

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

# Report on the Fifteenth Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, October 2015



**PeaceWomen**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Cover Photo from the event “Conversations with Radhika Commarawamy” Photo Credit: MADRE

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The PeaceWomen team is grateful to all of the WILPF international delegations during UNSCR1325+15 and everyone who helped us with the monitoring of a vast variety of Women, Peace and Security related events. Thanks especially to the PeaceWomen team: Charlette Lopez, Cynthia Sularz, Federica Dall’Arche Ciranna, Marta Bautista Forcada, Cristel Taveras, and Blythe Brauer. Thanks also to all of the volunteers and collaborators who contributed, provided notes, took photos, and engaged to make this all possible.

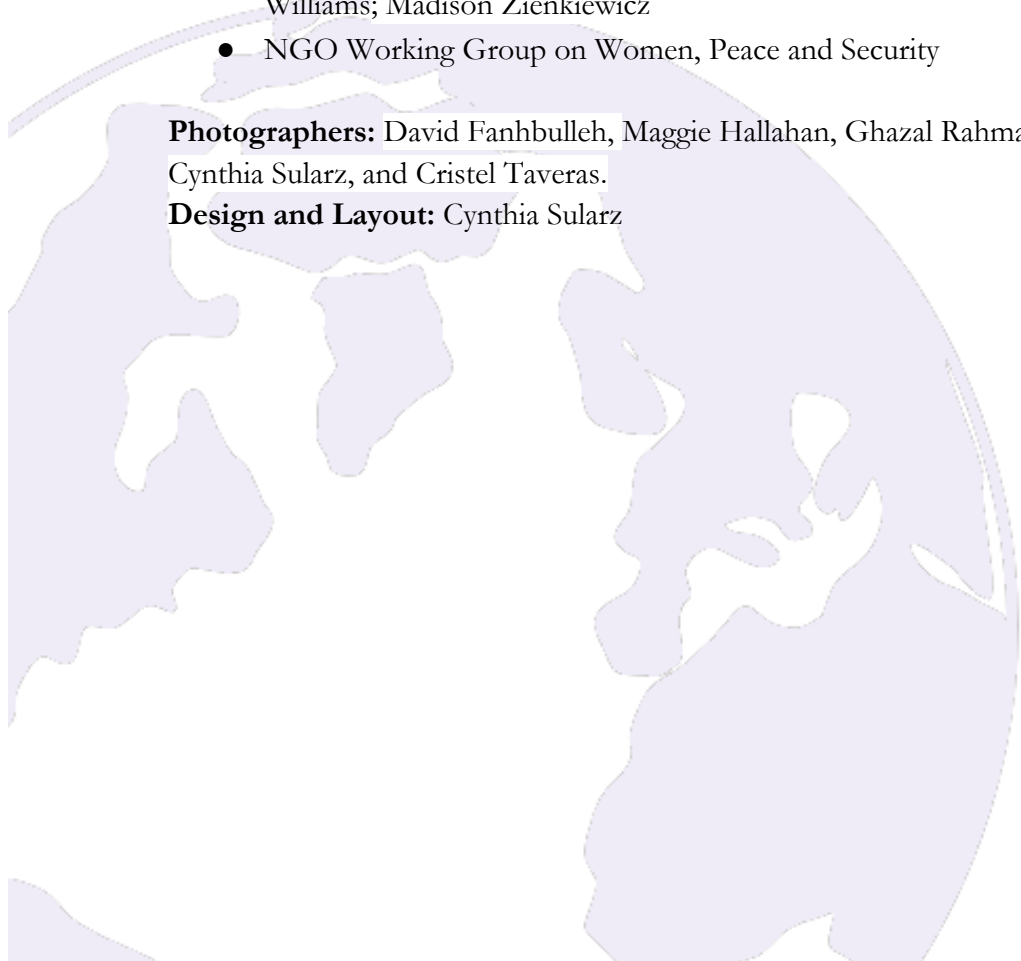
**Report editors:** Abigail Ruane, Ghazal Rahmanpanah, and Marta Bautista Forcada

**Contributors:**

- PeaceWomen: Blythe Brauer, Marta Bautista Forcada, Federica Dall’Arche Ciranna, Charlette Lopez, Cynthia Sularz, and Cristel Taveras
- GNWP: Lori Perkovitch
- University of Winnipeg Global College: Micaela Crighton, Katrina Leclerc, Marilou McPhedran, Claire Paetkau, Emily Rempel, Angeline Rivard, Teruni Walaliyadde, Christine Williams; Madison Zienkiewicz
- NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security

**Photographers:** David Fanhbulleh, Maggie Hallahan, Ghazal Rahmanpanah, Evan Roberts, Cynthia Sularz, and Cristel Taveras.

**Design and Layout:** Cynthia Sularz



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## List of Abbreviations

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
WID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
CCUN	Church Center for the United Nations
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
CWGL	Center for Women's Global Leadership
GNWP	Global Network for Women Peacemakers
DPA	Department for Political Affairs
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HRC	Human Rights Council
ICAN	International Civil Society Action Network
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO WG on WPS	NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
PBSO	Peacebuilding Support Office
RCW	Reaching Critical Will
SANAM	South Asian Network to Address Masculinities
SC	Security Council
TVPA	Trafficking Victims Protection Act
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US	United States
WILPF	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

## 1. Introduction

October 2015 marked the 15th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. Across the month of October, women and men activists, advocates and women human rights defenders along with UN Member States and agencies came to United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York to participate and recommit to the agenda's principles and transformative potential.

This summary provides an overview of UNSCR 1325+15 events sponsored by or co-sponsored by WILPF, and therefore only represents a fraction of the Women, Peace and Security events held during UNSCR 1325+15.

## 2. Background on UNSCR 1325+15 and the Women, Peace and Security

Despite the rhetoric and repeated commitments, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is far from being comprehensively implemented in policy and practice by Member States and the UN system. Full implementation of the agenda means implementation across all “pillars:” conflict prevention, participation, protection and relief and recovery. Although there has been some progress in recognizing and addressing the disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls, this is only one aspect of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Women's leadership and their full and equal participation in all efforts to establish international peace and security, and the promotion and respect of their human rights, are imperative to prevent or resolve conflicts and build peace. Whether by creating initiatives aimed at countering armed violence or the brokering of a peace accord, peace and security processes will not be effective if half the population is left on the side lines.

In the Civil Society Roadmap,<sup>1</sup> civil society demanded that initiatives related to the 15th anniversary, including the High-Level Review, must be more than ceremonial and about recommitments to the transformative potential, and effective implementation, of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Implementation and operationalization of Women, Peace and Security commitments must be prioritized, and key challenges that have hindered the full adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions must be immediately addressed and overcome by UN Member States and entities. Commitments made in the lead up to and at the October anniversary must be followed by long-term implementation strategies.

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<sup>1</sup> [NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security 2015 Civil Society Women, Peace and Security Roadmap](#)





To achieve effective results on Women, Peace and Security, activists demanded that the international community must address and take action on the following critical areas:

- Women's Participation
- National and Regional Implementation
- Financing
- Conflict Prevention
- Accountability
- UN System Leadership

Despite civil society's calls for action, on-going challenges fifteen years after UNSR 1325 (2000) were clearly illustrated by the change of the debate scheduling for the fifteenth anniversary Women, Peace and Security debate just one month beforehand.

After months of preparations, in September 2015, Spain (who chaired the Security Council in October 2015) changed the 15th annual Women, Peace and Security debate from the originally scheduled October 22nd to October 13th -- 10 days earlier at than planned. They prioritized the presence of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy over the voices of women worldwide, who have been and continue to be key to creating and implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in local

communities. WILPF joined activists worldwide and condemned this as just one example of on-going patriarchal systems in action,<sup>2</sup> reminding the international community that no individual man should have his personal preferences count for more than women's participation and rights, and calling for strengthened action for effective realisation of the agenda.<sup>3</sup>

This change threatened to fragment civil society's presence across October by reducing spaces among activists who had little flexibility to change their visas or flights just weeks before the rescheduled debate. However, civil society did not allow this to stop them. Instead, we used the opportunity to focus attention on the on-going challenges to women's participation, and worked with partners to build momentum across the full month to demand action that goes beyond anniversaries for effective and on-going change.

### 3. WILPF at UNSCR 1325+15

PeaceWomen led WILPF's work in mobilising across the full Women, Peace and Security month of October to build momentum for feminist foreign policy that goes beyond anniversaries and promotes local action for transformative change. In conversations from week to week, WILPFers and partners repeatedly brought attention to the need to shift the gaze from the United Nations and governments to feminist grassroots peace-builders – nonviolent women and men – as key to peace.

The week of the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (13 October) and the official launch of the Global Study (14 October), WILPF's Secretary General Madeleine Rees with the High Level Advisory Group joined us to participate and facilitate strategic conversations around mobilising the feminist peace movement and across movements. "We are still spending trillions on war but pennies on peace," noted one event participant. Discussions highlighted the need to take back the Women, Peace and Security Agenda by recognising and strengthening women human rights defenders, demilitarisation, and feminist foreign policy.

The following week (19-22 October), WILPF's international delegation joined from nine countries: Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Lebanon, Nigeria, Spain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and the United Kingdom. Delegates participated in civil society events surrounding the 15th Anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 (2000), the High Level Review of the UNSCR 1325 (2000) and the launch of the Global Study, including a WILPF workshop, "Mobilising Women: Localising Peace," and the "Voices from the Field: Prelude to the Peace Forum" with women and men from over 40 countries with conversation circles aimed at mobilising collaborations for the feminist peace agenda. As Manuela Mesa, Vice President of WILPF Spain noted, "we need to move from global to local to make women's perspective seen on an international level."

<sup>2</sup> [Open Letter to the Secretary General and Ambassador of Spain](#) RE: Impact and Recommendations around the change of date of the 15th anniversary Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (8 October 2015)

<sup>3</sup> [Civil Society Open Letter](#) in Advance of the 15th Anniversary of SCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (20 April 2015)

The final week of October 26-28th, WILPF's International President Kozue Akibayashi and members of WILPF-US joined for the Peace Forum to explore how to go beyond anniversaries and engage men to address patriarchal power structures for peace and gender justice. Delegates contributed to discussions around building people's action plans, mobilising across movements, engaging men and transforming violent masculinities, and building feminist roadmaps for peace.

Together, we called for action to engage in both inside and outside strategies to create change; to create learning institutions that strengthen feminist movements; and to diversify tools beyond policy, including media, education, and financial investment. We have taken action to strengthen feminist networks including between women-led civil society and men's movements in order to strengthen action to address gendered and patriarchal power structures and prevent all forms of violence.

#### 4. Security Council 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Debate



Photo of the Security Council's Vote on UNSCR 2242 taken by Ghazal Rahmanpanah

On Tuesday (13 October 2015), under the Spanish presidency of Prime Minister Rajoy, the Security Council held the annual Ministerial-level Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS). The Open Debate marked the 15th anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the adoption of UNSCR1325 (2000), resolution that, for the first time, acknowledged the strong impact that conflicts have on women and the necessity of including women in peace processes, addressing



their needs and views. Following the request made by the Spanish Prime Minister, after renewing their commitments, member states focused their statements on how to improve the implementation of those commitments that, after 15 years, are still unfulfilled, addressing the most common obstacles and constraints encountered.

There were a record-breaking 110 statements made across two different days, the most ever in the 70 years of the Security Council. The statements also often referred to important thematic issue in the context of the WPS Agenda and, in this sense, “participation” was the issue referenced the most, with approximately 43% (47/110) of Member States underlining the necessity of including women in all peace processes, and in leadership and political roles. Equally referred was the necessity of a more comprehensive implementation of the WPS Agenda, which was mentioned 42 times (38%). Less frequently, Member States referred to issues related to Sexual Gender-Based Violence (28%), Peace Processes (26%), Reconstruction and Peacebuilding (25%), Conflict Prevention (24%), Peacekeeping (21%), Protection (14%), Human Rights (13%), and Justice (12%). The least addressed thematic issues were “disarmament” and “displacement and humanitarian response”, which were respectively mentioned only 8 (0.07%) and 4 (0.03%) times. During their statements, some Member States, such as Angola, Brazil, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Portugal, Thailand and the United Republic of Tanzania, also commit to adopt National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000).

The Open Debate also functioned as a forum for Council members and member states to reflect on the recommendations emanating from the 2015 Global Study on women, peace and security and from the Secretary-General’s 17 September Report on the issue.

The outcome of the Open Debate was the adoption of a new resolution UNSCR 2242 (2015), co-sponsored by a record-breaking 75 states, now the 8<sup>th</sup> resolution on Women, Peace and Security. Echoing previous resolutions, UNSCR 2242 (2015) urged the Secretary-General, the United Nations agencies and member states to integrate gender perspectives into their work, to increase representation of women at all decision-making levels, and to include women into all peace processes, from prevention, to negotiation, to conflict and post-conflict situations. As part of this, it recommended the establishment of an informal expert group in the Security Council. The new resolution, furthermore, broadened the peacekeeping framework to address health and extremism, and highlighted the necessity of gender-responsive training, analysis, and programmes within the UN system, specifically, but not limited to, within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department for Political Affairs (DPA) and the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO). The resolution also underscored the need for increased funding for gender-specific programmes, and increased transparency on funding’s destination, ensuring that funds are specifically dedicated to gender equality and women’s empowerment. Finally, the resolution recognized the role of civil society, inviting it to brief the council more regularly on country situations and on relevant thematic areas of work.

## 5. Launch of the Global Study

On Wednesday (14 October), the Global Study on the Implementation of the UNSCR 1325 (2000) was officially launched at an event co-hosted by UN Women and the United Arab Emirates. Speakers included Global Study lead author Radhika Coomaraswamy, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon, UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, and Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee (Liberia) amongst others.

In presenting the recommendations, Radhika Coomaraswamy reflected on the inclusive development of the Global Study, and drew attention to the need to reduce militarism and strengthen civil society. Leymah Gbowee reiterated calls for our focus to be on ending war. She cautioned the international community to have a long view, so that our work today invests in conflict prevention and women's leadership, so that in 15 years, "we will not be here discussing the lack of political will."

The event then transitioned into being a donor conference, where a handful of countries and entities making financial and other commitments aimed at furthering the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Contributors included: Australia, Austria, Estonia, Guatemala, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, and also NATO. While financial commitments are critical for actions, WILPF notes with concern that many were reiterations of existing financial commitments (rather than new investments/donations), and many were oriented at countering violent extremism or terrorism, which risks militarizing and actively undermining the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.



Launch of the Global Study  
Credit: Ghazal Rahmanpanah

### Summaries from WILPF's Main Events at UNSCR 1325+15

As part of action around the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2000), WILPF advocated across the month of October for the implementation of a feminist foreign policy with local action for transformative and meaningful change.

### Some of the overarching themes during UNSCR 1325+15 were:

1. *Feminist Foreign Policy*: foreign policy must be aimed at prioritising women's participation, protection and rights rather than the war economy; people must be prioritised over profit and gender equitable peace over violence and war
2. *Local Action*: action must be oriented around recognising and strengthening the voices and rights of women human rights defenders and peace activists at the local level
3. *Shifting the Gaze to Recognise Feminist Peacebuilders*: military approaches to peace have failed; local non-violent women and men peacebuilders however are building peace in their communities; it is time to shift the gaze from the UN and governments to local peace leaders as key agents of peace
4. *Mobilising Commitments into Action*: we still spend trillions on war and pennies on peace; it is time to finance gender equality and peace to move from commitments to accomplishment.





WILPF Delegation and Peace Women Team Members  
Credit: Ashish Mahajan

### Event: A Conversation with Radhika Coomaraswamy

- 15 October 2015, 10:00-12:00, CUNY Law School, New York

#### Organized by:

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and MADRE, with support from the CUNY Sorensen Centre for International Peace and Justice

#### Panellists and Participants:

- Charlotte Bunch (Centre for Women's Global Leadership); Radhika Coomaraswamy (Global study lead author); Leymah Gbowee (Gbowee Peace Foundation); Pramila Patten (CEDAW); Bandana Rana (Saathi); Madeleine Rees, (WILPF); Yifat Susskind (MADRE)

#### Themes:

- Conflict prevention; protection and peacebuilding.

On 15 October 2015, WILPF and MADRE, with support from the Sorensen Centre at CUNY Law School, facilitated a civil society launch of the global study on UNSCR 1325 (2000) and discussion with global study lead author Radhika Coomaraswamy. WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees moderated discussion with lead author and key feminist peace leaders including Charlotte Bunch (CWGL), Leymah Gbowee (Gbowee Peace Foundation), Pramila Patten (CEDAW), Bandana Rana



(Saathi), and Yifat Susskind (MADRE). The event provided an alternative civil society space to explore how to implement study recommendations and strengthen feminist movement mobilisation for action moving forward.

Radhika Coomaraswamy began the discussion by reflecting her key take-away from the global study process and recommendations. “No to militarization, yes to prevention - that is what women claim,” she stated. Coomaraswamy highlighted the need for demilitarisation and a decrease in military spending as key take-away of the global study’s roadmap for sustainable conflict prevention and peace. She recognised the importance of the study being an independent report (rather than a UN consensus document) and emphasised how it built on global consultations on UNSCR 1325 (2000) around the world. Coomaraswamy also noted the importance of listening to grassroots women, noting that different regions had different priority areas (e.g., a focus on military spending and advancement of UNSCR 1325 (2000) National Action Plans in Western Europe and a focus on empowerment, safety and funding for women’s organisations in Nepal and other developing countries).



WILPF/MADRE: A Conversation with Radhika Coomaraswamy  
Photo Credit: Cristel Taveras

Given the focus of the new Resolution (UNSCR 2242) and the on-going debate on violent extremism, Coomaraswamy noted with concern a blurring of lines between military and civilian agendas in connecting Women, Peace and Security with counterterrorism discussions. Participants

explored how the blurring of these lines risks reducing funding to women's human rights defenders and peace activists due to redirection of funds to military “protectors,” and actively undermining a holistic agenda including by further reducing civil society space through militarised anti-terrorism and anti-extremism measures.

Following Coomaraswamy’s introduction the panel explored strategies for addressing obstacles to key gap areas on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as addressed by the global study. In the area of peacebuilding, the consensus on the panel was that there is not enough mapping of what is already being done at the local level. Participants affirmed that the feminist peace movement must continue to raise the bar in our vision and action for change.

Nobel Peace Laureate Leymah Gbowee emphasised the interrelationship between justice and women’s participation. “Wars are fought today on the bodies of women - they can no longer be excluded from participating,” she held. “When women are left out of the first stage of peace and rebuilding, it becomes impossible for them to have access to justice.” Panellists stressed that prosecutions are still very few; there is still a need for systems that will punish perpetrators, provide reparations to survivors, and address systemic challenges to lack of justice at the national level.



WILPF/MADRE: A Conversation with Radhika Coomaraswamy  
Photo Credit: Cristel Taveras

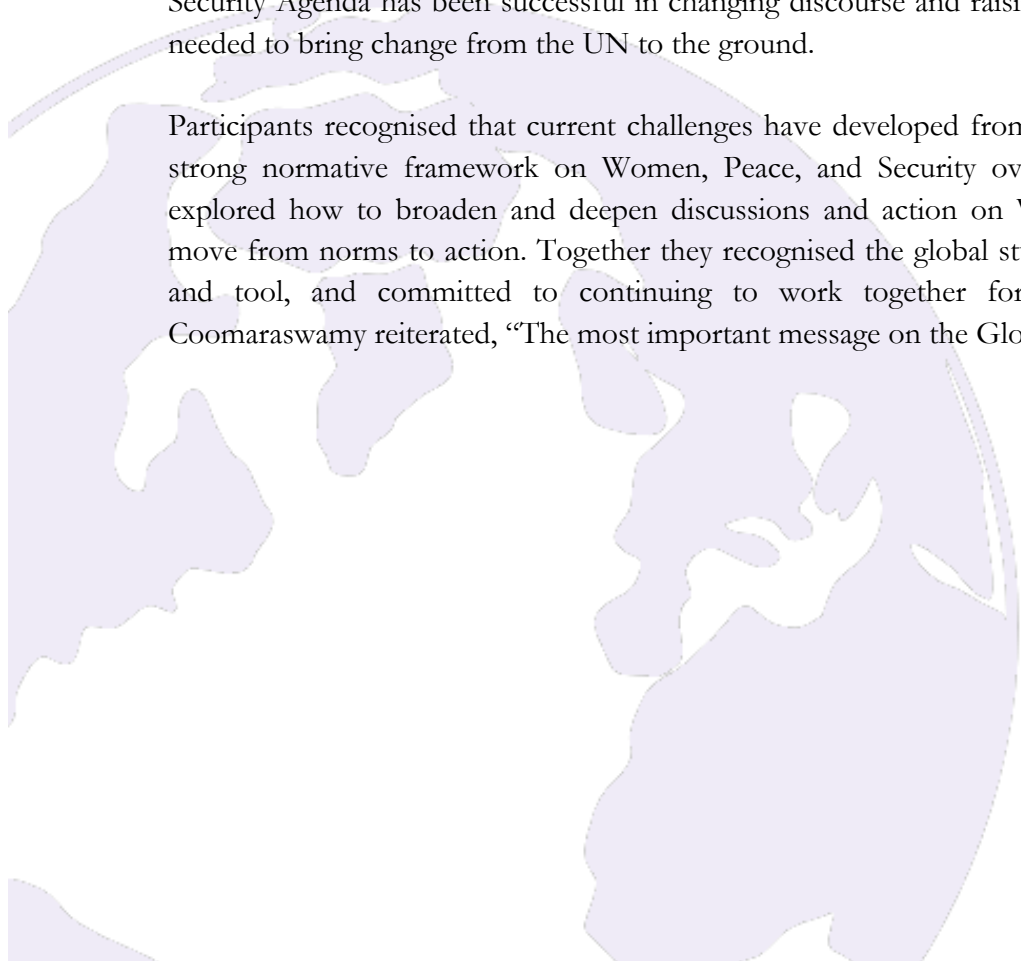
The remainder of the discussion focused on how to better implement UNSCR 1325 (2000) moving forward. Bandana Rana from Saathi spoke on the need to keep hope despite challenges, and raise awareness of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. She used the example of Nepal, where the government has implemented a National Action Plan and stipulated in the new constitution that

33% of women must be included in government. However, despite policy, the situation on the ground remains “business as usual.” Many other attendees were concerned with funding issues, in particular the lack of funding commitments made at the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace, and Security, and their embarrassingly low level of ambition, especially in comparison to military expenditures.

Liesl Grentholtz from Human Rights Watch expressed concern that the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is undermined by the closing of Civil Society space and attacks on human rights defenders. While civil society is clearly becoming a critical resource for implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, rather than merely the “creators,” civilian groups in peace processes remain dominantly male. Furthermore, accountability is still far from reality and all voices are not being heard. One issue is that UN entities can blockade input from groups critical of governments. This highlights a lack of accountability that is essential to effective implementation

Fifteen years ago the emphasis was on building women’s institutions, then the focus shifted to measuring legislation, now the emphasis is on tracking the number of women at high level meetings or the number of references to women in Resolutions. Panellists voiced concern that Women, Peace and Security activists have moved too far away from the actual desired impacts (e.g. safety, economic empowerment) and that there is a need to shift attention back to grassroots efforts. According to Yifat Susskind of MADRE, “we have to shift the gaze back to the experiences and demands of women on the ground if we are to advance this agenda.” Charlotte Bunch of the Centre for Women’s Global Leadership brought attention to the fact that, while the Women, Peace and Security Agenda has been successful in changing discourse and raising awareness, strategies are still needed to bring change from the UN to the ground.

Participants recognised that current challenges have developed from the successes of developing a strong normative framework on Women, Peace, and Security over the last fifteen years. They explored how to broaden and deepen discussions and action on Women, Peace and Security to move from norms to action. Together they recognised the global study as a clear body of evidence and tool, and committed to continuing to work together for action moving forward. As Coomaswamy reiterated, “The most important message on the Global Study is the call for action.”





## Event: WILPF Closed Strategy Session on Feminist Movement Building

- 16 October 2015, 10:00-12:00, Baha'i International Offices, New York

### Organized by:

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) with the support of the Baha'i International Community

### Panelists and participants:

- Representatives from: Baha'i International Community, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, FemLinkPacific/GPPAC, ISIS, International Peace Institute, Kvinna til Kvinna, Nobel Women's Initiative, the Post2015 Women's Coalition, the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Oxfam, and WILPF among others.

### Themes:

- Conflict prevention; disarmament; participation; protection; sexual and gender-based violence; and implementation.

On 16 October 2015, WILPF, with support from Baha'i International, facilitated a strategy discussion on action to implement the global study on UNSCR 1325 (2000) and the broader feminist peace agenda. WILPF PeaceWomen Programme Manager Abigail Ruane facilitated discussion, and participants from Baha'i International Community, Centre for Women's Global Leadership, FemLinkPacific/GPPAC, ISIS, International Peace Institute, Kvinna til Kvinna, Nobel Women's Initiative, the Post2015 Women's Coalition, the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Oxfam, and WILPF, among others, participated.

The group shared concerns and frustration that despite extensive talk by member states, there is little tangible results for grassroots women human rights defenders and peace activists. They brought attention to the concern that while feminist movement has popularised our language, this language has now been stolen from us. To make it meaningful, we have to take it back and define our priorities. Participants brought attention to the need to go beyond insider strategies based on the development of a normative policy framework on Women, Peace and Security, and to strengthen and also build in outsider strategies for transformative change.

The group affirmed the feminist peace movement as the key visionary leader for action. They brought attention to the need for the feminist movement to retain its independence and leadership in raising the bar, and not to rely on any entity to fulfil this leadership role. They agreed that it is critical to build on existing conversations including at the April 2015 WILPF 100<sup>th</sup> peace summit and the October 2015 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSCR 1325 (2000) discussions to mobilise action for change in a way that addresses gendered institutions of power. Participants discussed developing a shared strategy to reclaim the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Discussion particularly focused on key areas including: women human rights defenders, demilitarisation, and feminist foreign policy.



Participants explored how to share, legitimate, and make accessible our stories, legitimise nonviolent local peacemakers over men with guns at “peace” tables, popularise concepts of human security, and question inequality as a destabilising strategy. The group began to sketch out tactical short term, conceptual medium-term, and strategic long-term political opportunities for collaborative action. These included: 16 Days campaign, Commission on the Status of Women, AWID meeting, Secretary General selection process, International Criminal Court, CEDAW, Climate, Sustainable Development Goals, campaigns around humanising peace including on humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons, and sensitisation campaigns about women human rights defenders for local men, communities, and governments. The group explored briefly how key issues of women human rights defenders, demilitarisation, and feminist foreign policy are critical when considering protection challenges, shrinking civil society space including through criminalisation and repression of defenders, lack of gender sensitive early warning systems, and engaging with men and boys, and addressing patriarchal institutions.

Participants agreed that they would continue to work together to mobilise across movements for a transformative feminist peace agenda.



WILPF Workshop: Mobilising Women; Localising Peace  
Photo Credit: Ashish Amahajan

## Event: Mobilising Women: Localising Peace (WILPF Internal Workshop)

- 20 October 2015, 8:30-12:00, UN Church Centre 8th Floor, New York

### Organized by:

- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

### Panellists and participants:

- Abigail Ruane (WILPF PeaceWomen), Annie Matundu Mbambi, (WILPF-DRC) Annika Skogar (WILPF-Sweden), Aynur Teken (WILPF-Netherlands), Ghazal Rahmanpanah (WILPF PeaceWomen), Katherine Ronderos (WILPF-Colombia), Helen Kidan (WILPF-UK/Eritrea), Joy Ada Onyesoh (WILPF-Nigeria), Malin Nilsson (WILPF-Sweden), Maria Villellas Ariño (WILPF-Spain), Mia Gandenberger (WILPF Reaching Critical Will), Rasha Mahmoud (WILPF-Lebanon), Manuela Mesa (WILPF-Spain), and Sylvie Jacqueline Ndongmo Fouezet (WILPF-Cameroon).

### Themes:

- Conflict prevention; disarmament; participation; peace processes; protection; sexual and gender-based violence; displacement and humanitarian response; human rights and implementation.

On Tuesday (20 October), WILPF held an internal workshop, "Mobilising Women: Localising Peace" with delegates from 9 countries to exchange experiences and build strategic collaborations for gender justice, peace and freedom. Participants joined from: Cameroon, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Lebanon, Netherlands, Nigeria, Spain, Sweden, and UK/Eritrea. Participants shared and discussed what is happening at the grassroots level; the best practices in mobilising advocacy efforts on the ground; and the key challenges and opportunities to move from commitments to accomplishments on feminist foreign policy with local action for change.

WILPF PeaceWomen's Abigail Ruane provided an overview of the recent fifteenth anniversary Security Council debate on Women, Peace and Security and global study launch. WILPF has been working with partners across the full month of October to build momentum for action, rather than allowing Spain's change of debate fractionate civil society, and is calling for the feminist movement to raise the bar in leadership and mobilise across movements for action with local impact. WILPF PeaceWomen's Ghazal Rahmanpanah highlighted key elements of UNSCR 2242 (2015), the 8<sup>th</sup> resolution on Women, Peace and Security, adopted on 13 October 2015. These include strong support for civil society including civil society briefings, an informal expert group in the Council to strengthen accountability, a broad approach to peacekeeping that also addresses issues such as climate, health, and extremism, calls for strengthened gender responsive funding, training analysis and programmes, and urging of gender as cross cutting issues in countering violent extremism and counter-terrorism discussions.

WILPF Reaching Critical Will's Mia Gandenberger provided an overview of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) (2013) and other disarmament tools. While the ATT entered into force on 14 December 2014, there still is much that needs to be done, specifically with regards to utilising this key international mechanism for accountability against military spending and gender-based violence. Reaching Critical Will uses a risk assessment survey as a tool to show what states are being held accountable and identify what gender-based violence in the implementation of ATT means at the state level. Gandenberger noted that activists can use the ATT as a tool to gather data on the effects of the arms trade; this data collection is a critical tool for strengthening advocacy around limiting arms exports and their associated risks of sexual and gender based violence.



WILPF Delegation participating in an internal workshop

Photo Credit: Cristel Taveras

WILPF delegates discussed common challenges and good practice in addressing these challenges for action. Activists from Cameroon to Colombia highlighted the human security risks faced by women human rights defenders and peace activists who speak truth to power and address risky issues such as disarmament and women's human rights. Violence against women and gender based violence – from domestic violence to elections violence and beyond – make it risky for activists to raise their voices due to threats both from state and non-state actors. Participants brought attention to the importance of recognising (rather than veiling) the peace work that grassroots women peace-builders are already doing on the ground, rather than pushing patriarchal strategies involving external interventions to “save” local victims. As one participant noted, “many projects have failed because



these projects were looked as quick fixes to accomplish short-term goals.” WILPF Lebanon highlighted the challenges to women’s participation and rights when the context is a lack of legal framework on these issues.

Activists shared experiences about good practice and learned from each other from their different contexts. In DRC, activists are raising awareness of the ATT for ratification and action and linking this to development plans to strengthen action on gender, women and girls. In Nigeria, activists are investing in political economies of peace by building women’s economic empowerment and supporting their local action for peace. In Spain, activists are working to hold their government accountable through shadow reports on CEDAW that highlights how government military spending fails to address commitments on CEDAW, UNSCR 1325 (2000), and the ATT. As WILPF-Spain Manuela Mesa stated, “we need to move from global to local to make women’s perspective seen on an international level.” WILPF Sweden shared their experiences in supporting learning exchanges among sister WILPF sections in Africa, and highlighted the importance of building relationships with key stakeholders such as minority governments when they are not in power so that activists can build on this when power shifts. WILPF-UK/Eritrea emphasised the need to work with diverse stakeholders including women’s group and opposition groups outside, especially regarding issues such as Eritrean women in refugee camps. WILPF-Netherlands highlighted the importance of creating space to learn from each other as a general principle and to as to build on each other’s political experiences for action.

The group explored different visions and paths to peace. Participants affirmed the failure of military security to provide women’s human security, and explored what women’s security looks like and strategies for achieving it. They emphasised the importance of linking short-term crisis response with long-term investment in women’s human rights defenders and political economies of peace. They discussed tools for connecting the dots including short-term urgent action funds and long-term reduction of military spending; short-term crisis response protocols that facilitate international solidarity when women face threats and longest term capacity building for advocacy around policy and cultural change in line with the Convention on the Elimination for all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Arms Trade Treaty and Disarmament commitments, and UNSCR 1325 (2000) and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. They also explored how to push the envelope by reaching out to non-traditional stakeholders including media houses for change.

### **Event: Voices from the field: Prelude to the Peace Forum**

- 21 October 2015, 10:00-13:00, CCUN 2nd Floor, New York

#### **Organised by:**

- WILPF, in collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Baha’i International Community, International Peace Bureau, United Methodist Women, the National Council of Negro Women, World Council of Churches, Peace Boat US, World



Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, APWAPS, Cordaid, Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights

**Panellists and participants:**

- Jasmin Galace (Women Engaged in Action on 1325), Danielle Goldberg (GNWP), Päivi Kannisto (UN Women), Solange Lwashiga (Caucus des Femms pour la Paix), Mr. Youssef Mahmoud (IPI), Abigail Ruane (WILPF PeaceWomen), Ms. Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (FemLINK Pacific), Fatima Outaleb (Union de l'Action Feminine), Sylvie Ndongmo (WILPF-Cameroon), Elene Rusetskaia (Women's Information Centre), Suzan Aref (Women Empowerment Organisation), Maria Villellas Ariño (WILPF-Spain), Anand Pawar (SANAM: South Asian Network to Address Masculinities), Paula Banerjee (University of Calcutta) and Isabelle Geuskens (Women Peacemakers Programme)

**Themes:**

- Conflict prevention; participation and implementation.



Side discussion from the Prelude to the Peace Forum

Photo Credit: Evan Roberts

On 21 October 2015, WILPF, in collaboration with the Peace Forum organizers (the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Baha'i International Community, International Peace Bureau, United Methodist Women, the National Council of Negro Women, World Council of Churches, Peace Boat US, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, APWAPS, Cordaid, Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights) hosted "Voices from the Field: Prelude to the Peace Forum" at the Church Centre of the United Nations.

WILPF PeaceWomen's Abigail Ruane facilitated the event with approximately 150 participants joined from over 40 countries worldwide. Speakers included: Jasmin Galace (Women Engaged in Action on 1325, Philippines), Solange Lwashiga (Caucus des Femmes pour la Paix, DRC), Päivi Kannisto (UN Women), Danielle Goldberg (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders), Youssef Mahmoud (International Peace Institute), and Sharon Bhagwan Rolls (FemLINK Pacific), as well as conversation circle facilitators from Morocco, Cameroon, Georgia, Iraq, Spain, India, and the Netherlands. The event created space for civil society to mobilise around recommendations from the UNSCR 1325 (2000) global study and build momentum to strengthen action by civil society, the UN, governments, and other key stakeholders for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

“How can we better strategize? How can we better mobilize?” With these two questions, WILPF PeaceWomen's Abigail Ruane launched the event, affirming the importance of mobilizing beyond anniversaries. The event then proceeded in two parts. First, a panel of speakers provided an overview of where we are and what we have learned at this 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Second, participants broke out into conversation circles to explore insider and outsider strategies on key priority areas for change. Finally, the event concluded with report-backs from the conversation circles, discussion of next steps, and sharing of commitments and calls for action.

### **15 Years of UNSCR 1325 (2000)**

After a welcome and discussion of the purpose of the event, women human rights defenders and peace activists shared stories about how they have overcome to inspire group action. Solange Lwashiga (Caucus des Femmes pour la Paix) shared about her experience with the campaign, “Rien Sans les Femmes” (Nothing Without Women), which successfully mobilised over 50 civil society organisations to change discriminatory electoral laws and establish a quota of 50% of women for parliamentary candidates in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). “Everybody has a responsibility”, stated Lwashiga. “Whoever you are, wherever you are, you have got a responsibility.” Afterwards, Jasmin Galace (Women Engaged in Action on 1325) shared her experience from the Philippines in advocating for investment in women's rights and peace education and successfully mobilising for the 2013 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). She brought attention to women's innovation, education, and dialogue as critical for peace, especially when faced by a world such as before the ATT where bananas were more regulated than arms.

UN Women Chief of Peace and Security Päivi Kannisto reflected on the previous week's 15th annual Security Council debate on Women, Peace and Security and launch of the UNSCR 1325 (2000) global study. She highlighted the gains made by UNSCR 2242 (2015), which clearly links women's participation and durable and sustainable peace, the importance of civil society engagement, and effective financing of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Global Network of Women Peacebuilders' Danielle Goldberg overviewed the process and findings of the civil society survey, led by GNWP in coordination with Cortaid, ICAN, and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. The survey compiled 317 responses from 71 countries including 17 focus group discussions using a holistic, collaborative, innovative and local approach. On average, it found participants rated the effectiveness of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as 3.3 on a 6-point scale. It found civil society's top priority to be a strengthened meaningful participation of women in peace processes to move beyond numbers for impact. Other priorities included strengthening prevention of armed through strengthened financing in girl's education, women's livelihood, land rights, and the broader Women, Peace and Security Agenda; addressing root causes of conflict; and building accountability for crimes and violation of women's rights and gender-based violence.



Audience Discussion from the Prelude to the Peace Forum

Photo Credit: Evan Roberts

International Peace Institute's Mr. Youssef Mahmoud reminded participants of the need to engage men in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Building on his experience as a member of the review boards of all three peace reviews this year (on Peace Operations,



Peacebuilding, and Women, Peace and Security), Mahmoud recommended that moving forward on effective implementation requires strengthened action for an integrated approach across the UN system to: 1) prevent conflict (a key gap area) and promote sustainable peace, 2) speak to truth to power and more effectively engage men and governments for taking action, and 3) localise peace. “This is not a women’s issue,” he stated “it is a whole society effort for sustainable peace.”



Audience Discussion from the Prelude to the Peace Forum

Photo Credit: Evan Roberts

Finally, FemLINK Pacific’s Sharon Bhagwan Rolls shared opportunities for connecting local to global action from her experience in Fiji and on the Women, Peace and Security High Level Advisory Group. She shared information from civil society strategy discussions the previous week, which bring attention to “the human rights in our security, not the security in our peace.” Bhagwan Rolls also emphasised the importance of engaging with young women around community issues (such as access to water), and strengthening engagement with regional organisations and media including community radio.

### **Conversation Circles: Strategising and Mobilising for Action**

After a panel discussion to provide context, participants broke out into conversation circles on key priority areas to discuss inside and outside strategies for creating change, outline civil society



commitments, and share calls to action on priority areas. Discussions centred around the following priority areas: 1) holistic Women, Peace and Security Agenda, 2) strengthened action to prevent violence and address militarism, 3) ensure women's participation, 4) prevent violent extremism, 5) finance gender equality, 6) engage men and boys and address patriarchal institutions, and 7) create outside strategies for change.

### 1. *Build a holistic agenda*

At the conversation circle on building a holistic agenda facilitated by Fatima Outaleb (*Union de l'action feminine*, Morocco), participants explored what a holistic agenda means and strategies for strengthening this moving forward. Peace, gender, participation and human rights agendas involve different definitions whose diversity needs to be addressed for a rich understanding of gender equality, peace, and human security. They also bring different tools to bear, such as CEDAW, the Beijing Platform, and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. According to one participant, "There is a confusion about what this Agenda is. My government thinks this Agenda is just bettering the lives of the women on the ground, but that's a limited Agenda." According to another, "the overall goal is to bring peace and security across the world." Participants committed to mobilising across movements for a transformative agenda that links local to global and across issue areas to prevent all forms of violence and conflict. They called for strengthened investment in community structures which secure the rights of all people, and which prioritise those most at risk due to gender, race, ethnicity, class, sexual orientation and gender identity, nationality, age, ability, or other identification; they emphasised the importance of concrete action to strengthen effective and gender equitable political participation, economic empowerment, and access to justice and comprehensive legal, health, and social services and build women and men's power to work together for nonviolent social change.

### 2. *Strengthen action to prevent violence and address militarism*

At the conversation circle on strengthening action to prevent violence and address militarism, facilitated by Sylvie Ndongmo (WILPF-Cameroon), participants drew attention to the need to strengthen action on prevention as a key gap area by redirecting priorities and creating innovative strategies build political economies of peace rather than political economies of war. It is critical to clearly identify what demilitarisation means and how it impacts people's lives. Creeping militarism has widespread effects, including: shrinking space for civil society, militarised counter-terrorism measures, and criminalisation and repression of human rights defenders. Activists committed to taking strategic action including to: document the impact of arms on gender based violence, identify countries who facilitate flow of arms, advocate for strengthened education on women's rights and peace education into curriculums, identify female policyholders to represent local women, creating links between women at national and international levels, and, facilitate access of women's movements to information. Participants called for governments to implement the global study recommendations especially around scaling down war infrastructure and scaling up peace infrastructure by reducing military spending, taking action on demilitarisation more broadly, and increasing awareness and investment in women's human rights including through dedicated civil

society funding, fully financed gender equality architecture and UNSCR 1325 (2000) National Action Plans, and scaled up investment gender equitable sustainable development and peace. They also committed to engaging non-traditional stakeholders including by building alliances with media houses, educational institutions, and other communications hubs to recognise women not as victims but as powerful agents of change and to strengthen awareness of the obstacles that need to be overcome to create sustainable peace.

### *3. Ensure participation*

At the conversation circle on ensuring women's meaningful participation facilitated by Elene Rusetskaia (Women's Information Centre, Georgia), participants strategised on how to strengthen complementary roles of government and civil society to ensure women's meaningful participation and action on women's rights. Meaningful rather than token participation is critical. As one participant noted, "we signed the peace agreement in Bosnia 20 years ago, and we agreed to create space for women in [an] election role. Women now represent 17-20% of the Bosnian parliamentary, but the men don't want women to be strong." As another participant stated, there must also be "accountability for women in positions of leadership" to ensure substantive inclusion. Participants called for governments to be held accountable to respect the legal political framework and implement laws in a way that ensures women's equal participation and rights, including through quota systems, both in politics and peace negotiations. Democratic governance requires action before, during, and after conflict to: ensure women civil society are meaningfully included at formal peace tables; recognise informal and local peacemakers as builders of peace; and only recognise peace agreements with women's full and meaningful participation and rights. Civil society must have strengthened support so as to continue to be able to build capacity for women's participation and rights such as through trainings, workshops for women leaders, advocacy and outreach, including for young women and across the lifespan. They also called for action to eliminate obstacles to the peace work of women's human rights defenders and peace activists including through repeal of laws that criminalise and restrict women human rights defenders and curtail civil society space, and through investment in political, technical, and financial support for feminist movement building.

### *4. Prevent Violent Extremism*

At the conversation circle on preventing violent extremism facilitated by Suzan Aref (Women Empowerment Organisation, Iraq), participants explored violent extremism as one part of a spectrum of violence and strategised about how to strengthen action to prevent it holistically for more effective impact. Participants brought attention to how discussions of violent extremism focus too much on a few particular groups, such as ISIS. As one participant noted, "women are over 50% of the population, yet we are still mostly seen as silent victims of conflict." This means discussions fail to recognise other groups engaged in violent conflict (such as states). It is critical to strengthen outreach with the media to address these limited conceptions and bring attention to how current us-them framing supports Islamophobia and militarised responses, while also providing alternatives based on non-violence, gender equality, and peace. It is also critical to recognise and strengthen women's on-going work for peace. As one participant noted, strategies are needed on

“how to legitimize women as agents of action.” The group called for governments strengthen international and national action on human rights and humanitarian law including on CEDAW and the Rome Statute, and to work with women’s movements to ensure any action taken on violent extremism does not further put at risk or marginalise communities. Participants committed to leveraging international commitments for accountability, building collaboration with media, and continuing to take action to overturn obstacles to women’s local leadership across movements for peace and gender justice.



Call to action from the Prelude to the Peace Forum  
Photo Credit: Evan Roberts

### 5. *Finance Gender Equality*

At the conversation circle on financing gender equality, facilitated by Maria Villellas Ariño (WILPF-Spain), participants explored formal and informal obstacles to gender financing and strategised on how to use innovative approaches to strengthen sustainable and on-going investment in gender equality and peace. Given that currently only 2% of development funding on peace and security is allocated to gender equality, raising the bar and creating non-traditional approaches and sources of financing is critical. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen traditional financing mechanisms including by fully financing UNSCR 1325 (2000) National Action Plans and spinning up support in the Global Acceleration Instrument. They also highlighted the need to strengthen non-traditional financing sources, including by reducing military spending in line with the Beijing Platform for

Action and Agenda 21, reallocate to gender equitable social development (i.e. through the Sustainable Development Goals on peace [goal 16] and gender equality [goal 5]). As one participant stated, “All programmes must be resourced from a human rights direction.” Participants committed to build coalitions, including among women’s rights, disarmament, and women’s peace and security activists, and leverage local elections and other political spaces for raising awareness and strengthening support on gender financing and action.

#### 6. *Engaging Men and Boys and Addressing Patriarchal Institutions*

At the conversation circle on engaging men and boys and addressing patriarchal institutions, facilitated by Anand Pawar (SANAM: South Asian Network to Address Masculinities, India), participants discussed some of the tensions between engaging men, on one hand, and addressing patriarchal institutions, on the other; they also explored strategies for overcoming personal to political obstacles for sustainable peace. As one participant noted, “the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is preaching to the converted.” Engaging non-traditional stakeholders and power holders including men is therefore critical for effective change. However, engaging men without addressing patriarchal systems of power is not enough. As another participant stated, “It is only by men and women working together that makes peace in communities attainable.” Engaging men must be done from this perspective so as to overcome obstacles to equality, and transform society for justice and peace. This requires a two-part approach: first, it requires sensitising men, such as through games and gender awareness raising in boys clubs; second, it requires connecting the personal to the political, and highlighting how violent masculinities support violence from the personal such as through domestic abuse and battering to the international level through militarism and war. Participants committed to creating spaces for men as well as women to engage men and boys in our families, communities, and world to recognise and take action to transform gendered structures of power and privilege for non-violence, gender justice, and peace. They called for action to build the capacity of masculine leaders for gender responsive analysis and action including through trainings, incentives, and accountability measures to ensure the development and implementation of policies and programmes that ensure women’s full and equal participation and rights. They also called for action to build political will and accountability for international financial institutions, transnational corporations (including private military corporations), religious institutions, and other patriarchal institutions to be held accountable for upholding women’s full and equal rights

#### 7. *Outside strategies for change*

At the conversation circle on outside strategies for change, facilitated by Paula Banerjee (University of Calcutta, India) and Isabelle Geuskens (Women Peacemakers Programme, Netherlands), participants explored how to use creative and non-traditional tactics and strategies from an outside perspective to create change. Participants defined inside and outside strategies based on positioning relative to established institutions. “Insiders are the establishment; the government; the UN; the corporate media,” said one participant. “Outside is an unsafe space. When it is an unsafe space, you have a different perspective. You’re looking for change.” Participants explored how activists have



used outside spaces to challenge comfort zones, such as the women from Liberia who stripped naked to demand peace. Participants highlighted the risks associated with outside strategies and the importance of finding allies, building solidarity, and learning between movements to strengthen good practice in creating change and addressing insecurities and risks. They committed to strengthening collaboration to build outside strategies as complementary to inside strategies for change, and to bridging bridges across movements for solidarity to prevent violence and promote active non-violence, feminist foreign policy, gender justice, and peace. They also called for more traditional stakeholders to strengthen investment and political support for building knowledge, capacity, skills, and trust with grassroots activists and community actors to build solidarity and provide better tools for strategizing and mobilising.

### Call to Action

The event concluded with report-backs from the conversation circles, discussion of next steps, and sharing of commitments and calls for action.<sup>4</sup>

### Event: Arms Trade Treaty, Programme of Action, and Gender-Based Violence

- 22 October 2015, 13:00-14:30, UN Headquarters Conference Room E, New York

#### Organised by:

- WILPF Reaching Critical Will (RCW)

#### Panelists and participants:

- Ray Acheson (RCW), Mia Gandenberger (RCW), Katherine Ronderos (WILPF Colombia)

#### Themes:

- Disarmament; protection and sexual and gender-based violence.

On 22 October 2015, the Permanent Mission of Denmark, in cooperation with the Reaching Critical Will (RCW) programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), hosted a side event on Arms Trade, Small Arms, and Gender Based Violence. Speakers included Ray Acheson and Mia Gandenberger (WILPF Reaching Critical Will), and Katherine Ronderos (WILPF-Colombia).

Ray Acheson, director of RCW, presented on their recent publication: "[Women, Weapons, and War](#)." The paper, as well as exploring the synergies related to gender and women in a number of multilateral instruments such as resolutions, treaties, and commitments on conventional weapons and women's rights and participation, also provided a comprehensive "gendered feminist critique" of these instruments. By offering several concrete recommendations to states and other actors, the final aim of work was to underline problems with categorising women as a vulnerable group, with undermining women's participation and gender diversity in disarmament, with reinforcing violent masculinities, and with perpetuating structures of patriarchal militarism.

<sup>4</sup> [Call to Action from the Prelude to the Peace Forum](#)

Mia Gandenberger, programme manager at RCW, presented on the recently published work from RCW entitled: [Gender-Based Violence and the Arms Trade Treaty](#). The briefing paper provided some background on the terminology around Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and highlighted relevant questions for risk assessments under Articles 6 and 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Katherine Ronderos, who offered a local perspective on GBV and on the ATT, explaining how they both strongly apply to and influence the local context, made the last intervention. Ronderos analysed the impact of weapons proliferation in Colombia by providing alarming statistics on the number of women killed by illegal guns and the linkages between the abusive use of weapons, also by police and security forces, and sexual violence. Taking Colombia and its over five decades of internal conflict as an example, she expressed the importance of, and necessity for, disarmament and demilitarisation efforts in post-conflict situations.

### **Event: After the High Level Review: Connecting Local and Global Action to Implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

- 23 October 2015, 16:30-18:00, UN Headquarters Conference Room 6

#### **Organised by:**

- WILPF PeaceWomen, Mission of Liechtenstein, and Princeton Liechtenstein Institute for Self-Determination

#### **Panellists and participants:**

- H.E. Aurelia Frick (Minister of Foreign Affairs, Liechtenstein); Anne Marie Goetz, (New York University); Joy Onyesoh (WILPF Nigeria); Abigail Ruane (WILPF Peace Women)

#### **Themes:**

- Conflict prevention; participation and implementation.

On 23 October 2015, WILPF PeaceWomen, the Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN, and Liechtenstein Institute for Self-Determination at Princeton University held our final Women, Peace and Security lecture series, “After the High Level Review -- Connecting Local and Global Action to Implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.” Participants included Liechtenstein Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E. Aurelia Frick, New York University Professor and former UN Women Chief of Peace and Security Anne Marie Goetz, and WILPF-Nigeria President and WILPF International Vice President Joy Onyesoh. The event provided space to discuss lessons learnt, reflect on the outcomes of the High Level Review, and outline recommendations for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda moving forward.

Liechtenstein Foreign Affairs Minister Aurelia Frick opened the panel by bringing attention to the need expand the conversation on Women, Peace and Security and promote an integrated approach across the UN and between local and global for effective action. This includes engaging more men in the Women, Peace and Security discussion, which UN Women’s He-For-She campaign has

successfully brought attention to. The Security Council alone is not enough. The agenda must be integrated more broadly across the UN, including in the Sustainable Development Goals / 2030 Agenda through Goal 5 and Goal 16, and the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit. Funding and political will are also critical. Frick called for WPS champions at all levels, including the Security Council, the UN Secretariat, and the field, and called for global military spending to be reallocated to conflict prevention.



Lecture series panelists before the event

Photo Credit: Cynthia Sularz

New York University Professor and former UN Women Peace and Security Chief Anne Marie Goetz, reflected on how the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is a political agenda, which cannot be implemented without addressing militarised power structures. “This is about power, not bureaucratic procedure,” she stated. She affirmed that the global study should put an end to the on-going challenge of putting Women, Peace and Security issues “later,” and affirmed the need for feminist foreign policy that recognises women’s contributions, provides reparations, redistributes resources, ensures rights, and strengthens women’s voices from the local to global level.

WILPF-Nigeria President Joy Onyesoh, shared experience from the Nigerian context on how strengthening grassroots activism is critical for sustainable peace. WILPF-Nigeria has developed a train-the-trainers programme, which has trained over 7,200 women in the last two years to use UNSCR 1325 (2000) for economic empowerment and to combat gun violence in their communities. WILPF-Nigeria is also working to document and provide evidence of the work that women peacemakers are doing on the ground. This is especially critical to understand and support in areas such as northeast of Nigeria where women are working to counter violent extremism. She reminded participants that women peacebuilders are already taking action in their communities for peace,

disarmament, and gender justice, and that the international community should look for opportunities to strengthen and make this work sustainable.

### Event: PEACE FORUM

- 28-29 October 2015, Church Center of the United Nations, New York

On 28-30 October 2015, WILPF, in collaboration with the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Baha'i International Community, International Peace Bureau, United Methodist Women, the National Council of Negro Women, World Council of Churches, Peace Boat US, World Federation of Methodist and Uniting Church Women, APWAPS, Cordaid, Global Movement for the Culture of Peace, and Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights held a Peace Forum at the Church Center of the United Nations. The Peace Forum created space to engage men and go beyond anniversaries in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.



Open Panel of the Peace Forum

Photo Credit: Maggie Hallahan

### Peace Forum Panel: Strategic Re-Engagements: Advancing Women, Peace and Security and Beyond

- 29 October 2015, 12:00-13:30, Church Center of the United Nations 8th Floor, New York

#### Organised by:

- WILPF PeaceWomen, WILPF US

#### Panellists and participants:

- Kristen Alder, Brandy Robinson, Altaira Hatton, Rachel Nagin, Melissa Torres (WILPF US); Dragana Kiprijanovska (Deputy Foreign Minister of Republic of Macedonia)



### Themes:

- Conflict prevention; disarmament; participation; peace processes; protection; sexual and gender-based violence and implementation.

On 29 October 2015, WILPF-US held a panel at the Peace Forum, “Strategic Re-Engagements: Advancing Women, Peace and Security and Beyond” at the Church Center of the United Nations. Speakers included Deputy Foreign Minister of Republic of Macedonia Dragana Kiprijanovska and WILPF-US members Kristen Alder, Brandy Robinson, Altaira Hatton, Rachel Nagin, and Melissa Torres. The event explored the role of local efforts to enact UNSCR 1325 and create a dialogue for individuals from multiple levels and perspectives (global to local) to share and learn from each other and explore potential for growth.

Kristen Alder (WILPF US) opened the discussion by posing the question “How can we create a holistic strategy for advancing Women, Peace, and Security that engages at all levels?” She shared insights from WILPF’s involvement in creating the US NAP. In this process, WILPF US called for: a human security framework, the ratification of CEDAW, inclusion of diverse women in WPS discussions, quotas for women in government, education/engagement of men and boys in ending violence against women, and ending the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. However, most of these recommendations were ignored.

Alder noted that the current US National Action Plan (NAP) reflects a highly masculinized and militarised state. For one example, the NAP emphasises women in the military and “empowering vulnerable women and girls abroad” rather than addressing issues of gender and militarism at home as well. Further, the NAP also includes “conscious tackling” of the lack of female soldiers and increased deployment of all military in Afghanistan. Overall, the result is that the impact of women in human security is only felt *outside* of the nation-state and is left open to contextualisation. For third example, Alder noted that NATO is using 1325 as an excuse for increased militarisation and feminising of soldiering; female soldiers act as “ambassadors of goodwill” and soldiering is conflated with peacekeeping so that “protecting” women in conflict means increasing the amount of women present in the conflict. Alder and the other panellists agreed we need a more integrated approach to implementing UNSCR 1325 which seeks to dismantle the gendered aspects of conflict, demilitarisation at all levels, and addresses the shrinking civil society space.

Deputy Foreign Minister of Macedonia H.E. Dragana Kiprijanovska spoke about the progress made by her country in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Macedonia has adopted a National Action Plan that aims to strengthen gender perspectives in the state’s security agenda. Ms. Kiprijanovska stressed that Macedonian women must fully enjoy the rights of all citizens and not be excluded from decision-making process. She emphasised that women’s participation is a key factor in sustainable peace.

WILPF US Representative to the International Board Dr. Melissa Torres discussed how a holistic understanding of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda requires addressing typically ignored issues, such as immigration and trafficking. She highlighted the need to connect action on immigration and trafficking at the US/Mexico border into the US Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Risks and vulnerabilities increase in displaced populations, particularly for women. However this population is completely ignored in the US NAP despite the existence of the TVPA (Trafficking Victim's Protection Act). She pointed out that the US Department of Justice estimates that 14,500-14,700 foreign-born peoples are trafficked in the US annually, in addition to over 100,000 US citizens, the majority of whom are women. However, the US ignores foreign-born women within US borders in discussions of Women, Peace and Security, and the US NAP mentions trafficking only in regards to other countries. This is problematic for a variety of reasons, including that there is no legal recourse for victims: with the exception of Colombia, Latin American countries are not recognised as conflict-zones; as a result, children from these countries are merely "unaccompanied minors and are not protected by the TVPA. Torres called for implementation of the US NAP to recognise vulnerable groups of women in the US rather than only addressing victims abroad.

Both Brandy Robinson and Rachel Nagin addressed the question "what can cities do to advance and augment UNSCR 1325?" They stressed the need to change and localise indicators in an urban context, for example looking at the number of women stopped by police. They noted that much of the language in 1325 and Security Council Resolutions focuses on conflict zones. However, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda also relates to non-armed conflicts that the panellists called "urban injustices." They proposed that 1325 and the Black Lives Matter movement in the US strengthen linkages, since armed conflicts are often symptomatic of latent injustices, such as racial violence and discrimination. Nagin also argued that citizen action plans on 1325 are needed to deal with police violence. Another necessity at the city-level is participatory budgeting and government quotas for women in decision-making positions.

Finally, Altaira Hatton talked about the unrealised promise of 1325 on conflict resolution. She emphasised the importance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda providing motivation and inspiration for action; it is essential to make clear why women are valuable in this context. She also discussed the peace movement's issues with inclusion of minorities. Diverse women across all contexts must be included in developing and implementing this agenda.

Overall, the discussion highlighted the importance of taking local action to implement the WPS Agenda, including within national contexts of developed countries such as the United States who are often blind to the relevance of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda within national borders. WILPF US is dedicated to bringing WPS to cities around the US and advocating for a more localised WPS vision.

## Peace Forum Panel: People's Action Plans: Empowering Civil Society to Implement 1325

- 29 October 2015, 15:00-16:30, CCUN 8th Floor, New York

### Organised by:

- International Institute for Peace Education

### Panellists and participants:

- Betty Reardon (International Institute for Peace Education); Asha Hans; Kozue Akibayashi (WILPF Int. President); Nicole Goodwin (Veterans Against the Iraq War)

### Themes:

Participation; protection and implementation.

On 29 October 2015, the International Institute for Peace Education hosted a panel at the [Peace Forum](#) on, "People's Action Plans: Empowering Civil Society to Implement 1325."

Betty Reardon opened the panel by condemning the failure of governments to accept action plans for WPS, at any level, with forward action towards implementation. She addressed the 'foot-dragging' reluctance of states to draft action plans that take into account the needs of women on the ground. In addition to National Action Plans, people need to plan themselves and take action to work with grassroots actors and strengthen the movement. This includes regional plans, and alternatives to NAPs with the hope that local strategies will find themselves into full legal structures.

Asha Hans from Pakistan addressed the issue of security of women on borders, particularly contested borders. She lamented that NAPs often ignore people on the borders, refugees, and those moving because of globalisation. (This concern echoed Dr. Melissa Torres's presentation at WILPF US's panel on the localisation of 1325.) Women in contested border zones often suffer plurality of identity, with no commonality of state, religion or agency. Ms. Hans then shifted to discussing the concept of a People's Action Plan. She suggested that the patriarchal state cannot understand NAPs because of the centrality of women. In most countries NAPs come from the government and have no link to grassroots actors. She called for a paradigm shift, making it possible to have an action plan without the state. A People's Action Plan would be bottom-up, making a state accountable and promoting human security. PAPs could also promote transnationalism and work across borders, going back to her original point about WPS challenges in border areas.

WILPF International President Kozue Akibayashi argued for the creation of a People's Action Plan by using the example of WPS in Okinawa and the creation of a Japanese NAP. Ms. Akibayashi has worked on the issue of long-term military presence and its effect on the local community in Okinawa. She challenged that NAPs do not intend to demilitarise security - rather they are militarizing women's security. The Japanese NAP does not include Okinawan women's groups or other women's groups in Asia/the Pacific. Areas with a high military presence that are not active conflict zones, such as Okinawa, are not addressed. Despite CSO consultation, the government

ended up presenting the NAP without input from CSOs and with the term ‘gender’ excluded in the Japanese language version. Civil society had been pushing for language on foreign military presence and sexual violence, which was taken out of the final NAP. This story demonstrates how the process of creating a NAP can be highly political and important, controversial issues may be left out. Therefore, a People’s Action Plan is a better option for CSOs to make their priorities heard.

Nicole Goodwin (Veterans Against the Iraq War) shared her experience as an Iraq war veteran who was part of what she now sees as war crimes, and who is now raising her voice against war. She brought attention to the violence both conducted by the military and the violence women in the military experience such as military rape. Her intervention highlighted the importance of mobilising across movements and creating people’s action plans based on diverse experience and action on nonviolent mobilizing for gender equality and peace.



Opening Panel of the Peace Forum  
Photo Credit: Maggie Hallahan

### **Peace Forum Panel: Transforming Violent Masculinities to Move the WPS Agenda Forward**

- 30 October 2015, 10:00-11:30, CCUN 8th Floor, Boss Room, New York

#### **Organized by:**

- Men Engage

#### **Panellists and participants:**

- Abigail Ruane (WILPF PeaceWomen), Anthony Keedi (ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality), Dean Peacock (Sonke Gender Justice), Isabelle Geuskens (Women Peacemakers Program), Natko Geres (Promundo US).



**Themes:**

- Conflict prevention; participation; protection; sexual and gender-based violence and implementation.

On 30 October 2015, WILPF facilitated an event with the Men Engage network on “Transforming Violent Masculinities to Move the Women, Peace and Security Agenda forward” in the Church Center of the United Nations. WILPF PeaceWomen’s Abigail Ruane facilitated the event, and participants included: Anthony Keedi (ABAAD Resource Centre for Gender Equality), Dean Peacock (Sonke Gender Justice), Isabelle Geuskens, (Women Peacemakers Program), and Natko Geres (Promundo). The event provided an interactive discussion that brought attention to the need to recognise and transform gendered power structures, transform violent masculinities through non-violence, and engage men as allies with women for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Panellists started their discussion by exploring why engaging men and addressing masculinity is important for the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. Women Peacemakers Programme’s Isabelle Gueskens and Promundo’s Natko Geres brought attention to how gendered power hurts men as well as women. According to Geres, “We need to also see the impact that there is in masculinity in conflict zones and that men are victims of violence.” According to Gueskens, “You cannot address patriarchal peace without including men.” ABAAD’s Anthony Keedi noted that men have been socialized to behave in a masculine way without fully understanding patriarchy norms and movement of patriarchal norms. Because men do not have knowledge about gender, they do not understand and can have a negative attitude towards the feminist agenda. Keedi argued that it is important to engage men on a deeper level so that they can contribute and become feminist. Sonke Gender Justice’s Dean Peacock and other panellists shared their experience in working with men to reduce violence against women and militarised violence more generally. According to Dean Peacock, masculinity is used to socialise men to use force and impose hierarchy on gender issues. Changing this requires building men’s understanding and awareness of how patriarchal men act.

The conversation then moved to explore how it is possible to transform violent masculinities in the work by panellists. Geres highlighted Promundo’s work with engaging with men around healing trauma, addressing police brutality, creating campaigns and social norms around positive models of masculinity. Gueskens, Keedi, and Peacock shared experiences around trainings they have conducted or partnered on. Such trainings build gendered lenses among men and build capacity for women and men alliances on Women, Peace and Security, not only on gender based violence, but also on political issues of militarised masculinity, nonviolence, and peace. Keedi noted that building gender awareness takes time, and highlighted the importance of noting the problems of men’s role in protection through even benevolent sexism. It is not enough to be a “master who treats his pet well.” Peacock noted the importance of soliciting conflict as an opportunity for bringing attention and action for change, as well as the importance of diverse community outreach including

community radio on issues such as hate speech and child abuse to engage in national and international legal advocacy, research, and awareness-raising on these issues.

Panellists explored key challenges to engaging men and transforming violent masculinities including lack of awareness, patriarchal religious and military institutions, lack of financing. They also highlighted tensions within coalitions working on this issue, including depoliticised approaches and on-going issues of male privilege. Gueskens and Keedi brought attention to the difficulty for activists in engaging with military institutions: while the military may be able to take strides in strengthening women's participation within it, it is designed for violent conflict resolution, and therefore is structurally opposed to transformative change toward gender equitable and nonviolent peace. Peacock brought attention to the importance of an intersectional perspective that addresses all forms of inequality and violence, including gender but also race, class, economic systems, and sexual orientation and gender identity.

Finally, panellists discussed recommendations for the way forward on the WPS Agenda. They affirmed that transforming violent masculinities for peace requires going beyond stereotypical assumptions about women being more peaceful than men and men being more violent than women. As Keedi noted: "We can all be strong and peaceful. We are not here to end manhood." Instead, "we need to focus on structural, policy and cultural issues." Panellists agreed that it is critical to start with sensitising men, but then move beyond that to address political issues of militarised and masculinised violence from the local to global levels. This means engaging deeply at a local level to build men's gender awareness and create equal partnerships among women and men for sustainable and equitable action and peace. It means recognising that gender is always deprioritised, even among nonviolent activists such as Martin Luther King Jr., and that moving forward requires not making these same mistakes, but building spaces for dialogue with women and marginalised communities and advocating against country and gender violence.

**Peace Forum Panel:** Demonstration of Women and Peace agreements database, informal conversation with Christine Belle

- 30 October 2015, 13:30-14:30, CCUN 7<sup>th</sup> floor, New York

**Organized by:**

- WILPF PeaceWomen

**Panellists and participants:**

- Christine Bell (University of Edinburgh Law School)

**Themes:**

- Peace processes and implementation.

On 30 October 2015, WILPF facilitated an informal conversation with University of Edinburgh Law School Professor Christine Bell in the margins of the Peace Forum to provide a demonstration of a newly launched [“PA-X: Peace Agreements Database”](#) tool.

As part of a broader database, this tool includes the ~235 out of ~1200 peace agreements that mention women, and provides searchable categories by country, region, agreement/conflict level, agreement stage, conflict type, name, focus area, and date (signed before or after). The database highlights trends across time, such as the fact that only 11% of peace agreements before UNSCR 1325 (2000) referenced women, but 27% do since then. It also provides information which is critical to addressing key tensions, such as discrepancies between what language on women gets included in agreements relative to what action is taken to follow up.

### Peace Forum Panel: Feminist Roadmap for Peace

- 30 October 2015, 15:00-16:30, CCUN 10th Floor

#### Organized by:

- WILPF PeaceWomen; Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights

#### Panellists and participants:

- Carol Cohn (Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights)

#### Themes

- Participation and implementation.

On 30 October 2015, WILPF PeaceWomen and the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights held a panel, “Feminist Roadmap for Peace” at the Church Center of the United Nations. Consortium Director Carol Cohn conducted the workshop, which aimed to create space to radically rethink, broaden and deepen the current Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Participants explored what issues, beyond those commonly thought of as part of the WPS Agenda, need to be added to it if the goal is to transform the structures that impede women’s equal participation in political, economic and social life and foreclose sustainable peace. They discussed in depth how to conduct feminist political economic analysis in the area of road building as an example of how broadening understandings of the WPS Agenda is critical for effective implementation. Building on the idea of a “Feminist Playbook for Sustainable Peace,” they suggested how similar approaches that address gendered power structures are critical sustainable and transformative change.

Cohn started the discussion by asking participants, “What is the goal of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda?” Answers included: to end war and create just peace; to transform security institutions to promote gender justice; to challenge the mainstream definition of peace and security to ensure feminist perspectives are reflected; to strengthen women’s participation, protection, and rights in conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction processes; to be more inclusive in

processes towards social justice; and, simply, gender equality. Cohn then asked participants to hypothetically imagine what the answer would be if this question had been posed to the Security Council. The group agreed that the answers would be merely “participation” and “prevention of conflict-related sexual violence.” This clearly illustrated the disconnection between civil society’s vision for transformative change and the incremental and depoliticised approaches prioritised by governments in discussions today.

Cohn next challenged the group to define the elements that are missing from the WPS Agenda if it is to be truly transformative. The two most common answers among the group were “full and effective women’s participation” and “implementation.” The discussion then turned to what full and effective participation in peace processes would look like. Cohn noted how a focus on participation often brings with it the hope that if women are at the table, it is not just a change in numbers but also a change in issues and dynamics that is a major goal. Participants recognised that it is not enough for women to be at the table, since women do not automatically advocate for women’s rights. Women are not a homogenous group. Substantive participation depends on which women are present, and whether they bring the voices of women from communities to the table and advocate for nonviolence and transformation of the militarised status quo. However, adding token women does make women more visible and sometimes can be a foot-in-the-door in a formerly all-masculine space, if there is effective space and authority for women to speak and be heard.

Next, participants addressed the issue of implementation of the WPS Agenda. Cohn brought up the challenge of relying on the Security Council for implementation. For example, five of the six biggest arms dealers in the world are the P5 countries (China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and the United States of America), how do you then bring up small arms and light weapons issues at the Security Council? UNSCR 1325 (2000) and other WPS resolutions are tools, but they have been shaped by the constraints of that body. We need to think about all of the ways in which different international actors are necessary: NGOs, multi-nationals, and non-state parties.

Finally, participants explored what a feminist analysis of peace would look like in the area of building roads. They explored how and why it is gendered; how it is central to women’s ability to participate in economies, politics, and social life; and what the local and global political economic relations that shape the road infrastructure are and why it is central to the WPS Agenda. Building on small group breakout sessions, they highlighted the importance of recognising that road building is not just a technical exercise that should be seen as an end result, but a process of building societies. Investing in roads build by, for, and around the experiences of men - and not just local men but male representatives of transnational corporations who aim at profit over human rights - can only further reinforce and perpetuate inequality and structural violence. Recognising infrastructure, and non-traditional elements of political economies as connected to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda is critical for preventing conflict and building political economies and infrastructures of gender equality and peace.



## RESOURCES

### Resolutions:

#### [About the Women Peace and Security Resolutions](#)

##### *Resolution Text & Infographics:*

- [1325 \(2000\)](#)
- [1820 \(2008\)](#)
- [1888 \(2009\)](#)
- [1960 \(2010\)](#)
- [2106 \(2013\)](#)
- [2122 \(2013\)](#)
- [2242 \(2015\)](#)

### Security Council Score Cards

#### About the 2015 Security Council Women, Peace and Security Scorecard

- [China](#)
- [France](#)
- [Russia](#)
- [United Kingdom](#)
- [United States of America](#)
- [Spain](#)

### Secretary-General Report

- [2015 UN Secretary General Report on Women, Peace and Security](#)
- [Member States Commitments: October 2015](#)

### Member State Commitments

- [2015 Commitments](#)
- [2010 Commitments](#)

### Advocacy: October and Beyond

- [Localising the Women, Peace and Security Agenda: A toolkit for leveraging UNSCR 1325's 15th anniversary](#)
- [Social Media Packet \(English\)](#) [\(French\)](#)
- [NGO Working Group on WPS: October Roadmap](#)

- [Open Letter to the United Nations and Member States of the United Nations on Implementation of the WPS Agenda](#)
- [Open Letter to the UN Secretary General and Spain Regarding the Impact of the WPS Debate Change](#)

#### Other Resources:

- [Global Study](#)
- [Independent analysis of the Global Study](#)

#### Social Media:

Peace Women's [Website](#):  [FACEBOOK](#)  [TWITTER](#)

WILPF's [Website](#):  [FACEBOOK](#)  [TWITTER](#)  [INSTAGRAM](#)

