



PRIO

'Men Must Get Involved in Fighting Violence Against Women'

PRIO Gender, Peace
and Security Update

Launch Issue 2010

The PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update is an electronic newsletter launched by PRIO's Gender Team in response to growing interest among the public for information about women, peace and security issues. The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest developments both internationally and in Norway in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.

Resolution 1325
10 years 2000 - 2010



Knut Storberget, Norway's Minister of Justice and the Police, interviewed by Suk Chun, PRIO.
Photo: CF Wesenberg.

First, let me congratulate you on your appointment as a member of the UN Network of Men Leaders. For those who may not be familiar with this network, can you briefly introduce your role as a Men Leader and outline your plans for raising awareness on the issue of violence against women?

The UN Network of Men Leaders is an integrated part of the United Nations campaign 'Unite to end Violence against Women', which seeks to increase global advocacy on violence against women and girls. As a member of the network, I have committed myself to contribute to a change in attitudes and to mobilization of men, internationally and nationally, to prevent this violence. Violence against women and children is a global problem, existing in every region, country and neighbourhood of the world. We have a lot to learn from each other on what works, and what does not. This is why I will raise the issue of domestic violence on every possible occasion, at international meetings and on visits abroad, as I did recently on my visit to Azerbaijan in February. In April last year, I visited Malawi to learn from African NGOs about how to mobilize local communities and networks to fight domestic vio-

lence. As a follow-up, we will organize a conference in Norway later this year, together with Norwegian NGOs, involving experts from Southern Africa, India and other countries and regions to share experiences and best practices.

In addition, the Norwegian government is currently calling on local authorities all over the country to make local action plans against domestic violence. Another important measure will be to establish a national network of men promoting a change in attitudes among men.

You are a strong advocate for fighting violence against women in Norway. Are the lessons learned from your work at the national level applicable to the international level? Also, there is growing awareness of conflict-related sexual violence against women, but little is known about sexual violence against men. Should the UN Network of Men Leaders also be active in raising awareness on that issue?

I acknowledge that both men and women are exposed to physical and sexual violence, and I agree that we need further knowledge about men who are affected. This is why, as part of our action plan 'Turning Point', the Norwegian government



Photo: CF Wesenberg

has initiated a research project on violence against men and their need for help. The results of this study, which were published recently by the Norwegian research centre NKVTS [National Knowledge Centre on Violence and Traumatic Stress], will provide a basis for further development of methods and measures.

When it comes to the UN Network, it is my opinion that we, at the current stage, need to focus on women and children, because the number of victims is overwhelmingly higher among women and children than among men.

So, to your question about whether the measures applied in Norway are applicable to the international level. Yes, I certainly think so. But I would like to add that we have much to learn from other countries. Three important measures that I think should be specifically relevant to other countries are the following:

The General Civil Penal Code. A special penal sanction for violence in intimate relationships entered into force on 1 January 2006. This also covers mental abuse. In the new penal code, the Norwegian government is proposing to change the penal framework for abuse in intimate relationships from three to six years, and for aggravated abuse from six to fifteen years. A major increase in sentencing is proposed within these frameworks; it shall be accounted an aggravating factor in sentencing if a child is witness to the violence.

The Work of the Police. A full-time family violence coordinator has now been appointed in all police districts. The coordinator is to help ensure that the victim of violence and her family and friends are met with understanding, knowledge and insight by the police – in both professional and human terms. In the largest police districts, separate teams are being established to work on violence and abuse in intimate relationships and sexual abuse.

Child Shelters. In order to create better caring services for children who have been exposed to abuse, the Norwegian government has created a nationwide network of children's shelters. Here, children who have been subjected to sexual abuse or violence, or who have witnessed violence or mishandling in intimate relationships, will be offered integrated help, care and treatment. This includes new methods of questioning and medical examination.

What do you see as the best measures to prevent men from becoming perpetrators of these forms of violence?

We know that children who grow up with violence are more likely to subject others to similar violence as adults. One important measure of prevention is therefore to offer perpetrators treatment to stop the violence and reduce the number of children being exposed to violence at home.

Patterns of violence can be changed. Through close supervision, treatment and assistance, we can help the offender to take responsibility for his/her behaviour and refrain from future violence. A service adapted to the needs of each individual can help to stop violence and teach the offender how to deal with his or her aggressive behaviour. This service must include a broad range of measures, from conversation groups to professional therapy. Offenders who want to step away from a pattern of violence will receive necessary and targeted help.

How can Norway contribute towards preventing sexual violence from happening in conflicts?

Norway's national action plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2006. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is coordinating the implementation of the action plan. An increasing number of measures have been implemented to protect women against sexual and gender-based violence.

It has been decided that the Norwegian armed forces will develop guidelines for the protection of civilians against sexual violence in conflict and war.

Between 2007 and 2009, Norway provided NOK 320 million (approximately USD 50 million) to promote women's rights, gender balance and sexual violence in humanitarian operations. For the last two years, Norway has financed a senior gender adviser in MONUC in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), through the UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict. We have also made contributions for the Comprehensive Strategy To Combat Sexual Violence in the DRC. In Africa's Great Lakes region, Norway is supporting projects for health care and psychological help, as well as rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence. Furthermore, we support measures to prevent sexual violence, both in the civil

and military sectors, and measures to have the perpetrators of such violence prosecuted. Since 2006, Norway has supported the establishment of Women and Children Protection Units at county police stations in Liberia and in Monrovia. Norwegian police officers are also working with the Liberian police force as instructors. This work is still in progress and will continue in 2010 and 2011. For the last two years, Norway has also supported the International Criminal Court's funds for victims of sexual violence.

In your keynote address at the Interpol Conference on War Crime, you stated: 'we also realised that an increasing number of refugees and immigrants coming to Norway from all over the world implied that war criminals could be present in our country... In those cases, we had to be prepared to carry out investigations ourselves'. What measures have you introduced to enable such investigations since May 2009? Furthermore, the same developments also mean that victims of war-related sexual violence may be living in Norway. Is the specialized law enforcement unit that was established in 2005 to investigate cases of war crimes now fully equipped to identify victims and conduct investigations into their cases? If so, what are the procedures involved?

In order to enable us to carry out the investigations ourselves, the most important measure has been the revisions in the Norwegian penal code regarding genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity, which came into effect in March 2008, years before the revised penal code as a whole will come into effect. In 2008, we increased the budget of the specialized law enforcement unit, enabling an increase in the number of investigators from 4 to 8. The number of public prosecutors was increased with one new position. The impact of these measures started to become noticeable in 2009. Today, the unit has the capacity to investigate possible war criminals from the genocide in Rwanda in 1994.



Photo: CF Wesenberg

The second part of your question is whether the specialized law enforcement unit has the capacity to identify victims of war-related sexual violence and to conduct investigations. This is a question of strategy as well as resources. It has not been found appropriate to register specifically the possible victims of sexual violence. However, the specialized law enforcement unit are focusing on sexual violence in their investigations in each particular case. The selection of cases for investigation is made on the basis of possible perpetrators, not on the basis of victims. This is a strategic choice, not one based on the availability of resources.

Additionally, the Norwegian Directorate of Immigration (UDI) has been informed that in cases where it has information about possible victims of sexual violence, this information should be forwarded to the specialized law enforcement unit or to the public prosecutor. UDI is a very important ally in cases of war crimes, and the strengthening of UDI implies therefore a general strengthening of work with these cases.

I have initiated a study on possible forms of cooperation between the Nordic countries in the investigation of cases of war crimes.

Norway's Ministry of Foreign Affairs (including International Development) and Ministry of Defence seem to have been at the forefront of promoting the government's action plan on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2006. Much less is known about the Ministry of Justice and the Police's work on the government's action plans. What can you tell us about the Ministry of Justice and the Police's efforts to implement Resolution 1325 since 2006?

The Ministry of Justice and the Police has undertaken several measures to support Resolution 1325, and I will give a brief overview of some of the most important ones:

We have increased the proportion of women in the police force – up to 40%. Today, almost 40% of all applicants to the Police Academy are women. In addition, the proportion of female police officers expressing interest in participating in international police operations has increased significantly, from 5 applicants in 2009 to 22 in 2010.

The Ministry of Justice is responsible for recruiting women to a reserve pool known as 'Styrkebrønnen', which provides personnel and trainers from the police and justice sectors to countries in the process of building peace,

democracy and respect for human rights. We aim to increase the number of women in this pool, and the proportion of women has now risen from 26% to 33%.

Norwegian police officers applying for positions in international operations must pass a preliminary course at the Police Academy, based on the UN's Standard Generic Training Modules (SGTM), revised by the UN in 2009. The course is mandatory for all UN member-states. The participants are trained in challenges regarding gender and conflict in humanitarian operations, the content of Resolution 1325, the UN Code of Conduct for Personal Behaviour, and international law and regulations on conflict-related sexual violence and trafficking. The proportion of female participants is now close to 50%.

The Norwegian police force is running a women's project in NORAF in Afghanistan, with two male and two female police officers employed in the project. The Norwegian contingent in UNMIL, in Liberia, currently consists of six women and three men, partly working with gender-related issues, associated with the Women and Children Protection Unit. Norway has also created the position of Police Adviser within Norway's permanent delegation to the UN, one of whose main tasks is to follow up on Resolution 1325. ■

International News

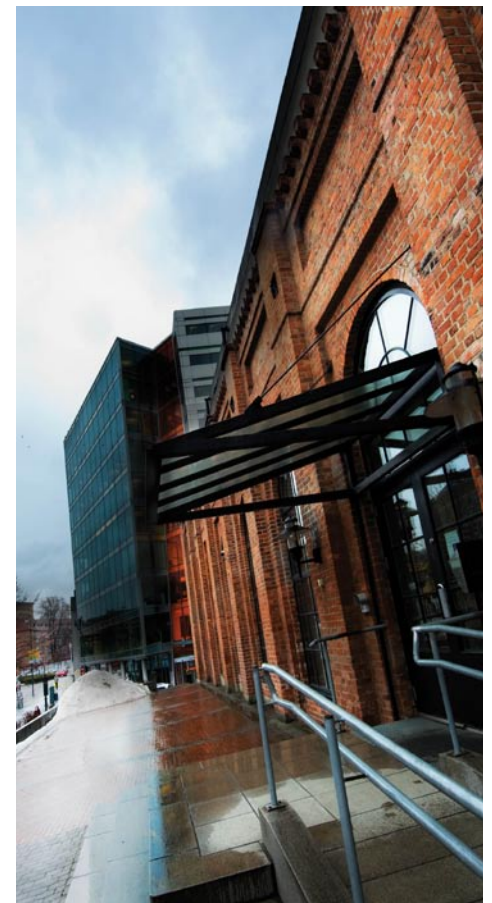
Margot Wallström was recently appointed as the UN Special Representative of the Secretary General on sexual violence in conflict. Wallström has been at the forefront of efforts to promote the participation of women in peace- and security-related issues. During her term of office as vice-president of the European Commission, she launched the 50–50 Campaign for Democracy in 2008, which aimed to ensure equal gender participation and representation within European politics, and she also pressed for greater inclusion of women's perspectives and experiences within the European Security Strategy. Wallström is a seasoned politician. She served as a member of Sweden's parliament from 1979 until 1985, including terms of office as minister of civil affairs, minister of culture and minister for social affairs, before assuming her role as environment commissioner and vice-president of the European Commission in 1999.

A 15th-year review of the Implementation of the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and a review of the outcomes of the 23rd special session of the General Assembly (2000) was held at the UN General Assembly from 1 – 12 March. The review session

emphasize the sharing of experiences and good practices, with a view to overcoming remaining obstacles and new challenges, including those related to the Millennium Development Goals and the use of sexual violence in armed conflicts. Press releases and meeting outcomes are available online at <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing15/participation.html#webc> In addition to the 17 UN member states which have already adopted National Action Plans (NAPs), Pakistan and Nepal are currently in the process of formulating NAPs, in accordance with the request set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325. ■

News from Norway

The Women, Peace and Security Project has been established by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen the government's efforts to implement UN Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889, and to enhance the coordination of these efforts. The project focuses on the participation and empowerment of women in all phases of peace processes and conflict management, as well as on preventing and reducing sexual violence in conflict. The project is coordinated by Hilde Klemetsdal. ■



PRIO Headquarters
Photo: André Clementsen

News from PRIO

Margot Wallström

visited Norway on 23 March to engage in a discussion with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Defence in her capacity as SRSR for Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts. Ms. Wallström also visited PRIO to discuss challenges of Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts with relevant researchers and NGO groups in Norway. Ms. Wallström's co-authored op-ed in *Dagsavisen* at <http://www.dagsavisen.no/meninger/article476926.ece>

Suk Chun

presented a paper co-authored with Inger Skjelsbæk titled 'Research and Policy Challenges Linked to Sexual Violence in War and Postwar – including Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers' at *Understanding Wartime Rape: Some Current Research Questions* workshop hosted by the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) in Bonn, Germany on 11-12 March. The aim of the workshop was to discuss different research efforts and challenges, as well as to identify some underexplored research questions.

Torunn L. Tryggestad

gave a lecture on 'The Role of Women in Crisis Situations and War' at a MA course in *Katastrofe- og krisehåndtering (KAKRI)* organised by Nasjonalt Utdanningssenter for samfunnssikkerhet og beredskap (NUSB) in cooperation with Høgskolen i Buskerud, 11 March in Heggedal, Asker.

Liv Tønnessen and Hilde Granås Kjøstvedt

from the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI) presented their report titled *The Politics of Women's Representation in Sudan: Debating Women's Rights in Islam from the Elites to the Grassroots* at PRIO on 2 March. The report can be accessed online at <http://www.cmi.no/publications/publication/?3643=the-politics-of-womens-representation-in-sudan>

Torunn L. Tryggestad and Inger Skjelsbæk

presented their academic works at the 51st Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA) 17-20 February in New Orleans, USA. Skjelsbæk presented a paper titled *Traditions and Transition: Perceptions of 'Good Womanhood' Amongst Twenty Bosnian Focus Group Participants* at a panel on Gendering Good Women and Mothers. Tryggestad presented a paper titled *Gendering the Peacebuilding Commission: Norway as Norm Entrepreneur* at a panel on Women and Post-conflict Peacebuilding.

The PRIO Gender Research Group

consists of all gender researchers at PRIO. It aims to provide a forum for dialogue on gender research, exchange of ideas and further strengthening of cross-sectional and cross-disciplinary research cooperation at PRIO. The PRIO Gender Research Group is coordinated by Helga Hernes, and meets on a monthly basis.

The 'Women, Peace and Security' Research Network

comprises a steadily growing number of Norwegian researchers that in various ways conduct research on issues related to 'women, peace and security'. The main purpose of the network is to enable members to inform each other about ongoing and planned research activities. The network is coordinated by Torunn L. Tryggestad. ■

Recent PRIO Publications

Inger Skjelsbæk and Torunn L. Tryggestad (2009), 'Women in the Norwegian Armed Forces. Gender Equality or Operational Imperative', published in *Minerva Journal of Women and War*, Volume 3, Number 2, Fall.

Torunn L. Tryggestad (2009) 'Trick or Treat? The UN and Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security' published in the journal *Global Governance*, Volume 14, Number 4, pp. 539-557.

Suk Chun (2009) *Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by UN Peacekeepers*, PRIO Policy Brief 10/2009. Available Online at <http://www.prio.no/Research-and-Publications/Publication/?oid=52619950>

Suk Chun and Inger Skjelsbæk (2010) *Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts*, PRIO Policy Brief 01/2010. Available Online at <http://www.prio.no/Research-and-Publications/Publication/?oid=56000882> ■

Other Recent Publications

NATO Gender Training and Education (2010) 'Recommendations on Implementation of UNSCR 1325' can be accessed online at http://www.nato.int/issues/women_nato/pdf/2010/BrochureGender.pdf

The United Nations General Assembly (2010) 'Comprehensive Proposal for the Composite Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women' (A/64/588) can be accessed online at <http://www.un.org/Docs/journal/asp/ws.asp?m=A/64/588>

Human Rights Watch (2010) *Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes Against Humanity: A Digest of the Case Law of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda* can be accessed online at <http://www.hrw.org/en/reports/2010/01/12/genocide-war-crimes-and-crimes-against-humanity>

Veronica Haglund (2010) 'Wanted: More Women To Keep the Peace' is available at Global Policy Forum's website at <http://www.globalpolicy.org/security-council/peacekeeping/analysis-and-articles-on-peacekeeping/48663.html?Itemid903>

Bernice Robertson (2010) 'Haiti's Women Rise from the Rubble', published on 12 February 2010, is available at the International Crisis Group's website at <http://www.crisisgroup.org/home/index.cfm?id=6533&l=1> ■



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