



**WHEN WOMEN LEAD, PEACE FOLLOWS:
25 YEARS OF THE WOMEN, PEACE AND
SECURITY AGENDA AT THE
UNITED NATIONS**



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UN Women

New York, 2026



INTRODUCTION

Over the last 25 years, UN Women, and its predecessor organizations, have worked across multiple entry points, across multiple regions, and with multiple actors to move the WPS agenda forward.

UN Women is uniquely able to understand the shifting dynamics and urgent needs of women and girls because of our strong partnerships with local civil society. At the same time, UN Women works in partnership with Member States to channel the messages of local women into national, regional, and global decision-making spaces.

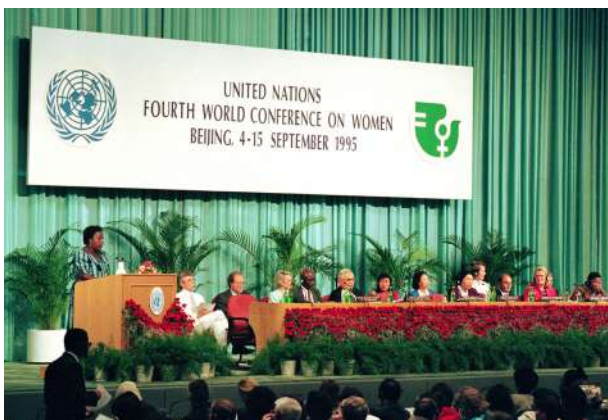
This timeline demonstrates that sometimes what looks like a series of seemingly unrelated activities is actually a set of strategic choices, gaining momentum and coalescing over time to affect larger impacts—as small streams flow into a mighty river.

This timeline also shows that the WPS agenda can be a solution to even the most entrenched conflicts—yet it is a solution that has never been fully implemented. The successes showcased in this timeline suggest that with broader—and deeper—political support and adequate financing, the transformative potential of the WPS agenda can be realized.

Before 2000

Concern for women and girls in conflict mobilized action by civil society, feminist activists, and Member States. Collectively, their work has created fertile ground for the era of the women, peace, and security agenda at the UN.

[Learn more](#)



UNSC unanimously adopts resolution 1325 (2000), urging an enhanced role for women in preventing conflict, promoting peace and post-conflict reconstruction.

UN Photo/Milton Grant

2000-2002

2000

- **UNIFEM and Nelson Mandela Ensure Women's Participation in Burundi Peace Talk**

UNIFEM convenes the All-Party Burundi Women's Peace Conference, invites Nelson Mandela who relays their demands to the Arusha Peace Process.

[Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 1325 (2000) [S/RES/1325 (2000)]**

Presented by Namibia. Affirms, for the first time at the Security Council, the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peacebuilding and governance.

[Learn more](#)



UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1325. **UN Photo/Milton Grant**

2001

- **Afghan Women Contribute To Rebuilding Their Country**

UNIFEM sponsored two historic conferences to push for women's participation and leadership as Afghanistan seeks to rebuild itself after decades of conflict and crises. [Learn more](#)



Women parliamentarians of the Afghan Lower House (Wolesi Jirga or "House of the People") arrive at their inauguration ceremony in Kabul (2001). **UN Photo/Eric Kanalestein**

2002

- **UNIFEM Publishes Women, War, Peace Report**

UNIFEM publishes an eye-opening report highlighting women's experiences in conflict and crises, contributing to a nascent evidence base on women in war and peace. [Learn more](#)

- **Afghanistan – Women in Kabul Demand a Role in Rebuilding the Country**

UNIFEM continues to support women and push for their meaningful inclusion and leadership in Afghanistan. [Learn more](#)

- **The International Criminal Court is Born**

After the 1996 Rome Statute treaty, the International Criminal Court becomes operational and eventually leads to first ever convictions for crimes of sexual and gender-based violence. [Learn more](#)

2003-2007

2003

- **When Liberian Women Led, Peace Followed**

Liberian women, tired of being shut out of a stalled peace process, take matters into their own hands, with dramatic results for peace. [Learn more](#)

2004

- **First Somali Woman Signs Peace Agreement**

Asha Hagi Elmi forms a “Sixth Clan” to challenge the dominance of the five traditional Somali all-male clans, ensuring women’s participation in the negotiations for peace. [Learn more](#)

- **Betty Bigombe Leads the Way to Peace in Northern Uganda**

Peace activist Betty Bigombe displays extraordinary courage and determination to bring combatants to identify pathways to peace. Her efforts enabled others to engage in the peace process. [Learn more](#)

2005

- **The Peacebuilding Commission: A New Tool for Peace is Established**

The Peacebuilding Commission is established, forming the first piece in a vital new funding architecture for peace. [Learn more](#)

- **World’s First National Action Plan on WPS is adopted by Denmark**

2006

- **Attacks on Darfuri Women Underscore Importance of Women’s Participation in Peace**

UNIFEM supports the Gender Expert Support Team to ensure women’s rights were addressed in peace accords. [Learn more](#)

2007

- **First all-female Peacekeeping Unit is Deployed**

India deploys the world’s first ever all-women peacekeeping unit.



In observance of International Women’s Day, participants march from the centre of Monrovia to the Temple of Justice, home of the Liberian Supreme Court, where they staged a peaceful sit-in protest against gender-based violence. Liberia, 2007. **UN Photo/Eric Kanalstein**



2005 - UN Security Council adopts Resolution 1646 on establishing a Peacebuilding Commission. **UN Photo/Devra Berkowitz**

2008-2009

2008

- **Putting Sexual Violence on the Agenda of the Security Council**

UNIFEM organizes conference bringing together members of military and security sector to confront the scourge of sexual violence in conflict, leading to a new WPS Security Council resolution. [Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 1820 (2008)[S/RES/1820(2008)] Puts Spotlight on Rape in War**

Presented by the USA. Recognises sexual violence as a tactic of war and a matter of international peace and security that necessitates a security response. [Learn more](#)

2009

- **UNIFEM Deploys a Gender Expert to an Investigation for the First Time**

In the aftermath of horrific attacks, UNIFEM deploys a gender expert to the UN investigation in Guinea, establishing an important precedent for UN-led investigations, and a critical step forward in accountability for gender-based violence. [Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 1888 (2009) [S/RES/1888(2009)]**

Presented by the USA. Strengthens efforts to end sexual violence in conflict. [Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 1889 (2009) [S/RES/1889(2009)]**

Presented by Viet Nam. Establishes indicators for the monitoring of resolution 1325 and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding. [Learn more](#)

- **Building and Sustaining Peace in Liberia – Women-led Peace Huts are a Model of Sustaining Peace in Liberia**

UNIFEM helps a network of Peace Huts to take root and prevent conflicts across Liberia. [Learn more](#)



Anne-Marie Goetz – Security Council press conference. UN Photo/Sophia Paris



Hoang Chi Trung, Viet Nam's Deputy Permanent Representative, delivers a statement condemning the killing of protesters in Guinea (2009). UN Photo/Ryan Brown



Members of the Bo Waterside Women's Peace Hut, Liberia, 2022. UN Women/Gloriah Ganyani

2010-2011

2010

- **UNIFEM Hosts First Annual Global Open Day for Peace**

To commemorate the 10 year anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325, UNIFEM launches the Open Day for Peace initiative, as a way to encourage increased understanding and implementation of the WPS agenda. [Learn more](#)

- **UN Women is Established**

A powerful force for women's empowerment and gender equality — including the mandate for WPS — is established in the UN system.

[Learn more](#)

- **7-Point Action Plan to Increase Women's Participation in Peace**

A set of minimum standards on gender-responsive peacebuilding mobilizes the UN system and Member States to concrete action on WPS. [Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 1960 (2010) [S RES/1960(2010)]**

Presented by the USA. Establishes a monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict.

[Learn more](#)



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses a meeting on the review of the Peacebuilding Commission (2010). **UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe**

2011

- **Nobel Committee Awards Three Women Activists with the Nobel Peace Prize.**

Recognizing the importance of women, peace and security, the Nobel Committee jointly award the Nobel Peace Prize to Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman for their non-violent activism and work in promoting peace, democracy and gender equality.

- **The UN Peacebuilding Fund Launches the Gender Promotion Initiative**

The UN channels more funding to women's empowerment in peace and security contexts.

[Learn more](#)



Dignitaries gather to celebrate the launch of UN Women **UN Photo/Ryan Brown**

2012-2014

2012

- **Women Lead the Way to Peace in Bangsamoro**

Miriam Coronel-Ferrer leads the government of the Philippines in negotiations for peace in Bangsamoro. [Learn more](#)

- **Women Demand Inclusion in the Mali Peace Process:**

UN Women pushes for Malian women's inclusion in peace negotiations, and supports women peacebuilders and local women leaders to continue advocacy efforts. [Learn more](#)

- **Peace is not a Project – The Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) Marks a New Approach to Funding for Impact**

Through the Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) Sweden, later joined by Norway, recognizes that traditional funding models don't meet the needs for peace and equality, and establishes a new strategic partnership framework that provides long-term, flexible funding, catalysing UN Women's work and multiplying its impact. [Learn more](#)

- **Investigators on Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Situations – A New Era for Justice**

UN Women partners with Justice Rapid Response to develop a roster of experts to expand available gender expertise in UN investigations. [Learn more](#)

2013

- **Resolution 2106 (2013) [S/RES/2106(2013)]**

Presented by the UK. Focuses on accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict; stresses women's political and economic empowerment. [Learn more](#)

- **Resolution 2122 (2013) [S/RES/2122(2013)]**

Presented by Azerbaijan. Addresses persistent gaps in implementing the women, peace and security agenda. [Learn more](#)

- **CEDAW Gives Crucial Guidance on Women in Conflict**

UN Women provides technical support to the CEDAW Committee for the development of general recommendation 30. [Learn more](#)



Miriam Coronel-Ferrer leads peace negotiations in Bangsamoro, advancing women's leadership in peace-building. **Photo: Joser C. Dumbrique** for the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue



UN Women supports Malian women's participation in peace talks and strengthens local women peace-builders' advocacy efforts. **UN Photo/Kani Sissoko**

2014-2015

2014

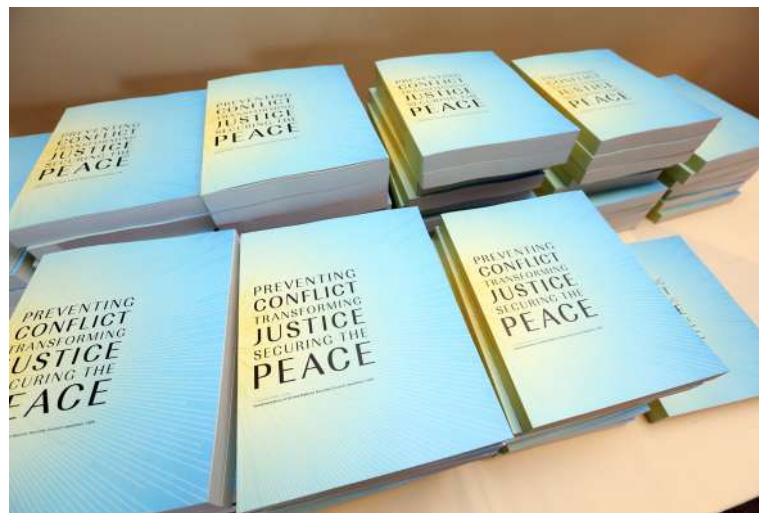
- **Syrian Women for Peace Conference**
UN Women helps advance demands for women's participation in the Syrian peace process, and pushes for the appointment of a gender advisor, resulting in the establishment in the Syrian Women's Advisory Board. [Learn more](#)
- **African Union Commission Chairperson Appoints the Special Envoy on WPS**
Bineta Diop is appointed Special Envoy to the AUC on WPS, to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa and contribute to the overall African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA). [Learn more](#)

2015

- **Local Women Prevent Conflicts and Mediate Peace as Crisis Re-emerges in Burundi**
In the aftermath of Burundi's devastating conflict, UN Women helps a network of women working to prevent conflict and build peace. [Learn more](#)
- **High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations (HIPPO) Report**
The HIPPO report sets out four recommendations regarding the WPS agenda, which are re-iterated in resolution 2242 later the same year and also lay the foundation for the Elsie Initiative Fund.
- **Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: The Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325**
The first ever comprehensive analysis of the first 15 years of implementation of the WPS agenda is published, along with concrete recommendations to drive further progress. [Learn more](#)
- **Resolution 2242 (2015) [S/RES/2242(2015)]**
Presented by Spain. 2242 establishes the Informal Experts Group (IEG); addresses persistent obstacles in implementing the WPS agenda, including financing and institutional reforms; focuses on greater integration of the agendas on WPS and counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism; and calls for improved Security Council working methods on women, peace, and security, and is the first time that climate is mentioned within a WPS resolution. [Learn more](#)
- **The Security Council Recognizes the Importance of Young People**
The Security Council recognizes that young people, including young women, are powerful agents for peace and sustainability. [Learn more](#)
- **The Female Military Officers Course Aims to Increase the Number of Women Deployed as Peacekeepers**
UN Women works with key partners to prepare women in uniform for deployment as peacekeepers. [Learn more](#)



WPHF Supports a Nation-Wide Network of Women Mediators across Burundi, February 2018. Photo: WPHF/Matthew Rullo



Launch of Global Study on UNSC Resolution 1325 Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



Participants at the FMOC hosted in China Photo: UN Women

2015-2016

- **Nordic Women Mediators Network Unites for Women's Participation**

Women from five countries unite to form the first in a number of new regional women's mediator networks actively pushing for women's participation in mediation and peacebuilding. [Learn more](#)

2016

- **UN Women Advances the Importance of Women in CT/PVE**

UN Women ensures that the UN system and Member States see women's valuable role in countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism.

[Learn more](#)

- **The Security Council's Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security is Established**

The IEG becomes an essential tool to channel information on women in conflict contexts to the Security Council. [Learn more](#)

- **The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPFH) Begins Channeling Funding to Women's Civil Society in Fragile Settings Worldwide**

Thousands of women peacebuilders and WHRDs benefit directly from the financing, capacity strengthening and advocacy support of this revolutionary new funding mechanism. [Learn more](#)

- **Focal Points Network on Women, Peace and Security (FPN):**

Member States have a strong network to advance and evolve National Action Plans on WPS. [Learn more](#)

- **In Syria, New Possibilities for Women's Inclusion in Peace**

The Syrian Women's Advisory Board is Established to Ensure Women Are Considered in Peace Negotiations.

[Learn more](#)

- **Justice for the Indigenous Women of Sepur Zarco**

UN Women supports a holistic effort to achieve justice for the Abuelas of Sepur Zarco. [Learn more](#)



Accelerating the Women's Movement for Peace and Humanitarian Action: Innovating & Challenging the Status Quo Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



Syrian Women Activists speak at UN Women Press Conference Photo: UN Women



Guatemala - Sepur Zarco case: The Guatemalan women who rose for justice in a war-torn nation Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

2016

2016

- **The UN Launches the Agenda on Sustaining Peace**
Twin Security Council and General Assembly resolutions define a new approach to peace at the UN. [Learn more](#)
- **UN Commission of Inquiry Cites Sexual Violence in Genocide of the Yazidi**
UN Women-deployed expertise contributes to a report citing sexual violence as evidence of genocide of the Yazidi. [Learn more](#)
- **Peacebuilding Commission Adopts a Gender Strategy**
The Peacebuilding Commission becomes the first UN organization to adopt a gender strategy. [Learn more](#)
- **Colombian Women Make History as Part of a Model for Peace**
UN Women supports multi-year, multi-faceted efforts to build peace and recover from decades of conflict in Colombia. [Learn more](#)
- **Peacebuilding Fund Launches the Youth Promotion Initiative** [Learn more](#)
- **First Woman Civil Society Representative Briefs the Security Council on a Country-Specific Context** [Learn more](#)



Colombia - Women Peace and Security: Reintegration of former female combatants is a key piece of implementing peace. Photo: UN Women/Pedro Pio

2017-2018

2017

- **The African Women Leaders Network**
A new network of women leads the way to peaceful, resilient, inclusive societies in Africa. [Learn more](#)
- **New Regional Women Mediators Networks Create Opportunities for Inclusive Peace**
FemWise-Africa and the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network bring together women mediators and peacebuilders as a powerful source of expertise for peace and conflict prevention. [Learn more](#)

2018

- **Kosovo¹ - Reparations for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence:**
A momentous law in Kosovo delivers justice for survivors of conflict related sexual violence. UN Women works across sectors to ensure survivors are ready, willing, and able to access reparations. [Learn more](#)
- **Nobel Committee Awards Peace Prize to Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege**
In 2018, the Nobel Committee once again recognizes the importance of women, peace and security when awarding the Peace Prize to Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.
- **Supporting an Ongoing Struggle for Peace in South Sudan**
South Sudanese women hold the key to peace and prosperity—UN Women supports their efforts to advocate for their inclusion as the country rebuilds. [Learn more](#)
- **ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation Launches the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR)**
[Learn more](#)
- **First Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security: Elevating Young Women's Leadership**
[Learn more](#)



African Women Leaders Network - Launch events at UNHQ. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown



Doris Poni Mogga, South Sudanese lawyer within UNMISS, bringing mobile courts to conflict-affected and remote areas of South Sudan Photo: UNMISS



Gender Responsive Peacebuilding - Workshop with UN Volunteers Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

¹All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of UNSC resolution 1244(1999)

2019-2020

2019

- **Resolution 2467 (2019) [S/RES/2467(2019)]**
Presented by Germany. Positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda. [Learn more](#)
- **Resolution 2493 (2019) [S/RES/2493(2019)]**
Presented by South Africa.
Calls for the full implementation of all previous resolutions on women, peace and security. [Learn more](#)
- **The Elsie Initiative Fund supports governments enabling women to serve — and lead — in peace and security**
The Elsie Initiative Fund works closely with governments to promote women's ability to serve their countries, and serve on peacekeeping missions. [Learn more](#)
- **In Sudan Women Are the Face of the Revolution, but Must Fight to be Heard**
A powerful portrait of a woman activist becomes the face of a women-led revolution in Sudan. [Learn more](#)
- **The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks Spotlights Women in Peace Processes**
Building on the advances made by the Nordic Women Mediators, FemWise-Africa, and the Mediterranean Women Mediators networks, the Global Alliance launches as a powerful voice advocating for women's participation in mediation and peace processes. [Learn more](#)



"Uruguay IV" Battalion personnel performing mechanized patrols in the surroundings of Goma International Airport. Photo: "Uruguay IV" Uruguayan Army, MONUSCO



From Sudan to the Security Council: Sudanese women lead drive for change; Sudanese activists Alaa Salah, Samah Jamous and Huda Ali at UN Headquarters in New York on 30 October 2019. Photo: UN Women/Ryan Brown

2020

- **COVID-19: Global Pandemic has a Devastating Impact on Women, Peace; Calls for a Global Ceasefire goes Unanswered** [Learn more](#)
- **Women Participate in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum**
UN Women pushes past resistance, ensuring the last-minute inclusion of women in Libyan peace talks. [Learn more](#)
- **UN Women Convenes Women Civil Society Consultation on Counter-terrorism**
The Global Digital Consultation with CSOs was the first platform and concerted effort to strengthen the voices and perspectives of women CSOs in the discussion on the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. [Learn more](#)

2021-2023

2021

- **Afghanistan – Gains for Women—and Peace—Hanging by a Thread**

Years of progress on women's empowerment and inclusive peacebuilding are under threat as the Taliban retakes control. UN Women stays and delivers for Afghan women, providing a vital lifeline to what was once possible, despite threats and obstacles.

[Learn more](#)



Afghan women leaders speak at the UN: "Give us a seat at the table." Photo: UN Women/ Amanda Voisard

2022

- **Ukrainian Human Rights Organization Awarded Nobel Peace Prize**

The Center for Civil Liberties, headed by Oleksandra Matviychuk, a Ukrainian human rights defender, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work calling for the urgency of accountability for peace. [Learn more](#)

- **Women's Advisory Board for Sustainable Peacebuilding is Established in Moldova**

Following the model of the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, UN Women supports efforts of women to influence ongoing peacebuilding efforts. [Learn more](#)



Women uniformed officers taking part in an outdoor training activity Photo: UN Women/LJ Kennealy

2023

- **The Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators Launches**

UN Women supports Mexico in launching a new resource to help leverage women's expertise as peacemakers, negotiators, and mediators.

[Learn more](#)

- **In a Forgotten Conflict in Sudan, Women's Resilience Endures**

Sudanese women facing unprecedented crisis as the world looks away. UN Women continues to push for the inclusion of women mediators and negotiators.

[Learn more](#)

- **Women's Military Peace Operations Course Expands UN Women's Work to Ensure More Women in Peacekeeping**

[Learn more](#)



Mona Mohamed Omaer Hamad works with Sorkenat Organisation in Sudan to raise awareness of women's rights, peacebuilding and UN Security Council resolution 1325. Photo: UN Photo/Mona Elfateh, via UN Women

- **The First High-Level Meeting of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict**

[Learn more](#)

2023-2025

- **UN Women Stays and Delivers through MINUSMA Withdrawal**

As the peacekeepers withdraw, UN Women finds ways to ensure that progress on inclusive peace, women's protection, access to justice and other critical work under the WPS agenda continues. [Learn more](#)

2024

- **Colombia's NAP Aids Implementation of the Peace Agreement**

In Colombia, UN Women contributes to the development of a NAP on WPS as a tool to implement the peace agreement and ensure sustainable peace. [Learn more](#)

- **Led by Youth: Shaping an Inclusive Future in the Western Balkans**

UN Women supports youth in leading the way to an inclusive future in a region with a troubled past. [Learn more](#)

- **Women's Leadership Key to Recovery in Ukraine**

The Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery for Ukraine launches, with the support of UN Women, and seeks to ensure that gender-responsive recovery and response remains on the agenda for Ukraine. [Learn more](#)

2025

- **Driving Change in Policing: The High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing and UN Women's Police Adviser**

UN Women convenes the High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing to advance transformative, gender-equal, and survivor-centered policing among its members. [Learn more](#)

- **Women's Caucus Launches, Bringing Hope for Inclusive Peace in Libya**

Women are leading the way to peace in Libya. [Learn more](#)

- **Al Hol Camp Report Shines a Light on the Situation of Women and Girls**

UN Women produces the first ever report on the situation of women and girls inside Al Hol, in an effort to put women's rights at the centre of the UN integrated counter-terrorism response. [Learn more](#)

- **South-East Asian Countries Prioritize WPS in Vision for 2045**

[Learn more](#)



Young researchers and peacebuilders from the Western Balkans. Photo: UN Women



Members of civil society, government and UN Women representatives at the Ukraine Recovery Conference in Rome, 2025 Photo: UN Women

LOOKING AHEAD

The past 25 years have seen progress, stagnation, and now, it seems, regression. In some places, the points of progress we have seen have been truly transformative. Yet, we have only seen a glimpse of the potential of the WPS agenda in action. We stand at the precipice of global catastrophe: Military expenditures are rapidly increasing, cutting into investments in development and peace, while at the same time conflicts are conflagrating, becoming more entrenched, becoming deadlier. We are at a critical tipping point for the planet, with climate change driving conflicts, mass migration and displacement, and hunger. Communities are becoming more politically polarized. This moment is code red. We must respond by giving the WPS agenda our full attention and support.

This 25 year retrospective of progress on the WPS agenda offers something of an incomplete roadmap. From this vantage, we can look back and see what actions were successful in moving the needle towards peace and equality, and we can come up with a new slate of innovative strategies to push forward, against the pushback, and let women lead us to peace.

Peace is still possible, but not without urgent and substantial action. That includes truly ensuring that women and girls are not just considered, but they are included in leadership and decision-making. Women's leadership is essential to peace. Without women, there is no lasting peace.

Whenever women are given the chance to influence, to participate, to lead, peace is more achievable, more inclusive, more sustainable. WPS urges us to put women front and center.

Because when women lead, peace follows.

ANNEX

LEARN MORE ABOUT THE KEY MOMENTS ON THE TIMELINE

1. BEFORE 2000

Early efforts to address the situation of women in armed conflict include:

- The 1969 Commission on the Status of Women
- The UN 1975 to 1995 World Conferences on Women
- The 1995 Beijing Platform for Action

2. 2000

2.1. UNIFEM and Nelson Mandela Ensure Women's Participation in Burundi Peace Talks

In 1996, a devastating civil war broke out in Burundi. When parties to the conflict were brought to the peace table, women were left out. UNIFEM, together with the Mwalimu Nyerere Foundation, convened the first All-Party Burundi Women's Peace Conference in Arusha, Tanzania in July 2000 to develop a common vision for Burundi's peace and reconstruction. The recommendations from the participants were presented to Nelson Mandela, who was co-facilitating the Burundi peace talks.

Mandela's engagement and strong endorsement of women's concerns was considered a turning point for women's engagement in conflict resolution in Burundi. Many of the proposals that were developed at the UNIFEM co-organized conference were incorporated into the final peace accord. Two months after the Arusha Peace Agreement was signed, the UN passed Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, establishing the agenda in the Security Council.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Remembering Nelson Mandela's work to bring women to the table during peace talks in Burundi](#)

[From where I stand: "Women need to live a life without violence"](#)

[Photo essay: In DRC, women refugees rebuild lives, with determination and hope](#)

[From where I stand: Nahimana Fainesi](#)

[Women mediators promote peace in Burundi](#)

2.2. Resolution 1325 (2000) [S/ RES/1325 (2000)]

The passage of resolution 1325 in the Security Council marked the first time that the Council officially acknowledged the differential and disproportionate impact of war and conflict on women and girls, but also the transformative potential of women's full and meaningful participation in all aspects, at all stages, and at all levels of peace and conflict.

The resolution, and its passage, was the result of a series of events and a concerted push by women and feminist civil society groups. The inclusion of women and armed conflict as a priority area of concern in The Beijing Platform for Action, adopted in 1995; the establishment of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in 1998; the formation of the NGO Working Group on WPS in the same year; and the historic inclusion of women in the Burundian peace process in early 2000. As Security Council president in October, 2000, Namibia drew on its own experience of conflict and understanding of the devastating impact on and vital role of women, to bring the resolution to the floor.

Since then, nine supporting UN Security Council resolutions — 1820, 1888, 1889, 1960, 2106, 2122, 2242, 2467, and 2493 — have passed on women, peace and security addressing issues from sexual violence as a tactic of war to placing stronger measures for women's participation in peace processes.

3. 2001

3.1. Afghan Women Contribute To Rebuilding Their Country

After 23 years of devastating war, natural disasters, poverty and systemic marginalization, UNIFEM supported Afghan women to voice their needs and create a common vision for the future of their country, UNIFEM sponsored a historic consultation, which contributed to a national agenda on gender.

4. 2002

4.1. UNIFEM Publishes Women, War, Peace Report

After the release of the first ever [official report of the UN Secretary-General on Women, Peace, and Security](#) was produced, UNIFEM published the first Progress of the World's Women report, dedicated to women's experience in peace and conflict. The Women, War, Peace provides examples of women in embattled regions who have been able to overcome the odds and contribute to the safety and well-being of their communities and is the first report that gave a comprehensive overview of women living in conflict and crisis.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peace-Building \(Progress of the World's Women 2002, Vol. 1\)](#) | [UN Women](#).

4.2. Afghanistan – Women in Kabul Demand a Role in Rebuilding the Country

The Afghan Women's Consultation, held in Kabul in March 2002 with the support of UNIFEM, united 60 women from Kabul and seven provinces and produced a women's agenda calling for 25 per cent female representation in the loya jirga, women's participation in the drafting of the new constitution, and women's access to health care and education. The resulting agreement set the wheels in motion for improvements in the rights of women in the country, mandating that women lead several ministries and an independent human rights commission. While Afghan women and girls made significant gains at the time, their seat at the table remained

contested with only four women out of 21 within the government's negotiating team and zero within the Taliban's delegation at the 2020 peace talks.

4.3. The International Criminal Court is Born

Established by the countries of the world to investigate and prosecute the most serious war crimes, crimes against humanity, genocide and crimes of aggression the International Criminal Court (ICC) becomes operational in 2002 after its founding treaty, the Rome Statute, enters into force. Adopted at a diplomatic conference in 1996, the Rome Statute is the first international treaty of its kind to codify many crimes against women and sexual and gender-based crimes as crimes against humanity, war crimes, and in some instances genocide – a direct result of sustained campaigning by gender justice advocates. In 2014, the Office of the Prosecutor at the ICC adopted a groundbreaking policy on sexual and gender-based crimes. The ICC's first successful conviction for sexual and gender-based violence does not arrive until 2019, in the trial of Bosco Ntaganda, for crimes committed in the Democratic Republic of the Congo – an earlier conviction, in 2016, of Jean-Pierre Bemba, for crimes committed in the Central African Republic, was ultimately overturned. In 2022, the Office of the Prosecutor adopted a policy on the crime of gender persecution, and in 2023, it adopted a revised policy on gender-based crimes. In 2025, the International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants for two senior Taliban officials in Afghanistan, for crimes including gender persecution. While the path to justice remains slow, the ICC continues play an essential role in the effort to end impunity for the world's most atrocious crimes.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Comments on the development of a revised policy on sexual and gender-based crimes: Submission from UN Women to the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court](#)

[Comments on the development of a policy on the crime of gender persecution: Submission from UN Women to the Office of the Prosecutor at the International Criminal Court](#)

[Identifying gender persecution in conflict and atrocities: A toolkit for documenters, investigators, and adjudicators of crimes against humanity](#)

[Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on the conviction of Bosco Ntaganda by the International Criminal Court](#)

[Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on the conviction of Jean-Pierre Bemba by the International Criminal Court](#)

5. 2003

5.1. When Liberian Women Led, Peace

Followed After years of social mobilization, sit-ins, vigils and demonstrations against their country's relentless civil war, thousands of Liberian women, fed up, take matters one step further: they crash peace talks at a hotel in Ghana's capital Accra and threaten to disrobe as a means to shame male delegates and prevent them from leaving until a peace agreement is signed. The movement, driven by activist Leymah Gbowee, is so successful that it helps in ending a 14-year civil war. In the following years, the same grassroots peace activists play a key role in convincing combatants to lay down their weapons and in the peaceful conduct of elections in 2005 in Liberia, which result in the first democratically elected female head of state in Africa, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. The Accra Comprehensive Agreement has held for 22 years. Liberia remains a powerful example of how women's leadership contributes to peaceful societies.

6. 2004

6.1. First Somali Woman Signs Peace Agreement

Agreement In January 2004, Asha Hagi Elmi becomes the first Somali woman in history to sign a peace agreement, ending Somalia's civil war between rival clan warlords. In order to ensure women's place at the table, Somalia women, through the leadership of Asha Hagi Elmi formed a "Sixth Clan" four years earlier when peace negotiations began, which at the time only concentrated on five traditional Somali all-male clans. The ingenious move paved the way for women's voices to be heard during the 2004 Kenya-sponsored peace talks. Though met with resistance, women push for increased representation in parliament. The talks subsequently produce a charter for a new transitional federal government with Elmi as co-chair. While Somalia has adopted a 30% quota for women's representation in Parliament, as of 2024, women make up just below 20 per cent of Somalia's parliamentary seats. Activists continue to advocate for greater representation for women at a time when women's voices are as important as ever. This sustained advocacy remains critical, and both Somalia's National Action Plan on WPS and the

five local action plans provide important strategies to reinforce women's leadership and participation in decision-making.

6.2. Betty Bigombe Leads the Way to Peace in Northern Uganda

Betty Bigombe stands as one of Northern Uganda's most courageous peace advocates, breaking barriers to lead and mediate the first meaningful dialogue between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army. As state minister and a mediator, she spearheaded the groundbreaking "Bigombe Talks," rebuilding trust, inspiring community and religious leaders to rally behind peace, and shifting both the tone and trajectory of the conflict. Her efforts laid the foundation for the later Juba Peace Talks and opened political space for dialogue when few believed it possible.

UN Women has consistently supported such women-led peace efforts across Uganda, amplifying women's voices in mediation, strengthening their participation in peace processes, and ensuring that gender perspectives and the priorities of affected women and girls inform peace, recovery, and reconciliation efforts.

- Read more from UN Women:

[From Resolution 1325 to real change: Women in Uganda building peace from the ground up](#)

[A Review of Women's Engagement in Peace Processes in Ethiopia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda: Good Practices and Lessons Learned](#)

[Women peace mediators become key actors on the front lines of COVID-19 prevention in refugee settlements in Uganda](#)

["I Am Evelyn Amony": A memoir of war, rape and survival](#)

[In the words of Evelyn Amony: "I was forced to become one of his 27 'wives'"](#)

[Ugandan Parliament adopts resolution to address needs of war-affected women](#)

[Women and Natural Resources in Peacebuilding: Strengthening participation, improving protection and aiding empowerment](#)

[As reparations are considered in Northern Uganda, ways are sought to equally include female survivors](#)

7. 2005

7.1. The Peacebuilding Commission: A New Tool for Peace is Established

The Peacebuilding Commission (PBC) marks the beginning of efforts at the UN to bridge the gaps between peacekeeping, humanitarian, and development work. At the time, UNIFEM and partners were already advocating for women's participation and gender-responsive recovery in post-conflict contexts. This was a foundational moment: the architecture created institutional entry points that remain central to advancing the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) agendas, with the PBC in particular becoming a catalytic instrument with more than 40 percent of its portfolio having gender equality as a principal objective.

8. 2006

8.1. Attacks on Darfuri Women Underscore Importance of Women's Participation in Peace

After conflict erupted in Darfur in 2003, devastating reports of sexual violence especially against women and girls collecting firewood brought global attention to women's suffering. In 2006, the Government signed a peace agreement with a faction of one of the main Darfuri rebel groups.

Although women pushed for inclusion, they made up less than ten percent of the delegates at the Abuja negotiations in Nigeria. Despite this barrier, they managed to develop a common platform and influence the agreement, an early example of women's determination to persist in peace processes.

UNIFEM (now UN Women) supported 20 women from Darfur to serve as a Gender Expert Support Team, ensuring women's rights were addressed in the accords. In partnership with the International Development Research Centre (IDRC), UNIFEM also attached a gender expert to the African Union Mediation Office to provide daily support to the negotiations and the 10 women delegates in particular.

9. 2007

10. 2008

10.1. 10.1. Putting Sexual Violence on the Agenda of the Security Council

In June, 2008, UNIFEM organized a ground-breaking conference at Wilton Park in the UK convening members of military and security sector, including force commanders, along with civil society leaders and sexual violence activists, including Leymah Gbowee. The conference's objective was to engage the Security Council on the issue of sexual violence in conflict, and attendees included Ambassadors from Canada, China, France, Ghana, the UK and the US, among others. The conference resulted in the drafting of Security Council resolution 1820 and the first Security Council Open Debate exclusively dedicated to conflict-related sexual violence, just three weeks later.

10.2. Resolution 1820 (2008) [S/RES/1820(2008)] Puts Spotlight on Rape in War

The UNSC hosts a first-ever meeting devoted exclusively to sexual violence, marking a bleak reality: rape in war is common, and too often ignored. "It is now more dangerous to be a woman than a soldier in modern conflicts," states UN peacekeeping commander Major General Patrick Cammaert. In response, resolution 1820, the first UNSCR focused on the scourge of sexual violence in conflict, is adopted.

Resolution 1820 (2008) calls for a critical, joint UN system-wide initiative to guide advocacy, knowledge building, resource mobilisation, and joint programming around sexual violence in conflict, leading to the establishment of the [UN Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict Network](#) that was hosted under UNIFEM until the establishment of the [Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict \(OSRSG-SVC\)](#) in 2009. UN Women remains an active member in coordination mechanisms relating to conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV), including the UN Global Focal Points for the Rule of Law Working Group on Gender Justice, the UN Interagency Transitional Justice Taskforce, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, and UN Action.

11. 2009

11.1. UNIFEM Deploys a Gender Expert to an Investigation for the First Time

What began as a pro-democracy rally in Guinea's capital Conakry to oppose plans by the nation's military leader to run for presidential elections ended as a brutal military crackdown, with the massacre of over 150 people and the rape of dozens of women in broad daylight, captured by cell phones. The sexual violence crimes, often hidden from the public eye, spark universal outrage. Upon the announcement of the subsequent UN-led investigation, UNIFEM advocated for the inclusion of a gender expert to join the investigation team, organized by OHCHR. UNIFEM contracted a senior legal expert on sexual and gender-based crimes, who joined the Commission of Inquiry and contributed to the resulting report, which included detailed information about gender-based crimes – a first for such an inquiry. In 2024, a court in Conakry, Guinea found former President Moussa Dadis Camara and several other military leaders guilty of crimes against humanity, including some of the sexual and gender-based crimes documented in the initial UN investigation.

11.2. Resolution 1888 (2009) [S/RES/1888(2009)]

Resolution 1888 (2009) strengthens efforts to end sexual violence in conflict by establishing a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Team of Experts on Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. Establishes systematic reporting of trends and patterns of CRSV to the Security Council based on verified and trusted information collected by UNCT, including through UN Women and civil society partners, in contexts where CRSV is a concern. Mandates the deployment of Women's Protection Advisors to coordinate in-country responses to CRSV, many of whom have been hosted by UN Women; since then, Women's Protection Advisors have been deployed to over 10 situations of concern, bringing together the UN system to monitor and report CRSV trends and patterns and prevent and respond to CRSV in a survivor-centred approach. Establishes the OSRSG-SVC.

11.3. Resolution 1889 (2009) [S/RES/1889(2009)]

In early 2009, UNIFEM led a training for incoming Security Council members which resulted in the delegation from Vietnam drafting a resolution with a focus on peacebuilding. Vietnam is the penholder on Resolution 1889, which paved the way for the 2010 report on gender and peacebuilding, and laid the foundation for the Secretary-General's 7 Point Action Plan, calling for a 15% minimum of peacebuilding funding going towards gender equality.

11.4. Building and Sustaining Peace in Liberia – Women-led Peace Huts are a Model of Sustaining Peace in Liberia

Since the signing of the peace accord in Accra in 2003, ending Liberia's brutal civil war, the country has transformed into a model of peace and sustainability in West Africa. The women of Liberia, who gained national and international acclaim as champions of peace through their mass action campaign that pressured warring factions to agree to a peace settlement in 2003, went on to launch the first Peace Hut in 2006, under the banner "Liberian Women Mass Action for Peace". The Peace Hut model provides a safe space where women of the village come together to mediate and resolve community disputes. In 2009, UNIFEM helped to expand the model to open roughly 40 more peace huts spread across Liberia. Internationally, Liberia's Peace Huts are considered an example of an innovative and women-led, community-based conflict resolution mechanism. In 2018, this women-led network transformed into a formal platform for the advancement of peace-building and women's rights initiatives at the community level.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Celebrating Progress, Confronting Barriers: How Liberia Champions Women in Diplomacy](#)

[Totota Peace Hut Setting the Pace for Rural Women Empowerment](#)

[Tribute to Annie Nushan](#)

[UN Women, Partners Support Communities Enhance Gender Equality, Peacebuilding in Maryland County, Liberia](#)

[Liberia: From Where I stand: "The Peace Hut taught us that women can stand for elections"](#)

[Mapping and Assessing the Gender-Responsiveness of Peace Infrastructures in Liberia](#)

[National Peace Hut Women – An Account of Support Provided by UN Women \(2009-2018\)](#)

[Liberia's Second Phase of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#)

[UNIFEM Annual Report 2009-2010 \(Annual Report\)](#)

12. 2010

12.1. UNIFEM Hosts First Annual Global Open Day for Peace

The Open Day for Peace launched globally in June, 2010 by UN Women, and in many countries has continued as an annual event, inviting different stakeholders to engage with UN Women on issues related to peace and security locally. One key outcome was the first cross-regional Open Day for Peace dialogue in Tajikistan, bringing together participants from the South Caucasus, Central Asia, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. This dialogue resulted in a formal appeal, which was handed to the UN Secretary-General during his visit to Central Asia—a first of its kind.

- Read more from UN Women:

[UNIFEM Resources on Women, Peace and Security](#)

[Global Open Day for Women and Peace](#)

[Secretary-General, Receiving Appeal from Women of Central Asia, Says They Should Have Peacebuilding Role as Decision Makers, Not Observers or Victims](#)

[Women for Peace and Security Regional consultation in the frame of the Open Day 25-26 June 2010, Dushanbe, Tajikistan](#)

12.2. UN Women is Established

For many years, the United Nations faced serious challenges in its efforts to promote gender equality globally, including inadequate funding and no single recognized driver to direct UN activities on gender equality issues. In July 2010, the United Nations General Assembly created UN Women, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to address such challenges. In doing so, UN Member States took an historic step in accelerating the Organization's goals on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The creation of UN Women came about as part of the UN reform agenda, bringing together resources and mandates for greater impact. It merges and builds on the important work of four previously distinct parts of the UN system, which focused exclusively on gender equality and women's empowerment:

- Division for the Advancement of Women (DAW)
- International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW)
- Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women (OSAGI)
- United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM)

With the combining of these four organizations, the WPS agenda becomes clearly established as part of UN Women's mandate.

12.3. 7-Point Action Plan to Increase Women's Participation in Peace

The Secretary-General's Seven-point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding created a strong set of minimum standards on critical areas to progress the women, peace, and security agenda, and set out targeted goals aimed at increasing women's participation in all aspects of peacebuilding, including rule of law, post-conflict governance, and economic recovery. Crucially, one of the seven actions was a call for a "partnership between the United Nations system and Member States to ensure that at least 15 per cent of United Nations-managed funds in support of peacebuilding are dedicated to projects whose principal objective, consistent with organizational mandates, is to address women's specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women." As a result of these actions, we have seen dramatic increases in UN efforts to ensure women's participation, inclusion of gender-analysis, and, critically, an increase in funds allocated to efforts in conflict and post-conflict contexts with gender equality as their primary objective.

12.4. Resolution 1960 (2010) [S/RES/1960(2010)]

Resolution 1960 (2010) established the Monitoring, Analysis, and Reporting Arrangements mechanism (MARA), a mechanism to monitor and report on sexual violence in conflict. UN Women is an active participant, and occasional co-lead entity, of the MARA where it is established in-country. UN Women's main role has been to ensure active engagement with local civil society organisations for a coordinated response. Articulates commitment by the Security Council to leverage all means, including sanctions, to address CRSV.

13. 2011

13.1. The UN Peacebuilding Fund Launches the Gender Promotion Initiative

The UN Peacebuilding Fund's Gender Promotion Initiative was launched to increase support focused on gender equality and women's empowerment and advance the implementation of the Secretary General's Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. Since then, the GPI has invested more than USD 137 million in 109 projects across over 30 countries, enabling the Fund to consistently exceed its gender financing benchmark, reaching 47 percent of its portfolio by 2022 with gender as a principal objective.

14. 2012

14.1. Women Lead the Way to Peace in Bangsamoro

After decades of conflict with the insurgent Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) –and 15 years of male-led peace negotiations – the government of the Philippines appoints a woman, Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, to lead the government's team in peace negotiations with the MILF. This set a precedent that facilitates other women's participation in the negotiations, with women ultimately comprising five of the 12 negotiators. Two years later, the two sides sign a final peace agreement that ends Asia's longest-running insurgency and includes provisions on women's rights and participation in half of its articles. The move also makes Coronel-Ferrer the first, and still only one of two, women chief negotiators in history to sign a major peace accord. This success is built on a long history of women's leadership, including two women presidents who were each instrumental in re-starting negotiations with the rebel group. Following the signing of the peace agreement, UN Women continued to work with range of partners to strengthen women's participation and leadership in political processes in the transition process and in political institutions in the new Bangsamoro political entity. Today, the Bangsamoro Region is on the verge of the first round of elections following the peace agreement.

- Read more from UN Women:

[In the words of Miriam Coronel-Ferrer: "I became the first female negotiator to sign a final peace accord with a rebel group"](#)

[The participation of women in the Mindanao peace process](#)

14.2. Women Demand Inclusion in the Mali Peace Process:

In early 2012, Mali suffered one of the most serious security and political crises in its history. Women were subjected to mass rape, stoning, hunger and food insecurity and displacement. UN Women advocated for the inclusion of women civil society and supported a delegation of women peace activists to participate in political stabilization negotiations. With the help of training from UN Women on negotiations, women brokered an agreement with the interim administration to respect human rights and stop violence against women and children. With assistance from UN Women, women in Mali went on to form their own network to keep their priorities high on national, international and regional agendas meeting with high-level UN officials to share their demands for rebuilding the country. UN Women supported the establishment of Peace Huts, provided advocacy training, technical and financial support for women's networks like Platform for Women Leaders of Mali. After the adoption of the agreement, the Platform for Women Leaders, supported by UN Women, brought together more than 200 women for consultations, drafting and presenting a [list of priorities](#) for national institutions and a [statement appealing to the President](#) for equality in all bodies implementing the agreement.

- Read more from UN Women:

[A place of peace, reconciliation and growth](#)

[Malian women call for urgent action to sustain peace and ensure women's participation](#)

[Women in Mali demand equal role in Peace Accords](#)

[Malian women press for peaceful, fair elections](#)

[Sahel Conference says women's full participation essential to conflict resolution and economic recovery](#)

[UN Women Executive Director calls for inclusive peace process and immediate stop to human rights abuses against women in ongoing conflict in Mali](#)

[Helping rape survivors in Mali to speak up](#)

[Women of Mali call for increased protection and involvement in resolving the conflict](#)

[UN Women Annual Report 2012-2013](#)

[Women peace advocates put forth key recommendations for Sahel region](#)

[Women come to the negotiating table for Mali's peace and transition process](#)

[UN Women Annual Report 2011-2012](#)

14.3. Peace is not a Project – The Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) Marks a New Approach to Funding for Impact

In 2011, UN Women and the Swedish Development Agency (Sida) came together to find a solution to a problem that was hampering UN Women's ability to progress the WPS agenda: Despite a clear mandate and strong recognition as a credible actor, UN Women lacked the size, capacity, or reach to respond to crises around the world, and where it did, project-based funds were often too short-term to affect change that happens on a longer time horizon. As a result, in 2012, UN Women entered into a Strategic Partnership Framework (SPF) with Sida, which pioneered a flexible and long-term funding model that would give UN Women both the flexibility to respond to sudden onset crises and rapidly changing conflicts, but also the ability to programme on a longer time-horizon, which is critical for achieving results toward long-term, sustainable peace.

The SPF funding modality has been crucial in drastically improving the reach and effectiveness of UN Women's work in an area characterized by unpredictability. The SPF is a catalyst for additional funding from other strategic partners, as well as a launchpad for innovative and urgent-response programme response.

14.4. Investigators on Gender-Based Crimes in Conflict Situations – A New Era for Justice

In 2011, recognizing the importance of UN Women's role in supporting the 2009 Commission of Inquiry for Guinea the Secretary-General requested UN Women to provide gender expertise to all commissions of inquiry and other investigative bodies established by the UN, globally. In 2012, UN Women began a partnership with Justice Rapid Response to develop a dedicated roster of experts on sexual and gender-based violence who could be deployed into investigations and accountability processes, including UN commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. Since 2012, UN Women and Justice Rapid Response have deployed more than 200 sexual and gender-based violence investigators, gender advisors, legal specialists, interpreters, forensic experts, and others, to support efforts to pursue accountability for serious human rights violations and international crimes, including those led by the UN, international

independent investigative mechanisms, regional courts, national investigations and trials, and civil society organizations.

In every recent conflict, significant evidence has been collected of incidents of SGBV and of the role SGBV has played in the overall conflict dynamics. This evidence is available to national and international courts and tribunals, when they are willing and able to prosecute.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Toward victim-centered change: Integrating transitional justice into sustainable peace and development](#)

[Women's meaningful participation in transitional justice: Advancing gender equality and building sustainable peace](#)

[Women, peace, and security and the United Nations Global Focal Point for the Rule of Law](#)

[Specialized investigation into sexual violence in conflict is essential for justice, experts say](#)

[Women, peace and security: Strengthening accountability through the Universal Periodic Review](#)

["We were like caged birds, this gave us wings to fly": A review of UN Women programming on gender-sensitive transitional justice](#)

[Justice now: Ending impunity for sexual and gender-based violence as international crimes](#)

[Evidence of Hope](#)

[Take five: Uncovering the untold stories of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict](#)

[Expert's take: A decade of efforts to combat sexual violence in conflict—Where are we now?](#)

[Statement by UN Women Executive Director Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka on the conviction of Hissène Habré](#)

[Trainings in Colombia build expertise on investigating gender-based crimes](#)

[Q&A with Expert on criminal courts and prosecuting gender-based violence perpetrators, bringing victims in for their day in court](#)

15. 2013

15.1. Resolution 2106 (2013) [S/RES/2106(2013)]

Stresses accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict, as well as women's political and economic empowerment. Articulates for the first time the importance of preventing CRSV, recognising the need to address its root causes.

15.2. Resolution 2122 (2013) [S/RES/2122(2013)]

Positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security, recognizes the differential impact of all violations in conflict on women and girls, and calls for consistent application of WPS across the Security Council's work.

16. 2014

16.1. CEDAW Gives Crucial Guidance on Women in Conflict

In 2014, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) published general recommendation no. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. The general recommendation provides authoritative guidance to States parties regarding on concrete measures to ensure women's human rights are protected before, during and after conflict in a number of key areas, and emphasizes the need for adequate resource allocation and monitoring mechanisms to implement CEDAW obligations in conflict and post-conflict settings.

UN Women provided technical support to the CEDAW Committee for the development of general recommendation 30, and published a guidebook to support States parties to implement the general recommendation.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Guidebook on CEDAW general recommendation no. 30 and the UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security](#)

16.2. Syrian Women for Peace Conference

UN Women together with the Government of the Netherlands convened a two-day meeting in Geneva to support women's participation and voice in the Syrian peace process. The meeting was part of UN Women's long-term efforts to support Syrian women and civil society's active participation in the Syrian peace process, and to create spaces to hear and advance women's voices and perspectives in peace efforts, consistent with Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 2122 and the Geneva Communiqué I, which call for the full inclusion and engagement of women in peace processes. An important outcome from the conference was a recommendation for the appointment of a Syrian gender advisor to the mediation team and establish communication channels to enable joint action and coordination with women's and civil society organizations. The appointment of a gender advisor led to the establishment of the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB) in 2016, which has been advising the process.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Press release: Conference of Syrian women, convened by UN Women and the Netherlands, ends with strong recommendations for upcoming peace talks](#)

16.3. African Union Commission Chairperson Appoints the Special Envoy on WPS

The Chairperson of the African Union Commission (AUC) appointed in 2014 the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), with the mandate to "ensure that the voices of women and the vulnerable are heard much more clearly in peace building and in conflict resolution"

17. 2015

17.1. Local Women Prevent Conflicts and Mediate Peace as Crisis Re-emerges in Burundi

Between 1993 and 2005, the civil war in Burundi killed almost 300,000 people and left hundreds of thousands displaced. In 2015, political unrest plunged the country back into protracted crisis. Since January of that year, with funding from the UN Peacebuilding Fund, the UN Women-supported Women Network for Peace and Dialogue has worked hand-in-hand with national authorities and civil society organizations and communities to prevent violence and conflict. The network consists of 534 mediators working across all municipalities in Burundi (129

in total). By their count, women mediators have addressed over 5,000 conflicts at the local level in 2015. They also initiated dialogues in 17 provinces with political actors, security forces and civil society.

- Read more from UN Women:

[From where I stand: "Women need to live a life without violence"](#)

[Photo essay: In DRC, women refugees rebuild lives, with determination and hope](#)

[From where I stand: Nahimana Fainesi](#)

[Women mediators promote peace in Burundi](#)

17.2. Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: The Global Study on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325

The Global Study on the Implementation of 1325 was the first ever comprehensive analysis of the first 15 years of the WPS agenda. The report highlighted progress and gaps, outlining the challenges and opportunities for achieving comprehensive peace. The insights gathered through the Global Study laid the foundation for a burst of innovative new activities to accelerate implementation of the agenda, including:

The Informal Expert's Group on WPS

The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

The WPS Focal Points Network

The African Women Leaders Network

The Female Military Officers Course

The links between the WPS agenda and efforts to counter terrorism.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#)

17.3. Resolution 2242 (2015) [S/RES/2242(2015)]

Security Council resolution 2242 was adopted at the October 2015 Open Debate on WPS, which had the highest number of participating speakers of any meeting on any topic in the history of the Security Council at that point. More than 180 political, financial and institutional commitments were made in the course of the high-level review of 1325.

2242 establishes the Informal Experts Group (IEG); addresses persistent obstacles in implementing the WPS agenda, including financing and institutional reforms; focuses on greater integration of the agendas on WPS and counter-terrorism and countering violent extremism; and calls for improved Security Council working methods on women, peace, and security, and is the first time that climate is mentioned within a WPS resolution.

17.4. The Security Council Recognizes the Importance of Young People

The Council adopted Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) – the first resolution to formally recognize young people not as risks, but as essential actors in peacebuilding and sustaining peace. Together with resolution 2242, the Security Council identified WPS and YPS as indispensable components of the UN's peacebuilding architecture, explicitly linking both agendas to the sustaining peace framework. They also underscored emerging issues, including the disproportionate impacts of climate change and climate insecurity on women and youth, and the need to integrate these dimensions into prevention and peacebuilding strategies. This was the beginning of a more holistic approach: positioning women and youth – particularly young women – as political actors, peacebuilders, and key partners in addressing interconnected challenges from violent conflict to climate security.

17.5. The Female Military Officers Course Aims to Increase the Number of Women Deployed as Peacekeepers

The participation of women in the military component of peace operations is a critical factor for mission success, yet the number of deployed female military personnel remained extremely low for many years. At the end of 2016, women made up only 3% of the military component of UN missions, with the majority employed in support roles. To remedy this, in 2015, UN Women, in cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), launched the Female Military Officers Course (FMOC), piloted in India and South Africa. FMOC aimed to: Prepare female officers for peacekeeping deployment, Increase the pool of deployable women, Engage Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) to nominate more women, Build peer-to-peer support networks among military women, Advance gender equality in military peacekeeping components. FMOC proved successful, with approximately 75% of trained women being deployed or soon to be deployed.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Ready for peacekeeping deployment, with a gender lens](#)

[Training in Kenya boosts deployment of female military officers for peacekeeping](#)

17.6. Nordic Women Mediators Network Unites for Women's Participation

Rooted in UNSCR 1325 and its objective for women's increased participation in, the Women Mediator Networks seek to address the underrepresentation of women in mediation and peacebuilding. Established in 2015, the Nordic Women Mediators functions as a collaborative forum building on five national networks: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. The NWM aims to support women's inclusion in peace process work through advocacy, and on operational level.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Nordic Women Mediators](#)

18. 2016

18.1. UN Women Advances the Importance of Women in CT/PVE

UN Security Council 2242 (2015) establishes, in no uncertain terms, a mandate for the inclusion of women and gender perspectives in efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism. UN Women has been critical in helping ensure that UN organizations' work on CT and PVE is gender-responsive and inclusive of women through chairing the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, which brings together 19 UN entities and engaging with the Group of Friends on PVE. UN Women has worked closely with the UN counter-terrorism architecture to drive UN-wide gender-sensitive policies and strategies and advance WPS commitments related to women's participation and inclusion in CT/PVE policies and mechanisms. For example, the United Nations Secretary-General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism recognizes the central role of gender equality and women's rights, while the 5th review resolution of the UN's Global Counter Terrorism Strategy and subsequent resolutions of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy highlight the critical role of women in our prevention and response efforts. UN Women works at the global, regional, national and hyper-local level to ensure that approaches to CT/PVE are gender responsive through convening women-led CSOs

and conveying needs and recommendations to national governments, Member States and the members of the Compact.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Preventing violent extremism: Integrating gender perspectives \(Global, Jordan, and Pakistan\)](#)

[UN Women's engagement in support of counter terrorism and prevention of violent extremism](#)

[Programmatic note: UN Women countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism support within the framework of women, peace, and security](#)

[In Pakistan, artists and peace activists empower women and girls to address violent extremism](#)

[Conflicting identities: The nexus between masculinities, femininities and violent extremism in Asia](#)

[Gender mainstreaming principles, dimensions and priorities for PVE](#)

[Women in Bangladesh bolster efforts to turn the tide on rising extremism](#)

18.2. The Security Council's Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security is Established

The Security Council's Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security, was established in 2016 as a result of a recommendation in UNSCR 2242 (2015) through the support of SPF, with UN Women named to serve as the IEG's secretariat. The Informal Experts Group has been effective in highlighting gender equality and women's rights to Security Council deliberations on specific countries, including some of the world's leading flashpoints for conflict. Important Security Council decisions subsequently amplified the advocacy of women peacebuilders in these countries. Now, on average, nearly 70 percent of Security Council's resolutions now include language on women, peace and security, compared to 15 percent from 2000-2005 and 37 and 38 percent respectively in 2011 and 2012. The Council has invited almost 70 women from civil society to brief during country-specific meetings over the last four and a half years, compared to none before December 2016. Finally, the Security Council adopted four new resolutions on WPS between 2013 and 2019, three of them focused on women as leaders in peace and security and one on conflict-related sexual violence.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Women at the UN Security Council: a sea change in numbers](#)

18.3. The United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Begins Channeling Funding to Women's Civil Society in Fragile Settings Worldwide

After years of advocacy by civil society and Member States, the Global Acceleration Instrument for Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Action (GAI), later rebranded the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) was established as a new, demand-driven, multi-partner trust fund to mobilize and channel funding and capacity support to local women-led and women's rights civil society organizations working across the nexus of peace, security and humanitarian action. UN Women serves as the host of the WPHF global secretariat. Since its establishment in 2016, WPHF has supported over 1,460 CSOs across 46 crisis-affected countries and mobilized over US\$248 million USD for local women's organizations and WHRDs working to create an enabling environment for WPS, prevent conflict, respond to crisis, protect rights and build peace and economic recovery on the front lines.

- Read more from UN Women:

[The Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund](#)

[Unravelling the gap between global commitments and funding for women's organizations in conflict-affected contexts](#)

[UN Women delivers lifeline support to women's and grass-roots organizations for COVID-19 response](#)

[New global funding instrument invests in women to accelerate conflict recovery, sustain peace](#)

18.4. Focal Points Network on Women, Peace and Security (FPN):

Launched in 2016, the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network was created to assist Member States and regional organizations to improve and strengthen the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda at the origin of decision-making processes. UN Women hosts the FPN secretariat, which regularly convenes the now over 100 Member States and regional organizations

members to share experiences and best practices to advance the implementation of all Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security and to improve the coordination of funding and assistance programmes. The Network also encourages information flow with relevant forums, such as the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security and the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security, and recognizes civil society and local organizations as critical partners. The actions of the FPN have had a significant impact on the adoption of NAPs: Before 2012, only 32 countries had adopted a national action plan on WPS. As of July 2025, there are 113 National Action Plans globally.* A growing number of countries have embarked on localization initiatives, where local governments adapt these national plans for their communities. In a typical year, UN Women supports more than two-dozen countries with these plans, providing government partners with technical support and knowledge exchange opportunities, and partnering with local civil society to ensure awareness is raised about the NAP and what it means for women and communities.

*Including Kosovo (UNSCR 1244)

- Read more from UN Women:

[WPS Focal Points Network](#)

[Corporate thematic evaluation of UN Women's support to National Action Plans on women, peace, and security](#)

[From where I stand: "The adoption of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 is only the beginning"](#)

18.5. In Syria, New Possibilities for Women's Inclusion in Peace

From the outset of the crisis in Syria, which began in 2011, women have been actively seeking peace. UN Women has advocated for women's protection and inclusion in finding peaceful solutions to the conflict. In 2013, UN Women began work to ensure Syrian women's participation and leadership in securing peace in the country. In January 2016, the Syrian Women's Advisory Board (WAB) was established by the Office of the Special Envoy, in partnership with UN Women and with the support of the UN Department of Political Affairs. Despite many obstacles, the WAB has worked tirelessly to fight for the inclusion of diverse women's perspectives and gender equality throughout the political process. The WAB proposes gender responsive perspectives, channels relevant civil society expertise, and makes recommendations to help advance the peace talks. Since 2016, the Board's analysis

and advice have featured prominently in the Special Envoy's high-level engagements, and in nearly all of his briefings to the Security Council, the Envoy has highlighted the importance of policy advice provided by the Board to his mediation efforts. As we enter this new phase in the history of Syria with hope that the lessons and advice from the WAB will central as the country rebuilds.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Supporting Syrian Women's Engagement in the Syrian Political Process: Building a Constituency for Peace](#)

[A group of women has bridged differences towards peace in Syria](#)

[In the words of Rajaa Altalli: "Women are leading efforts to push forward in Syria"](#)

[Syrian women's peace efforts: Crucial yet unrecognized](#)

[Women's Advisory Board](#)

18.6. Justice for the Indigenous Women of Sepur Zarco

Guatemala faced a devastating 36-year civil war, starting in 1954. The conflict resulted in more than 200,000 lives, of which 83 per cent were indigenous Mayan people. The rights of Indigenous Peoples in Guatemala were at the heart of the country's internal armed conflict. In 1982, Mayan Q'eqchi' leaders claiming their land were forcibly disappeared and women were systematically subjected to sexual and domestic slavery at the military rest facility located in Sepur Zarco. In February 2016, a Guatemalan national court convicted two former senior military officers of crimes against humanity, in the form of sexual and domestic slavery of 15 Q'eqchi' women in Sepur Zarco. The Sepur Zarco case was a landmark verdict for Guatemala, and for the world, as it was the first-ever conviction by a national court for the international crime of sexual slavery. The Sepur Zarco case is remarkable for its judicial precedent, but even more so for the leadership of the survivors, fifteen Maya Q'eqchi' indigenous women, now respectfully known as the "Abuelas" (grandmothers) of Sepur Zarco. UN Women supported the Abuelas on their path to justice, but also assisted the Guatemalan justice system, the public prosecutor's office and civil society organizations. UN Women is now working with academics to document the process so that others can learn from it. The case is a remarkable example for other national courts and shows how UN Women works with different stakeholders to ensure that justice is possible—supporting survivors, working closely with civil society, particularly women organizations, building

capacity in justice and security institutions, helping raise awareness and establish accountability mechanisms. UN Women continues to support the Abuelas to bring their messages to the world, including within multilateral fora at the United Nations in New York and Geneva.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Documenting good practice on accountability for conflict-related sexual violence: The Sepur Zarco case](#)

[Sepur Zarco: In pursuit of truth, justice, and now reparations](#)

[Ten years on from mandate on sexual violence in conflict, survivors and experts call for promises to be fulfilled](#)

[I am Generation Equality: Demecia Yat continues her search for justice](#)

[Photo essay: A house of art and memories seeks to bring closure in Guatemala](#)

[Sepur Zarco case: The Guatemalan women who rose for justice in a war-torn nation](#)

18.7. The UN Launches the Agenda on Sustaining Peace

In April, 2016, the UN committed to milestone reforms in its approach to peacebuilding through parallel resolutions on sustaining peace adopted by the Security Council (S/RES/2282) and General Assembly (A/RES/70/262), embedding the WPS and YPS agendas within the peacebuilding architecture. The Sustaining Peace agenda is broad and incorporates inclusivity and sustainability—both of which are essential to the WPS agenda and the sustainability of peace. The Sustaining Peace agenda bolsters support for women's engagement in conflict resolution, prevention and response, and acknowledges the essential role that women and young people play to secure lasting peace outcomes and the sustainability of peacebuilding efforts. The "twin resolutions" expanded peacebuilding beyond post-conflict recovery to include prevention, crisis response, and long-term development, stressing that sustaining peace is the responsibility of the entire UN system and Member States. By placing inclusivity at the core, explicitly recognizing that women and youth must be central to political dialogue, reconciliation, institution-building, and recovery, they embedded the WPS and YPS agendas within the peacebuilding architecture and gave stronger normative grounding for the PBC, PBF, and PBSO to advance gender- and age-responsive approaches. The resolutions also acknowledged cross-cutting drivers of conflict, including climate-related security risks,

underscoring that peacebuilding requires integrated responses that link humanitarian, development, human rights, and security efforts.

18.8. UN Commission of Inquiry Cites Sexual Violence in Genocide of the Yazidi

In the early days of August, 2014, ISIS forces perpetrated a large scale, coordinated attack against the Yazidi community in Sinjar province of Syria. Almost immediately, reports emerged of ISIS committing almost unimaginable atrocities against the Yazidi community: of men being killed or forced to convert; of women and girls, some as young as nine, sold at market and held in sexual slavery by ISIS fighters; and of boys ripped from their families and forced into ISIS training camps. The full picture of women's subjugation emerged through a UN Commission of Inquiry report in 2016: they were subjected to the imposition of radical gender norms that included the strict separation of women from unrelated men in public spaces and the brutal enforcement of rules about attire and daily practices. Since 2014, UN Women has deployed 20 gender experts, including SGBV investigators, gender advisors, specialized interpreters, legal experts and others, in support of UN investigations and accountability mechanisms with a mandate covering crimes allegedly committed by ISIL against the Yazidi. These experts were among the first to document sexual violence cases, and continue their work today, working to hold perpetrators to account and support survivors' access to justice and reparations.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Evidence of Hope](#)

[Remembering Yazidi genocide, four years later](#)

[In the words of Taffan Ako: "I believe you have to be in the system in order to change the system"](#)

[In the words of Pari Ibrahim: "Escaping ISIS is only the beginning, we cannot leave them alone in that journey."](#)

[A day in the life of Suaad Allami: The plight of Iraqi women refugees](#)

18.9. Peacebuilding Commission Adopts a Gender Strategy

In September 2016, the Peacebuilding Commission adopted a gender strategy to ensure a more structural and systematic integration of gender perspectives across its work, including in its country and

region-specific engagements, thematic discussions, and dialogues with other intergovernmental organizations. Alongside PBSO, UN Women supported the development of the PBC gender strategy through technical expertise and capacity and later supported the development of the action plan in 2021. UN Women also contributes to the review of implementation of the strategy every 5 years, aligned with the Peacebuilding Architecture Review (PBAR). The PBC's Gender Strategy was the first of its kind for an intergovernmental body.

- Read more:

[The Peacebuilding Commission's Gender Strategy](#)

18.10. Colombian Women Make History as Part of a Model for Peace

After 52 years of conflict, the government of Colombia and the insurgent People's Army (FARC-EP) reached a peace agreement in Havana that is hailed as a model of women's participation in peacemaking. When talks started in 2012, there were no women at the table. By the end, a third of delegates are women, thousands of Colombian women are participating in national and regional consultations and forums throughout the country, and the peace agreement contains 130 provisions on gender issues -- including the first in the world to recognize lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex (LGBTI) individuals not only as victims of the armed conflict but also as active peacebuilders. In Colombia, UN Women has supported the country's peacebuilding and recovery efforts, working with women affected by the conflict, advancing transitional justice for victims of human rights violations, bolstering judicial and security sector reform and supporting women's participation in peace negotiations. UN Women's programming has supported over 5,000 women leaders and human rights defenders and facilitated the socioeconomic reintegration of more than 300 female ex-combatants from the FARC who continue to face threats and barriers to education and employment among other challenges. The peace process in Colombia is consistently held up as a model for integration of gender perspectives and the inclusion of women, which has contributed to the longevity and durability of peace in Colombia, despite changing dynamics on the ground.

- Read more from UN Women:

[For ALL Women and Girls: Sandra Patricia Aguilar Carabalí believes that women's leadership is key to protecting Colombia's environment and peace](#)

[For women environmental defenders in Colombia, standing down is not an option](#)

[Why investing in women's organizations is critical during crisis: Five stories of resilience](#)

[How women's voices are shaping Colombia's path to peace](#)

[From guerilla fighters to peacebuilders](#)

[The reintegration of former guerrilla female fighters, a key piece in the implementation of the Peace Agreement in Colombia](#)

["There's a long way to go": Three women share their stories of overcoming political violence in Colombia](#)

[From where I stand: "Our territories are our futures."](#)

[Strengthening women's participation in peace processes: What roles and responsibilities for states?](#)

[Financing gender-inclusive peace: Gaps in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda](#)

[From where I stand: "Together, we are building peace and equal rights in our territories"](#)

[I am Generation Equality: Francy Jaramillo Piedrahita, human rights defender and peacebuilder](#)

[In Colombia, peace is a journey](#)

[Women's meaningful participation in negotiating peace and the implementation of peace agreements: Report of the Expert Group Meeting](#)

[Take five: "A successful peace process simply demands the active and meaningful participation of women at all levels"](#)

18.11. Peacebuilding Fund Launches the Youth Promotion Initiative

In 2016, the Peacebuilding Fund (PBF) introduced the Youth Promotion Initiative (YPI), signaling a strong commitment to inclusive peacebuilding. The YPI complements the GPI in the UN's commitment to inclusive, sustainable peace through the WPS and YPS agendas.

18.12. First Woman Civil Society Representative Briefs the Security Council on a Country-Specific Context

In December, the first ever woman civil society representative briefed the Security Council on a country-specific context. Victoria Wollie, National Coordinator, West Africa Network for Peacebuilding–Women in

Peacebuilding Network in Liberia, addressed the Security Council meeting on the situation in Liberia. Since then, more than 300 women civil society representatives have briefed the Security Council on country-specific contexts.

19. 2017

19.1. The African Women Leaders Network

UN Women and the African Union launched the African Women Leaders Network (AWLN) in 2017 to create a continent-wide force of women leaders who advance Africa's transformation in line with the continent's Agenda 2063 and the global 2030 Agenda. The AWLN works across four pillars: Governance, Peace and Security, Finance, and Youth, and is primarily a movement of women, facilitated by the African Union Commission and the United Nations. The AWLN has grown into a multi-level network with thousands of members, focusing on key areas like governance and political participation, WPS, finance and entrepreneurship and supporting young women in leadership, agriculture and social mobilization. As of 2025, there are 39 national AWLN chapters across the continent, and the Young Women Leaders Caucus (YWLC) has over 100 members from Africa and the diaspora.

- Read more from UN Women:

[African Women Leaders Network \(AWLN\) Commits to Promoting Women's Leadership in Somalia](#)

[Women Working Together for the Africa We Want: African Women Leaders Network convene for a second forum](#)

[Press Release: New platform launched to galvanize and boost women's leadership of Africa](#)

19.2. New Regional Women Mediators Networks Create Opportunities for Inclusive Peace

In 2017, two powerful new regional women's mediator networks are established:

FemWise-Africa--established by the African Union (AU) Assembly of Heads of State, and bringing together together women with various backgrounds, professional experiences and expertise from Africa, who are or have been engaged in Track 1, 2 and 3 mediation processes, conflict prevention and in activities to enhance social cohesion on the continent. FemWise-Africa members have been deployed to Sudan, South Sudan, DRC, Chad, and Madagascar/Comoros, to support the African Union's leadership

in mediation, dialogue, preventive diplomacy, and the implementation of peace agreements. FemWise-Africa members also continue to be engaged in AU-led support to electoral processes on the continent. UN Women has supported FemWise-Africa since its inception, and continues to partner with the network.

Mediterranean Women Mediators Network--launched by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, is a multigenerational group of women mediators and mediation experts from both the Northern and Southern shores of the Mediterranean endeavoring to fill a networking and capacity-building gap in the region in order to facilitate the appointment of high-level women mediators both at the local and the global level. UN Women partners with MWMN.

- Read more:

[Experts call for stronger support for networks of women mediators](#)

[Mediation Knowledge Products and Resources](#)

[FemWise-Africa](#)

[Mediterranean Women Mediators Network](#)

20. 2018

20.1. Kosovo - Reparations for Survivors of Conflict-Related Sexual Violence:

In the aftermath of Kosovo's brutal war (1998-99), the silence surrounding the wide-spread reports of conflict-related sexual violence was deafening. UN Women responded, working with local women-led CSOs and deploying a gender advisor to provide technical support to the government on the development and delivery of reparations to survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2014, Kosovo adopted a law recognizing the legal status of conflict-related sexual violence survivors, and their entitlement to reparations. Recognizing that stigma, shame, poverty and lack of economic opportunity was a primary obstacle to women's access to justice and empowerment, UN Women developed economic empowerment programming to build survivors' trust and confidence so that when the reparations would become operational, women would step up and claim their benefits. Women also demanded accountability and justice through criminal prosecutions of perpetrators. In response, UN Women began supporting Kosovo's national authorities, prosecutors, investigators, and lawyers to ensure that they had the capacities and sensitivity to take on CRSV cases and work directly with

survivors. Since that time, UN Women has worked with the commission tasked with verifying survivors' claims to reparations, with civil society organizations that provide services to survivors, and with survivors themselves, to ensure that as many women and men access reparations as possible. Since it became operational in 2018, the Commission has recognized the status of 1,617 survivors (94.6 per cent female), and credits UN Women's enduring support for much of its success. UN Women's survivor-centered approach in Kosovo has been used as an example to further strengthen the work of UN Women on transitional justice, and of the entire United Nations. In 2024 Kosovo marked 25 years since the 1998-1999 war ended and adopted its first ever Transitional Justice Strategy 2024-2034, focusing on gender-sensitive measures, addressing past violations, and establishing mechanisms like a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, a memorial for war victims, and amendments to the Law on Missing Persons.

- Read more from UN Women:

[My take, your take: Women's rights in Kosovo, then and now](#)

[Take five: "Impunity is not acceptable"](#)

[Reparations for conflict-related sexual violence: Lessons from the Western Balkans](#)

[In Kosovo, legal recognition of war-time sexual violence survivors after 18 years](#)

[The Conflict Did Not Bring Us Flowers: The need for comprehensive reparations for conflict-related sexual violence in Kosovo](#)

[Path to justice for survivors of Kosovo's sexual violence: Q&A with Siobhan Hobbs](#)

[Reparations soon for conflict-related sexual violence survivors in Kosovo*](#)

[Dressing up a soccer stadium for survivors in Kosovo](#)

[Building businesses, and inclusive peace, in Kosovo](#)

[Balkan women make inroads in peace and politics](#)

20.2. Nobel Committee Awards Peace Prize to Nadia Murad and Denis Mukwege

In 2018, the Nobel Committee once again recognizes the importance of women, peace and security when awarding the Peace Prize to Congolese doctor Denis Mukwege and Yazidi activist Nadia Murad for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.

20.3. Supporting an Ongoing Struggle for Peace in South Sudan

When South Sudan became an independent nation in 2011 after a brutal war with devastating consequences for women and girls, UN Women worked with women leaders and peacebuilders to ensure women were included in building a peaceful nation, including a provision in the Transitional Constitution that 25 per cent of government positions be allocated to women. In 2013, just two years later, the country slid back into conflict. Throughout it all, UN Women continued to work with women civil society groups and women leaders inside and outside the country to build the capacities, constituencies, and networks for peace and to advocate for women's participation and the inclusion of gender in the resolution of the civil war. Through national conferences and dialogues, regional trainings and knowledge exchanges, and engagement with key regional bodies like IGAD, ECOWAS, and the AU, UN Women enabled the creation of a vast series of networks of South Sudanese women, including from the Executive branch of government, MPs, CSO leaders, Faith-Based community. These efforts not only built the capacities of South Sudanese women but also connected them to networks of support outside the country, and raised international visibility for their plight, and resulted in the nomination of women as members of delegations of both warring parties and other stakeholder groups to peace talks between the warring factions. In September 2014, after UN Women supported multi-level advocacy efforts by CSO groups, government officials, and MPs, it was announced that the President had signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979) (CEDAW). UN Women continued to lead efforts to train women across the country in mediation and negotiation for peace, first within the 2015 Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (ARCSS), and later in the Revitalised Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in the Republic of South Sudan (R-ARCSS), finalized in September 2018. Crucially, women advocated for and achieved a 35 per cent quota for women's representation in government as a key provision of the R-ARCSS.

South Sudan remains a country with a highly dynamic security context, and while many of the provisions of the Revitalised Agreement are yet to be instituted, UN Women continues to work with the women on the ground in the country to build peace through social cohesion and economic empowerment activities at the hyper-local level, and build a pipeline of women leaders, who are advocating for the South Sudan they want.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Country Gender Equality Profile Sectorial Briefs for South Sudan](#)

[From where I stand: "Young women's inclusion in peace-building will create sustainable peace"](#)

[Joint UN-AU Statement on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence in South Sudan](#)

[African representatives push for action to bring women to the peace table](#)

20.4. ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation Launches the ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR)

ASEAN Women for Peace Registry (AWPR) was launched in 2018 and is a means to take stock of its women experts in peace processes, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the ASEAN Charter, and pursuant to the function of the ASEAN-IPR to "pool expertise and support of ASEAN bodies". The AWPR is envisaged as a platform to promote exchanges of knowledge and mobilize expertise to assist ASEAN bodies in integrating gender perspectives in conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and mediation initiatives reflecting a growing number of regional women mediator networks to ensure that women are ready and available to participate in mediation and peace negotiation efforts. UN Women provided technical and operational support to the ASEAN-IPR, as well as to the African Union Network of Women in Conflict Prevention and Peace Mediation (FemWise-Africa), the Mediterranean Women Mediators Network. Women mediator networks seek to strengthen women's participation at all levels of peace processes. They provide coordination and create synergies among women peacebuilders, they create spaces to share experiences, tools and knowledge, they strengthen the capacity of women mediators, and they increase their visibility for their meaningful participation in actual peace and mediation processes.

- Read more from UN Women:

[ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation Regional Study on Youth, Peace and Security](#)

20.5. First Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security: Elevating Young Women's Leadership

The First Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, The Missing Peace, was launched in 2018 as the first global evidence base on young people's

contributions to peace, shifting international debates from viewing youth as “at risk” to recognizing them as essential partners in sustaining peace. As part of this effort, UN Women published “Young Women in Peace and Security: At the Intersection of the WPS and YPS Agendas”, the first UN analysis to highlight the double marginalization faced by young women while showcasing their leadership as peacebuilders and bridge-builders. By identifying barriers such as lack of financing and civic space, and setting priorities around participation, protection, and resources, the paper ensured that young women’s perspectives informed the Progress Study and global advocacy, positioning them as indispensable actors within both WPS and YPS agendas and the broader peacebuilding architecture.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Young women in peace and security: At the intersection of the YPS and WPS agendas](#)

21. 2019

21.1. Resolution 2467 (2019) [S/RES/2467(2019)]

Positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda; stresses justice and accountability efforts; calls for support and protection to women’s civil society organizations; and calls for attention to the issues of children born of rape. Enshrines the survivor-centred approach as the main principle by which the UN’s CRSV response should operate – UN Women embodies this principle by placing survivors’ needs and wishes above all and supporting their empowerment through locally-grounded and culturally-relevant engagements. Reiterates the timely deployment of Women’s Protection Advisors.

21.2. Resolution 2493 (2019) [S/RES/2493(2019)]

Calls for full implementation of all previous resolutions on women, peace and security; requests the UN to develop context-specific approaches for women’s participation in all UN-supported peace processes; and urges Member States to ensure and provide timely support for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, including in the mechanisms set up to implement and monitor peace agreements.

21.3. The Elsie Initiative Fund supports governments enabling women to serve — and lead — in peace and security

Women’s full, equal and meaningful inclusion is vital to effective peacekeeping and to resilient, representative security institutions. Despite clear evidence of their contributions, women accounted for only three per cent of military personnel during the 2010s, rising to around four per cent in 2018, and since then have inched upward at a very slow pace. To help address this problem, in 2019, the Elsie Initiative Fund for Uniformed Women in Peace Operations (EIF) a UN Trust Fund was launched with the support of Canada, and is hosted by UN Women. The EIF has raised nearly US\$51 million, contributing to a doubling of the percentage of women deployed by Troop- and Police-Contributing Countries (T/PCCs) to United Nations Peacekeeping Operations as peacekeepers since 2017. The EIF also plays a critical role in addressing key barriers to women’s participation through, for example the creation of rosters of trained women eligible for deployment and providing training on sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and gender awareness. EIF fund recipients have reported that EIF-supported gender-sensitive infrastructure, such as childcare facilities, has eased household constraints and enabled women personnel to focus on their professional duties with greater peace of mind, while also improving overall working conditions.

Through its comprehensive, evidence-driven interventions and approach, the EIF is not only unlocking the full potential of uniformed women, but also promoting more inclusive, resilient, and effective peace operations — and strengthening the sustainability of security institutions themselves.

- Read more from UN Women:

[The Elsie Initiative Fund](#)

[Elsie Initiative Fund opens new call for proposals to advance inclusive peacekeeping](#)

[Harnessing the Power of Diversity and Inclusion for Transformation – The Elsie Initiative Fund Shares Results of Funded Projects in its 2021 Annual Report](#)

[The Elsie Initiative Fund launched to increase uniformed women in UN peacekeeping](#)

21.4. In Sudan Women Are the Face of the Revolution, but Must Fight to be Heard

Fast forward to Sudan's 2018–2019 revolution: women were at the forefront, dominating protests and mobilizing communities for change. The iconic image of Alaa Salah dubbed “Woman in White” and “Lady Liberty” standing on a car and chanting to the crowd, went viral, symbolizing women’s leadership in the uprising.

Yet despite their visible role, women were sidelined in the political processes that followed. The 2019 Transitional Constitutional Declaration referenced UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and committed to at least 40% representation for women in the future Legislative Council, creation of a Women’s Empowerment and Gender Equality Commission, and the repeal of discriminatory laws. Women’s activism also led to landmark reforms: criminalization of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), removal of laws restricting women’s mobility, and appointment of gender advisors in strategic ministries and in the Prime Minister’s Office.

In 2020, diverse women’s groups including political parties, armed groups, and civil society drafted a unified women’s agenda, advocating during the Juba Peace Talks and securing commitments for 40% women’s participation in governance structures. The rise of social media further amplified women’s voices, demonstrating that women’s leadership is strongly linked with the use of non-violent methods and the ultimate success of social movements, even in highly repressive contexts.

- Read more from UN Women:

[From Sudan to the Security Council: Sudanese women lead drive for change](#)

[Statement by Alaa Salah at the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security](#)

[Sudanese women advocate for peace at conference in Uganda](#)

[In Sudan, women’s organizations fight back against sexual violence in conflict](#)

[Statement on Sudan by UN Women Executive Director Sima Bahous](#)

21.5. The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks Spotlights Women in Peace Processes

The Global Alliance of Regional Women’s Mediator Networks unites six regional women mediator networks--Nordic Women Mediators;

FemWise-Africa; Mediterranean Women Mediators Network; Women Mediators Across the Commonwealth; Arab Women Mediators Network; Southeast Asian Network of Women Peace Negotiators and Mediators. The Global Alliance pushes for policy and decision-makers to implement the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and related resolutions and create meaningful spaces for women to influence global peace and security.

- Read more:

[The Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator Networks](#)

22. 2020

22.1. COVID-19: Global Pandemic has a Devastating Impact on Women, Peace; Calls for a Global Ceasefire goes Unanswered

Global disruption caused by the Covid-19 pandemic underscored the vulnerability of women and girls in conflict contexts. Building on his call for an immediate global ceasefire, UN Secretary-General António Guterres in April 2020 appealed to end all forms of violence everywhere, from war zones to people’s homes, and to focus efforts on ending the pandemic. Conflict and humanitarian crises already hold women and girls back from progress, including the right to food, education, safety and health amid social and economic collapse. The further burdening of the health care and the economic fall-out of COVID-19 put women and girls in war-torn, fragile and humanitarian contexts at even higher risk, and pushed progress toward gender equality and peace backwards. Five years on, the world is still recovering from the impact of Covid-19 pandemic.

- Read more from UN Women:

[COVID-19 and conflict: Advancing women’s meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes](#)

[Connected by their phones, women peacebuilders lead COVID-19 prevention efforts across Libya](#)

22.2. Women Participate in the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum

UN Women pushes past resistance, ensuring the last-minute inclusion of women in Libyan peace talks.

- Conflict and instability erupted in Libya in 2011, and has taken a tremendous toll on women there, however, they have continued to fight for their rights and to play a role in negotiating peace and rebuilding

communities after terrorist occupation and violent conflict. UN Women has been supporting the women of Libya across ethnic lines to build networks of peacebuilders and mediators. In November 2018, the government of Italy hosted peace talks in Palermo, aimed at ending the ongoing crisis in Libya. While women were initially excluded from the official talks, multi-partner advocacy prior to the talks, led in part by UN Women, resulted in a last-minute increase in women's engagement from zero to four women being invited as part of the Libyan delegations. With women's representation secured, UN Women mobilized members of Mediterranean and Nordic Women Mediator Networks to support those women attending. These efforts helped ensure that a reference to women's engagement and inclusion was included in the conference's final statement. In July, 2019, Libyan women from across the social, political, generational and geographic divides of war-torn Libya came together, and with the support of UN Women, created the Libyan Women's Network for Peacebuilding. The network used technology to connect, share, and mobilize. UN Women provided members of the Libyan Women's Network for Peacebuilding, along with other women from civil society with training on mediation, negotiations, and conflict resolution. The announcement of the Libyan National Dialogue Forum (LPDF) provided a critical opportunity for Libyan women peacebuilders to participate in the Libyan peace process. In the lead up to the LPDF, UN Women supported UNSMIL in organizing a series of online consultations with women and youth from across Libya and representing diverse backgrounds, and provided advice on gender mainstreaming the process. As a result, 17 women (23% of the participants) directly participated in the LPDF discussions. They issued a joint statement, with key principles and recommendations for women's meaningful participation, including calling for no less than 30% of leadership positions.

UN Women helped facilitate connections between the women LPDF participants and Security Council Members and exchange with the Libyan Women's Peacebuilding Network to share experiences and lessons learned. UN Women continues to provide support to Libya's women peacebuilders and leaders, and advocate for the implementation of the WPS agenda and the adoption of a National Action Plan on WPS.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Rebuilding for Peace: Strengthening Women's Political Participation in Libya](#)

[The Super Women of Libya](#)

[Connected by their phones, women peacebuilders lead COVID-19 prevention efforts across Libya](#)

[In the words of Hajer Sharief: "Peacebuilding is not only about stopping violence, it is also about the prevention of violence"](#)

[From where I stand: "Women are the leaders of today"](#)

[Libyan women forge agenda for peace](#)

[In the words of Alaa Murabit: The overlooked tool in efforts to prevent conflict](#)

22.3. UN Women Convenes Women Civil Society Consultation on Counter-terrorism

UN Women, on behalf of the Gender Working Group of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, organized a global digital consultation on the gendered dimensions of violent extremism and counterterrorism. More than 140 civil society representatives from 43 countries across the world participated in the consultation. The consultation provided a safe space for participants to express their views, challenges, and recommendations on the gendered dimensions of terrorism and violent extremism, and on the impact that current measures to prevent violent extremism and counter terrorism have on their work and rights. This consultation was the first platform and effort to strengthen voices and perspectives of women's CSOs in the global discussion on the review of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, resulting in stronger gender language in the 7th review resolution of the Strategy.

- Read more from UN Women:

[From victims to leaders: Ending gender-based violence in the Lake Chad Basin](#)

[Global digital consultation: Voices and perspectives of civil society on the gendered dimensions of violent extremism and counterterrorism responses – Outcome report](#)

[From where I stand: "It won't be easy... reach out, grab the baton and keep running forward"](#)

23. 2021

23.1. Afghanistan – Gains for Women—and Peace—Hanging by a Thread

Years of progress on women's empowerment and inclusive peacebuilding are under threat as the Taliban retakes control. UN Women stays and delivers for Afghan women, providing a vital lifeline to what was once possible, despite threats and obstacles.

- In August 2021, the Taliban quickly regained control of Afghanistan after the departure of international military forces from the country. From the very outset, the Taliban has sought to undo the progress made in the country and remove women from public spaces, leadership, education, and jobs, through a series of edicts, directives, and decrees that have effectively stripped them of their fundamental rights. Throughout the crisis, UN Women has stayed to continue to deliver for women and girls, albeit under dramatically different circumstances. UN Women has continued to sustain Afghan women civil society through direct flexible funding and capacity building support while also elevating and amplifying the voices of Afghan women inside the country through regular consultation cycles to inform political engagement processes with the de facto authorities. It has facilitated the participation of Afghan women leaders at high-level meetings at the UN Headquarters in NY, including on the sidelines of the annual Security Council Open Debate on WPS to inform international policymakers. UN Women continues to work in numerous ways on the ground in Afghanistan to ensure that women's voices are not lost, and that women and girls continue to have access to healthcare, humanitarian services, livelihood opportunities and other critical areas of support.
- Read more from UN Women:

[Gender Alert – August 2025 Four years of Taliban rule: Afghan women resist as restrictions tighten](#)

[Afghanistan's women are still fighting: Inside the fight for rights under Taliban](#)

[Gender Index 2024: Afghanistan](#)

[Gender country profile – Afghanistan](#)

[Why investing in women's organizations is critical during crisis: Five stories of resilience](#)

[No peace without women: Afghan activists on why women's representation matters](#)

[Afghan women leaders speak at the UN: "Give us a seat at the table."](#)

24. 2022

24.1. Ukrainian Human Rights Organization Awarded Nobel Peace Prize

The Center for Civil Liberties, headed by Oleksandra Matviychuk, a Ukrainian human rights defender, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for their work calling for the urgency of accountability for peace.

24.2. Women's Advisory Board for Sustainable Peacebuilding is Established in Moldova

Established in 2022 with UN Women's support and funding from Sweden and UN-DPPA, the WAB engages women from both banks of the Nistru/Dniester River in peacebuilding and dialogue. Modeled on UN Women's work in Syria, it strengthens women's participation in trust-building and consults with the OSCE's three-tier negotiation process on the Transdnistrian conflict.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Invisible No More: Women Influencing Peace in Europe and Central Asia](#)

25. 2023

25.1. The Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators Launches

The Ibero-American Network of Women Mediators (RIMM) is created to ensure participation of Ibero-American women in conflict prevention, mediation, and peacebuilding. Eleven countries participate in the network: Andorra, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Spain, Guatemala, Mexico, Peru, the Dominican Republic, and Uruguay. The initiative, promoted by Mexico, promotes exchange of knowledge and experiences among a network of experts from the member states.

UN Women has also supported other initiatives such as the Regional Network of Mediators in the Southern Cone, the Federal Network of Gender-Focused Mediators in Argentina, and MUCPAZ in Mexico.

25.2. In a Forgotten Conflict in Sudan, Women's Resilience Endures

Since the outbreak of war in 2023, Sudanese women have continued to demonstrate remarkable resilience. Women-led organizations established networks and virtual platforms to connect with regional and international actors, amplify demands for peace, and sustain advocacy. In the diaspora, women's groups strengthened their skills through trainings, conferences, and collective agenda-setting. Inside Sudan, women remain at the frontline leading Emergency Rooms, countering hate speech, documenting violations, responding to gender-based violence, and pushing for peace despite immense risks.

UN Women has played a central coordinating role, supporting women's mediation and negotiation capacity, strengthening peace platforms, and amplifying women's voices nationally, regionally, and globally. Through the Peace for Sudan Platform a coalition of 49 women-led organizations Sudanese women have shaped major dialogues, including the AU Women's Dialogue, the AU-IGAD Inter-Sudanese Political Dialogue, and the Geneva peace talks. Their Kampala Feminist Declaration remains a landmark contribution to shaping Sudan's peace agenda.

Even as the country faces a dire humanitarian crisis 25 million people in need, 13 million displaced, 12 million requiring GBV services, and countless cases of conflict-related sexual violence Sudanese women refuse to be silenced. They continue to demand 50% representation in peace processes, advocate for protection of women and girls, and insist that their agency is essential to shaping Sudan's future.

- Read more from UN Women:

['Women are not necessarily killed because of bullets or bombs' – Sudanese activists describe humanitarian crisis amid civil war](#)

[Statement: UN Women calls for urgent protection of women and girls in El Fasher, Sudan](#)

[For ALL Women and Girls: Areej Hussein on young women peacebuilders taking the lead](#)

[For lasting peace in Sudan, women must lead peace efforts](#)

25.3. Women's Military Peace Operations Course Expands UN Women's Work to Ensure More Women in Peacekeeping

Building on the successes of the FMOC, and to address still unmet needs, in 2023, the FMOC was evolved into the Women's Military Peace Operations Course (WMPOC), a global program designed to strengthen

women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in UN peace operations and to advance commitments under the UN Uniformed Gender Parity Strategy (2018–2028) and UN Security Council Resolutions 2242 (2015) and 2538 (2020). In just two years, over 150 military women from 49 troop-contributing countries have graduated from the program. A growing number of these graduates have been deployed to UN peacekeeping, to missions such as UNMISS, MINUSCA, UNISFA, UNTSO, MINURSO and MONUSCO, while others have been appointed as instructors in national peacekeeping training centres, amplifying the programme's reach.

Beyond individual career advancement, the programme has fostered a transnational network of women peacekeepers who share experiences, strategies, and mentorship, building solidarity across regions and peacekeeping. By increasing the number of women with the skills, confidence, and operational readiness to take on leadership roles, the WMPOC directly contributes to making UN peace operations more inclusive and effective, aligning with evidence that diverse leadership improves mission outcomes.

The success of the WMPOC reflects not only the commitment of UN Women and DPO, but also the sustained support of Member States who host and fund the course. The WMPOC stands as a testament to UN Women's ability to work in partnership to convene stakeholders, secure resources, and implement innovative programming that strengthens both the gender responsiveness and the operational effectiveness of UN peace operations.

25.4. The First High-Level Meeting of the International Alliance on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

The International Alliance was announced by the UK at a Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative Conference hosted in London in November 2022 and launched in New York in March 2023. The first high-level meeting brought together Member States to drive global action on preventing CRSV. UN Women is the only non-state member from the UN. Five survivor representatives made recommendations to the international community, including calling for dedicating funding for survivors' networks. The Alliance agreed on a statement of solidarity with survivors of CRSV.

25.5. UN Women Stays and Delivers through MINUSMA Withdrawal

Upon request from the Government of Mali, via a decision by the Security Council, the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission

in Mali (MINUSMA) withdraws from Mali after ten years of operations. MINUSMA's departure left gaps in service delivery, advocacy, and engagements with national authorities on peace and security issues, including CRSV. UN Women rapidly stepped in to fill gaps in supporting women and girls living in conflict, such as elevating the work of civil society organisations advocating against female genital mutilation. The changing political and security situation in Mali requires UN Women to deliver with flexibility, adaptability, and innovation – an example of an innovative tool is the platform 'Viarno', which allowed access to hard-to-reach communities through voice messaging on service availability, information sharing, and awareness raising.

26. 2024

26.1. Colombia's NAP Aids Implementation of the Peace Agreement

In 2022, the Government of Colombia announced its intention to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The NAP was developed through one of the most participatory formulation processes globally, finalized in 2023, and reflects the voices and priorities of more than 1,500 women from all 32 departments, who contributed through 21 consultative spaces. In 2024, UN Women provided technical assistance to the Government in finalizing the NAP's content, indicators, targets, and budget, ensuring the meaningful integration of the inputs gathered from women during the participatory phase. The NAP was officially launched in November 2024 at a national event that brought together more than 200 women from across the country, alongside high-level representatives from the national Government, including the Vice President, several ministers, and representatives of international cooperation.

- Read more from UN Women:

[The peace deal that put women first: What Colombia taught the world](#)

[How women's voices are shaping Colombia's path to peace](#)

26.2. Led by Youth: Shaping an Inclusive Future in the Western Balkans

The UN Joint Programme "Youth 4 Inclusion, Equality & Trust" marked a groundbreaking achievement in the Western Balkans. Supported by UN Women, youth researchers from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, North Macedonia, and Serbia took the

lead in designing and conducting the regional study "Voices of YOUth: Gender Equality and Social Cohesion in the Western Balkans". UN Women engaged over 1,200 young people to contribute to the study exploring the intersection of gender equality, youth development, and social cohesion, shedding light on key challenges such as entrenched patriarchal norms, gender-based violence, hate speech, and low trust in institutions. Yet, it also revealed something powerful: a deep commitment among youth to foster dialogue, inclusion, and peace. Key recommendations from the study include calls for education reform, stronger legal protections, greater participation of women in politics, a critical look at the dual impact of social media, which can either hinder or help the push for gender justice. This youth-led initiative underscores a powerful truth: lasting peace and equality depend on empowering young people. Through UN Women's work across the region, youth are not only gaining skills but are being recognized as agents of change, challenging harmful norms, shaping policies, and building more just and resilient communities. This was followed by capacitating 23 young leaders from across the region came together to ignite real change through the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agendas.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Youth speak out for gender equality in Western Balkans](#)

26.3. Women's Leadership Key to Recovery in Ukraine

The Alliance, launched by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development of Germany (BMZ) and the Cabinet of Ministers of Ukraine, together with support from UN Women has 100 members—including 50 women-led civil society organizations—united in their commitment to building a recovery that is gender-responsive, inclusive and sustainable. The Alliance has been part of the Ukraine Recovery conferences, and to date, has made significant impacts, including advocating for increased ODA with gender equality objectives - according to the latest OECD data, bilateral ODA to Ukraine that included gender equality objectives rose from 9% in 2022 to 19% in 2023 – nearly doubling in one year. The Alliance also supports economic empowerment initiatives through private sector engagement and is active on prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

- Read more from UN Women:

[The Fourth Ukraine Recovery Conference 2025 Concludes in Rome with Strong Emphasis on Gender-Responsive Recovery](#)

[Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery in Ukraine Launched with strong support of governments, UN agencies, private sector and civil society](#)

27. 2025

27.1. Driving Change in Policing: The High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing and UN Women's Police Adviser

As the Secretariat for the High-Level Network on Gender-responsive Policing, in February 2025 UN Women conducted the first meeting of the High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing, bringing together Police Advisers from Member States and leading experts to advance transformative policing practices rooted in gender equality and survivor-centered approaches. As a next step, UN Women established its first-ever Police Adviser position, institutionalizing gender-responsive policing as a core element of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda. This role ensures that gender considerations are not only integrated into policy but also into operational policing and peacekeeping practices. Through the Police Adviser role, UN Women contributes specialized policing expertise, ensuring that gender considerations are not only integrated into policy but also into operational policing and peacekeeping practices. This is also reflected in close cooperation with other UN entities, for example UNODC, UNICRI, UNPD. These initiatives strengthen the implementation of Resolution 1325 by embedding gender-responsive approaches into the core of policing reform and peace operations. The High-Level Network and the Police Adviser role reflect a shift to systemic transformation – a powerful affirmation that when women lead in policing, peace and justice follow.

- Read more from UN Women:

[The High-Level Network on Gender-Responsive Policing: Building commitment on gender-responsive policing](#)

27.2. Women's Caucus Launches, Bringing Hope for Inclusive Peace in Libya

In partnership with UNSMIL, UN Women will launch the Women's Caucus to facilitate women's safe, meaningful, and effective participation in the

UN-facilitated political process. With the UN having three women, all strongly committed to the WPS agenda, leading the process in Libya, this represents a unique opportunity to achieve progress toward peace.

- Read more:

[Libyan Women's Caucus](#)

27.3. Al Hol Camp Report Shines a Light on the Situation of Women and Girls

This publication examines gendered experiences of arbitrary detention in Al-Hol and interrogates core assumptions of women's alleged links or family ties to ISIL/Da'esh.

- Read more from UN Women:

[Understanding the lives of the women, men and children of Al-Hol camp](#)

27.4. South-East Asian Countries Prioritize WPS in Vision for 2045

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is placing at the forefront of ASEAN Vision 2045 a plan to elevate the participation and leadership of women in preventing conflicts and maintaining peace.

The bloc's 10 Member States reaffirmed commitment to their Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security at the ASEAN Women, Peace and Security Summit on 9-10 September in Kuala Lumpur.

- Read more from UN Women:

[In Focus: 25 years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Asia and the Pacific in 2025](#)

[South-East Asian countries give priority to women and peace agenda in vision for 2045](#)

[ASEAN representatives reconvene to discuss ways to promote women and peace agenda in Member States](#)

UN WOMEN EXISTS TO ADVANCE WOMEN'S RIGHTS, GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF ALL WOMEN AND GIRLS.

As the lead UN entity on gender equality and secretariat of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, we shift laws, institutions, social behaviours and services to close the gender gap and build an equal world for all women and girls. Our partnerships with governments, women's movements and the private sector coupled with our coordination of the broader United Nations translate progress into lasting changes. We make strides forward for women and girls in four areas: leadership, economic empowerment, freedom from violence, and women, peace and security as well as humanitarian action.

UN Women keeps the rights of women and girls at the centre of global progress – always, everywhere. Because gender equality is not just what we do. It is who we are.



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