

**Contemporary Perspectives in the Implementation of Women, Peace and Security
Policy Agenda
International High -Level Conference**

**UNESCO Chair on Women, Peace and Security, building Capacity and Resilience
through Education and Research, University of Macedonia, Thessaloniki, Greece.**

20-21-22 June 2019

Notes on which talk by Lesley Abdela was based.

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Thank Fotini Bellou, Director of UNESCO Chair on Women, Peace and Security, Greek Hosts and UNESCO

I am very happy to return to Greece(Deputy Director for Democratisation for the OSCE Kosovo – Thessaloniki)

I have just come hot-foot from a xyz day conference in Yerevan. Titled ‘Women at the Peace Table More Justice for All. With around a 100 women peacebuilders from around the world.

Dr Fotini Bellou has asked me to talk about The Women, Peace and Security Agenda. My specific briefing from Fotini for my talk here today included the following two points:

“Your critical approach on the implementation of the WPS policy agenda I should expect will rock the boat.

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‘The Greek government has just started to coordinate its ministries and to work on the preparation of the F I R S T UNSCR 1325 NAP on Women Peace and Security.’

1. I'll start with an outline of UNSCR 1325
2. I'll briefly describe The UK architecture for the interaction between Civil Society and Government on women, peace and security.
3. Give my assessment of progress globally on implementation UNSCR – this will include my theory of the Parallel Universes.
4. And give my personal recommendation and vision.

First let me spend a couple of minutes credentialising myself and then I'll get onto the central points of my presentation.

My name is Lesley Abdela.

I am **Senior Partner in Shevolution Consultancy** and I am **Associate Consultant, to Nordic Consulting Group Sweden**. I am a member of the - Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) Gender Advisory Services. The help desk provides support to Sida and Swedish Embassies globally to ensure that gender issues are adequately analysed and integrated into Sida project management processes.

I have been working as a Consultant on peace-building: developing democracy, civil society advocacy, media, women's participation in politics and elections, human rights, implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

As a Consultant, Journalist and activist I have worked in over 50 countries mainly in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe.

I have worked boots on the ground in a number of transition and post-conflict countries.

This has included transition and post-conflict situations in : Iraq, Sierra Leone, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Aceh Indonesia, Bosnia, Cyprus, Nepal, Middle East and North Africa.

1995 – 2000 I served on the Board of the British Council – the cultural wing of UK diplomacy with offices in 109 countries.

A few weeks ago - I was in Sri Lanka – advising the British Council on mainstreaming gender into their language and arts Peace building programmes.

My talk is not going to be a list of horror stories, it will be more a practical exposition and will raise a few questions together with my suggested solutions, some of which I hope may be explored further during questions and discussion.

We have many experienced and knowledgeable people here in this audience and I am hoping the points I make will lead to a really productive discussion on practical ideas for how the world of peace-building can do things better.

On 31 October 2000 The United Nations Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325. Resolution 1325 spells out actions needed by everyone to ensure the participation of women (including from civil society) in peace processes and to improve the protection of women in conflict zones.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has four pillars : prevention, participation, protection, and peacebuilding and recovery (*it also encompasses refugees*)

In November of the same year, (2000), a similar, in some respects stronger, resolution in support of 1325 was passed by the European Parliament (EP). Stronger because a recommendation accompanying the EP resolution calls for at least 40% women's representation in all levels of decision-making in peace –making. ¹

(The EP Resolution considers the status of women in the context of armed conflict and makes several recommendations aimed at transforming the situation of women to one based on inclusion and recognition of the rights they hold and the contributions they continually make to peace processes globally.')

79 countries have a National Action Plan for Implementation of UNSCR 1325. The most recent was Norway (January this year- 2019).'

In the 19 years since 1325 was passed the UN Security Council has since adopted a series of additional 'daughter' resolutions on women, peace, and security.

Four of these Resolutions focused mainly on obligations to protect women in conflict settings, including from sexual violence. 1820 (2009), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), and 2106 (2013).

The other resolutions 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013) mainly focus on women's active roles as leaders in peacemaking and conflict prevention. UNSCR: 1820, 1888, 1889,1960, 2106,2122,2242

Collectively these resolutions provide UN member states with the framework for implementing and monitoring 'The Women, Peace and Security agenda.'

¹ European Parliament Resolution - Gender Aspects of Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding A50308/2000

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WPS Global Indicators

A set of indicators on Women, Peace and Security (known as the Global Indicators), have been developed for monitoring National Action Plans and independent civil society monitoring.

The Global Indicators are a list of twenty-six quantitative and qualitative indicators, organized into 4 Pillars: Prevention, Participation, Protection, and Relief and Recovery, which track and monitor the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325. ²The indicators provide a foundation for efforts to accelerate implementation and have already been partially populated with data in annual reports by the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council. ³

(eg. Number and percentage of cases of sexual violence against women and girls that are referred, investigated and sentenced.

Number and percentage of courts equipped to try cases of violations of women's and girls' human rights, with due attention to survivor's security It is known that women often do not report crimes committed against them, especially sexual and gender-based violence, for fear of stigmatisation and retaliation
Index of women's and girls' physical security in relation to transiting borders.)

National Action Plans

As Greece is developing a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325

I think it might be useful to share the example of

² These UNSCR 1325 Indicators were developed following the call to action derived from Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009).

³ The list of 26 indicators presented to the Security Council are listed on page 15-21 of the Secretary General's Report ([S/2010/498](#)). For more information on the national and regional implementation of these indicators, please visit [Member States](#).

The UK Women Peace and Security civil society architecture. I am often a critic of UK Government but on this IO think the process is working fairly well.

Civil Society has played an important role in the developmental process of the UK NAP on UNSCR 1325. Regular cross-governmental consultations with, and recommendations from, GAPS and its members.

I am a founder member of *Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS)*.

GAPS is the UK's only Women, Peace and Security civil society network.

GAPS is membership network of 17 NGOs, academics and experts and in development, human rights, humanitarian issues and peacebuilding.

The role of GAPS is to monitor and advise the UK Parliamentarians and Government on implementation of UK policy and practice on women peace and security including on UNSCR 1325.

Our role is to promote and hold the UK government to account on its international commitments to women in conflict areas worldwide.

Through collaborative advocacy, campaigning and research, GAPS highlights the realities of women living in conflict-affected countries to decision-makers and practitioners and to promote their participation at all levels. GAPS are dedicated to promoting, facilitating and monitoring the inclusion of gender perspectives in all aspects of UK government peace and security policy and practice and work in close partnership with UK government ministers and civil servants.

GAPS provide the secretariat for the Associate All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security we ensure progress on Women, Peace and Security benefits from the influence and scrutiny of parliamentarians.

An important channel of two way communication – APPG

Eg GAPS powerful [No Women, No Peace. campaign](#) launched in October 2010 to commemorate the 10th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as lobbying and advocacy work.

The UK National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is focused on work in conflict-affected states. The FCO, DfID and the MOD jointly own the Plan.

Other government departments are regularly consulted and advised on its development. Eg. The UK Stabilisation Unit.

These have helped inform the UK National Action Plan.

GAPS have been able to use the Associate All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security (APPG-WPS) as a forum for the discussion and analysis of issues relating to Women, Peace and Security. The APPG brings together UK parliamentarians, policy makers and civil society, focusing on the UK's implementation of Women, Peace and Security commitments, including [UN Security Council Resolution 1325](#).

I have spent most of my time for more than three decades campaigning and working as a Consultant, activist and journalist to increase women's rights and the number of women in parliaments and public life worldwide, in Africa, Central and Eastern Europe, Central Asia, the Middle East and here in the UK.

Later I added women in post-conflict recovery ie/ lack of women in peace processes and peace talks.

I've learned from my experience from working on women's rights in 50 countries that although it is important to urge more women to put themselves forward and to provide them with training in the skills of politics and public life, it is necessary, at the same time, for political Parties, organisations, institutions and nation states to change their power structures to accommodate women equally with men.

A series of invisible barriers have restricted or prevented women from proper access to promotion on *merit* in politics and public life and peace-talks.

The obstacles are partly a consequence of *traditional cultural attitudes* and partly a consequence of ossified *institutional procedures*

Now my assessment of global progress on UNSCR 1325

Fotini Bellou has asked me to talk about progress and shortcomings after nearly two decades of implementation of UNSCR 1325.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 calls for everyone to ensure the participation of women and civil society at all levels of diplomacy in peace processes and post conflict diplomacy and in the implementation of peace agreements (and to improve the protection of women in conflict situations).

Let's take stock and examine the successes and challenges in implementing 1325: Globally since 2000 there have been many conferences and discussions about women's participation in conflict prevention and post conflict diplomacy. There has been useful progress on implementation of 1325 by civil society and women activists often with support from international organisations. In fact these civil society activities represent its greatest success (63 states including UK have 1325 NAPS)

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But at top level peace –talks....it is a very different picture....

Globally at the NGO level there has been progress on UNSCR 1325, but when it comes to inclusion of women at top level peace talks -

(to quote William Shakespeare) UNSCR 1325 is still more honoured in the breach than in the observance.

Unfortunately 1325 came with no targets, no time-lines and no penalties. It can be ignored at will, and has been ignored at will.⁴

Out of a representative sample of 31 major peace processes between 1992 and 2011, women were only 2% cent of chief mediators, 4 % of witnesses and signatories, and 9 per cent of negotiators. Not much has changed since.⁵

A couple of years ago I was invited by women from across the dividing line in Cyprus to participate in a conference they had organised. They were frustrated and angry that negotiating teams from the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot sides have failed to see the necessity of including UNSCR 1325 as part of the pathway towards a sustainable solution to the Cyprus Problem.

Parallel Universes

In order to empower women to participate as equal partners in formal peace talks we need to understand and overcome a significant feature that prevents women from participating meaningfully. In formal top level Peace talks.

⁴ In November of the same year, 2000, a similar resolution in support of 1325 was passed by the European Parliament (EP). A recommendation accompanying the EP resolution calls for at least 40% women's representation in all levels of decision-making in peace –making

⁵ 2012 study by UN Women

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In the spirit of keeping my points short, if I were to send a tweet listing challenges for women at Track I top level formal peace tables it would be headed

Hash-tag: 'Parallel Universes of women and men'

Show Kosovo Slides:

My Kosovo, Nepal, Iraq and Sierra Leone experiences led me to realise the existence of the phenomenon I call the **'Parallel Universes' in which women and men operate separately.**

(Show the power-point picture - Vienna Conference on the future of Kosovo 2006)

Where are the women?

Women were excluded from the Vienna talks even though (With support from women in other countries) women's organisations from the Balkans had made it clear to the international Contact Group that in line with UNSCR 1325 women wanted to be equal partners at the top-table in the peace-building processes. Prior to the talks the NGO Women in Black in Belgrade and the Kosovo Women's Network comprising some 90 women's NGOs had conducted an impeccable peaceful, democratic advocacy and lobbying campaign for the right to be included as equal partners in negotiations. They demonstrated and lobbied their own politicians as well as Members of the European Parliament and the members of the International Contact Group.

The International Contact Group led by Special Envoy (now Nobel Peace Prize Laureate) Martti Ahtisaari ignored the Balkan women's peaceful requests. Yet, the Contact Group included four permanent members of the UN Security Council, four

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of the very States who had unanimously voted for UNSCR1325 in 2000 - the United States, United Kingdom, France and Russia!

(Show slide of Balkan women who could/should have been there participating at the 2006 Vienna Talks.)

This picture shows women from across the Balkans who could/should have participated in the talks. As it shows in this picture, they came together at their own alternative conferences such as *The Women's Peace Coalition Conference "Women, Peace and Security,"* in Struga, Macedonia, September 2006.

Result? Despite continual peaceful lobbying by women, the Contact Group missed a marvelous opportunity to set a future precedent for Peace Talks. They ignored their own Resolution and sidelined women.

This pattern has continued. In conflict after conflict and war after war as I myself saw in Nepal, Aceh Indonesia, West Africa, and more recently in the countries of the Arab uprisings, women have been active and courageous in leading campaigns to bring about sustainable peace but as soon as formal peace talks and disarmament processes take place women are pushed aside.

I spent 6 months in Nepal shortly before the first post-conflict elections as Senior Gender Advisor to the UN Agencies and returned to Nepal when International NGO CARE – asked me to research and write a Case Study on 'Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes and Post-conflict Governance in Nepal' for the 10th anniversary of UNSCR 1325

As with most formal peace processes, Nepal's was male-conducted and top down.

Despite the fact women had organised impressive protest rallies and processions calling for an end to armed conflict and

although 1325 came into existence six years earlier the international community appeared powerless to do more than utter siren calls for women's participation in the intermittent peace talks held between the main protagonists. It became biting clear neither side was making any effort to comply with the Resolution.

I travelled to the most conflict affected villages for the CARE Assessment. In one village a Dalit (formerly 'untouchable caste') woman in the Churia Region of Nepal summed it up.

She said, " The Peace is for the power groups if they asked me I would tell them, build a peaceful village, a good village. This is where I would start from."

These parallel universes are major obstacles to women participating meaningfully in the formal peace processes.

In the wake of conflict. In one universe mainly male leaders grab or gain access to formal political and economic power and impose their agenda top down.

The male universe is mostly composed of Warlords, 'religious leaders,' high-ranking Military officers, Government Ministers, Diplomats, Mafia types and Businessmen who often succeeded under the former discredited regime. They maintain primary and close contact with counterparts of the same ranks.

These are the people who set the Peace Agenda. This Universe with its hierarchies and ranks are inhabited mainly by men.

These men largely appoint other men to positions of power, who in turn design governance, judicial , electoral and power systems that entrench male incumbency.

Female Universe

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Meanwhile women leaders operate in a parallel universe. They are active in informal peace initiatives.

In conflict after conflict women have been active and courageous in leading campaigns to bring about peace but as soon as formal peace talks and disarmament processes take place women are pushed aside.

In the parallel universe at the time of formal peace talks and peace processes the female universe is mainly composed of women leaders in Civil Society, community-based organisations, NGOs, the blogosphere, advocacy groups and women's wings of political Parties and women heads of household, widows of all ages, women war veterans including rape survivors.

They are like a chorus of voices heard faintly offstage calling out an alternative script from the wings.

Unless we make a big noise Syria will be yet another example of the pattern in which women are excluded from being equal partners in any meaningful way in the formal talks on the future of their country.

In summary, the current practice is that if you are a man responsible for blowing up people, maiming, murdering, bullying, intimidating and grabbing power, money and assets, you will be included at the peace-tables deciding the future of your community or State. Except for a few decent honourable men, those invited to the negotiating tables include warlords, business mafia and extremist religious leaders because it is held that they are essential to achieving peace. Women civil society leaders and peace-campaigners are shut out.

A woman in village in Nepal said to me 'In far too many peace processes — the peace is not for the people, it is for the male power groups. This is the wrong focus.'

This leads me to the principal advocacy point of my presentation.

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Message for those of you in official positions to take back to your governments/organisations.

The fact we have to face is - in country after country, from Afghanistan to Sierra Leone and Kosovo to Kathmandu, advocacy has been ineffective for bringing women into meaningful participation in top level peace-talks. The reason persuasion and advocacy has failed is simple: UNSCR 1325 contains no carrots and no sticks – no incentives, no penalties, no sanctions and no time-frames.

Women are still missing from the top level official negotiation table.

It's happening with Syria.

A few months ago I attended an Associate Parliamentary Group meeting on Women Peace and Security in the House of Lords. There was rightly anger and frustration that at the attempts at peace talks in Geneva Syrian women were in a separate room as an advisory group rather than as equal partners in the main peace talks.

(Show 2015 slide of Syria talks.)

(Show 2014 Syria Slide with Brahimi)

So what can we do?

I'll finish with my personal recommendation to the international community: (I hope the Diplomats here at this important conference will carry my suggestion back to their countries.)

I suggest the following immediate simple do-able actions are needed:

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At least 40% women and at least 40% men should become the format from now on for all peace talks including the Top Table .

The international community should refuse to continue funding for peace talks which lack this gender balance.

My personal recommendation, is that from now on funding should only be given by the international community for peace talks where at least 40% women and at least 40% men participate especially - including at the top peace table.⁶

WHY DOES IT MATTER WHETHER THERE IS ANY GENDER BALANCE?

A sustainable peace process should lay the foundation for resilient institutions that promote economic, political and social emancipation for all. It should be about justice, human rights, education, health, reconciliation and the fair distribution of resources.

In addition to increasing the chance of sustainable peace, a reason women should be equal partners in peace-building is to ensure issues of importance to women's lives are high on the agenda, such as :

personal security and safety; infrastructure and services; livelihood and employment; property and inheritance rights; food security; needs of widows and female former combatants; political representation and decision making; and preventing impunity for rape.

Peace talks are not just about a cessation of hostilities, they are mapping the future of countries and communities.

⁶I have made this recommendation many times in speeches and articles.

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Experience shows that men on their own are no good at achieving peace after deadly conflicts.

The latest buzz-phrase in the policy world is for everything to be 'Evidence based'.

Here are a few statistics:

- **50% of all deadly conflicts break out again within 10 years.** ⁷
- **Over 90 percent of civil wars recur in countries that already experienced civil war before.** ⁸
- **Poverty rates in conflict affected countries are twice as high as in other low-income countries.**
- **Peace agreements and cease-fire agreements rarely include women's specific security, financial and peace-building needs.**

What does all this say about the quality of the current diplomacy in peace-making and post-conflict recovery processes?

I don't know about you, but if this were a pair of shoes I'd bought I'd take them straight back to the shop and demand a refund!

⁷ Source

http://web.worldbank.org/archive/website01306/web/pdf/wdr%20background%20paper_walter_0.pdf

⁸ In the previous 30 years. Source: The World Bank's 2011 World Development Report: Conflict Security and Development. From http://wbi.worldbank.org/wbi/Data/wbi/wbicms/files/drupal-acquia/wbi/fragile_overview_brochure.pdf

EXTRA notes

women's organizations can require the State to account for what, and how, it is doing towards fulfilling the commitments established in UNSCR 1325 and the seven related resolutions.

allows for the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information to demand that States create basic conditions to guarantee an independent judiciary; the importance of counteracting cases of violence against women and girls, especially sexual violence, through access to justice.¹

Following the monitoring process, women's organizations can demand that States implement concrete actions aimed at guaranteeing women's active role in resolving conflicts and in bolstering participatory processes for rebuilding their countries and communities.

A tool for conducting a monitoring of Resolution 1325 and its related resolutions contains a selection of indicators grouped according to the resolutions' four thematic pillars: prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery.⁹

The monitoring process is useful for promoting and impelling social oversight and advocacy for women's and girls' rights, and for demanding budgeted funds aimed at guaranteeing these rights, particularly in terms of violence prevention, gender-based security, access to justice, non-repetition guarantees, prevention of maternal and infant mortality, access to education, and participation in political decisions.

That is, monitoring provides a basis for demanding the creation and enactment of public policies, strategies, programs, and actions that cover women's and girls' specific needs and that entail State and social efforts in preventing violence against women. Following are other examples of how monitoring can be used:

9

https://www.impunitywatch.org/docs/Tool_for_monitoring_indicators_of_UN_Resolution_1325_-_final.pdf

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Through monitoring, women's organizations can require the State to account for what, and how, it is doing towards fulfilling the commitments established in AU Maputo Protocol CEDAW/UNSCR 1325+/Beijing Platform for Action

- Monitoring analyses the progress and obstacles in creating conditions for gender equity and women's empowerment at the national, regional, and community levels.
- Monitoring can be used to evaluate legislation implemented by States to support women's and girls' rights.
- Monitoring allows for the gathering of quantitative and qualitative information to demand that States create basic conditions to guarantee an independent judiciary; Resolution 1325 particularly emphasizes the importance of counteracting impunity in cases of violence against women and girls, especially sexual violence, through access to justice.¹
- Indicators used in the monitoring process facilitate civil society organizations' right to petition public authorities, since they comprise a guide for forming information requests regarding women, peace, and security.
- Following the monitoring process, women's organizations can demand that States implement concrete actions aimed at guaranteeing women's active role in resolving conflicts and in bolstering participatory processes for rebuilding their countries and communities.

To increase the chances of lasting peace and steady development rather than a temporary and sometimes cynical and expedient halt to hostilities we must change the template of who sets the peace-building agenda and who sits at those top level peace tables to a genuine equal partnership between women and men.

Even beyond fair play for the majority gender, at a time when the world is facing massive challenges, such as

- wars and internal conflicts;
- tremendous damage to our environment;
- an greater global imbalance of rich and poor than ever before;
- racism, ethnic hatred and anti-Semitism resurging across Europe;
- millions starving around the world;
- and the problems of migration of millions of people;

if we are to have a chance of solving these massive problems facing us on this planet, our leaders need to be chosen from the widest available pool of talent - not narrowed to half the pool.

To conclude:

Just imagine you have been transported in a time-machine to the year 2050.

It is 2050, open and pluralist forms of democracy prevail over vast swathes of the earth's surface. Food and water are fairly distributed.

Polluted air, Global warming and climate change are obsolete problems.

Over half of the world's Decision-makers are now women, many of them with backgrounds in Human Rights advocacy, environmental sciences, communications technology and peace-building.

Throughout the last years of the 20th Century into the first decades of this century most wars broke out again within 10 years.

As historians tell it, the big shift came once the International Community recognised that men on their own are no good at diplomacy for achieving peace after deadly conflicts.

The big leap forward came in 2025 with an international agreement that no Peace processes or any other international treaty would be valid unless at least half the mediators, negotiators and signatories were women from all sides. (40/40 funding)

This led to many imaginative forms of inclusiveness for other groups and to root-and-branch new ways of doing things.

Governments replaced Defence Ministries with Ministries for Peace and Human Security. They focused on freedom from fear and freedom from want.

Women insisted peace-building should no longer be left to power-group elites but must also include meaningful inclusive participation at village and community level upwards.

I look forward to hearing your thoughts and questions and listening my fellow speakers.

Extra

The promotion of gender equality is not only a matter of women's rights, but also, as importantly, a matter of ensuring peace and security for all.

For example last week's meeting : The APPG for Women, Peace and Security, Plan International UK, ActionAid UK, the International Rescue Committee (IRC) and the Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS) recommend that the UK Government should:

- 1. Increase resources for programmes targeting adolescent girls.** Programming across all contexts should be comprehensive, including tackling gender-based violence (GBV), enabling sexual and reproductive health rights (SRHR) and ensuring 12-years of quality education.
- 2. Provide funding on a multi-year, multi-disciplinary, flexible model allowing for a co-ordinated programme approach in protracted crises settings.** Programmes should prioritise the needs of adolescent girls and be delivered by organisations who understand local contexts.
- 3. Ensure safe spaces and targeted services are available and accessible for adolescent girls in fragile and conflict affected settings (FCAS).** These initiatives should recognise that girls' vulnerabilities and marginalisation is driven by both their gender and age, therefore 'child friendly' services are not sufficient on their own.

4. DfID should develop a comprehensive plan to implement the Strategic Vision

for Gender Equality in FCAS. This should be undertaken through consultation with civil society, local women's groups and adolescent girls.

5. Promote, establish and fully resource the systematic and sustainable participation of adolescent girls in all decisions that affect their lives.

Adolescent girls must be included peacebuilding interventions and, in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation processes of humanitarian programmes

The truism *'All conflicts contain the seeds of future conflict'* should be rewritten as *'All Peace agreements contain the seeds of future conflict'*. Peacemaking and peacebuilding ought not to be left so overwhelmingly to men, for one practical reason: evidence shows that men on their own are not good at it. Currently 50% of all deadly conflicts break out all over again within 10 years. As far back as the flawed Treaty of Versailles after World 1 there are those who felt the problem lies at the heart of deeply-flawed peacemaking attempts from which women are completely excluded from ongoing top-level decision-making on peace- and State-building processes. Author Arnold Whittick who served in the infantry in France in the First World War, was lecturer to British forces on Reconstruction in World War 2. His comment on the Versailles Talks was, *"Some might reflect sadly that if women's influence had been stronger there might have been no second world war, but one does not write history with ifs."* [i]

Thank you!

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UK architecture on Women Peace and Security

Ending.

So let me conclude by saying: When it comes to gender sensitisation - there is no quick-fix. The most important asset is a high personal commitment from men and women like yourselves to change the world to make it a better, fairer and more just place to live in, plus to have the courage to question the status quo.

Members

The logo for ActionAid, featuring the word "actionaid" in a bold, red, lowercase sans-serif font. The "i" in "action" has a dot that is a small white circle with a red outline.

ActionAid

ActionAid is a leading development NGO which works to eliminate poverty by working on HIV and AIDS, international aid, economic justice, women's rights, education, emergencies and conflicts.

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Amnesty International

Amnesty International is human rights NGO which works to protect human rights worldwide wherever justice, fairness, freedom and truth are denied.



CARE

CARE fights poverty and injustice in 86 countries around the world to help the world's poorest people find routes out of poverty.



Conciliation Resources

Conciliation Resources is an international organisation committed to stopping violent conflict and creating more peaceful societies.



International Alert

International Alert is an independent peacebuilding organisation that works with people and communities directly affected by conflict.



International Rescue Committee

International Rescue Committee is a humanitarian organisation which responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives.



Legal Action Worldwide

LAW is an independent, non-profit organisation comprised of a network and think tank of prominent human rights lawyers and advisors. LAW provides innovative legal assistance to the least represented people in fragile and conflict-affected states.



NIWEP

NIWEP represents the UK on the European Women's Lobby with partners in England, Scotland and Wales and works with sister organisations in Ireland and across Europe.



Oxfam

Oxfam is a globally renowned aid and development organisation with 70 years of experience, working and campaigning with partners in 94 countries worldwide.



Plan International

Plan International UK is a development and humanitarian organisation that works in over 50 countries to advance children's rights and equality for girls.



Saferworld

Saferworld is a peacebuilding NGO which works with governments and civil society internationally to research, promote and implement strategies that work to prevent violent conflict and build lasting peace.



UK National Committee for UN Women

The UK National Committee for UN Women is the voice and champion of UN Women in the UK.



UNA-UK

UNA-UK is the UK's leading source of independent analysis on the UN, and a UK-wide grassroots movement.



WILPF

Formed in 1915, WILPF is an international non-profit anti-war organisation that brings women together to oppose conflict, violence and global militarisation.

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Womankind

Womankind is an international women's human rights charity working with grassroots organisations to help women transform their lives in Africa, Asia and Latin America.



Women for Women International

Women for Women International provides women survivors of war, civil strife and other conflicts with resources to move from crisis and poverty to stability and self-sufficiency.

More

[i] “Women into Citizen” Arnold Whittick ISBN 0584 97063 3