

Understanding the Women, Peace and Security Agenda & CEDAW



**Civil Society Handbook
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Introduction

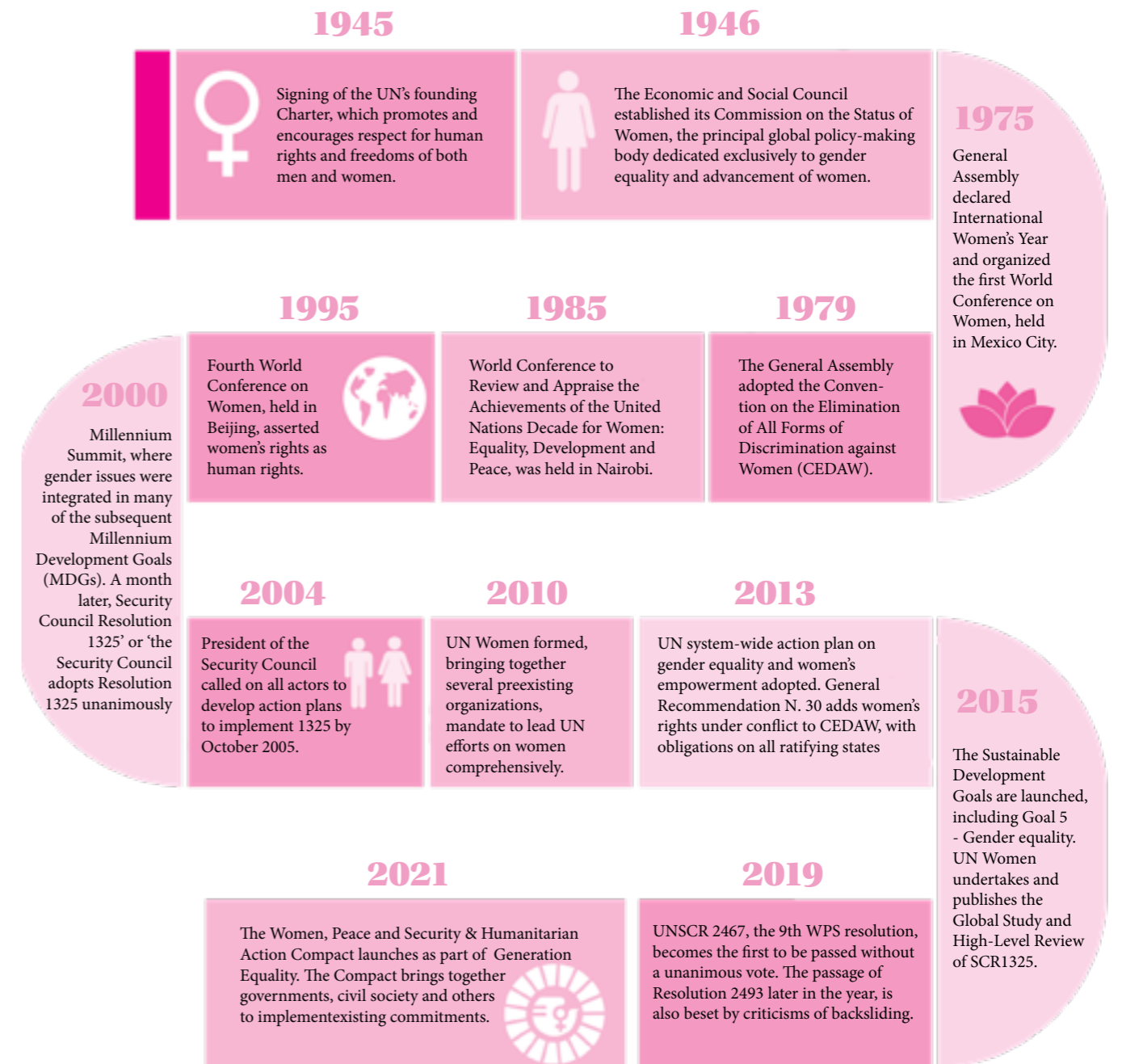
There are established international norms and standards to promote the protection of women during armed conflict and their participation in peace and security decision-making. This handbook considers two of these:

1. Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace and Security, 2000)
2. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)

This handbook aims to generate specific awareness of SCR 1325 and the nine subsequent resolutions of the women, peace and security agenda; and of CEDAW, and the obligations of those who sign and ratify.

This handbook was first published by Karama in 2014 to support for the regional training on Women, Peace and Security, sponsored by the UN Women Fund for Gender Equality. It was revised and republished in 2023.

UN Timeline



Similarities Between WPS & CEDAW

- **Both** demand women's full participation in decision-making at national, regional and international levels as a critical component in the achievement of gender equality.
- **Both** repudiate violence against women, which impedes the advancement of women and maintains their subordinate status.
- **Both** recognize the legal equality of men and women.
- **Both** seek protection of women and girl children through the rule of law.
- **Both** emphasize security and require that security forces and systems protect women from gender-based violence.
- **Both** seek to ensure that women's experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into political, legal and social decisions that determine durable peace, reconciliation and development.
- **Both** have problems:
 - UNSCR 1325 does not provide detailed normative or operational guidance, and there is no mechanism of accountability.
 - or CEDAW states engaged in conflict have sometimes not ratified CEDAW. In addition, non-state actors, such as armed insurgent groups, are often those responsible for violations of women's human rights. Other states have attached reservations to their ratification, which means that certain parts of the convention do not apply to them.

Differences Between WPS & CEDAW

Women, Peace and Security	CEDAW
Security Council political framework.	Global human rights treaty.
Focuses on the impact of armed conflict on women.	Devoted exclusively to gender equality.
Articulates broad commitments.	Provides concrete strategic guidance, mechanisms and measures.
Calls on all actors in every stage of conflict, peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction to protect and respect women's human rights.	Requires governments to realize women's rights.
Outlines goals for making women's participation and a gender perspective relevant to all aspects of conflict prevention, management and resolution.	Establishes legal standards for the achievement of gender equality through elimination of discrimination against women.
'Calls upon' and 'urges' all Member States to fulfill the framework outlined in the resolution.	Binding source of international law for States that become parties.

The CEDAW Committee's General Recommendation No. 30 makes many of the recommendations found in SCR 1325 binding and requires States to report on their measures of implementation of SCR 1325 and others that followed in the women, peace, and security framework.

Resolution 1325

Security Council 1325 was the first time the Security Council addressed the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflict on women; recognized the under-valued and under-utilized contributions women make to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It also stressed the importance of women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security.

Key provisions are:

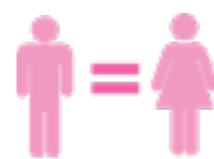
- Increased participation and representation of women at all levels of decision-making.
- Attention to specific protection needs of women and girls in conflict.
- Gender perspective and representation of women in post-conflict processes.
- Gender perspective and representation of women in UN programming, reporting and in SC missions.
- Gender perspective and representation of women and training in UN peace support operations.



The UN Security Council votes on UNSCR 1325. Photo: UN Photo/Milton Grant

CEDAW

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) aims for equality of women in all aspects of political, social, economic and cultural life. It explains and defines what discrimination against women is, how it disadvantages women, and the consequences of discrimination (including violence against women).



States parties to CEDAW are required to:

- Incorporate the principle of gender equality and non-discrimination in their legal systems, and abolish discriminatory laws.
- Establish institutional protections against discrimination.
- Take positive measures to advance gender equality.
- Eliminate discrimination against women by private persons and organizations.
- Submit reports to the CEDAW Committee, at least every four years, detailing progress and obstacles in their efforts to achieve gender equality.
- Submit information in the reports on the implementation of the Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security and measures they have implemented to ensure the human rights of women in conflict prevention, during conflict, and post-conflict (Gen. Rec. 30).

Women's Conference Meets in Copenhagen, 14-30 July 1980 Photo: UN Photo/Per Jacobsen



Basic Information on Women and Conflict

Rationale for focusing on women

In situations of armed conflict, women are frequently one of the most vulnerable groups to discrimination and gender-related violence (including physical, sexual, psychological, economic or socio-cultural harm that is a result of gender powered inequalities between men and women).

WPS calls on all parties to armed conflict to:

- Fully respect international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls (para 9).
- Take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict (para 10)

CEDAW requires state parties to:

- **Collect data** on the extent, causes and effects of violence, and the effectiveness of measures to prevent and deal with violence (Gen. Rec. 19).
- **Take all legal** and other measures that are necessary to provide effective protection of women against gender based violence (Gen. Rec 19).
- **Suppress all forms of trafficking** of women and exploitation of prostitution (Art. 6).
- **Conduct public awareness** campaigns on attitudes, stereotypes and prejudices that perpetuate violence against women (Gen. Rec. 19).

What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on women in conflict?

- Address the rights and distinct needs of conflict-affected girls that arise from gender-based discrimination.
- Regulate the arms trade to prevent their use to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence.
- Take measures to ensure a gender perspective in post-conflict electoral and constitutional reform processes as well as to support local women's participation in peace processes.
- Ensure women's right to a remedy, which encompasses the right to adequate and effective reparations for violations of their rights suffered during conflict.

Women and International Law
Protection for women and girl children is provided for by international law, including humanitarian, human rights and refugee law.
States, as well as organized armed groups in conflict, are obligated under humanitarian law to ensure protection of civilians and to prosecute violators.
The Security Council has passed numerous resolutions demanding compliance with the law.
In cases of threat to international peace and security, the Security Council can take action and authorize forms of intervention, including sanctions.
The ICC has been established to try persons for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including those related to violence against women.
In subsequent resolutions 1820, 1888, 1960, and 2106, the Security Council has expressed willingness to impose sanctions for sexual violence in conflict.



Women's detachment of the guerrilla fighters army, Mozambique, Photo: UN Photo/Van Lierop

Displacement

Rationale for focusing on women

Women and girl children often form some of the most vulnerable groups in settlements and camps.

WPS calls on all parties to armed conflict to:

- Respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements (para 10, SCR 1325, para 12, SCR1889).
- Take into account the special needs of women and girls in refugee camps and settlements, including in their design (para 10, SCR1325).
- Ensure the protection of all civilians in such camps, in particular women and girls, from all forms of violence, including sexual violence, and ensure full, unimpeded and secure humanitarian access to them (para 12, SCR1889).

WPS encourages member states to:

- Adopt measures to mitigate the risk of sexual violence for displaced persons and refugees, provide services to make services available to survivors, and to provide the option of documenting their cases for future accountability processes (para 31, SCR 2467)

CEDAW requires States parties to:

- Give special attention to the health needs and rights of women belonging to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups, such as refugee and internally displaced women, girls and older women, women in prostitution and women with physical and mental disabilities (Gen. Rec. 24).
- Provide adequate protection and health services, including trauma treatment and counselling, for women trapped in situations of armed conflict and women refugees (Gen. Rec. 24).
- Ensure appropriate pregnancy, confinement and post-natal services (Art. 12 (2)/Gen. Rec. 24).
- Ensure adequate nutrition during pregnancy and lactation (Art. 12 (2)/Gen. Rec. 24).
- Provide sexual health information, education and services to women and girls (Gen. Rec. 24).
- Pay special attention to the factors relating to the reproductive role of women and their subordinate position in societies (including vulnerability to HIV infection) (Gen. Rec. 15).
- Disseminate information to increase awareness of the risk of HIV/AIDS, especially in women and children, and the effects on them (Gen. Rec. 15).

Photo: UN Photo/Evan Schneider

Photo: UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe



What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on displacement?

- Promote meaningful inclusion and participation of IDP and refugee women in all decision-making processes, including in all aspects related to the planning and implementation of assistance programmes and camp management, the choice of durable solutions and processes related to post-conflict processes.
- Provide protection and assistance for IDP and refugee women and girls, including by safeguarding them from gender-based violence, including forced and child marriage.
- Adopt practical measures for the protection and prevention of gender-based violence, as well as mechanisms for accountability, in all displacement settings (camps, settlements, out-of-camp settings, etc.).
- Investigate and prosecute all instances of gender-based discrimination and violence that occur in all phases of the conflict-related displacement cycle.
- Provide IDP and refugee women and girl victims of gender-based violence, including sexual violence with free and immediate access to medical services, legal assistance and a safe environment; provide access to female health-care providers and services, and ensure that military and civilian authorities present have appropriate training on protection challenges, human rights and needs of displaced women.
- Ensure that measures to prevent statelessness are applied to all women and girls and address populations that are particularly susceptible to being rendered stateless by conflict, such as female IDPs, refugees, asylum seekers and trafficked persons.
- Conduct gender-sensitive training and adopt codes of conduct and protocols for the police and military, including peacekeepers.
- Adopt specific measures for protection from trafficking, including women and girls who are internally displaced and refugees.

Organizing for Peace

Rationale for focusing on women

Peace negotiations are not merely about ending hostilities and disarmament; they also involve elements of planning for post-conflict reconstruction. Women are often engaged in peace-building activities at the grassroots and community levels, reaching across ethnic and political divides to build mutual understanding and reconciliation and form shared goals for peace. They often have unique insight into the consequences of conflict on families and communities, and knowledge about the steps needed to reconstruct societal structures.

BUT seats at the formal negotiating table are usually reserved for armed factions and governments, and even where women are members of these groups, they are under-represented in negotiations.

SCR 1325 calls for:

- Increased representation of women in decision-making in the institutions and mechanisms involved in resolution of conflict (para 1).
- Inclusion of measures that support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution to peace negotiations (para 8).
- The Secretary General to implement a strategic plan of action to increase participation of women in decision making and appoint more women as special representatives and envoys (para 2/3).
- Missions to consult with local and international women's groups on their perspectives on gender considerations and women's human rights in the areas (para 15).

Subsequent resolutions include:

- Urging member States, international and regional organisations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes (para 1, SCR1889)
- Call for the UN to increase women's participation as Special Representatives and Special Envoys (para 4, SCR1889)
- Emphasis on the role of civil society in addressing sexual violence (para 11, SCR2106)
- Calling on all parties to such peace talks to facilitate the equal and full participation of women at decision-making levels (para 7c, SCR 2122)
- Establishing the Informal Experts Group on Women, Peace and Security to facilitate a more systematic approach to Women, Peace and Security within its own work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts (para 5a, SCR2242)
- Stating the Security Council's intention to invite civil society, including women's organizations, to brief the Council (para 5c, SCR2242)
- Calling on conflict parties to ensure that women are present and meaningfully participate in political pre-negotiation and negotiation processes (para 30, SCR2467)
- Notes the need for protection of women human rights defenders (para 6, SCR2493)



CEDAW requires that States parties:

- Use special measures, such as quotas and reserved seats, to ensure at least a critical mass of 30-35% of women in political processes at national and international levels (Art. 7, 8/ Gen Rec. 23).
- Use measures, such as enhancing resources, special trainings and education, and other steps to compensate for past discrimination and accelerate women's equality in practice (Art. 3,4(1), Gen. Rec. 5).
- Take measures to eliminate social and cultural conduct that disadvantage women (Art. 5(a)/Gen. Rec. 3).
- Initiate public education and information campaigns, including by mass media, targeted at stereotypes and prejudices that discourage women's involvement in politics and public life (Gen. Rec. 23/3).
- Consult with women's groups on the development and implementation of all policy and programming (Art. 7(c)/ Gen. Rec. 23).

What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on Organizing for Peace?

- Take measures, including temporary special measures under States parties that ensure that women are represented in their own institutions and to support local women's participation in peace processes.
- Ensure women's equal participation in national, regional and international organizations, as well as in informal, local or community-based processes charged with preventive diplomacy.
- Reinforce and support women's formal and informal conflict prevention efforts.
- Ensure women's equal representation at all decision-making levels in national institutions and mechanisms, including in the armed forces, police, justice institutions and the transitional justice mechanisms (judicial and non-judicial) dealing with crimes committed during the conflict.
- Ensure that women and NGOs focused on women's issues and representatives of civil society are included equally in all peace negotiations and post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

Rehabilitation, Reintegration and Reconstruction

Rationale for focusing on women

Resettlement of displaced populations and reintegration of combatants are processes that have particular consequences for women, especially female-headed households, ex-combatants, returnees and IDPs, minorities and women with disabilities.

Although during conflict, women often assume great responsibility for the survival of their families and their communities, they often face complex forms of ethnic and gender-based discrimination, or blame for sexual violence and forced pregnancies. They are often also marginalized by resettlement, land reallocation, resource distribution, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes.

Women's roles within armed groups as combatants, supporters and dependents are often ignored. Demobilization can also lead to an increase in domestic violence and gender-based violence as traumatized and violent ex-combatants return home.

Upon return and/or reintegration, communities often lack services, financing, infrastructure and resources. Women often have greater responsibility for tilling land, water and fuel collection, cooking, making clothing etc. This risks ill health and higher maternal mortality rates.

SCR1325 calls for

- Women's participation in mechanisms developed as a part of peace agreements (para. 8(b)).
- All actors involved to take into account the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction (para. 8(a)).
- All involved to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and take into account the needs of their dependents in the planning of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programmes (Para. 13).
- All actors involved to ensure women's participation in the implementation of the mechanisms of peace agreements (Para. 8(b)).
- Member States to increase women's participation in decision-making in the institutions and mechanisms of conflict resolution at the international, regional and national level (Para. 1).
- The Security Council to ensure Security Council missions consult with local and international women's groups on their perspectives on gender considerations and women's human rights in their areas (Para.15).

Subsequent WPS resolutions include:

- Emphasis on addressing sexual violence issues in DDR and SSR arrangements (para 17, SCR1888)
- Calling for all those involved in the planning DDR to take into account particular needs of women and girls associated with armed forces and armed groups and their children, and open access (para 13, SCR1889)
- Requests the UN support for women's participation in DDR and SSR processes (para 16(a) & 16(b), SCR2106)
- Requiring UN mission mandates to include provisions for inclusive DDR and SSR where these tasks are mandated within the mission (para 4, SCR2122)
- Encouraging Member States to consider resettlement or local integration support for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence
- Affirms the aspiration to lift the sociocultural stigma attached to this category of crime and facilitate rehabilitation and reintegration efforts (para 28, SCR2467)

CEDAW requires that States parties:

- Take into account the particular problems faced by rural women, including the economic survival of their families (Art. 14 (1)).
- Eliminate discrimination against women in education (Art. 10) and in particular for rural women to obtain all types of training and education, formal and non-formal, including that relating to functional literacy (Art. 14).
- Ensure rural women enjoy adequate living conditions, especially in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications (Art. 14(2)(h)).
- Ensure rural women are treated equally in land and agrarian reform as well as in land resettlement schemes (Art.14(2)(g)).
- Provide rural women equal access to agricultural credit and loans, marketing facilities and technology (Art. 14(2) (g)).
- Eliminate discrimination against women in the field of health care, to ensure equal access to health care services, including those related to family planning and safe motherhood and emergency obstetrics (Art. 12).
- Ensure that rural women have access to adequate health care facilities, including information, counseling and services in family planning (Art. 14(2)(b)).
- Implement special measures to ensure that women with disabilities have equal access to health services (Gen. Rec. 18) and that services are sensitive to the needs of women with disabilities and are respectful of their human rights and dignity (Gen. Rec. 24).
- Incorporate a gender perspective in health care policy and engage in broad consultation with women's groups (Gen. Rec. 24).
- Ensure rural women's right to participate in the elaboration and implementation of development planning at all levels and in community activities (Art. 14(2) (a)(f)).
- Ensure women's right to participate in the formulation of government policy and its implementation (Art. 7(b)).

What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on Rehabilitation, Reintegration, and Reconstruction?

- Develop and implement disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes in coordination and within the framework of the security sector reform.
- Undertake gender-sensitive and gender-responsive security sector reform that results in representative security sector institutions that address women's different security experiences and priorities; liaise with women and women's organizations.
- Ensure that security sector reform is subject to inclusive oversight and accountability mechanisms with sanctions, which includes the vetting of ex-combatants; establish specialized protocols and units to investigate gender-based violations; and strengthen gender expertise and the role of women in oversight of the security sector.
- Ensure women's equal participation in all stages of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, from negotiation of peace agreements and establishment of national institutions to the design and implementation of programmes.
- Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes specifically target female combatants and women and girls associated with armed groups as beneficiaries and that barriers to their equitable participation are addressed; and ensure that psychosocial and other support services are provided to them.
- Ensure that disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes specifically address women's distinct needs in order to provide age and gender-specific support, including by addressing the specific concerns of young mothers and their children without targeting them excessively and exposing them to further stigma."

Post-Conflict Political Participation

Rationale for focus on women

During conflict women often gain valuable and relevant leadership and other skills, which are then lost, or less supported, by the time it comes to policy-making in the post-conflict phase. Post-conflict reconstruction also brings new political processes (e.g. elections), government structures, and a new role for civil society.

These environments present real risks to women including: restricted mobility; less access to information and education; limited time due to work burdens; and cultural norms dictating men's control over women.

SCR 1325 calls for:

- Incorporation of a gender perspective, including measures for the protection of and respect for women's human rights concerning the electoral system in the implementation of peace agreements (Para. 8 (c)).
- Increase of women's participation in decision making in the institutions and mechanisms of conflict resolution at the national level (Para. 1).

Subsequent WPS resolutions include:

- Urging states to enhance women's engagement in political and economic decision-making at early stages of recovery processes (para 1, SCR1889)
- The intention for the Security Council to include provisions in the mandates of UN missions to facilitate women's full participation and protection in election preparation and political processes where this task is mandated within the mission (para 4, SCR2122)

CEDAW requires that States parties:

- Guarantee women the right to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies (Art. 7(a)).
- Use temporary special measures to ensure an increase to critical mass in women's participation (Gen. Rec. 23). These measures can include: setting numeric goals or quotas and providing financial assistance; special recruitment schemes and training women candidates.
- Ensure women's right to participate in NGOs and associations concerned with public life, including through incentives to political parties to ensure women's participation in their structures (Art. 7(c)/Gen. Rec. 23).
- Ensure women's right to participate in the formulation of government policy and its implementation and to hold all forms of public office (Art. 7(b)), including senior positions (Gen. Rec. 23).
- Establish or strengthen women's institutions and procedures to provide advice on the impact on women of government policies, monitor the situation of women and formulate policies and strategies to eliminate discrimination (Gen. Rec. 6).
- Place women's machinery at a high level of government and provides them with adequate resources, commitment and authority (Gen. Rec. 6).
- Support gender mainstreaming throughout all government departments (Gen. Rec. 6).



Photo: UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran

What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on Post-Conflict Political Participation?

- Ensure women's equal, meaningful, and effective participation all forms of national government including their appointment to leadership positions and their ability to participate as active members of civil society.
- Ensure women's full participation and involvement formal peacemaking and post-conflict reconstruction and socioeconomic development. This includes through the establishment of temporary special measures.
- Ensure regulatory instruments do not restrict women's participation in the prevention, management, and resolution of conflicts.
- Ensure women and civil society organizations focused on women's issues are included equally in all peace negotiations and post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

Justice and Legislating Equality

Rationale for focus on women

Ensuring that those responsible for perpetuating serious crimes during conflict are brought to justice and reestablishing the rule of law are critical to the success of societal transformation to peace. Impunity can encourage more gender-based violence (domestic and sexual violence), criminal networks to flourish (sexual exploitation and trafficking), negative psychological impact etc.

Mechanisms established to ensure accountability, such as special courts, truth commissions, vetting processes and reparations mechanisms, need to target equally violations committed against women and develop procedures and special measures to ensure women's effective participation not only as victims and witnesses but also as judges, commissioners and policy-makers in the justice system.

Justice and equality for women is not just about violence but also about providing for households, land access and ownership, legal capacity to enter into contracts, access to credit and loans, equal pay and benefits, labor protection, opportunity to get education and political participation, etc.

SCR 1325 calls for:

- Implementation of measures that ensure protection of and respect for women's human rights as they relate to the constitution, the police and the judiciary (Para. 8(c)).
- Ensure women's involvement in mechanisms developed as a part of peace agreements (Para. 8(b)).
- End impunity and prosecute those responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and other violence against women and girls (Para. 11)

Subsequent WPS resolutions include:

Many of the subsequent WPS resolutions elaborates efforts to deal with conflict related sexual violence. This includes:

- Recognizing sexual violence is a tactic of war conflict and is a global peace and security issue that warrants a comprehensive security response, calling for the education and preparation of military personnel in the prevention of and dealing with of sexual violence, the increased inclusion of women in peace missions, and the strict enforcement of zero-tolerance regulations for peacekeepers concerning incidents of sexual exploitation or abuse. (SCR1820).

- Enhancing work to combat sexual violence in conflict by establishing a Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General, as well as forming a team of experts in rule of law and sexual violence in conflict, enhancing collaboration among relevant stakeholders involved in addressing conflict-related sexual violence (SCR1888).
- Creating a monitoring and reporting system for incidents of sexual violence in conflict (SCR1960).
- Prioritizing accountability for those responsible for perpetrating sexual violence in conflict, and emphasizing the importance of empowering women politically and economically (SCR2106).
- Firmly situating conflict-related sexual violence within the broader context of the women, peace, and security agenda, emphasizing the significance of justice, accountability, and a survivor-centered approach. Advocating for the support and protection of women's civil society organizations, as well as calling attention to the challenges faced by children born as a result of rape (SCR2467).

CEDAW requires that States parties:

- Embody the principle of gender equality in national constitutions or other legislation (Art. 2 (a)).
- Ensure that protections against discrimination are effective and realized in practice through mechanisms that provide redress, including the ability to make complaints and receive remedies (Art. 2(c)).
- Enact laws, including penal sanctions, civil remedies and compensatory provisions, to protect women from all forms of violence (Gen. Rec. 19).
- Provide protective measures, such as refuges, trained health workers, rehabilitation, and counseling for victims of violence and those at risk, including making services accessible for women in rural areas and isolated communities (Gen. Rec. 19).
- Take specific preventative and punitive measures to overcome trafficking and sexual exploitation (Gen. Rec. 19).
- Implement gender-sensitive training on violence against women for judicial and law enforcement officers and public officials (Gen. Rec. 19).
- Legislate women's equality with men before the law, including equal rights and capacities to conclude contracts and to administer property (Art. 15).
- Ensure equality between women and men in marriage and family life, in particular regarding ownership, acquisition, management, administration, enjoyment and distribution of property (Art. 16(1)(h)).
- Ensure women's and men's equality in all areas of economic and social life, including the same rights to bank loans and all forms of financial credit (Art. 13).
- Eliminate discrimination against women in the area of employment and provide the same opportunities, free choice of profession, benefits and conditions of service, vocational training and equal pay for work of equal value (Art. 11).

- Ensure equal access to justice, including the abolition of any restrictions on women's ability to pursue all available remedies (Art. 15, Gen. Rec. 21).
- What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on justice and legislating equality?
- Ensure a comprehensive approach to transitional justice mechanisms that incorporates both judicial and non-judicial mechanisms, including truth commissions and reparations, which are gender sensitive and promote women's rights.
- Ensure that support for reconciliation processes do not result in blanket amnesties for any human rights violations, especially sexual violence against women and girls.
- Ensure that all forms of discrimination against women are prohibited when reestablishing the rule of law, during legal reform.
- Ensure that women are involved in the design, operation and monitoring of transitional justice mechanisms at all levels,...and ensure their participation in the design of all reparations programmes.
- Provide effective and timely remedies that respond to...all gender-based violations, including sexual and reproductive rights violations, domestic and sexual enslavement, forced marriage and forced displacement, in addition to sexual violence, as well as violations of economic, social and cultural rights.
- Adopt gender-sensitive procedures in order to avoid revictimization and stigmatization; establish special protection units and gender desks in police stations; undertake investigations confidentially and sensitively; and ensure that during investigations and trials equal weight is given to the testimony of women and girls in comparison to those of men.
- Enhance women's access to justice including through the provision of legal aid; establishment of specialized courts, such as domestic violence and family courts, providing mobile courts for camps and settlement settings as well as for remote areas; and ensure adequate protection measures for victims and witnesses, including non-disclosure of identity and the provision of shelters."

Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations

Rationale for focus on women

Women are noticeably underrepresented in the diplomatic and foreign services of most governments and within the top-ranking positions of the United Nations. Where represented, women tend not to be in positions pertaining to peace and security or in relevant departments within the UN.

In field operations, women form a minority of troops and/or civilian police deployed to keep the peace and in peacekeeping missions. Missions have gender units but remain under-ranked, understaffed and under-resourced to ensure gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment.

SCR1325 calls for:

- Increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict (Para. 1).
- Implementation of the Secretary General's (SG) strategic plan of action to increase the participation of women in decision making and appoint more women as special representatives and envoys to pursue good offices (Para. 2/3).
- Member states to provide women candidates to the SG (Para. 3).
- Expand the role and contribution of women, especially among military observers, civilian police, and human rights and humanitarian personnel in field-based peacekeeping operations (Para. 4).
- Incorporate a gender perspective into peacekeeping operations and, where appropriate, include a gender component (Para. 5).

- Develop training materials and guidelines on women's human rights and gender mainstreaming, as well as HIV/AIDS awareness, for military and police personnel, and civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations (Para. 6).
- Increase resources to gender-sensitive training efforts through member states (Para. 7).

Subsequent WPS resolutions include:

- The call for the appointment of gender advisors to peacekeeping missions (para 12, SCR1888)
- Encouraging Member States to deploy greater numbers of female military and police personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations, and to provide all military and police personnel with adequate training on sexual and gender-based violence, inter alia, to carry out their responsibilities (para 15, SCR1960)
- Supporting the Secretary-General's decision to exclude from peacekeeping operations those state actors listed in the annexes of his reports on Sexual Violence in Conflict and Children and Armed Conflict



CEDAW requires that States parties:

Ensure the presence of a critical mass of women at all levels and in all areas of international affairs, including in economic and military matters, in both multilateral and bilateral diplomacy and in official delegations to international and regional conferences (Art. 8/Gen. Rec. 23).

Use legal and other measures, including special temporary measures (adoption of preference rules, quotas for public office positions, consultation with women's groups on qualified women and maintenance of registers of women for appointment) to achieve this objective (Gen. Rec. 23).

Take specific measures designed to ensure a better gender balance in membership of all UN bodies (Gen. Rec. 23).

Collect data on the percentage of women in the Foreign Service or engaged in international representation, including membership in government delegations to international conferences and nominations for peace keeping or conflict resolution roles and seniority in the relevant sector (Gen. Rec. 23).

What is new under General Recommendation 30 of CEDAW on Peacekeeping and Peace Support Operations?

Ensure women's equal representation at all decision-making levels in national institutions and mechanisms, including in the armed forces, police, justice institutions and the transitional justice mechanisms (judicial and non-judicial) dealing with crimes committed during the conflict.

Ensure that women and civil society organizations focused on women's issues and representatives of civil society are included equally in all peace negotiations and post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

Include women in negotiation and mediation activities as delegates, including at senior levels.

Provide leadership training to women in order to ensure their effective participation in the post-conflict political processes.

Monitoring and Feedback

SCR 1325

Implementation of Resolution 1325 is monitored through the Secretary General in his reports to the Security Council as well as through open debates of the Security Council. Other feedback mechanisms include:

- Independent Experts' Assessment, "Women, War and Peace."
- "Arria formula" meetings, which provide a forum for women's civil society organizations to address Security Council members.
- Open sessions of the Security Council on women, peace and security provide all member states with the opportunity to address the goals of SCR1325 and their implementation.

Gender advocates can also conduct advocacy with their own governments, UN presences and agencies to allocate funds for gender equality in peace and security issues, including: humanitarian aid, reconstruction, women's representation in decision-making processes at the international and UN level, etc.

The Global Study and High-Level Review

In 2015, UN Women published the [Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325](#), to mark the 15th anniversary of SCR1325.

The Global Study made several crucial observations on global progress on implementing the agenda:

- The lack of prosecutions for conflict-related sexual violence, particularly at national level
- Women's participation was still poor, including as negotiators in formal peace processes, and their representation in peacekeeping m
- The vast majority of member states still had not published national action plans for the implementation of WPS

- The rise of extremism and counter-terrorism policies represented new threats to women and women's activism
- Funding for the agenda was condemned as still "abysmally low across all areas of the agenda"

To address the problems, the study put forward recommendations and the following set of principles:

- Prevention of conflict must be the priority, not the use of force.
- Resolution 1325 is a human rights mandate
- Women's participation is key to sustainable peace.
- Perpetrators must be held accountable and justice must be transformative.
- Localization of approaches and inclusive and participatory processes are crucial to the success of national and international peace efforts.
- Supporting women peacebuilders and respecting their autonomy is one important way to counter extremism
- All key actors must play their role.
- A gender lens must be introduced into all aspects of the work of the Security Council.
- The persistent failure to adequately finance the women, peace and security agenda must be addressed.
- A strong gender architecture at the United Nations is essential.

SCR 1325 and other related resolutions will also be monitored by the CEDAW Committee, as required of States in General Recommendation 30.



CEDAW

To fulfill their reporting requirements under CEDAW, governments in conflict, engaged in negotiating peace, or in post-conflict reconstruction are responsible to collect and produce information on the specific situation of women and the impact of their policies and programmes on eliminating discrimination against women, including:

- The number of women participating in decision-making at the national and international level.
- The prevalence and consequences of violence against women.
- The impact of socio-economic reforms on women's work burdens and poverty and specific measures taken to meet the needs of refugees and IDPs.

They are obligated to detail the specific measures taken to address these issues.

Women's organizations may also provide their views directly to the CEDAW Committee, including by drafting alternative, or "shadow" reports on perspectives, insights and specific actions their governments should take. These reports tend to include information on peace and security issues, such as violations of women's rights in conflict and post conflict, monitoring the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations.

States are now required to report to the CEDAW Committee on their implementation of 1325 and the related SC resolutions, as well as report on the legal framework, policies and programmes that they have implemented to ensure the human rights of women in conflict prevention, conflict, and post-conflict (Gen. Rec. 30).

Appendix A: Useful Links

Organization	Link
UN Resolutions on Women, Peace, and Security	https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards
CEDAW Committee and Sessions	https://www.ohchr.org/en/treaty-bodies/cedaw
CEDAW General Recommendation 30 in Arabic	http://bit.ly/19BSGx7
UN Women	www.unwomen.org
UN Women Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security	www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2012/10/un-women-sourcebook-on-women-peace-and-security
Institute for Inclusive Security	https://www.inclusivesecurity.org
International Women's Rights Action Watch	https://cedaw.iwraw-ap.org/for-ngos/
UN Development Group	www.undg.org
The Compact on Women, Peace and Security & Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA)	https://wpscompact.org
The Global Study on UNSCR 1325	https://wps.unwomen.org

Appendix B: Beijing Platform for Action (1995)

- Specifically addresses the situation of women in armed conflict and the important role they can play in the peace process. It sets out a number of strategic objectives:
- Increase participation of women in conflict resolution at all decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation.
- Reduce excessive military expenditures and control availability of armaments.
- Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations.
- Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace.
- Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and women IDPs.
- Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories.

