

# The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security



**GIWPS**

Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

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# The Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security

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The Georgetown University Institute for Women, Peace, and Security promotes a more peaceful, equitable, and just world by focusing on how pivotal women are in preventing conflict and building peace. Since 2013, we have conducted rigorous research, elevated the voices of women peacebuilders and informed policymakers, while nurturing the

next generation of leaders. Headed by former US Ambassador for Global Women's Issues Melanne Verwee, with former US Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton serving as honorary founding chair, the Institute is a globally recognized leader advancing women's meaningful engagement in peace and security.

A woman is holding a large white banner with black letters 'AZ' in front of a building. The banner is partially visible, showing the letters 'AZ' and a portion of 'O'. The woman's hand is visible on the left side of the banner. In the background, a man in a military uniform is visible. The image is overlaid with a magenta circle containing text and a white circle containing text.

Celebrating  
**10 years**  
of impact

Women are pivotal  
in preventing and  
resolving conflict




# Women's leadership is vital to sustainable peace

More than half of all peace agreements fail within the first five years, and 2022 was the deadliest year on record since the Rwandan genocide in 1994. When women and civil society participate in peace processes, peace agreements are more comprehensive and more likely to last. The world has seen women successfully forge peace in Northern Ireland and Liberia, among other places affected by conflict. Yet women are still largely shut out of decisions that seek to end conflict or to shape post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. This is a critical omission, since women are disproportionately affected by conflicts and crises, and they are on the frontlines in addressing today's greatest threats—from violent extremism to climate change to attacks on democracy.

We work to ensure that women are participating in decisionmaking and conflict resolution, protected during armed conflict, prevented from harm, and involved in relief and recovery after conflict. Without women, we can't have sustainable peace.



A photograph of two women, Hillary Rodham Clinton on the left and another woman on the right, both looking upwards and to the right. Hillary is wearing a bright blue jacket, and the other woman is wearing a maroon jacket. In the background, the Great Seal of the United States is visible, featuring an eagle with a shield and stars. The lighting is soft, and the overall tone is professional and dignified.

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

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

# Our research: Women's roles in peace and security

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Including women in peace and security efforts is not just a moral imperative—it is smart and strategic. We are a global thought leader on Women, Peace and Security. Our research underscores how women's engagement contributes to positive outcomes around the world. It also explores how efforts to improve the status of women are strengthened by

engaging with men and masculinities. Our policy-relevant analysis considers critical and emerging WPS issues. We have a proven track record documenting the unique impacts of conflict and crisis on women and girls, and building the evidence-based case for women's meaningful inclusion in peace and security efforts.

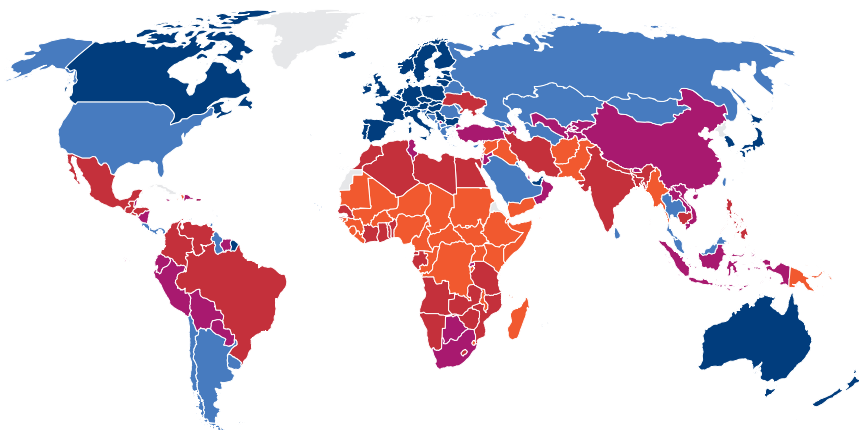
## We monitor conflicts around the globe



# Measuring women's status around the world

The wellbeing of women and the wellbeing of nations go hand in hand. Our Women, Peace and Security Index—created with the Peace Research Institute of Oslo—ranks 177 countries in terms of women's status. The results show that societies where women are doing well are more peaceful, democratic, prosperous, and better prepared to adapt to the impacts of climate change. With scores, rankings, and robust data,

the Index offers a valuable tool. Policymakers can use the Index to pinpoint where resources are needed; academics can use the Index to study trends over time, within indicators, and across regions; journalists can use the Index to give context and perspectives to their stories; and activists can use the Index to hold governments accountable to their promises on advancing the status of women.



Country rankings on the Women's Peace and Security Index

■ Top quintile ■ Second quintile ■ Third quintile ■ Fourth quintile ■ Bottom quintile



The WPS Index is a critical step forward in efforts to better connect humanitarian, peace and security, and development work in order to fulfill women's human rights and create more stable and just societies... It provides policymakers with critical evidence to guide them in setting priorities to enhance gender justice and women's security and inclusion.

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Winnie Byanyima  
Executive Director of UNAIDS



# The vital role of women in addressing climate change

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Climate change multiplies risk—exacerbating conditions that spark conflict, increase fragility, and entrench inequality. Our research documents the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis on women and spotlights the vital role women play in adaptation, natural resource management, resilience building, and the development of innovative climate solutions. We leverage insights from

research to advocate for women's leadership in climate negotiations, the design and implementation of response efforts, and the green transition—particularly in the emerging sectors of clean energy, climate-smart agriculture, and nature-based solutions. As the world develops responses to the climate crisis, we work to ensure that gender issues are firmly on the climate agenda.

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The Institute put a spotlight on gender at the UN's annual climate change conference



# Engagement with leaders and decisionmakers

As a trusted advisor to national, international, and private actors, we provide decisionmakers with guidance to advance inclusive and more effective policy and practice. Through direct engagement, roundtable conversations, events, and high-level lectures, we advance key policy recommendations to decisionmakers. Together with

the Rockefeller Foundation, we are spearheading the Global Women Leaders Network, bringing together former and current heads of state, ministers, and high-level government and private sector representatives to nurture women's political leadership, advance gender equality, and address the world's most pressing challenges.



Members of our Global Women Leaders Network gathered at The Rockefeller Foundation's Bellagio Center

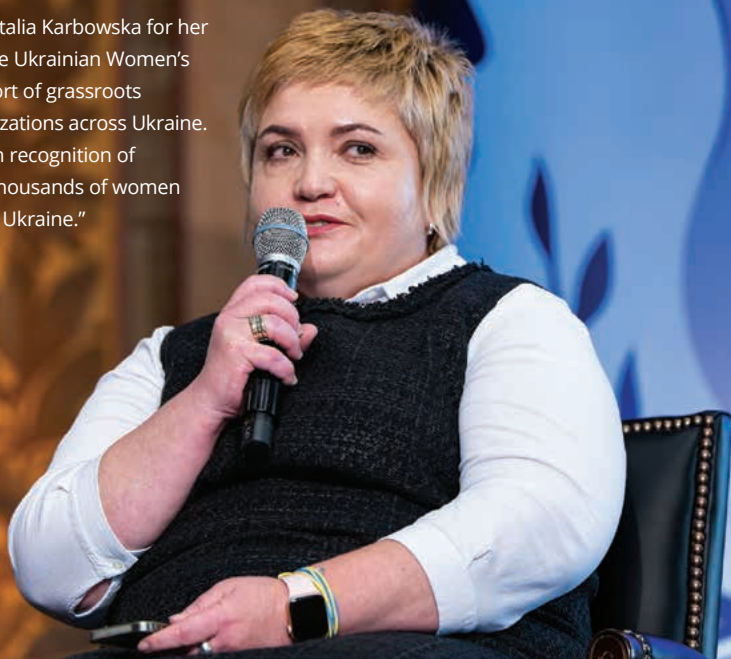
# Elevating the voices of women peacebuilders

We have developed trusted relationships with networks of women peacebuilders and civil society leaders in crisis zones with a focus on Afghanistan, Iran, Myanmar, Ukraine, and Sudan.

Through our Rapid Response Networks, we amplify timely calls to action, elevate best practices, and draw on local knowledge and experience to inform research and policy.

**We learned from frontline Ukrainian women in our Global Women Leaders Network that essential food aid was not reaching Truskavets province in Ukraine. Secretary Hillary Clinton appealed to Chef José Andrés, and mobile food deliveries were quickly rerouted to reach Truskavetsians.**

We honored Natalia Karbowska for her leadership of the Ukrainian Women's Fund and support of grassroots women's organizations across Ukraine. She accepted "in recognition of hundreds and thousands of women activists all over Ukraine."





# The Onward for Afghan Women initiative

In 2021, we worked with partners to evacuate 1,200 Afghan women leaders and their families from Afghanistan. Their high-profile work as activists, journalists, human rights defenders, and government officials made them prime targets of the Taliban. Our signature Onward for Afghan Women initiative equips these now-exiled leaders with opportunities to shape the future of Afghanistan. As

the humanitarian, economic, and security situation in Afghanistan deteriorates, the voices of Afghan women are essential in problem solving. We raise awareness, advocate for policy change, and provide direct support to the Afghan women leaders we helped to evacuate. Today we serve as an essential channel for elevating recommendations by and for Afghan women.



Our Afghan partners gathered for an annual retreat hosted by GIWPS



I feel grateful for having this community around me here, for helping me to recover from the trauma that I experienced. Having a community to share, talk, ask for support and for help to continue my work is very important.



Reflections of an Onward for Afghan Women  
expert, evacuated by GIWPS



## Convenings & Connections

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We regularly welcome foreign officials, global thought leaders, and frontline defenders to Georgetown's campus for discussions on women's roles in peace and security. Hosting signature events at the United Nations, Human Rights Council, and UNFCCC Conference of the Parties enables us to shape global policy and serve as a thought leader on the international stage. Through

our annual Hillary Rodham Clinton Awards, we spotlight courageous women peacebuilders operating in some of the most challenging environments. Our Bridging Theory and Practice workshops bring together leading researchers, policymakers, and practitioners from around the world to narrow the gap between academic research and policymaking.



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The First Lady of Ukraine Olena Zelenska  
speaks with GIWPS executive director  
Ambassador Melanne Verveer



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

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# Fellowships and student opportunities

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We equip the next generation of foreign policy professionals with the tools to advance attention to gender issues and diversity in international peace and security. Our certificate program for Georgetown University students provides dozens of young professionals with the practical and analytical skills to take a more inclusive approach to international affairs. We

award research fellowships to recent graduates who conduct analysis that helps close key knowledge and evidence gaps. We also engage students across the university through popular on-campus events, by offering positions as research assistants and volunteers, and by advising and mentoring students interested in research and careers in the field.



We are investing in the  
next generation to take a  
more inclusive approach  
to international affairs



Praise for the Georgetown Institute for  
Women, Peace and Security

Their work gives gravitas and  
credibility to women who are  
taking enormous risks for peace.

Their efforts to put women,  
peace and security on the map  
have made a big difference.



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



A bronze statue of a man, likely George Washington, is the central focus in the foreground. He is depicted from the waist up, seated, and holding a book. He is wearing a long coat and a powdered wig. In the background, a large, historic stone building with a prominent clock tower is visible. The clock tower has a large clock face and a cross on top. The building has multiple windows and a red-tiled roof. The sky is clear and blue. A large blue semi-circle graphic is on the right side of the image, containing the text.

Learn more about the  
Georgetown Institute  
for Women, Peace and  
Security by visiting  
[giwps.georgetown.edu](http://giwps.georgetown.edu)



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