

Coordination of the Women's Security Council

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Presentation under:

www.glow-boell.de (News)
www.konfliktbearbeitung.net

1325 PEACEWOMEN E-NEWS:

www.peacewomen.org

Sustainable security policy needs a gender perspective

*In March 2003, women working in
research institutes, politics and non-
governmental organisations founded a
German network for feminist peace and
security policy*

Women's Security Council in Germany

Guiding principles

The traditional foreign and security policy from States is still dominated by men. Political discourses and decisions are made and dominated by men, where only a few women can be found in responsible positions. There is little attention given to alternative analysis in the international relationships and they seldom get into operative politics. On the other side, the State and the majority of men actors perceive women in their social context only as victims who suffer passively in situations of conflicts and wars.

- There is no recognition that women are organising the survey of the community in war times and post conflict situations and the women contribute mainly to the (re-) construction of the society.
- The active role of women in peace processes, in crisis prevention, non-violent conflict management and transformation, is often neglected.
- Women are scarcely, if at all, integrated into official peace negotiations of UN missions.
- The needs of women and girls in conflict zones, refugee camps and in the organisation of development projects are still underestimated.

On the national, as well as on the international level, we are still far away from an implementation of the UN Security Council *Resolution 1325* from October 2000. It demands equal participation of women on all peace keeping and peace enforcing measures.

Aims

- ◆ Focussing on the political competences of women
- ◆ Integration of the Gender perspective in the Foreign and Security policy
- ◆ Impulses for the implementation of the UN-Resolution 1325 at the national level
- ◆ Critical follow-up of the work of the German government in the UN Security Council
- ◆ Defence of the international and human rights standards.
- ◆ New definitions of security with appropriate gender aspects
- ◆ Development of gender specific criteria's for civilian peace missions.
- ◆ Sensitivity and support of women in crisis regions.

Working methods

- ➔ Autonomous context of engaged women from feminist, pacifist and development organisations in foreign and security politics, political foundations and peace research institutes.
- ➔ Representation through a coordination group of 10 women.
- ➔ Exchange of information by an internal e-mail network
- ➔ Establishment of a pool of experts in gender sensitive foreign and security policies.
- ➔ We invite active co-operation and new ideas.

Activities

- Appeals towards the government, the parliament for German representation in the UN concerning the participation of women in the reconstruction of Iraq.
- Dialogues with politicians and collaborators of the foreign ministry.
- Public discussions "Women rights in Islamic societies" together with the feminist institute of the Heinrich-Böll Foundation 12.09.2003
- Conference on "Human Security = Women's Security? No sustainable security without gender perspective." in Co-operation with the Feminist Institute of the Heinrich-Böll and the Friedrich-Ebert Foundations 24./25.10.2003