and sex-based violence in times of war. Ní Aoláin was a representative of the prosecutor at the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia at domestic war crimes trials in Bosnia (1996-97). In 2003, she was appointed by the Secretary-General of the United Nations as Special Expert on promoting gender equality in times of conflict and peace-making. In 2011, she completed a Study

on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence for the OHCHR and UN Women. Her book *Law in Times of Crisis* (CUP, 2006) was awarded the American Society of International Law's preeminent prize in 2007 - the Certificate of Merit for Creative Scholarship. Her book *On the Frontlines: Gender, War and the Post-Conflict Process* was published by Oxford University Press (2011). Her most recent book with Oren Gross is *Guantanamo and Beyond: Exceptional Courts and Military Commissions in Comparative Perspective* (CUP, 2013). She has held Visiting positions at Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School, Princeton University, and The Institute of Advanced Studies at the Hebrew University (Jerusalem). She was appointed to the Executive Council of the American Society of International Law in 2010 for a three-year term, and was Co-Chair of the 2014 ASIL/ILA Joint Annual Meeting. She is Board Chair of the Open Society Foundation's Women's Program.



Lana Nusseibeh is the Permanent Representative of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations. In this role, she works to advance cooperation between the United Nations and the UAE on critical issues of mutual interest, in particular, security, disarmament, human rights, women's empowerment, and sustainable development.

Prior to her appointment as Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Ambassador Nusseibeh served in a number of capacities within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, most recently launching the Ministry's Policy Planning Department and serving as its first director. During her tenure at the Ministry, she was Deputy Sherpa for the UAE's participation in the G-20, Co-UAE Special Envoy for Afghanistan and Pakistan, Member of the UK-UAE Ministerial

Taskforce, and Member of the Foreign Ministry's Special Committee on Syria.

Previously, Ambassador Nusseibeh served as the Head of the International Renewable Energy Agency Task Force, where she contributed to the international diplomatic effort to win the bid to host the headquarters of the newly established International Renewable Energy Agency in Abu Dhabi.

She has also served as Director of Research and Communications for the Ministry of State for Federal National Council Affairs, where she advised the Minister on key policy issues, including labor, human trafficking, education, women's empowerment, and political participation.

Ambassador Nusseibeh received an M.A. in History from the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom and an M.A. with distinction from the University of London in the United Kingdom.



Joy Onyesoh is the Founder and President of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in Nigeria, providing a platform to address discrimination against women and the challenges that women face when engaging in the security sector. She is also Executive Director of the Women for Skills Acquisition Development and Leadership

Organization. Ms. Onyesoh is concurrently conducting research for her doctoral degree in Transformative Studies and is studying for her law degree (LL.B.) at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Nigeria and California Institute of Integral Studies, USA. Ms. Onyesoh is particularly invested in the full implementation of SCR 1325 (2000) and has facilitated translation into four Nigerian Indigenous languages.



Lakshmi Puri is Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women – Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships. As a member of the senior leadership team, she actively contributed to the institutional development and consolidation of the entity, shaping its first Strategic Plan and positioning it as the leading organization for the promotion of gender equality and women’s empowerment globally. She steered UN Women’s engagement in major intergovernmental processes, such as the Rio+20 conference and the Commission on the Status of Women. She also led efforts to build strategic part-

nerships, particularly with civil society and women’s organizations, and oversaw the adoption and implementation of UN system-wide accountability and coherence systems for gender equality and women’s empowerment. Throughout her career, Ms. Puri has promoted the gender equality and women’s empowerment agenda in various capacities in the context of peace and security, human rights, and sustainable development. She has extensive experience in economic and development policy-making covering trade, investment, migration and labor mobility, financial flows, environment, and climate change, energy, agriculture and food security, universal access to essential services, intellectual property rights, and traditional knowledge, among other issues.



Jeffrey D. Sachs is a world-renowned professor of economics, leader in sustainable development, senior UN advisor, bestselling author, and syndicated columnist whose monthly newspaper columns appear in more than 100 countries. He has twice been named among Time Magazine’s 100 most influential world leaders. He was called by the New York Times, “probably the most important economist in the world,” and by Time Magazine “the world’s best known economist.” A recent survey by The Economist Magazine ranked Professor Sachs as among the world’s three most influential living economists of the past decade.

Professor Sachs serves as the Director of The Earth Institute, Quetelet Professor of Sustainable Development, and Professor of Health Policy and Management at Columbia University. He is Special Advisor to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on the Millennium Development Goals, having held the same position under former UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. He is Director of the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network. He is Co-Founder and Chief Strategist of Millennium Promise Alliance, and is Director of the Millennium Villages Project. Sachs is also one of the Secretary-General’s MDG Advocates, and a Commissioner of the ITU/UNESCO Broadband Commission for Development. He has authored three New York Times bestsellers in the past seven years:

Jeffrey D. Sachs con’t

The End of Poverty (2005), *Common Wealth: Economics for a Crowded Planet* (2008), and *The Price of Civilization* (2011). His most recent books are *To Move the World: JFK’s Quest for Peace* (2013) and *The Age of Sustainable Development* (2015).

Professor Sachs is widely considered to be one of the world’s leading experts on economic development and the fight against poverty. His work on ending poverty, promoting economic growth, fighting hunger and disease, and promoting sustainable environmental practices has taken him to more than 125 countries with more than 90 percent of the world’s population. For more than a quarter century, he has advised dozens of heads of state and governments on economic strategy, in the Americas, Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Middle East.

Professor Sachs is the recipient of many awards and honors, including membership in the Institute of Medicine, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Harvard Society of Fellows, and the Fellows of the World Econometric Society. He has received more than 20 honorary degrees, and many awards and honors around the world. Professor Sachs is also a frequent contributor to major publications such as the Financial Times of London, the International Herald Tribune, Scientific American, and Time magazine.

Prior to joining Columbia, Sachs spent over twenty years at Harvard University, most recently as Director of the Center for International Development and the Galen L. Stone Professor of International Trade. A native of Detroit, Michigan, Sachs received his B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. degrees at Harvard.



Carolyn Schleker is a Human Rights Officer at the New York Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), where her work is focused on counter-terrorism and human rights. Her particular interest is bringing a gender perspective to this issue as part of human rights mainstreaming into counter-terrorism related work. OHCHR is a Co-Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism, and Ms. Schleker oversees the

implementation of the different projects carried out under this Working Group. Before joining OHCHR in New York in March 2014, she worked as a Human Rights Specialist with UN Women. As part of the support for the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) by UN Women, Ms. Schleker assisted with the development of the CEDAW Committee’s General Recommendation on women in conflict prevention, conflict, and post-conflict situations. Prior positions included support to the UN human rights treaty bodies in OHCHR Geneva, and a one-year assignment as a human rights officer in the Ger-

Carolyn Schleker con't

man Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Ms. Schleker obtained a Master's degree in Human Rights from

the University of Essex, where she is currently finalizing her PhD in Law.



Muhammad Rafiuddin Shah is the Officer in Charge of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Office. Mr. Shah was previously a counsellor at the Pakistani Mission. Before that, he worked as a

Director in Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr. Shah also served in the armed forces, providing leadership in goal oriented assignments and programs. His eighteen years of work in the public sector have contributed to policy analysis and formulation. Mr. Shah has degrees in economics, history, and investment management.



Melanne Verveer is the Executive Director of Georgetown University's Institute for Women, Peace and Security. The Institute seeks to enhance national and global security by documenting the crucial role women play in peacebuilding and security through research and scholarship and by engaging global leaders from government, civil society, and the private sector in conversations on the urgent issues of our times. She is also the founding partner of Seneca Point Global, the global women strategy firm. Ambassador Verveer most recently served as the first U.S. Ambassador for Global Women's Issues, a position to which she was nominated by President Obama in 2009. As Ambassador, she worked to ensure that women's participation and rights were fully integrated into U.S. foreign policy and played a leadership role in the Administration's

development of the US National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. From 2000-2008, she served as the Chair and Co-CEO of Vital Voices Global Partnership, an international NGO that she co-founded to invest in emerging women leaders. During the Clinton Administration, she served as Assistant to the President and Chief of Staff to the First Lady. She led the effort to establish the President's Interagency Council on Women and was integral in the adoption of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000. Ambassador Verveer has a B.S. and M.S. from Georgetown University. In 2013, she was the Humanitas Visiting professor at Cambridge University. She is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the World Bank Advisory Council on Gender and Development, and the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairmanship on Gender Issues.



Sarah Williamson is the Founder and Managing Director of Protect the People (PTP), a network of consultants working in conflict and disaster. Ms. Williamson has 20 years of experience in the humanitarian sector, leading teams in complex emergencies with the United Nations, Red Cross, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in partnership with the U.S. Government and multilateral agencies. Her career began in 1992 during the Somali refugee ex-

odus into Kenya. She has managed programs for refugees, internally displaced people (IDPs), and vulnerable people in the Haiti earthquake, South-east Asian tsunami, along the Thailand-Burma border, the Philippines, Afghanistan and Pakistan, South Africa, Senegal, and Hurricane Katrina in the U.S. Ms. Williamson works with U.S. military services, UN peacekeepers, foreign militaries, and national police to address discrimination and abusive practices, the protection of civilians, and women at risk of violence.



H.R.H. Princess Sarah Zeid is a global maternal and newborn health advocate. She is commissioned by the Partnership for Maternal, Newborn and Child Health to sponsor specific consideration of humanitarian settings in the context of the current drafting of the next generation global strategy for the UNSG's "Every Woman Every Child" initiative, in collaboration with the H4+ multilateral agencies (UN and the World Bank). She led the 2015 meeting of international humanitarian and development experts in the United Arab Emirates that forged the Abu Dhabi Declaration, which for the sake of women and children, calls for the fullest integration of humanitarian response in development planning.

A steering Committee member of the Every Newborn Action Plan, Princess Sarah partners with PATH to highlight the role of innovation in women and children's health; the White Ribbon Alliance for Safe Motherhood, for which she is a global champion; and the Women's Rights Division at Human Rights Watch for which she is an advisory board member.

Princess Sarah is a former UN staff member, having worked in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and she was the Desk Officer for Iraq in UNICEF's Office of Emergency Programmes. She holds a B.A. in international Relations from the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas, and an MSc in Development Studies from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Princess Sarah is married to H.R.H. Prince Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. They have three children.

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