

**Statement on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security
to the
Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network Meeting
“The Security Council and Women, Peace and Security: Fostering Practical Action”
by
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The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security is a coalition of 18 international non-governmental organizations (NGOs) working to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda at the United Nations and around the world. My organisation, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, is a founding member.

Every day, women around the world are leading the way on preventing conflict, rebuilding communities, and creating feminist peace. In Colombia, women are calling for more life, and less arms. In Afghanistan, women are engaging men to promote women’s participation and rights. In Nigeria, women are building networks to prevent electoral violence and strengthen gendered early warning systems.

As members of the 1325 Focal Point Network, you all have an important role to play as ambassadors of WPS and partners of women-led civil society to accelerate implementation of the WPS agenda at the national level.

We invite you to take risks, maintain hope, and be an ally in pushing for political rather than technical change:

- First, do not just support increasing the number of women, but support addressing structural discrimination and obstacles to women’s meaningful participation, rights, and justice.
- Second, support consistent gender conflict expertise and analysis that amplifies diverse local women’s experiences, and addresses differentiated needs, power relations, and risks of women, girls, men boys, and LGBTQI people.
- Third, support women human rights defenders who are the beating heart of the WPS agenda, but who daily face attacks, shrinking spaces, and risks due to creeping militarism worldwide.
- Fourth, support strong funding for WPS and gender equality, recognising that gender equality is first on the chopping block, and last on the priority list.

As we look forward to the twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020, we invite you to look for opportunities to dramatically accelerate action:

- Hold WPS parliamentary debates
- Scale up funding for women human rights defenders and peace activists
- Report on UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan (NAP) implementation at the July 2019 review of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 on peaceful and stable societies
- Integrate gender into national arms control systems and risk assessments in line with the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and
- Initiate your own feminist foreign and domestic policies.

We look forward to working in partnership for holistic action to prevent conflict, build peaceful and inclusive societies, and sustain peace, with women’s participation and rights at the core.