

There will always be conflicts. Instead of resolving them with violence, there are more creative ways to deal with them. The Platform VDV devotes itself to this. Your organisation is also welcome.

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Women Peace Security

Resolution 1325
in Practice





Herewith, the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV) presents its brochure with information about UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Under the title 'Resolution 1325 in Practice', this publication centres around nine inspiring initiatives of women and their organisations for nonviolent peace work, in many places in the world.

The brochure is the third in a series about Resolution 1325. The previous ones were: 'What is Resolution 1325' and 'Implementing Resolution 1325'.

In Resolution 1325, the Security Council clearly states the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of armed conflicts, in peace negotiations and reconstruction and emphasizes the necessity to protect women against war violence.

With the Dutch Action Plan 1325 (NAP 1325) the Dutch government cooperates with a large number of civil organisations, among which the Platform VDV, to implement this resolution in the Netherlands and in a number of conflict and post-conflict areas.

This brochure is about civil peace work, the autonomous and nonviolent peace work of civilians, in this case particularly women. Sometimes, conflicts seem very similar, but the local context always asks for a specific resolution.

The examples in the brochure are chosen to show the creativity, perseverance and courage of women who make out a case for a peaceful and just society.

May their example inspire us!

On behalf of the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace
Ted Strop – von Meijenfeldt (chair)

Colophon

This brochure is a publication by the Platform Women & Sustainable Peace

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Starting Point 1325

Resolution 1325 is the first resolution of the Security Council of the United Nations (UN) on the role of women in armed conflicts. Decennia of hard work by the women's peace movement preceded the resolution. The resolution is part of the secret language used within the UN. In this brochure we try to unveil this secrecy and to explain that 1325 is more than just a number.

History

During the 20th century not much attention was paid to the role of women in war and armed conflict, although more and more civilians, and especially women and girls, became victims. Sexual violence was systematically used as a weapon of war, and the perpetrators were hardly ever punished. However, women were (and are) not only victims. To end the one-sided emphasis on women as victims, it became necessary to emphasize the active role of women during the four phases of conflict: the preface, the armed conflict, the peace negotiations and the reconstruction phase. The role of women as informal negotiators remains under-exposed, but women can play a decisive role in the prevention of and the transformation of conflicts, during the reconstruction and in maintaining the peace.

At the Fourth World Women's Conference in Beijing in 1995 the subject of "Women and Armed Conflicts" was included in Chapter E of the Plan of Action. Within the UN a lobby was started for a resolution of the Security Council on this subject. A collation of non-governmental organisations played an important role. On October 31st of 2000 resolution 1325 Women, Peace, Security was accepted by the Security Council. The resolution includes a number of calls for action di-

rected to the UN in general, to the Security Council and the member states especially, and of course also to the parties in armed conflicts.

More than a number

1325 was the result of a long process and became the starting point for further international, national and local developments, on the road to the complete recognition of the importance of the role of women in armed conflicts. After all, the resolution is binding international law and asks for an important role in the work for peace for civil society, especially women's organisations. The role of women in armed conflicts gets more attention in the resolutions of the Security Council, but the implementation of these resolutions lags behind.

The (political) developments in the world have, together with the annual evaluations of 1325, led to a new range of resolutions, which complement several aspects of 1325. All these resolutions, which form a set of international obligations, should guarantee the position of women in armed conflicts. The supplementary resolutions on Women, Peace, Security focus on two different subjects:

1) protection against and prohibition of sexual violence; new instruments are developed to coerce compliance, and

2) participation of women in peace-building, especially during official peace talks and the phase of reconstruction of a peaceful and democratic society.

Sexual violence in armed conflicts

In June 2008 the first amendment to resolution 1325 in the form of resolution 1820 was adopted by the Security Council. This resolution dwells upon the subject of sexual violence against civilians during war and armed conflicts. It is complementary to the inclusion of sexual violence as a crime of war and a crime against humanity in the Statute of Rome of the International Criminal Court (2002).

1820 is more than just an amendment to 1325, because it includes sanctions, like not giving amnesty to the perpetrators during peace negotiations. Also included are training of personnel on peace missions to protect the civilian population against this form of violence. Besides this there is attention to defying the mythology that rape gives power to warriors. Resolution 1888 was adopted in September 2009 and elaborates on 1820. The resolution emphasized the need to stop sexual violence and announced new measures, such as the appointment of a Special Representative to the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict. The function of Women Protection Advisors (WPA's) was introduced within peace missions. They can rapidly be deployed in situations of sexual violence. Resolution 2016, adopted in June 2013, is the sixth in the series and the fourth resolution on sexual violence in conflicts, but in this resolution the focus is on operational aspects. The resolution calls for the training and systematic deployment

of the WPA's.

Resolution 1960 was adopted unanimously by the Security Council in December 2010. It creates tools and teeth to fight impunity, and it states the steps that have to be taken to prevent and protect against violence in armed conflict. The method of naming and shaming is a great step towards justice for the victims as is the recognition of sexual violence as a grave violation of human rights and international law.

Also in 2010 UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon appointed Margot Wallström from Sweden as the Special Representative for Sexual Violence in Conflicts. In 2012, she was succeeded by Zainab Hawa Bangura from Sierra Leone. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict serves as the UN's spokesperson and political advocate on conflict-related sexual violence and is the chair of the network UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

The five priorities in the mandate are

- (1) to end impunity for sexual violence in conflict,
- (2) the empowerment of women who face sexual violence in conflict,
- (3) to mobilize political ownership,
- (4) to increase recognition of rape as a tactic and consequence of war and
- (5) to harmonise the UN's response on this issue.

Participation of women in peace building

Resolution 1889, adopted in October 2009, focuses on the participation of women in the phase of reconstruction after the armed conflict, and calls upon the member states of the UN, donors and

civil organisations to do everything to guarantee the contribution of women to the reconstruction of war-stricken areas. The active role played by women during reconstruction has to be given more attention, and women have to be involved in peace negotiations. '1889A' also calls for the development of indicators to measure the implementation of 1325 within the UN and by member states. Resolution 2122, adopted in October 2013, delivers stronger measures to involve women in, and to take part in, peace processes. The resolution asks for regular reports on all things about women, peace and security. The UN, the Security Council and the member states are urged to increase the attention for

WPA's and to take measures to increase gender equality and women's empowerment during the writing and renewing of mandates.

Instruments and regulations

The resolution following 1325 and the so-called country resolutions of the Security Council give female peace activists more concrete instruments to coerce protection and participation. This brochure shows that women using these resolutions have made great progress towards the finish: the participation of women on an equal basis in the prevention and termination of armed conflicts.



Dutch National Action Plan

A year after the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called on all Member States to draw up their own national action plan for its implementation. In our country a coalition of NGOs, coming from women's and peace organizations, development organizations and diaspora organizations, committed to create a Dutch National Action Plan. It was only in 2004 that a committee was appointed for that purpose. Its mandate expired at the end of 2006, and it had an outcome of only a few achievements. Luckily the new Minister for Development in 2007 quickly seized this idea. In a joint process of the government and NGOs - from decision-making and to the writing – and using the Internet, which helped enormously, in six months' time the first National Action Plan 2008-2011 (NAP I) in December 2007 was signed by three ministers, some scientific institutions, and about 20 NGOs.

NAP I (2008 - 2011)

The first Dutch NAP entitled *'On the Breach for Women, Peace and Security'*, has become a comprehensive document. After an extensive analysis of the status of all kinds of conflicts and possible actions from our country, this paper concludes with an overview of the involvement of the various signatories of the NAP. Although this matrix of action items in NAP I gives a nice overview of all plans and intentions, it has turned out that it hardly led to joint action. It did not



result in any reinforcement or support each other's plans. The weakness of this NAP was the lack of clearly defined objectives, indicators, schedule or budget.

However, in the meantime, a structure of consultation between the various partners, as well between the government and the NGOs, as well as between the NGOs themselves had been formed.

NAP II (2012 - 2015)

On that basis in 2011 the second Dutch National Action Plan was written. Now it was not just a joint writing process, but firstly common assumptions and objectives were shared. NAP II was entitled *'Women: Powerful Agents for Peace and Security'*. In December 2011, the NAP II was signed by four ministers, some scientific institutions and about 40 NGOs. Meanwhile, the signatories were extended with one minister and 15 NGOs.

The main objective is to strengthen women's leadership and political participation in fragile states, conflict and post-

conflict regions and countries in transition. To provide more targeted implementation, six focus countries were selected: Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DR Congo, Sudan and South Sudan, which are in the MENA region (Middle East and North Africa). The current NAP does have a budget for projects. The NAP signatories have formed working groups for the focus countries and the MENA region, which have developed plans jointly for these four years and which are now being executed. It is evident that to reach this goal much consultation was needed between the relevant organizations in the focus countries and MENA region and

the working groups in the Netherlands. Cooperation in the framework of the NAP II is a new idea, drawing on existing knowledge in many areas of society. Ministries, big NGOs and sometimes very small NGOs, including the diaspora organizations, are learning by doing to know each other's interests and the rules to go by.

In 2015, NAP II reaches the end of its period. However, the challenge for an equivalent and recognized contribution of women in all phases of an armed conflict continues unabated after 2015. So let us go on to NAP III.



Signing of the NAP by the president of the Platform VDV, Ted Strop-von Meijenfeldt

Women Take the Lead Burundi

After the peace treaty in Burundi, the causes of the violence did not disappear and the conflicts have not been resolved. Stéphanie Mbanzendoré's work improves the reconciliation between the former enemies and the rebuilding of a stable society, which are basic conditions for a sustainable peace.

Since 1993, a civil war has destabilized Burundi. Families have fallen apart and thousands of children have become orphans. A whole generation did not receive education. The number of people that suffers from aids and hiv is enormous; health care is insufficient. Means of livelihood have been lost.

Since 2005 there has been peace. It is hard work to sustain this fragile peace.

Many Burundian women took the lead in the peace process, and the rebuilding of the country. Stéphanie, who came to the Netherlands as a refugee in 1998, does not want to abandon the people who stayed behind. The people in Burundi are having a hard time. Every day they experience the results of the war. They have to clean up the mess, reconcile with each other and build a new future. To support the Burundian population, Stéphanie



founded the association BWPD, Burundian Women for Peace and Development.

Partly thanks to financial support from Dutch funds and NGOs, the association was able to build a multifunctional centre in Kirundo, her region of birth. The centre is called Amahoro, which means peace. Nowadays, the centre is full of activities, thanks to the efforts of mostly volunteers. There are educational courses, a space for sports, an opportunity for social contacts, a library and, very recently, a library bus was installed for the people in the villages around.

Improving people's development paves the way for the peace process. In 2010 BWPD founded seven local women's groups. These groups work at peace-building in their direct community: the family, the village. The board of the Burundian NGO Abaremeshamahoro – Women for Peace and Development in Burundi – is responsible for organising and supporting these groups. The peaceful dealing with conflicts is the central theme; advising and mediating are the tools. The educated people act as 'community leaders', mediators and advisors for peace within the community.

The local groups work in Bugabira, Busoni, Ntega and Bwambarangwe, Gitobe and Vumbi.

In the summer of 2013 a return day was organised for these groups in the large room of the centre Amahoro. Many of the seventy community leaders were present. It became a special day of meetings and exchange of experiences. The agenda contained issues like 'lessons learned', new challenges and wishes. The conclusions of this day formed the basis for continuing this peace-building method.

Also in the Netherlands, Stéphanie raises her voice. She pleads for effective development work and support for the peace process and reconstruction in Burundi. She is also the chair of the Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network in the Netherlands, a forum for diaspora women in the Netherlands who founded and support peace-building projects in their countries of origin.

Stéphanie's motto is: *"The world does not belong to people who sit and sleep. Women, now is our turn to take the lead and hold the reins. Know that everything is possible when you have this belief."*



Stéphanie: "At the same time, I try to raise my voice at the national level in Burundi, as an advocate for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 by the Burundian government, and not without success. The Ministry for Gender Rights and Human Rights and the Ministry of Education value the work of BWPD and have recognized BWPD Burundi as a partner. Thanks to this recognition, the personnel of the centre Amahoro can be employed from government money. This is a great success."

No Peace Without Women

Colombia

For more than 50 years there has been an internal conflict in Colombia with the result of 5.5 million internal refugees, mostly women and children. Women and peace organizations have joined forces to let women participate in the peace negotiations and to break the silence around the violence against women.

One of the organizations, which is dedicated to improving the fate of these internal refugee women, is the Colombian section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), which is in Spanish "LIMPAL Colombia". Together with other like-minded organizations a lot of work is done to bring Resolution 1325 in practice. This is not an easy task given the diversity of women and their organizations in a country where there is a conflict.

In 2012 the peace negotiations started between the Colombian government and the FARC, a guerrilla movement.

When it became known that these negotiations were going on, WILPF Colombia, along with several other women's and peace organizations, sent a letter to the Colombian President asking for women to take part in the peace negotiations, as stated in Resolution 1325.

At the end of October 2013, nearly 450 women from all over the country gathered at the 'National Summit on Women and Peace' (Cumbre Nacional de Mujeres y Paz). With the support of UN Women nine Colombian organizations have managed to organise this summit, with an impressive program and input from international experts. The participants represented a broad representation from almost all

departments and from all social backgrounds: from women's and peace organizations, feminist organizations, Afro-Colombian organizations and farmers organizations. The starting point was that peace negotiations should include much more than agreements between the warring parties, but must also be a matter of the civilian population, including women. This three-day summit provided a comprehensive action plan, as seen from the interests of women. The diversity of the participants, their problems and their solutions are the strength



Text pamphlet: 'We are part of the solution - women for resolving the conflict in Colombia on the basis of negotiation'

but also the weakness of the Action Plan. It is an ambitious and hopefully achievable plan for the coming years for sustainable solutions to the conflict and the reconstruction of the society.

At the summit the organisation La Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres (the Pacifist Way of Women) presented a remarkable initiative: the Truth Commission of Women and documenting the violence of war against them (see box). This initiative was well received. One of the recommendations of the summit is therefore that the yet to be established national truth commission consists of 50 percent of women and that it gives special attention

to sexual violence against women. Gradually, resolution 1325 is becoming visible in Colombian politics, though it is already there in spirit. Although Colombia, like the Netherlands, is one of the 'Friends' of 1325, there is still no Colombian national action plan.

In the beginning of November 2013 the Colombian President announced that two places were available for women in the peace negotiations. These women have been appointed. The FARC has also appointed two female delegates. In June 2014 it was officially decided that there will be a national truth commission.

Truth Commission of Women

'The silence around violence against women impoverishes the meaning of the word justice and feeds impunity'

At the 'National Summit on Women and Peace' La Ruta Pacífica de las Mujeres presented its remarkable project 'Truth Commission of Women and documenting the violence of war against them'. On the basis of three publications based on interviews with nearly 1,000 displaced Colombian women from nine regions, the Ruta Pacífica explained this project. It is a multifaceted project that not only aims to break the silence about the violence that these women are affected, such as rape, threats, kidnappings, expropriation of land and other property, but it is also meant to create public space for these women to be heard. Another goal is to put pressure on the government to mitigate the impact of the armed conflict for these women and to do everything possible to prevent such violence in the future.

As far as is known, this is a unique initiative worldwide.

Currently the Ruta Pacífica is expanding this initiative to other regions. Another action point is that this initiative will be part of the future Colombian Truth Commission.



Femme au Fone: Mouthpiece for women in the villages

Democratic Republic of Congo: South-Kivu

The conflict in the East of Congo started in 1996 and is characterized by fights between innumerable militias and the Congolese army about control over natural resources. Rightfully, much attention has been given to the raping of many women in East Congo. However, as other forms of injustice became invisible, violence against women and impunity remain structural problems. The Femme au Fone project wants to give back to the women in the East of Congo their voices on their own safety problems.

Since 2007 the Dutch Association Sundjata has supported those organisations in Senegal, in the Great Lakes region, which focus on the improvement of social circumstances. In the Great Lakes region,



Sundjata works with Synergy of Women for Peace and Reconciliation (SPR). Together with a group of five Dutch and Congolese organisations, they form a partnership to carry out a project specifically targeted at women in the South Kivu province: Femme au Fone. Apart from SPR, also the local broadcasting company, Radio Maendeleo with one million listeners, and Women's Media Association are the most important local organisations that are involved with Femme au Fone. With their mobile telephones listening groups of women send hundreds of text messages monthly from the whole province about all kinds of events to the radio station. In this way, they actively feed the broadcasting from their villages and neighbourhoods. Since the beginning of 2014, the radio broadcasts every week the one-hour radio program 'Femme au Fone'.

One of the issues from the text messages is also the theme of the week. The editorial management is fully in the hands of women.

The women's groups report about the daily restrictions of their rights and the endangering of peace, safety and stability in their province. The Femme au Fone editors analyse this information and use it to develop the radio programs. In the program, they discuss the women's problems and give information about their rights, but they also ask the leaders responsible for explanation and call them to account. Repeating issues are problems around domestic violence, inheritance laws, divorce, blackmail by police, army and government officials, accusations of witchcraft in case of death or illness in the family, repudiation, early taking from school, and rape by known or unknown persons.

In all cases there is no possibility of a fair judicial process, because of the general gross corruption in the judicial system. This causes impunity for the larger part of the crimes.

By bribing inside jails, often the few perpetrators that are being punished are soon released.



The women's groups in the villages and neighbourhoods find in Femme au Fone a mouthpiece. The information from the text messages is being

spread in four languages, through a website and through newsletters. If the incoming information shows that the population's safety is in danger, the radio station immediately can send crucial information by text message to warn the relevant listeners' groups. The Femme au Fone project can work, because even in the smallest villages at least some women can write and many have access to a mobile telephone and radio. About 80 percent of the Kivu provinces has mobile reach.

The text messages form the picture of the women's most important safety needs

and problems; the journalists pass these on to lobby organisations. One objective of the Femme au Fone project is to link village women to women's organisations that are active in safety issues or peace negotiations on the local, national and international level. They can lobby together at local and regional government and with international organisations for the improvement of the safety situation of women and, also, men. It can also give more influence on the peace negotiations and access to human rights. The Femme au Fone project is being financed by – among others – the 1325 budget from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the war, which has lasted many, many years, a large number of men have been killed. Their wives have stayed behind as widows. Officially, the law in Congo dictates that at the decease of the man, his wife and children are the heirs and are entitled to inherit his possessions. Nevertheless, it often happens that the man's family claims the inheritance, referring to tradition. They claim that tradition prescribes that the man's possessions after his death belong to his brothers. Consequently the widow not only loses her husband, but also all the possessions they gathered together, and for which she also worked. Moreover, the eager family members forget that this tradition also includes the obligation to take care of the widow and her children. Femme au Fone has asked for attention to this issue. It was clear that women want to take care of themselves and claim their lawful inheritance.

Visionaries, Activists and Professionals

Egypt

In Egypt, conflicts exist between government and population, between several religions, and there is discrimination against women. Yanari's and Chavi's work raises awareness about the root causes of conflicts in Egypt and opens possibilities to handle them in a nonviolent way.

Chavi and Yanari* work at an advisory agency that contributes to the development of the Egyptian society by giving advice and training and by networking and research. They are committed to the cause of social justice through the full participation of society's different sec-



tors, especially those who are most marginalized, like women and the disabled. They provide support and assistance to civil society organizations in specific technical and organizational areas, with the aim of strengthening their role and capacity, as well as assisting them in recognizing and addressing the needs of their target groups.

The employees of the consultancy agency see themselves as a group of visionaries, NGO activists and professionals, working at the long-term goals of civil society in Egypt and the Arab World. They want to achieve a democratic society with a strong, independent, influential and vibrant civil society, which represents the needs and interests of the diverse social sectors and movements in society, and has the capacity to influence policies, locally, regionally and globally. Their belief is that through the emancipation of marginal groups, the country can become a just democracy.

Both men and women are employed in the agency. The working conditions are worker-friendly, for instance, there is a good arrangement for pregnancy leave. They want their organisation to be a model of how good care of employees benefits the working atmosphere and the results. That is why they do not act as ad-

visors who know everything, but work as partners with their clients. They help them to formulate what they need and thus adapt the training and advice.

Chavi and Yanari prefer not to have the name of their organisation mentioned in this publication, because the political situation in Egypt is not safe. The country is instable, and they do not want to be in the public eye. Sometimes the office is suddenly raided or broken into. Their office is an open building, where people can come in freely.

Many precautions are needed, in order not to endanger their whole network in case of a control. There are safety cameras in the office, the employees are well aware not to talk about what they are doing. Only one key person knows the important information, so that crucial information cannot be found with other colleagues. They do not advertise for their work, but by word-of-mouth there is always work enough. Thus, they keep a low profile, in order to be able to con-

tinue their work undisturbed. Obviously, this situation causes lots of stress for the employees. That is one of the reasons why the employees are well taken care of: care for their personal well-being and sometimes given a few days off together.

They do see good results from their work. Several groups that have been trained by them are now large, well-known organizations. Many women who have had training, come back later for advice, because, when applying what they learned in the training, they meet resistance. That strong link with their clients shows the changing impact their work often has.

** Chavi and Yanari are not the real names of these women. For their safety, it is better not to publish their names. Also the picture of the Egyptian woman has nothing to do with Chavi and Yanari's work. However, it shows the courage and determination of many Egyptian women to improve the situation in their country.*

After a training about Human Rights for a group of women, one of the participants came to Yanari and told her that now she understood that she should not have forced her daughter to wear the veil. The girl did not want to, but the mother had been very harsh and forced her. "Now I will talk with my daughter and listen to her opinion", she said. Later, Yanari heard that the daughter immediately, and happily, took off the veil. However, after some time, she realized that in her hometown, which was far from Cairo, it would be better, after all, to wear the veil when going out in the street.

Another example is of a young woman who had been forced to marry an old, sick man, for whom she had to take care. The contact with Yanari made her realize, that she had to take her life into her own hands. She dared to get a divorce and now has an interesting job. She is still in contact with Yanari.

Provoking Peace

Indonesia: Moluccas

In 2000, Christian women and Muslim women from the Moluccan community in the Netherlands founded the organisation Women for Peace in the Moluccas, because they wanted to do something about the interreligious violence in their country of origin. The organisation works at conflict prevention in the Indonesian province, where even today riots can blaze up suddenly. It stimulates inter-religious dialogue, participation of women in village councils, and it provokes peace.

Shortly after the beginning of the Ramadan, around Christmas 1998, unexpectedly serious riots broke out between Christians and Muslims. These violent clashes led to a civil war that would continue until 2004. Many times new clashes broke out.

The start of the violence shocked the Moluccan community in the Netherlands. In November 2000 a group of women organised a silent walk for peace. Muslim women and Christian women together took the initiative to found the organisation Women for Peace in the Moluccas (VvVM). VvVM wants to contribute to sustainable peace-building in the Moluccas and in the Moluccan community in the Netherlands by initiating joint activities for Muslims and Christians and by maintaining an interreligious dialogue.

Although the conflict officially has ended, tensions still exist between followers of both religions. Regularly, enmities break out again, and it still is important to monitor the peace and to intervene timely when escalation is imminent. That is why VvVM continues its activities focused on the empowerment of women in peace-building. VvVM cooperates with

religious leaders and women's organisations in the Moluccas and organises – among others – trainings to make women conscious of their capacities and their power to contribute to a peaceful society. An important goal is the participation of women in the public domain, for instance, in village councils.

From 2009, VvVM has worked with a long-term project on women's capacity building for peace work. Especially the trainings on 'political participation for women turn out to be very effective, because these are based on the local situation of the women. In 2014, the year that Indonesia elects a new president, the trainings are being held in five different regions in the Moluccas.

In May 2014, 10 women and 10 men from six villages in the district Maluku Tengah came together for the training on 'participative planning'. The goal was to stimulate the women from the villages to participate in the village councils. Every village sent the secretary, the imam or a board member of the church and one or two active women. The participants were amazed that during the training it became clear that there was no ban for-

women to take part in the village council. A practice exercise made clear that specific tasks and roles that men and women find normal for themselves are based on a wrong interpretation of traditional and religious beliefs. The trainer explained in clear words that the only real difference between a man and a woman is that the woman can have a child and the man has a penis. This fact is the only thing that cannot be changed by people, and every other difference is created by people and, hence, can be changed by people. This exercise was an eye-opener for both men and women.



Although women's joining the village councils is a long process, the format of this training is a successful one. This is because it is both emancipating and gender sensitive, and also contains an inter-religious encounter, which is necessary for a sustainable peace.

A group of peace activists in the Moluccas, consisting of youth, women, men and religious leaders from the Muslim community and the Christian community calls itself Peace Provokers, because they provoke peace. At first sight, this looks like a contradiction, because provoking is mostly a negative action. However, the Peace Provokers give the word a new, positive meaning.

Riots on the Moluccas often start because some people spread rumours on purpose about increasing religious violence. They try to cause anxiety. The Peace Provokers use the social media – text messages, Internet forums, blogs, Facebook and Twitter – to refute the rumours. This also influences the traditional media, because they take over the messages from the Peace Provokers.

Apart from the use of social media, also face-to-face contact is very important. When tensions arise the imam and the minister meet each other in a public space to give the signal that the situation is safe. The Peace Provokers use a method that consists of four Cs: Clarify the situation, Counter the false rumours, Create alternatives and Connect people. They say: *"We don't have a concrete answer on how to make peace. This is not a recipe, but it is a method to work for peace. The use of social media is one of the tools."*

Attention for Human Rights Abuses

Palestine:

In 2011, Ghada Zeidan and other Palestinians living in the Netherlands founded the organisation Palestine Link. Palestine Link wants to put the Palestinian issue on the agenda in a positive way, refute the stereotypes and defend the rights and interests of Palestinians. The organisation strives for justice as a condition for a sustainable peace in Palestine.

The Dutch media often show a stereotypical image of Palestine. Palestine Link wants to change this image by giving a more nuanced picture of religious and cultural diversity, and especially of the Palestinian nonviolent resistance against the occupation. It feeds the press, politics and the Dutch public with alternative information not covered in the mainstream media, for instance by publishing an electronic newsletter. Palestine Link's website and Facebook page function as a platform for information in which all aspects of Palestine get attention. Palestine Link also organises open activities in different places in the Netherlands, like a college tour along Dutch universities, an exposition about Palestinian children in Israeli prisons (as part of the Dutch Coalition for Palestinian Children) and the screening of the film 'Where shall the Birds Fly?' about the situation of women and girls during successive attacks on Gaza.

Palestine Link wants to influence the reporting about Palestine, the public opinion, the Dutch point of view and the political decision-making around the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Palestine Link brings Israel's human rights abuses to the forefront, for instance by visiting Palestine together with

Dutch experts. It also supports nonviolent resistance against the occupation and the colonisation. Together with gate48, an organisation of Israelis living in the Netherlands, who oppose the occupation of Palestine, it organised discussions between human rights organisations in Palestine and Israel about juridical liability for the latest Israeli attack at the Gaza strip. Dutch experts were also present at these meetings.

Since 2012, Palestine has the status of 'state that is not a member' at the United Nations. Since then, it has signed a number of relevant international treaties in the field of human rights and women's rights. In the meantime the first steps have been made to develop a national action plan for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325.

Among the NGOs that work on this issue, there is much discussion about the applicability of 1325 to the specific situation of Palestine under Israeli occupation. They doubt whether the resolution is sufficient to protect Palestinian women and girls, since the Palestinian government is not able to act independently in the colonial settler situation. The Palestinian women's movement thinks that specific recommendations are necessary

for the protection of the Palestinian people, including women and children, and has proposed these to the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Palestine Link was a member of the delegation of women that presented the story of the Palestinian women at the UN Human Rights Council. The Council did independent research on the events in Gaza (2014). The women wanted

to call on the research commission to explicitly incorporate into the research the effects of the violence on especially women and girls. Palestine Link brought the Palestinian women's organisation into contact with Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). WILPF organised the programme for the delegation, including an



Delegation of Palestinian women at the UN Human Rights Council.

extra meeting where the Palestinian women could present their vision on their situation and participation to a broader public. They also spoke with lawyers, specialists in the field of liability, about possible concrete steps, like building up files about crimes against women and girls.

College Tour

In May 2014, Palestine Link organised a college tour along universities in Amsterdam, Leiden and The Hague. The guest teacher was Dr. Nadera Shalhoub-Kevorkian, feminist and activist, Professor at the Faculty of Rights at Hebrew University, and Director of the Gender Studies Program at Mada al-Karmel in Haifa. She has written many international publications. She spoke about her research in the field of gender and violence, power abuse, trauma and restoration of the militarised and colonised regions. With her lecture, she gave Dutch students and interested people insight into the issue of women, peace and security from a Palestinian feminist perspective. She spoke about the experiences with violence of women in situations of armed conflict and military occupation, with East-Jerusalem as an example. She also showed how the militarisation of the public and private space influences the lives of women and with what challenges they are being confronted.

Women as Leaders

Sudan: Darfur

Darfur is a densely populated area with about eight million inhabitants. It has been, and still is, seriously neglected by the national politics. This is one of the causes of the war that started in 2003 and, actually, still continues. The work of the Association VOND mobilises the women in Darfur, makes them conscious of their potential to play a leading role in opposing the violence and to resolve the underlying conflicts.

Mekka Abdelkabar founded the Association VOND (Women's Organisation Netherlands-Darfur) in May 2005. The objective of the Association is to organise solidarity between women in the Netherlands and women in Sudan, especially in Darfur. Tribalism strengthens and complicates the conflicts. After the official ending of the war, the violence still continues; many are killed and this obstructs reconstruction and prevents international help arriving in the right place.

The women in Darfur are often the breadwinners in their families, because the men were absent because of the war. The women became more self-supporting and were making their own decisions. But most of them are illiterate. Some women who are educated, like teachers or nurses, form a link between the authorities and the other women. Together with respected elder women, they function as peace activists who have contacts with the various fighting groups and with the local leaders in order to re-



alise peace and reconciliation. Association VOND wants to empower the women in Darfur and support them in their effort to bring peace. Continuing from that, the objective is to help Darfur with rebuilding and developing. That is why VOND does projects in cooperation with other organizations. VOND's activities include lobbying for peace and reconciliation in Sudan, empowering women and youth in Darfur through information, capacity-building, educating women, supporting Darfuri women's organisations in designing projects and looking for project funding. It also stimulates social and cultural contacts between women from Darfur, in Sudan and in the Netherlands. VOND cooperates with Dutch organizations to promote integration of migrant women and their children through organising social and cultural activities.

VOND is a member of the Sudan working group for the implementation of the Dutch Action Plan 1325 and initiated a four-year project for Female Leadership in peace building in Darfur. Since 2007 VOND has been bringing women in Darfur together in order to

form more social cohesion. After a four day workshop in Khartoum, the Darfuri women founded a platform. From this platform the work continues with the project LEAP, Women's Leadership for Peace-building in Darfur, which aims at strengthening women's leadership and promoting women's political participation.

Sixteen women from Darfur and ten journalists from Khartoum are being trained to enhance the visibility of women's peace-building initiatives, nationally and internationally. The goal is for female leadership to become more prominent and for women to participate more in local politics, especially in the field of peace-building.

Finally, the training has taken place in two phases: in September and in November 2013. This pilot project was completed with a report in December 2013. The LEAP project assembles several objectives of the Dutch Action Plan 1325: cooperation of women from diaspora, migrants and peace movements in the implementation of resolution 1325. The project is also a source of information about local situations, actors and possible coalitions.

One of the trainers in the pilot project LEAP tells: On Monday, we planned an open day to present the new organisation Women's Alliance for Peace in Darfur. The chairwoman did nicely, and representatives of every province spoke shortly and clearly. The good thing was, that 'everyone' had come: UNICEF, UN-Women, the Dutch Embassy, the Sudanese women's union, the Ministry of Social Affairs, etc. together with about 20 VIPs and journalists who all offered support to the newborn. It became even a bit moving, when a famous journalist, an elder said that this was a historic moment, which reminded him of his mother. Her father had decided to send her to school, against all traditions. She was then the only girl in the classroom.

Making Space for Peace International

Where people stand up for their rights and then get into danger, Peace Brigades International (PBI) helps them. In the most dangerous situations they help with the presence of international observers. PBI does not resolve conflicts, but helps human rights activists to manage their conflicts in a nonviolent way.

PBI is an international NGO, recognized by the United Nations that has been promoting nonviolence and protecting human rights since 1981. "Protective accompaniment" is the strategy pioneered by PBI for protecting human rights defenders and communities whose lives and work are threatened by political violence. Human rights defenders are active in their home country in fighting abuse, injustice and impunity. They often are in personal danger, because the mighty persons or organizations they oppose, will threaten, kidnap, torture or kill them. Women are extra vulnerable. The fact that they openly give their opinion can be a reason for social exclusion, sexual assault or rape.

The presence of foreign volunteers often provides good protection, because the volunteers come from a large, interna-



tional network that is able to give publicity to the abuse. Nowadays, PBI protects human rights defenders in Colombia, Honduras, Guatemala, Mexico and Kenya. The work of PBI is creating Space for Peace, making it possible for human rights defenders to work safely on solutions for their own conflicts.

PBI has country groups in 16 countries worldwide: Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, UK and USA. The task of the country groups is to find, prepare and support field volunteers. Country groups also build support networks to prevent threats against human rights defenders or respond to the threats by publicity and international pressure. The country groups also fundraise for their own work and that of the projects. They raise the profile of human rights defenders and PBI through publications and public events, and advocate for national and international human rights protection. The ultimate goal is to have more national and better international laws that protect human rights all over the world, and that governments indeed obey those laws.

In May 2014, PBI the Netherlands organized a study conference for female human rights defenders, in order to provide them with tools for their safety.

A group of women from conflict regions like Palestine, Afghanistan and Egypt, but also Latin American countries, designed a safety plan for their own situation during the workshops. At the end of the conference, the women wrote a Manifest, which they presented to the Dutch Ambassador for Human Rights. In the Manifest, they call on the Dutch government to continue and intensify its support for

human rights defenders and to plea in Europe for a better implementation of existing rules. Most importantly, that in the government's human rights policy the gender perspective will be better outlined, because women are in double danger, both because of their work as human rights defenders and because of their female sex in the patriarchal societies.

Lorena Cabnal

Many girls growing up in the Xinca society already have four or five children when they are 18 years of age. Involuntarily, they are at the mercy of their husbands who 'own' them. Lorena Cabnal decided to do something about this situation. She founded the AMISMAXAJ (Association of Indigenous Women of Santa Maria Xalapan). The organisation now consists of 75 women, representing 15 Xinca societies. The work of the association is the opposition of patriarchal, neo-liberal, racist and homophobic suppression.



In the beginning it was difficult for Lorena, because she did not get support from her family. Her family was afraid that she would be assaulted or even be killed. Nowadays the community supports her work, but sometimes it is complicated because of the historic traditions and the men-women roles. In 2004, Lorena received the first death threat. Since that time she has been threatened several times because of her reports of sexual abuse of women, and her demands for the recognition of the women's ethnic identity as indigenous Indians. She also opposed the mining companies in the Jalapá region. She still suffers from threats and intimidation. That is why she is being accompanied by PBI since 2009.

A positive result is that the Indian Xinca government now takes the organisation seriously; they even ask Lorena for advice. The Xinca people are now visible as an ethnic identity. Another important success is the empowerment of the Xinca women, for instance by political training. "We want more women in the Xinca government, because today, it only consists of men", Lorena said. Finally, a huge success is that where at first only two women in the organisation could read and write, now the whole group can. Lorena said, "I think that the Xinca women have progressed enormously. It has been a difficult struggle, but we could reach this result by our persistence, by not giving up and by our collective power"

Building on Worldwide Experiences in Women's Peace Work

International

The Women Peacemakers Program is an important pivot inside the women's peace movement. It maintains a worldwide network of organisations and persons involved in nonviolent gender-sensitive peace-building, especially by organising trainings and partner consultations. The exchange of experience and knowledge weaves a network in which innovative ideas and insights are being developed for an effective way of civil peace work.

The Women Peacemakers Program (WPP) was founded in 1997, at the insistence of women peace activists who wanted more gender consciousness inside the international peace movement and more recognition of women's peace work.

Originally, WPP was a program of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation (IFOR) and in 2012 became an independent organisation. The goal stayed the same: to give attention to the crucial role of women in peace-building and to strengthen the voice of women peace activists. WPP wants to reach this goal through gender-sensitive active nonviolence (GSANV).

GSANV is being used as a lens to analyse conflicts and as a strategy to reach a sustainable peace. WPP practices a broad gender approach, not only restricted to women. Through the recommendation of women activists, they also pay specific attention to the involvement of men and masculinity in connection with armed and unarmed conflict and peace. Active nonviolence means creating nonviolent solutions of conflicts by civilians, to create sustainable peace based on the daily reality of people in conflict areas, their

wishes and their needs. WPP's approach is focused on constructive dialogue and cooperation, as an alternative to armed and military intervention to resolve conflict.

A central point in WPP's work is the organising of regional Trainings for Trainers (ToTs) about GSANV. These trainings are tailor-made in order to connect optimally with the participants' wishes and needs: men and women (peace activists and activists from civil society who work on the national and/or the international level). Teachers at the ToT are trainers from the region who are aware of the sensitivities inside the local culture. Next to this, guest trainers bring in specific knowledge and capacities according to participants' needs, for instance, in the field of lobbying. Apart from theoretic and practical training, participants are encouraged to initiate local activities. Examples of such local initiatives are: informing the media about GSANV in Sri Lanka and Nepal, workshops and media publications for creating consciousness of violence against women in Pakistan and Bangladesh and working with youth in Africa, focussing on breaking through the spiral of violence.

With only three employees, WPP is a small organisation. Nevertheless, it has an enormous outreach through its network. Through the years a strong worldwide network has grown from peace organisations and women's groups that work in the field of GSANV. Regularly, WPP organises regional and international consultations where activists can exchange experiences, identify problems and invent new strategies for the needs of activists to strengthen their nonviolent actions. These consultations, in turn, give input to the training curriculum of the ToTs.

In order to broaden attention for civil peace work and women's participation and leadership in peace processes, WPP gathers the stories and experiences from the activists and publishes these through her monthly newsletter 'Cross the Lines',



the WPP website and the social media. Annually, around May 24, the International Women's day for Peace and Disarmament, WPP publishes a booklet about a relevant theme, related to women, peace and security, for instance, masculinity, militarism and the role of religion. Besides this, WPP uses her expertise to lobby for attention for the new practical insights from the network. In this way, WPP successfully puts the role of religion in women's peace work on the agenda and continues to ask attention for masculinity in the implementation of resolution 1325.

Sumshot Khular from Manipur (India) organised, in the framework of WPP's Asia ToT 2012, a training to contribute to a peaceful co-existence in North East India. Participants were 20 young women and men, representatives of local groups. To break with the tradition that gender is being taught by women, she asked a male trainer to co-facilitate this course. She noticed that this made the male participants feel freer to share their experiences and ideas about gender and masculinity. They said that for the first time they realised how patriarchal they were themselves in their thoughts and actions. The course had helped them to take steps to be more conscious about gender equality. *"I learned that it works very well to have a male co-trainer especially when you speak about gender and patriarchy and link this with violence and militarism. Sharing their own personal experiences is very important for male participants in order to learn and to be able to handle the challenges they are being confronted with, as role models,"* says Sumshot.

The Platform Women & Sustainable Peace

The Platform Women & Sustainable Peace (Platform VDV) was created through cooperation between Dutch women's organisations and peace organisations. The Platform aims at strengthening women's situation in the Netherlands and outside the country, in order for the women to contribute equally to the prevention of war, to sustainable peace and to reconstruction after a violent conflict. The Platform VDV is involved in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325. That is why the Platform VDV also signed the Dutch National Action Plan 1325.

After a joint workshop *Women and Armed Conflict*, at the manifestation Beijing +10 in 2005, Dutch women organisations and diaspora organisations joined their forces to improve the work on peace and security. Thus the Platform VDV was founded.

The Platform VDV's mission is to promote sustainable peace by stimulating the cooperation between women and men in armed and unarmed conflict situations and in conflict regions. Members of the Platform are exclusively organisations that work for a culture of peace, reconciliation and non-violence. The Dutch Women's Council and the Gender platform WO=MEN are partner organisations of the Platform VDV.



The member organisations are:

BPW-nl <i>Business & Professional Women the Netherlands</i>	www.bpwnl.org
EIRENE <i>Nederland Peace services and Volunteer work</i>	www.eirene-nederland.org
GCI <i>Gender Concerns International</i>	www.genderconcerns.nl
MWPN <i>Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network-Nederland</i>	www.mwpm.org
among which are	
• African Sky	www.africansky.nl
• Burundian Women for Peace and Development	www.burundesevrouwenvoorvrede.nl
• VON <i>Refugee organisations in the Netherlands</i>	www.vluchtelingenorganisaties.nl
• Vrouwen voor Vrede op de Molukken	www.vvvm.eu
PAX <i>Cooperation between IKV and Pax Christi</i>	www.paxvoorvrede.nl
PBI <i>Nederland Peace Brigades International</i>	www.peacebrigades.nl
Sundjata <i>Stichting Sundjata</i>	www.sundjata.nl
VOND <i>Association Women's Organisation Netherlands – Darfur</i>	
http://www.nederlandsevrouwenraad.nl/html/index.php?paginaID=675	
Vrouwen voor Vrede <i>Association Women for Peace</i>	www.vrouwenvoorvrede.nl
WILPF NL <i>Women's International League for Peace and Freedom</i>	www.wilpf.nl
WPP <i>Women Peacemakers Program</i>	www.womenpeacemakersprogram.org
YWCA the Netherlands	www.ywca.nl

Relevant Websites

The website is available in (A) Arabic, (D) Dutch, (E) English, (F) French or (S) Spanish.

Websites on Resolution 1325 and further resolutions

www.genderandsecurity.org – *Consortium on Gender, Security & Human Rights (E)*
www.nap1325.nl – *Dutch National Action Plan on Resolution 1325 (D)*.
www.peacewomen.org – *Project of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (E)*.
www.stoprapienow.org – *UN Action against sexual violence in conflict (E)*
www.womenpeacesecurity.org – *NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (E)*

Websites of Women's and Diaspora Organisations

www.fasngo.org – *Femmes Africa Solidarité (E) (F)*.
www.femmeaufone.net – *Femme au Fone (D) (E) (F) (S)*.
www.francophonefund.org – *FADHAF – Fonds pour l'avancement des droits humains des femmes d'Afrique Francophone (E) (F)*. (Fund for the promotion of human rights for francophone African Women)
www.gate48.org – *Platform for critical Israelis in the Netherlands (E)*.
www.genuinesecurity.org – *Women for Genuine Security (E)*.
www.inclusivesecurity.org – *The Institute for Inclusive Justice (E)*.
www.limpalcolombia.org – *WILPF Colombia (E) (S)*.
www.mucoprdc.nl – *Mucop is an association of Congolese women in the Netherlands (D)*.
www.nederlandsevrouwenraad.nl – *Dutch Council of Women (D)*.
www.palestinelink.nl – *Palestine Link (D) (E)*.
www.wand.org – *Women's Action for New Directions (E)*.
www.womenforwomen.org – *Women for Women International (E)*.
www.womeninblack.org – *Women in Black (E) (F) (S)*.
www.wo-men.nl – *WO=MEN, WO=MEN, Dutch Gender Platform (D)*.
www.ywca.nl – *YWCA the Netherlands (D)*.

Websites on Civilian Peace Work

www.crisisgroup.org – *International Crisis Group (A) (E) (F)*.
www.eplo.org – *European Peacebuilding Liaison Office (E)*.
www.ifor.org – *International Fellowship of Reconciliation (E)*.
www.international-alert.org – *International Alert (E)*.
www.unoy.org/unoy/ – *United Network of Young Peacebuilders (E)*.

Websites of Human Rights and Development Organisations

www.amnesty.org – Amnesty International (A) (E) (F) (S).

www.cordaid.org – Cordaid (D) (E) (F).

www.globalactionpw.org – Global Action to Prevent War and Armed Conflict (E).

www.globaljusticecenter.net – Global Justice Center (E).

www.hivos.nl – HIVOS the Netherlands (D) (E).

www.hrw.org – Human Rights Watch (A) (E) (F) (S).

www.iansa.org – International Action Network on Small Arms (E) (F) (S).

www.impunitywatch.org – Impunity Watch (E).

www.unwomen.org – UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (E) (F) (S).



Women Peace 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 brides 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 decisions-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, particu-

larly 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;

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 Mem-

ber 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>



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