

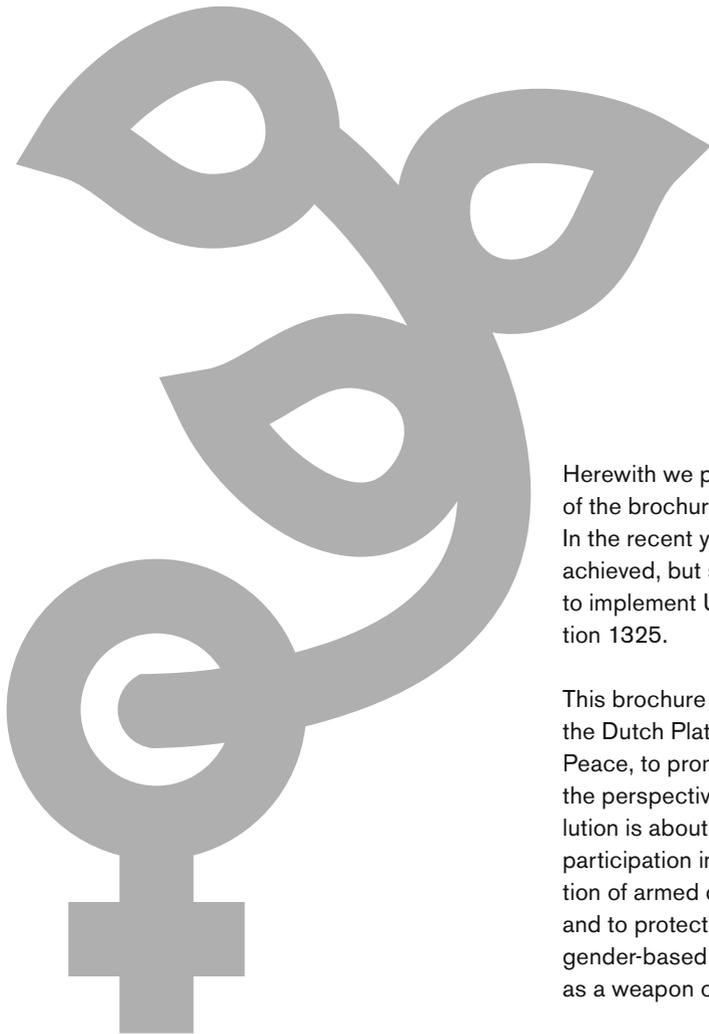
Platform **Women &
Sustainable Peace**



Women Peace Security

Implementing
resolution 1325





Herewith we present the updated edition of the brochure 'Women Peace Security'. In the recent years, a lot has been achieved, but still much needs to be done to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325.

This brochure was written by members of the Dutch Platform Women & Sustainable Peace, to promote resolution 1325 from the perspective of civil society. This resolution is about strengthening women's participation in the prevention and solution of armed conflicts, in peace building and to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, in particular rape as a weapon of war.

This brochure is one of the tools with which the platform wants to contribute to 'women and sustainable peace'.

On behalf of the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace,

Ted Strop-von Meijenfeldt
Chair

Women Peace Security

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1325 – More than a number

After the adoption of UN Security Council resolution 1325 in October 2000, many only recalled ‘1325’ as one of the numerous UN resolutions. But 1325 is not just a number. 1325 Has a long history.

Up to the First World War (1914-1918) most victims of armed conflict were (almost all male) soldiers. In the 21st Century, 90 percent of the victims of armed conflict worldwide are civilians, of which 70 percent are women and children. Women and children are not only killed, they are raped, sexually abused, mutilated, and humiliated. 75 Percent of the world’s refugees are women and children. Increasingly, violence against women is being used as a strategy to humiliate the enemy.

Regardless of this, women were barely allowed to play a part in the different stages of a conflict, except when they could be used as nurses or as a replacing productive force.

Reasons enough for the women’s movement to actively plead for decades, for an active role of women during the multiple stages of conflict. Because, though every conflict differs, overall one can distinguish between four stages of armed conflict: the preface, the armed conflict, the peace negotiations and the reconstruction phase.

After the Second World War, the women’s movement gradually began to give more attention to the subject of ‘violence against women’.

Women from the North and the South had differing opinions on many different subjects, but on the subject violence against women, these women shared common experiences regarding occur-

rences of violence in their lives. Before the Fourth World Women’s Conference in Beijing in 1995, their attention was directed to the subject of ‘Women and Armed Conflicts’. The latter became one of the twelve focal points established in the Plan of Action. (The box on page 12 sums up the strategic goals)

The participating countries all accepted these strategic goals and, herewith, the subject of ‘Women and Armed Conflicts’ became permanently settled on the international agenda.

After this, within the United Nations people lobbied to reach a Security Council Resolution on the subject. Here an important part was played by a coalition of non-governmental organisations, consisting of International Alert, Amnesty International, The Women’s Commission for Refugee Women and Children, The Hague Appeal for Peace, and WILPF. Resolution 1325 Women Peace and Security (it received its name and number at that time) was passed unanimously by the Security Council on the 31st of October 2000. A milestone, but definitely not the moment to relax. There was work to do.

In 2001, on the resolution’s first anniversary, a website was launched (www.peacewomen.org) to map the worldwide involvement of women in armed conflict, their activities, and the results of those activities. The website is a source of

information on resolution 1325. Besides an overview of the languages in which 1325 has been translated, the website provides information on developments that are taking place on national levels. It can be read there, that a number of countries already have a National Action Plan (NAP).

The Dutch interest for 'Women and Armed Conflict' only got underway after the adoption of 1325. In September of 2001, multiple NGOs organised a seminar. In 2002, the Dutch Institute for International Relations 'Clingendael' presented the book *Women's Roles in Conflict Prevention, Conflict Resolution and Post-Conflict Reconstruction: Literature Review and Institutional Analysis*, which gives much insight into the background of the role of women in armed conflicts.

Besides the differences between the so-called gender-characteristics of respectively men and women, also the differences between women themselves and their possible roles in armed conflict need to be reviewed. Women are a differentiated group of social actors that on the one hand are forced to take on certain positions and roles because of conflict situations, but on the other hand can actively bring change and influence these roles according to their own agendas and strategies. Regardless of all the problems women may experience in conflict situations, there are known examples in which women have been able to better their positions.

One differentiates between seven different roles for women, before, during, and after conflict: that of victim, combatant, peace-activist, negotiator during peace talks, survivor, head of household,

and labourer. In practice, these roles may overlap or coincide, while they obviously differ in time and place. Individual women may take on multiple roles at the same time.

In the quoted letter of the Clingendael Report to the Dutch House of Parliament, the Dutch Government announced the establishment of a Taskforce Women Security and Conflict. The goal of the taskforce, which was established in 2003, was to increase the role of women on a national and international level in the field of conflict prevention and conflict resolution, and on an international level in the field of post-conflict development. One of its tasks was to actively promote an optimal execution of the recommendations that derived from the Clingendael report in the Netherlands, like courses to increase the expertise of staff within the departments and in the field (also of local women and women's organisations), increasing the role of local women in conflict areas in the preparation, implementation and monitoring of all activities to do with the role of women in conflict situations.

The taskforce existed from 2003 until 2006 and presented at the end of its mandate a booklet *Speed course 1325* since the implementation of resolution 1325 deserves to remain a priority in policy as well as in practise.

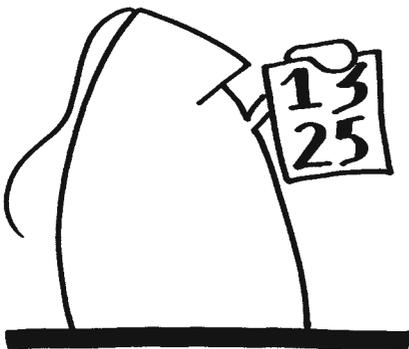
The non-governmental organisations in the Netherlands each played their own part. By cooperating on a Workshop Women and Armed Conflicts during the Beijing +10 manifestation in January 2005, women's organisations realised that it would be useful to join forces as this could strengthen their work on peace

and security. Because of this, and because the mandate of the Taskforce was coming to an end, they established the Platform Women and Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV). In December 2007, through close cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Dutch NGOs (including Platform VDV), the Dutch National Action Plan 2008-2011 was presented. With this plan the Dutch women's peace movement can take further steps into the future.

1325: More than a number. That much is clear; it concerns women and their roles in this world, so the number does not matter.

What must be clear for all, however, is that UN Security Council Resolution Women, Peace and Security is an important tool, and well, 1325 is easier to remember than the full title after all.

Anjo Kerkhofs



Taking a stand for Women, Peace and Security

Dutch National Action Plan 2008-2011

The Netherlands has its own national action plan on resolution 1325. It has become a sizeable and comprehensive document in which the government agrees to work on the implementation of this UN Security Council's resolution, in cooperation with civil society organisations. What is this action plan about and how has it been executed so far?

At the official launch of the Dutch action plan on the 4th of December 2007, the Dutch minister of Development Cooperation, Koenders, noted during his speech: *'It is about time we make up for the lost ground regarding the realisation of the Millennium Development Goals on the subject of women's rights and maternal mortality. The cabinet has, therefore, decided to sign the National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 – focussed on improving the position of women in conflict areas – together with a large number of civil society organisations. As four ministers we throw ourselves into the breach for women, peace and security. Women's rights are relevant to everyone.'*

Taking a stand for...

With the promising title 'Taking a stand for Women, Peace and Security' and in the presence of more than a 100 women and men, the action plan was presented in one of the halls of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. What is unique about the Dutch action plan is the cooperation between government and civil society organisations. This cooperation in the national action plan had already been announced in one of the Schokland Accords that was signed during the public manifestation on

Schokland on June 30th, 2007. Quite a lot of accords had been signed there – the so-called 'Millennium Accords' – aimed at the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. In the Schokland Accord on Women, Peace and Security, all those involved emphasised their intention to make sure an action plan for 1325 would be developed. This came into being on December 4th, when the involved ministers and representatives of a wide variety of civil society organisations signed the Schokland Accord 2 and the Dutch National Action Plan (NAP).

It did take a while before the Netherlands launched the NAP in 2007. The UN Security Council had already adopted resolution 1325 by the end of October in the year 2000. The resolution calls upon the UN and its member-states to take several comprehensive measures to strengthen the position of women. Because of this, the then Secretary General of the UN, Kofi Annan, urged the member states to develop their own national action plans so that each country could be held accountable for their own implementation of the resolution. At the end of 2009, seventeen countries have their own national action plan.

Unique about the Dutch plan is that it is based on the cooperation between government and civil society organisations. The national action plan was drafted in cooperation with civil society organisations and its execution needs to follow the same path. Thanks to the contribution of women of the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV) and the Dutch Women's Council (NVR), women's and peace organisations are explicitly mentioned in the plan as important civil society actors.

The Dutch National Action Plan has become a sizeable and comprehensive document of 61 pages long. The core of the plan lies in the chapter 'Concrete Steps 2008-2011' with the following focus areas: the (international) legal framework; prevention, mediation and reconstruction; international cooperation; peace missions; and, 'tuning and coordination'.

Tuning and Coordination

Especially that tuning and coordination takes some doing in practice. There are some very different partners that work together on the NAP. The three ministries already differ from each other, and then there is also a wide range of civil society organisations; varying from women's and peace organisations, NGOs, and development organisations, to knowledge institutes. This all complicates the implementation of the action plan. To keep track of the progress of the NAP there have been meetings between the involved civil society organisations and the Dutch government twice a year, for over the last two years. Recently this has been changed to three times a year. Besides the fact that these meetings have pro-

duced a lot more paperwork, some actual results can be noted; like the VCA 1325 project and an investigation on the ins and outs of the NAP. VCA 1325, which is a joint project of the NVR and the Platform VDV, stands for Women Creating Alternatives to violence. (See page 8)

The research on the NAP has been executed by the researchers Herma Majoor and Megan Brown commissioned by the Working Group 1325, linked to WO=MEN, Dutch Gender-platform. In this research they pay special attention to Afghanistan, Burundi, and the Congo, since Dutch peace missions have been stationed there. Both researchers give some highly relevant recommendations, like finer tuning between the three involved ministries themselves and finer tuning between the involved civil society organisations. Also the further inclusion and realisation of means, including financial means, is an important precondition.

Review 2010

Prominently scheduled for 2010 on the international political agenda is a review of 10 years of 1325. The Netherlands will also draw up the balance sheet. During the consultation in September 2009, this subject was extensively addressed; the evaluation of the results as well as the proposition of developing 'twinings'. These twinings are partnerships between western countries and fragile states in order for them to give each other support in producing and implementing national action plans. In 2008, Ireland, Liberia and East-Timor agreed to this joint partnership and have had positive results up till now. Finland is also in the process of making such an alliance with an African country.

In short: two years of working with the NAP has at least shown that, despite the need for further efforts to be made, some distances have been overcome. Distances between all those actors that are of importance to resolution 1325. 'The first blow is

half the battle', especially in the case of 1325; an ambitious and comprehensive resolution.

Coby Meyboom

Women's shelter Nahid, Afghanistan

Foundation Nahid runs a women's shelter in Kabul, Afghanistan. Today (2009), it gives shelter to 9 women with their 35 children. Most of the women are widows, some have left their husbands and in-laws because of domestic violence, but none of them receives help from their family or anybody else. The children go to school and the women are offered training - after they have settled down - to be able to support themselves in the future. The house is run by Afghans with paid jobs. This safeguards that the entire structure 'fits' into the tradition and culture of Afghanistan. Providing shelter and giving attention to women still remains a new phenomenon. Besides the shelter of women, the foundation will establish some small-scale companies (sowing atelier annex open house, a bakery, and catering), in which as much work as possible is done by women. The profit of these companies (after a few years) will go to the women's shelter. The plan is that the shelter will eventually be able to support itself.

www.nahid.nl

Women Creating Alternatives to violence

A project on resolution 1325

'As an Albanian from Kosovo I did not like it at all to be called Balkan-woman here. But now I understand that it only broadens my identity.'

In 2008, the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV) organised the project VCA 1325 (Women Creating Alternatives to violence; UN Security Council resolution 1325), in close cooperation with the Dutch Women's Council (NVR). The project's objective was to make the work of women - as implementation of resolution 1325 - more visible; to assist them in their search for support of their brave initiatives; and bringing them into contact with each other to improve their methods in consultation with experts and with representatives of Dutch women's organisations.

Six Dutch women's organisations, linked to the Platform VDV, already had contact with women and women's groups in conflict areas. This was a wonderful opportunity to stimulate their peace work. It concerned:

- Foundation Sundjata (together with the Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network The Netherlands): a group of five women from some countries from the Great Lake Region in Africa: (Congo, Rwanda, Burundi);
- Foundation Women's Organisation The Netherlands Darfur: four women from Darfur.
- Gender Concerns International: four women from an organisation in Kashmir;
- Women for Peace: four women from Afghanistan;
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom The Netherlands: a Palestinian delegation;
- Women Peacemakers Program: four women from different Balkan countries.

Executing the project proved to be quite some work since it regarded several objectives and many contributing organisations. The women from the conflict areas were invited to a conference and to a series of visits to Dutch organisations, in order to strengthen their organisations via networking. During the conference they were able to join their activities to work more effectively for peace in their own countries. Furthermore, the Dutch Women's Council (NVR) and the Platform VDV wanted to bring more attention to UN Security Council resolution 1325 in the Netherlands, and hence a public day was organised, in which the women presented their plans during a public meeting.

During the three days, the organisers and guests gathered together in the conference centre 'Kontakt der Kontinenten' (Contact of the Continents), in Soesterberg, more and more insight developed into the complicated situation of women, and more and more admiration for the

courage of women that work for peace and reconciliation, despite the hostile thoughts that are indissolubly tied to war. The women from Kashmir came from both the Indian and Pakistani side of the disputed area; the Palestinian delegation also included an Israeli woman; the women from the Great Lake Region came from different countries that are in conflict. The women from four different Balkan countries realised that their peace initiatives would not make any difference as long as they did not work together passing the ethnic divisions and country-borders. The Afghan women are in conflict with the strict women-hostile structures in their country, which are even strengthened by the war; the women from Sudan fight against hunger and HIV/Aids, that have grown to disastrous proportions because of the long war in that country. Not to regard others as enemies in those situations, but to focus on peacebuilding, is a tremendous achievement.

It is a privilege to be able to be with such strong women for a couple of days. Moreover, the service at the Kontakt der Kontinenten is exceptionally friendly and generous. This allows for everyone to feel at home quite soon, and to easily bring about mutual contacts. Present were, besides the 25 foreign women, also the companions from the various organisations and two coaches. On some days, experts were also invited to provide professional comments and advise on the plans of the women. Together there were about 50 participants. The conference was held during the Ramadan and fifteen guests kept the fast during the day. They did not take part in the lunch, and dinner was not served till after the sunset

(around 8 o'clock). Hence, it were long days, and outside of the work meetings people were busy with networking.

The first night began with an acquaintance-exercise concerning the term Partnership. After all, the entire project had the theme of cooperation and partnership. Here it already appeared that language was a critical area of concern. Of the Afghan delegation only two people spoke English; the Great Lake delegation had French as language of communication; the Palestinian delegation needed Arabic translation in some cases, and for the Balkan women, next to English, one was given a French translation and the other a Bosnian translation. This all did make the meetings somewhat hectic from time to time, but this did not spoil the good atmosphere... or maybe it even contributed to the atmosphere; everyone could be themselves and was respected in their own identity.

Three days of study and consultation followed, sometimes plenary and sometimes in country-groups. Every group existed of four or five foreign guests, representatives of the organisations that had invited them, and a group leader, with sometimes some extra external experts. It were days of gaining insight into the characteristics of the work of women, studying resolution 1325, and developing ideas for future cooperation, which eventually turned into one action plan per group. These action plans were placed into a power point format and were then ready to be shown to the general public on the next day.

It was hard work. Yet still there was enough energy to come together at night,

after the late dinner, in order to rehearse the International Women's Peace Song. The song is made by Janny Beekman, set to music by Marzenka Pala, and rehearsed by the Raging Grannies. There was an English and French translation available. Later on it will be translated to many more languages. After some practise everybody sang along:

*Women come, women come,
Call each other, together strong,
Women come, women come,
Together work can be done.*

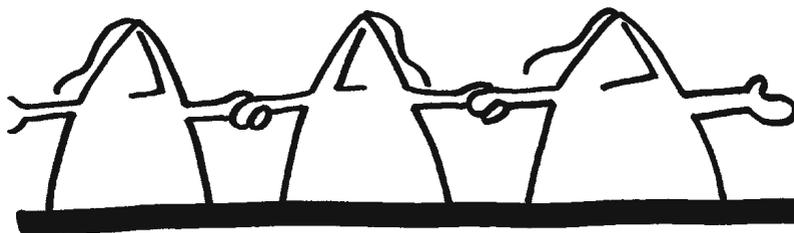
After the common experiences of the work-conference and the public day, which had been coordinated by the NVR, each delegation kept in close cooperation for another week in The Netherlands with the organisation that had invited them, to make further contacts and to raise funds for the execution of their plans. Back in

their own country, the activities are proceeded. The member-organisations of the Platform VDV stay involved with their partners in the conflict areas in order to actually execute the plans.

While carrying out the entire project, collaboration was sought with Dutch strategic partners that were involved in the implementation of UN Resolution 1325, as, for example, the Dutch government (ministries of Foreign Affairs and of Defence), development organisations (HIVOS, CMC, ICCO, NOVIB), and with knowledge institutes on women and armed conflict, as Clingendael.

The project was part of the National Action Plan 1325, which gives interpretation to the implementation of the Schokland Accord that was signed in June 2007.

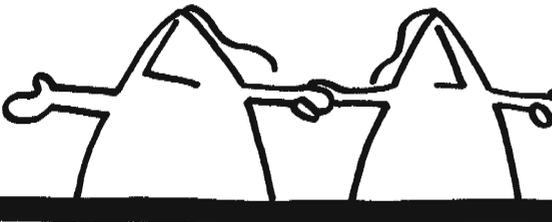
Janne Poort-van Eeden



Displaced persons, Colombia

'My name is Martha Cecilia, I am 37 years old and was born in a village nearby San Jacinto, department Bolivar. I got married when I was 18, and we have five children now. In October 1998 we had to flee to the city of San Jacinto in order to protect ourselves from being murdered. Together with many other refugees from that region we were given a place to stay – which we had to finish building ourselves – by the authorities of San Jacinto, in 2001. We can barely get by and live on the little money I earn myself and what my husband makes as a rural worker.'

Martha is one of the estimated 3.5 to 4 million indigenous refugees. The money she earns is a result of a project for keeping chickens and breeding pigs. Martha is a member of one of the local WILPF Colombian groups. Besides providing support for survival, WILPF Colombia also educates on women's rights and gives training on administrative functions; issues directly related to resolution 1325. WILPF Colombia also has its own website which gives special attention to 1325 (<http://www.limpalcolombia.org/resolucion.htm>). A huge impetus was given by an international delegation of WILPF (July 2007) that addressed the implementation of resolution 1325 in Colombia.



International developments with regard to resolution 1325

At the time the torments that women had gone through during the Balkan War became more and more clear, women started to lobby during the large UN-conferences at the end of the 20th Century for effective measures. The slogan during the Human Rights Conference in Vienna (1993) was '*Women's Rights are Human Rights*'. Testimonies of victims made clear that there needed to be more than just human rights on paper. During the fourth UN Conference on Women in Beijing (1995), this extensive lobbying continued. Because of this '*Women and Armed Conflict*' became one of the critical areas of concern of the Beijing Platform of Action.

From the Platform of Action Beijing 1995

Strategic objectives – taken on by the participating countries in Beijing 1995 – mentioned in the field of 'women and armed conflicts':

- E.1: Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation.
- E.2: Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments.
- E.3: Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations.
- E.4: Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.
- E.5: Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women.

This has, therefore, also become the area in which actual results have been achieved after Beijing. Rape during wartime has become a war crime and perpetrators can be prosecuted. Furthermore, the UN Security Council has adopted resolution 1325 in the year 2000, to promote an equal position of women in all phases of war and armed conflicts.

An important role during the realisation of resolution 1325 was played by the NGO *Working Group on Women and Peace*. This coalition of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), now a coalition of sixteen organizations, consisted at that time of: International Alert, Amnesty International, the Women's Commission for Refugee Women and Children, the Hague Appeal for Peace and WILPF.

These NGOs have accomplished putting the role and position of women – before during and after violent conflict – on the international agenda. They have used the Beijing Plan of Action as an important tool with the support of UNIFEM (United Nations Development Fund for Women), and the UN Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW). The implementation of this resolution has showed not to be an easy task.

In 2001, the international NGO-coalition started a worldwide project to put the resolution into practice. On the resolution's first anniversary a new website was launched to map the worldwide involvement of women in armed conflict, their activities, and the results of those activities. The goal of this website is to create more visibility into the involvement of women in armed conflicts, to bring forth an exchange between women on the spot

and at a policy level, and to inform women about each others' work so the wheel does not need to be reinvented all the time. This website www.peacewomen.org still remains the source of information on resolution 1325.

By 2009, resolution 1325 had been translated into over 100 languages. Work is being done to translate it into the several different languages that are spoken in Sudan.

The pressure of the NGO-world was also a reason for the UN to come up with additional measures.

Firstly, the UN organised workshops for its own staff on how to integrate 1325 into their own work in the fields of conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peace building. A handbook *Women & Elections* was written, aimed at promoting the participation of women in elections. Various UN organisations got to work to support women and make their participation in all phases of peace processes effective. By 2001, the High Commissioner for Refugees made five promises to refugee women to help them to play a more active role in shelter and repatriation, and to prevent sexual and gender-based violence. In the same year, Kofi Annan, former Secretary-General of the UN, urged the member-states to develop a National Action Plan (NAP) to implement 1325. This proved to be a difficult process. At first, countries were slow in developing NAPs and it were primary European countries that adopted a national action plan. At this point also four Southern countries have a NAP: Chile, Ivory Coast, Liberia, and Uganda. Currently, there are seventeen approved NAPs.

Meanwhile, the UN had not been sitting around doing nothing either. In 2006, the Peacebuilding Commission was established in which all knowledge and expertise in the field of conflict prevention, mediation, peacekeeping, respects for human rights, international law, humanitarian aid, reconstruction, and long term development is combined. The Commission is an advisory body without real power, but with the ability to advise to the Security Council – upon request – on the situation in specific countries. In the last years this commission has largely remained silent. The UN, however, did pay much attention to the gender aspect of its peacekeeping missions. For example, in the spring of 2009 a campaign was launched to increase the number of female police officers during peacekeeping operations. In the fall, the decision was taken, during the General Assembly of the UN, to establish the GEAR (Gender Architecture). This is one department, led by a Deputy Secretary-General, in which all efforts regarding women – now still spread over four different UN organisations – are brought together.

The adoption of resolution 1325 and the pressure by NGOs has also led to action in other international organisations to become more and more active in improving the position of women during armed conflicts.

Meanwhile NATO has adopted a policy to improve the gender balance in NATO troops, and to integrate 1325 into the NATO command structure.

The *European Parliament* passed a resolution in December 2000 called 'The

participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution' (2000/2025(INI)): the European variant of 1325. However, this resolution has not played any significant role until now, even in Europe itself.

In 2008, the Council of Ministers formulated a 'Comprehensive Approach' as reaction to UN resolutions 1325 and 1820. The latter assumes an inclusive approach, containing the promotion of respect for human rights and the equality of women and men, to apply international humanitarian law by linking the position of women in different phases of conflict to economic security and opportunities for women, and to their access to healthcare and education.

In 2009, the European Parliament performed a study on gender mainstreaming and the reinforcement of women in the different instruments the EU has to maintain external relations. The study concluded that there are quite a few instruments available to strengthen the position of women in foreign relations, but also that the policy is severely fragmented. This presents itself especially in the fields of peace building, crisis management, prevention of violence, and security development. Therefore, in May 2009, resolution 2008/2198(INI) was passed. This resolution is about gender mainstreaming in the external relations of the EU and peace building and nation building.

The *Statute of the International Criminal Court* takes note of possible prosecution of sexual violence against women; especially rape and systematic rape in armed conflict. Meanwhile, the International Criminal Tribunal of the Former Yugoslavia has addressed rape during the criminal proceedings and in some judgements.

Also, the *Committee of Ministers of the Council of Europe* has played its part. In the beginning of 2003 at a ministerial conference, the committee passed a resolution on the role of women and men in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and reconstruction.

On the side of the *NGOs* - which are able to find each other better and better through the internet - forces have also been joined, like through PeaceWomen. The European Peace Organisations have their own lobby office EPLO (European Peacebuilding Liaison Office), which has a working group on Gender, Peace and Security. This working group is also engaged with the development of national action plans. In October 2009 this group made recommendations at the Council of

European Ministers regarding the action plans and also the control and evaluation of these plans.

Also many development organisations are actively working with 1325. For example, Dutch development organisations financially supported films on the victims and perpetrators of rape in the Congo.

At the time this brochure was published, the UN, national governments, as well as the involved NGOs are working strongly on mapping the results of the different national action plans. This joined effort should make visible whether the situation of women and girls has been improved.

Resolution 1325 should become more than a 'piece of paper'.

Ted Strop-von Meijenfeldt



Rape as a weapon of war

Resolutions 1820, 1888 and 1889

In the beginning of August 2009 the Secretary General of the UN, Ban Ki-moon, issued a report for the assembly of the UN Security Council on resolution 1820, which was established in 2008 to bring a halt to sexual violence against women. Recently, two new resolutions have been added to this cause; 1888 and 1889. But what are these resolutions about, and how do they relate to 1325?

Testimony, Congo

'I testify,

I, woman from the Democratic Republic of the Congo, woman from the inland.

Raped and murdered, since 1994, when I offered my hospitality for humanitarian reasons in the view of operation 'Turquoise'...

I testify that I have been dehumanised...

I testify that I have been raped, by armed gangs, bandits from everywhere...

I testify that I have been transformed into a sexual beast of burden;

They have raped me, in front of my parents... my children... my husband... my neighbours... and even on the street.

The massive rape of women in the Congo is a weapon of war to break our conscience. It is a means of spreading HIV/AIDS in order to decimate the Congolese population.'

Breaking the Silence

In the past century, the silence surrounding sexual violence against women and girls has slowly been broken down. The 'Rape camps' during the war in the former Yugoslavia received extensive publicity, for example. It has been estimated that between 20,000 and 50,000 women had been raped there during the 90's. During the Rwandan genocide (1994) this number was between 250,000 and 500,000, and still, everyday women are victims of rape. It is estimated that, for example, per day around forty incidents of

rape occur in the Congo. For a long time these sorts of crimes have been ignored. Partly because it has been somewhat impossible for the victims to talk about; and still this is the case. When women do testify on the injustice they have experienced, they put their lives on the line. The army or guerrillas, depending on who has power over that territory, silence them. Moreover, it occurs too often that their husband or family also renounces raped women and girls.

That this type of rape incorporates more than 'just' rape, may be read in the

book by Ruth Seifert (see www.wilpf.int.ch > publications). There, the author makes a thorough analysis of such sexual violence that is aimed at completely humiliating and destroying the enemy.

Crime against humanity and war crime

Partly because of the effort of the worldwide women's movement and through UN World Conferences on Women, this form of sexual violence has been put on the international agenda. Resolution 1325 'Women, Peace and Security', adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, calls for the international constitutional prosecution of such crimes. Furthermore, the 'Women's Caucus for Gender Justice' succeeded to include sexual violence as a war crime and a crime against humanity in the Rome Statute of the international Criminal Court (came into force in 2002).

1820

Resolution 1820 – adopted by the UN Security Council on the 19th of June 2008 – considers sexual violence against civilians during war and armed conflicts. Stated in sixteen paragraphs are a number of measures that focus on bringing a halt to this form of violence, and especially to the systematic rape of women and girls.

While comparing the two resolutions, however, one finds that resolution 1820 can be considered as complementary to 1325. The former resolution, as noted in the preamble, reconfirms resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and the Beijing Action Plan. The resolution offers a stronger policy framework than 1325 for the protection of women and girls against sexual violence. Especially paragraph 1 looks promising. This paragraph states:

'Stresses that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war in order to deliberately target civilians or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilian populations, can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and may impede the restoration of international peace and security, affirms in this regard that effective steps to prevent and respond to such acts of sexual violence can significantly contribute to the maintenance of international peace and security, and expresses its readiness, when considering situations on the agenda of the Council, to, where necessary, adopt appropriate steps to address widespread or systematic sexual violence.'

Resolution 1820 includes a number of sanctions, like withholding amnesty during peace negotiations in the case of sexual violence. Also the training of peace mission personnel is noted to protect civilians against this form of violence. Finally, attention is also given to the demystifying of myths such as that rape will provide extra strength for warriors.

Ban Ki-moon's Report

At the time that the resolution was approved, it was decided that progress would be measured after one year. With the assistance of several countries, Ban Ki-moon compiled a report that was published on 15 July 2009. In this report a number of recommendations were made to bring a halt to these kinds of crimes, like the appointment of a coordinator within the UN-system with the special assignment of preventing and reacting to sexual violence; assigning a research commission to deal with the situation in Chad, the Congo, and Sudan; and to

secure resolution 1820 within the UN peace-missions to protect civilians against these crimes and to continue with making a yearly progress report.

There were some comments from the women's peace movement on this report; like the failure to include a recommendation for the establishment of a special UN-unit for women; the missing details for the plans to collect data on the scope of sexual violence; and the little attention paid to involving civil society organisations, with special attention to strengthening local women's groups and peace groups that provide shelter for victims and take note of their accusations.

On August 7th, a public debate took place at the UN Security Council on the report of Ban Ki-moon. 42 Countries made statements, addressing also the link with resolution 1325. During this debate, the importance of establishing a special UN-unit for women in order to come to more detailed strategies for the collection of charges and the shelter of victims was re-emphasised. This proposition was accepted during the General Assembly of the UN and, therefore, the UN will be complemented with a special 'women's unit'. The Netherlands also issued a statement during the public debate of the UN Security Council and the Dutch Taskforce 1820 contributed to the report of Ban Ki-moon. This Task Force, composed of a number of experts from the signers of the Dutch Action Plan 1325, hereby issued a document with the following recommendations: Firstly, to link the reports on the execution of resolution 1325 and of resolution 1820 to the country reports of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW). Another recommendation comprises a solid investigation on the ways in which one can handle these crimes, i.e., which measures are successful and which not. What is also mentioned in the contribution of the task force is the need to strengthen local women's organisations in order for victims to be able to safely press charges and be accommodated.

Then there were four

During the last meetings of the UN Security Council, two more resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security have been passed. Resolution 1888 (Sept. 2009) and 1889 (Oct. 2009) both build on the other resolutions. Resolution 1888 places emphasis on stopping sexual violence and introduces extensive measures, like the appointment of a special representative of the Secretary General on violence against women. Resolution 1889 calls on member states, donors, and civil society organisations to do their utmost to protect women and guarantee their involvement in the reconstruction of war-torn areas.

Now what?

In any case, it has been accomplished that the theme Women, Peace and Security is clearly represented on the UN Security Council's agenda and the resolutions are further integrated in several policy instruments of states. Hence, an important proposition, and at the same time action item, is to link the progress reports on these resolutions to the UN Treaty on Women in order for governments to be pushed to regularly render an account of the situation in their countries.

In January 2010 the Dutch government

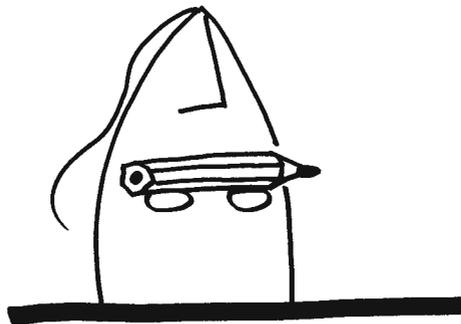
will need to issue a report on the execution of the UN Treaty on Women. Currently Dutch organisations are drawing up their own shadow report. Furthermore, several events are on their way. In 2010 it will have been 15 years ago that the Fourth World Conference on Women took place resulting in the Beijing Action Plan, which includes 'Women and Armed Conflicts' as one of its twelve themes.

In short, the upcoming political agenda

offers women and their organisations all sorts of possibilities to keep a close eye on these promising resolutions to actually bring attention to the victims and not become just 'paper tigers'.

Coby Meyboom

This article has previously been published in the magazine of Women for Peace and was adjusted to make it up-to-date.



The Platform ‘Darfur Women Uniting for Peace’

An example of good practice

VOND (Foundation Women’s Organisation the Netherlands – Darfur), in collaboration with its partner in Khartoum (Sudan), the Darfur Women Organization WONDER, succeeded in forming a platform for the women of Darfur.

They started in 2007 with a conference in The Hague, the Netherlands, and a workshop in Khartoum, Sudan, to explore how to enhance the participation of Darfur women in peace-building, political and development processes; and to build their capacities to acquire more skills in order to put the recommendations in practice.

Other specific objectives were:

- To re-weave the social fabric of Darfur women.
- To start a process of building peace and building the capacities of Darfur women.
- To assist them in practical implementation of projects regarding the empowerment of grassroots.

The point of departure toward this ambitious goal has been both the UN resolution 1325 and the resolutions adopted by the Darfur Peace Agreement in 2006, which designated 25 percentage quotas for the women of Darfur in all governmental or communal institutions. Way of working was a programme consisting of a series of workshops in Sudan.

The women who participated in the workshops were diverse; they represented a large spectrum of Darfur community. They

are leaders of civil society organisations; representing the middle layer between the elites and the grassroots due to their direct interaction with both layers of the community.

At the closing day of the first workshop, the women formed a platform for Darfur women peace-activists. Not surprisingly, all participants emphatically condemned the ongoing war and expressed their sisterly-hood and solidarity with each other and their willingness to take the initiative to ending the war. They agreed to use the UNSCR 1325 as point for departure concerning their activities. They also expressed their gratitude for being brought together and brought to the capital Khartoum where they met the women trainers, the Darfuri women living in Khartoum, women from the South and the East of Sudan and women from the Nuba Mountains who were also invited to share their experience of war, security, peace building and reconciliation with them. This useful experience has had great impact on the participants and induced them to look far beyond the horizon.

The platform of *Darfur Women Uniting for Peace* was born and is still functioning and growing.

The Platform Women & Sustainable Peace

After cooperating on a workshop Women and Armed Conflicts during the Beijing + 10-manifestation in January 2005, women's organisations realised that it would be useful to join forces as this could strengthen their work on peace and security. That is why they have established the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV).

Members of the Platform VDV can be:

- **Women's organisations**
 - **Dutch NGOs led by women**
 - **Peace organisations with a female representative in the Platform**
- These organisations are exclusively ones that work on a culture of peace, reconciliation and non-violence.**

www.vrouwenenduurzamevrede.nl

The efforts of the Platform intend to complement and not to overlap or to compete with the efforts of these existing networks and organisations. This is the reason why the cooperation between various parties is mentioned as the main goal. The mission states: *The promotion of sustainable peace through stimulating cooperation between women and men in (armed) conflict situations and conflict areas.*

The Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (The Dutch Women's Council, **NVR**) is a partner organisation of the Platform VDV.

The Dutch Women's Council is an association of 46 women's organizations, which when combined make a total of approximately one million members. While keeping the individual character and independence of the member organisations, the goal of the NVR is to promote women's awareness of their position and possibilities by actually taking co-responsibility at all levels of society.

Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad
Benoordenhoutseweg 23
2596 BA Den Haag, the Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0)70 346 93 04
Fax +31 (0)70 345 93 46
www.nederlandsevrouwenraad.nl

Members of the Platform VDV are representatives of the following organisations:

BPW-nl

Business & Professional Women the Netherlands is part of a worldwide women's network of professional, working women (their own companies or on a

payroll). With the motto 'Together we stand strong', BPW works to improve the position of all working women, by advancing mutual appreciation and increasing knowledge, skills, and cooperation in the professional sphere as well as in society. BPW also tries to establish equal opportunities and equal positions in all sectors and levels of society and to influence political decision-making on a national and international level

BPW Nederland

Postbus 11069, 1001 GB Amsterdam
the Netherlands

www.bpwnl.org

GCI

Gender Concerns International is an international development organisation based in the Netherlands. GCI believes that establishing a gender-balanced society requires action in poverty reduction, sustainable development, economic empowerment and political will. The aim of Gender Concerns is to participate in the process and promote the vision of establishing a gender-balanced society. Activities include consultancy and advice, lobbying and advocacy

- organising campaigns, conferences, seminars, workshops and forums for dialogue
- developing and facilitating training programs

Gender Concerns International

Laan van Meerdervoort 70
2517 AN Den Haag, the Netherlands
Tel. +31 (0)70 444 5082
Fax +31 (0)70 444 5083

www.genderconcerns.org

IFOR-WPP

IFOR's Women Peacemakers Program.

The main goal of the IFOR programme is to strengthen and support women's peace initiatives. WPP aims at showing how militarism forms an obstacle to sustainable development and places emphasis on the important role that women play in the reconstruction of democratic societies.

WPP organises courses, training, supports women's organisations and initiatives on gender and non-violence (sometimes also financially) and documents the resistance against war and women's alternatives all over the world.

IFOR Women Peacemakers Program

Spoorstraat 38, 1815 BK Alkmaar
the Netherlands / Pays-Bas

Tel. +31 (0)72 512 3014

Fax +31 (0)72 515 1102

www.ifor.org/WPP

African Regional WPP Office:

www.wanep.org/wpp/index.html

MWPN

Multicultural Women Peacemakers

Network, The Netherlands is a joint venture of women's organisations active in the Netherlands, to assist the peace building process in their country of origin. Their countries are, for example, Burundi, the Philippines, the Malacca Islands and Somalia. Many women refugees and women migrants have close ties to the people who are left behind in the conflict area. They support their family and grassroots in the process of building a peaceful society. In the Netherlands, these diaspora women have found support from each other. Through courses they extend their knowledge and skills in the field of non-violent action and conflict resolution. Through conferences and visits to their

former countries these women spread their knowledge and experience.

Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network

Postbus 16665, 1001 RD Amsterdam
the Netherlands

email: info@mwpn.nl

www.mwpn.nl

NEAG

Nederlands Expertisecentrum Alternatieven voor Geweld (Dutch centre of expertise in alternatives for violence) focuses on prevention of violent conflicts and aims at resolving them in a non-violent manner. It tries to accomplish the latter by providing information to people who want to be active as professional peace workers, by contributing to their training, and by lobbying at the Dutch government, the European Commission and NGOs for educating and actually deploying peace workers. NEAG is an active member of the European Network for Civil Peace Services and the worldwide network Nonviolent Peaceforce (NP). Via NP there are currently Dutch peace workers active in Sri Lanka.

NEAG Alternatives for Violence

Vossiusstraat 20, 1071 AD Amsterdam
the Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0)20 670 52 95

(Monday - Thursday)

www.neag.nl

Sundjata

Stichting Sundjata (Foundation Sundjata) supports African organisations that take initiatives to improve the social and societal life in the Great Lake Region and Senegal. Sundjata functions as an intermediate between the Western and the African worlds, with regard to cultural,

social, and financial issues. Sundjata often works together with unions, peace organisations and other social organisations. Moreover, it supplies African initiatives with sufficient means and supports African organisations that develop themselves. By strengthening the African organisations, in the long term Stichting Sundjata also makes a sustainable contribution to social development. Obviously, many of the partner organisations are African women's organisations. The motto of Sundjata is: 'A good idea is only a good idea once it is executed.'

Stichting Sundjata

Saturnusstraat 5 – ZW

2024 GH Haarlem, the Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0)23 529 94 86

www.sundjata.nl

VOND

Stichting Vrouwenorganisatie Nederland – Darfur (Foundation Women's Organisation the Netherlands – Darfur) is a Dutch foundation for the women of Darfur.

VOND shows solidarity with the Darfuri women and hopes to contribute to the decrease of the suffering that the women, girls and youth from Darfur experience on a daily basis. Furthermore, VOND supports the struggle of the Darfuri women's organisations regarding empowerment in this remote and severely affected region of war in Sudan. Moreover, VOND strives for a full participation in the Dutch society and, therefore, assists the Sudanese women with the integration process in the Netherlands.

VOND works closely together with partner organisation Stichting WONDER.

Vrouwenorganisatie Nederland-Darfur

Van Bylandtstraat 47,

2562 GH Den Haag, the Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0)70 360 64 58

Fax +31 (0)70 362 71 39

www.stvond.nl

Vrouwen voor Vrede

The Association 'Vrouwen voor Vrede' (Women for Peace), strives for a non-violent, respectful and safe global society, where human rights – as stated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – are complied with and in which:

- prosperity and well-being are fairly divided with respect for the environment;
- conflicts are resolved in a nonviolent manner.

This goal means that the fellowship encourages women to strive non-violently for a culture of peace, a culture connected with all that lives and functions as a focal point for the (multicultural) peace movement and for women's groups.

Vrouwen voor Vrede

Postbus 963, 3800 AZ Amersfoort
the Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0)33 462 27 55

www.vrouwenvoorvrede.nl

WILPF

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, established in 1915, is the oldest women's peace organisation in the world. WILPF has an advisory status at the United Nations: with ECOSOC, UNCTAD and UNESCO. Moreover, it has special advisory ties with FOA, ILO and UNICEF. Branches of WILPF are located in more than 35 countries. WILPF Netherlands especially aims at influencing the foreign policies at the national and European levels, with special attention to UNSCR 1325 and disarmament. Members participate by coming to general meetings and to the WILPF Workshop with the aim of inspiring each other, making plans and appointments, measuring progress, and, hence, contributing to the international programme. Their ideal is a world without war.

WILPF-Nederland

Obrechtstraat 43, 3572 EC Utrecht,
the Netherlands

Tel. +31 (0)30 271 43 76

www.wilpf.nl

What you can do yourself

The Netherlands is not considered a conflict area. It has been a long time since a conflict has been fought out by force of arms in the Netherlands – if we disregard mobilising armed police against hooligans for a second. Therefore, it sometimes seems that UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is merely of use to countries far away, beyond the 'peaceful' Europe. Still, for a Dutch citizen, there are many possibilities to act in the spirit of 1325, with actions aimed at the Netherlands or abroad.

Possible activities aimed at the Netherlands

- a. Become a member of a political party that has included the implementation of 1325 in its programme.
- b. Offer resistance against the deployment of (Dutch) soldiers in conflict areas when this does not concern peace missions. The war in Afghanistan may be called a peace mission, but the first objective is to beat the Taliban.
- c. Become a member of a women's peace organisation; passively through making a donation, or actively by helping them in their work. Peace organisations can always use reliable volunteers. On pages 21-24 various organisations are mentioned.
- d. Become a neighbourhood mediator. You can help to prevent the escalation of conflicts in your own circle. (*Google neighbourhood-mediator*)
- e. Follow a course in non-violent conflict resolution, so you can actively contribute to a more peaceful society.
www.geweldloosamenleven.nl

Possible activities aimed at conflict areas abroad

- a. Focus your interest on peace initiatives. The international organisation International Crisis Group has monitors around the globe that keep an eye on all sources of violence. You can subscribe for their mailings via notification@crisisgroup.org.
- b. Give support to the project Nahid, a woman's shelter in Kabul, Afghanistan, that is supported by Women for Peace; or find another charity that enhances world peace.
- c. Get in touch with one of the member organisations of the Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network and discuss the possibilities of supporting their peace-work in the home countries.
- d. Become a volunteer at Peace Brigades International or the Nonviolent Peaceforce. These organisations deploy people to conflict areas in order to help the local population with their peace work.

Where to find further information?

Literature

- Can conflict analysis processes support gendered visions of peace building? Reflections from the Peace and Stability Development Analysis in Fiji, Published by UNDP, 2006, see www.undp.org
- Benedict, Helen. The Lonely Soldier: The Private War of Women Serving in Iraq. 2009, Beacon Press. ISBN: 978-080706147-3
- Peace and Security for All. A feminist critique of the current peace and security policy; Feminist Institute of the Heinrich Böll Foundation; Berlin, 2006.
- Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security (UN SCR 1325); INSTRAW; Santo Domingo, 2006.
- The ESDP Crisis Management Operation of the European Union and Human Rights; Jana Arloth & Frauke Seidensticker; Berlin 2007; ISBN 978-3-937714-44-8.

National Action Plans

The Netherlands:

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/DutchNAP1325Eng.pdf>

The full texts of the other National Action Plans are available on:

http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/whoswho_national.html

The Liberian Women's Initiative, Liberia

During the Civil War in Liberia, 500 women from all over Liberia - in despair because of the continuous battle and thousands of victims - got together after an appeal on the radio. Together they formed the Liberian Women's Initiative. For some years they continuously demonstrated against the war and supported the lingering peace negotiations by their presence in all weather conditions. Eventually they forced the parties into a peace accord. After this, they continued to organize themselves and thus achieved that, during the first free elections after the civil war. Ellen Sirleaf Johnson was elected as President. They brought resolution 1325 into practice.

Websites

www.1000peacewomen.org Portraits of a 1000 peace women

www.humansecuritynetwork.org HSN is a network of countries including the Netherlands

www.huntalternatives.org The Institute for Inclusive Security

www.ifor.org The International Fellowship of Reconciliation

www.iwtc.org International Women's Tribune Centre, international NGO

www.kvinnatillkvinna.se Kvinna till Kvinna, Swedish NGO

www.nobelwomensinitiative.org Female Nobel prize-winners (also) on resolution 1325

www.peacewomen.org International WILPF-site fully in the spirit of 1325

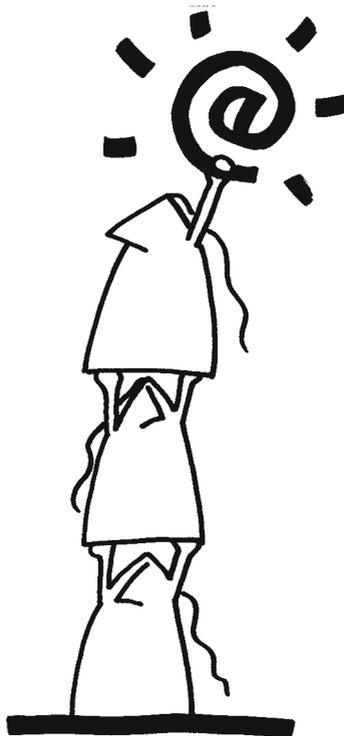
www.stoprapenow.org UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict

www.un-instraw.org Website of INSTRAW with special pages on resolution 1325

www.womensnetwork.org Kosova Women's Network

www.womenwarpeace.org UNIFEM's portal on Women, Peace and Security

www.womenwatch.org Women's page of the United Nations



Women, Peace and Security

Resolution 1325 (2000) of the Security Council of the United Nations

‘Women, who know the price of conflict so well, are also often better equipped than men to prevent or resolve it. For generations, women have served as peace educators, both in their families and in their societies. They have proved instrumental in building bridges rather than walls. They have been crucial in preserving social order when communities have collapsed....

This Council, in its statement on International Women’s Day this year, acknowledged that women and girls are particularly affected by the consequences of armed conflict. You recognized that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men. And you declared that maintaining and promoting peace and security requires women’s equal participation in decision-making. I am here today to ask you to do everything in your power to translate that statement into action. To help ensure that women and girls in conflict situations are protected; that perpetrators of violence against women in conflict are brought to justice; and that women are able to take their rightful and equal place at the decision-making table in questions of peace and security.’

Kofi A. Annan, UN Secretary-General in his statement to the Security Council on 24 October 2000

For the first time the United Nations Security Council discussed the question of women, peace and security in New York on 24 and 25 October 2000. This event marked an historic step forward in the area of women and peace. The discussion addressed the needs of women in all UN peace operations, as well as the broader issue of women’s role in building and maintaining peace. During the discussion, an overwhelming number of speakers stressed the need to include women in every aspect of peace-building, specifically calling for their involvement in decision-making.

On 31 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. The resolution called on all actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective that would take into account the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement, rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction. The adoption of this historic resolution was a major step towards recognizing women’s role in conflict management, peacekeeping and post-conflict peace-building.

The text of the Security Council resolution follows.

Resolution 1325 (2000)
Adopted by the Security Council at its
4213th meeting, on 31 October 2000

The Security Council,

Recalling its resolutions 1261 (1999) of 25 August 1999, 1265 (1999) of 17 September 1999, 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000 and 1314 (2000) of 11 August 2000, as well as relevant statements of its President, and recalling also the statement of its President to the press on the occasion of the United Nations Day for Women's Rights and International Peace (International Women's Day) of 8 March 2000 (SC/6816),

Recalling also the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (A/52/231) as well as those contained in the outcome document of the twenty-third Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: Gender Equality, Development and Peace for the Twenty-First Century' (A/S-23/10/Rev.1), in particular those concerning women and armed conflict,

Bearing in mind the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the primary responsibility of the Security Council under the Charter for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Expressing concern that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees

and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Reaffirming also the need to implement fully international humanitarian and human rights law that protects the rights of women and girls during and after conflicts,

Emphasizing the need for all parties to ensure that mine clearance and mine awareness programmes take into account the special needs of women and girls,

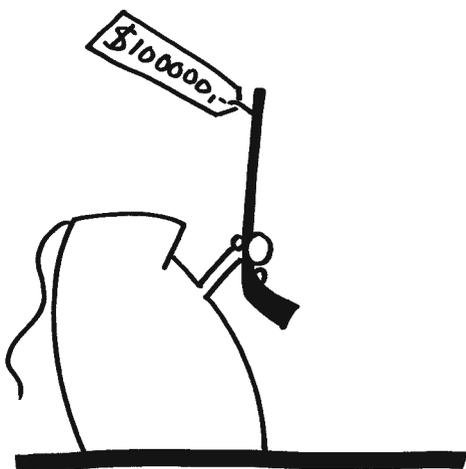
Recognizing the urgent need to mainstream a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and in this regard noting the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (S/2000/693),

Recognizing also the importance of the recommendation contained in the statement of its President to the press of 8 March 2000 for specialized training for all peacekeeping personnel on the protection, special needs and human rights of women and children in conflict situations,

Recognizing that an understanding of the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, effective institutional arrangements to guarantee their protection and full participation in the peace process can significantly contribute to the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security,

Noting the need to consolidate data on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls,

1. Urges Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict;
2. *Encourages* the Secretary-General to implement his strategic plan of action (A/49/587) calling for an increase in the participation of women at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes;



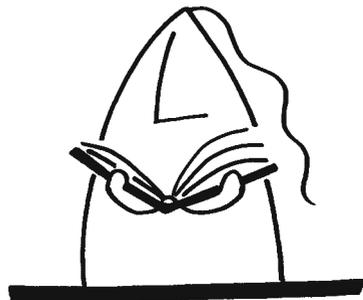
Prevention is less expensive!

3. Urges the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices on his behalf, and in this regard calls on Member States to provide candidates to the Secretary-General, for inclusion in a regularly updated centralized roster;
4. *Further urges* the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in United Nations field-based operations, and especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel;
5. *Expresses* its willingness to incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations, and urges the Secretary-General to ensure that, where appropriate, field operations include a gender component;
6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women, as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace-building measures, invites Member States to incorporate these elements as well as HIV/AIDS awareness training into their national training programmes for military and civilian police personnel in preparation for deployment, and further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive similar training;
7. Urges Member States to increase their voluntary financial, technical and

- logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts, including those undertaken by relevant funds and programmes, inter alia, the United Nations Fund for Women and United Nations Children's Fund, and by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other relevant bodies;
8. *Calls on* all actors involved, when negotiating and implementing peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective, including, inter alia:
 - (a) The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction;
 - (b) Measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution, and that involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements;
 - (c) Measures that ensure the protection of and respect for human rights of women and girls, particularly as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary;
 9. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians, in particular the obligations applicable to them under the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols thereto of 1977, the Refugee Convention of 1951 and the Protocol thereto of 1967, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 and the Optional Protocol thereto of 1999 and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 and the two Optional Protocols thereto of 25 May 2000, and to bear in mind the relevant provisions of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court;
 10. *Calls on* all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict;
 11. *Emphasizes* the responsibility of all States to put an end to impunity and to prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes including those relating to sexual and other violence against women and girls, and in this regard stresses the need to exclude these crimes, where feasible from amnesty provisions;
 12. *Calls upon* all parties to armed conflict to respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design, and recalls its resolutions 1208 (1998) of 19 November 1998 and 1296 (2000) of 19 April 2000;
 13. *Encourages* all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to take into account the needs of their dependants;

14. *Reaffirms* its readiness, whenever measures are adopted under Article 41 of the Charter of the United Nations, to give consideration to their potential impact on the civilian population, bearing in mind the special needs of women and girls, in order to consider appropriate humanitarian exemptions;
15. *Expresses* its willingness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups;
16. *Invites* the Secretary-General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building and the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution, and further invites him to submit a report to the Security Council on the results of this study and to make this available to all Member States of the United Nations;
17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, where appropriate, to include in his reporting to the Security Council progress on gender mainstreaming throughout peacekeeping missions and all other aspects relating to women and girls;
18. *Decides* to remain actively seized of the matter.

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/sc/1325.html#Full>



Colophon

Platform Women & Sustainable Peace

This brochure is a publication of the Platform Vrouwen & Duurzame Vrede (Women & Sustainable Peace, VDV), made in cooperation with the Nederlandse Vrouwen Raad (Dutch Women's Council, NVR).

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There will always be conflicts. Instead of violence, creative solutions are possible to resolve them. The Platform Women & Sustainable Peace actively contributes to nonviolent conflict resolution. Dutch organisations are welcome to join.

For more information:



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F.C. Dondersstraat 23, 3572 JB Utrecht
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www.vrouwenenduurzamevrede.nl



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www.nederlandsevrouwenraad.nl



**Platform Women &
Sustainable Peace**

