

13 October 2016

Open Letter to Permanent Representatives to the UN: Recommendations on the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

Dear Ambassador,

We write to you in advance of the Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) urging you to provide details on the progress your country has made on meeting its political, financial and institutional commitments made at last year's High Level Review of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).

In 2015, three UN peace and security reviews, including the Global Study on SCR 1325 (2000), affirmed the long-made recommendations made by civil society to prioritize conflict prevention, strengthen women's participation in all decision-making around peace and security issues, substantially scale up the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda and increase investment in women's organizations. At last year's High Level Review of SCR 1325 (2000) and Security Council Open Debate on WPS, a record number of Member States participated in the debate. Of the 105 statements made by Member States, 65 percent included concrete commitments or positive statements on advancing women's meaningful participation in peace, security and political processes and 59 percent emphasized the importance of conflict prevention and women's role within this.

In your statement to the Security Council, we urge you to include updates across your domestic and foreign policies and where relevant in your capacity as a donor and troop and police contributing country. This should include sharing details on how you are working alongside women civil society organizations to implement the WPS agenda including the provisions of SCRs 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015). Specifically, in regards to:

Women's Participation in Preventing and Resolving Conflict and Post Conflict Rebuilding

We urge you to outline concrete steps taken to:

- Ensure the increased and meaningful representation of women in all peace, political and judicial processes;
- Support diverse women's civil society and women human rights defenders in conflict-affected countries to engage in local, national, regional and global decision making structures;
- Integrate women's substantive participation in the development and implementation of conflict prevention and countering violent extremism UN and national-level strategies in line with commitments made in SCR 2242 (2015); and
- Strengthen gender sensitive disarmament, demobilization reintegration programs and security sector reform initiatives.

Addressing Humanitarian Crises through a Gender Lens

We urge you to outline concrete steps taken to:

- Engage women from local communities in the design and implementation of protection of civilian strategies and humanitarian assistance;
- In line with international humanitarian law ensure access to the full range of medical, legal, and psychosocial and livelihood services, including sexual and reproductive services, without discrimination; and
- Implement effective asylum and legal protection mechanisms in accordance with international law, remove gender discriminatory nationality laws; and protect women and girls from sexual and gender based violence while in transit and in final destinations.

Strengthening Justice, Accountability and the Rule of Law

We urge you to outline concrete steps taken to:

- Support gender-sensitive security and justice sectors that are accessible to women and girls; uphold the rule of law; implement non-discriminatory laws, policies and practices; and increase women's recruitment, professional development and equitable access to promotion;
- Enable women's meaningful participation in national reconciliation and transitional justice mechanisms and ensure mediators supporting such processes advocate for diversity in participant representation as well as gender equitable reparations;
- Address, investigate and prosecute sexual exploitation and abuse committed by all UN and international staff by supporting calls for, or implementing, mandatory pre-deployment vetting and training; the equitable representation of women on conduct and discipline teams; more transparent reporting on allegations and investigations; and priority being given to survivor-centered responses which maintain confidentiality, minimize repeated trauma, and ensure rapid access to medical and psychosocial care;
- Ensure accountability for crimes perpetrated by all sides of a conflict, by supporting the documentation and investigation of human rights abuses, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide, particularly for sexual and gender-based violations;
- Prevent and ensure accountability for attacks on women human rights defenders and women in public life as well as women who do not fill traditional gender roles and attacks on LGBT individuals; and
- Curb the flow of small arms and light weapons including through enforcing the Arms Trade Treaty, imposing arms embargoes, and implement SDG16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows in a way that reduces gender based violence

Developing and Implementing National Action Plans on 1325

We urge you to outline concrete steps taken to:

- Implement a National Action Plan which is robustly monitored and evaluated, well-funded and staffed, and inclusive of civil society in development, implementation and follow-up; and
- Align national security and gender strategies, including national strategies to counter violent extremism, with National Action Plans on SCR 1325 (2000) to ensure WPS aims are coherently and consistently supported.

Financing the WPS Agenda

We urge you to outline concrete steps taken to:

- Allocate specific aid to efforts which advance gender equality and women's leadership, participation and protection;
- Increase predictable, accessible and flexible funding for women's civil society organizations working on peace and security at all levels, including capacity training to women civil society representatives engaging in peace processes;
- Ensure that counter-terrorism strategies do not restrict the work of women's rights organizations through overly restrictive legal, financial and reporting requirements; and
- Support women's participation in donor conferences to ensure interventions appropriately target the needs of women affected by conflict.

Last October, 71 Member States co-sponsored Security Council resolution 2242 (2015) reaffirming that women's and girl's empowerment and gender equality are critical to conflict prevention and to broader efforts to maintain international peace and security. Co-sponsoring Security Council resolutions is a positive and symbolic step which then should be followed by UN and national-level implementation. We look forward to hearing how you are doing this.

Sincerely,

The NGOWG coalition members are: Amnesty International; CARE International; Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights; Femmes Africa Solidarité; Global Justice Center; Human Rights Watch; The Institute for Inclusive Security; International Alert; MADRE; Nobel Women's Initiative; Oxfam; Refugees International; Women's Refugee Commission; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

1. 1325 Network Finland
3. A Chorus of Women (Australia)
5. Action Works Nepal (AWON)
7. Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN) (Cameroon)
9. Afrihealth Optonet Association (Nigeria)
11. Ahmedabad Women's Action Group (India)
13. Amnesty International
15. Armenian Committee of Helsinki Citizens' Assembly
17. Asociación Mujeres por la Paz (Spain)
19. Association for Gender and Sustainable Human Development Empowerment (AGSHDE) (Cameroon)
21. Association of War Affected Women (Sri Lanka)
23. Australian Civil Society Coalition on Women, Peace and Security
25. Bolivian Women's Efforts
27. Bridgebuilders Trust (New Zealand)
29. Canadian Federation of University Women
31. CEIPAZ (Spain)
33. Center for Conflict Resolution (Uganda)
35. Center Women and Modern World (Azerbaijan)
37. Charles and Doosurgh Abaagu Foundation (Nigeria)
39. Children On The Streets Project (Nigeria)
41. Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT 1325) (Uganda)
43. Comité des Observateurs des Droits de l'Homme (DRC)
45. Community and Family Aid Foundation (Ghana)
47. Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights
49. Democracy Now (Armenia)
51. Double Hope Films, LLC (USA)
53. Echoes of Women in Africa (Nigeria)
55. Engr. Aja Eze Foundation (USA)
57. European Network of Migrant Women (Europe)
59. Felm (Finland)
61. Feminist Task Force
63. FEMNET (Kenya)
65. Forum for Women in Development, Democracy and Justice (Kenya)
67. Frauenakademie München e.V. (Germany)
69. Fundacion Arcoiris (Mexico)
71. Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) (UK)
73. Gender and Mine Action Programme (Switzerland)
75. Gender Equity: Citizenship, Work and Family (Mexico)
77. General Trade Union of Workers in Health Services and Pharmaceutical Industries (Jordan)
79. Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (USA)
81. Global Campaign for Equal Nationality Rights
83. Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
85. Global Sisterhood Network
87. Havilah Kenya
89. Hope foundation for Social Entrepreneurship (Tanzania)
91. Human Rights Watch
93. IKFF Växjökreten (Sweden)
95. Impunity Watch (The Netherlands)
2. 1325 Policy Group (Sweden)
4. ABAAD Organization (Lebanon)
6. Advocates for Youth and Health Development (AYHD) (Nigeria)
8. African Sky (The Netherlands)
10. After Bruce (USA)
12. Albanian Society for All Ages (ASAG)
14. Arizona State NAACP (USA)
16. Asia Catalyst (USA)
18. Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD) (Georgia)
20. Association for Women's Career Development in Hungary
22. Association pour la Protection de l'Environnement et le Developpement Durable de Bizerte (APEDDUB) (Tunisia)
24. Balance (Mexico)
26. Bougainville Women's Federation (Papua New Guinea)
28. Cadire Cameroon Association (Cameroon)
30. CARE International
32. CENDDOW (The Netherlands)
34. Center for Women's Global Leadership (USA)
36. Central Arizona NLG (USA)
38. Child Health Organization (Nigeria)
40. CHOICE for Youth & Sexuality (The Netherlands)
42. Coalition of State Women and Youth Organization (COSWYO) (South Sudan)
44. Common Cause UK (UK & DRC)
46. Consejo de Seguridad y Justicia de las Familias-Pueblo de la Nación Argentina
48. Cyprus Women's Lobby
50. Development without Limitation (Lebanon)
52. Dushirehamwe (Burundi)
54. Emonyoyefwe International (Kenya)
56. Essential Partners (USA)
58. Federation of Muslim Women's Associations in Nigeria
60. Feminist Majority Foundation (USA)
62. femLINKpacific (Pacific)
64. Forum for Women and Development (FOKUS) (Norway)
66. Fostering Progressive Advocacy Foundation Inc (FPA Foundation) (USA)
68. Frauennetzwerk für Frieden e.V. (Germany)
70. Fundación para el Estudio e Investigación de la Mujer (Argentina)
72. Gender and Development for Cambodia
74. Gender and Water Alliance (The Netherlands)
76. Gender-Institut Graz (Austria)
78. Generation Initiative For Women and Youth Network (Nigeria)
80. Gestos (Brazil)
82. Global Justice Center
84. Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)
86. Grandmothers Advocacy Network (Canada)
88. Head High International Organization (Nigeria)
90. HUDIFA (Cameroon)
92. Humanity Beyond Borders (Kenya)
94. Impact for Change and Development (Nigeria)
96. Inclusive Security

97. Indigenous Information Network (Kenya)
99. Institute for International Women's Rights - Manitoba, Inc. (Canada)
101. International Alliance of Women (Switzerland)
103. International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
105. International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)
107. International Organization for Victim Assistance (USA)
109. International Relief Services (IRS) (DRC)
111. International Women's Development Agency (Australia)
113. International-Curricula Educators Association (UK)
115. Iraqi Women Network
117. Justice Equality Rights Access International (Australia)
119. Kadash International (South Africa)
121. Kenana Association for Women Empowerment Sustainable Development (Egypt)
123. Kirmizi Biber Derneği (Turkey)
125. Les Héritiers de Lumumba pour la Démocratie (DRC)
127. Lulu Community Empowerment Project (Kenya)
129. Massachusetts Peace Action (USA)
131. Media Equity Collaborative (USA)
133. MenEngage Alliance
135. Mother of Hope Cameroon (MOHCAM) (Cameroon)
137. MUCOP (DRC)
139. Nabil Africa Centre for Security & Strategic Development (NACSSD) (Ghana)
141. National Council of Women of New Zealand
143. Netwerk VN-Vrouwenverdrag/ Dutch Network CEDAW
145. Niger Delta Women's Movement for Peace and Development (Nigeria)
147. Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
149. NOW(SL) (Sierra Leone)
151. Organisation européenne pour les Nations Unies (OENU) (DRC)
153. Organization of Women's Freedom in Iraq (Iraq)
155. Oudere Vrouwen Netwerk Nederland (OVN-NL) (The Netherlands)
157. Oxfam
159. Participatory Human Rights Advancement Society (Bangladesh)
161. Peace Action (USA)
163. Peace is Loud (USA)
165. Peaceful Skies Coalition (USA)
167. Pennsylvania Coalition for Peace Action (USA)
169. Prabha Khosla Consulting (Canada)
171. Reacción Climática (Bolivia)
173. Refugees International
175. Réseau National des ONG pour le Développement de la Femme (RENADEF) (DRC)
177. Rural Women's Network Nepal (RUWON Nepal) (Nepal)
98. Inez Casiano/Central Phoenix NOW (USA)
100. International Alert
102. International Centre for Women Empowerment and Child Development (ICWECD) (Nigeria)
104. International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect
106. International Federation of Business and Professional Women (IFBPW)
108. International Peace Bureau (Switzerland)
110. International Sociological Association (USA)
112. International Women's Rights Project (Canada)
114. Iranian Circle of Women's Intercultural Network (ICWIN) (USA)
116. JAGO NARI (Fighting For Women Empowerment) (Bangladesh)
118. Kefeya (Tunisia & Libya)
120. Khulumani Support Group (South Africa)
122. Kvindernes Internationale Liga for Fred og Frihed (Denmark)
124. Les Victimes des la Guerre du Kivu au Congo (DRC)
126. MADRE
128. Matumaini asbl (DRC)
130. medica mondiale e.V. (Germany)
132. Monash Gender, Peace and Security (Australia)
134. MPV Nederland (The Netherlands)
136. Multicultural Women Peacemakers Network (MWPN) (The Netherlands)
138. Naserian Organization, Maasai Widows (Tanzania)
140. National Council of Women of the United States
142. NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security
144. Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program (Nigeria)
146. Norwich and Norfolk Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (UK)
148. Observatoire International de la Démocratie en Afrique, Caraïbes et Pacifique (OID.ACP) (DRC)
150. Organisation française d'Aide aux Réfugiés (OFAR) (DRC)
152. Osafric Women Society (Kenya)
154. Owerri Daughters League (ODL) (Nigeria)
156. Pacific Women's Watch (New Zealand)
158. PAX (The Netherlands)
160. Peace Action New York State (USA)
162. Peace Movement Aotearoa (New Zealand)
164. PeaceWomen Across the Globe (Switzerland)
166. Permanent Peace Movement (Lebanon)
168. Radanar Ayar Rural Development Association (Myanmar)
170. Reconstruction, Health and Humanitarian Assistance Committee (HEWAD) (Afghanistan)
172. Regional Centre for International Development Cooperation (Uganda)
174. Rivoningo Women's Forum (South Africa)
176. S. P. Jain Institute of Management and Research (India)

179. Saathi (Nepal)
181. Sansristi (India)
183. SERVITAS Cameroon (Cameroon)
185. Société Civile de l'Afrique des Grands-Lacs/ Civil Society of Great Lakes (CSGL) (Great Lakes)
187. SolidarityNow (Greece)
189. Soroptimist International
191. Stichting ProJob (The Netherlands)
193. Sunshine Progressive Youth Alliance, Ondo State (Nigeria)
195. The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation (Sweden)
197. The National Alliance of Women's Organisations (NAWO) (UK)
199. The OTHRS (USA)
201. Tiye International (The Netherlands)
203. UN Women National Committee Germany (Germany)
205. Union Internationale des Avocats (UIA – International Association of Lawyers)
207. United Nations University for Peace (Costa Rica)
209. Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights (USA)
211. Voice of Libyan Women
213. Wider Security Network (WISE) (Finland)
215. WILPF Cameroon
217. WILPF Lebanon
219. WILPF Spain
221. WILPF Uganda
223. Womankind Worldwide (UK)
225. Women Environmental Programme (Nigeria)
227. Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (WPD Nepal)
229. Women for Women International
231. Women in Alternative Action (WAA Cameroon)
233. Women Peacemakers Program (The Netherlands)
235. Women Thrive Alliance
237. Women's Coalition - Turkey
239. Women's Initiatives Network (The Netherlands)
241. Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
243. Women's Peace Initiatives (Cameroon)
245. Women's Security Council (Germany)
247. Women's Refugee Commission
249. World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organizations (WFUWO)
251. Yemen Organization for Women's Policies (YOWP)
253. Youth for Peace (Cameroon)
180. Safe World for Women
182. SecurityWomen (UK)
184. Single Mothers Association of Kenya
186. Solidarité avec les Victimes et pour la Paix (SOVIP) (DRC)
188. Somali Organisation for Voluntary Action
190. Soroptimist International of the South West Pacific
192. Stichting Sundjata (The Netherlands)
194. The Gender Agency (Australia)
196. The Lutheran World Federation (Switzerland)
198. The Network for More Women in Politics (NMWP) (Cameroon)
200. The WomanStats Project (USA)
202. Uganda Youth Alliance For Family Planning And Adolescents Health (UYAFPAH)
204. Union de l'Action Feminine (UAF) (Morocco)
206. United Nations Association San Diego (USA)
208. University Women of Europe (The Netherlands)
210. Village Care Initiatives Congo D.R (VCIC) (DRC)
212. VOND (The Netherlands)
214. Widows for Peace through Democracy (WPD) (UK)
216. WILPF Ghana
218. WILPF Palestine
220. WILPF Sweden
222. WO=MEN, Dutch Gender Platform (The Netherlands)
224. Women Entrepreneurs Association of Nigeria (WEAN)
226. Women for Peace (Germany)
228. Women for Progress Center, Sadr City (Iraq)
230. Women House Development Center (Palestine)
232. Women Initiative for Peace and Good Governance (WIPGG) (Nigeria)
234. Women Problems Research Union-Women's Institute (Azerbaijan)
236. Women Transforming Cities International Society (Canada)
238. Women's Environment and Development Organization (USA)
240. Women's Intercultural Network
242. Women's International News Gathering Service (WINGS) (Canada)
244. Women's Rehabilitation Center Nepal (WOREC) (Nepal)
246. Women's UN Report Network (WUNRN)
248. World Federalist Movement - Institute for Global Policy (USA)
250. World Peace Now!
252. Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) (Zambia)
254. Zonta International (USA)