Women are especially concerned about war and violence. Across the globe, women actively work to find and create peaceful solutions to violent conflict. History clearly demonstrates that real peace and security are only possible when women are involved in peace processes, bringing their experiences and needs to the table.

In 2000, the UN Security Council recognized this by adopting Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security, demanding the inclusion of women in all peace negotiations. Ten years later, we are still very far away from this goal. Hopes and expectations remain unfulfilled.

Today, the 1000 PeaceWomen nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005 turn yet again to the UN Security Council, to UN member states and to the public with an urgent demand. Implement Resolution 1325 now.

Our message is clear. No Women – No Peace.

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Often dubbed the «women’s resolution», UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is first and foremost about peace and security for every person in the world. This resolution is not about the inclusion of women for the sake of political correctness. It is firmly rooted in the premise that women’s inclusion and their presence at the negotiating table will significantly improve the chances of attaining viable and sustainable peace.

Unanimously adopted on 31st of October, 2000, Resolution 1325 is the first-ever resolution passed by the UN Security Council acknowledging the need for and contributions of half the world’s population – women – to international peace and security.

Both women and men experience violent conflicts as gross human tragedies. But the roles, experiences, needs and interests of women, girls, men and boys are very different. Although women are involved in fighting, the majority of combatants are men. Women are more severely affected by sexual abuse and domestic violence, displacement and social discrimination. During violent conflict, they tend to take over male-dominated roles, as heads of households. They carry heavy burdens. They pay high costs for war.

Yet, the vast majority of decisions in peace processes are taken by men – often with military or power interests. Where are the women?

Paragraph 1 of UNSCR 1325 states that there must be «increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management, and resolution of conflict».

Resolution 1325: the five Ps for peace.

- Participation: greater inclusion of women in peacebuilding
- Prevention of conflict and gender-based violence
- Protection of the rights and needs of women and girls during and after armed conflicts
- Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding: gender mainstreaming in all activities and phases

«No woman has ever been appointed chief or lead mediator in UN-sponsored peace talks. Such exclusion invariably leads to a failure to adequately address women’s concerns, such as sexual and gender-based violence, women’s rights and post-conflict accountability.»

Source: UNIFEM website, 2010

www.1000peacewomen.org
Resolution 1325: a brief history

Resolution 1325 is also the result of dedicated lobbying by women’s organizations around the world.

In 2000, during the 5th anniversary of the 4th World Conference on Women in Beijing (“Beijing + 5”), International Alert and the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom co-chaired a caucus of 60 NGOs from conflict areas and urged UN Member States to support a Security Council Resolution on women, peace and security.


The group contacted diplomats from countries holding seats on the Security Council at the time. Based on widespread consultation with women peace activists in conflict zones, they also produced an initial draft of the resolution.

Bangladesh was the first country to adopt the issues and put them on the Security Council’s agenda in March 2000, when Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury delivered a powerful Presidential Statement on International Women’s Day. In May 2000, Namibia hosted an international meeting that resulted in the Windhoek Declaration. Jamaica and Canada were also early supporters.

Namibia sponsored the resolution during its presidency of the Security Council in October 2000, when it was unanimously ratified.

«Women are half of the world’s population, contribute two thirds of the work, earn one tenth and possess one percent of the property. I established this formula in 1978 together with statistician friends in the UN. Today I would like to tell the world how difficult it was to publish those three little lines.»

Krishna Ahooja-Patel, former President of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), 2004

Democratic Republic of Congo, 2008: Women representatives from local civil society organizations rejoice at the signing of the peace accord in Goma. UN photo by Marie Frechon

Peace: ½ the world is missing

no women no peace

10 years UN resolution 1325
The most important aspect of Resolution 1325 is that it recognizes thousands of peacewomen across the globe as “actors of change”. It endorses “their right to participate” in peace negotiations and to influence the contents of peace agreements and reconstruction processes.

Prevention of gender-specific violence and Protection of women and girls only become effective through the Participation of women at all levels of governance.

«When women are present, the nature of the dialogue changes.»

Elisabeth Rehn, Former Minister of Defense, Finland and Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, current President of Liberia, Women, War and Peace, UNIFEM, 2002

Just the facts: peace negotiations and peace processes

Data on numbers of women in peace talks is scarce. At present, this vital information is not consistently tracked by any authority. Nonetheless, some facts are available. They are disturbing.

In 2009, for example, UNIFEM reviewed a limited, but reasonably representative sample of 24 major peace processes from 1992 to 2008 and found that only:

- 2.5% of signatories were women
- 3.2% of mediators were women
- 5.5% of witnesses were women
- 7.6% of negotiators were women

The peace negotiations in Indonesia, Nepal, Somalia, the Côte d’Ivoire, the Philippines and the Central African Republic were exclusively meetings of men.

Since the passage of Resolution 1325, there has been little appreciable increase in the number of women who participate in peace negotiation delegations. And women are largely absent from chief mediating roles in UN-brokered talks.

A similar study reviewed 33 peace negotiations from 2005 to 2007 and found that only 6% of participants – 11 out of 280 – were women. The average participation of women on government negotiation delegations was 7%, higher than on the delegations of non-state armed groups.

Only 16% of the 589 peace agreements concluded between 1990 and 2010 contained any references to women.

- 9 agreements specified quotas for women in legislative or executive bodies
- 5 supported women’s representation in the police or gender-sensitive police reform
- 4 referred to gender equality in the judiciary
- 4 mentioned women or gender equality in the context of public-sector restructuring

Source: The Transitional Justice Peace Agreements Database, University of Ulster

Women’s participation in processes and institutions

UN Agencies

- In more than 60 years of operations, the UN has never had a female Secretary General. To this day, only a few Special Representatives of the Secretary General (SRSGs) have been women. So far, very few peacekeeping missions have been led by women.
- In 2010, in the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations, women made up only 2.7% of the UN peacekeeping force, 7% of the UN police force and 30% of the civilian personnel.
- The promise to equip all peacekeeping missions with a gender consultant has not yet been implemented. In 2008, there were only 12 such full-time jobs in peacekeeping missions.

Liberia, 2007: A UN Peacekeeper from India during riots at a market in Monrovia. For the first time in history, a UN police unit consists entirely of women.
Frank Schultze, Zeitenspiegel / Peace Counts
Liberia experienced devastating warfare between 1989 and 2003. In 2001, West African women peace activists launched the Peacebuilding Network. In 2003, the Liberian arm of the network, with leadership from Leymah Gbowee, Asatu Bah Kenneth and other women, founded a movement called Women of Liberia Mass Action for Peace. They drew on their faith, common values and exhaustion with war to mobilize women across the churches and mosques. They successfully brought thousands of Liberian women together on the streets of Monrovia, all dressed in white. They presented their demands to then-President Charles Taylor and met with leaders of the armed groups to encourage them to come to peace talks.

The group mobilized hundreds of women in refugee camps in Ghana to attend the peace talks in Accra in 2003. They sat outside the negotiation building, choosing to remain outside of the formal political discussions, but liaising with their colleagues from the Manu River Women’s Peace Network who were delegates inside, at the table. In the end, it was the actions of these committed women – a sit-in, barricading delegates in their meeting rooms – that prompted international mediators to set deadlines and secure agreements.

The peace agreement was signed two weeks later.

Women’s protests and actions have often served as important catalysts for social change and peace talks. Women leaders do consult with local grassroots women’s organizations and initiatives. Women who mobilize their constituencies also hold the relevant parties accountable to the promises and agreements they have made.
Liberia – a success story

The women’s movement continued its work and became directly involved in the disarmament of combatants when the UN’s disarmament program was on the brink of failure. They negotiated with the boys and men in the demobilization areas and put out public information announcements on the radio about peace and forgiveness. In 2005, they helped bring to power the first female head of state in Liberia, and in Africa, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. As one of her first official acts in office, «Ma Ellen» released a tough rape law. The President also included women in the new state institutions. At the national and international level, she pursued the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820. As part of the UN peacekeeping mission, a female-only police force from India is responsible for security in the capital Monrovia and for the recruitment of women to the local police service.

Liberia is troubled by all of the problems of a traumatized and extremely poor country going through a post-conflict reconstruction phase. In spite of these enormous challenges, the country has achieved more successes than other countries in similar situations. To a significant extent, this is due to the courage of its women.

«We showed our commitment through our peace advocacy. We showed it when we went into the cantonments to disarm the boys. We said it through the elections. We say it on behalf of women everywhere. We are capable. Hold on to our hands, and let us walk this walk together.»


Liberia, 2007: Indian UN Peacekeeper from the woman-only unit during riots at a market in Monrovia. The special unit is part of the UN peacekeeping mission in Liberia.

Frank Schultze, Zeitenspiegel / Peace Counts
Inclusion of women in peacebuilding

Women should be fully included at all levels of government. One of the most effective ways to ensure that this can happen is to actively include them in peacebuilding. When women’s lives are better, whole communities benefit.

«No peace agreement should be endorsed unless women are either signatories or women’s interests are catered for in the agreement.»

Jan Egeland.
The Norwegian Institute for International Affairs, Norway

«Roughly half of the countries that moved from conflict to a fragile peace – either through negotiated settlement or military intervention – have reverted to conflict within a few years… Of the other half that has managed to keep the peace, the large majority end up highly dependent on foreign aid – hardly a sustainable model… The international community needs to seriously debate ways in which to improve this record. Focusing on this is the best way to improve the condition of women in these countries.»

Graciana del Castillo, Centennial Group Latin America, USA

«The inclusion and empowerment of women in conflict prevention and peace processes is not idealism in the midst of real politics. It is one of the necessary and infinitely pragmatic antidotes to politics and business as usual if the objective is sustainable peace.»

Sanam Naraghi Anderlini.
International Civil Society Action Network, USA
«Women in Afghanistan are critical partners for peace. Women’s engagement is not an optional extra component of stabilization and recovery, it is a critical precursor to success. Women’s empowerment will enable you to deliver long-term stability, democratization, and development.»

Statement on behalf of Afghan Women, Afghan Women’s Network, Afghanistan

«The international community had earlier put pressure on the government. It does not do that anymore. At the conference in London about the future of Afghanistan, the women had no voice.»

An Afghan employee of the international women’s aid organization medica mondiale, Afghanistan

The Middle East and Afghanistan

Experience talks

«If we’d had women at Camp David, we’d have an agreement.»

Former US President Bill Clinton

«Negotiators are often men who committed brutal crimes towards each other – military persons who learned in war to measure success by overpowering their enemy.»

Gila Svirsky, Coalition of Women for a Just Peace, Israel

«There were no women present who could have acted as guides.»

Sumaya Farhat-Naser, Palestinian peace activist

«Peace is made between peoples and not between leaders. A process that should lead to a political solution that is sustainable and consequently permanent... should not be left to the confines of the generals, and should be transparent to the relevant societies. We have to address and understand each other’s history with an open mind. If we leave it only to men, we get Israeli generals and Palestinians who will not be defeated and there is no room to negotiate.»

Maha Abu Dayyah Shamas, Palestinian peace activist

«We refuse to be enemies.»

Joint banner by Sumaya Farhat-Naser and Gila Svirsky, Jerusalem

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www.1000peacewomen.org
Gender-based violence: a fact of all violent conflicts

Rape and sexual violence occur in almost every war. But they are hardly ever discussed. Victims are rarely given the psychosocial assistance they need. Victims are rarely compensated.

In a 2009 study entitled Sexual Violence in Peace Agreements, UNIFEM reviewed 300 peace agreements in 45 conflicts from 1989 to 2008 and found that in only 18 cases and 10 conflicts was sexual or gender-related violence even mentioned. In not one of these 300 peace agreements were measures to rehabilitate and protect the victims addressed, much less adopted.

Women who have suffered sexual or other types of violence are often stigmatized. Most perpetrators are not prosecuted. Women and girls who have been raped are often excluded from their communities — or even killed. This is a terrible injustice.

In many disarmament and rehabilitation programs, former female rebels and girl soldiers are entirely overlooked. But many societies discriminate against them because they have relinquished traditional female roles. Women and girls who were forced to serve in rebel groups as sex slaves are now being denounced as prostitutes. This too is a horrific injustice.

UNSCR 1820, 1888 and 1889

Resolution 1820 was adopted on 19th of June, 2008. The Security Council noted for the first time in UN history that «rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity, or a constitutive act with respect to genocide». Resolution 1820 demands new efforts to realize a «zero tolerance of sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations» and sustainable assistance for victims. Uncooperative states are threatened with sanctions.

According to the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, one year after its adoption the implementation of Resolution 1820 was still weak. Sexual violence continues in many countries. In the Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Chad and the Central African Republic it has actually increased.

In autumn 2009, the Security Council responded by adopting Resolutions 1888 and 1889. These new resolutions specifically referred to Resolutions 1820 and 1325, stating that the Security Council was «deeply concerned» with the lack of progress in their implementation.
The call for greater participation of women and the prevention of gender-based violence are fundamental human rights. They are also a political sine qua non – that without which.

Yet, if the promotion of women in the UN continues at its present rate, the goal of 50% women at the UN in Geneva will be achieved in the year 2072 and at the Department of Peacekeeping Operations in New York in 2100, according to Stephen Lewis, former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Discrimination against women also persists with respect to Resolution 1325: «Women never were at the peace table. It’s like the resolution doesn’t exist, but we talk about it all the time… So you have to ask yourself: would they be doing this if it were men? And, the answer is no. They can afford not to care because they’re women.»

Stephen Lewis, former UN special envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa, Canada

Uganda, 2005. Former child soldiers recruited by the Lord’s Resistance Army are cared for in a camp in Kitikum.
Frank Schulenburg / Phanoi Press / 1000peacewomen.org
Instead of excluding 50% of the world’s population – women – actively including the perspectives and views of all members of society increases the fulfillment of needs and capacities. Without taking women into account, peacebuilding processes lack substance and legitimacy. This jeopardizes their sustainability, both in the short term and in the long run.

Can the world afford to keep taking this risk?

... women’s basic needs – like water, shelter and security, will be put first. Women are generally responsible for looking after sick or wounded family members, cultivating the land, cooking and fetching water. Their needs are those of their families. Addressing their needs means addressing the needs of a whole community.

... women will be sitting with you, politicians and rebel leaders alike, talking about peace, conflict and security, along with their needs, interests and concerns. We will listen. And you will listen.

... women will be equally present at all levels of decision making in governments throughout the world and at peace talks.
... that one day...

... the impunity that destroys societies comes to an end. War criminals are routinely prosecuted by national courts or the International Criminal Court (ICC). And the victims of war receive the rehabilitation they need and the compensation they deserve.

... half of the UN’s leadership consists of women. Half of its services are dedicated to women and girls.

... women are equally present as representatives in national, regional and international institutions to prevent conflicts, in early warning systems and in conflict transformation mechanisms.

... UN climate negotiations, along with every other institution throughout the world struggling to avoid environmental catastrophe and resource conflicts, are successful. Because half the participants are women.

... all wars and other forms of violence and injustice end.
And disarmament begins across the world.

And the day is now!
To conceal cruelties, murders and armed force is a crime.

Stanislavka Zajović is a committed human rights activist. She founded the Women in Black network after the war began in Belgrade. The organization is inspired by the Women in Black in Israel and Palestine, who firmly believe in the need for mutual recognition.

From October 1991 until the end of the war, the Women in Black held weekly demonstrations for peace in Belgrade, in the whole of Serbia and in Montenegro. They stood up and would not allow themselves to be intimidated – not even when facing verbal abuse and fierce aggression.

Silent and dressed in black, they rejected the war and the crimes that were committed in the name of the Serbian nation. Their main slogan was: «Not in our name!»

Commemorating the victims of the genocide in Srebrenica in 1995, the Women in Black demanded amnesty for everyone who had refused to participate in the war.

Stanislava’s aim is to consolidate peace and use dialogue as a way to repair the damage caused by the war, and to overcome the senseless logic of a one-sided victory. She calls this practice «spiritual demilitarization».

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Safaa Elagib Adam is an economist and peace activist. She is from western Darfur, a dangerous, war-torn region in Sudan. Safaa realized very quickly that only lasting peace and sustainable development would end the unbearable misery of the people who were affected and displaced by the war in the region.

This peace activist is convinced that the people who were traumatized by violence and abuse not only need food and security, but also require education and skills to build their belief in a better future.

As a member of the Sudanese Women’s Network for Peace, and with the support of her own organization, the Community Development Association, Safaa Elagib Adam develops programs that address these issues. She believes that women and young people in particular can bring about much-needed change.

Safaa Elagib Adam also plays a leading role in the peace negotiations. With a voice that is heard, she never tires of insisting that women must be part of the negotiations. She sees UN Resolution 1325 as a useful instrument for demanding that women be protected in situations of conflict.

The Sudanese Bureau of Intelligence frequently questions Safaa and her fellow campaigners. Nevertheless, they unwaveringly continue with their mission.

Safaa Elagib Adam has received several accolades. In 2009, she was awarded the Human Rights Prize of the Swiss Stiftung für Freiheit und Menschenrechte (Foundation for Freedom and Human Rights).

«Women know about the misery of refugees and the fate of those who were displaced. During the war, many of them were raped.»

Safaa Elagib Adam
Sudan/Darfur
«I lost my family in the riots of Gujarat. Thousands of others experienced the same fate. I am fighting to ensure that such violence will never happen again.»

Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh
India

The 2002 massacre in the Indian state of Gujarat had horrible consequences for young Muslims. Radical Hindus murdered 11 members of Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh's husband's family and 14 of her own family members. Her daughter was brutally raped in front of her relatives before being killed. Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh was left alone with her own son.

Despite these tragedies, she refuses to give up. Naseeb wants no revenge. She wants reconciliation. She joined Aman Samuday, an organization that encourages people to live in peaceful coexistence. Going from village to village, Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh spreads a message of peace, justice and humanity. Her mission is met with gratitude and respect.

Along with a group of women activists, Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh campaigns for women's rights, demanding that local Muslim priests take a public stand and support their cause. Her peace organization also fights to stop police brutality against minorities.

Naseeb Mohammad Shaikh is known far and wide across the borders of her region. People listen to and understand her message of peace.
«I want to break the taboo and tear down the walls of silence for the dignity of tortured women.»

Monika Hauser
Germany

Her native tongue is German, her passport is Italian and she grew up in Switzerland. Monika Hauser is a gynecologist and founder and director of the international organization medica mondiale. She was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2008.

Moved by the cruelties of the war in Bosnia, in 1992 Monika Hauser went to Zenica to help local women. In 1993 – before the conflict ended – she and her team opened up a comprehensive psychosocial treatment center for women who were victims of wartime rape and other cruelties. The holistic healing of damaged bodies and souls is still the most important aspect of medica mondiale’s work.

When grenades exploded in the center of Zenica, the UN evacuated all foreigners. However Monika did not heed the call to leave and stayed on site, even during that difficult time. The women of medica zenica are grateful for her courage.

Hatidža Mehmedović is Bosnian and one of the Mothers of Srebrenica working together to demand an investigation into the fate of their murdered husbands, sons and grandsons.

In July 1995, Srebrenica experienced the largest-scale massacre since WWII. In plain view of the UN Protection Force, Serbian troops killed 8,000 Bosnian men and boys – among them Hatidža Mehmedović’s husband and twin sons.

Hatidža quickly came to believe that conflicts can only be solved if enemies come face-to-face in order to share their despair, search for justice and organize their daily lives together with mutual care. In her view, this should be the basis for a new, peaceful coexistence between the different ethnicities.

Twice, the Mothers of Srebrenica travelled to the War Crimes Tribunal in the Hague. By their presence and insistent demands, these mothers helped the judges to decide to begin the trial against one of the cruelest war criminals – Radovan Karadžić – despite his absence.

After years of waiting, in November 2007 some of the remains of Hatidža Mehmedović’s husband and one of her sons were found. The search goes on, but like many other women, Hatidža Mehmedović fears that she will never be able to bury her two children.

«Since we cannot help the dead, we must make sure that the survivors of the genocide receive our help.»

Hatidža Mehmedović
Bosnia
Elisabeth Decrey Warner
Switzerland

«Even in the middle of a conflict you can start to save lives.»

Why is a mother of six climbing a mountain in Iraqi Kurdistan all by herself to meet a rebel leader? Why does a skiing instructor leave her life in the Alps behind to negotiate with militant rebels in the hot Sahara sands?

Elisabeth Decrey Warner faces challenges like this because she is convinced that dialogue with armed non-state actors is necessary for the resolution of conflict.

Through her organization, Geneva Call, she engages in such dialogue on various levels. She campaigns for adherence to a total ban on anti-personnel mines, which claim 15,000 victims every year, dismember children and prevent the cultivation of farmland. She also demands that non-state actors protect civilians in conflicts. Another important aspect of her work is to prevent the forceful recruitment of child soldiers. Elisabeth Decrey Warner demands respect for women and fights against rape as a weapon of war.

Elisabeth is certain that only negotiating with the «good guys» will not solve the problems at hand. In order to protect civilians, dialogue must include rebels. Armed non-state actors are part of the problem, but they are also part of the solution.
When a military leader asks me what to do in a conflict situation, I know that my work is being recognized.

Dekha Ibrahim Abdi is from northeast Kenya, where a bloody conflict flared up over farmland, cattle and hereditary rights. Dekha’s response was to recruit a group of local mediators to negotiate a peace treaty with the members of the different clans and ethnic groups involved in the conflict. In order to ensure that the treaty was enforced, the mediators enlisted clan representatives, religious leaders, delegates, and civil society representatives to establish the Wajir Peace Committee.

With an ingenious negotiation scheme, Dekha Ibrahim Abdi and her organization have been able to prevent a civil war in Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, which was close to erupting in violence because of ballot rigging during the 2007 elections. Dekha Ibrahim Abdi simultaneously negotiated on several levels: with «bush mediation» she addressed people in rural parts of the country, with «street mediation» she convinced urban populations and with «conference room mediation» she persuaded leaders of the conflicting parties to make a commitment to cooperate in finding a way out of the imminent crisis.

With her unique personality, Dekha Ibrahim Abdi makes unusual allies. Military representatives regularly ask for her opinion in conflict situations. She was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize in 2007.
Raisa Kadyrova established the Foundation for Tolerance International in Kyrgyzstan in 1998. Her organization works to prevent the outbreak of conflict in neighboring regions of Central Asia. Social, inter-ethnic, ecological and economic problems are at the root of corruption, violence and injustice, especially in the Fergana Valley.

Raisa Kadyrova and her organization monitor and analyze the causes of new conflicts to look for effective solutions. They arrange talks with the parties involved, motivating them to engage in negotiations and facilitating mediation processes. Raisa trains women and men in mediation techniques and focuses on activities that are key to finding consensus among opposed parties. Her organization works on multiple levels and the importance of her involvement is recognized both by the civilian population and members of Parliament and the government.

Raisa Kadyrova and her colleagues are concerned by the increasing number of victims of violent conflicts, despite their on-going peace work. That is why she is pleading for even more effective action. And she definitely will not allow herself to become discouraged.

Raisa Kadyrova
Kyrgyzstan

«I would like Kyrgyzstan to become an example for peace, equality and tolerance in the entire region.»
«Reconciliation brings peace, but in the absence of forgiveness and repentance, reconciliation and peace cannot exist.»

Apollonia Bola Talo
Solomon Islands

During the civil unrest and ethnic frictions on the Solomon Islands in the 1990s, a number of women worked together to restore peace and enable reconciliation.

One of these women is Apollonia Bola Talo. Her aim was to collect and destroy the illegal arms of rebel groups. She encouraged men to accompany her on her travels to villages all across the island. This may sound simple, Apollonia says, but in fact it proved to be quite difficult. She and her team did a lot of talking, persuading and awareness raising for their cause and thus earned the trust of both the rebels and the villagers.

The rough and uncivil treatment Apollonia Bola Talo encountered was not a reason for her to become discouraged. In the end, hostilities were overcome and constructive talks between the conflicting communities could finally begin.
Anna Politkovskaya was an internationally acclaimed and award-winning Russian journalist. She tirelessly and courageously fought for human rights in her native country. She was especially worried about Chechen refugees and war victims. Fearlessly, she reported on the background of the war, disclosed cases of corruption and identified the names of war criminals.

In 2002, at the height of the second Chechen war, she joined Russian officers flying to a military base. The body of a young Russian soldier killed in a battle against Chechen fighters was lying in the aisle of the helicopter. Anna noticed his ID and saw that he was born the same year and month as her daughter. It seemed inhuman to her that nobody was mourning his death, so she cried the entire flight for a young man she had never known. The military officers, hardened by the war, ridiculed her tears.

On 7 October 2006, an unknown assassin shot and killed Anna Politkovskaya in her own home, when her controversial research was close to publication. The perpetrator has never been found.
«And we realised that fear and terror no longer had the power to paralyze us.»

Yolanda Becerra Vega Colombia

Colombian paramilitaries murdered a woman and wrote this inscription on her body: «Mother of a guerrilla». Rape crimes against women are – still! – very common in Colombia. But Yolanda Becerra Vega and her fellow campaigners do not want to be consumed by grief and despair. In order to stand up and protest against the civil war, they founded Organización Femenina Popular (OFP), which supports families who have been affected by violence, war and displacement.

At the urban women’s center, as well as in rural health posts, families receive safe accommodation, necessary medical treatment and protection from persecution. In training programs for women, the organization teaches about human rights, peace work, and questions of food security and economic cooperation.

In 2000, Yolanda began a campaign with the slogan «Let’s face fear with courage and love». These women have learned that they can turn their fear into solidarity and resistance.

During the years of armed conflict, Yolanda Becerra Vega and the other activists who worked alongside her repeatedly received death threats. Leaders were persecuted and tortured. They were disappeared and found murdered. Peace Brigades International now provides around-the-clock protection for members of the organization. Yolanda Becerra Vega continues to courageously stand up for her cause.
«The use of bacteriological weapons of war is a crime against humanity.»

The disclosures and resistance of Wang Xuan in China have played an important role in telling the world about the war crimes committed by the Japanese Army in China. During their occupation of China in WWII, the Japanese Army used bacteriological weapons against villagers. Wang Xuan’s own region, Zhejiang, was one of the areas affected by this attack, with hundreds of people killed.

Wang Xuan became the representative for 180 people taking legal action against the State of Japan. It was a private law suit without financial support. Many of the plaintiffs were more than 70 years old. Wang Xuan questioned thousands of victims and witnesses to gather evidence. After a seven year lawsuit, in August 2002 the District Court of Tokyo confirmed that bacteriological war crimes had been committed, but rejected the claim for an apology and compensation. Wang Xuan will not give up, saying that these elderly Chinese victims will continue to pursue their charges until the Japanese government recognizes their claim.

Wang Xuan has been honored several times for her courage and persistence. She is among the 10 most influential women in China.
«Peace is unthinkable without human rights, democracy and gender equality.»

Cora Weiss
USA

Cora Weiss has been standing up for human rights, women’s rights and peace all her life. She is convinced that peace is only possible with democracy, gender equality and the protection of basic human necessities.

Cora Weiss is unquestionably a committed peace worker. She fought actively against the Vietnam war and for an end to nuclear testing. She is the initiator of the Hague Peace Conference and is determined to implement all of the decisions made at the International Women’s Conference in Beijing in 1995. Cora wants future generations to have the chance to grow up in a peaceful world.

For Cora Weiss, Resolution 1325 represents the first official pledge by the United Nations to ensure that women are equally represented at all levels – in governments, parliaments and especially in peace negotiations. Only when these steps have been taken will the vision of a world of peace and justice come true.
Israel/Palestine, 2004: Intense, but peaceful discussions between female Palestinian and Israeli high school students at the School of Peace, established in 1979 in an Israeli-Palestinian village between Tel Aviv and Jerusalem.

Frieder Blickle, Zeitenspiegel/Peace Counts

we build peace where it matters most
Liberia, 2004: Liberian women cry for peace, calling on the government, opposition, combatants and the international community to help stop the killings.

Pewee Flomoku
The UN Security Council on the 10th anniversary of Resolution 1325. Will it look like this?
Illustration Claudia Blum

more
women
more
peace

no
women
no
peace

10 years UN resolution 1325

www.1000peacewomen.org
Timor-Leste, 2010: A group of young men practice capoeira on the beach in Dili, preparing for upcoming events such as International Youth Day.

Martine Perret, UNMIT

men share responsibility
live up to it!
«To build peace, it is necessary to combat war and all its faces: poverty, prejudice, exclusion, unemployment, despair, HIV/AIDS.»

Maria Ines Gomes Rodrigues Fontinha
Founder European Federation for the Eradication of Prostitution (FEDIP), Portugal

UN Resolution 1325...
«Recognize injustice, never again fascism, never again war — this maxim determined my life.»

Irma Schwager
International Democratic Women’s Federation, Austria

UN Resolution 1325…
«My mission is to advocate a peaceful, tolerant and just society, in which women can live with dignity.»

Safaa Adam Elagib
Community Development Organization Darfur, Sudan
The only way to solve the problem of women’s subordination is to change people’s mindsets and to plant the new idea of gender equality into every mind.

Qingrong Ma
Founder Xingfu Village Women’s Association, China

UN Resolution 1325…
«We will only have a true democracy when we have achieved a balanced representation of women at all levels of decision making.»

Tina Ilsen

former Head of ODIHR’s Gender Unit – OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights; adviser on gender issues, Georgia

www.1000peacewomen.org

UN Resolution 1325...
«The fight for peace goes hand in hand with the fight for overcoming inequality, oppression and exclusion in public and private life and in the innermost being.»

Virginia «Gina» Vargas Valente
Flora Tristán - Centro de la Mujer Peruana, Peru
«The refusal to bring war criminals to account would be an affront to those who obey the law, and a betrayal of those who rely on it for their life and security.»

Louise Arbour
Former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Canada
«Women are the best messengers for peace.»

Raqiya Humeidan
Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Human Rights [ACMHR], Yemen

www.1000peacewomen.org

UN Resolution 1325...
«It is the time of fear. Fear by the woman of the violence of the man and fear by the man of the woman without fear.»

Eduardo Galeano
writer, Uruguay

UN Resolution 1325…
«Men predominate across the spectrum of violence. A strategy for demilitarization and peace must concern itself with this fact, with the reasons for it, and with its implications for work to reduce violence.»

R. W. Connell
scientist, 2002, Australia
«I have long called for a revolution based on women. This revolution... is the last, best chance for making this globe hospitable to peace, to make this globe hospitable to compassion, hospitable to generosity and caring.»

Archbishop Desmond Tutu
South Africa

UN Resolution 1325...
«UNSCR 1325 fully recognizes the obstacle to peace that lies in gender inequality and makes possible action to overcome it.»

Betty Reardon
feminist peace educator, USA

www.1000peacewomen.org

PeaceWomen.org hosts 100+ translations of SCR1325. Is SCR 1325 translated into your languages? Help us promote local ownership and awareness. Make the resolution yours!