

Ten Years of ‘Women, Peace and Security’

Observing the 10th Anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

In October 2010, the tenth anniversary of the passing of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security will be observed through a series of events in New York, including high-level meetings at the Security Council, along with workshops and seminars organized by a variety of women’s groups and NGOs. Since the adoption of Resolution 1325 in 2000, a steadily growing number of UN member-states have recognized the important role of women in peace and security matters. The changing attitude among UN member-states is reflected in the adoption of three follow-up resolutions in recent years under the thematic umbrella of ‘Women, Peace and Security’. This policy brief seeks to provide a brief introduction to the contents of those resolutions and give some examples of implementation efforts.

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United Nations Security Council
Photo: United Nations

What Is UN Security Council Resolution 1325?

On 31 October 2000, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (hereafter Resolution 1325). This was the first all-encompassing Security Council resolution on issues concerning women during armed conflicts and in the post-conflict peacebuilding phase. It was also the first UN resolution to break away from the traditional perception of women in armed conflicts as victims only, and instead recognized women and girls as actors in peace and security matters. Responsibility for the implementation of Resolution 1325 applies to actors at different levels of international society: the UN member-states, the UN system, regional organizations and individual parties to conflicts. The resolution also emphasizes the important role of civil society – including women’s groups – in resolving conflicts and building peace.

The resolution urges all UN member-states to increase the representation of women at all decisionmaking levels within national, regional and international institutions for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts. It recognizes that there is an urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective within UN peacekeeping operations and calls

on the UN secretary-general to include gender components in field operations. The secretary-general is also asked to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, as well as the role of women in peacebuilding.

Resolution 1325 requests UN member-states to incorporate training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and particular needs of women provided by the UN secretary-general, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training, into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel preparing for deployment. It also urges member-states to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts.

Lastly, the resolution calls upon all parties to armed conflicts to respect all international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, and to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse. The resolution also calls upon member-states to put an end to impunity for and prosecute individuals responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including cases related to sexual and other forms of violence against women and girls. The resolution also

recognizes that women’s needs are different from those of men, whether in relation to the disarmament and reintegration of female ex-combatants or the designing of refugee camps and settlements for women and children.

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008) is a follow-up resolution to Resolution 1325, specifically focusing on the issue of sexual violence in armed conflicts. The resolution recognizes that, when committed during armed conflict, acts of rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act of genocide.

In this resolution, the Security Council affirms its intention to take rape and other forms of sexual violence committed by parties to conflict into consideration when establishing sanctions regimes. It also urges the UN secretary-general to develop effective guidelines and strategies to enhance the ability of relevant peacekeeping operations to protect civilians from all forms of sexual violence and to systematically include his observations on the protection of women and girls in the secretary-general’s report to the Security Council.

Resolution 1820 is also the first UN Security Council resolution to recognize the problem of sexual exploitation and abuse by UN peacekeepers and affirmed the Security Council’s commitment to pursue a zero-tolerance policy in this context.

UN Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009) is a follow-up resolution to Resolution 1820. It reiterates the Security Council’s deep concern over the persistent occurrence of sexual violence in armed conflicts.

The resolution requests the secretary-general to appoint a special representative to address sexual violence in armed conflict at both headquarters and country level. It also calls upon the secretary-general to identify and take appropriate measures to ensure the rapid deployment of a team of experts to situations of particular concern with respect to sexual violence in armed conflict.

The resolution urges that the issue of sexual violence be incorporated within the agendas of all UN-sponsored peace negotiations and

all peacekeeping mandates. The resolution requests the secretary-general to devise a specific proposal on ways to ensure monitoring and reporting within the existing UN system on the protection of women and children from rape and other sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

conflict on women and girls, as well as their particular needs and the obstacles they face in post-conflict situations.

The resolution urges member-states to ensure gender mainstreaming in all post-conflict peacebuilding and recovery processes. The resolution requests the secretary-general to submit to the Security Council within six months a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of Resolution 1325.

In Resolution 1889 (2009), the Security Council requested the secretary-general to provide a report within 12 months on women's participation in peacebuilding. The pending secretary-general's report to the UN Security Council will serve as a detailed Action Plan to ensure the Security Council's resolutions on women, peace and security are translated into fundamentally changed practices among international actors and, most importantly, improved outcomes on the ground.

National Action Plans on Resolution 1325

In a Presidential Statement following the consultation on Women, Peace and Security on 28 October 2004 (S/PRST/2004/40), the Security Council encouraged member-states to implement Resolution 1325 at the national level, including the development of National Action Plans (NAPs).

Currently, 17 member-states have NAPs: Austria, Belgium, Chile, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, Norway, the Philippines, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the Netherlands and Uganda. In addition, the following member-states are in the process of developing NAPs: Argentina, Australia, Burundi, Timor Leste, France, Ireland, Nepal and New Zealand.

Since 2006, the Norwegian government has been engaged in a consultation process with civil society organizations to revise its NAP. A revised strategy for the implementation of the Norwegian NAP will most likely be launched in November 2010.

Table 1. Countries with National Action Plan

Country	Year
Austria	August 2007
Belgium	May 2009
Chile	August 2009
Côte d'Ivoire	January 2007
Denmark	June 2005 (revised 2008)
Finland	September 2008
Iceland	March 2008
Liberia	March 2009
Netherlands	December 2007
Norway	March 2006
Philippines	March 2010
Portugal	August 2009
Spain	November 2007
Sweden	October 2006 (Revised 2009)
Switzerland	February 2007
Uganda	December 2008
United Kingdom	March 2006

The 17 National Actions Plans on Resolution 1325 are available from the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality's website at

http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/national_level_impl.html

Examples of Norwegian Initiatives to Implement Resolution 1325

- The Norwegian armed forces will develop guidelines for the protection of civilians against sexual violence in armed conflicts.
- Between 2007 and 2009, Norway provided NOK 320 million (approximately USD 50 million) to promote women's rights and gender balance in humanitarian operations.
- Norway has financed a senior gender adviser in the UN's MONUC mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) since 2008, as well as contributing to the Comprehensive Strategy to Combat Sexual Violence in the DRC.



Margot Wallström was appointed Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict on 2 February 2010. She has been appointed for a two-year term. The Special Representative's mandate includes leading, coordinating and advocating for efforts to end conflict-related sexual violence against women and children.

UN Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009), on the other hand, is a follow-up resolution to Resolution 1325 (2000) and addresses issues concerning women in post-conflict situations. From the outset, while it reaffirms the Security Council's commitment to implementing Resolution 1325, it expresses deep concern about the underrepresentation of women at all stages of peace processes and the obstacles to women's full involvement in conflict resolution and peace processes caused by lack of security and absence of the rule of law.

The resolution urges international and regional organizations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding. Moreover, the resolution requests that the secretary-general ensure that all country reports to the Security Council provide information on the impact of armed

● In Africa's Great Lakes region, Norway is supporting projects for health care and psychological help, as well as rehabilitation of victims of sexual violence.

● Since 2006, Norway has supported the establishment of Women and Children Protection Units at country police stations in Liberia.

● Since 2008, Norway has supported the International Criminal Court's funds for victims of sexual violence.

● Women comprised 40% of all students admitted to the Norwegian National Police College in 2009. Among Norwegian police personnel applying for service in international police missions, women make up 50% in 2010.

● The Norwegian Ministry of Justice and the Police is responsible for recruiting women to a reserve pool called 'Styrkebrønnen', which provides personnel and trainers from the police and justice sector to countries in the process of building peace, democracy and respect for human rights. The aim is to increase the number of women in this pool. The percentage of women currently stands at 33% (figure for 2009).

● Norway has pushed for a stronger focus on Resolution 1325 within NATO. A Norwegian officer is currently serving as Gender Advisor at NATO Headquarters in Kabul.

● In cooperation with the Indian government, the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in the process of developing guidelines to protect civilians from sexual violence.

Useful Documents and Publications

● Goetz, Anne Marie, 2009. *Governing Women: Women's Political Effectiveness in Contexts of Democratization and Governance Reform*. Abingdon: Routledge.

● Gunder Werner Institute, ed., 2010. *Roadmap to 1325: Resolution for Gender-Sensitive Peace and Security Policies*. Leverkusen & Farmington Mills: MI: Barbara Budrich.

● Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, 2010. 'National Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)'; available at http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/national_level_impl.html

● Peace Women, 2010. 'Security Council Resolution 1325'; available at http://www.peacewomen.org/themes_theme.php?id=15&subtheme=true

● Porter, Elisabeth, 2007. *Peacebuilding: Women in International Perspective*. Abingdon: Routledge.

● Security Council Report, 2010. 'Publications on Women, Peace and Security'; available at http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/site/c.glKWLeM-TIsG/b.2400917/k.FE1/Publications_on_Women_Peace_and_Security.htm

● Tryggstad, Torunn L., 2009 'Trick or Treat? The UN and Implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security', *Global Governance* 14(4): 539–557.

● UNIFEM, 2010. '10th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325'; available at <http://www.unifem.org/campaigns/1325plus10/about-resolution-1325/>

● UN Security Council, 2000. 'UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)'; available at http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf

● UN Security Council, 2008. 'UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008)'; available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/391/44/PDF/N0839144.pdf?OpenElement>

● UN Security Council, 2009. 'UN Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009)'; available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/534/46/PDF/N0953446.pdf?OpenElement>

● UN Security Council, 2009. 'UN Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009)'; available at <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/542/55/PDF/N0954255.pdf?OpenElement>

● Willett, Susan, ed., 2010. 'Women, Peace and Conflict: A Decade after Resolution 1325', special issue of *International Peacekeeping*, vol. 17, no. 2.

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THE PROJECT

This policy brief forms part of the research project 'Gender, Conflict and Peacebuilding', which focuses on issues pertaining to the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. PRIO Staff associated with this project are Suk Chun, Helga Hernes, Inger Skjelsbæk and Torunn L. Tryggstad. The project is financed by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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