



Women, Peace and Security

*Concepts, Interoperability and Capability Branch
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INTRODUCTION

UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 from October 2000 was the first UN Security Council resolution to acknowledge women's and girls' involvement in conflict and their central role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, as well as in peace consolidation. In 18 paragraphs, the Council appealed for the greater participation of women in decision-making; their further engagement with peacekeeping, field operations, mission consultation and peace negotiations; increased funding and other support for UN bodies' gender work; enhanced state commitments to women's and girls' human rights and their protection under international law; the introduction of special measures against sexual violence in armed conflict; and the consideration of women's and girls' needs in humanitarian, refugee, disarmament and post-conflict settings¹. NATO and the Women, Peace and Security mandate are fundamentally connected through the common values of individual liberty, human rights, and obligations under the Charter of the United Nations. In line with the UNSCR 1325, NATO aims to address gender inequality and integrate WPS through the Alliance's three core tasks of collective defence, crisis management and cooperative security. NATO and its partners recognize that the impact of conflict and post-conflict situations is disproportionate on women and girls, and contribute to the full implementation of the WPS agenda, supporting its advance through the guiding principles of integration, inclusiveness, and integrity². Although NATO's gender definition encompasses men, women, girls and boys, the WPS agenda is directly related to gender, but with a focus on women and girls' rights and protection.

IMPLICATIONS

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

The basic legal framework begins with the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948)**, stating that all humans should be treated equally regardless of gender. This is strengthened by the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women - CEDAW (1979)** and the **Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action** adopted at **The Fourth World Conference on Women (1995)**. **UNSCR 1325 (2000)** and related Resolutions **1820 (2008)**, **1888 (2009)**, **1889 (2009)**, **1960 (2010)**, **2106 (2013)**, **2122 (2013)**, **2242 (2015)**, **2272 (2016)** provide guidance and enhance efforts to promote and protect the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations. NATO has pledged to implement the UNSCR 1325 through the adoption of their **Bi-SC Directive 40-1 Integrating UNSCR 1325 and Gender Perspectives into the Command Structure**, including measures for protection during armed conflict. Under the **Rome Statute (1998)** of the **International Criminal Court (ICC)**, any form of sexual violence is recognized both as crimes against humanity and as war crimes.

¹ KIRBY, P. and SHEPHERD, L. (2016). Reintroducing women, peace and security. *International Affairs*, 92(2), pp.249-254.

² Special Representative to the Secretary General on Sexual Violence in Conflict Margot Wallström (2010). Keynote Speech At The Women And War UNSCR 1325 Tenth Anniversary Conference.



MISSION IMPLICATIONS

Within the framework of the comprehensive approach, the protection of the entire society must be addressed, highlighting the differing security concerns, risks and experiences that women and girls have. If the protection of civilians against gender-based violence is not taken into account, it can have an impact on the sustainability of mission results. The important roles of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security must be seen as a relevant part of the mission. A mixed gender force enhances the sharing of information and is instrumental in garnering trust and credibility. At all phases of the mission the commander should enforce the application of NATO standards of behavior and respect to international humanitarian law and human rights law on protection of women and girls' rights. The commander should include a gender perspective into planning and execution of operations to be able to implement the WPS agenda.

ASSESSMENT IMPLICATIONS

The different perspectives from men and women in the society have to be included for a comprehensive understanding of the civil environment. Thus a gender perspective has to be included in the civil estimate, and in other assessments and reports. Specifically the presence of gender based violence in the AOR and possible countermeasures need to be assessed and conveyed to the commander. Integrating gender perspective is done by adapting action following a gender analysis. Gender analysis requires the systematic gathering and examination of information on gender differences and on social relations between men and women in order to identify and understand inequities based on gender.

RESPONSIBILITIES

J1 – Responsible for the gender balanced recruitment of workforce to engage with the civilian population.

J3 – Integration of gender awareness in the execution of operations.

J5 – Integration of gender awareness in the planning process of operations.

J7 – Collective training and exercise on gender awareness and gender mainstreaming, including in pre-deployment training.

J9 – Ensure the relevance of the WPS cross-cutting topic in all force activities. Advising the commander on WPS.

LEGAD/GENAD – Assess and advice on the legal and mission implications that relate to WPS.



LEADING ORGANIZATIONS

- **UN Women** - global advocate and responsible for supporting mission actors with technical expertise on WPS.
- **United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO)** - mandated by the Security Council to implement the Security Council Resolutions on WPS across all peacekeeping functions.
- **NATO** - the Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security serves as the high-level focal point for NATO's contributions to the WPS agenda.
- **EU** - the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) works on promoting gender equality.
- **OECD** – the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) provides aid to gender equality in fragile states and economies.
- **U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP)** - provides training, analysis, and other resources to people, organizations, and governments working for gender equality and protection for women and girls.
- **Working Group on Women and Armed Conflict** - monitors policy and practice and builds coalitions between civil society and high-level decision makers to advance the WPS agenda.
- **Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations (NCGM)** - provides advice on policy development, holding T&E courses, and participating in seminars and workshops.

RELATED TOPICS

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is strongly linked to several other important topics.

WPS is related to **Protection of Civilians** and the Responsibility to Protect. The WPS pillars of protection and prevention call for the protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence.

The **Children and Armed Conflict** topic is connected to WPS, because of the need of a gender perspective related to the protection of children in conflict situations and the rehabilitation and social reintegration process, and the prevention of gender-based violence.

Good Governance requires (gender) equality. The UNSCR 1325 on WPS calls for measures to ensure the protection and respect for the rights of women and girls, particularly as they can be related to the host nation's constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary.

WPS is supported by a working **Rule of Law**. The prevention pillar of WPS demands the prosecution of those responsible for violations of international law, the strengthening of women's rights under national laws.

Disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration (DDR) and security sector reform (SSR) are relevant to the WPS agenda as one of its pillars is about relief and recovery, including in the mandate the special needs of women and girls involved in armed conflicts during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.



THE “DOs” AND “DON’Ts”:

DOs

- Harmonize WPS activities with NGOs and IO, to avoid duplication of efforts.
- Adhere to NATO standards of behavior and the UN zero tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse.
- Report violations to the chain of command.
- Reach out to gender specialists when necessary.
- Include gender analysis on the civil assessment.
- Support local women’s peace initiatives and facilitate their active inclusion in the conflict resolution and peace building processes.
- Be aware of the “feel good trap” (doing things because they give you a good feeling but are not necessarily sustainable or effective) related to implementing WPS.

DON’Ts

- Don’t stereotype gender roles.
- Don’t set up WPS related activities outside the boundaries of the mission.
- Don’t ignore local customs and traditions relating to gender.
- Don’t create barriers between military and non-military actors working on the implementation of the WPS agenda.
- Don’t close your eyes to a situation of discrimination based on gender.
- Don’t assume that working on gender and/or WPS is only for or about women.
- Don’t minimize or ignore the contributions of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.
- Don’t consider WPS a standalone topic. It is a cross-cutting topic and affects all lines of operations.

CIMIC TASKS

- Establish and maintain liaison with local authorities, local population, NGOs and IOs dealing with gender and the implementation of the WPS agenda.
- Include WPS and gender in education and training.
- Perform gender analysis: the systematic gathering and examination of information on gender differences and social relations to identify and understand inequities.
- Include gender issues in the standard reporting procedures, with special attention being paid to sexual violence and other transgressions. Reports can be used as evidence in the court of law.
- Inform fellow soldiers on local laws, customs, culture and traditions regarding gender.
- Promote force acceptance by including a gender perspective.
- Provide information on the civil situation, taking into account the gender dimensions of the civil situation.
- Enable and provide support to the implementation of WPS by means of capacity building and capacity sharing on gender.



POINTS OF CONTACT DURING THE MISSION

The responsibility to ensure the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on WPS lies within the local authorities that are supported by GOs, NGOs and IOs.

- Local government
- UN Women: <http://www.unwomen.org>
- DPKO: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/promoting-women-peace-and-security>
- USIP: <https://www.usip.org>
- NGOs
- NATO: IMS Office of the Gender Advisor - dgims.genad@hq.nato.int
- NCGM: <http://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/swedint>

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On NATO Women, Peace and Security,

http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_91091.htm

On WPS policy implementation,

www.peacewomen.org

On gender and on available gender courses,

<http://www.forsvarsmakten.se/en/swedint/nordic-centre-for-gender-in-military-operations/>

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NATO, BI-SC Directive 40-1 (NATO, 2012).

NATO/EAPC, Women, Peace and Security: Policy and Action Plan (NATO, 2018).

NATO, AJP-3.19 Allied Joint Doctrine for Civil-Military Cooperation (NATO, 2018).

UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Securing the Peace - A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, 12 October 2015 (UNWOMEN, 2015).

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