



# THROUGH THE LENS OF CIVIL SOCIETY

## Executive Summary

SUMMARY REPORT OF THE  
PUBLIC SUBMISSIONS TO THE GLOBAL STUDY  
ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY



**PeaceWomen**

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

In light of the 2015 High Level Review of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the PeaceWomen programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) compiled this Summary Report, providing nine strategic recommendations for the Global Study, which have been submitted to the Global Study lead Author, Radhika Coomaraswamy and the Global Study team.

The Summary Report is based on 47 public submissions from various civil society organizations (CSOs), academics and research institutes from around the world, highlighting implementation gaps and good practices and activities of CSOs, Member States and United Nations (UN) Agencies in the effective implementation of the Agenda. As such, it is a civil society contribution and does not necessarily reflect the positions of WILPF or PeaceWomen.

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PEACEWOMEN is a programme of WILPF, the longest-standing women's peace organization in the world. PeaceWomen was founded in 2000 to strengthen women's rights and participation in international peace and security efforts. PeaceWomen monitors, informs, and advocates for women's' rights and participation in conflict situations and promotes gender analysis in conflict prevention. Based in the New York Office of WILPF, PeaceWomen facilitates monitoring of the UN system, with a particular focus on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The PeaceWomen team is very grateful to all the wonderful WILPF peace leaders and experts for their invaluable contribution and comments on this publication

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# Executive Summary

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## Introduction

In light of the 2015 High Level Review of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda and the Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the PeaceWomen programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) reviewed and compiled a Summary Report, providing nine strategic recommendations for the Global Study, which have been submitted to the Global Study lead Author, Radhika Coomaraswamy and the Global Study team. The content of the Summary Report is based on 47 public submissions from various civil society organizations (CSOs), academics and research institutes from around the world. As such, it is a civil society contribution and does not necessarily reflect the positions of WILPF or PeaceWomen. As a whole, the Summary Report highlights good practices and activities of CSOs, Member States and United Nations (UN) Agencies in the effective implementation of the Agenda. PeaceWomen took on this effort to create a space for public submissions to the Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 to promote inclusive participation through engagement, outreach and awareness-raising among civil society and with the

aim to strengthen independent progressive voices in WPS processes. The Summary Report urges the UN and Member States to seize the momentous opportunity during the 2015 High Level Review to commit fully to the holistic implementation of UNSCR1325 and to galvanize the necessary political will towards conflict prevention.

## Women's Right to Participation and Representation

The first chapter of the Summary Report underscores the continued lack of women's full and meaningful participation in peace operations, peace processes, peacebuilding movements and decision-making processes as a major gap in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Without a true commitment from the international community to address barriers to women's meaningful participation and representation, efforts towards sustainable peace will remain ineffective.

The UN and Member States are called to increase women's meaningful participation and representation in peace operations, peace processes, peacebuilding movements and decision-making processes by appointing more women in decision-making positions and by building women's capacity.

## Prevention

The second chapter of the Summary Report urges the international community to undertake gendered conflict prevention, addressing, among other root causes, the continuum of violence, the circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), the perpetuation of gender-based violence (GBV), militarization, negative expressions of masculinities and the exploitation of economic and natural resources.

The UN and Member States are called to prioritize long-term approaches to address and prevent the root causes of conflict and militarization through a gender analysis by urging Member States to reduce military spending and increase investment of resources in peaceful institutions and initiatives, including disarmament measures and gender equitable social development.

## Monitoring and Accountability

The third chapter of the Summary Report recognizes the key actors of the WPS Agenda and highlights key gaps in their monitoring and accountability of the implementation of the Agenda, such as a lack of sustained funding, lack of political will and failure to adequately and effectively develop NAPs with measurable targets, a lack of disaggregated data and evidence, a lack of monitoring and evaluation

mechanisms, and a lack of international coherence on WPS Integration

The UN is called to strengthen its capacity to deliver on WPS and to urge Member States to effectively implement and finance the WPS Agenda through Local Action Plans (LAPs), National Action Plans (NAPs) and Regional Action Plans (RAPs) and to establish strong public monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

## The Security Council

The fourth chapter of the Summary Report notes that as a key implementer of the WPS Agenda, the Security Council must continue to mainstream WPS throughout its daily work and while collaborating with other important implementers of the WPS Agenda.

The UN is called to ensure that the Security Council considers WPS as a cross-cutting issue across all areas of its work and in cooperation with other actors and UN entities.

## Protection of the Human Rights of Women in Conflict Areas and Their Humanitarian Needs

The fifth chapter of the Summary Report calls for attention to the specific rights and needs of women in conflict and post-conflict scenarios, such as access to mental, health, social and

economic services, and the overall lack of accountability for violations of human rights.

The UN and Member States are called to enhance the protection of women and girls and their rights in armed conflict and post-conflict situations by improving humanitarian support, through capacity building, by enhancing infrastructure and access to support and by ensuring accountability.

## **Justice and Accountability for Grave Violations of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law against Women**

The sixth chapter of the Summary Report stresses that despite deliberate attention in recent years for grave violations against women, cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and girls (SGBVAWG) persist at alarming rates while state as well non-state perpetrators continue to enjoy impunity.

The UN and Member States are called to address grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law against women and girls by holding accountable state and non-state actors, by establishing adequate systems of redress and reparations and by guaranteeing non-repetition for grave violations of human rights and humanitarian law against women and girls.

## **Militarized Responses to Conflict**

The seventh chapter of the Summary Report elucidates that grave violations against women and girls continue to happen during militarized responses to conflict, including by peacekeeping forces and security forces.

The UN and Member States are called to enhance accountability and combat impunity of UN Peacekeeping, private military and security companies, national security forces and non-state armed groups on violence against women and girls (VAWG) in conflict and post-conflict situations and to strengthen capacity development through continuous, specialized and sustained training on issues of gender and women's rights under international humanitarian law and human rights law.

## **Peacebuilding and Recovery**

The eighth chapter of the Summary Report highlights that without a true gender perspective in all post-conflict peacebuilding strategies and activities, the meaningful participation of women and gender minorities is undermined. Post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts provide a unique window of opportunity to promote gender equality and women's empowerment.

The UN and Member States are called to strengthen the gender perspective in demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) programmes and mainstream gender equality and women's empowerment in post-conflict peacebuilding utilizing an integrated framework for action that addresses institutional and structural barriers to equality.

## **Critical Issues for Women, Peace and Security**

The ninth chapter of the Summary Report highlights a range of critical issues that need to be integrated in the implementation of the WPS Agenda. These issues, including the need for an inclusive and broader approach to the WPS Agenda, climate change and increased violent extremism, will continue to have a tremendous effect on the prevention and resolution of conflict around the world.

The UN and Member States are called to integrate WPS in addressing critical issues by a) incorporating a more inclusive and broader approach to the WPS framework, which takes into consideration a gender perspective of the roles of men and sexual and gender minorities, without compromising the increased efforts towards women's full and equal participation, protection and human rights in conflict situations; b) including women in both peace processes and climate change negotiations in order to provide their insight on the different needs of women and girls and to include their unique perspective in mitigating and adapting to conflict; and c) supporting women's leadership, participation and rights in all efforts to prevent, reduce and counter terrorism and violent extremism.

To read the full report, visit [www.peacewomen.org](http://www.peacewomen.org)



Photo: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom / Li Grebäck

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-governmental organization (NGO) with National Sections covering every continent, an International Secretariat based in Geneva, and a New York office focused on the work of the United Nations.

Since our establishment in 1915, we have brought together women from around the world who are united in working for peace by non-violent means and promoting political, economic and social justice for all.

Our approach is always non-violent, and we use existing international legal and political frameworks to achieve fundamental change in the way states conceptualize and address issues of gender, militarism, peace and security.

PeaceWomen is a programme of WILPF working to promote a progressive gender-perspective in preventing conflict and creating peace through women's full and equal participation and bridging global and local efforts to implement a holistic and transformative Women, Peace and Security Agenda.



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