

# 2020 CIVIL SOCIETY ROADMAP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## RECOMMENDATIONS IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19



## BACKGROUND

The NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security (NGOWG) is an independent advocacy coalition consisting of 18 international NGOs that advocates for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all efforts to create and maintain international peace and security.

Our members work alongside women and women-led organizations in conflict and post-conflict situations in over 50 countries and work directly with over 200 NGOs and 75 networks of civil society actors and activists. Our members<sup>a</sup> represent a broad spectrum of fields spanning the entire peace and security spectrum, including: human rights and women's rights, humanitarian assistance, disability rights, refugees and forcibly displaced populations, international humanitarian law, disarmament, security sector reform and transformative justice. This breadth of issue expertise, along with our joint expansive global civil society networks, enables us to develop and promote country-specific policy recommendations that positively impact the lives of women affected by conflict to Member States and United Nations (UN) leadership.

The [2020 Civil Society Roadmap on Women, Peace and Security](#) outlines key priorities and recommendations to the UN, Security Council and Member States in 2020 and beyond in **five key areas**:

1. **Prevention of conflict.** Take decisive action to prevent conflict, end violence and avert crisis, including by addressing gendered drivers of conflict and instability.
2. **Women's meaningful participation.** Ensure women's full, equal, and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security.
3. **Human rights defenders, peacebuilders and civil society space.** Defend the legitimacy of the work of all human rights defenders and peacebuilders and their role in promoting peace and security, and effectively prevent and address attacks against them.
4. **Gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, including access to comprehensive sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR),** must be central to maintaining international peace and security.
5. **Accountability for implementation.** In addition to ensuring implementation by Member States, promoting system-wide accountability of the UN for implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.

The following document presents [recommendations in response to COVID-19](#). See [here](#) for our article on why women's rights must be central to COVID-19 responses.

<sup>a</sup>Current members of the NGOWG are: Amnesty International; CARE International; Center for Reproductive Rights; Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights; Cordaid; Global Justice Center; Global Network of Women Peacebuilders; Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict; Human Rights Watch; International Alert; MADRE; Nobel Women's Initiative; OutRight Action International; Oxfam International; Refugees International; Women Enabled; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; and Women's Refugee Commission.

## 2020 Civil Society Roadmap on Women, Peace and Security

### Recommendations in Response to COVID-19

- ❑ **Require rights-based and age-, gender- and disability-sensitive pandemic responses:** COVID-19 responses must be grounded in data disaggregated by gender, age and disability, and intersectional analysis that recognizes the gendered impact of the crisis. Where this data does not yet exist, the Security Council must request it to inform its own response to the pandemic.
- ❑ **Protect civilians and ensure principled humanitarian access to all people in need:** Demand cessation of attacks against civilians, healthcare workers and humanitarian actors, which violate [international humanitarian, criminal and human rights law](#) and [Security Council Resolution 2286 \(2016\)](#). Support the [Secretary-General's call](#) that national authorities designate humanitarian workers as essential, given their direct and indispensable role in delivering life-saving assistance.
- ❑ **Require women's full, equal and meaningful participation and leadership:** Recommend that all COVID-19 decision-making bodies are inclusive, gender-balanced and include dedicated gender expertise. All response design, implementation and evaluation should involve local civil society, particularly women-led organizations and those working on human rights.
- ❑ **Defend civil society space:** Call on all Member States to [uphold international human rights and humanitarian law](#) and refrain from enacting indefinite or disproportionate emergency measures that limit or entirely curtail the right to movement, assembly and information, or impose undue restrictions on civic space or the work of civil society and human rights defenders, including women's rights organizations, as part of pandemic response.
- ❑ **Maintain essential health services:** Urge Member States and the UN system to maintain and prioritize non-discriminatory and comprehensive access to essential health services, including sexual and reproductive health in line with the Minimum Initial Services Package in accordance with [international humanitarian and human rights law](#), as well as psychosocial support and other mental health services.
- ❑ **Prevent and respond to gender-based violence:** Take necessary measures to prevent, address, and document all forms of gender-based violence, particularly intimate partner violence and other forms of domestic violence, recognizing that violence against women, girls and other marginalized groups will increase due to the need for voluntary quarantines, social distancing, curfews and closure of non-essential services. Member States and donors must strengthen and fill gaps in the provision of local gender-based violence survivor-centered referral systems and services.