

WOMEN TRANSFORMING PEACE THROUGH PEACEKEEPING

Policy Brief



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations (UN) Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Implementation of WPS priorities is a political commitment in the Secretary General's Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) Initiative. A4P reaffirms that women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in peace processes and political solutions is essential for effective peacekeeping. In 2019, the UN Department for Peace Operations (DPO) collected data on women leaders and women's organizations engagement in local and national peace processes in Mali, South Sudan, and the Central African Republic. While obstacles remain to the direct participation of women in formal peace processes, good practice examples of women translating success in local peace processes to national peace processes through partnerships with UN peacekeeping missions were documented. The impact of diverse groups of women joining together, local women's organization's ability to prevent conflict, and the commitment of women leaders to pursuing accountability and reconciliation was evident across all settings.

Unleashing the power of women leaders and organizations to inform, influence, and transform peace processes is key to sustaining peace and security. Women leaders and women's organizations are the true guardians of the WPS agenda. DPO, UN Member States, and UN Security Council Members must elevate their work and ensure that women's full participation in peace processes is realized.

UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS WILL:

- Invest in gender conflict analysis that centralizes the role and contribution of diverse groups of women's organizations, leaders, and community structures to ensure that they can inform and influence the mission's political, peace, and security initiatives.
- Ensure good offices' political advocacy on peace and political processes is informed by women leaders and organizations' priorities and calls for women's direct participation in all stages of peace processes and in the implementation of peace agreements at local and national levels.
- Fully implement and track implementation of WPS mandates with data driven approaches that are sufficiently resourced and realized through strengthened partnerships with women leaders and women's organizations.
- Establish a protective environment, which is more inclusive, to ensure women leaders are free from harassment, intimidation, and violence so they can participate meaningfully in peace and political processes at all levels.
- Continue to invest in strengthening women's meaningful participation, including participation of women ex-combatants, in DDR and SSR processes to achieve sustainable peace and political solutions.

MEMBER STATES AND HOSTS GOVERNMENTS SHOULD:

- Consistently engage in high level political advocacy supporting women's direct participation in local and national peace processes, including by nominating and supporting women experienced in local conflict prevention and peace work to take part in formal peace processes, and raise questions at the highest levels when women are absent.
- Ensure space for women's community level peace and reconciliation efforts to address issues that are critical for the successful implementation of formal peace agreements as well as long-term community support for peace processes.
- Provide national, regional, and international platforms for women leaders and women's organizations to enhance their work to ensure accountability to peace agreements at local through national levels including through the full implementation of National Action Plans on Women, Peace, and Security.
- Along with regional intergovernmental organizations, consistently take adequate measures to reinforce the political agency of women leaders and women's organizations through strengthening the rule of law including by undertaking DDR and SSR processes that ensure social cohesion.

SECURITY COUNCIL MEMBERS SHOULD:

- Consistently call for women's meaningful participation in all stages of peace processes, including in monitoring and follow-up mechanisms of peace agreements, as a priority task in mission mandates and require regular analytical reporting on progress in Secretary General Reports and briefings from mission leadership.
- Request that the Council's Informal Expert Group on WPS create a follow-up mechanism to track and report on progress toward implementation of WPS mandates and request mission action plans to address any gaps in progress.
- Regularize meetings with women leaders and local women's organizations, including during the Council's visits to peacekeeping missions, and invite women to brief the Council and amplify their political messaging and priorities in Council statements, mission mandates, and other resolutions.
- Ensure Council mandates more clearly call for peacekeeping missions and Host Governments to ensure women's meaningful participation in the DDR and SSR processes.
- Coordinate with Fifth Committee to ensure that WPS mandates and gender advisor roles are sufficiently resourced to allow for the full implementation of WPS commitments and tasks.

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