

# 2020 CIVIL SOCIETY ROADMAP ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE UN



## 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 (HRDs), peacebuilders and civil society space.** Defend the legitimacy of the work of all HRDs 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 (WPS) agenda.

The following document presents [recommendations to the UN](#).

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<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 to the UN

#### I. Prevention of Conflict

- ❑ **Require gender-sensitive conflict analysis and an analysis of root causes of conflict in all UN programming and decision-making, including conflict prevention, humanitarian programming, preventing violent extremism, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and development efforts.** All UN entities, including the Department of Peace Operations (DPO), the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), must ensure that all gender-sensitive conflict analysis meets certain minimum standards, which reflect existing standard operating procedures, policies and commitments.<sup>1</sup> Such analysis must be translated into gender-sensitive programming, inform humanitarian needs assessments, and be included in all country- and region-specific reports of the Secretary-General and briefings delivered by senior UN officials. All conflict analysis must include a robust, intersectional discussion of gender, including gender norms, sexual orientation and gender identity, take into account diverse ethnic, cultural and religious identities, and be grounded in sex-, disability- and age-disaggregated data. As part of carrying out gender-sensitive conflict analysis efforts, and in order to ensure all programming is reflective of local realities, all UN entities, including DPO, DPPA, OCHA, UNDP and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), must be required to regularly and meaningfully engage with women’s civil society organizations, activists, peacebuilders and HRDs through all stages of such processes.<sup>2</sup>
- ❑ **Require all senior officials across all UN entities to uphold gender equality and human rights as a fundamental part of their prevention mandate, including in public statements and policy frameworks.** Given the primacy of conflict prevention in the mandate of the UN, senior officials, including the Secretary-General, should regularly and publicly champion gender equality, call for the promotion of all human rights, including comprehensive SRHR, in all efforts to prevent conflict at all levels, and call out governments that undermine these rights. Senior officials must consistently emphasize gender equality, human rights and the political primacy of women’s full, equal and meaningful participation across all peace and political processes, in all discussions with government officials, and further reinforce their necessity in establishing and strengthening institutions, legislation and policies. This should also be reflected in all internal planning and policy frameworks, including in the areas of sustainable development, humanitarian action and peacebuilding.
- ❑ **Invest in early warning systems that are gender-responsive, disability-accessible and inclusive to avert crises and prevent conflict.** Programming and decision-making processes, including within the Security Council, must be informed by regular assessment of early warning indicators that are context-specific, gender-sensitive, disability-accessible, evidence-based and developed in partnership with local communities.

## II. Women’s full, equal and meaningful participation in all aspects of peace and security

- ❑ **Make direct participation of diverse women a requirement in all UN-led or co-led peace processes, and actively advocate for and support the leadership of diverse women from local communities in line with State obligations to ensure women’s full, equal and meaningful representation in all stages of peace processes.** These obligations are expressed in the [Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\)](#) and [CEDAW General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations](#), and emphasized in Resolutions [1325 \(2000\)](#), [1820 \(2008\)](#), [1889 \(2009\)](#), [2106 \(2013\)](#), [2122 \(2013\)](#), [2242 \(2015\)](#), [2467 \(2019\)](#), and [2493 \(2019\)](#).<sup>3</sup> All peace processes must include full, equal and meaningful participation of diverse women and fully integrate a gender perspective. Where delegations exclude women, UN mediation teams, Special Envoys and Special Representatives should insist on women’s direct participation and take specific steps to facilitate and ensure their participation in a way that gives them the opportunity to influence the outcome of any given process. Symbolic, superficial, advisory, last-minute, informal or ad hoc representation through advisory boards or other observer status must never be presented as substitutes for direct participation. Explicit language on the need to include diverse women in all stages of peace processes must be included in all senior compacts, terms of reference and directives to all senior UN leadership. In addition, UN mediation teams, Special Envoys and Special Representatives must regularly consult with women’s civil society, as called for in [Resolution 2122 \(2013\)](#) and outlined in DPO’s [Gender Responsive United Nations Peacekeeping Operations Policy](#) and DPPA’s [Women, Peace and Security Policy](#).
- ❑ **Take concrete steps to ensure that women do not face retaliation for their participation.** Prevent and respond to women who face reprisals for participating in peace and political processes, including elections, at all levels. Ensure that all planning and decision-making is gender-sensitive and takes into account measures to mitigate such risks.
- ❑ **Regularly review UN-led or co-led peace processes, and make the results publicly available, in order to assess the inclusivity of such processes, boost accountability of UN staff and leadership for promoting women’s meaningful participation, and identify concrete ways to support participation and avoid exclusion in the future.**

## III. Human rights defenders, peacebuilders and civil society space

- ❑ **All relevant UN entities and experts, including senior officials, such as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, Humanitarian Coordinators and Resident Coordinators, should issue statements of condemnation in response to violent rhetoric and crackdowns on civil society, including on women human rights defenders (WHRDs) and peacebuilders.**
- ❑ **The UN must, in the context of its conflict prevention and early warning efforts, and its human rights monitoring and reporting, monitor all attacks and threats of violence targeting WHRDs and peacebuilders. This should occur across the UN system, including by peace operations.** Attacks and violence should be taken as a sign of escalating instability or potential conflict. Monitoring efforts should include robust data collection that

is intersectional, disaggregated and considers the identity of the HRD, as well as the issues and populations they work with. Information and analysis must be included in reports of the Secretary-General on country- and region-specific situations, and provide analysis of any attempts to restrict the activities of women civil society leaders and HRDs. As part of efforts to monitor these threats, UN system entities at the local level must consult with diverse women’s civil society organizations and HRDs. In contexts where legal recognition and registration of organizations working on these issues is impossible, adopt alternative measures to ensure diverse inclusion including, but not limited to, consulting with organizations inside and outside of the country that have partnerships with organizations and individuals working in these areas.

#### IV. Promotion of human rights, including sexual and reproductive health and rights

- ❑ **Ensure accountability for violations of sexual and reproductive rights** by meeting clearly established obligations to provide non-discriminatory access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services and care in all crisis situations and conflict and humanitarian settings.
- ❑ **UN system entities must include detailed information, sex-, age- and disability-disaggregated data and analysis on efforts to address SRHR** in all reports of the Secretary-General on country- and region-specific situations, as well as thematic issues.
- ❑ **UN senior officials must speak out publicly and regularly to ensure that there is no ambiguity regarding the obligation of states to guarantee, as a matter of right, access to the full range of SRH services without discrimination, in conflict-affected and humanitarian settings.** All senior UN leaders must reinforce the importance of the full range of women’s human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights, in all public statements and as a priority in their decision-making and public messaging.

#### V. Ensure system-wide accountability across the UN for implementation of the WPS agenda

- ❑ **Hold UN senior leadership accountable for WPS implementation.** As advised by the [independent assessment](#), the Secretary-General should commit to updating and making publicly available the compacts for senior leadership — all Special Envoys, Special Representatives to the Secretary-General, Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators, Senior Advisers and other senior managers throughout the UN system — to reflect WPS as a key priority. Special Envoys should be requested to regularly report on their efforts to explore all available avenues to support the direct participation of diverse women in peace processes. In addition, Special Envoys should also publicly report on the gender composition of all negotiating parties.
- ❑ **Prioritize, resource and politically support recruitment of gender advisers.**<sup>4</sup> Prioritize and fund systematic recruitment and appointment of senior women's protection advisers and gender advisers, and ensure they are located in the offices of all Special Representatives,

Special Envoys and strategic assessment or review teams. Publicly report on deployment in order to ensure greater transparency on which posts are filled and which remain vacant.

- ❑ **Fund gender equality and the WPS agenda.** Meet the target of 15% of funds being earmarked for programs that further gender equality and women’s empowerment in peacebuilding contexts by 2020, and increase the target to 30% after 2020 with a view to further increasing it in the future.

<sup>1</sup> UN, *Directive of the Secretary-General on Planning*, 2019.

*Action for Peacekeeping: Declaration of Shared Commitments on UN Peacekeeping Operations*, 2018.

<https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/a4p-declaration-en.pdf>

UN DPO, *Policy: Gender Responsive UN Peacekeeping Operations*, 2018. <https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/gender-responsive-un-peacekeeping-operations-policy-en.pdf>

UN DPO, *Women transforming peace through peacekeeping*, 2019. [https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/policy\\_brief.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/policy_brief.pdf)

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[https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/gewps19\\_respack\\_v7\\_eng\\_digital.pdf](https://peacekeeping.un.org/sites/default/files/gewps19_respack_v7_eng_digital.pdf)

UN DPO, DPPA, OHCHR, OSRSG SVC, *Policy: UNField Missions: Preventing and responding to Conflict-related Sexual Violence*

(2019.35), 2019. <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/DPO-DPPA-SRSG-SVC-OHCHR-Policy-on-Field-Missions-Preventing-and-Responding-to-CRSV-2020.pdf>

UN Security Council, *Letter dated 28 October 2019 from the Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission addressed to the President of the Security Council (S/2019/845)*, 2019. <https://undocs.org/S/2019/845>

<sup>2</sup> Saferworld, WILPF & Oxfam, *Building inclusive peace: Gender at the Heart of Conflict Analysis*, 2017. <https://wilpf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/01/BuildingInclusivePeace-GenderHeartConflictAnalysis.pdf>

Cordaid, *Delivering SRHR Services in Fragile Contexts*, 2017. [https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2018/01/Cordaid\\_Healthcare\\_SRHR-programs\\_EN\\_June-2017\\_LR.pdf](https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/11/2018/01/Cordaid_Healthcare_SRHR-programs_EN_June-2017_LR.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> Resolution 1325 (2000), OP 2; Resolution 1820 (2008), OP 12; Resolution 1889 (2009), OP 1; Resolution 2106 (2013), OP 5; Resolution 2122 (2013), OPs 1, 7; Resolution 2242 (2015), OP 1; Resolution 2467 (2019), OP 20; Resolution 2493 (2019), OPs 2, 3, 9(a); CEDAW, Arts. 7-8.

<sup>4</sup> See [independent assessment](#).