

**SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 - ONE YEAR ON**  
*NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, October 2001*

***Introduction***

The NGO Working Group on Women and International Peace and Security was formed to encourage the open session and resolution of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security. The group has since expanded to include: Amnesty International, International Alert, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Hague Appeal for Peace, the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, the International Women's Tribune Center and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. These non-governmental organisations have worked with UN departments and sympathetic member states, another example of the productive synergy of the democratic diplomacy at work

Unlike most Security Council Resolutions, 1325 has a constituency of active organisations and individuals that know and quote its clauses and expect its full implementation. These groups have pooled their efforts, networks and expertise to spread the good news about the binding international commitments enshrined in Security Council Resolution 1325, and will continue to work towards ensuring its full implementation. The group made Resolution 1325 into an attractive brochure and have distributed 15,000 of them around the world as well as speaking and writing in many languages and on many continents.

Since October 2000 many opportunities have been lost that could have made a lasting impact on women affected by war.

Peace negotiations on the Middle East, in Burundi, and in Sudan either did not include women at all, or women were not represented at high levels, the desperate suffering of women in Afghanistan was less important than stone statues until it was a convenient propaganda tool to justify military action, a Gender Unit for the UN's Department of Peace Keeping Operations was not approved and the number of women acting in the capacity of Special Representative of the Secretary General is still zero.

However, some notable advances were made since the historic unanimous resolution of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security - a wide range of activities and initiatives have emerged from the UN system, governments and non-governmental organisations.

This annotated listing of activities is impressive and encouraging, but is also incomplete. This ongoing work in progress will appear on [www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org) to provide a sense of the activities, initiatives, publications and decisions taken since October 2000, including some key events and documents that occurred beforehand. If you have additions, please send them to [info@peacewomen.org](mailto:info@peacewomen.org).

Amnesty International,

Hague Appeal for Peace,

International Alert,

Women's Caucus for Gender Justice,

Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children,

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom,

International Women's Tribune Center

## **INTERGOVERNMENTAL BODIES**

### ***European Commission***

**European Commission, November 2000:** Resolution on Women and Peace Building & Report on women's involvement in peaceful conflict resolution submitted by Maj Britt Theorin (2000/2025(INI))

### ***Council of Europe***

**Council of Europe, 20-21 September, 2001:** The Steering Committee for Equality between Women and Men, part of the Directorate General of Human Rights, organised a Seminar on the participation of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts in Strasbourg. The aim of this event was to explore and draw attention to the involvement of women in peace building and conflict prevention activities, notably the contribution of Resolution 1325. Over one hundred participants attended the seminar (representatives of ministries, international and non-governmental organisations, research institutes). At the closing session the General Rapporteur, Ms Hilikka Pietilä from Finland, presented her conclusions, which include recommendations from the working groups that met during the seminar.

### ***United Nations (UN)***

**International Women's Day, March 8, 2001:** Official celebration of International Women's Day, 8th March 2001 on Women, Peace and Security. To celebrate this important day, UNIFEM and ESCAP through the Thematic Working Group on Women's Empowerment for Gender Equality (TWEGE) organized a day of activities at the United Nations Convention Centre in Bangkok. A panel discussion was held on 'Women, Peace and Security' to make visible women's concerns in conflict, celebrate women's struggles, applaud and encourage women's contribution to the peace process, affirm UN peace initiatives, and remind the international community and each UN agency of the need to wholeheartedly implement their commitments to women. For more information see <http://www.unifem-eseasia.org/news/news.html#IWD2001>

**International Women's Day, March 8, 2001:** Celebration at the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok Thailand, The United Nations agencies at Bangkok commemorated the Day through an official opening session and panel discussion, attended by 115 participants. Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ESCAP Mr. Kim Hak-Su opened the event. In his address he emphasized the key role of women in conflict resolution and peace-building, and underlined two recent paramount measures towards including a gender perspective to peace, namely the Security Council Resolution (1325) on women and peace, adopted in October 2000, and the Hanoi Declaration adopted at the Asian Women for a Culture of Peace Conference, December 2000. United Nations Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. J. K. Robert England recognised the International Women's Day as one of the most notable UN observances, and stressed the importance of addressing gender inequality and discrimination in the region, in its overt and covert forms. For more information see <http://www.unescap.org/wid/IWday.htm>

**UN General Assembly, 15 November 2000:** The General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children planning a signing conference in Palermo, Italy, from 12 to 15 December. It did so by adopting, without a vote, a related draft resolution.

### ***UN Security Council (SC)***

**UN Security Council, 8 March 2000:** Statement by the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Chowdhury of Bangladesh, indicated that, "members of the Security Council recognize that peace is inextricably linked with equality between women and men. They affirm that the equal access and full participation of women in power structures and their full involvement in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts are essential for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. In this context, members welcome the review of the Fourth World Conference on Women as an essential element in achieving this goal.

Members of the Council also recognize that while entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict, women and girls are particularly affected. The impact of violence against women and violation of the human rights of women in conflict situations is experienced by women of all ages. Women also constitute the majority of the world's refugees and internally displaced persons.

Members of the Council note that although women have begun to play an important role in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace-building, they are still under-represented in decision-making in regard to conflict. If women are to play an equal part in security and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically, and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making, both at the pre-conflict stage and during hostilities, as well as at the point of peacekeeping, peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction. For the full text see:  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2000/20000308.sc6816.doc.html>

**UN Security Council 8th March, 2001:** Presidential Statement to the Press on the occasion of International Women's Day stated that, "Members of the Security Council recall the first-ever statement by the Council on 8 March 2000 on the occasion of the International Women's Day, which highlighted the plight of women and girls in conflict situations and the role played by women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as peacekeeping, peace-building, reconciliation and reconstruction.

Members of the Security Council also recall the discussions of the Council on its meeting in October 2000 and the Council resolution (S/RES/1325) on women and peace and security, adopted on 31 October 2000, which recognize that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security.

Members of the Security Council reiterate, in particular, the call on Member States to ensure increased representation of women in decision making for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts, and the call on all parties to armed conflict to take specific measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.

Members of the Security Council stress the need for early and full implementation of the resolution by all relevant actors and urge all relevant United Nations agencies and bodies to take into account this resolution in their respective areas of work." For the full text see:  
<http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/obv195.doc.htm>

**UN Security Council Mission to the Great Lakes Region 15-26 May 2001:** Security Council members met with civil society organisations, including women's organisations. See the Report of the Security Council on the Mission for a brief mention.  
<http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/missionreports/521e.pdf>

**UN Security Council Mission to Kosovo 16-18 June 2001:** Press Release of Mission, Security Council expresses support for Kosovo Women NGOs stated that, "Representatives of Kosovo women's NGOs and civil society met last night with the President of the UN Security Council, Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury of Bangladesh, along with the ambassadors of Colombia, Jamaica, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States.

During a wide-ranging discussion, participants agreed on the need for greater involvement by Kosovo women in political and economic activities in the province. It was especially important that women should have a place at the negotiating table and in peace-building activities.

The Security Council commended women NGOs in Kosovo for their efforts to promote reconciliation and inter-ethnic cooperation. The ambassadors also outlined initiatives being taken - with the strong support of the Secretary-General and the Security Council - to ensure that women's concerns were addressed throughout the UN system.

The adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, which calls for greater involvement of women in peace negotiations and the protection of civilians in conflict situations, marked a great step forward, but it was equally important that it be implemented in the field, Ambassador Chowdhury noted.

The Kosovo participants called for enhanced dialogue and consultation between UNMIK and women's groups, to ensure that issues such as domestic violence and equal opportunities were reflected in new legislation and discussions on developments in Kosovo. The NGOs welcomed the quota for female candidates in the forthcoming general elections and called for more training to support the participation of women in the electoral process.

Tom Koenigs, the Deputy Special Representative for Civil Administration, outlined steps which UNMIK would take to promote better cooperation with women's groups.

Ambassador Chowdhury described the meeting as extremely useful and thanked the participants for their contribution to the creation of civil society in post-war Kosovo. He said he would report on the meeting in the Security Council's report on its Mission, and discuss the issues raised by the group with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General.

For the full text see: <http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo/press/templ.pr.597.html>

Also: <http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2001/sc7077.doc.htm>

**UN Security Council June 2001 Report of the Mission to Kosovo:** The Mission highlighted that a key factor in reconciliation efforts could be the role played by civil society, NGOs and women's group, who could prove helpful in reaching across the ethnic divide. In that regard UNMIK highlighted the recent decision of the Central Election Commission (CEC) to accept one third of women on the electoral (closed) lists, which was classified as a spectacular result for Kosovo's first post-conflict Assembly. A further example was the moderating influence women had played in the KPS. For the full report go to: <http://www.un.org/Docs/sc/missionreports/600e.pdf>

**UN Security Council Mission in Kosovo - UNMIK - UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo, 11 January 2000:** Establishment of the Gender Strategic Planning Group, as an inter-agency and multi-sectorial working group  
<http://www.un.org/peace/kosovo/press/templ.pr.130.html>

**UN Security Council Mission in East Timor - United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor:** Gender Affairs Unit has done excellent work in the field. See under UN Department of Peace Keeping Operations for more details.

**UN Security Council, Second Arria Formula Briefing of by Women's NGOs, 30 October 2001**

### ***UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)***

**UN Commission on the Status of Women 6 March, 2001:** Opening Statement, Commission on the Status of Women, Angela King, Assistant Secretary-General Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women

"One of the most remarkable breakthroughs since the forty-fourth session concerns women and peace. You will recall that on International Women's Day which coincided with our session last year, the Security Council recognized the central role of women in conflict resolution, peacekeeping and peace building. Since then, the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations were adopted. Last October, building on these, the Security Council held its first ever meeting on women, peace and security. The Council adopted a far-reaching resolution on this topic (S/RES/1325/2000) in which it stressed the importance of women's equal participation with men and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security including serving as special representatives and envoys. It also called on Member States to increase women's role throughout peace support operations. This has provided local women's groups engaged in peace efforts around the world with an opportunity to find entry points for contributing directly to United Nations peace efforts.

One important aspect of the resolution, is the Council's request to the Secretary-General to prepare a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution. This study, a collective inter-agency

endeavour, will reflect the experiences of the whole United Nations system. It is being coordinated, at the Secretary-General's request, by my Office. A Task Force of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality is collaborating on the study and on a system-wide action plan to implement other parts of the resolution."

**19 March, CSW adopts resolution on discrimination against women and girls in Afghanistan (documents E/CN/.6/2001/L.5 Rev.1)**

By the terms of the draft, the Economic and Social Council would strongly condemn the continuing grave violations of the human rights of women and girls, including all forms of discrimination against them in all areas of Afghanistan, particularly those under the control of the Taliban.

The Council would also condemn the continued restrictions on women's access to health care and the systematic violation of their human rights in Afghanistan, including the restrictions on access to education and employment outside the home, on freedom of movement and on freedom from intimidation, harassment and violence. That had a serious detrimental effect on the well-being of Afghan women and the children in their care.

The Council would urge the Taliban and other Afghan parties to recognize, protect, promote and act in accordance with all human rights and fundamental freedoms, regardless of gender, ethnicity or religion, in accordance with international human rights instruments. The Council would also urge them to respect international humanitarian law. It would further urge all the Afghan parties, in particular the Taliban, to immediately end all human rights violations against women and girls. Among the urgent actions called for are the repeal of all legislative and other measures that discriminate against women and girls and impede the realization of their human rights.

By further terms, the Council would appeal to all States and to the international community to ensure that all humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan, in conformity with the strategic framework for that country, is based on the principle of non-discrimination, integrates a gender perspective, and actively attempts to promote the participation of both women and men and peace and respect for fundamental human rights. It would also demand that all Afghan factions, in particular the Taliban, ensure the safety and protection of all United Nations and humanitarian workers in Afghanistan and allow them, regardless of their gender, to carry out their work unhindered.

The draft was co-sponsored by Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, India, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and the Observer for Switzerland.

**Adoption of Resolution on the Release of Women and Children Taken Hostage, including Those Subsequently Imprisoned, in Armed Conflicts (document E/CN.6/2001/L.3):** In adopting, as orally amended, a resolution on the release of women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned, in armed conflicts, by a recorded vote of 31 in favor with none against, and 2 abstentions (India, United States), the Commission condemned violent acts in contravention of international humanitarian law against civilian women and children in areas of armed conflict, and called for an effective response to such acts, including the immediate release of such women and children taken hostage, including those subsequently imprisoned.

The text was co-sponsored by Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Iran, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Suriname, Tajikistan and Turkey.

***UN Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and the Advancement of Women, (OSAGI)***

**Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security:** In order to ensure collaboration and coordination throughout the United Nations system in the implementation of the Security Council resolution 1325, the Interagency Meeting on Women and Gender Equality, chaired by the Special Adviser to the Secretary General on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women - Ms Angela E.V. King, established a Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security. Within the United Nations

Secretariat the Department for Disarmament Affairs, the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, the Department for Political Affairs, the Department of Public Information, the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Office of Human Resources Development, the Office of the Special Adviser for Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women are represented on the taskforce. Other members include UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNIFEM, UNCHR, UNU and WFP. The taskforce has developed an Action Plan on the implementation of the Security Council resolution. The Action Plan outlines initiatives to be taken by different parts of the United Nations system in relation to each of the operational paragraphs in the Security Council resolution.

**Secretary-General's study and report:** The Security Council resolution 1325 (para 16) invites the Secretary General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further to submit a report to the Security Council based on the results of the study. On 28 December 2000 the Secretary General requested his Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, Ms Angela King, to take the responsibility for coordinating the preparation of the study and report, in close collaboration with other relevant parts of the United Nations system. The active involvement of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the Department of Political Affairs, the Department of Disarmament Affairs and the Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs in the Secretariat, which is critical for ensuring identification of clear priorities and recommendations for action throughout the United Nations system, has been ensured. The Secretary General's study and report will also build upon studies already carried out within the United Nations system, such as the UNRISD study on Women and Post-conflict Reconstruction, as well as ongoing or planned studies and activities, for example, by the Department of Peace-keeping Operations, UNIFEM and UNU.

Inputs to the study and report are being provided by all members of the Inter-Agency Taskforce on Women, Peace and Security. The taskforce has prepared an initial outline for the study, which highlights the main issues to be tackled under each of the three areas outlined in resolution 1325: the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, as well as areas where recommendations would be desirable. An annex of good practice examples from the United Nations, Member States, regional organizations and NGOs will also be included in the study.

Two international experts in the field gender, peace and security have been identified to conduct the study - Ms. Sandra Whitworth (Canada) and Ms. Dyan Mazurana (United States). Both Ms Whitworth and Ms. Mazurana have published widely on the subject of gender, armed conflict and peace-building. The study is expected to be finalized by June 2002. Preparations of the Secretary-General's report by the Secretariat will commence early in 2002.

#### ***UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)***

23-15 April 2001: Regional Consultation on Enhancing Women's Participation in Peace-building, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Ms. Yakin Ertürk, Director of DAW stated at the opening, "We need to learn from women's actual peace-building activities so that we may be able to develop and extend, through the current project, activities that have the potential to enhance women's peacebuilding capacities. This meeting provides an excellent opportunity to exchange views and experiences in this regard. I am confident that your deliberations in the next few days will contribute towards expanding our understanding of the issue, in identifying capacity building needs and provide guidelines for developing effective strategies and methodologies to respond to these needs." <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/news/ye23apr01.htm>

#### ***UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)***

**Independent Expert Assessment:** To follow up Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, UNIFEM appointed two Independent Experts to assess the impact of armed conflict on women and women's role in peace building and present their findings by early 2002. The assessment will complement the follow up already underway in relation to Resolution 1325 and will contribute to the Secretary General's report. It will also be in response to Graça Machel's call on UNIFEM - in her five-year review document on War-Affected Children - to support

the preparation of independent expert assessments on the impact of armed conflict on women and on women's role in peace building. The Independent Experts will assess progress made and obstacles encountered and will reflect the perspective of women from the ground.

**The Independent Experts are:**

Elisabeth Rehn (Finland), former UN Under-Secretary General and Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Bosnia and Herzegovina, former UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Bosnia and Herzegovina and former Minister for Defence and Equality Affairs in Finland

Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (Liberia), former Assistant Administrator and Director of UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa and a member of the OAU Panel of Eminent Persons to investigate the genocide in Rwanda.

Victoria Brittain, Associate Foreign Editor of the Guardian and author and editor of numerous books, including "Death of Dignity", which deals with Angola's civil war, will document the findings of the independent experts.

Preliminary findings of the experts include:

*Education of women and girls*

Women are conscious of their own need to be literate and educated so that they can participate fully in brokering peace, decision-making and in post-conflict reconstruction.

*Sexual violence, prostitution and trafficking*

War provides a breeding ground for certain forms of sexual exploitation such as trafficking. Conflict also forces many women and young girls to prostitute themselves in order to make a living. Violence against women, particularly domestic violence often increases after conflicts.

*HIV/AIDS*

In the Great Lakes region of Africa, HIV/AIDS transmitted through rape has been called a weapon of war.

*Economic security*

Conflict affects women's economic security. Women and girls are heading households but in many cases, struggle to do so without basic income, resources, or control over decision-making.

*Women and the peace process*

Women are fighting their way to the peace table within political parties and through civil society, but there is a need for their contribution to be acknowledged, also in UN peace operations.

Newsletter 'Women, Peace and Security: Progress on UN Security Council Resolution 1325': On the occasion of the UN Security Council 'Arria' formula meeting and related events, UNIFEM published a newsletter mapping progress around the world towards implementing Resolution 1325. It features a number of country examples and is available online at [www.undp.org/unifem](http://www.undp.org/unifem) or from UNIFEM's Governance Section (Tel. 212 906 6487 or 5756).

UNIFEM's framework for action on women, peace and security and its country programmes: UNIFEM's work in the field of women, peace and security focuses on four main pillars:

1. Early warning and prevention: Understanding the impact of armed conflict on women UNIFEM provides policy support, information and gender analysis of the political, humanitarian and human rights dimensions of conflicts. In the Occupied Territories for example, little data was compiled on the consequences of the political conflict on the situation of Palestinian women. The Women's Department of Birzeit University is to undertake a comprehensive study on behalf of UNIFEM and will assess forced displacement, economic security, destruction of land and removal of crops, women as caretakers, women's participation in the Intifada, changing family structures and roles, and violence against women. The results of the study, expected in November 2001, will form the basis for developing future initiatives to enhance women's protection and their participation in peace negotiations. In Melanesia, participants in a weeklong UNIFEM consultation discussed conflict, post-conflict rehabilitation and prevention in Bougainville, Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, and concluded that the region continues to be a hot spot, and decided that further work on peace

and security should include gender based research and analysis and provide further early warning and leadership training as well as the establishment of effective information, support and response mechanisms.

## 2. Improving protection and assistance for women

Women and girls are often neglected in the delivery of protection and assistance during conflict and in post-conflict reconstruction. UNIFEM helps mobilize humanitarian, psychosocial and economic assistance for women. In Kosovo and Tajikistan, UNIFEM has worked to prevent trafficking of women and girls through awareness campaigns and training for media. In Tajikistan, UNIFEM is assisting the government and civil society institutions to provide assistance and raise awareness of the psychological impact of conflict on women.

## 3. Making women and gender perspectives central to peace processes

UNIFEM supports women's participation in peace building, and helps to leverage the political, financial and technical support needed. UNIFEM also fosters strategic partnerships with regional and international bodies and helps to mainstream gender in peace operations by involving women in their design and implementation. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, UNIFEM helped the Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue to develop a strategy to support women's participation. He urged each of the parties to the Lusaka Agreement to include women in their delegations and for gender issues to be addressed on the agenda of the Dialogue. The women's "peace table" convened by CONAFED and UNIFEM in October 2001 promoted networking and policy dialogue among participants, which should hopefully contribute to women's further involvement in the Dialogue.

## 4. Gender justice in post-conflict peace building

As a central element of peace building, UNIFEM seeks to strengthen a gender focus in electoral, constitutional, legal, judicial and policy reform. In East Timor, at the request of the Gender Affairs Unit of the East Timor Transitional Administration under UNTAET, UNIFEM supported a series of political skills training workshops for potential women electoral candidates. Despite the absence of a women's quota in the electoral regulations, women won 27 % of the seats in the Constituent Assembly elections in August 2001. In Rwanda, the process of reviewing the constitution from a gender perspective began earlier this year. The Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians invited UNIFEM to participate in its technical committee and has been working closely with the constitutional and legislative commission, thus taking the first step in a long process of effective empowerment of the country's women.

**Millennium Peace Prize:** Together with International Alert, UNIFEM awarded four women and three organizations the first Millennium Peace Prizes for Women. The prizes, which carry a \$5,000 stipend and an Oscar-like statue for organizations, and the statue alone for individuals, are awarded to "women who are bravely and effectively engaged in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and other forms of peace-building work, particularly at the grassroots level."

Winners were Flora Brovina of Kosovo, the president of the League Albanian Women of Kosovo, Asma Jahangir and Hina Jilani, sisters who in 1980 founded the Women's Action Forum, Veneranda Nzambazamariya of Rwanda, who received her award posthumously. Ruta Pacifica de las Mujeres, a Colombian organization of women aimed at achieving peace in that country. Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency of Papua New Guinea is specifically aimed at getting women involved in the peace process. Women in Black, a "worldwide network of women against war, violence and militarism," which organizes demonstration for women only with the participants all dressed in black. Olivia Ward of the Toronto Star, an awards judge told the Earth Times that the winners were of such obviously high merit that "it was easy" to make the selections.

## ***UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA)***

- DPA's Under-Secretary-General and the Departmental Focal Points for Women met with Independent Experts, Elizabeth Rehn and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, to discuss (i) the aims of the Independent Expert Assessments on the impact of armed conflict on women and on women's role in peace building (ii) the objectives of the planned assessment field trips and (iii) measures which could be taken by DPA and its field offices to support the efforts of the Experts and their staff.



- 18 April: DPA invited a consultant with Star Network of World Learning to speak on "Effective peace-building at the community level — The role of women and international long and short-term support" at a brown bag, which was chaired by one of the Department's Assistant-Secretary-Generals. The event generated much in-depth discussion among the participants, which included a visiting SRSG and other senior level DPA staff.
- April 23 —25: Two senior DPA staff participated in the "Regional Consultation on Enhancing Women's Participation in Peace-building" held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.
- DPA Focal Points for Women are frequently included in substantive meetings convened by the Assistant-Secretary-General with senior staff in order to include a gender mainstreaming perspective in the department's substantive work.
- DPA's Focal Point for Women, at the request of one of the Department's Assistant-Secretary-Generals, submitted proposals for enhancing the Department's efforts with regard to gender mainstreaming.
- DPA's Focal Points for Women submitted to the Under-Secretary-General an assessment of the Department's gender mainstreaming efforts, which included a set of recommendations by which these efforts could be further strengthened. This assessment was based on their 2-year term in office.

### ***UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)***

**Gender component:** With respect to gender issues and peacekeeping, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations recognizes the importance of ensuring that a gender perspective is incorporated into all aspects of peacekeeping operations, and that ongoing attention needs to be given to the implementation of legislative mandates in this area. Therefore, the Department has, in its most recent budgetary request, asked for a dedicated capacity for gender issues in the Peacekeeping Best Practices Unit, with a view to ensuring that a gender perspective is interwoven into the Department's work.

**Policy:** The Department's Plan of Action to implement resolution 1325, part of the system-wide Plan of Action, spells out the measures that the Department is taking or will take in the near future to mainstream gender in its activities, increase the participation of women in peacekeeping, increase the numbers of women at decision-making levels in field mission and consider the needs of women in its activities in the field. The Department has also made a conscious effort to include a gender perspective in all policy development.

**Training:** The Department has prepared a training curriculum on gender awareness and sensitivity for military and civilian police. This has been field-tested in several missions. In collaboration with UNITAR, the Department is preparing a training course for civilian staff on the impact of armed conflict on women and children, which will include a module on gender awareness and sensitivity.

**Field gender affairs units/offices:** The Department is also committed to establishing gender affairs offices/units in large multidimensional missions and gender focal points in smaller missions where gender units may not be merited. The missions in East Timor and Kosovo have been able to do a great deal to mainstream gender issues into the activities of each mission as both have dedicated Gender Affairs Offices. Below are some of the activities the missions have undertaken with the support of their Gender Offices:

**The Gender Affairs Office in UNTAET** has raised awareness about the critical link between gender equality and sustainable development with UNTAET staff (through induction training for new staff, peacekeeping forces, civilian police as well as Timor Loro Sae Police Services); built capacity to take concrete actions towards the goal of equality for Timorese men and women (e.g. workshops for district gender focal points network as well as internal UNTAET gender focal points network, both of which the Office helped establish, and civil society organizations in order to build their capacity to develop gender action plans specific to their areas of work); gathered information and data to understand the gender situation in East Timor (the Unit works with the East Timorese Women's Network, UNTAET departments, district administrations as well as international and national civil society organizations to gather sex disaggregated data and information to contribute to the Unit's

Gender Database Study); and incorporated East Timorese women's concerns into UNTAET policies (the Unit has assisted local women's networks and organizations to promote, implement and monitor the Platform for Action for the Advancement of the Women of Timor Loro Sae). In addition, the Unit has ensured that UNTAET policies and programmes promote gender equality in key areas of concern to East Timorese women, including participation at decision-making levels, legislation protecting equal rights, prosecution of gender-related crimes from 1999, violence against women, equal participation of women in the political process, and at least 30% representation of women in the public service. The Unit is represented on the Cabinet Legislative Committee and reviews and drafts UNTAET legislation to ensure gender-sensitive provisions. It also formed the Gender and Law Working Group to build local capacity to participate in the law-making process. It has served in an advisory capacity to the General Prosecutor to incorporate a gender perspective into investigations and prosecutions. It also supports women victims of the 1999 violence and works with a horizontal investigation team on gender related crimes that is part of the Serious Crimes Investigation Unit. To encourage the participation of women in the political process, the Unit organized training workshops for potential candidates. The Unit is also working with the Civil Service and Public Employment Unit to improve the mainstreaming of gender through all stages of recruitment and appointments to decision-making bodies.

**The Office of Gender Affairs (OGA) in UNMIK** has focused on three priority areas: increasing the representation of women in decision-making in the reconstruction and peace-building processes; addressing issues of violence against women; and integrating women into the economic recovery of Kosovo. The Unit played an important role in the identification of these key policy issues facing the women in Kosovo, giving them visibility, and initiating inter-pillar policy mechanisms to tackle them. Internally, the Unit has ensured a gender perspective across mission policies by being part of high-level inter-pillar meetings and initiating an inter-pillar Gender Strategic Planning Group. To increase the representation of women in decision-making, several initiatives have been taken. The Kosovo Transitional Council, which began as the highest consultative body to the SRSG, was expanded to include Kosovar women representatives of political parties and non-governmental organizations on the advice of the OGA and other relevant organizations. When the mission became a Joint Interim Administrative Structure (JIAS), consisting of 20 departments, the SRSG appointed 7 women (three Kosovar and four international) as co-heads of departments. UNMIK also initiated a Kosovo Transitional Council Gender Policy Working Group to review legislation and policy. For the October 2000 municipal elections, a 30% quota was stipulated for the top 15 candidates on the lists in order to promote women leadership in the municipalities. The mission is currently conducting capacity-building programmes for Kosovar men and women in the municipalities. Training of potential women candidates for the elections is under way. The OGA working with the Office of Human Rights has focused on building a legislative framework to protect women and girls from domestic violence and trafficking. A regulation prohibiting the trafficking of human beings was enacted in January 2001 and a draft domestic violence code is in the final stages of development. The Kosovo Police Service has an excellent record on the participation of women in its ranks: of the almost four thousand graduates of the Kosovo Police Academy, approximately 20% are women. Women have also played a major role in the UNMIK mine action programme, where women have worked in operational mine clearance, mine awareness and victim assistance organizations. The GAU has been able to mainstream gender in JIAS departments through various mechanisms: close consultation with co-heads as well as a gender focal point network in JIAS departments. Gender-based policy interventions have been initiated in the priority departments of Agriculture, Education and Science, Health and Social Welfare, Justice, Labour and Employment, Local Administration, Trade and Industry, and Youth. Training for gender focal points in different regions and municipalities has also been provided. Programmes initiated in these areas include a strategy for a women's literacy programme; gender in higher education; regulations to improve women's representation in local and municipal administrations; legal protections for women in the labour force; social assistance for no income women heads of households and widows; referral system for women who are victims of domestic or other violence; and raising awareness about the reproductive rights of young women.

**Status of Women:** The Department has strengthened its commitment to appointing women to senior posts and at decision-making levels. The Department participates in the Secretary-General's Senior Appointments Group, which is responsible for selecting candidates for leadership positions in field missions. A roster of senior female candidates is maintained by DPKO. In addition, DPKO has urged contributing States to provide more women civilian police officers and military observers to serve in UN peacekeeping missions.

- DPKO has ensured that a female gynaecologist or doctor is available to all UN staff in peacekeeping missions. All UN hospitals also must also be staffed and equipped to care for female patients.
- HIV/AIDS awareness has been made a responsibility of national medical units. UNAIDS and DPKO are also in the process of developing an awareness card in different local languages for uniformed peacekeepers where the peacekeepers code of conduct is integrated with HIV/AIDS awareness.
- As an example of gender mainstreaming in its activities, planning for DD& R in specific peacekeeping missions takes account of gender-specific needs during the demobilization process as well as the needs of families who often accompany the ex-combatants to the demobilization sites.

### ***Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)***

**UN Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP):** The 2001 theme of the Inter-Agency Appeal was Women and War. Agencies aim to raise 2.26 billion for programmes to support women's humanitarian and peacebuilding needs in critical war zones. The UK government has pledged to top-up any shortfalls in the fundraising to ensure the target is met. Programmes are in: Afghanistan, Angola, Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Great Lakes Region, Maluku Crisis, Northern Caucasus, Republic of the Congo, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Eastern Europe, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Uganda, West Africa <http://www.reliefweb.int/appeals/2001.html>

Opening statement by Kofi Annan. "The theme of today's launch is "women and war", in recognition of the special needs and contributions of women in emergency situations. Projects in the consolidated appeals focus not only on women's practical needs -- such as protection, food, health services and wood for fuel -- but also their strategic needs, for example the chance to play their rightful part in leadership and decision-making.

It is high time for the issue of women and peace and security to receive greater recognition on the international agenda. Last month's meeting of the Security Council was an important step forward. I hope the report which the Council has called for will lead to women having a bigger role in peace-building, and will make us all more dynamic in addressing the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution.

### **Gender and Humanitarian Assistance Resource Kit**

The Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Gender and Humanitarian Assistance was established by the IASC-WG in November 1998. This group had its first meeting in January 1999. It is co-chaired by WFP and UNICEF, with the participation of FAO, OCHA, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNDP, IOM, UNFPA, ICRC, IFRC, SCHR, WHO, ICVA, and InterAction. <http://www.reliefweb.int/library/GHARKit/>

### ***Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees (OHCHR)***

Since the 1999 a new Senior Co-ordinator for Refugee Women/Gender Equality has been appointed, revitalizing UNHCR's commitment to advancing the rights of refugee women and promoting gender equality. At UNHCR's recent Executive Committee (1-5 October), the Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women and Gender Equality facilitated a panel on "Empowering refugee women as peace-builders". The presentations and subsequent comments confirmed that refugee women are vital to the peace process. Their peace activism, often at the community level and grassroots level has been impressive and there was strong affirmation of the need for partnerships with men, as a demonstration of true gender equality, particularly in welcoming women to the peace table.

Economic empowerment of women is important but economic stability requires peace. Security Council resolution 1325 called for the empowerment of women, including refugee women, to participate actively in the peace process as a key goal of the UN, UNHCR and partners. Despite their active participation in non-formal peace building campaigns, women are frequently excluded from formal peace negotiations. In Burundi, UN organizations, including UNHCR, sought to draw Burundian women into the peace-building process to ensure that their voices were heard. UNHCR

has sponsored the participation of refugee women in the Arusha Peace process and similar initiatives are supported in the Manu River region in west Africa. At the local level, capacity-building to ensure that refugee women strengthen their peace-building skills is under way in several countries including Kenya and Uganda. In the United Republic of Tanzania, Burundian refugee women are participating in a non-violent conflict resolution and peace building project. It involves refugee women in educating the community in peace-building mechanisms and creates a forum for women to discuss issues such as peace and reconciliation.

UNHCR's Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women and Gender Equity, the Protection Unit and the Evaluation Unit are engaged in a one year assessment being carried out by the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children to reviews policies and practices related to UNHCR's protection responsibilities vis-à-vis women refugees and with regard to gender equality.

The UNHCR Senior Coordinator for Refugee Women and Gender Equity and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children co-sponsored a meeting of refugee women from around the world. The three-day event, held at UNHCR headquarters in Geneva in June 2001, included 47 refugee women, UNHCR senior managers, government officials and representatives of the Women's Commission. Discussions focused on security in refugee camps, the legal status of refugees, asylum issues, sexual and gender-based violence and equal access to shelter, water and health care. High Commissioner Ruud Lubbers took part in one of the sessions. The event was the culmination of a series of field-based global consultations with refugee women earlier this year.

### ***Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)***

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 will

- Develop generic Terms of Reference for gender specialists within human rights components of peace operations
- Human rights components of peacekeeping operations to provide policy guidance on the special needs of women and girls in the reintegration process.
- Monitor whether mechanisms are in place to protect the human rights of women and girls
- Develop gender sensitive guidelines for re-reporting and documenting gender-based violence and for interviewing women and girls victims of sexual violence
- Monitor compliance by State parties through investigations carried out by Special Rapporteurs.

### ***UN Department for Disarmament Affairs (DDA)***

In cooperation with the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender issues and the Advancement of Women (OSAGI), the DDA released an excellent set of briefing papers on gender and disarmament. <http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/msg3.htm>

There are six briefing notes on: weapons of mass destruction, peace and disarmament, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration, landmines, development and small arms which were launched on 14 March, 2001 <http://www.un.org/Depts/dda/gender/14marilpf.htm>

The Department for Disarmament Affairs has included specific references to gender in its proposed programme budget for 2002-2003, "The Department will seek to achieve gender balance by encouraging Member States to nominate more female candidates for experts groups, for the disarmament fellowship programme and for other meetings and events organised by the Department... Gender mainstreaming will be built into the activities of the programme. To this end, the Department will request the Office of Human Resources Management and the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women to organise a competency development programme on gender mainstreaming."

## ***UN Department of Public Information (DPI)***

Within the advocacy and promotion roles of the United Nations in the field of the advancement of women, the Department of Public Information and its global network of UN Information Centres and Services is continuing an ongoing communications strategy to support the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the recently adopted Political Declaration and outcome document of the General Assembly special session "Women 2000: Gender equality, development and peace for the 21st century", and Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security. Such activities are aimed at increasing public awareness and understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women, children and families, the need for services to address women's needs in these situations, and the role women can play to prevent and resolve conflict.

The following are examples of recent activities by the Department, or planned activities, on the subject of women, peace and security:

UN-TV has produced a wide range of UN in Action/CNN World Report programmes relevant to women's issues. Programmes related to the subject of women and peace and security focused on, migrant women; women and development; human rights for women refugees; women and politics; women in Palestine; and women and food security. World Chronicle TV interviews were conducted such topics as women at the peace table; protection of civilians in armed conflict; men and women victims of landmines; trafficking in women; and UNHCR monitors, who are mainly women, who are assisting refugees in Chechnya.

Twice a week, the Department's daily live programme in English broadcasts feature items devoted exclusively to women's issues. Recent programmes produced by UN Radio have highlighted the issues of women and the AIDS epidemic; international initiatives to end trafficking in women; forced marriages; women at the peace table; violence against women; dowry and bride burning; human rights of women; women resolving conflict; the International Criminal Court and the concerns of women; the health situation of women in the occupied Palestinian Territory; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Department plans to produce a mini-series about youth and women in the Palestinian Territories, which will be aired as part of UN Radio's 15-minute daily live broadcast in Arabic.

The *United Nations Chronicle* has published a wide range of articles relevant to the subject of women and peace and security and will continue to do so. Some recent issues focused on:

- Women and armed conflict: the Security Council open debate last October on women, peace and security;
- Women and the right to shelter: an interview with the Executive Director of Habitat, Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, in which she stated that the right to secure tenure is particularly important for women and that her agency is cooperating with UNESCO on the question of education for women as part of economic empowerment;
- Gender equality: addressing women's concerns: an article by the Coordinator for Gender Policy at UNCHS;
- Alleviating malnutrition: Project Nashta in India in which women are responsible for preparing and marketing a nutritious low-cost supplement and as a result they have improved their self-respect and self-confidence;
- Women in Palestine: The UNRWA Microfinance Programme which has helped women from among the poorest sectors of the Gaza community take steps towards achieving a sustainable development by providing working capital loans;
- Women and food security: In Rights Watch, the Chairman of the FAO Panel of Eminent Experts addresses the problem of hunger which he says arises partly from discrimination of women, their rights to land and discrimination of women within the household.

Other related topics were:

- Trafficking in women: The International Organization for Migration states that many women from Central and Eastern Europe were brought to Kosovo for prostitution and efforts are being made to protect them as much as possible;
- Protection of civilians in armed conflict; and
- Men and women as victims of landmines.

The Department continues to widely disseminate the international instruments emanating from the Fourth World Conference on Women and the General Assembly special session "Women 2000", as well as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and its Optional Protocol. A booklet containing the texts of the documents emanating from the Fourth World Conference on Women and the General Assembly special session is being prepared for wide dissemination in the six official languages. The Department is producing a brochure containing the text of Security Council resolution 1325(2000) on women, peace and security in the six official languages.

Recent DPI/NGO briefings relating to women, peace and security included a briefing on the GA special session "Women 2000", which focused on emerging issues, and trafficking in women.

Related activities carried out by United Nations Information Centres and Services include briefings, press conferences, radio, and television programmes, seminars and exhibitions.

## **GOVERNMENTS**

**Inter-Congolese Dialogue:** [http://www.unifem.undp.org/pr\\_congodialogue.html](http://www.unifem.undp.org/pr_congodialogue.html)

Botswana's former President and current Facilitator of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue, has urged the Congolese Parties, signatories to the Lusaka Agreement to ensure women's equal representation at the forthcoming Preparatory Meeting of the Inter-Congolese Dialogue. The DRC's forces vives (civil society) have so far designated only one woman to represent them at the preparatory committee meeting for the Inter-Congolese Dialogue to be held in Gaborone, Botswana, from 20-24 August. The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) government, political and armed opposition groups will be naming their delegates to the meeting this week.

"I am deeply concerned that women may be inadequately represented at the Preparatory Meeting. I have appealed to the Congolese signatories to the Lusaka Agreement, to increase their quota of female representation in an aim to address this serious imbalance and to ensure gender issues are addressed at the Dialogue," Sir Ketumile Masire said. The Facilitator appealed to the UN Secretary-General and to the Security Council for urgent support in this regard.

"This is the first real test of the Security Council's watershed resolution 1325 on women and peace and security," said Noeleen Heyzer, the UNIFEM Executive Director from New York. The resolution, adopted in October 2000, urges all actors negotiating and implementing peace agreements to involve women in these processes and to support women's peace initiatives.

**Canada (DFAIT) and the United Kingdom (DFID) government** supported the development of a Gender and Peace Support Operations gender training initiative programme for military and civilian personnel in Peace Support Operations. The course is intended to enable both civilians and military personnel to improve their ability to integrate gender awareness and analysis into the policies, programs and practices of Peace Support Operations. The development of the training materials was coordinated by the Lester B. Pearson International Peacekeeping Training Centre under the stewardship of the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) and the United Kingdom Department for International Development (DFID). The materials were prepared in collaboration with a variety of United Nations bodies and agencies (including the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OCHA, UNIFEM, UNICEF and UNHCR), the national militaries of Canada and the UK, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) and the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA). A team of international experts, including

representatives from military and police organizations, civil society, and women's and gender equality seeking organisations, were also involved in the development of the material. The UK and Canada are in the process of developing a website to house the gender materials online. The website address will be: [www.genderandpeacekeeping.org](http://www.genderandpeacekeeping.org).

**Canada** will conduct a three-day course using the gender training initiative for a limited number of human rights and humanitarian NGOs November, 2001.

**Canada** has established a Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security to set domestic priorities for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 and G8 commitments on Strengthening the Role of Women in Conflict Prevention. The Committee is chaired by Senator Lois Wilson and is made up of government officials, NGOs, and Parliamentarians.

**Canada:** Gender and Foreign Policy Making, a discussion list hosted by the Canadian Centre for Foreign Policy Development (from September 17 to October 15, 2001). This moderated on-line consultation is a forum where we can discuss the implications and impact of gender on the practice and development of Canadian foreign policy. The goal of the Centre is to open this space for discussion and identify new approaches for advancing the discussion, within and outside the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade.

**UK (Oct 2001):** A UK government mission from DFID met with relevant DPKO departments and OSAGI, DPA, DDA and UNIFEM to develop a strategy of support to the UN in mainstreaming gender throughout peacekeeping operations. Their objectives were to identify the key constraints to gender mainstreaming through analysis of the institutional capacity of DPKO to undertake gender mainstreaming, the complementary roles, responsibilities and capacities of other UN bodies with respect to gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations and to draft a preliminary strategic framework for support to DPKO.

## **NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS**

**The NGO Working Group on Women and International Peace and Security** was formed to push for the open session of the Security Council on Women, Peace and Security and has since expanded to include: Amnesty International, International Alert, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, the Hague Appeal for Peace, the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, the International Women's Tribune Center and the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children. These groups have pooled their efforts, networks and expertise to spread the good news about Security Council Resolution 1325, and will continue to work towards ensuring its full implementation. The Coalition made Security Council Resolution 1325 into an attractive brochure and have distributed 15,000 of them around the world.

**The NGO Working Group on Women and International Peace and Security, 22 October 2001:** Discussion Session organised by the NGO working group relating to the implementation of Resolution 1325 as a tool for Peace building, Protection of Women & Prevention of Violent Conflict.

**Women's International War Crimes Tribunal on Japan's Military Sexual Slavery, Convened by VAWW-NET Japan, The Korean Council for the Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan, Asian Centre for Women's Human Rights (ASCENT), December 2000:**

The Tokyo Tribunal 6-15 December, 2000 was a women's/people's initiative in partnership and solidarity with experts and international lawyers, to set a precedent for the prosecution of war crimes against women from the perspective of women's human rights and move towards a vision of a 21st century free of violence. It was a collective initiative of the victimized countries namely - the Philippines, North and South Korea, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, The Netherlands, Malaysia, and Japan. Well-known and respected human rights defenders, lawyers, historians, academicians, researchers and the survivors were engaged in the preparation for the event since 1998. Among the objectives of the Tribunal was that, as the millennium comes to an end, it is but proper to give the women who are all in their advanced age, a sense of what constitutes justice.

The staging of the Tokyo Tribunal was one of the most phenomenal events of the year 2000. As the proceedings of the Tribunal unfolded, audience were transported back in time to World War II as the Prosecutors with the help of the evidence and testimonies of the survivors resurrected the systemic

violations practiced by Japan's Imperial Army through establishment of the sexual slavery system. Each country prosecutorial teams presented their case and evidence in the most professional manner. Survivors painfully recalled and relived their horrendous experience of being a so called "comfort women". It was only fitting that the summary judgment delivered at the end of the Tribunal found Emperor Hirohito guilty of the crimes charged by the Prosecutors. The Tribunal was an expression that civil society will no longer tolerate the culture of impunity and will strive to replace it with the culture of accountability.

**Women's Caucus for Gender Justice: Public Hearing December 11, 2000:** The one-day public hearing of testimonies of crimes from on-going war and conflict situations around the world immediately following the Tokyo Tribunal is an occasion to demonstrate that the crimes against the former 'comfort women' during WWII are not isolated incidents specific to the events around WWII. Battles are increasingly fought over women's bodies and women continue to be used as war weapons. It is an occasion to show how the lack of accountability for crimes already committed causes the continuation of commission of such crimes unabated. Innocent civilians, women and children continue to pay the price for the refusal of world powers to learn lessons from the horrendous experiences of war.

The public hearing will comprise of testimonies of victims and survivors of war and conflict situations from different regions of the globe such as Chiapas, Colombia, Guatemala, Algeria, Congo, Liberia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Somalia, former Yugoslavia, Afghanistan, Burma, Cambodia, East Timor, Indonesia etc. The hearing will not only present painful experiences of women who had been victimized by war but also provide a forum simultaneously to talk about the initiatives in each of these places to rise and fight back to demand justice such as the experiences of women who joined the resistance movement, who did organizing work for peace and justice. Such an account will serve as an inspiration not only for the women themselves but for humanity itself. The public hearing will usher the continuing work of women for genuine justice, peace and end to impunity.

**International Alert, March 8, 2001:** Women Building Peace Campaign, handed over 100,000 signatures from over 140 countries, signed by women, women's organisations and civil society groups working for peace and social justice, in support of women's demands for protection, participation in decision making, and end to impunity for crimes committed against women. Also gave Millennium Peace Prize, detailed in UNIFEM section above.

**International Alert, March 2001:** 'Raising Women's Voices for Peacebuilding: Vision, Impact and Limitations of Media Technologies' by Dyan Mazurana and Susan McKay, published by International Alert. Disseminated to a wide range of policy makers, academics and the media the publication provides an accessible means of understanding and increasing the knowledge of women's responses to violent conflict and peacebuilding and explores how women have used communication technologies in their peacebuilding work, and the innovative and effective results they have had using extremely limited resources.

**International Alert, July 2001:** published, "Women, Peace and Security: A Policy Audit, from the Beijing Platform for Action to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and Beyond, Sanam B. Naraghi-Anderlini

**International Alert, September 2001:** A meeting with the international donor community was held in London by International Alert. Hon. Dr. Inonge Mbikusita-Lewanika was the key-note speaker on the theme of The Impact of Conflict on Women - Women and Peacebuilding.

**International Alert, October 2001 & On-going:** International Alert develops a monitoring framework for core generic issues in Resolution 1325. This will be used in case-study countries (initially Nigeria, Southern Caucasus & Nepal). The framework suggests measurable indicators through which key issues of gender mainstreaming can be monitored. It aims to identify at a general level the extent to which Resolution 1325 has been domesticated, could potentially be developed and supported by the Resolution, as well as identifying gaps in terms of areas not covered by the Resolution.

In addition to this framework, a second context specific level of monitoring will be developed in which contextual focus issues & relevant indicators for these are identified & developed by national partners in each case study country. This work forms part of peace audit work which will be



substantiated by better practice examples of women's 'know how' and an advocacy 'tool kit' manual.

**Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, Protection and Participation**

**Project:** The Women's Commission is carrying out an assessment to review policies and practices related to UNHCR's protection responsibilities vis-à-vis women refugees and with regard to gender equality. The assessment considers the measures taken BY UNHCR over the past decade to respond to the particular needs and risks faced by women covered by the UNHCR mandate. The assessment describes how the principles contained in the Guidelines for the Protection of Women relate to ongoing practice. It analyzes how structures of organization, channels of communication, lines of reporting and accountability, and resource constraints in Headquarters and in the field may facilitate or impede progress. Over a one year period, the assessment team has undertaken field visits to Eritrea, Ethiopia, Zambia, Pakistan and Turkey, as well as extensive interviews with UNHCR and partner agencies in Geneva and the field. An advanced draft report is being considered and the report will be finalized by early December 2001. The project is informed by a steering committee comprised of key members of UNHCR staff, and the governments of the United States and Canada. The latter governments are also funders of the project.

**Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, April 2001:** Protection and Participation Project: In April 2001, the Women's Commission released "You Cannot Dance if You Cannot Stand: A Review of the Rwanda Women's Initiative and the UNHCR's Commitment to Gender Equality in Post-conflict Situations." The report highlights the strengths and weaknesses of the Rwanda Women's Initiative (RWI), providing lessons learned on the potential role for women in post-conflict reconstruction and for future women's initiatives. The report also provides specific recommendations for the future of RWI.

**Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, May - July 2001:** Adolescents and Children Affected by War: From May to July 2001, for the second in a series of four participatory studies with adolescents, the Women's Commission carried out a research study in Northern Uganda that involved 54 adolescent researchers and more than 20 adults from the community to identify key concerns facing adolescents and solutions to their problems as part of an international campaign to increase services and protection for and with adolescents affected by armed conflict. These adolescents identified the research issues, developed their methodology, led the study and spoke to over 2,000 of their peers and adults living in Gulu, Kitgum and Pader districts. Reports and recommendations from these studies will be used for advocacy to address concerns raised in each site covered, and will contribute to wider, international efforts to improve services and protection for refugee, internally displaced and other adolescents affected by armed conflict and persecution. This is the second in a four part field-based assessment that will also include collaboration with youth in Kosovo, Sierra Leone.

**Women's Caucus of the International Action Network on Small Arms, July 2001:** UN General Assembly Resolution 54/54V paved the way for the first United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, which was held in July of 2001. The Women's Caucus played a pivotal role in exposing the gender dimensions of the impact of small arms on women with publications, events and a webpage.

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, July 2001:** International seminar in Geneva on the Middle East Crisis, featuring women from all countries of the Middle East, and with a special focus on Security Council Resolution 1325

**Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, October 2001:** Launch of the Peace Women project and website <http://www.peacewomen.org>, a centralised repository of information and links on women and peace.

**Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium, The Gender-based Violence Initiative:**

With funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM) and on behalf of the Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium (RHRC), the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children (WCRWC) and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are jointly administering an intensive two-year investigation of current resources and field practices related to international Gender-based Violence (GBV) which will produce: a global report on current multi-sectoral responses to GBV in refugee and internally displaced settings; a web-based bibliography of current GBV literature, posted at [www.rhrc.org](http://www.rhrc.org), for easy access by

international and local GBV program planners and field staff; and an GBV standardized assessment, monitoring and evaluation tools manual, to be field tested in select sites, designed to assist donor and implementing agencies in the early identification of and appropriate response to GBV among refugee and internally displaced populations.

**Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium, The Gender-based Violence Technical Assistance Project:** JSI Research & Training Institute, on behalf of the Reproductive Health for Refugees Consortium and with funding from the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration (BPRM), has recently initiated a year-long on-site global technical assistance (TA) project. Designed to support the development of appropriate GBV prevention and response activities in refugee, post-conflict, and IDP settings, the TA project will: facilitate effective programming strategies by assisting multi-sectoral actors to develop programs and establish protocols, procedures and management strategies; provide technical assistance and training to UN agencies, governments, national and international NGOs, with particular focus on outcomes, monitoring and evaluation; promote consistent data collection and reporting in order to develop a common understanding of the type(s) and extent of GBV occurring in various refugee settings.

**Peacekeeping Watch:** August 2001: Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, Center for the Strategic Initiatives of Women and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom launched Peacekeeping Watch. The network is intended to facilitate the quick flow of information about the commission of violations by Peacekeepers, to bring media and public attention to their occurrence and to seek appropriate responses from the UN as well as troop contributing countries. The network would seek to link those in countries where there is, or has been, a peacekeeping presence with others in troop contributing countries and with non-governmental organizations working around the UN system. Individuals and organizations working on issues relating to human rights, violence against women, peace and security, or militarism are encouraged to join.  
<http://www.peacewomen.org>

**Violence Against Women in War day, 11 October 2001:** panel and reception activities around a book edited by Anne Barstow, *War's Dirty Secrets*. Co-sponsoring organisations: Presbyterian UN Office, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, International Women's Tribune Center, Women Ink, The Grail, MADRE, Women's Caucus for Gender Justice, World Conference on Religion and Peace

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