

What is needed to ensure women are at the peace table – 20 years on

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Women Peace and Security: 1325, 20 years later, achievements and solutions.

The importance of women in the peacebuilding process

Although an undeniable milestone in recognizing women's fundamental human rights the UNSC 1325, due to lack of enforcement measures, the resolution must be called into question. The four pillars participation, prevention, protection, and resolution and recovery, have yet to be fulfilled. UNSCR 1325 recognises the contribution of women in the peace building and conflict resolution processes. Ergo, it calls for the increased participation of women in decision-making processes at national, regional, and international levels. Pillar resolution and recovery entreats local actors, Member States, and UN agencies to adopt a gender perspective in peace operations, negotiations and agreements, and to include women in the resolution and recovery phase (S/RES/1325). Thus far, the progress is slow and solutions are eminent as women play an important role in achieving sustainable peace. We will hear from women engaged in the processes and what are their challenges and obstacles and from the perspective of women in uniform about their duties, responsibilities, the impact they make in the communities they protect and defend.

Women's meaningful participation in peace processes

- Between 1992 and 2019, women constituted, on average, 13 per cent of negotiators, 6 per cent of mediators, and 6 per cent of signatories in major peace processes worldwide. About seven out of every ten peace processes did not include women mediators or women signatories
- Worldwide, the proportion of peace agreements with gender equality provisions increased from 14 to 22 per cent between 1995 and 2019
- Between 2015-2019, only 11 per cent of ceasefire agreements included gender provisions, compared to 26 per cent of other peace agreement types.

Uniformed Women in Peace Operations: Gender parity and mainstreaming in peace and security

- As of September 2020, ten peacekeeping missions had gender units, and seven of them were located in the office of the head of the mission.
- Among special political missions, there were 27 Gender Advisers in 2019, a historic high. Five missions were served by senior Gender Advisers (P5 or above) and nine missions were served by P4 level Gender Advisers. Gender Advisers were absent in seven missions, in which three had less than 10 professional staff . In special political missions, the majority of gender posts and activities are funded through extrabudgetary resources
- In 2019, seven peacekeeping operations and special political missions had women protection advisors.
- As of May 2020, 5.4 per cent of United Nations military and 15.1 per cent of police personnel were women, compared to 3 and 10 per cent respectively in 2015.

Women in conflict related areas are the most vulnerable populations, but when conflicts come to an end they are also the survivors, the peace makers and builders, the defenders of their families and communities. They become the next human rights advocates, the best conflict negotiators, because they survived. Or women in the peace operations missions, who are protecting the most vulnerable population help prevent and reduce conflict and confrontation, they are inspiring and creating role models. Women peacekeepers serve as powerful mentors and role models for women and girls in post-conflict settings in the host community, setting examples for them to advocate for their own rights and pursue non-traditional careers.

The lack of women's leadership within the institutional structures and practices of conflicts negotiations and peacebuilding process is lagging behind.

How do we close the gender gap and ensure gender equality?

Women are natural peace builders, capable to achieving sustainable lasting peace?

“Women belong in all places of decision making” Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Organisers: National Council of Women of Canada, UK National Alliance of Women and Business Professional Women, Montreal, Women's Advisory Council UNA UK

Moderator: Baroness Hodgson

Speakers: Lieutenant- Colonel Jamie Phillips, Canadian Armed Forces, peacebuilding Mission, Mali; Professor Christine Chinkin, Director LSA Institute of Women, Peace and Security; Mavic Cabrera Balleza – Founder Global Network of Women Peace-builders; Dr Anne Marie Goetz - Clinical Professor, Center for Global Affairs, School of Professional Studies. New York University; Lesley Abdela MBE, Senior Partner Shevolution, Consultant, journalist; Nina Sorrentino – NAWO Young Women's Alliance

