



We welcome submissions for the 2026 Gendered Security Policy Essay. This award aims to encourage and recognize an outstanding policy-focused essay addressing gendered dimensions of peace and conflict authored by a graduate student in the **Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area**. **Applicants must be currently enrolled in or have graduated from one of the Consortium Universities within the 2025-2026 academic year.**

The award committee considers the quality of the work, originality, application of a gender lens or intersectional analysis, clarity of writing and presentation, and relevance to research, policy, and/or practice. A total of \$5,000 will be awarded to the top three submissions.

**Awards:**

- First Place: \$2500
- Second Place: \$1500
- Third Place: \$1000

**Eligibility criteria:**

- Applicants must either be **currently enrolled as a part or full-time graduate student** at or have **graduated** from a university in the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area **in the 2024-2025 academic year**.
- Submissions must address a gendered dimension of peace, security, or conflict.
- Submissions must address **the intersection of gender and topics such as:**
  - Climate Change
  - Cybersecurity and Technology
  - Migration and Displacement
  - Conflict-related Sexual Violence
  - Conflict Resolution and Peace Processes
  - Engaging Men and Masculinities
- Submissions must be an essay written for a policy and practitioner audience.
- Submissions may not exceed 1,500 words (footnotes, endnotes, and bibliography do not count towards the word limit).
- Submissions must be single-authored. Group essays will not be accepted.
- To apply for the award, please submit your policy paper, including a cover sheet that lists your name, university, and university email address, in a single PDF file to Dr. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana at [sao32@georgetown.edu](mailto:sao32@georgetown.edu).

The submission deadline is Friday, April 15, 2026. Please note that the committee will only consider submissions that meet all eligibility criteria.