

“Towards a Feminist Security Council”:

Guidance Note Launch

Friends of UNSCR 1325 Dialogue

13:00-14:30, Tuesday, 20 November 2018

United Nations Headquarters Conference Room 7, New York

The United Nations Security Council is responsible for the maintenance of peace and security, while also upholding the principles of the UN Charter, including to respect human rights without distinction as to sex or otherwise. The Council’s mandate, regarding maintaining international peace and security, further requires the institutionalisation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda through the implementation of eight relevant resolutions (1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2008), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), and 2242 (2015)).

In recent years, a number of working methods have been developed -- often through the leadership of Elected Members of the Security Council working with women-led civil society -- to innovate and move forward implementation and accountability on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The regularisation of civil society briefers to the Security Council on geographic agenda items, the creation of the Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, and the Women, Peace and Security Focal Point Network are all opportunities to accelerate action.

Despite the robust foundation provided by Security Council Resolutions and increasing opportunities for action, holistic action on the WPS Agenda continues to face roadblocks to implementation challenging prospects for effective conflict prevention and sustainable peace. To deliver on its mandate in a way that works for all people, the Security Council must support WPS action that has capacity not just to end active conflict, but to build sustainable and democratic peace with local women’s leadership and rights at the core.

This Group of Friends of UNSCR 1325 meeting will launch the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)’s “Towards a Feminist Security Council” Guidance Note.

This Guidance Note provides concrete recommendations for Security Council Members on how to leverage existing working methods to build on good practices and address key gaps in implementing the Security Council’s mandate consistent with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. These gaps include: women’s meaningful participation, local engagement, disarmament, gender power analysis, and structural and democratic reform. In doing so, it provides a useful tool for Security Council members to support a shift from crisis response

towards upstream conflict prevention and sustaining peace based on women's participation, protection and rights.

Event Structure:

1. *Welcome:* Simon Collard-Wexler, First Secretary, Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations
2. *Why do we need feminist peace?* Joy Onyesoh, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) International President
3. *Introduction to the Guidance Note:* Abigail Ruane, WILPF Women, Peace and Security Programme Director
4. *Good practice: gender analysis and root causes:* Verónica Cordova Soria, Deputy Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Bolivia to the United Nations
5. *Good practice: gender analysis and the IEG:* Paivi Kannisto, Chief of Peace and Security, UN Women (TBD)
6. Q&A & Interactive Discussion

Format of the Event

This will be a meeting of the Group of Friends of UNSCR 1325 for Member States, United Nations representatives, and civil society at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Chair of the Group of Friends of UNSCR 1325 will open the discussion by welcoming participants and introducing panellists, and then will facilitate the discussion. WILPF's International President Joy Onyesoh will share why we need feminist peace, and what grassroots women are doing to move this agenda forward. WILPF's Women, Peace and Security Programme Director Abigail Ruane will then review the Guidance Note aimed at moving toward a more Feminist Security Council that works for women and all people by building on and strengthening existing good practices. Representatives of Missions and the UN Secretariat will share from their experiences on how they have engaged in these good practices and what needs to be done to move forward. The discussion will then be opened up for questions and an interactive discussion with the audience.