



FemTALK

**No Peace Without Women
UNSCR1325+17**

It has long been recognised that when women lead and participate in peace processes, peace lasts longer.

Peacebuilding is no longer simply about crisis response and post conflict action but, increasingly, about prevention, including through the use of peace education, dialogue and mediation, and transforming political processes to increase the representation of women of all diversities particularly in local governance.

When the United Nation (UN) Security Council adopted the ground-breaking Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on October 31, 2000, they had listened to women from across the globe.

We had said we wanted a shift from reaction to prevention.

We said we wanted a key to open doors into negotiations, a loud hailer to have our voices heard, a pen to inscribe their issues onto the agenda, a mirror to hold up to governments to remind them of policy and budget commitments, and a lens to help see security through women's eyes.

We continue to say UNSCR 1325 is not about making war safe for women but to structure the peace in a way that there is no recurrence of war and conflict.

This is why women need to be at the peace tables, not in response to a crisis or violence, but to prevent - to enhance a Culture of Peace.

Pacific Connections

The Pacific Regional Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2012-2015), endorsed by Pacific Forum Leaders, highlighted the role of women in peacebuilding processes:

“For example, in Fiji women have organized peace vigils, dialogue and provided technical inputs into defence reviews and national security policy development; negotiations across crocodile infested rivers with armed combatants and developing education methods for peace building in the Solomon Islands; actions to bring about the laying down of arms in Bougainville; advocacy, research and education to encourage voting in Marshall Islands; efforts in Tonga, Fiji, Vanuatu and across the region to end violence against women. These are only a few examples of responses to conflict or perceived threats to human security that women's organizations have developed and sustained over the years. Despite women's productive efforts their participation in peace building, post-conflict recovery and efforts to enhance the oversight and accountability of the security sector is still a matter for debate. Women still struggle to be heard at the negotiating table in leadership roles and are not given sufficient recognition and resources to do their work.”

The Pacific Regional Action Plan was progressive in its identification of the nexus between peace and development, as well as UNSCR 1325 and humanitarian action, given our reality of dealing with the impact of the slow onset of climate change, particularly the nature of intensifying disasters, which affect food, water, health and other insecurities.

However, despite the adoption of the plan, the lack of dedicated resources to the women, peace and security agenda - in particular prevention, dialogue and mediation - has resulted in the envisaged collaboration between a Pacific regional network of women peacebuilders with government officials including in regional inter-governmental processes.

Additionally, while women, peace and security action plans have been adopted in Bougainville and the Solomon Islands, it is not clear whether resources are available to integrate the plans into security sector and foreign policy plans or to provide the resources needed to ensure women's civil society networks can contribute to implementation as well as being the much needed accountability oversight for such plans.

But we continue to drive a transformative agenda for gender inclusive conflict prevention and human security.

Women's peace activists with civil society partners through the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Pacific network, for example, have continued to shed a light on the resolution as well as work to localise the commitments in practical ways.

We continue to highlight the nexus between gender equality, peace, human security, development and humanitarian response with a focus on Participation for Prevention – not just simply preventing the occurrence of violence at the domestic front or within communities but tracking the indicators and root causes of violence particularly in situations of fragile peace and in response to the impact of growing environmental insecurities including intensifying disasters.

Collaborating with humanitarian action partners, including through the Shifting the Power coalition, we are driving a localisation agenda in the Pacific so that governments and humanitarian actors, including the UN and development agencies, are reminded of their responsibility to draw on the existing knowledge and programs of local, national and regional women's organisations and provide resources for women to building their capacity across the human security and prevention agenda.

The GPPAC Pacific network is applying UNSCR 1325 and the women, peace and security agenda through Pacific women-led innovation in Disaster Risk Reduction, Disaster Risk Management and humanitarian response, including through the innovative use of community media.



And we're not the only ones who are talking about this nexus.

The UN Secretary General's July 2017 report 'Repositioning the United Nations development system to deliver on the 2030 Agenda: ensuring a better future for all' reiterates a series of recommendations which have been heard through our GPPAC network including in my own Pacific region – in particular, the nexus between peace, development, human rights and humanitarian action - in order to progress Agenda 2030 in line with resolutions from the General Assembly and the Security Council, including the suite of women, peace and security resolutions.

Through a regional programme on applying Women, Peace and Security in Humanitarian situations, and working in collaboration with the Shifting the Power coalition, the GPPAC Pacific network is working to draw attention to the gender gaps in Humanitarian settings as well bring visibility to women's leadership roles as first responders and innovation with information and communication systems that links rural women together as well as contribute to changing the narrative and challenging stereotypes.

This is also particularly relevant as the Pacific region deals with a number of peacebuilding priorities such as the Bougainville referendum, the nuclear ban treaty implementation and the process of the development of Biketawa Plus. Women's peace and human security recommendations must also be included in the finalization of the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Women's civil society networks can bridge the gap in implementation of UNSCR 1325 if they are supported and resourced to bring their contributions to national and regional processes including development planning to ensure a stronger preventative action focus by ensuring gender inclusive perspectives on the potential drivers or root causes of conflict.

According to UNWomen, ahead of the UN Security Council annual Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security on 27 October 2017, the UN Secretary-General's report stressed that achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals requires full implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

The report's six recommendations provide a roadmap to achieve a shift from ad-hoc inclusion of women to making women's leadership a norm - focus on transformative implementation; place gender firmly at the centre of UN's prevention agenda; invest in quality gender and conflict analysis; protect civil society and women's human rights defenders; ensure robust funding; and exercise greater leadership and political will.



The UN Secretary General's Report

Over the past 17 years, the women and peace and security agenda has become an essential component of global affairs and a tool necessary for strengthening the effectiveness of UN's efforts in conflict prevention and resolution and humanitarian action. It is a prerequisite for the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Across the three pillars of the UN — security, human rights and development — the women and peace and security agenda contributes to transformative change. The past two decades have produced sufficient, credible evidence that women's meaningful participation measurably strengthens protection efforts, accelerates economic recovery, deepens peacebuilding efforts and leads to more sustainable peace. Growing research in recent years also points to the direct relationship between gender equality on the one hand and resilience to and prevention of conflict on the other. Despite the evidence supporting the transformative power of this agenda, the clear and detailed road map provided through the recommendations of the 2015 global study on women, peace and security, the 2015 peace and security reviews and the increased need for an effective solution to growing global challenges, the actual implementation of the women and peace and security

agenda continues to fall short.

The present report is submitted pursuant to the presidential statement dated 26 October 2010 (S/PRST/2010/22), in which the Security Council requested annual reports on the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), resolution 2122 (2013), in which the Council called for updates on progress made across all areas of the women and peace and security agenda, highlighting gaps and challenges. It includes updates on the status of implementation of the resolution since the issuance of the previous report (S/2016/822), reflecting indicator data and highlighting trends. It also provides an update on progress made pursuant to resolution 2242 (2015), which was adopted following the conduct of three peace and security reviews in 2015, with a focus on how the effective implementation of the women and peace and security agenda directly contributes to preventing conflict and sustaining peace. It offers a set of core, overarching and catalytic recommendations that speak to the most fundamental challenges.

The report is based on data and analysis provided by entities of the UN system, including peace operations and country teams, and inputs from Member States, regional organizations and civil society.

(Read the full report: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/report-secretary-general-women-and-peace-and-security-s2017861-enarru>)



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