

WAW! High-Level Panel Discussion 2 "Women's Participation in Conflict Prevention, Peacebuilding and Post Conflict Recovery"

Background and Issues

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (SCR1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) was adopted in 2000, which recognized disproportional impact on women and girls in armed conflict and acknowledged women's equal and active role for the international peace and security. Since then up to November 2018, 79 countries (40 % of nations)¹ have formulated their National Action Plans on WPS. SCR 1325 addresses gender different needs based on gender analysis, which should be applied to all phases and levels of conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace process, peacekeeping, peacebuilding, humanitarian relief and post conflict recovery. Women's equal and meaningful participation in all stages is also included. This year marks 10 years anniversary of appointment of Special Representative of UN Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and opening of her office to tackle sexual violence in armed conflict based on related Security Council resolution 1888. 2018 Nobel Peace Prize were jointly awarded to Dr. Denis Mukwege who has long supported hundreds of victims of sexual violence in conflict in DRC, and Ms. Nadia Murad, a Yezidi activist from Iraq who is also a victim herself of sexual violence committed by ISIL and has advocated to end sexual violence in armed conflict. This has highlighted and raised greater recognition on sexual violence in conflict once again globally.

Several efforts and advancement have been made since the adoption of the resolutions. For example, in 2016 Security Council started to have regular briefings from the Informal Expert Group on WPS from civil society to bridge the gap between policy and practice. In the peacekeeping operations, more Gender advisors have been placed and Women Protection Advisors who directly respond to conflict related sexual violence have been created. G7 has decided to push forward WPS agenda at the Foreign Ministerial meeting in 2018 and launched G7 Women Peace and Security Partnership Initiative. Each G7 country has a partner country to provide support to implement WPS agenda. As 2020 will mark 20 years anniversary of adoption of SCR1325, the more work on implementing and strengthening WPS agenda will be expected in the international community.

On the other hand, a number of internally displaced persons (IDP), refugees, and sexual violence have increased for five consecutive years². Political instability, violent extremism and internal insurgency are still on rise, which have brought more issues and complexity to the world. The gap between policy and implementation level still remains. Implementing WPS agenda is supposed to respond to these issues, however it's not effectively functioning yet. For example, there is a little progress in women's participation in peace talks but there is only a small presence of them in political leadership in post-conflict nation rebuilding phase. National action plans on WPS have been developed but often without budgets. Furthermore, there are very few projects for gender equality and WPS agenda, which are supported by the international community. Even a ceasefire, peace agreement and post-conflict phases would not mean the end of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV). On the other hand, there are only a few women working in peacekeeping operations (Military 4 %, Police 14 %). Likewise, a limited number of women are involved in military, police and judicial system in conflict affected countries, which makes institutional capacity remain very weak to respond and to end impunity for crimes. Thus sexual violence has been repeatedly committed.

Many studies and reports points out that there is a clear linkage between gender equality and prevention of conflict³. Having different capacity and perspectives, international community, governments, humanitarian and development agencies, NGOs, civil society organizations should work together to implement WPS agenda and make sure women's substantial participation in conflict prevention and peace-building. This agenda is closely linked to the Goal 5 (Gender Equality) and Goal 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions).

Topics

- What are the obstacles to increase women's meaningful participation in peace talks and political leadership in nation building? How do we tackle these barriers?
- How can the governments and civil society organizations complement each other and work together to implement WPS agenda?
- How can we facilitate to involve men and boys to promote WPS agenda?
- What can be done by conflict affected countries, donor nations, international organizations, NGOs, and the private sector to prevent sexual violence in conflict?
- What should be done to enhance gender awareness and strengthen the capacity of security sector and judicial system to end impunity of conflict related sexual violence?

¹ See Peace Women website <https://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

² Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Global Trends: Forced Displacement in 2017(Geneva, 2018)

³ See (S/2017/861) and (S/2018/900)