



U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (UN SCR 1325)

"PEACE BEGINS AT HOME."

APRIL 2012

HIGHLIGHTS:

- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 emphasizes full and equal participation of women in all matters of peace and security.
- In December 2011, a U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was issued under Executive Order of President Obama, to empower women as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace.
- WILPF-U.S. Section coordinated five civil society consultations on the development and implementation of the U.S. NAP that resulted in a final Report and 64 recommendations.
- Find out how YOU can take action and hold the U.S. government accountable!

To read WILPF's final Report of the Civil Society Consultations on the Development of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (UN SCR 1325) visit: [http://wilpf.org/files/Report_of_Women_Peace_Security_Consults_\(2011\).pdf](http://wilpf.org/files/Report_of_Women_Peace_Security_Consults_(2011).pdf)

To read the US NAP on UN SCR 1325 visit: http://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/email-files/US_National_Action_Plan_on_Women_Peace_and_Security.pdf

What is UN SCR 1325?

In October 2000, the international community linked the role of women to peace and security with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Its premise emphasizes that a just and lasting world peace cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women in matters of peace and security, especially since women

are affected disproportionately by armed conflict, rape, and domestic violence. Broadly applied, UN SCR 1325 extends to all stages of peace building, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and conflict prevention by advancing the four pillars based on the UN Women, Peace, and Security Agenda (WPS): participation, protection, conflict prevention, and equal access to relief and recovery.



2011 Nobel Peace Prize
Winners for advancing
women's rights and the role
of women in peacebuilding
efforts.

Key Commitments of SCR 1325

- Participation of women at all levels of decision making
- Conflict prevention
- Protection of human rights for women and girls
- Gender perspective in conflict, post-conflict, and peacekeeping missions
- Promotion of women's empowerment & peacebuilding

Key Points from the U.S. National Action Plan

Although international policy is important, ultimately implementation efforts must take place at the national level. In December 2011, the United States became one of 35 countries to release a National Action Plan (NAP) on UN SCR 1325.

The U.S. NAP articulates the following objectives:

- National integration and institutionalization of a gender-responsive approach to its diplomatic, development, and defense
- Strengthen efforts to prevent & protect women and children from gender-based violence and discrimination and to hold
- perpetrators accountable in conflict-affected environments
- Create conditions for stable societies and lasting peace by promoting women's roles in conflict prevention, integration of gender perspectives, and access to health, education and economic opportunities
- Provide safe, equitable access to humanitarian assistance, relief, and recovery to women & children in conflict-affected areas

Key Points from WILPF's Consultation Report

In preparation of a U.S. 1325 NAP, WILPF held a series of civil society consultations in five cities across the U.S. with the Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State, where over 400 women attended and 64 partner organizations participated to provide input on development and implementation of the U.S. 1325 NAP. WILPF's final Report of the Civil Society Consultation includes 64 concrete recommendations relevant to UN SCR 1325.

Key findings call for:

- A whole governmental approach in the implementation of a U.S. 1325 NAP to address the complexity of women's experiences of discrimination, inequality, and violence including departments of justice, education, the environment, commerce, labor, trade and homeland security.
- The U.S. to codify its commitment to gender equality through ratification of international human rights laws, specifically the Convention of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).
- A reduction in military spending and greater investment in peace

domestically & abroad.

- Concerted efforts to increase women's leadership and participation in all levels of decision-making, including both private and public sectors.
- Protection of women from violence, at home and abroad, must be paramount to the U.S. NAP, especially as it is directly linked to the impact of militarism, including immigration, refugee and asylum policies, environmental degradation, community and family violence, and the specific challenges of women serving in the military.



US Women for Peace
"More Women-
More Peace"

**"While the
U.S. must**

**support the
full equality**

**of women
globally,**

peace

begins at

home."

Where They Do Not Align

While the U.S. NAP is a milestone in the history of U.S. international commitments on issues regarding women's security, it is largely focused on addressing the rights and needs of women living in conflict affected environments through a foreign policy lens and a military-based approach to security. WILPF advocates for a broader understanding of what constitutes a conflict affected environment, recognizing

that countries such as the U.S. are engaged in conflict and post conflict reconstruction, through the provision of financial resources, arms and military or peace-keeping forces. Whether at home or abroad, these conflict-affected environments suffer from severe economic, social, and environmental consequences that impact women in multiple and unique ways. Further, recommendations from WILPF's civil society consultations call for a rethinking of how as a coun-

try, the U.S. defines peace and security, especially in terms of conflict and violence. The U.S. NAP should commit to women's security from a human rights, human-security framework rather than the military-based approach currently in place. This necessitates a doctrinal shift in foreign and military policy that firmly situates women's equality and protection, at home and abroad, at the center of long-term sustainable peace.

Taking Action: What You Can Do

- Contact your U.S. Senator and demand immediate ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) to establish a basis for women's rights in the U.S. consistent with international standards. Find your senator at: http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm
- Lobby to restore funding and institutional structures of Commissions on the Status of Women at the federal & state levels to promote women's political activity, awareness of rights, and to rectify negative gender stereotypes. Learn how to develop a Women's Commission in your state at: http://www.nacw.org/pdf/Handbook_For_Dev_WCs.pdf
- End impunity for perpetrators of violence against women by telling your Congress Member to pass H.R. Bill 4567 the "Civilian Extraterritorial Jurisdiction Act (CEJA) of 2010" to hold federal contractors and employees accountable for criminal acts, such as human trafficking, torture and rape committed outside of the U.S. Find your Representative at: <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>
- Advocate for Peace and Human Rights education in all public elementary and secondary schools to begin to build a culture committed to the non-violent conflict resolution. Find resources at: <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0009/000981/098178e.pdf>
- Tell your Congressperson to support H.R. Bill 332, the "Military Environmental Responsibility Act," to hold the military accountable for repairing environmental degradation resulting from its operations within the U.S. and abroad at <http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/>

