

RELIGION AND THE WPS AGENDA

Harnessing religion to improve opportunities for women in fragile contexts

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Background

Religion and the WPS agenda are often considered in their separate silos, while research done by Cordaid indicates that there is great potential in exploring this nexus. While the topic can be controversial, it is quite relevant to look at religion not as something inherently good or bad for women's rights, but rather to find best practices, recommendations and experiences that focus on interpretations and examples that positively engage with religion for the advancement of the WPS agenda. By doing so, the agenda might potentially gain legitimacy because it considers the local context in which religion often forms a significant aspect of daily life. Furthermore, world-wide, the religious constituency is enormous, which means that there is potential in finding unexpected alliances with progressive/moderate religious leaders to amplify a message of gender justice.

Objective

The event aims to further facilitate dialogue on the positive role religion can play for enhancing the WPS agenda, based on discussing recommendations and observations from research done by Cordaid. This research indicates that the religion-WPS nexus is a complex yet promising topic, in need of further exploration. Although religion might be seen as a cause for gender injustice, based on specific conservative interpretations, we look from a different angle. By illuminating local perspectives of moderate/progressive religious interpretations, we are looking for perspectives that might strengthen understandings of women's rights and gender equality. This event aims to bring together different organizations, working on the WPS agenda, either faith-based or secular to encourage dialogue on this nexus between religion and the WPS agenda, and by providing concrete examples from partner organizations. Because this nexus is still somewhat underexposed, it is important to start this dialogue and to think of ways to engage with religion for the advancing of the WPS agenda.

Partners

STAD and Association Rayons de Soleil Cameroun

DATE: Thursday 22 October

TIME: 9 EST / 15 CET

ZOOM REGISTRATION

