PeaceWomen Strategic Consultation on WPS High-Level Review

When: WILPF Women's Power to Stop War Conference, 100th Anniversary | Tuesday 28 April | 2:00 pm – 3:45pm

Where: Oceania Room, Den Haag World Forum, The Hague

Brief

This is a strategic consultation on the Women, Peace and Security 2015 High-Level Review and the independent Global Study. The 15th anniversary of Resolution 1325 must be about concrete commitments and actions on gendering peace; walking the talk; delivering new funding; implementing the whole agenda; and ensuring accountability and leadership.

This session will be participatory and organized to hear input, recommendations and voices for action. We will discuss how civil society can work together, how you can do local and national advocacy to push for change.

The PeaceWomen Programme of WILPF leads this session, with support from partners: UNWomen, GNWP, CARE, Cordaid, NGOWG.

	Roundtable Breakout	Facilitator
1.	Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief	Howard Mollett (Senior Policy Advisor, CARE International UK)
2.	Prevention and Early Warning Systems	Josefine Karlsson (Policy Advisor, Kvinna till Kvinna)
3.	Political Economy and Economic Rights	Carol Cohn (Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights)
4.	Environmental Degradation and Climate Justice	Akinyi Walender (Director Women's Leadership for Peace and Security Program, Cordaid)
5.	Human Rights Defenders and Journalists	Leila Alikarami (Nobel Women's Initiative)
6.	The Continuum of Violence: gangs, small arms and light weapons	Elisabeth Van Der Steenhoven (Director, Wo=Men)
7.	Leadership and Accountability	Sarah Taylor (Human Right's Watch)
8.	NAPS: minimum standards and maximising revisions	Mavic Cabrera-Balleza (International Coordinator, GNWP)

1. Human Rights and Humanitarian Relief
  A. Women IDPs and refugees experience unique vulnerabilities, including uncertain citizenship status, challenges accessing education and health resources, and sexual and gender-based violence. Further, many IDPs and refugees may not return home for periods of years, or even generations, and live in what were intended to be "temporary" camps. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to improve the situation of women IDPs and refugees? Including addressing their long-term needs?
  B. The right to education—particularly for girls—comes under threat in conflict and crisis-affected settings. What recommendations should the Global Study make in order to ensure that the right to education is realized in situations of fragility and conflict?
  C. Women and girls in conflict and crisis-affected settings face difficulties accessing adequate health care, including reproductive services and psychosocial support. What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that the health needs of women and girls in conflict and crisis are met?

What can you, as CSOs, pledge/commit to do to move these recommendations forward in the context of the High-Level Review /October 2015 with the aim to advance implementation of WPS agenda? (How can CSOs work better together? Are your/our strategies/approaches working?)

2. Prevention and Early Warning Systems
  A. Demilitarization is essential to prevent conflict and to stop the flow of arms in order to reallocate resources to peace and development. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) in order to ensure that there are measurable actions/commitment on demilitarization? Specifics - where, who, and how? National/regional examples?
  B. New technologies can be extremely useful tools for early warning and conflict prevention; for example, mobile and satellite phones can be used to quickly report incidents of violence and call for assistance. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) in order to ensure that women have access to (and are trained to use) technology for conflict prevention?
  C. Community-based dialogue that includes women and their perspectives can play an essential role in de-escalating conflict. What recommendations should the Global Study make to strengthen women's roles in local community dialogue, and to ensure that women's perspectives in conflict-prevention and mediation are considered and prioritized?
  D. There is a direct link between increased gender equality in a society, and decreased likelihood that the society will experience conflict. What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that gender equality is a part of long-term conflict prevention strategies?

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3. Political Economy and Economic Rights
   A. During post-conflict recovery, it is essential that the infrastructure that is built is gender-sensitive, taking into consideration women's needs for roads, lighting and other public utilities. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to ensure that infrastructure meets women's needs?
   B. Women are an essential part of post-conflict economic recovery. Yet the contributions of women, particularly in the informal economic sectors, receive inadequate investment and support. What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that women benefit equitably from economic recovery, and that economic recovery transforms oppressive social norms?
   C. In many contexts—and particularly after conflict and displacement—women face challenges accessing land and land-related rights (e.g. the right to transfer or inherit land). What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that women have access to land and land-related rights in conflict-affected communities?

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4. Environmental Degradation and Climate Justice
   A. Climate change has specific impacts on women's livelihoods and access to resources, and women often are aware of community practices and social norms that can be instrumental in designing strategies and programs to help communities address changing environmental conditions. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to ensure that women—and particularly women in areas affected by climate change and conflict—play an active role in designing and implementing international and local responses to climate change? [Moving beyond (or at least operationalizing) ideas around consulting with women in these communities).]
   B. Resilience in the face of climate change and natural disaster is essential to ensuring that communities are not devastated by these sources of instability. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to build the capacity of women to cope with changes to their natural environment?

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5. Human Rights Defenders and Journalists
   A. In conflict-affected settings, women human rights defenders and journalists face extraordinary risk of violence—both from the state and from their communities. What should the Global Study recommend (to the UN, Member States, Regional Organizations, Civil Society) in order to ensure that women human rights defenders are able to do their critical work in a safe environment?
   B. Restrictions on freedom of expression are one warning sign of potential conflict. What should the Global Study recommend to utilize the local knowledge of women human rights defenders and journalists, as a form of early warning?

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6. The Continuum of Violence: gangs, small arms and light weapons
   A. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons is a major factor contributing to conflict and violence in women's daily lives. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to control this proliferation and mitigate its effects on women's lives?
   B. Women experience a continuum of violence and insecurity, before, during and after conflict—in range of forms, including domestic violence, structural violence, and criminal violence. What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that the women, peace and security agenda is inclusive of women's pre- and post-conflict experiences of violence?
   C. Strong rule of law and police institutions, when they prioritize women's access to justice, can play an important role in increasing women's security and willingness to report crime. What recommendations should the Global Study make to strengthen women's access to justice and security?

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7. Leadership and Accountability
   A. Female leadership is key to ensuring the effectiveness of peace and security-related activities—from peace negotiations, to peacekeeping, to post-conflict recovery. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) to ensure that there is a pipeline of talented female leaders available to lead peace and security work?
   B. Local, national and international leaders must be held accountable for their commitments to implement the women, peace and security agenda. What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure that leaders are held accountable?
   C. In general, monitoring and accountability of WPS continues to be a challenge, both at the national, regional and global levels. What technical recommendations should the Global Study make to strengthen accountability for the women, peace and security agenda?

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8. NAPS: minimum standards and maximizing revisions
  A. The process of developing a legitimate and inclusive NAP must be transparent and consultative, and ensure that implementation mechanisms are put in place for future coordination, monitoring and oversight. What recommendations should the Global Study make (to the UN, States, Civil Society, and others) regarding minimum standards for NAP development?
  B. Implementation of NAPs must combine the promotion women's participation in all aspects of post-conflict governance, with addressing the specific needs of the different groups of survivors (e.g. single women heads of household, widows, and people with disabilities). What recommendations should the Global Study make to ensure the implementation of NAPS has local relevance—in particular, for survivors?
  C. Countries with existing NAPS should conduct regular review processes, aimed at strengthen reporting and accountability. What recommendations should the Global Study make regarding the process of a NAP review?

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9. Masculinities and Violence

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