CALL TO ACTION

Reflections, hopes and challenges from women's activists on the implementation of the WPS agenda

Background

As the year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the landmark United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, on Women, Peace and Security, women peace builders are taking stock of progress in delivering on what was envisioned as a transformative peace agenda.

Over the past two decades global commitment towards gender equality and the participation of women in peace processes and security efforts has grown. Conversely, the spaces for civic engagement on peace and security are increasingly shrinking along with the participation and influence of women leaders and women’s rights organizations from fragile and conflict-affected contexts in national, regional and global policy or decision-making. These pushbacks, now compounded by limitations associated with COVID-19, impede women’s efforts to ensure accountability for the implementation of the women, peace and security frameworks at all levels, as well as the realisation of feminist peace.

In the case of Somalia which has evolved through a 29 year protracted conflict, implementation of UNSCR 1325 has been slow due to the fact that the WPS agenda has not been structurally included in (formal) institutions and the role of women being largely determined by a social system in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property. The leadership of women in rebuilding and reshaping the country remains insufficient. As a result, although UNSCR 1325 affirms the importance of women’s cornerstone role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict reconstruction, and achieving durable peace and stability, this is not the case in Somalia.

The 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the UN Security Council Open Debate on women, peace and security, therefore present a valuable occasion for peace activists to reflect on and highlight these concerns, raise the attention of the international community, and define recommendations for a sustainable way forward that reinvigorates the WPS agenda.

Register now

To register click here.

DATE: Tuesday 20 October
TIME: 9 EST / 15 CET / 16 EAT
Objectives

This event will bring together women leaders, peace activists and researchers from conflict affected countries to:

- Reflect on the evolution of the WPS agenda and the place of feminism in peacebuilding and statebuilding.
- Exchange experiences on the challenges, gains and hopes for implementation of the WPS agenda after 20 years.
- Analyse the pushbacks, identify strategies and priority actions to enhance the leadership and influence of women's rights organisations in fragile and conflict-affected contexts in advancing the WPS agenda at regional and global level.
- Define recommendations for activists, policy makers and other relevant actors in the context of Open Debate on the WPS security agenda towards strengthening women's inclusion.

Women's International Peace Centre will present the findings of a research on the shrinking spaces at regional and global levels for national women's rights organisations focused on the women, peace and security agenda in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Guinea Bissau, Libya, Nepal, Senegal, South Sudan, Togo and Yemen. The study focuses on the evolution of the WPS agenda, the nature of pushbacks (in particular the shrinking civic space) against the feminist goals of WPS and identifying opportunities to rethink and strengthen WPS agenda in sustainable ways.

IIDA Women's Development Organization will highlight the specific experience of Somalia.

Following the presentations of the main speakers, international actors and the African Union will reflect on them and identify opportunities and practical measures to address the specific pushbacks and promote women's inclusions in regional and global policymaking during a Q&A session in order to formulate recommendations.

Speakers

Ms. Hibo Yassin Yussuf Hagi, is the Executive Director & Head of Policy, Resource Mobilization & Communication of IIDA Women's Development Organization. Hibo over 27 years of progressive professional experience in designing, implementing and managing development programs in Africa, particularly in Somalia and has a vast experience in working in conflict sensitive contexts.

Ms. Nadia Roguai is the Gender, peace and security coordinator in the Peace and Security Department at the African Union. The Department of Peace and Security of the African Union Commission (AUC) supports the PSC in carrying out its responsibilities under the PSC Protocol and leads the AUC activities related to peace, security and stability across the continent.

Dr. Amon Mwine is Lecturer at the School of Women and Gender Studies at Makerere University. He holds a PhD from Stellenbosch University, as has deep experience in teaching and research in Gender mainstreaming, gendered identities and processes of social construction, Men, Masculinities and Development.

Ms. Helen Kezie-Nwoha is a feminist peace activist and a women human rights defender from Nigeria. Helen is currently the Executive Director at the Women's International Peace Centre (@TheWIPCentre). Helen has extensive experience working on women's rights, gender, peacebuilding, conflict resolution and governance. She has led peace advocacy efforts at international, regional and national levels.

Co-Organizers

WIPC is a feminist organization based in Uganda with a mission to ignite women’s leadership, amplify their voices and deepen their activism in re-creating peace that works with partners in conflict-affected settings to ensure that women powerfully contribute to peace building processes and transform these spaces to be more gender inclusive and gender responsive.

Cordaid is an international organization for relief and development with its Global Office based in The Hague. Cordaid has been fighting poverty and exclusion in the world’s most fragile societies and conflict-stricken areas for a century. Cordaid supports people in vulnerable regions and areas of conflict to build flourishing communities by creating opportunities and delivering innovative solutions to complex problems. Cordaid positions to include women and youth not just as beneficiaries, but as partners and leaders in the process of building peace, development and enhancing security within their community.

The Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and State building (CSPPS) is a member-led international network composed of civil society actors, practitioners, experts and academics from the Global South and Global North who work together on conflict and crisis prevention, peacebuilding and state building in over 27 fragile and conflict-affected countries (FCAS). Hosted and coordinated by Cordaid, CSPPS has been acting since 2011 as the central platform where civil society ideas are generated, where progress with regard to the Peacebuilding and State building Goals (PSC) and the Agenda 2030 is discussed, and where consensus is sought on the course of action to be taken with respect to the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and State building (IDPS).