# WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

## Does Militarism Lead to Violence?
## Fact Sheet Building on the Global Study on UNSCR 1325

*"[M]ilitarism serves to uphold and perpetuate structural inequalities that in turn operate to disenfranchise women and girls from public goods, entrench exclusion and marginalisation, and create the ingredients for a platform of broader inequalities that increase the potential for violent conflict to occur"*
*- Global Study on UNSCR 1325 (p. 207)*[1]

Militarism normalises and legitimises gender inequality and military action. However, militarism is about more than just the military industrial complex. Militarism as a way of thought affirms the idea that we live in a dangerous world and that we need just warriors to protect beautiful souls. It relies on gendered and racial understandings to value things associated with the military and devalue things associated with non-violence. Militarism and cultures of militarised masculinities create a climate of political decision-making in which resorting to the use of force becomes a normalised mode of dispute resolution. In doing so, militarism enables the legitimisation and continuation of violence.

**Facts and figures:**

The Global Study on UNSCR 1325 recognised that demilitarisation is a critical part of structural conflict prevention and addressing root causes of war. Key facts and figures from the Global Study include:

- Annual military expenditures has increased by approximately 60 percent from 2000 to 2015, the equivalent of 2500 years of expenditure by international disarmament and nonproliferation organizations (UN Women, 134)
- In 2014, global military spending was USD $1776 billion: 2.4 percent of global GDP, and almost 13 times higher than development aid from OECD-DAC countries (approximately USD $135 billion) (UN Women, 204)
- In 2014, the global cost of violence was USD $14.3 trillion: 13.4 percent of global GDP (UN Women, 195)
- In addition to unilateral military operations, there is now an expanding list of military deployments supported by the UN and regional organisations, such as NATO, the European Union, the African Union and the Arab League (UN Women, 132).

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[1] The Global Study on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 (2015) (UN Women) Available: http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015 (1).pdf

- Only a few Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) programmes have developed concrete initiatives to transform violent masculinities (UN Women, 178-179)
- As of 2015, news media stories on peace and security-related themes from 15 conflict and post-conflict countries identified women as victims more than twice as often as men, and portrayed women as leaders only four percent of the time (UN Women, 293-294)

**International Commitments**

The international community has committed to addressing militarisation, and to reducing military spending and redirect it to gender equality, development and peace.[2] Key commitments on demilitarisation and disarmament include:

- Arms Trade Treaty (Article 10 and 7(4)) (2013)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, Area E (Women and armed conflict) (1995)
- Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) General Recommendation 30 (2013)
- Convention on Cluster Munitions (2008)
- Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (2006)
- Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, II. 4 (2001)
- Agenda 21, 22.16 (1992)
- Sustainable Development Goals, Goal 16, including target 16.4 (2015)
- UN Human Rights Council Resolutions on arms transfers and firearms, and small arms and light weapons (UNHRCR 24/35, 26/16, 29/10)
- UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325 (OP 13), 1820 (OP 10), 1888 (OP 17), 1888 (OP 13), 2106 (OP 16), 2122 (OP 4), 2242 (OP 15)
- UN General Assembly resolutions on women, disarmament, arms control and nonproliferation (Resolutions A/RES/65/69, A/RES/67/48, A/C.1/68/L.7, A/RES/69/61)
- UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
- UN Security Council Resolutions on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNSCR 2117, UNSCR 2200)

**Key Recommendations**

Preventing conflict and promoting gender equality and peace requires rejecting failed modes of militarised conflict resolution. Instead, it requires valuing and investing in non-violent and gender equitable alternatives. Key recommendations from the Global Study include:

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[2] Women, Weapons, and War: A Gendered Critique of Multilateral Instruments. (2015). WILPF/Reaching Critical Will.
Available: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/women-weapons-war.pdf

- Provide financial, technical and political support to countries to encourage educational and leadership training for men, women, boys and girls, which reinforces and supports non-violent, non-militarised expressions of masculinity (UN Women, 214)
- Encourage public and private media organizations to advocate for and give visibility to issues relating to women, peace and security and respect a code of ethics that proscribes hate speech and the stereotyping of women and their communities (UN Women, 395)
- Adopt gender-responsive budgeting practices as a strategy to address, highlight and mitigate militarised state budgets and their destabilising impact on international peace and security and women's rights (UN Women, 214)
- Commit to doctrines and planning that takes into account the impact on women and girls of every military deployment and operation, and that considers the use of unarmed military protection as a preferable or complementary protection method (UN Women, 402)
- Ensure gender-responsive budgeting and financial tracking of investments on gender equality in missions by requesting peacekeeping budget experts and planning officers, along with gender-responsive budget experts, to review mission budgets and make a recommendation on methodology and capacity needed (UN Women, 403)
- Take steps to improve regulation and oversight of all private contractors hired by the United Nations with regards to sexual exploitation and abuse. The UN should revise and fully implement guidelines to regulate these companies, including through permanent or temporary debarment of companies from further contracts and keeping a centralized register of companies whose staff have repeatedly been linked to allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse (UN Women, 403)
- Scale up their support to unarmed civilian protection (UCP) in conflict-affected countries, including working alongside peace operations (UN Women, 403)

**To learn more:**

- Boggs, Carl and Tom Pollard (2016). *The Hollywood War Machine: US Militarism and Popular Culture* (2nd Edition). Princeton
- Cockburn, Cynthia (2012). *Antimilitarism: Political and Gender Dynamics of Peace Movements.* Palgrave Macmillan
- Enloe, Cynthia. (2007). *Globalisation and Militarism: Feminists Make the Link.* Rowman & Littlefield
- Enloe, Cynthia. (2000). Maneuvers: *The International Politics of Militarizing Women's Lives.* University of California Press
- Leatherman, Janie. (2011). *Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict.* Polity Press
- The Global Study on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 (2015) (UN Women) Available: http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015 (1).pdf

- True, Jacqui. (2012) T*he Political Economy of Violence against Women*. Oxford Studies in Gender and International Relations
- (2014) The Economic Cost of Violence Containment: A Comprehensive Assessment of the Global Cost of Violence (Institute of Economics and Peace)
- Women, Weapons, and War: A Gendered Critique of Multilateral Instruments. (2015). WILPF/Reaching Critical Will. Available: www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/women-weapons-war.pdf