



# WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## Gender Equality in Peacekeeping Operations

“ It's a simple equation - women's meaningful participation in conflict prevention and peacekeeping make our missions more effective and efficient. ”

USG DPO, Jean-Pierre Lacroix

## ABOUT DPO

United Nations Peacekeeping helps countries torn by conflict create the conditions for lasting peace. We are comprised of civilian, police and military personnel.

We operate in some of the toughest and most dangerous places in the world, going where others cannot or will not. We tailor each deployment to suit the specific needs on the ground and we adapt to new threats and challenges protecting more people than ever before. Our peacekeepers are actively engaged in protecting civilian populations, helping prevent conflict, reducing violence and strengthening security in the field where it matters most.

**A PEACEKEEPING OPERATION CONSISTS OF MILITARY, POLICE AND CIVILIAN PERSONNEL, WHO WORK TO ENSURE THE PRIMACY OF POLITICS AND DELIVER SECURITY, POLITICAL AND EARLY PEACEBUILDING SUPPORT.**

The departments are also mandated by the Security Council to implement the Women Peace and Security agenda. In line with agreed coordination frameworks, policies and guidelines, peacekeeping missions at country level coordinate the activities of various actors closely and ensure joint planning and programming with relevant UN partners in areas of mutual priorities.



## WHY WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY?

It is well known that violent conflict disproportionately affects women and girls and exacerbates pre-existing gender inequalities and discrimination. Women are active agents of peace and participants in armed conflict. Yet their role as key players and change agents of peace has been largely unrecognized. Since 2000, the UN Security Council has adopted nine resolutions to highlight the linkage between women's roles and experiences in conflict, peace and security and advance UN goals and mandates regarding gender equality, non-discrimination and respect for women's human rights.

Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the first time recognised the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women and girls. It acknowledged the contributions women and girls make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding and highlighted the importance of their equal and full participation, as active agents in peace and security.

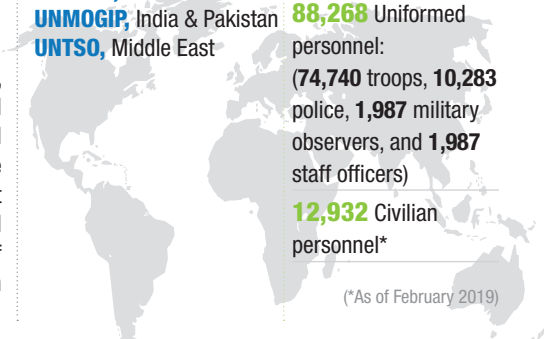
## SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- **Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)** Women, Peace and Security
- **Security Council resolution 1820 (2008)** Sexual Violence
- **Security Council resolution 1888 (2009)** Protecting women & girls from sexual violence
- **Security Council resolution 1889 (2009)** Improvement in Women's participation in peace processes
- **Security Council resolution 1960 (2010)** Reiterates call to end sexual violence
- **Security Council resolution 2106 (2013)** Operationalizing current obligations
- **Security Council resolution 2122 (2013)** Affirms an "integrated approach" to sustainable peace
- **Security Council resolution 2242 (2015)** Strategies and resources regarding the implementation of the WPS Agenda
- **Security Council resolution 2467 (2019)** enhancing support for survivors and civil society

## WHERE ARE THE PEACEKEEPERS?

**MINURSO**, Western Sahara **14** Current missions  
**MINUSCA**, CAR **5** Continents  
**MINUSMA**, Mali  
**MONUSCO**, D.R. of Congo  
**UNAMID**, Darfur  
**UNDOF**, Golan  
**UNFICYP**, Cyprus  
**UNIFIL**, Lebanon  
**UNISFA**, Abyei  
**UNMIK**, Kosovo  
**UNMISS**, South Sudan  
**UNMOGIP**, India & Pakistan  
**UNTSO**, Middle East

**88,268** Uniformed personnel:  
(**74,740** troops, **10,283** police, **1,987** military observers, and **1,987** staff officers)  
**12,932** Civilian personnel\*



(\*As of February 2019)



## HOW IS THE WPS AGENDA IMPLEMENTED?

**GENDER RESPONSIVE PEACEKEEPING:** The process of integrating a gender perspective requires an assessment of the implications—for women and for men—of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes in all areas and at all levels. It is an approach for making the concerns and experiences of both women and men an integral dimension of design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally, and inequality is not perpetuated. The goal is to achieve gender equality. Each component of a peacekeeping mission must integrate a gender perspective in all its functions and tasks from start-up to draw-down.

**GENDER PARITY:** A gender balanced workforce demonstrates DPO's core values and makes it a model for the communities it serves. It also ensures efficiency and productivity. The participation of women as peacekeepers, for example, contributes to the overall success of the mission by enhancing effectiveness, improving the mission's image, access and credibility vis-a-vis the affected population, including by making UN peacekeepers more approachable to women.

**GUIDING PRINCIPLES:** Inclusiveness, Non-discrimination, Gender Parity and Efficiency

## WHAT IS THE WPS MANDATE FOR PKO?

UN peacekeepers are the main actors in the UN system in the implementation of WPS mandates as established in the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

DPO addresses three of the four pillars that support achieving the goals of SCR 1325: Participation, Prevention and Protection.

**PARTICIPATION:** DPO facilitate women's participation across all functions and components of peacekeeping operations. This includes supporting women: as candidates and voters in political processes; as participants in national governance and security sector structures; as oversight observers in ceasefire agreements and in conflict management; and as participants and negotiators in prevention and in peace processes.

**PREVENTION:** DPO integrates a gender analysis using information about – and from – women on their priorities, gender norms and roles as well as their vulnerabilities and risk of violence. It also considers the distinct impact that conflict has on women and girls as well as the gendered root causes of conflict.

This analysis informs all actions, frameworks and guidance on prevention for sustainable peace.

**PROTECTION:** DPO strengthens efforts to protect the rights of women and girls, including reporting and prosecution of sexual and gender-based violence and domestic implementation of regional and international laws. Protection of women and girls is one of the foundational principles of Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and is further emphasised in SCRs 1820, 1888, 1960, 2106 and 2467.



Women in conflict continue to be stereotyped as 'vulnerable victims' despite documented evidence of the critical role they play in peace and security. By incorporating a gender perspective within peacekeeping missions, DPO continues to make progress in translating the promise of Resolution 1325 into concrete action.

**THROUGH ACTION FOR PEACEKEEPING (A4P):** Peacekeeping is committed to implementing the WPS agenda and its priorities through the:

- Provision of strategic advice and guidance to ensure women's full, equal and meaningful participation in political processes and in all stages of peace processes.
- Systematic integration of a gender perspective in all stages of analysis, planning, implementation and reporting and across local, national and regional institutions mandated to achieve peace and security;
- Strengthening meaningful partnerships with women's civil society organisations and supporting their implementing targeted initiatives;
- Increasing the number of civilian and uniformed women in peacekeeping at all levels and in key positions.

## DPKO MANDATE AND COMPARATIVE ADVANTAGE on Women, Peace and Security

**Legitimacy and experience** of peacekeeping missions make them well positioned to advance the elements of the WPS resolutions through their mandates, their often extensive field presence, over seven decades of experience and the access of senior mission leaders to national governments. DPO constantly restructures itself to address changes in the nature and scope of contemporary peacekeeping operations.

**Improved Institutional arrangements** include recruitment of gender advisers and women protection advisers in civilian components and gender advisers in uniformed forces. Efforts to increase the numbers of women in military and police and the role of UN senior leadership in political engagement and advocacy on WPS at the highest levels both in the field and at the Security Council significantly advances the WPS agenda.

**Gender Affairs Unit and gender specialists** improve missions' effectiveness in discharging their mandates. Senior Gender Advisers located in the Office of the SRSG offer strategic advice to senior mission leadership on integrating gender perspectives into the mission activities; give technical programmatic guidance and coordinate trainings on gender and women, peace and security.

**Consensus building** is enhanced by the cross-cutting nature of peacekeeping operations and the WPS agenda provides DPO a unique platform to forge strong partnerships with a variety of actors - including women's organisations, host governments, regional bodies and other UN entities - for synergy and to increase advocacy for gender equality, women's empowerment, women's rights.

### DPKO Gender Unit

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