EUROPEAN
INSTITUTE
OF PEACE

Practices for Inclusive Peace:
A Practitioner's Compendium of Resources

Strategies to advance women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes

Who is this compendium for?

This practitioner-friendly compendium of resources is designed for international mediation and peacebuilding practitioners – including mediators, facilitators, civil society organisations (CSOs), donors and policy actors who wish to achieve lasting peace process outcomes by increasing women's meaningful participation in peace and political settlement processes. It brings together the most effective and up-to-date strategies from over 90 publications by practitioners from all over the world – particularly Global Majority authors.

These strategies cover a range of themes, including the design and implementation of peace processes, mediation networks, international Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) policy frameworks, climate and digital peacebuilding, masculinities, strategic litigation, working with faith actors, gender-disaggregated data and feminist storytelling to engage in evidence-based policy.

Why look at it now?

The upcoming 25th anniversary of the formal WPS agenda provides an opportunity for reflection and renewed commitment. This agenda is at a pivotal moment: the growing disconnect between its core principles and current political realities seriously threatens its implementation. Around the world, an alarming backlash against women's rights is unfolding. Civic space is shrinking and major donors such as the US Agency for International Development have drastically cut funding in this area. At the same time, escalating geopolitical tensions have fuelled a surge in military spending; the feminist foreign policy commitments that had gained traction in recent years are being sidelined. New approaches are therefore needed to navigate barriers to women's meaningful participation in peace and political settlement processes.

The European Institute of Peace has identified and analysed practices and strategies that have been used to overcome the persistent obstacles to women's participation as part of its Breaking Barriers, Making Peace project supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. This project has generated the "Status Quo or Bold Adaptation? Reclaiming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" report along with a Policy Brief under the same title and three accompanying background papers entitled "Confronting the Exclusion of Women in Ethiopia's Peace Processes", "Navigating Barriers To Women's Participation in Policy Spaces Intersecting with Environmental Peacebuilding" and "Reclaiming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sudan". This research suggests two core principles that could transform the WPS agenda: radical inclusion and decolonialism. The report also identifies 12 practices that are being used to navigate participation barriers:

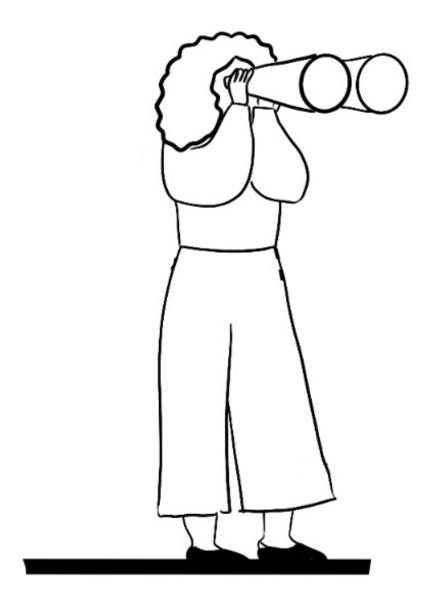|		
Gender quotas	**Gender-disaggregated data and feminist storytelling**	**Men stepping up in solidarity**
Sub-national WPS Plans	**Digital tools for inclusion**	**Working with faith actors to contextualise**
Rapid response, pooled funds and feminist funds	**Gender mainstreaming**	**Feminist Foreign Policies**
Gender budgeting and markers	**Strategic litigation**	**Women's Mediation Networks**

This practitioner-friendly compendium summarises resources that provide recommendations on how to effectively implement these practices. The recommendations and summaries are designed to shape more responsive and effective WPS approaches in the years to come.

How to use this compendium

The resources in the compendium are organised by the type of practice analysed in the global report. The reports listed below contain links to short summaries and an excerpt of concrete action points to consider implementing to boost women's participation, representation and leadership in peace processes. Readers are encouraged to explore these issues in greater depth by accessing the full-length recommendations in the reports linked in multiple languages throughout the compendium.

Strategies
– by report category

1. Reports on good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes

1. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – globally
2. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Myanmar
3. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Sudan
4. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Ethiopia
5. Gender transformative peace in the Philippines and West Africa
6. Women in resistance and liberation movements (RLMs)
7. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to build resilience and increase political participation of Sudanese Women in peace processes
8. Strategies for women's impactful participation in peace processes – in Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, and Palestine
9. Peace process accountability and legitimacy in Syria
10. Women Building Inclusive Peace in Sudan
11. Gender-inclusive national dialogue
12. Political power-sharing agreement proposals and processes
13. Incremental inclusion approaches to negotiating and implementing peace/ceasefire agreements
14. Gender-responsive processes and ceasefire agreements
15. Affecting women's influence in peace processes
16. Women's direct participation at the Track 1 level, gender commissions and women's advisory boards, gender-inclusive peace agreements
17. Integrating women into the pre-negotiation, negotiation and implementation stages of peace agreements
18. Drafting inclusive peace agreements in the Asia-Pacific region
19. Women's meaningful participation in transitional justice

2. Reports on inclusive mediation, mediation support and networks

1. High-level mediation processes
2. Regional networking for women mediators in the Horn of Africa
3. Women's political platforms and networks in Ethiopia
4. WMN, gender-responsive process design and digital technologies to improve inclusivity in mediation practices
5. Women insider mediators in peaceful protest movements
6. Gender-inclusive mediation support – organisational practices and peacemaking support
7. Mediation and mediation networks
8. Women's inclusion in peace processes

3. Reports on feminist foreign policy (FFP), WPS agenda National Action Plans (NAPs), European Union (EU) Country Level Implementation Plan (CLIPs), and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Action Plans

1. Disability inclusion in the WPS agenda in the Arab region
2. Localising WPS: investing in equitable partnerships
3. Aligning the WPS agenda with the priorities of First Nation women in Australia
4. EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III WPS pillar
5. GAP III WPS pillar in Kenya, Bangladesh and Mozambique
6. Queering WPS
7. WPS NAPs in the Arab region
8. NATO WPS Action Plan
9. Feminist foreign policies
10. A FFP approach to EU security and defence
11. Intersectional feminist policymaking for EU external action
12. WPS NAPs in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region
13. Implementing the WPS agenda in Afghanistan

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4. Reports on financing gender-inclusive peace, gender-responsive budgeting and grant-making

1. Flexible funding for women's rights organisations in Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen
2. Accessing funding and enabling equitable partnerships in Yemen
3. FFP and funding mechanisms
4. Gender-responsive budgeting in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
5. Grant-making to increase women's participation in peace processes
6. Funding Black feminist movements
7. Financing for peacebuilding
8. Applying a feminist lens to grant-making to address violence against women and girls (VAWG)
9. Financing gender-inclusive peace in Colombia, Iraq and the Philippines

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5. Reports on breaking sector silos: gender and climate peacebuilding

1. Gender, climate and security in the UN Security Council
2. Transforming Water Security Through Women's Leadership
3. Gender-inclusive environmental justice in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)
4. Gender and culturally responsive peacebuilding and climate programming and policy
5. Protecting, empowering and engaging women within the climate–gender–conflict nexus in Colombia, Sudan and Nepal
6. Land, forest and water management in the Asia Pacific
7. Gender-sensitive climate action response in Yemen
8. Climate-informed and gender-responsive conflict analysis and design of peacemaking and peacebuilding strategies
9. Gender-responsive action on climate and security
10. Women in natural resources management (NRM)

6. Reports on inclusive digital peacebuilding

1. Social networks and the safety of Sahelian women in peace consolidation
2. Artificial intelligence (AI) and peacemaking: digital dialogues in Sudan
3. PeaceTech for women peacebuilders, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and CSOs
4. Women, peace and digital security in South-East Asia
5. Intersectionality and digital peacebuilding
6. Gendering cybersecurity through WPS
7. Information and communications technology (ICT)

7. Reports on masculinities and (non)violence against women

1. Masculinities and (non) violence in the Philippines
2. Transforming beliefs about masculinities and patriarchy in Indonesia
3. Reconstructing masculinities in Indonesia and the Philippines
4. Mobilising men for feminist peace
5. Transforming militarised masculinities
6. Masculinities in peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kashmir, Nigeria and the Pacific Region
7. Men, Masculinities and Feminist Peace
8. Addressing violence against women journalists and politicians

8. Reports on strategic litigation

1. Strategic litigation for gender-based violence (GBV) in Latin America
2. Strategic litigation to safeguard Indigenous peoples' land rights in Kenya, Malaysia and Paraguay
3. Mobile gender courts in the DRC

9. Reports on working with faith actors

1. Faith-based actors as catalysts for positive norm change
2. Engaging women of faith in peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia
3. Engaging with local faith actors and communities
4. Engaging religious leaders in advancing the WPS agenda
5. Religion and the WPS agenda in Libya, Afghanistan and South Sudan
6. Women in religious peacebuilding

10. Reports on strengthening gender-disaggregated data and feminist storytelling to engage in evidence-based policy

1. Feminist storytelling on shifting power and resources to movements in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa
2. Measuring social norm change through storytelling in Nepal
3. Gender data for FFP
4. Gender-based data and policy action
5. Storytelling for peace and security: why, what and how?

Summaries and concrete action points

1. Reports on good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes

1. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – globally

Title of the resource: S. Close, S. Darwish "Status Quo or Bold Adaptation? Reclaiming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" European Institute of Peace (2025)

Languages: English

In short: This report calls for a critical rethinking of the core principles behind the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda to ensure its continued relevance and effectiveness in the rapidly shifting global context. It identifies five persistent barriers to women's meaningful participation, highlights core principles that could transform the WPS agenda and, using a traffic light system, assesses 12 effective and promising practices that can be used to navigate participation barriers. The report suggest concrete actions for policy makers suggests concrete actions for policymakers and practitioners to enhance women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The research draws on interviews; an online survey; case studies conducted in Myanmar, Ethiopia and Sudan; and the authors' own experience and peace practice.

Concrete action points

- To address persistent patriarchal power and resistance: Change should be grounded in accountability and solidarity. If men are engaged only as supporters, efforts risk becoming superficial or tokenistic. True transformation necessitates a shift in mindsets and power structures within all identity groups, not just adding allies to women's struggles. Gender-responsive conflict resolution requires strategic networking, radically inclusive dialogues, in-depth information sharing and working with men as co-owners of systemic change to advance collective societal transformation.

- To address threats to women's safety and ongoing trauma: Address risks to women's safety and unresolved conflict-related trauma. Design and put in place gender-responsive and culturally appropriate security and mental health and psychosocial support so women are safer to participate in decision-making. In parallel, invest in long-term, community-based healing initiatives that respond to collective trauma and ensure that security sector reforms are rooted in feminist, civilian-led approaches to protection.

- To address narrow, hierarchical and siloed efforts: Human security should be central to feminist foreign policy (FFP) and National Action Plans (NAPs). Integrate FFP and NAPs across diplomatic, trade, development, defence, immigration and security services to ensure policy coherence and tackle the root causes of insecurity and injustice. Ensure that integration is vertical (across ministries) as well as horizontal (across local, national and regional levels) and embeds intersectional analysis and co-creation with grassroots women's organisations to dismantle systemic inequalities at all levels.

- To address incrementalism, exclusion and marginalisation: Gender quotas can be used to remedy historical disadvantage. Ensure gender mediation and facilitation teams are mixed and consistently embed quotas in all peace processes. Socialise conflict parties early and make sure women occupy formal and substantive decision-making roles.

- To address inadequate financial and weak political investment: Amplify subnational and community-led efforts, including those led by LGBTQIA+ people. A radical reparative approach provides quality, flexible, equitable core funding to feminist organisations and movements.

2. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Myanmar

Title of the resource: Valentina, Flower "Navigating Barriers To Women's Participation in Policy Spaces Intersecting with Environmental Peacebuilding" European Institute of Peace (2025)

Languages: English; Burmese

In short:

This background paper examines the intersection of gender and conflict in Myanmar, with a focus on how and where women have been leading on and meaningfully participated in peacebuilding and environmental response efforts. The findings highlight the persistent barriers that undermine women's participation and set out concrete actions to enhance their role in conflict prevention and peace processes.

Concrete action points

- To address pervasive insecurity: Strengthen gender-responsive risk management systems – including digital security and relocation support – and equip women with the resources to manage their own safety and security. Recognise how the militarisation of extractive industries and environmental degradation exacerbate insecurity and offer to protect (especially women) environmental defenders.

- To address restrictive socio-political norms and gender inequalities: Confront militarised and patriarchal ideologies through inclusive governance reforms and long-term movement building. Institutionalise gender equality within emerging environmental and federal units' frameworks. Elevate women's leadership in climate and resource governance as a strategy for both gender justice and environmental resilience.

- To address gender-blind and narrowly designed interventions: Integrate gender, climate, and human security within WPS and humanitarian-development-peace frameworks. Expand the scope of participation beyond Track I peace processes to include NRM, humanitarian response and ecological protection. Invest in psychosocial care to mitigate trauma-related barriers to participation, especially among displaced women in environmentally degraded areas.

- To address international funding related barriers: Provide long-term, flexible funding to grassroots women's groups, especially those working at the intersection of gender, the environment and peace. Support cross-sectoral coalitions – including LGBTQIA+, environmental justice and feminist networks – and build pipelines of diverse women leaders through sustained mentoring and collective learning models.

Back to Categories

3. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Sudan

Title of the resource: M. Elmaki, J. Lim "Reclaiming the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in Sudan: A Background Paper" European Institute of Peace (2025)

Languages: English; Arabic

In short:

This background paper examines the intersection of gender and conflict in Sudan, with a focus on how and where women have been leading on and meaningfully participated in peacebuilding efforts. The findings highlight the persistent barriers that undermine women's participation and set out concrete actions to enhance their role in conflict prevention and peace processes.

Concrete action points

- To address restrictive gender norms: Use prevailing socio-cultural norms and locally resonant practices to build community trust and encourage male allies.

- To address limited civic, gender equality and peace education: Bolster civic and peace education through intersectional initiatives to foster awareness of gender inequality and participation.

- To address divisions within civil society: Narrow the divide within the women's movement and civil society by addressing economic inequalities and creating a common platform to help diverse communities advance a unified WPS agenda.

- To address limited international funding and influence: Ensure flexible and responsive core funding to support women's meaningful participation while leveraging international influence to advance the WPS agenda.

- To address the barrier related to the dire humanitarian crisis due to continued armed conflict: Leverage the crisis to support local initiatives enabling women's meaningful participation.

4. Good practices for women's meaningful participation in peace processes – in Ethiopia

Title of the resource: Anonymous, "Confronting the Exclusion of Women in Ethiopia's Peace Processes: A Background Paper" European Institute of Peace (2025)

Languages: English Amharic

In short:

This background paper examines the intersection of gender and conflict in Ethiopia, with a focus on how and where women have been leading on and meaningfully participated in peacebuilding efforts. The findings highlight the persistent barriers that undermine women's participation and set out concrete actions to enhance their role in conflict prevention and peace processes.

Concrete action points

- To address insecurity and shrinking civic space: Enhance protection mechanisms for women peacebuilders operating in conflict-affected areas through relocation support, digital safety tools and early warning systems. Promote inclusive peace tables that do not rely on militarised logics of negotiation. Prioritise local legitimacy over elite or armed representation and ensure women's access to safe civic platforms for engagement.

- To address policy inertia and lack of accountability: Accelerate the adoption of Ethiopia's revised National Gender Policy and the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). Embed gender quotas into electoral and peace governance frameworks and hold institutions accountable for their implementation. Support women-led civil society organisations (CSOs) to play oversight roles and establish legal mandates for WPS commitments across federal and regional governance systems.

- To address financial barriers and economic exclusion: Expand women's access to core and flexible funding, vocational training and income-generating opportunities linked to peacebuilding. Provide stipends, childcare and logistical support to enable grassroots women to engage in dialogue processes. Ensure donor strategies align with humanitarian–development–peace principles and support women-led organisations through sustained, trust-based partnerships.

- To address restrictive gender norms and social stigma: Challenge entrenched patriarchal beliefs that exclude women from traditional and formal peace processes. Invest in community-level sensitisation campaigns, gender-transformative education and cross-generational dialogue to elevate women's leadership. Promote locally embedded feminist organising that leverages existing social structures – including religious and customary systems – to shift norms.

Back to Categories

5. Gender transformative peace in the Philippines and West Africa

Title of the resource: E. Hodges, A. Dwyer, T. Dumasy "Gender transformative peace: What, who and how" Conciliation Resources (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This study analyses and captures how to foster enabling environments for gender-transformative peace. It explores how predominant approaches to designing and managing peace processes enables or inhibits the meaningful participation of women and other minoritised and excluded groups in peace processes, and sets out practical, context-informed strategies for creating peace processes that facilitate gender-transformative outcomes. It draws on a literature review; two analytical workshops (in Manila, focusing on the Bangsamoro region of the Philippines; and in Accra, focusing on the Ivory Coast, Burkina Faso and Ghana tri-border region in West Africa); and two subsequent knowledge-sharing and sense-making workshops.

Concrete action points

- Governments and multilateral institutions should:
    - Integrate WPS objectives into security mechanisms.
    - Provide consistent funding and tailor funding modalities.
    - 'Impact multiply' existing funding and direct funding to grassroots peacebuilders.
    - Co-create rather than pre-determine project ambitions.
    - Exchange knowledge and experience on inclusion and peacebuilding.
    - Consolidate and expand good practice in creating enabling environments for gender-transformative peace.
    - Increase transparency and interaction between formal and informal peace processes.
    - Engage in 'minilateralism' on aspects of WPS where multilateral messaging is too challenging.
    - Build ownership of National Action Plans with civil society and across government.
- INGOs and International civil society should:
    - Consider the political influence that governments and multilateral institutions can deploy to create enabling environments for gender-transformative peace.
    - Seize opportunities for normative change when governments take leadership.
    - Enhance the practice of trauma-informed peacebuilding through training and peer learning.
    - Partner with digital experts to understand how digital technology and artificial intelligence can support gender-transformative peacebuilding.

6. Women in resistance and liberation movements (RLMs)

Title of the resource: C. Cruz Almeida, F. Högner "At and around the table: Uncovering the diversity of roles played by women from resistance and liberation movements in peace processes." Berghof Foundation (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This paper examines the formal and informal roles played by women in and associated with Resistance and Liberation Movements (RLMs) during peace processes. The findings are drawn from focus group discussions, interviews and peer-learning workshops with women from South Africa, Northern Ireland, Colombia, the Philippines, Kosovo and other contexts in Latin America, Europe and Southeast Asia who contributed to peace processes either as formal negotiators or informal peace leaders.

Concrete action points

- Move beyond the silos between formal and informal roles and, above all, beyond the negotiating table. This requires prior identification of actors who are contributing to the peace process, far beyond a negotiating delegation. The process of identifying negotiators to receive negotiation support should be based on a thorough gender analysis. It is crucial to pinpoint women and people with diverse identities who have political influence and potential and support them early on.

- Build bridges between the different roles in peace processes. Formal and informal roles should be supported in a complementary and coordinated way, without the need to focus on one or the other or attempt to merge the interests of the two differentiated roles. The peacebuilding community should avoid giving more weight to some roles based on their level of formality or the framework in which they operate, as this is not an indicator of their relevance and sustainability. Increased documentation on formal and informal roles can also improve knowledge management, transparency and coordination.

- Strengthen capacity of the women in RLMs on strategic issues (i.e. ceasefires, negotiating strategies, conflict resolution, peace leadership) and on gender-inclusive peacebuilding, and provide networking, mentoring and coaching opportunities.

- Apply gender quotas within peace panel delegations to increase women in RLMs' meaningful participation in formal roles.

- Ensure security guarantees for peace processes including physical security; protection and prevention of stigmatisation through awareness-raising and educating the broader society to correct misinformation and combat stereotypes; support to women on how to deal with stigmatisation and the consequences of their visibility and leadership; and psychosocial support.

- Strengthen engagements with men on issues such as WPS and gender-sensitive peacebuilding and identify male allies and champions for further inclusion of women.

7. Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) to build resilience and increase political participation of Sudanese Women in peace processes

Title of the resource: S. Reitsma, S. Thompson, "Mental Health and Psychosocial Support in Peacemaking: Building Resilience among Sudanese Women" CMI—Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This Insight Brief shares lessons learned from MHPSS workshops for displaced Sudanese women which resulted in improved mental health, increased resilience and enhanced leadership skills of the participants. The brief describes how this in turn supports women leaders in advocating for and meaningfully engaging in political processes.

Concrete action points

- Integrate MHPSS into peacemaking processes locally, nationally and internationally.

- Adapt MHPSS interventions to specific cultural, social and historical contexts.

- Enhance access to MHPSS services for communities, particularly for women leaders and other key constituencies.

- Foster regional cooperation in MHPSS, sharing best practices and resources to effectively support those affected by cross-border conflicts.

8. Strategies for women's impactful participation in peace processes – in Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, and Palestine

Title of the resource: J. Mühlbauer, M. Vitas Majstorovic, P. Lama, A. Marta Fal-Dutra Santos "Supporting Women's Impactful Participation in Peace Processes: Learnings from Kyrgyzstan, Uganda, and Palestine" (2024) the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)

Languages: English

In short:

This paper explores innovative strategies developed by local women peacebuilders to overcome barriers to their participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. It seeks to demonstrate the potential of flexible, context specific approaches that prioritise local leadership in promoting women's impactful participation in peace processes. It is based on the experiences and lessons learned by GPPAC as an implementing partner to the United Nations Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Rapid Response Window projects implemented in Uganda, the Central Asia region (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan), and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Concrete action points

- Tailor capacity-strengthening programmes to local contexts.

- Integrate economic empowerment in programmes.

- Expand trauma-sensitive approaches and strengthen its evidence base.

- Foster inclusive and collaborative platforms.

- Engage men and boys as allies in promoting gender equality.

- Address socio-cultural barriers systematically.

- Provide long-term, flexible, and adaptable funding.

- Document and acknowledge local women's contributions.

9. Peace process accountability and legitimacy in Syria

Title of the resource: O. Saleh "Patching Holes in Peace Mediation. Weaving Feminist Political Action II: Accountability and Legitimacy" Badael (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This report conceptualises inclusive peace mediation from a feminist perspective based on expertise shared by Syrian feminist political actors during a 2-day forum that reimagined approaches to peace mediation in the country. It identifies new questions as well as answers to persistent challenges to inclusive peace mediation that can deliver sustainable pluralistic peace in Syria. The report explores legitimacy and accountability in the EU's concept of peace mediation, UN guidance for effective mediation and peace mediation generally.

Concrete action points:

- A team of mediators with complementary backgrounds and expertise should work together. They will be better able to build relationships with various parties to help find a common purpose or common ground than a single mediator or mediator's office. The team should include international and insider mediators who pursue separate mediation and consultative processes with the conflict parties and broader interest groups. They should discuss how these different processes complement each other.

- An independent oversight body that monitors the accountability of peace mediation efforts in Syria should be set up. Civil society actors and their local allies should engage in collective action to ensure the accountability of peace mediation, as well as that of the friends of Syria group, and the EU on commitments to inclusivity.

- International actors that intervene in peace mediation, notably the UN and EU, are uniquely placed to improve accountability and legitimacy by introducing meaningful feedback loops between inclusive civil society and other actors in the process.

- To counter the culture of excessive secrecy, UN and EU actors should enhance their strategic communications, increasing the amount of information available to the public, except on extraordinary developments that require confidentiality.

10. Women Building Inclusive Peace in Sudan

Title of the resource: SaferWorld "Women building peace in Sudan" (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This briefing captures the analysis and recommendations for building peace as put forth by Sudanese women peacebuilders, who continue to lead frontline responses despite exclusion and risk. The recommendations are drawn from a side event on Sudan held during the 69th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women, which brought together women peacebuilders, as well as rights experts and experts on gender and conflict sensitivity, to spotlight the distinct impacts of conflict on women and girls in Sudan and to amplify their demands for justice, accountability and inclusive peacebuilding. The brief contains recommendations specifically addressed to donors, the United Nations, and international NGOs.

Concrete action points:

- For donor governments:

  - Resource feminist movements and community organisations, which are the first responders in this crisis. This funding must be flexible, long-term, core and predictable.

  - Ensure Sudan remains a priority within the development and implementation of WPS NAPs.

  - Strengthen and apply universal jurisdiction to ensure that perpetrators of crimes against humanity, including Conflict Related Sexual Violence (CRSV), are prosecuted. Efforts to secure justice must be survivor centred and must ensure that the children born of rape are not left stateless or stigmatised. This must include compliance with cases at the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

  - Apply effective, targeted and smart sanctions to state and non-state actors that use CRSV as a weapon of war.

  - Regulate social media companies based within donor countries to ensure mis- and disinformation is not circulated via these platforms.

- For international NGOs:

  - All programming and advocacy efforts must be survivor-centred, providing safe reporting mechanisms, access to medical care, psychosocial support and legal assistance.

  - International NGOs must translate their solidarity into resourcing safety mechanisms for women rights defenders, including cyber security, safe houses, evacuation plans, and methods to operate discretely and securely.

  - Resource women-led and women's rights organisations (including women's Emergency Response Rooms), including through providing flexible, core and quick release sub-grants, designed with minimum reporting and application burdens. International NGOs can collaborate with Sudanese organisations – including by providing capacity and knowledge building, and network and movement convening.

11. Gender-inclusive national dialogue

Title of the resource: N. Ross "A Practical Guide to a Gender-Inclusive National Dialogue" Inclusive Peace (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This guide is intended to be a practical resource that fosters understanding of how to make a national dialogue truly inclusive of women and gender. It draws on comparative research on previous national dialogues and peace and transition processes more broadly to explore how to expand women's participation.

Concrete action points

- If provisions for women's participation are inadequate: engage in advocacy for women's selection directed at the national government and other stakeholders, and apply international diplomatic pressure for.

- If decision procedures are unfavourable to women: vote-based procedures and limited party discipline are more conducive to women's influence; women's coalitions and international pressure help women increase their influence over decisions.

- If the agenda is gender blind: advocacy should be directed at the dialogue preparatory committee and major influences; gender-sensitive consultations in all phases should be supported by advocacy strategies to help highlight the importance of gender issues.

- If women participants have not formed a coalition/caucus: create space for them to interact both with each other and with women outside the dialogue; networking and strategy workshops and resource rooms help women participants build the trust needed to form coalitions/caucuses.

- If international actors compete to support national women's rights organisations (WROs), coalitions and networks: external interest and support should be timed to match the appropriate stage of the national dialogue process; coalition building among relevant national actors and organisations helps to mitigate this tendency and give actors a platform to identify and express their needs, priorities, concerns and ideas, which can inform external support.

- If the national dialogue is co-opted: women must decide whether to engage in it or not as it is unlikely to lead to transformative change. Ideally, decisions to not engage could be communicated as a group to limit retaliation against individuals.

- Sexual harassment and threats of violence against women participants (including online): police officers or bodyguards may be required, but a decision must be taken whether to militarise or not. Male allies should speak out on gender equality and in support of women's participation; they should condemn violence or threats against women. Safe digital participation spaces should be created.

Back to Categories

12. Political power-sharing agreement proposals and processes

Title of the resource: C. Bell "Accessing Political Power: Women and Political Power-Sharing in Peace Processes" UN Women (2018)

Languages: English; Arabic

In short:

This brief presents findings from a gender and women's rights analysis of political power-sharing in peace agreements using data from the programme's Peace Agreements Database, which codes and maps all peace agreements from 1990 to 2016. It presents strategies to boost women's inclusion and involvement in power-sharing agreements and processes – and overall political participation. It demonstrates that different power-sharing strategies have different sets of implications that must be well understood before advocating for them in the context of a peace process.

Concrete action points

- Produce strong gender-responsive conflict analysis of group power dynamics and incentives.

- Model power-sharing proposals for their possible gender impact.

- Build alliances between and across women's groups as well as with other groups.

- Formulate clear proposals for women's inclusion that have evidence of cross- sector support from other marginalized constituencies.

- Push for representation in the structures set up to advance the transitional deliberation.

- Ask for technical support and advice on how the detail of power-sharing arrangements is likely to affect the representation of women within a country's particular electoral and power balances.

13. Incremental inclusion approaches to negotiating and implementing peace/ceasefire agreements

Title of the resource: A. Schädel, V. Dudouet "Incremental Inclusivity: A Recipe for Effective Peace Processes?" Berghof Foundation (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This report compares 'incremental inclusion' approaches for non-signatory armed groups and civil society actors during the negotiation and implementation of peace/ceasefire agreements. It seeks to improve empirical understanding of how to design and implement inclusive and effective peace processes. It is based on a sample of four agreements: the Algiers Accord for Peace and Reconciliation between the government of Mali and two coalitions of (pro-state and opposition) armed groups (June 2015); the National Ceasefire Agreement between the government of Myanmar and eight ethnic armed organisations (October 2015); the Havana Peace Accord between the government of Colombia and the FARC guerrilla group (August–November 2016); and the Kabul Agreement between the government of Afghanistan and the rebel group Hezb-i-Islami (September 2016).

Concrete action points

- Promote early interactions between the negotiating parties and other political and societal actors to foster trust and legitimacy in the process and its outcomes.

- Enable marginalised groups to articulate their own claims for inclusion and to participate meaningfully in negotiation arenas.

- Incentivise non-signatory armed groups to engage in the peace process and to refrain from imposing their own red lines for engagement with certain armed groups.

- Socialise government actors and elites to the benefits of inclusive approaches.

- Support the design of binding mechanisms to ensure societal actors directly participate in implementing peace processes.

Back to Categories

14. Gender-responsive processes and ceasefire agreements

Title of the resource: International Civil Society Action Network "10 Steps to Ensure Gender-Responsive Processes and Ceasefire Agreements" (2019)

Languages: English;   French;   Arabic;   Spanish;   Farsi;

In short:

This guidance describes how to ensure gender-responsive processes and ceasefire agreements in 10 steps. It was developed in consultation with participants in the Network's first Executive Seminar and Certification Course on Gendered and Inclusive Mediation in 2018; multiple individuals and organisations provided additional input.

Concrete action points:

- Ensure the equal inclusion of women leaders and gender experts. Advise mediation teams to involve women in dialogue and to ensure that each team has a gender and mediation expert.

- Define ceasefires inclusively to reflect different types of violence and those that impact women and men differently.

- Agreements should contain a timeline to stop the fighting and provisions for a humanitarian corridor that consider the different needs of men and women – especially non-combatants.

- Set a 50 per cent quota for women's inclusion in drafting ceasefire agreements; where needed, provide them with technical training.

- Ensure women's participation in monitoring ceasefire agreements and preventing a return to conflict.

- Where ceasefires include cantonment as an initial step in the Disarmament, Demobilisation, and Reintegration (DDR) process, collect and analyse disaggregated data (by gender and age) on participation in armed groups, and include women as registrars in the DDR processes to ensure the safety of women and girls.

- Consider the gendered effects of a siege, acts of armed groups, and the impact of ceasefire agreements on different populations including women, children, people with disabilities, refugees, internally displaced persons, and ethnic, religious and other social groups.

- Consult with local residents, including women, about the types of violence they experienced or witnessed.

- Include women on de-escalation committees to prevent violence.

- Provide financial resources to women-led groups so they can participate in a sustainable way in all stages of the ceasefire process.

15. Affecting women's influence in peace processes

Title of the resource: T. Paffenholz, N. Ross, S. Dixon, A. Schluchter, J. True "Making Women Count – Not Just Counting Women: Assessing Women's Inclusion and Influence on Peace Negotiations" Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative, UN Women (2016)

Languages: English

In short:

This report analyses women's inclusion and influence in 40 peace and transition negotiations and agreement implementations between 1989 and 2014. It is based on the results of the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies' multi-year research project entitled "Broadening Participation in Political Negotiations and Implementation". It describes process factors (summarised below) and contextual factors that work jointly to either enable or constrain women's ability to participate in and influence peace processes.

Concrete action points

- Whether the selection criteria and procedures that determine the groups that will be included in the process, and whether the group members who will be able to influence the negotiation outcomes are gender sensitive.

- If there are procedures in place explicitly enabling women to influence the decision-making process.

- Whether a coalition of women is built to mobilise around common issues and negotiate as a unified, representative cluster, which increases their chance of being heard.

- The existence of a joint position paper or common policy document to help women gain influence through transfer strategies of inclusion outside the negotiation table (which are systematically communicated from the consultations to the negotiators and mediators).

- Whether inclusion-friendly mediators provide strong and supportive leadership in peace negotiations and help ensure meaningful women's inclusion.

- The timing of women's inclusion in the peace process: early involvement (preferably in the pre-negotiation phase) can set a precedent that ensures the continuous participation of women's groups and increases their ability to make meaningful contributions.

- The existence of support structures: those available prior to, during, and after negotiations allow women to make more effective and higher-quality contributions to a peace process.

- Whether women are involved in monitoring the implementation of a peace agreement.

- The availability of funding, which can support women's preparedness, provide beneficial support structures and allow them to participate by providing the basic preconditions of participation.

Back to Categories

16. Women's direct participation at the Track 1 level, gender commissions and women's advisory boards, gender-inclusive peace agreements

Title of the resource: UN Women "Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes: Modalities and Strategies across Tracks" (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This document highlights key thematic areas, ideas and recommendations from a UN Women conference on "Women's Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes: Modalities and Strategies Across Tracks". The conference explored innovations, trends and challenges in the interplay between official, high-level processes at the Track 1 level and unofficial Track 2 processes. The report is based on three comparative learning sessions that were held in parallel on women's meaningful participation and gender inclusivity in the pre-talks phase of mediation efforts, ceasefire arrangements and political power-sharing agreements.

Concrete action points

• Foster formal and informal linkages across peace tracks.

• Explore all efforts to ensure women's direct and meaningful participation in high-level peace processes.

• Develop and share gender-sensitive knowledge that addresses key gaps.

• Promote gender inclusivity and expertise at all stages of peace agreements.

• Provide gender-responsive budgeting and core civil society funding.

17. Integrating women into the pre-negotiation, negotiation and implementation stages of peace agreements

Title of the resource: C. Bell "Women and Peace Processes, Negotiations and Agreements: Operational Opportunities and Challenges" Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (2013)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief provides recommendations to address the opportunities and challenges associated with involving women in the processes of negotiating, reaching and implementing peace agreements, as well as including them in the substance of peace agreements.

Concrete action points

• Women need to be included at all levels and stages of the process of negotiating, reaching and implementing peace agreements. Mechanisms for their effective participation need to be creatively designed to account for their degree of access in the specific context.

• The substance of peace agreements should be designed with women's status and situation in mind. Where appropriate, special provision for women should be made. The following issues are covered in the report: violence against women; peacekeeping; constitutional reform; political participation: power-sharing; institutional reform; dealing with the past; implementation; disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration; refugees and disabled persons; access to health care.

18. Drafting inclusive peace agreements in the Asia-Pacific region

Title of the resource: C. Buchanan, A. Potter et al. "From Clause to Effect: Including Women's Rights and Gender in Peace Agreements" Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (2012)

Languages: English

In short:

This report analyses the text of six peace agreements from the Asia-Pacific region over the last 20 years. It examines how these agreements deal with five recurring concerns in peace processes: power-sharing, resource sharing, security arrangements, monitoring and access to justice. Its recommendations advance our understanding of how a gendered perspective might translate into text – and into opportunities to enhance women's participation in (and the outcomes of) peace processes.

Concrete action points

- On language:

  - Consistent use of male pronouns should be replaced by inclusive terminology (e.g. 's/he').

  - Gender-neutral language can be used to disguise exclusion, so it is preferable to use specifically inclusive terminology ('men and women of Aceh' rather than 'people of Aceh').

  - Determinative language such as 'will' or 'must' is preferable over 'should', 'may' or 'where appropriate' in clauses that affect women's rights as it gives them more strength.

  - Carefully consider the pros and cons of specificity versus ambiguity.

- On substance:

  - A minimum of 40 per cent from each sex should comprise the membership of all commissions and other key bodies. Any quota should be clearly framed as a minimum to avoid it being interpreted as a maximum.

  - Blanket amnesties for crimes committed during conflict can deny women justice for past violence and protection from future abuse.

  - Peace agreements should contain provisions on the control of small arms and light weapons, and women should participate in initiatives to manage and regulate arms.

  - Consider including a mechanism to ensure or track funding for women's participation in implementation or monitoring, along the lines of gender budgeting.

  - When drafting text on the security of those in vulnerable and risky situations, it is important to include confidence-building measures to make those groups feel safer.

Back to Categories

19. Women's meaningful participation in transitional justice

Title of the resource: UN Development Programme, UN Women "Women's Meaningful Participation in Transitional Justice: Advancing Gender Equality and Building Sustainable Peace" (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This brief is intended to trigger a UN rethink on women's participation in transitional justice at the policy and programme levels. It represents a substantive contribution towards the broader UN process of reviewing and updating the 2010 Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice. The research and analysis are based on a literature review and interviews with 79 subject matter experts (71 per cent women and 29 per cent men) from the UN, civil society and academia (including those located in/focused on Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America).

Concrete action points

- Model and fulfil internal commitments for women's participation and gender equality as equally important as promoting them externally.

- Develop a clear UN strategy and coordinated monitoring, evaluation and accountability framework for women's meaningful participation in transitional justice.

- The UN should embrace a more encompassing role than being the guardian of international standards and norms.

- The starting point for any UN transitional justice support should be women and their participation.

- Embrace a wider and more agile spectrum of outcomes and measures of 'success' for women's meaningful participation in transitional justice.

- Build strategy, programme, funding and partnership systems that facilitate long-term commitments to formal and informal processes.

- Establish mandatory funding allocations for monitoring and evaluating women's meaningful participation and gender-transformative outcomes in transitional justice programming.

- Establish mandatory funding allocations for dedicated gender expertise capacities in UN mission/ programme contexts where the UN is engaged in supporting transitional justice.

- Deploy more diverse competencies – not just lawyers, human rights and governance specialists.

- Maintain routine mechanisms to meaningfully consult, support and partner with diverse women's movement, survivor/ victim and human rights actors in conflict settings.

- Conduct and support more research (especially locally grounded and women-directed research) and develop more training, practical guidance and global capacities for exchange.

2. Reports on inclusive mediation, mediation support and networks

1. High-level mediation processes

Title of the resource: S. Shewprasad, C. Maffettone "Women's Participation in High Level Mediation Processes" Search For Common Ground (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This issue brief highlights learnings on women's participation in high-level mediation processes. It draws on a 2024 meeting of over 40 women peacebuilders and negotiators involved in over 10 peace processes in the past decade that discussed effective strategies and recommendations.

Concrete action points

- Successfully negotiating meaningful inclusion requires a step-by-step approach. Attempting to negotiate everything at once often fails. A gradual progress that carefully considers all parties' concerns, fears and boundaries is more effective.

- Establish intelligence networks to monitor all discussions, including those happening informally or in small groups from which women are excluded. This can ensure that women remain directly involved even when their own teams try to exclude them.

- Creating and protecting confidential spaces for dialogue is essential for building real trust among conflict parties. These spaces should be safeguarded from external interference such as the press so the conflict parties can have more frank discussions. Women negotiators can start by reinforcing women's crucial role in sustaining peace efforts from the inside, and then open up to women on the UN mediation team and to other women on the teams of the opposing parties.

- Women represented in the process need to build trust with broad sections of society to elevate issues that are important to them. Feedback loops should be established between women at the negotiating table and communities so that all constituencies feel represented.

- Participants in newer peace and mediation spaces can learn from women's experiences in places like Afghanistan, Syria and Mozambique. Meaningful participation in peace processes requires unique skills; women require more capacity and preparation to engage effectively.

- Identify and foster male allies to build buy-in for women's participation with male negotiators and negotiation teams.

- If no male allies are available, the presence of other women, especially in mediation neutral roles, can foster the participation of other women in the negotiation parties without having to impose quotas that might be perceived as heavy-handed.

- Women's inclusion can be formalised with the creation of a Gender Sub-Commission, as in Colombia, where it set a precedent for including comprehensive gender perspectives in peace agreements.

Back to Categories

2. Regional networking for women mediators in the Horn of Africa

Title of the resource: B. Monzani, S. Njoroge "Unsung Champions Of Peace: Stregthening The Role Of Women Mediators In The Horn Of Africa" Agency For Peacebuilding (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This report seeks to understand the motivations, opportunities and barriers affecting how women build peace and mediate in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Somaliland, South Sudan and Sudan, and how these shape efforts to collaborate regionally. It was based on selected in depth interviews and an extensive literature review.

Concrete action points

- Cultivate greater regional collaboration by expanding regional networks to foster more cross-border learning and solidarity.

- Leverage complementarities and synergies between existing networks such as FemWise-Africa.

- Promote an enabling policy and legal environment for prioritising the integration of women mediators into national leadership frameworks. This can be achieved by ensuring that NAPS are not only established, but also implemented effectively, with specific provisions for cross-sectoral collaboration.

- Focus on changing the narrative around women's expertise. Advocacy and communication efforts must aim to shift cultural perceptions surrounding women's roles in peacebuilding and mediation. Inclusive strategies that address the challenges faced by marginalised groups, including young women and women with disabilities, should be prioritised.

- Enhance safety and security for women peacebuilders and mediators. Support systems must be established to protect women peacebuilders and mediators, particularly in conflict zones. This includes creating safety nets and providing resources that encourage their active participation in mediation roles. It may also include providing specialised training to those women who are working on the frontlines of active conflicts and wars. Such support should include funds to allow women to conduct activities in safe areas, including outside of their own country, where and when this may be necessary to ensure their safety.

3. Women's political platforms and networks in Ethiopia

Title of the resource: G. Nuckhir, S. Van Hooff, A. Carr "Ugaaso: Lessons from a Women's Dialogue Space in the Somali Regional State of Ethiopia" Conciliation Resources (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This report draws on a series of workshops and consultations facilitated by Conciliation Resources in Ethiopia, involving Ugaaso-WDS members and local civil society networks and experts. It also builds on a 2020 baseline study on the status of women's political participation and socio-cultural inclusion in the Somali Regional State. The report showcases some of the innovations and lessons emerging from Ugaaso-WDS, a CSO looking at gender inclusion beyond women's political participation. It also examines a Women Dialogue Space acting as a platform for women leaders in politics, civil society and business. Its insights can inform how similar women's political platforms or networks are designed and managed both within Ethiopia and in other conflict-affected contexts.

Concrete action points

- Support women to identify and analyse barriers to their meaningful participation in politics and help them develop and lead initiatives to overcome these obstacles.

- Allow sufficient time for diverse participants to build trusting relationships, understand each other's perspectives, and craft a coherent shared vision which they are all committed to realising.

- Facilitate shared analysis and research among participants to encourage collaboration from the outset, inform vision and strategy, and identify objectives and entry points.

- Take a risk-based approach to developing cross-party women's political platforms that identifies and mitigates risks to the women and organisations involved, to help women model cross-partisan trust and confidence building in the political system more broadly.

- Build and harness relationships with influential women leaders to provide mentors for aspiring women politicians and promote the messages and objectives of women's political platforms among their male counterparts.

- Invest in building connections with networks and institutions at different levels where they can support a platform's profile, connections and learning.

- Identify influential male resistors to women's meaningful participation within participants' political movements at the outset and proactively engage them.

- Where relevant and possible, work with religious institutions to establish and share compelling religious arguments for women's participation in politics.

4. WMN, gender-responsive process design and digital technologies to improve inclusivity in mediation practices

Title of the resource: UN "Report of the Women Mediator Networks Retreat on Women Building Peace in a Changing Environment" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This report summarises the key points raised during a 3-day retreat of women mediators from regional mediator networks in 2024. Participants discussed current and emerging challenges and developed recommendations to increase women's meaningful participation in peace processes ahead of the 2024 Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, the Summit of the Future, and the 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. The discussions analysed the current mediation landscape, gender-responsive process design, and digital technologies' potential to improve inclusivity in mediation practices.

Concrete action points

- Peace talks should include:

    - Stronger gender-responsive conflict analysis, mapping and documentation.

    - Gender expertise and local peacebuilders and women with technical expertise across all topics under negotiation.

    - Multi-track processes.

    - Support to and preparation of women's groups, women mediators and women political actors.

- Raise awareness of the risks and potential of digital technologies for peacemaking:

    - Help mediation actors better understand the safe and ethical application of digital technologies to strengthen the inclusion of women.

    - Organise discussions at the Security Council level with key technology actors on how digital technologies affect peace and conflict.

    - Build women mediators' capacity to address the challenges and opportunities of digital tools.

- Use WMNs as a key asset for peace and security:

    - Formally recognise WMNs as key partners and institutionalise their role in all UN-led peace processes.

    - WMNs could support the development of databases of women experts from their networks, paying attention to intersectionality and the diversity of expertise required.

    - WMNs could help track the implementation of WPS commitments by reviewing periodic reports on WPS and NAPs.

- Provide political and financial support for women-led peacebuilding and alliance-building.

5. Women insider mediators in peaceful protest movements

Title of the resource: V. Dudouet, J.-M. Hülzer "Building Bridges for Nonviolent Change: Women Insider Mediators in Peaceful Protest Movements" Berghof Foundation (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief enhances our understanding of how women contribute as informal bridge-builders in peaceful protest movements, and how they navigate the gender-based constraints to their participation. Building on case studies in Iraq, Thailand and Venezuela, the brief provides specific recommendations on how international donors and practitioners can help empower women to sustain and deepen their engagement as insider mediators, thereby expanding their potential to achieve peaceful change and conflict transformation.

Concrete action points

- Recognise nonviolent movements as important arenas in which women can develop and practice their leadership and conflict resolution skills.

- Facilitate recognition of women's bridge-building contributions within movements by supporting gender-informed capacity-building measures that leverage their positions as mediators.

- Adopt an intersectional lens towards capacity building.

- Collaborate closely with local and transnational efforts to foster peer learning and sharing on nonviolent action and human rights.

- Allocate resources to provide well-being support, including psychological and physical protection.

- Support local efforts to make legal and institutional changes that encourage women's inclusion in mediation processes.

- Identify, connect and engage with women activists and bridge-builders emerging from social movements during formal mediation processes.

Back to Categories

6. Gender-inclusive mediation support – organisational practices and peacemaking support

Title of the resource: C. Buchanan "Gender-Inclusive Peacemaking: Strategies for Mediation Practitioners" Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (2021)

Languages: English; French; Spanish

In short:

This report offers ideas, options and strategies for embedding gender inclusivity into organisational practices and peacemaking efforts. Its proposed actions build on the author's two decades of experience as a practitioner as well as consultations, interviews, and peer review by practitioners, donors and analysts.

Concrete action points

- Integrate gender perspectives into political analysis: Who is generating the analysis? Who is being asked for their views? Who can access the analysis?

- Set and monitor a goal to include more women: Start with a gender inclusion review and draw on tools such as the "Gender Marker" or the "Gender Inclusion Scale". Factor gender inclusion into budgets, appraise inclusion within inclusion by ensuring inclusion initiatives do not lead to exclusion in other areas, for example in relation to ethnicity, class, gender and sexual identity, ability and religious identity, and identify who is accountable for actions.

- Design inclusive initiatives and processes: Normalise gender quotas in talks, agreements and implementation mechanisms; hold pre-meetings with women; engage in co-facilitation and mediation, using WMNs and databases of female peace and security experts; call on a woman to provide the first intervention when facilitating a meeting, etc.

- Undertake equitable engagements with women and women's organisations: Establish an equitable and effective approach to funding (e.g. provide funding to cover core costs); take care when creating and supporting women's networks, etc.

- Secure gender-inclusive provisions in agreements: Choose words with care, support feminist critique of agreement text and undertake a gender inclusion review during negotiations.

- Model good practice on inclusion in mediation organisations: Gauge perceptions of inclusion across the organisation; revise job descriptions and performance reviews; ensure carers are not disadvantaged; enforce zero tolerance of sexism and sexual harassment; review interview processes. Cut out mansplaining, bropriating and manterruption.

7. Mediation and mediation networks

Title of the resource: A. Dayal "Connecting Informal and Formal Peace Talks: From Movements To Mediators" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2018)

Languages: English

In short:

This brief examines current practices and advances in mediation, including the role of women mediators and emerging WMNs, and recommends ways to better incorporate women's informal roles into formal peace processes. It draws on a 2018 meeting hosted by the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security that brought together expert mediators, policymakers, peace process participants, and academics.

Concrete action points

- The UN and other international organisations: Nominate more women mediators and leverage WMNs.

- The UN Department of Political Affairs and Mediation Support Unit: Create a UNSCR 1325 directive for mediators. Ensure that women's organisations are treated as a key constituency and not lumped into other categories in training materials, instructions and basic organisational literature. Connect grassroots mediator networks with regional or international networks to increase their visibility, extract best practices and boost access to resources.

- Policymakers: Create specific benchmarks for UN Security Council missions to measure the quantity and quality of women's inclusion in Track I and Track II peace processes. Work with academic institutions and local nongovernmental organisations (NGOs) to efficiently gather data that can inform this benchmarking. Include specific funding for data collection on inclusion benchmarks in budget requests.

- Funders and aid-granting governments: Earmark funds for smaller women's organisations and CSOs. Include UNSCR 1325 requirements in grant applications for facilitating peacebuilding. Support programmes that strengthen women's capacity at the grassroots and national leadership levels to effectively participate in negotiations.

- NGOs and civil society: Coordinate between organisations to create a clear and targeted message so mediators can effectively raise civil society and women organisations' concerns in mediation proceedings. Work with academics to help gather data on local participation in a way that is safe, systematic and nonintrusive.

Back to Categories

8. Women's inclusion in peace processes

Title of the resource: T. Paffenholz, A. Potter Prentice, C. Buchanan "Fresh Insights on the Quantity and Quality of Women's Inclusion in Peace Processes: Expert Views on Findings from the 'Broadening Participation' and 'Civil Society and Peacebuilding' Projects" CMI—Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation (2015)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief summarises the highlights of an experts' meeting that convened policy analysts, practitioners and academics involved in the WPS agenda to review, analyse and frame the key findings of the CMI "Broadening Participation" research on women's participation and gendered approaches. It contributes to the UNSCR 1325 High-level Review and its associated Global Study and to the peace and security community more broadly.

Concrete action points

- Investments in process and outcome documentation and monitoring help inform good practice.

- Peace process actors' understanding of issues of 'quantity' and 'quality' related to women's participation needs far greater nuance and accountability.

- The persistent lack of women's direct participation in peace processes is rooted in the political economy of power.

- Actions to enhance women's participation in peace processes should be strengthened and increased.

- What mediators think, do and say helps determine women's meaningful participation.

- The complexity of women's multiple identities and roles needs to be better reflected in the design of peace processes.

- Civil society is not a synonym for women or WROs.

3. Reports on FFP, WPS Agenda NAPs, EU CLIPs and NATO Action Plans

1. Disability inclusion in the WPS agenda in the Arab Region

Title of the resource: UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia "Working toward Disability Inclusion in the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the Arab Region" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This technical paper examines how women and girls with disabilities in the Arab region experience conflict and suggests ways to engage women and girls with disabilities in peace and security concerns through NAPs on WPS and other mechanisms. It is based on interviews held with seven regional and international disability experts and activists, as well as an online survey completed by 39 organisations supporting persons with disabilities in the Arab region. These data were augmented by a review of literature on women with disabilities and the WPS agenda, as well as an analysis of the 10 available NAPs on WPS in the region. It recommends actions to enhance overall disability inclusion as well as those tailored to disability-inclusive prevention, protection, participation, relief, recovery and redress.

Concrete action points

- Adopt and engage more closely with international normative frameworks that address the intersection of gender equality and disability inclusion.

- Ensure that NAPs on WPS are drafted in consultation with women and girls with disabilities and Organisations for Persons with Disabilities.

- Ensure that the policing and justice sectors, and education and training institutions are aware of the needs of women and girls with disabilities, and that they respect those needs.

- Foster inclusive outcomes, ensuring that NAPs and other national strategies explicitly reference the particular needs of women and girls with disabilities and allocate sufficient resources to accommodate them.

Back to Categories

2. Localising WPS: investing in equitable partnerships

Title of the resource: Search for Common Ground, "Localizing Women, Peace, and Security: Investing in Equitable Partnerships" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This issue brief identifies key lessons for effectively supporting local women-led organisations and increasing their access to decision-making on peace and security. They are based on learnings from the implementation of Search For Common Ground's SHE WINS Program. This 5-year program provides funding and technical assistance to local women-led groups to grow and sustain local capacities for peacebuilding. Alongside initiatives led by local partners in eight countries – Cameroon, Central African Republic, DRC, Guatemala, Lebanon, Somalia, Central Asia (through Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan) and Yemen – the program includes a global Rapid Response Fund for local WPS in over 70 countries.

Concrete action points

- Approach equitable partnerships with women-led organisations as an investment. Short-term efforts by donors to (i) simplify application and reporting processes; (ii) accept applications in more languages; (iii) publicise funding opportunities through easy access channels such as email, social media and newsletters targeted to women peacebuilders; (iv) emphasise long-term relationship building; and (v) maintain transparent, regular communication with these partners, all provide concrete dividends. Further long-term efforts, such as expanding multi-year flexible funding options, produce an even greater and lasting impact.

- Dedicate a portion of funds every funding cycle to women peacebuilders and women-led organisations. This funding should include opportunities for first-time grantees and develop their capacity to handle medium-sized and large grants. Designate some funding as rapid response to permit quick application processes and approval processes, which helps local women's groups and organisations serve as early warning actors.

- Include organisational and operational technical skills in capacity support provided to women and women-led groups. This includes key skills in absorbing and managing large amounts of money.

- Ensure the meaningful representation and inclusion of women peacebuilders and women-led organisations in multilateral and international fora including peace processes, political negotiations and crisis response plans.

- Fund and collaborate with local women's organisations and women peacebuilders to develop and implement WPS NAPs across all levels of governance, from local to regional to national. This can include information sessions for smaller women-led organisations about localising UNSCR 1325.

3. Aligning the WPS agenda with the priorities of First Nation women in Australia

Title of the resource: Australian Civil Society Coalition for Women, Peace and Security "Aligning the WPS Agenda with the Priorities of First Nation Women in Australia Report" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report advocates a focus on First Nations women's voices within the WPS agenda. It aims to create a space for First Nations women to share and define the agenda, as well as determine priorities for action. It is based on 50 yarns (an Indigenous methodology similar to semi-structured interviews) and interviews conducted by an Indigenous interviewer.

Concrete action points

- Prioritise the genuine participation and engagement of First Nations peoples by adopting an explicit First Nations foreign policy.

- Implement the provisions of the UN Declaration on the Indigenous Rights Framework, a universal framework of minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples. Incorporate this framework into domestic law and develop monitoring and reporting mechanisms to track progress and outcomes to hold government agencies and departments accountable.

- Endorse and implement the Uluru statement from the Heart as critical to upholding the security of First Nations women and revisit Australia's Second NAP on WPS to ensure it integrates truth telling, treaty, and voice within state, territory, and federal government policies and frameworks.

- Support the meaningful participation of First Nations women in federal- and state-level decision-making to shape and strengthen policies and laws and build security and peace.

- Demonstrate accountability by negotiating with and supporting First Nations women to participate in meetings as the traditional landowners who hold the right to make decisions on the development of their land and support them to take leadership roles.

- Ensure Australia's first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan to End Violence against Women and Children is fully resourced and integrated into the NAP on WPS.

- Review Australia's Second NAP on WPS to ensure it addresses the issues facing First Nations Women with a holistic approach.

- Service delivery, allocation of resources, and the development of programmes needs to be culturally appropriate and delivered in partnership with First Nations women/peoples.

Back to Categories

4. EU Gender Action Plan (GAP) III WPS pillar

Title of the resource: L. MacKellar, D. Peebles, C. Vaillant, C. Massey, et al. "Mid-term Evaluation of the Implementation of the European Union Gender Action Plan III" European Union (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report is an independent evidence-based assessment of the contribution of the EU external action support to gender equality and women's empowerment, including the results achieved in line with the objectives of the GAP III from January 2021 until the end of 2022. It includes an evaluation of the six key thematic policy areas, including the extent to which the EU external action contributes to the integration of the WPS agenda in partner countries. The report analyses 10 case studies, 6 field visits, 2000+ documents, a survey with 150+ responses, 4 focus group discussions and input from over 375 interlocutors. It recommends ways that the EU could more clearly define and harmonise the WPS agenda so that it is uniformly understood and embraced across services.

Concrete action points

- Update and complement the EU's internal guidance on WPS under GAP III.

  - Provide thematic guidance notes on WPS, with modules on (i) various types of contexts (security sector reforms in non-conflict-affected countries; DDR; fragility contexts, active conflicts, recent conflict, less recent conflict; gender and conflict issues vis-à-vis other thematic areas of GAP III); and (ii) various pillars of WPS and links between WPS and other areas: sexual and gender-based violence, but also women's economic empowerment and access to resources, women's political participation including in security- and conflict-related policy and dialogues, etc.)

  - Harmonise guidance on conflict analysis with an integrated gender perspective between EEAS and the European Commission – with different levels of depth depending on the service, and specific methodological guidance and capacity building. This guidance should clarify the division of labour, cooperation and coordination processes among the various services.

  - Include WPS in sector-specific GAP III training, ideally with a section on the WPS aspects of the respective sectors and a component dedicated to WPS as a whole, developed by EEAS and the European Commission.

- Progressively increase in-house WPS-specific expertise.

  - Gradually dedicate (more) positions to WPS in the EEAS (particularly at the central level, to increase the human resources dedicated to building capacity and developing knowledge-based guidance and expertise on WPS) and the European Commission (particularly at the level of geographic desks and in the most relevant EU Delegations. Limit the reliance on seconded staff to secure institutional ownership and memory.

  - Train Gender Focal Points and the staff working on security (in the context of conflict, but also security sector reforms) in WPS.

5. EU GAP III WPS pillar in Kenya, Bangladesh and Mozambique

Title of the resource: M. Salzinger, S. Desmid "Gender Equality in EU External Action: The Gender Action Plan and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This briefing note is part of a series examining the implementation of GAP III 2 years after its release. This edition looks at whether the EU's GAP III has made a difference in the implementation of the WPS agenda in partner countries, with a focus on Kenya, Bangladesh and Mozambique. It also assesses the Plan's impact on Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions. It is based on desk research of policy documents and literature. It is complemented by desk-based work with key informant interviews of relevant policymakers and stakeholders as well as a number of informal conversations with key experts and policymakers in the field.

Concrete action points

- The EU and member states should consider providing increased funding for full-time gender advisors on all EU CSDP missions.

- WPS should be part of the job description of all gender focal points, particularly those working in conflict-affected countries.

- The EU should support the institutionalisation of a gender network, which should function as an internal community of practice of gender advisors and focal points, to disseminate knowledge and best practices.

- EU Heads of Delegations and Mission commanders should actively support and strengthen coordination between CSDP staff (including the gender advisor) and EU Delegation staff working on gender equality (including gender focal points).

- Enforce cooperation on WPS and gender mainstreaming between EU delegations, EU CSDP missions and EU member states, especially in countries where EU member states have gained long-term expertise in implementing WPS.

- EU member states, especially those strongly committed to gender equality, should request heads of EU CSDP missions to report (in the relevant Council working groups) on the WPS-specific activities and reporting tools they have set up.

6. Queering WPS

Title of the resource: J.J. Hagen, A. Ranawana, M.S.P. Ramón, N. Mercier, L. Beltrán V. and Parra "Queering Women, Peace and Security: A Practice-Based Toolkit" (2023)

Languages: English; Spanish

In short:

This toolkit highlights key questions, action points and interventions to address the WPS architecture gap in including LBTQ+ women in most programmatic work and conflict interventions. It is based on insights from ongoing work by the organisation Colombia Diversa. It suggests ways to queer the implementation of the WPS agenda.

Concrete action points

- First steps for women's peacebuilding organisations to work on LGBTQ+ rights:

  - Make events and services more accessible to LGBTQ+ people. Recognise that LBTQ women are likely already attending events.

  - Invite LBTQ+ women to speak on panels about peace and security.

  - Train staff with an LGBTQ+ organisation about how to talk about sexual and gender minorities in peace and conflict.

  - Share what others have done to support LGBTQ+ people in conflict environments, including thematic annual reports by the UN Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity.

- Recommendations for donors wishing to fund LGBTQ+ organisations:

  - Dedicate funding to building broad alliances. LGBTQ+ organisations are significantly underfunded and under resourced. Local organisations need larger organisations to support their work.

  - Fund LGBTQ+ focused prevention efforts and transparency in data collection. Lobby for funds to incorporate data policies that improve institutions' transparency and give civil society and the public access to reliable, clear and relevant data for CSO research.

  - Fund economic stability. Provide institutional offers to guarantee the economic sustainability of organisations and collectives of LGBTQ+ people through access to dedicated public funds, which will help them develop their political experience.

  - Create granting systems that allow both registered and non-registered organisations to apply. Mutual aid models for funding also work well in contexts where registration is not possible.

7. WPS NAPs in the Arab region

Title of the resource: UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia "Regional Report Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Arab Region" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report analyses the efforts of Arab region countries to implement the WPS agenda. It is based on a desk review of literature relevant to the WPS agenda, qualitative surveys administered to states in the region and a content analysis of WPS NAPs.

Concrete action points

- Increase participation from a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including civil society and women's movements, in the WPS agenda.

- Strengthen institutional capacities on WPS: provide dedicated budgeting and establish clear and measurable targets for action to implement the agenda.

- Develop a comprehensive response to conflict and post-conflict engagement that enables women's participation.

- Mainstream the WPS agenda into humanitarian action.

- Ensure that any legal reform or policy development in line with the WPS agenda is implemented holistically and complementarily to avoid a piecemeal or ad hoc approach.

8. NATO WPS Action Plan

Title of the resource: **K. A. M. Wright, D. Morais "Realizing NATO's Women, Peace and Security Commitment in Practice" Women in International Security (2024)**

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief looks ahead to consider what NATO's commitment to WPS, as outlined in the Strategic Concept and the revised NATO WPS Policy, would look like if it were realised in practice, specifically through the NATO WPS Action Plan due for renewal in 2025. It is written based on a literature review as well as the authors' respective experiences as NATO experts. It recommends four steps to bolster NATO's efforts to put WPS into practice in developing its new WPS Action Plan, which would centre on the added value of WPS for the Alliance.

Concrete action points

- Align efforts with the strategic vision that prioritises gender-responsive leadership and ensures accountability in implementing WPS across NATO's political and military structures.

- NATO's political and military structures should better leverage the expertise of the NATO Civil Society Advisory Panel on WPS and the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives, respectively, using it to support gender-responsive leadership in their work.

- Ensure that policy commitments are translated into concrete actions by providing NATO military authorities with adequate resources – especially human resources and dedicated gender structures – to implement these initiatives effectively.

- NATO's Secretary General and senior leadership should integrate WPS into their public-facing remarks as a matter of routine.

Back to Categories

9. FFPs

Title of the resource: UN Women "Gender Responsive Approaches To Foreign Policy and the 2030 Agenda: Feminist Foreign Policies" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief explores how gender-responsive policies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals can enhance FFP with more diverse perspectives, focus and specificity, and broaden its scope beyond diplomacy to include trade, humanitarian action, financing, migration and climate change. It also highlights how the Goals can serve as a tool for monitoring and accountability in FFP frameworks, while demonstrating how effective implementation of FFP can accelerate progress toward the achievement of the SDGs.

Concrete action points

- Integrate gender considerations across all aspects of sustainable development and analyse the impact of FFP in an intersectional manner.

- FFP initiatives should be adequately resourced, designed in collaboration with all relevant stakeholders, and evaluated at regular intervals with the engagement of the communities they affect.

- Develop comprehensive, fully costed NAPs for the implementation of the WPS agenda, and urgently scale up resources, including by reducing military expenditures.

- Allocate sufficient resources to support global and regional research on FFP.

- Scale up and amplify successful funding models through FFP commitments.

- Align climate and environmental policies within the FFP framework with broader efforts to advance gender equality.

- Ensure that FFP supports a just transition.

- Use FFP to shift the focus of the WPS agenda and peacebuilding more broadly to conflict prevention and develop a long-term vision and strategy.

- Invest in capacity-building and support for developing countries to significantly increase the availability of high-quality disaggregated data.

- Engage in multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen FFP.

- Facilitate and support multi-stakeholder partnerships, including with civil society, to inform the evolution of FFP.

- Leverage the UN system's global reach and influence to provide technical support.

10. A FFP approach to EU security and defence

Title of the resource: A. Bergman Rosamond "A Feminist Foreign Policy Approach to EU Security and Defence" Foundation For European Progressive Studies (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief reflects on whether it would be possible for the EU to adopt a feminist approach to security and defence policy. It assesses the Union's feminist credentials and recommends ways to enhance the compatibility of FFP and enhanced military expenditure.

Concrete action points

- Find a common understanding on FFP and security and defence. This requires deciding which feminist principles the EU should adhere to.

- Reflect on the EU's role in the world. Any attempt to advance a feminist stance on the EU's external relations, including military and defence policies, should be informed by open and frank dialogue on what this means for the Union as a whole and the rest of the world.

- A feminist approach to security, defence and the military would need to very closely consider the distinct needs and wants of local stakeholders.

- EU institutions should, if possible, avoid using concepts such as gender analysis, gender advisor, gender mainstreaming and intersectional analysis in key documents without accounting for their distinct meanings and how they are employed in the context of EU external relations.

- All Common Foreign Security Policy and Common Security and Defense Policy initiatives should be sensitive to intersectionality. GAP III is undergirded by such ambition and could provide a starting point for a more ambitious approach to implementing intersectionality across the security, defence and military sectors.

- EU institutions and member states could employ progressive feminist insights to address the root causes and gendered drivers of global crises and armed conflict, and the gendered harms emerging from them, to ensure that the Union's military and civilian crisis management capacities evolve in line with long-standing feminist knowledge.

Back to Categories

11. Intersectional feminist policymaking for EU external action

Title of the resource: Concord Europe "Intersectional Feminist Policy-Making For EU External Action Part 1: 10 Principles" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This report introduces a comprehensive set of principles to guide the EU's external action using an intersectional feminist approach. It builds on dialogue with civil society representatives across Europe and in the majority world as well as engagement with policymakers and academic experts over the course of 2 years.

Concrete action points

- Pursue gender-transformative and systemic change.

- Correct power imbalances.

- Counter colonial continuities.

- Embrace intersectionality.

- Pursue the 'nothing about us without us' approach of (in reference to the disability rights movement).

- Foster collaboration and inclusion in international relations.

- Ensure cross-cutting (whole-of-government approach) and coherent policies.

- Protect, promote, and respect human rights and civic space.

- Advance sustainable development.

- Allocate resources.

12. WPS NAPs in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) region

Title of the resource: H. Myrttinen, L. J. Shepherd, H. Wright "Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in the OSCE Region" OSCE and the Centre for Women, Peace and Security, London School of Economics and Political Science (2020)

Languages: English; Russian; Ukrainian; Bosnian; Croatian; Serbian

In short:

This study presents research-based evidence on the implementation of the WPS agenda through the development and adoption of NAPs across the OSCE region. It seeks to increase the capacities of government and civil society actors in OSCE participating states to enhance the implementation of the WPS agenda. ; and provide guidance to the OSCE staff members on how to promote the WPS agenda in the OSCE region. It draws on desk-based analysis of the curated dataset of 75 NAPs from OSCE participating states as well as field research in in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Serbia and Ukraine, which consisted of interviews and focus group discussions with relevant members of state agencies, civil society, academia as well as UN agencies and OSCE staff.

Concrete action points

- Frame and develop a NAP:

    - Undertake knowledge-sharing activities across contexts facing similar challenges.

    - Ensure the participation of individuals and CSO representatives from diverse backgrounds.

    - Integrate specified budgets for all dimensions of NAP activity, and consider gender-responsive budgeting.

    - Ensure harmonisation between WPS NAPs and other gender equality-related strategies.

- Implement the NAP:

    - Ensure ownership, buy-in and understanding of WPS at all levels of government, including local administrative structures.

    - Integrate WPS tasks and performance indicators into job descriptions and performance reviews.

    - Reform institutional regulations to open up security and defence institutions to women.

    - Ensure adequate institutional support for gender advisers and gender focal points.

- Monitor and evaluate the impact:

    - Ensure entities responsible for monitoring and evaluation have the necessary skills and resources.

    - Harmonise reporting processes for gender- and security-related action plans.

    - Create opportunities for collective problem-solving among implementing ministries and institutions.

    - Set up a dedicated parliamentary body responsible for scrutinising NAP implementation.

Back to Categories

13. Implementing the WPS agenda in Afghanistan

Title of the resource: C. Duncanson, V. Farr "Testing the WPS Agenda: The Case of Afghanistan" in Sarah Davies and Jacqui True (eds) The Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace and Security, Oxford University Press, 553–568 (2019)

Languages: English

In short:

This chapter builds on the limited gains of the WPS agenda in Afghanistan by recommending ways to enhance women's security and participation in Afghanistan and the WPS agenda more broadly. It is based on an analysis of efforts to implement the WPS agenda in Afghanistan and the reasons for its limited progress since 2001.

Concrete action points

- The international community (including donors) must be less prescriptive, think beyond technocratic and project-based interventions, and be prepared to play a long-term supportive role as facilitators of broader mobilisation. It must think about how to support women's rights in the context of family relationships, and how to transform masculinities.

- The WPS agenda should pay more attention to economic rights and empowerment. WPS advocates need to promote alternative economic models for post-conflict states. In addition to community-level economic empowerment, NGOs need to put pressure on international financial institutions and the donor community to direct the Afghan economy towards job creation, the distribution of wealth and sustainable inclusive prosperity.

- WPS advocates must oppose commitments from the government of Afghanistan (with international diplomatic support) to pursue 'national security' with hardline, misogynist warlords.

4. Reports on financing gender-inclusive peace, gender-responsive budgeting and grant-making

1. Flexible funding for women's rights organisations in Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen

Title of the resource: F. Ahmed "Influencing change through flexible funding - conversations with women's rights organisations in Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen" Women for Women International (WfWI), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Saferworld (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This learning paper offers practical steps for donors and international NGOs to design more inclusive and equitable funding approaches that recognise and support women's rights organisations' leadership and expertise. This paper brings together the perspectives of 19 women's rights organisations from Nigeria, South Sudan and Yemen. It examines the funding barriers they face – and the difference flexible, long-term support can make.

Concrete action points

- Allow WROs to lead the design, development and implementation of funded programmes and allow them to adapt programming as required based on lessons learnt and emerging crises. Respect their expertise and avoid imposing rigid, pre-designed methodologies that may not align with their needs and priorities or those of their communities.

- Minimise bureaucratic hurdles and excessive compliance requirements. Simplify application processes to ensure smaller WROs have equitable access to funding opportunities.

- Provide flexible, long-term funding. Move away from short-term, project-based funding and adopt long-term, flexible funding models. Ensure funding covers staff, governance and operational costs, such as salaries, systems, rent, security, utilities and internet, supporting sustainability and longterm growth.

- Commit to timely disbursement of funds to prevent disruptions in programme implementation. This is especially crucial for smaller WROs that lack the financial capacity to absorb funding gaps.

- Clearly communicate funding criteria, eligibility requirements and decision-making processes. Provide feedback to WROs whose applications have been unsuccessful to help them improve future submissions.

- Invest in training and resources for WROs to strengthen their capacity in areas such as grant writing, financial management and compliance. Provide access to tools like accounting software to meet donor requirements.

- Amplify the voices of WROs and facilitate their participation in international advocacy spaces to increase visibility, share expertise and build partnerships globally.

- Support WROs in building and sustaining coalitions and networks at national and international levels for experience-sharing, collective action and joint advocacy.

- Create fair and inclusive funding mechanisms that do not disproportionately favour larger, more well established organisations while neglecting smaller WROs.

- Provide funding that supports the advocacy and political work of WROs, to enable them to better address systemic inequities. Recognise that this type of work cannot be tied to measurable, short-term outcomes.

- Allow WROs the autonomy to allocate funds where they see the greatest impact.

Back to Categories

2. Accessing funding and enabling equitable partnerships in Yemen

Title of the resource: D. Valette "In Their Own Words: How to Make Funding and Partnerships Work for Women's Organizations Delivering Gender-Based Violence Services in Yemen" International Rescue Committee (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief examines the critical role of Yemeni women-led organisations (WLOs) and WROs in preventing and responding to GBV. It highlights the key barriers and challenges they face in accessing equitable partnerships and funding. The brief presents key action areas to enhance support, strengthen collaboration with WLOs/WROs in GBV interventions, and increase their leadership and participation in Yemen's broader humanitarian response. It is based on an in-depth desk-based review, key informant interviews and online questionnaires.

Concrete action points

- Shift power to WLOs/WROs (e.g. implement affirmative action policies by requiring localisation efforts to actively prioritise women's organisations' leadership, ensuring that they are not just participants but decision-makers).

- Adapt funding structure mechanisms and processes to fit WLOs/WROs' needs and capacity (e.g. adapt grant application processes and eligibility criteria for funding to the needs of diverse groups of WLOs/WROs).

- Prioritise capacity strengthening based on WLOs/WROs' self-identified needs and priorities (e.g. fund well-established national WLOs/WROs delivering GBV services to support and mentor smaller and informal women's organisation leaders).

- Increase peer-to-peer coordination, collaboration and exchange (e.g. set up peer-to-peer learning and collaboration mechanisms/fora, including between women's organisations and International NGOs (INGOs) interested in increasing funding and access to equitable partnerships, and between INGOs to implement equitable partnerships with WLOs/WROs).

- Strengthen advocacy on women-led localisation (e.g. form WLOs/WROs alliances to push for policy changes and stronger representation in humanitarian leadership structures).

3. FFP and funding mechanisms

Title of the resource: B. Aloakinnou, M. Van Riet, L. Daniel, M. Malomalo "From Talking to Walking: Using Feminist Foreign Policy to Fund Feminist Organising" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This infographic on advancing the WPS agenda through gender-responsive budgeting in ASEAN outlines the connection between policy and budget processes, identifying key challenges and opportunities.

Concrete action points

- Design SMART NAPs for WPS and link them to the budgeting process to ensure effective implementation and alignment with gender equality goals.

- Develop robust mechanisms for gathering and analysing sex-disaggregated data throughout the entire policy–budget cycle.

- Deliver targeted workshops and provide tools tailored to the unique needs of individual countries.

- Facilitate regional exchanges to promote collective learning, share best practices and drive innovation in gender-responsive budgeting.

- Strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders – including ministries of finance, planning, line ministries and oversight institutions – to ensure sustained commitment to WPS objectives.

4. Gender-responsive budgeting in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

Title of the resource: ASEAN "Advancing the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Agenda through Gender-Responsive Budgeting (GRB) in ASEAN" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This infographic on advancing the WPS agenda through gender-responsive budgeting in ASEAN outlines the connection between policy and budget processes, identifying key challenges and opportunities.

Concrete action points

- Design SMART NAPs for WPS and link them to the budgeting process to ensure effective implementation and alignment with gender equality goals.

- Develop robust mechanisms for gathering and analysing sex-disaggregated data throughout the entire policy–budget cycle.

- Deliver targeted workshops and provide tools tailored to the unique needs of individual countries.

- Facilitate regional exchanges to promote collective learning, share best practices and drive innovation in gender-responsive budgeting.

- Strengthen collaboration with key stakeholders – including ministries of finance, planning, line ministries and oversight institutions – to ensure sustained commitment to WPS objectives.

5. Grant-making to increase women's participation in peace processes

Title of the resource: A. Dwyer, K. French, L. Roberts "Enabling Change: Lessons from Grant-making to Increase Women's Participation in Peace Processes" Conciliation Resources (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This report informs the practice and policy of support to women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements. Lessons are drawn from Conciliation Resources' support to four short-term grants awarded under the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund's Rapid Response Window between September 2021 and October 2023. The report outlines key findings and recommendations based on workshop discussions held in 2023 between Conciliation Resources and five grant partner organisations on transforming and connecting spaces to strengthen inclusion, navigating and addressing resistance to inclusion, and resolving operational and funding challenges to women's participation.

Concrete action points

- Transform and connect spaces to strengthen inclusion: Connect women peacebuilders working at different levels. Design alternative processes and formats for dialogue that tackle exclusion. Funding and support to women's participation in peace processes needs to encompass community-level peacebuilding.

- Address resistance to inclusion: Design ways to allow women and men to move beyond stereotypical roles. Learn from women peacebuilders and showcase the benefits of women's participation in peace processes.

- Resolve operational and funding challenges to women's participation: Overcome logistical barriers to inclusion. Complement short-term pilot funding with long-term scale-up support. Provide support to CSOs for institutional development, grant management and sustainability. Refine expectations of short-term results and long-term impact. Foster INGO learning on 'what works' when supporting women peacebuilders.

6. Funding Black feminist movements

Title of the resource: Black Feminist Fund "Where Is the Money for Black Feminist Movements?" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report describes the global funding ecosystem of Black feminist movements. It is based on the work of Black feminist researchers and experts who gathered data on the state of funding for Black feminist movements and examined the extent and impact of their under-resourcing. The report is framed as a provocation and call to action.

Concrete action points

- Closing the trust gap requires identifying biases, determining how they manifest, assessing their impact, and identifying concrete and measurable ways to address them. Funders need to stop requiring more evidence of Black feminist organisations and movements in order to fund them.

- Funders need to listen to the people from the places where funding is intended to have impact and ensure that funding decisions take these voices and perspectives into account. This shift requires giving up control and providing core funding.

- To be truly intersectional and meet the needs of priority communities, funding should never be race and gender "neutral". This is particularly important for sector-specific funding such as climate change and funds broadly targeting Black communities.

- For Black feminist organisations to thrive, they need significant investments to ensure organisational and ecosystem sustainability.

- Collecting and disseminating data about funding of Black feminist organisations is essential to determine what is available, which organisations are getting funding, the types of funding (flexible or not) and the duration of funding.

7. Financing for peacebuilding

Title of the resource: Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, International Civil Society Action Network, Kvinna till Kvinna, MADRE, and Women's International League for Peace and Freedom "Fund Us Like You Want Us To Win: Feminist Solutions for more Impactful Financing for Peacebuilding" Background Paper for the High-Level Meeting on Financing for Peacebuilding (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This background paper explores innovative ways to transform the current system of peacebuilding financing to sustainably address the challenges faced by diverse women peacebuilders in the pursuit of inclusive and lasting peace. It presents good practices as well as targeted recommendations to overcome structural barriers faced by diverse women peacebuilders in accessing funds.

Concrete action points

- Reverse the upward trajectory in global military spending towards locally led peacebuilding and conflict prevention.

- Directly support local women peacebuilders.

- Promote authentic donor–recipient partnerships built on trust.

- Meaningfully include women peacebuilders in decision-making about financing priorities.

- Invest in long-term approaches to peacebuilding through flexible funding and locally informed measurements of success.

- Dedicate funding to the protection needs of women peacebuilders.

8. Applying a feminist lens to grant-making to address violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Title of the resource: Fatima Saeed "Applying a Feminist Lens to Grantmaking for Addressing Violence Against Women and Girls: Funding for Transformative Change" Coalition of Feminists for Social Change (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This handbook helps donors apply a feminist lens to grant-making, particularly in funding work to prevent and respond to VAWG in humanitarian and development settings. It promotes strategies for ethical and effective funding that supports transformative and sustained social change. The handbook proposes six commitments that donors can adopt to promote a feminist approach in their grant-making efforts addressing VAWG.

Concrete action points

- Increase funding for feminist-led VAWG programmes and advocacy that address the root causes of violence.

- Fund programmes that centre women and girls in their diversity and prioritise accountability to them.

- Redefine the donor–grantee relationship.

- Promote research grounded in feminist approaches and methods.

- Support targeted efforts to address intersecting structures of oppression that lead to VAWG.

- Embrace power analysis based on gender and 'say no' to gender neutrality.

Back to Categories

9. Financing gender-inclusive peace in Colombia, Iraq and the Philippines

Title of the resource: J. True "Financing Gender-Inclusive Peace: Gaps in Implementing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" UN Women (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This paper measures financing for gender-inclusive peace through the mechanisms of bilateral and multilateral donor investments during peace processes and post-conflict recovery, which support states to finance and sustain peace. The research focuses on three case studies: Colombia, Iraq and the Philippines. It explores the planned investments in gender equality and women's participation set against the ambition of statements of gender-inclusive peace and specific provisions in those countries' peace agreements or reconstruction planning and programmes.

Concrete action points

- The implementation of peace agreement gender provisions should be effectively monitored in all post-conflict countries; gender-responsive investments should be tracked. A clear methodology, such as the one developed in this paper, needs to be established to follow donor and state investments as part of implementing gender-inclusive peace agreements and their gender provisions.

- Increases in donor bilateral and multilateral funding to ensure the WPS agenda is adequately resourced must leverage commensurate or matching post-conflict state funding for gender equality and women's rights as a catalyst for sustaining peace. The percentage of the contribution should be at least in line with the overall proportion of state contributions to post-conflict rebuilding, in accordance with WPS principles, to ensure coherence and sustainability.

- A 'gender marker' is required for all peace and reconstruction funding, similar to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Development Assistance Committee (DAC)'s screening of bilateral development assistance or the Peacebuilding Fund's criteria of meaningful participation to identify and report on whether gender equality and women's empowerment is a principal and/or secondary objective of a funding commitment.

- The UN's 15 per cent target for post-conflict donor and state peace and reconstruction funds needs to be set at the level of project funding for funding activities in which women's empowerment and gender equality is a principal or significant objective. All multilateral (World Bank and UN) peace and reconstruction funds

5. Reports on breaking sector silos: gender and climate peacebuilding grant-making

1. Reports on breaking sector silos: gender and climate peacebuilding

Title of the resource: J. Keller "Advancing Gender, Climate, and Security in the UN Security Council: A Blueprint for Action" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief presents recommendations for advancing gender, climate and security in the UN Security Council and opportunities for Member States and other relevant stakeholders to drive progress on these interconnected challenges.

Concrete action points

• Leverage the Security Council presidency to elevate links between WPS and climate change.

• Establish regular Security Council briefings led by women from climate-vulnerable and conflict-affected regions.

• Learn from past successes to influence the Security Council's priorities.

• Mainstream climate change considerations in WPS thematic resolutions.

• Strengthen climate change integration in the Secretary-General's annual reports on WPS.

• Utilise WPS NAPs for climate-responsive action.

• Embed gender- and climate-related security considerations in the UN's country-specific resolutions and peacekeeping mandates.

• Create shared language and standardised guidance to build capacity and operationalise the gender–climate–security nexus.

• Integrate climate security into conflict prevention frameworks and analytical tools.

• Mobilise multi-stakeholder partnerships for evidence-based and integrated approaches.

• Promote women's meaningful inclusion in climate action, conflict mediation and peacebuilding.

• Harness regional alliances to accelerate WPS and climate integration.

2. Transforming Water Security Through Women's Leadership

Title of the resource: I. Schmidt, A. Juani, M. Alam "Transforming Water Security Through Women's Leadership" FP Analytics (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This issue brief explores the women-led interventions to transform water security, stewardship, and management underway around the world to better understand the link between water security and gender equality and identify fruitful pathways to achieving both goals. The analysis aims to grow the evidence base demonstrating the costs associated with undervaluing women's expertise in water management, and the measurable impacts women's water stewardship can have on peace, prosperity, profitability, and sustainability.

Concrete action points

- Invest in the sustainable expansion of existing women-led water security and water stewardship projects, and work with women launching new projects, including by building project capacity and offering technical assistance.

- Design and implement gender-sensitive and gender-responsive water management and climate adaptation and mitigation plans, at the regional, national, and local governance levels.

- Provide funding and technical assistance for capacity-building and skills training, for example, by training local water user associations to install and maintain plumbing systems, offering grants and scholarships for academic and professional training, or delivering training in mediation.

- Integrate and elevate women in decision-making and management roles, for example by setting and working toward clear gender diversity targets for management and C-suite positions, appointing women to high-level ministerial and diplomatic positions, and rolling back laws that prohibit women's land ownership.

3. Gender-inclusive environmental justice in Kosovo and Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

Title of the resource: A. Boyer, S. Ramić, A. Himaduna "Joint Study on Opportunities and Challenges for Gender-Inclusive Environmental Justice in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Kosovo" UN Development Programme Bosnia and Herzegovina, and UN Development Programme Kosovo (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This joint study identifies opportunities and challenges associated with gender-inclusive environmental justice as a pathway to peace. It serves as a foundation for broader initiatives to raise public awareness of environmental issues and to empower communities (particularly women) to advocate for environmental justice. It employs qualitative research methods (literature review, stakeholder interviews) to evaluate women's engagement and gender considerations in environmental justice efforts in BiH and Kosovo.

Concrete action points

- Establish enabling legal frameworks:

  - Conduct, fund, and support gender and environmental analyses and data collection.

  - Harmonise international and local laws and commitments on gender equality, women's empowerment and environmental justice.

  - Conduct a gender assessment of environmental legislation in Kosovo.

  - Integrate gender-differentiated threats, impacts, concerns and the protection of human rights in environmental impact assessments.

- Strengthen people-centred and effective institutions:

  - Build the capacity of environmental civil society on gender and environmental issues, gender mainstreaming and gender-responsive approaches.

  - Develop financing initiatives that support women's leadership in environmental civil society.

  - Clearly outline donor funding requirements and guidelines to improve access for civil society.

  - Improve coordination mechanisms between civil society and institutions for gender-inclusive environmental justice.

  - Support women activists through targeted legal services, resources and financial means.

- Increase access to justice and legal empowerment:

  - Build the capacity of the judiciary system on environmental and gender laws.

  - Strengthen the capacity of civil society, grassroots organisations, and activists to access information and justice for environmental matters.

Back to Categories

4. Gender and culturally responsive peacebuilding and climate programming and policy

Title of the resource: A. Dwyer, G. Nuckhir "Gender, Cultural Identity, Conflict and Climate Change: Understanding the Relationships" Conciliation Resources (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report analyses how gender – deeply rooted within cultural identities, values and practices – shapes people's experiences of climate change, their responses and how this interacts with conflict systems. It shares emerging lessons to inform more gender and culturally responsive peacebuilding and climate programming and policy. The report builds on workshops carried out in collaboration with 64 participants (including partners, community members, authorities, and climate change and gender specialists) in Uganda and Pakistan from August 2022 to February 2023, and interviews and analysis conducted in Mindanao, the Philippines, in December 2022.

Concrete action points

- Address underlying inequalities and fragility to strengthen climate resilience and implement effective, sustainable climate action.

- Leverage climate change initiatives as entry points for peacebuilding and gender and social equality outcomes, with a strong focus on masculinities.

- Integrate an intersectional gendered analysis into peacebuilding and climate change programming, policy development and advocacy.

- Advance gender and culturally responsive climate action at governmental levels.

- Invest in programming that prevents climate- and gender-related conflict and is led by local women and CSOs.

5. Protecting, empowering and engaging women within the climate–gender–conflict nexus in Colombia, Sudan and Nepal

Title of the resource: J.M. Smith, L. Olosky, J. Grosman Fernández "The Climate–Gender–Conflict Nexus: Amplifying Women's Contributions at the Grassroots" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This report, based on a comprehensive desk review and case study analysis, addresses gaps in the literature on the role of women, particularly at the grassroots level, in NRM and in addressing climate-related challenges. It overviews the linkages within the climate–gender–conflict nexus and investigates how these play out differently in three diverse contexts: Colombia, Sudan and Nepal.

Concrete action points

- Buffer the disproportionate vulnerabilities women bear from climate change impacts.

- Centre women as crucial actors in climate, peace and security.

- Strengthen linkages between the different levels and sectors in the climate–gender–conflict nexus.

- Address knowledge gaps within the nexus.

- Promote women's leadership in climate-related conflict mitigation and prevention and reduce the barriers to inclusion.

Back to Categories

6. Land, forest and water management in the Asia Pacific

Title of the resource: UN Women "Gender, Peace and Security in Natural Resource Management: Land, Forest and Water Management in the Asia Pacific" (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

Based on an analysis of 11 countries, this research brief summarises, explains and furthers understanding of the linkages between gender, security and NRM in the Asia-Pacific region by analysing the land, water and forestry sectors. The brief contributes to better and more inclusive NRM with women's full involvement, capitalising on their knowledge and responsive to their needs to help keep communities more peaceful and secure.

Concrete action points

- Local participation and leadership

  - Strengthen women's participation in local spaces and platforms where NRM-related decisions are made.

  - Increase women's visibility and participation in technical and engineering positions in NRM.

- National participation and leadership

  - Advocate to increase the number of women in parliament and the number who serve as ministers of the environment, agriculture, etc.

  - Ensure women delegates participate in negotiations and platforms like the UN Climate Change Conference.

  - Identify mechanisms to incorporate women's local NRM knowledge and experiences into national forums.

  - Ensure that good practices identified by women locally on strengthening social cohesion through equitable and inclusive NRM feed into national environmental/agricultural policies and reports by national environment/natural resource committees.

- Legislative and policy review

- Mainstream inclusive NRM into conflict prevention and peace and security policies, including WPS NAPs.

  - Promote contextualised solutions for inclusive land rights and access that promote equal distribution and prevent potential conflict.

  - Connect women's land rights to improved water access and rights.

  - Adopt inclusive forest management policies.

  - Use climate change as an entry point for inclusive NRM through government climate change adaptation frameworks.

- Knowledge development: Build knowledge and understanding of the dynamics of NRM issues and peace and security with a strong gender angle for countries with little research thus far or a need for more concrete recommendations and solutions.

- - Relief and recovery, economic and livelihood security

  - Increase access to financing and productive assets for women who depend on natural resources.

  - Boost women's benefits from and engagement in a broader range of high-value natural resource use.

  - Better recognise and formalise women's informal roles, e.g. within the fisheries sector.

- Protection: Provide better support to (and protection of) women environmental human rights defenders.

7. Gender-sensitive climate action response in Yemen

Title of the resource: Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance "Gender, Climate and Security in Yemen: The Linkages and Ways Forward" (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This report summarizes discussions with WROs regarding peace processes, gendered climate advocacy in Yemen and the linkages of the climate–security–gender nexus in their communities, and community priorities. It is based on a participatory gender, climate, and security learning and advocacy workshop for Yemeni WROs held in November 2021, which included participants from 21 women's organisations from seven Yemeni governorates. It presents recommendations for the Government of Yemen and non-state armed actors; humanitarian and development programming in Yemen; as well as WROs and civil society in Yemen. The recommendations for international organisations involved in peace processes in Yemen are listed below.

Concrete action points

- Facilitate the use of climate change and climate impacts to create dialogue between armed parties to the conflict. This will help establish trust and confidence, promote peace, and address prevention and adaption measures

- Integrate peacebuilding, development, humanitarian and climate change adaptation approaches into programmes working in Yemen to prevent cycles of violence erupting from a lack of resources.

- Incorporate a 'Do No Harm' approach into the project cycle of climate resilience programmes.

8. Climate-informed and gender-responsive conflict analysis and design of peacemaking and peacebuilding strategies

Title of the resource: UN Department of Political Affairs "Weathering Two Storms: Gender and Climate in Peace and Security" (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This practice note supports peace and security practitioners in integrating gender and climate priorities into political and conflict analysis, as well as in designing peacemaking and peacebuilding strategies, to strengthen conflict prevention and peace efforts. It identifies multiple ways in which peace and security, climate change and gender can intersect and suggests ways to think about these intersections in conflict and political analysis, and in conflict prevention and peacemaking strategies.

Concrete action points

- Climate and gender considerations in conflict and political analysis

  - If climate stressors are evident, how do they exacerbate gendered vulnerabilities to security risks?

  - How do climate stressors affect women's participation in peace and decision-making processes, and in the management of natural resources (and related disputes)?

  - Do climate stressors influence mobility patterns? If so, how do gender and security risks intersect?

  - To what extent are gender roles and expectations changing due to climate impacts? How do such changes affect conflict dynamics and insecurity?

- Climate and gender considerations in conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding strategies

  - Are women included in key stakeholder mapping to ensure a comprehensive overview of actors who help anticipate and respond to climate-related challenges?

  - What measures can be taken to fast-track women's full, equal and meaningful participation in preventing and addressing climate-affected conflicts?

  - What measures can be taken to engage women environmental defenders and peacebuilders as leaders in mobilising for climate justice and inclusive and sustainable peace?

  - What steps can be taken to strengthen coordination and advance locally rooted, gender-responsive and climate-informed conflict prevention and peacebuilding?

9. Gender-responsive action on climate and security

Title of the resource: UN Environment Program, UN Women, UN Department of Political Affairs, UN Development Programme "Gender, Climate and Security: Sustaining Inclusive Peace on the Frontlines of Climate Change" (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This publication explores the interconnectedness of gender, climate change and security. It aims to guide policymaking, investments, programme design and research to catalyse gender-responsive action on climate and security that ultimately contributes to inclusive and sustainable peace. It is based on contributions from a diverse group of researchers and practitioners who have experienced the risks and opportunities associated with gender, climate and security. The report offers recommendations focused on global- and national-level policy, integrated programme design (at the global, national and local levels), and knowledge gaps that merit further research. Financing focused recommendations are below.

Concrete action points

- Donors wishing to strengthen women's roles in all aspects of peacebuilding should invest in programming that uses sustainable natural resource and climate-related interventions as an entry point.

- Multilateral funds dedicated to peace and security, such as the UN Peacebuilding Fund, should ensure that new projects addressing climate-related security risks capitalise on the peacebuilding potential of women and other marginalised groups on the frontlines of climate change.

- Donors should consider dedicating more funding to supporting the resilience of women and marginalised populations to climate-related security risks through programming in sustainable NRM, including sustainable agricultural practices, forestry, water resource management and renewable energy sources.

- Multilateral funds dedicated to climate change mitigation and adaptation, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Global Environment Facility, should ensure that women and other marginalised groups are increasingly targeted in programming to address the climate change impacts that constitute potential factors of conflict.

Back to Categories

10. Women in natural resources management (NRM)

Title of the resource: UN "Women and Natural Resources: Unlocking the Peacebuilding Potential" (2013)

Languages: English

In short:

This report aims to strengthen peacebuilding outcomes by enhancing women's engagement and empowerment in conflict-affected contexts through sustainable NRM. It analyses the relationship between women and natural resources in conflict-affected contexts and proposes entry points for peacebuilding interventions to capitalise on the opportunities presented by women's NRM roles. The report is based on a desk study and review of over 200 publications, as well as evidence collected through field work, 45 interviews with field practitioners and an extensive peer review process involving more than 20 leading experts in the fields of gender, natural resources and peacebuilding.

Concrete action points

- Promote women's participation in formal and informal decision-making structures and governance processes related to NRM: This can be achieved by including women and gender specialists early on in peace negotiations and in mediation support teams, as well as supporting their capacity to engage effectively in these processes.

- Adopt proactive measures to protect women from resource-related physical violence and other security risks early in the peacebuilding period: This can involve conducting assessments to identify resource- and environment-related security and health threats for women in conflict-affected contexts; ensuring that women have safe access to key resources, such as fuel wood and water, in internally displaced persons and refugee camps; and supporting the dissemination of innovative technologies such as improved cook stoves.

- Remove barriers and create enabling conditions to build women's capacity to productively and sustainably use natural resources: Access to credit, technical support and benefits from natural resource exploitation are essential to improving women's economic productivity, which is key to their empowerment.

- Within the UN, increase inter-agency cooperation to jointly pursue women's empowerment and sustainable NRM in support of more effective peacebuilding: Global- and country-level inter-agency mechanisms should be tasked with more systematically addressing the risks and opportunities that NRM presents to women in peacebuilding contexts.

6. Reports on inclusive digital peacebuilding

1. Social networks and the safety of Sahelian women in peace consolidation

Title of the resource: M. Dalanda, F. Al-Ansar "Sahelian Women in Digital Spaces" Search For Common Ground (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This paper provides insights into the safety of online spaces for Sahelian women and how such spaces can better serve them as key actors in peace consolidation. It is based on a literature review and key informant interviews with women in Burkina Faso, Niger and Mali. It presents recommendations on how to improve equitable internet access while promoting policies that encourage women's participation and protect them from harassment and abuse. The report also provides detailed recommendations for tech companies, educational institutions and CSOs.

Concrete action points

- To multilateral organisations, government authorities and policymakers:

  - Include and consult women about policies and norms concerning their technology usage as the UN's Human Rights Council and governments of the central Sahel.

  - Establish solid partnerships with multilateral organisations, governments and policymakers to mitigate technology-focused gender-based violence (TFGBV), regardless of the perpetrator's place of residence, as the digital sphere enables violence to spread rapidly. Build effective mechanisms for reporting and addressing cybercrimes – including dedicated offices for cybercrime complaints, psychological support and legal assistance – to ensure timely and comprehensive support for victims.

  - Include the various manifestations of TFGBV on the list of crimes punishable by law in the penal codes of central Sahel countries.

  - Implement gender mainstreaming in Sahelian cybersecurity legislation, i.e. Malian Law No. 2019-056 on the Repression of Cybercrime; Nigerian Law No. 2019-33 of July 03, 2019 on the repression of cybercrime; and Burkinabe law N° 061/2008/AN on the general regulation of electronic communications networks and services.

  - Adapt criminal procedure codes in the region to the digital sector, particularly for the collection of evidence of cybercrimes.

  - Integrate women's digital security as a public health, national and human security issue into the agendas of the digital national strategies: Burkina Faso's National Strategy for the Development of the Digital Economy 2018–2027, Mali's National Cybersecurity Strategy for 2024–2028, and Niger's Telecommunications and ICT Sectoral Policy of 2013. Enforce strict policies against online harassment and ensure their effective implementation to protect women's rights and safety online.

  - Provide a toll-free helpline or hotline to offer immediate assistance and guidance on cyber-related issues to enhance accessibility to support services for women in need.

  - Fund quantitative research on TFGBV as well as qualified national and regional administrations in the field of cybercrime control.

Back to Categories

2. Artificial intelligence (AI) and peacemaking: digital dialogues in Sudan

Title of the resource: CMI-Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation "Artificial Intelligence and Peacemaking – The Case of Digital Dialogues in Sudan" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This insight paper highlights the experiences and lessons learned from the AI-supported digital dialogues conducted by CMI – Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation in Sudan in July 2023. These dialogues assessed new priorities and views on representation ahead of the resumption of an inclusive political process in Sudan.

Concrete action points

• Clarify the overall objective of the digital dialogue to build trust and ensure broad participation.

• Ensure sufficient planning and preparations to counter any limitations.

• Select a suitable tool based on objective, limitations and target audience.

• Combine human and artificial intelligence for deeper analysis and a more comprehensive process.

• Consider linking the efforts to a broader political and peace process for greater impact and overall reach.

3. PeaceTech for women peacebuilders, Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) and CSOs

Title of the resource: Mythos Labs "Background Research on PeaceTech and Opportunities for Women Peacebuilders, HRDs and CSOs" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This background paper analyses how emerging technologies can enhance gender-responsive peacebuilding. It examines the opportunities and risks associated with integrating digital tools into peace processes, focusing on women's inclusion and empowerment in these efforts.

Concrete action points

- Train women peacebuilders, HRDs and CSOs on how to identify, evaluate and use PeaceTech solutions to support their work.

- Just as digital literacy played a critical role in empowering women peacebuilders to promote gender-responsive peacebuilding over the last decade, AI literacy will be crucial to advancing it in the coming decades.

- Use cryptocurrency to compensate women peacebuilders who lack financial autonomy.

- Employ metaverse-based immersive mediation simulations.

- Increase collaboration between women CSOs/peacebuilders and technology companies to foster development of PeaceTech for women.

4. Women, peace and digital security in South-East Asia

Title of the resource: Women, Peace and Digital (In)Security in South-East Asia – Reflections on Diverse Experiences in the Digital Sphere" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This research brief examines the digital security landscape in South-East Asia as experienced by women activists, human rights defenders, public figures and internet users. It is based on 40 key respondent interviews and five focus group discussions as well as an in-depth literature review.

Concrete action points

- Undertake holistic and evidence-based strategies to effectively prevent, counter and respond to incidences of TFGBV, particularly in politically volatile and conflict- and crisis-impacted contexts.

- Promote knowledge, capacities and tools to ensure that women and persons with diverse sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and sex characteristics can safely and equitably lead the development and governance of ICT and digital platforms, including advancing online civic engagement and digital peacebuilding.

- Ensure that cyber and digital security laws, policies and strategies are gender responsive, informed by principles underlying the WPS agenda, and adhere to international law and human rights obligations.

Back to Categories

5. Intersectionality and digital peacebuilding

Title of the resource: K. Tabet, M. El Mawla, C. Meier, H. Puig Larrauri, R. Costa Cots, "Sealing the Cracks: An Intersectional Feminist Perspective on Digital Peacebuilding" Berghof Foundation (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This explorative study investigates how an intersectional theoretical framework that analyses how different aspects of social and political identities create unique (but often overlapping) forms of discrimination can amplify the opportunities and reduce the risks of digital peacebuilding. It is conducted by Build Up and commissioned by the Berghof Foundation and the Plattform Zivile Konfliktbearbeitung (Platform for Peaceful Conflict Transformation). The report offers project cycle-based recommendations (summarized below) on how to design digital approaches that make peacebuilding more intersectional, and on how to ensure that digital technologies do not reinforce existing inequalities and power asymmetries. It also includes recommendations for funding digital peacebuilding, as well as practical steps to make a digitally enabled consultation process with women intersectional.

Concrete action points

- During (human-centred) design:

  - Include people with identity intersections relevant to the project from the start of the design and testing phase.

  - Make team-wide intersectional analysis a standard practice to build the capacities of team members who are privileged at several intersections.

  - Always prioritise individuals' online safety and security over ambitions to understand and address marginalisation at taboo intersections.

  - Draw inspiration from (online and offline) self-organising among groups affected by multiple layers of discrimination.

  - Examine – and complement – datasets, asking who collected the data, how, what the impacts are, and identifying biases.

  - Move a process fully offline if marginalised groups are completely excluded from online spaces.

- - During intervention:

  - Provide distinct, asynchronous digital alternatives to existing offline dialogue or mediation forums – and offline alternatives to online processes.

  - Set up diverse and personal communication channels with participants who respond to the specific online safety and security concerns of people facing discrimination.

  - Ensure that all tech tools are explainable and user friendly.

- - To influence policy:

  - Share knowledge about discriminatory design of technology with those who can influence and change policies, technologies or institutions (e.g. policymakers, platforms, developers).

  - Find allies in fields adjacent to intersectionality and peacebuilding, and document learnings.

6. Gendering cybersecurity through WPS

Title of the resource: J.-S. Hofstetter, P. Pourmalek, "Gendering Cybersecurity through Women, Peace and Security: Designing Conflict-Sensitive Strategy Documents at the National Level" Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and ICT4Peace Foundation (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report explores the new risks posed by emerging and modern technologies through a gender lens. It analyses the integration or non-integration of gender and women's rights into national cybersecurity strategies and how cybersecurity concerns are reflected (or not) in NAPs on WPS and other relevant women's rights and gender equality policy instruments. Employing a WPS lens, the study further explores the need for conflict-sensitive approaches to cybersecurity and the risks faced by conflict-affected populations, women and girls in conflict-affected and insecure contexts, and women and youth peacebuilders.

Concrete action points

- Expand the definition of cybersecurity to include a human-centric approach that emphasises human rights.

- Raise the profile of gender issues by pledging to mainstream gender in all cybersecurity design and implementation processes.

- Strengthen civil society's role through inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement.

- Subject each cybersecurity measure to a context-specific 'do no harm' assessment to ensure conflict-sensitive cybersecurity policies.

Back to Categories

7. Information and communications technology (ICT)

Title of the resource: Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, ICT4Peace Foundation "Women, Peace, and Security and Human Rights in the Digital Age: Opportunities and Risks to Advance Women's Meaningful Participation and Protect their Rights" (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This study examines how women peacebuilders in 20 countries use ICTs to advance the implementation of the WPS agenda and demand a seat at the negotiating table. The key findings and recommendations are based on interviews with women peacebuilders and analysis of legal and policy frameworks on digitalisation, cybersecurity and WPS.

Concrete action points

- Significantly increase investment in universal and affordable internet access, in line with target 9.C of the Sustainable Development Goals, and take proactive measures to guarantee internet access for women and girls, particularly those who are internally displaced or living in conflict-affected and rural areas.

- Promote and facilitate the inclusive design and development of ICT products and services:

  - Encourage and support diverse women and girls to pursue careers in ICT.

  - Consult with diverse groups of ICT product end users, including women and girls living in conflict-affected communities.

- Strengthen the protection of women's rights in the under-regulated online space by adopting concrete laws, policies and protocols to ensure their safety, in line with existing legal frameworks to protect women's and girls' rights.

- Invest in programmes to strengthen the capacities of women and youth to access and effectively use online spaces, especially given the rise in their use since the COVID-19 pandemic.

7. Reports on masculinities and (non) violence against women

1. Masculinities and (non)violence in the Philippines

Title of the resource: R. Nagel, K. Baekgaard, J. Allen, J. Camacho Espesor, R. Cagoco-Guiam "Masculinities and (Non) Violence: Exploring Determinants of (Non)Violence in the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao, Philippines" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This research brief analyses trends in men's and women's attitudes towards violence and offers policy recommendations to bolster efforts to achieve gender equality and sustainable peace. It is part of a series of three policy briefs that contribute to ongoing conversations about the most effective ways to engage with men and masculinities to advance the WPS agenda. Each brief builds on the findings from a 2023 report published by the same institute, Beyond Engaging Men: Masculinities, (Non)Violence, and Peacebuilding, providing additional nuance and insights into key themes. This brief is based on a larger research project on masculinities, violence, and peacebuilding conducted in 2022 and 2023 with local partners in Aceh and Maluku in Indonesia and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) in the Philippines. A survey was administered to approximately 2,000 people in each country, with men and women roughly equally represented. The findings presented in this brief are drawn from the survey responses from all three locations, plus focus group discussions and key informant interviews held in the BARMM.

Concrete action points

- Governments:
  - Reduce insecurities.
  - Include women in DDR programmes.
  - Address inequities in development, peacebuilding and security sector funding policies.
- CSOs:
  - Host violence response workshops that include men and women.
  - Establish a dialogue series with state and non-state security actors.
  - Integrate a masculinities lens when building capacity on how to engage with armed actors.
  - Conduct regular internal audits to determine whether CSOs are relying on gender-essentialising tropes.
- Gender-focused programmin:g
  - Do not assume that all men are predisposed to violence.
  - Facilitate the establishment of networks of local male allies who already support gender equality and non-violence.

Back to Categories

2. Transforming beliefs about masculinities and patriarchy in Indonesia

Title of the resource: R. U. Nagel, K. Baekgaard, J. Allen, E. Srimulyani, Samsidar, "Masculinities and Patriarchy Exploring Trends in Men's and Women's Beliefs about Masculinities and Patriarchy in Aceh, Indonesia" Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This brief explores trends in men's and women's beliefs about masculinities and patriarchy in Aceh, Indonesia. This is part of the same series and based on the same research as the resource above.

Concrete action points

- National governments:

    - Substantively engage with masculinities in WPS NAPs.

    - Fund context-specific research on masculinities as part of broader efforts to advance gender equality and WPS commitments.

    - Collaborate more closely with local actors to develop WPS NAP implementation plans that are attentive to masculinities.

- CSO:s

    - Co-create spaces with men and women to work on transforming harmful masculinities and promoting gender equality.

    - Facilitate conversations about different forms of masculinities in communities.

    - Partner with local role models to teach more men how to be allies.

- Gender-focused programming:

    - Seek to transform power imbalances between men and women.

    - Integrate a masculinities perspective to identify programmes susceptible to backlash.

    - Work with both men and women across all projects engaging with masculinities.

3. Reconstructing masculinities in Indonesia and the Philippines

Title of the resource: R.A. Affiat, P. Rahmadhani, M. Nakayama "Reconstructing Masculinities: Gender Dynamics After Conflict in Aceh, Maluku and Bangsamoro Mindanao" Conciliation Resources (2024)

Languages: English; Indonesian

In short:

This research explores how ideas of masculinity prior to, during and after armed conflict influence women's power and place in post-conflict societies. It examines the complex and dynamic ways in which masculinities and masculine norms shape violence and unequal gender relations in families and community-level social institutions. The analysis investigates how the dominance of masculine elites in decision-making results in the inequitable distribution of political power and economic opportunities between men and women. It is based on surveys of 6,036 people followed by participatory focus group discussions and interviews involving a total of 359 people in three regions: Aceh and Maluku in Indonesia and the BARMM in the Philippines. The report identifies four entry points to shift dominant masculinities and create opportunities for women to meaningfully participate in peace processes and public decision-making.

Concrete action points

- Working in private and community spaces with parents, husbands, and clan and religious leaders is key to transforming gender inequalities.

- Offer context-specific and gender-responsive trauma healing and Mental Health and Psychosocial Support services.

- Make tailored training programmes widely available that focus on peacebuilding, gender equality and transitional justice, and which incorporate a strong masculinities lens.

- Provide long-term, core, flexible and easy-to-access financial and political resources to women's community-level activities and organisations to allow them to influence gender-responsive post-conflict political transitions.

4. Mobilising men for feminist peace

Title of the resource: Women's International League for Peace and Freedom "Mobilising Men for Feminist Peace in Work on Peacebuilding, Non-Violence, Conflict Prevention and Women's Rights" (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report documents a series of dialogues designed to counter militarised masculinities and engage men in feminist peacebuilding. It builds on prior virtual and in-person meetings and experiences from participating organisations across Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas. It outlines emerging research, shared strategies and multi-level approaches for structural change.

Concrete action points

- Work to engage men and transform masculinities must be in dialogue with (and accountable to) feminist movements and leadership, informed by feminist analysis, and advance feminist priorities and approaches.

- Gender must be recognised as a system of power, which requires a systems approach to address gender inequality and gendered violence.

- The local context must be considered throughout the entire process.

- When engaging with men, carefully consider the messaging, delivery methods and involvement of local social leaders to anticipate and prevent potential backlash. Actions originating from the Global North can be viewed with suspicion and even aggression.

- The League should establish and coordinate a community of practice guided by a steering committee.

- Working committees should be established to pursue the action items identified in working group commitments, including on FFP, digital spaces and the manosphere, and on the structural drivers of violence and armed conflict.

5. Transforming militarised masculinities

Title of the resource: S. Weber "Transforming Militarised Masculinities A Global Responsibility for a More Just and Peaceful World" Impunity Watch (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy report summarises how militarised masculinities contribute to cycles of violence and impunity around the world. It argues that transforming gendered norms that define 'masculinity' in terms of force and violence must become a global priority.

Concrete action points

- Reintegration processes of former combatants must be gendered:

  - DDR processes often have a 'gender perspective', but this tends to focus on integrating women.

  - Gender policies are often implemented as an afterthought, and rely on gendered stereotypes, providing women with trainings on tailoring or hairdressing.

  - Men are not generally considered as gendered individuals, and masculinities are left unaddressed.

- Truth-telling must address militarised masculinities to prevent future violence:

  - Transitional justice, especially truth-telling and historical memory, currently focus mostly on the victims of human rights violations.

  - This opportunity should be used to shed light on the processes in which men and women become militarised and violent, and the damaging effects this has.

- Prevention is urgently needed to avoid cycles of violence:

  - Reducing the pull of militarised masculinities requires transformations at the global level.

  - The international community should take responsibility for its role in promoting and maintaining militarised masculinities in their own security institutions and through the maintenance of global socio-economic structures that push men – and women – into armed violence and crime for survival.

Back to Categories

6. Masculinities in peacebuilding in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Kashmir, Nigeria and the Pacific Region

Title of the resource: S. Darwish, S. Close "Integrating Masculinities in Peacebuilding: Shifting Harmful Norms and Transforming Relationships" (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This practice paper is based on a review of Conciliation Resources' work on masculinities and peacebuilding over the last 3 years, with a focus on the DRC, Kashmir, Nigeria and the Pacific region. Reports and planning documents of all the organisation's work on masculinities, gender and peacebuilding were reviewed, and 11 key informant interviews with its staff and partners were conducted remotely.

Concrete action points

- Do not treat masculinities work as separate from other WPS, gender and peacebuilding activities: A gender-sensitive conflict analysis that includes a focus on masculinities can identify which societal norms and institutions generate and perpetuate links between men and violence.

- A masculinities lens reveals that violence needs to be addressed across multiple interconnected levels.

  - When militarisation emphasises the link between men and violence, the acceptance and use of violence – particularly household-level GBV – increases.

  - To address this complex violence, international peacebuilding organisations and local partners, especially women-led NGOs and CSOs, need to collaborate to link initiatives across the individual, household, national and global levels.

- Prioritising participation, local ownership and concepts, and pacing change according to the context, can help overcome resistance.

- Working on security and justice, and providing opportunities for constructive male roles, can help to counter the link between masculinities and violent conflict.

7. Men, Masculinities and Feminist Peace

Title of the resource: A. Greig "Men, Masculinities and Feminist Peace: A Peer Exchange on Lessons, Challenges and Collaborations" PAX For Peace, Women's International League for Peace & Freedom (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This report presents the highlights of a peer exchange on lessons, challenges and potential collaborations on mobilizing men for feminist peace. It is based on two 3-hour online meetings with a group of practitioners, policy advocates and researchers working on masculinities differently, in terms of the levels of work (from community programs to global policy); global South and global North interests and perspectives; the factors and forces driving armed conflict (from upstream to downstream); and the complex ways in which militarization interacts with social norms, political institutions and economic relations.

Concrete action points

- Work more closely with and from the linguistic and conceptual terms and framings used by those most impacted by the militarism and armed conflict.

- Pay sufficient attention to the behaviours and responsibilities of elite men as well as the norms and institutions that maintain the impunity of elite men, not just focusing on the masculinities of poor and marginalized men.

- Apply an intersectional decolonial approach to masculinities, for example by avoiding the reinforcement of implicitly racialized accounts of whose masculinities are problematic (non-white, global South) and whose are not (white, global North) when only focusing on addressing "violent masculinities" of violent extremist groups solely focused on North Africa and the Middle East. There is a need to work on the most powerful countries as well.

- Connect the work down upstream (policy and advocacy) and downstream (community level) better.

- Promote accountability to women's rights organizations and movements by adopting a personal and organizational practice of humility, centring on what is the role of men in promoting women in peace and security.

8. Addressing violence against women journalists and politicians

Title of the resource: OSCE "Violence against Women Journalists and Politicians: A Growing Crisis" (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This report examines the prevalence and impact of violence against women in journalism and politics, particularly online. It presents quantitative and qualitative evidence of such violence, including against women who are targeted for additional abuse because of intersecting identities. The report discusses the negative impact of such violence on the fields of journalism and politics, as well as democracy as a whole. Lastly, it examines the barriers to effective responses and possible ways to address violence against women journalists and politicians.

Concrete action points

- Men are important actors who must acknowledge that this is not a "women's problem".

    - Male colleagues should offer support and assistance when they see a woman colleague threatened or abused in person or online.

    - Many male journalists and politicians must examine their own behaviour, as they may be contributing to the problem. They must recognise the ways in which they uphold toxic masculinity and that they are entrenched in a patriarchal system associated with violence against women.

    - The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly should collaborate with media and political institutions to develop interventions that encourage men to act as allies to end all forms of violence against women in journalism and politics.

- Further recommendations relate to the development and revision of legislation, data collection, support services for women journalists and politicians, election observation missions, the WPS agenda, and efforts specific to parliaments and parliamentarians.

8. Reports on strategic litigation

1. Strategic litigation for gender-based violence (GBV) in Latin America

Title of the resource: Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights "Strategic Litigation for Gender-Based Violence: Experiences in Latin America" (2021)

Languages: English; Spanish

In short:

This report summarises the main points of a workshop discussion on Strategic Litigation for GBV in Latin America. It draws on the experiences, challenges and good practices shared by the 40 legal practitioners in attendance. The workshop draws on the work carried out by the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights together with the American University Washington College of Law, through its War Crimes Research Office and its Academy on Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, and Leiden University, through its Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies. It builds on their respective mandates and approaches to promoting accountability and seeking to end impunity for GBV. The workshop highlighted creative solutions developed by CSOs, lawyers and public prosecution services.

Concrete action points

- A growing number of cases in which the victims are women have been presented as taking place in a continuum of discrimination and violence to highlight the structural causes that facilitate the violence and the need for transformative reparation measures.

- New practices and standards of evidence gathering have been developed that incorporate a multidisciplinary perspective, reducing the need for evidence from victims and the reliance on medical or forensic evidence.

- Where sexual violence crimes have been charged as international crimes, they have been placed within the context of the mass human rights violations in which they occurred; such contextualisation helps to corroborate the victims' testimonies.

- Legal practitioners have gradually moved away from the notion that sexual violence crimes can only be attributed to the physical perpetrators. As a result, an increasing number of cases have shown that it is possible to establish the criminal responsibility of other individuals for their contributions to the crimes, including indirect perpetrators.

- Various legal proceedings have been initiated against judges for perpetuating or allowing misogynistic and racist attitudes during court proceedings. The growing scrutiny of the practices of judicial operators is strengthening protection systems.

- Victims have mobilised public support through the media, and international support through the development of partnerships with international donors and by bringing cases before the Inter-American and UN human rights systems. These initiatives have helped to compensate for the disparities between their own resources and those of the defendants, who at times have the support of public authorities (especially where there is no strong political will to fight impunity).

- Holistic support strategies have been designed to address victims' lack of confidence in the institutional framework and respond to their legal, medical, psychosocial, economic and protection needs.

- CSOs have incorporated new forms of intervention to bridge the gap between applicable standards and victims' experiences. These include strengthening the capacities of the judiciary, creating spaces for conversation and dialogue between various stakeholders, involving academic institutions and raising awareness of the applicable standards.

2. Strategic litigation to safeguard Indigenous peoples' land rights in Kenya, Malaysia and Paraguay

Title of the resource: Open Society Justice Initiative "Strategic Litigation Impacts Indigenous Peoples' Land Rights" (2017)

Languages: English

In short:

This study examines the impacts of strategic litigation on indigenous peoples' exercise of their rights to lands and territories. It studies the cases of Kenya, Malaysia and Paraguay and is based on dozens of semi-structured interviews from a diverse range of actors, including members of the concerned indigenous communities, public officials, NGO leaders, lawyers, paralegals, activists, journalists, government officials, judges, corporate officials, policymakers and representatives of unaffected communities.

Concrete action points

- Successfully advocating implementation generally requires continuous engagement by the concerned community and its allies long after decisions are issued. A post-litigation strategy and long-term involvement of litigators is therefore needed.

- Litigation can increase community cohesion and cooperation:

  - Organised communities appear to be better positioned to engage in litigation and push for the implementation of judgments.

  - Legal processes are often alien to indigenous structures and decision-making processes.

  - Engaging with supportive NGOs and litigators has often been critical in building leadership and confidence within the community.

- Land rights cases are usually long and strenuous: they are often appealed and challenged, making the whole process more expensive:

  - Ultimately, communities and their legal teams will have to bear some litigation costs.

  - Financial support from donors must address not only the litigation itself, but also the post-ruling advocacy struggle for implementation.

  - Attention must be paid to how various forms of compensation are distributed to communities.

  - Communities that lack a plan to manage such funds are vulnerable to theft, corruption and loss of hard-won gains.

Back to Categories

3. Mobile gender courts in the DRC

Title of the resource: Open Society Justice Initiative "DRC Mobile Gender Courts" (2011)

Languages: English

In short:

This factsheet presents the Open Society Justice Initiative and the Open Society Institute for Southern Africa's initiative to support the development of mobile courts capable of trying the most serious mass rape cases, as well as other crimes. The project seeks to reduce sexual crimes, deliver justice for victims in remote communities and end the culture of impunity in eastern DRC.

Concrete action points

- The mobile gender court project demonstrates that justice is being done and chips away at the pervasive sense of impunity around sexual crimes. But it must do more to make a more substantial, sustained difference. It should be expanded within South Kivu Province and into the neighbouring (equally violent) North Kivu Province.

- The international community needs to provide additional funds to support penal reform and to improve prison conditions in eastern DRC so that the convicted stay behind bars – and so that the prisons meet basic standards of care and security.

- New legal aid clinics are being set up to provide additional assistance to victims and to ensure that reparations awarded by the court are received. Mobile medical clinics need to also travel with the courts.

9. Reports on working with faith actors

1. Faith-based actors as catalysts for positive norm change

Title of the resource: ACT Alliance "30 Years on from The Beijing Platform for Action: Faith-Based Actors as Catalyst Towards Positive Norm Change" (2025)

Languages: English

In short:

This report explores how faith-based actors are provoking social norm change to advance human rights and gender equality. It spotlights the work by ACT Alliance members and partners, who are using faith-based methodologies to promote gender equality. It focuses on how faith communities can be a transformative force in ensuring human rights and dismantling patriarchal power. The report concludes with a series of recommendations and calls to catalyse collective action for sustainable development. In addition to the programmatic recommendations outlined below, the report contains recommendations targeted at faith-based actors, funders, member states and UN agencies.

Concrete action points

- Strengthen the capacity of faith-based actors, particularly faith leaders, with gender-transformative training and tools to address discriminatory social norms and practices.

- Highlight collective faith-based advocacy messages, where possible in interfaith alliances, to amplify messages and challenge religious misconceptions.

- Enable participatory community development approaches for social norm change at the local and district levels while also advocating for policy changes at the district, national, regional and global levels to improve accountability.

Back to Categories

2. Engaging women of faith in peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia

Title of the resource: Norwegian Church Aid "Women of Faith Engagement in Peace and Reconciliation" (2021)

Languages: English

In short:

This study maps women of faith engagement in peace and reconciliation in Ethiopia. It identifies structures of women of faith engagement in peace and reconciliation processes. The report builds on these structures to document lessons and provides key recommendations related to strategies to enhance the participation and influence of women of faith in peace and reconciliation processes. The data for the study were generated through 11 key informant interviews, 3 focus group discussions, a literature review and analysis of relevant documents.

Concrete action points

- Support the Inter-Religious Council of Ethiopia to play a leading role in organising the member institutions to create/ strengthen peace and reconciliation departments. Create women of faith platforms specific to the theological foundation of each religious institution and build a network of women peacebuilders.

- Support the development of national and regional peace policies.

- Conduct in-depth analysis of the role of women in peace and conflict.

- Transform the overall perception and attitude of religious communities towards women of faith's engagement in peace and reconciliation efforts.

- Create spaces for women in religious institutions to engage in peace and reconciliation affairs.

- Provide the short-, medium-, and long-term technical and financial support that ensures the sustainable engagement of women of faith in peace and reconciliation processes.

- Enhance and transform the knowledge and skills of women of faith in the areas of peace and reconciliation.

- Religious/theological institutions must develop courses for emerging religious leaders on the role of women in peace and reconciliation.

- Engage the media to regularly amplify the voices of women of faith for peace and reconciliation.

3. Engaging with local faith actors and communities

Title of the resource: R. Watson, R. McLaverty, S. Sinibaldi, R. Faber "Engaging with Local Faith Actors and Communities: A Toolkit" ACT Alliance EU, Islamic Relief Worldwide, Caritas Europa, EU-CORD (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This toolkit explores how staff in EU delegations or the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations field offices can engage with religious leaders and faith communities during crises. It is based on practitioners' input of cases, contextual analysis, and conceptual clarifications and guidance for generating detail and greater depth on reflections from Asia, Africa, Latin America, Europe and North America. The toolkit contains information on practical considerations for fostering collaborations with religious actors, including on when to engage and how. Specific considerations for how to foster engagement with women are included below.

Concrete action points

- Ensure that women leaders and members of faith communities are included in consultations and engagement from the design phase through to delivery. In some cases, this will mean engaging with the formal religious hierarchy and in others with informal groups.

- Help faith communities create formalised women's committees and structures to address violations, or to engage those already established.

- Support faith actors to integrate a gender assessment to understand how crises affect women and girls and how to address the impacts effectively.

- Identify and support religiously linked advocacy initiatives to empower women.

4. Engaging religious leaders in advancing the WPS agenda

Title of the resource: R. Alsaqqaf, K. Wise "Engaging Religious Leaders in Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda" UN Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief examines practices and opportunities to engage religious leaders to advance the WPS agenda. It is designed as a primer on this topic for policymakers involved in the WPS agenda across the region, such as those designing and implementing WPS NAPs.

Concrete action points

- Invest in further research on engaging religious leaders in the WPS agenda and the faith-based framing of its goals.

- Identify counternarratives that emphasise the tolerant nature of religion and its respect for women's rights.

- Confer with other states and organisations on best practices and lessons learned regarding the engagement of religious leaders in the WPS agenda and integrating these leaders into NAPs on UNSCR 1325.

- Conduct a robust context analysis: This can include the implementation of the UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia's three-step roadmap to identify potential partners: (a) assess the legal, social and political environment; (b) map the religious landscape for engagement; (c) identify opportunities for engagement and employ a 'do no harm' approach.

- Bring civil society into discussions with religious leaders on issues relating to gender equality and the WPS agenda to mitigate extremism and conservatism and ensure a dialogue among actors that respects freedom of expression and opinion and human rights.

- Develop an inclusive strategy to engage a diverse array of women and young religious leaders in supporting the WPS agenda.

- Expand the definition of religious leaders to include marginalised community members who are outside of traditional religious institutions and hierarchies.

- Support women to obtain decision-making positions and emphasise local ownership.

- Identify and develop partnerships with allies who are progressive, moderate or WPS-oriented religious leaders to encourage the advancement of the WPS agenda in faith-based spaces.

- Partner with, and provide capacity-building for, religious leaders.

5. Religion and the WPS agenda in Libya, Afghanistan and South Sudan

Title of the resource: A. Kwakkenbos, H. Scheffer "Religion and the 'Women, Peace and Security Agenda'" Cordaid (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy paper highlights the importance of engaging broadly with religion and outlines good practices and key recommendations to benefit this engagement in the context of WPS. It examines three case studies (Libya, Afghanistan and South Sudan) that reflect the role of religion and its relation to advancing women's peace and security in the most fragile contexts. The report is based on interviews with stakeholders in the WPS and religion space, ranging from academics to practitioners.

Concrete action points

- Start by analysing which factors enable and restrict the WPS agenda.

- Keep the programmes and responses bottom up.

- Keep the programmes women driven – led by women themselves.

- Recognise that individual backgrounds inform a focus on obstacles posed by religion to the WPS agenda and reservations about religion.

- Find allies with progressive (moderate) stakeholders.

- Enhance (I)NGOs' understanding of religion.

- Balance protection and participation within the WPS agenda.

Back to Categories

6. Women in religious peacebuilding

Title of the resource: K. Marshall, S. Hayward, C. Zambra, E. Breger, S. Jackson "Women in Religious Peacebuilding" US Institute of Peace (2011)

Languages: English

In short:

This report examines the role of women in religious peacebuilding by focusing on how women inspired by or linked to religious ideals and institutions worked for and maintained sustainable, positive peace. It is based on the input of practitioners, academics, and policymakers from several distinct fields and backgrounds. The investigation also involved a series of in-depth interviews with invited participants and other leaders in the field and draws on the experiences of several programmes, such as the University of San Diego's Women Peacemakers Program and the Tanenbaum Center for Interreligious Understanding, that seek to honour the peace work of women inspired by religious ideas or communities.

Concrete action points

- Policymakers currently tend to apply a single approach to dealing with all faith-inspired organisations. They should instead recognise the enormous diversity of religious institutions across regions, traditions and communities.

- Government agencies should avoid taking unilateral action in areas where partnering with faith institutions might be more effective. Such partnerships should not emphasise using religion as an instrument, but rather finding ways for religious and secular organisations to build a stronger peace together.

- The gulf in understanding that separates many secular women's organisations from those grounded in religion can be overcome in three ways:

  - More fully and specifically document how women have used the precepts and institutions of their faiths to work for peace.

  - Reconceptualise the traditional peacemaking agenda to incorporate a greater understanding of women's roles in fostering peace.

  - Build networks connecting religious and secular organisations, advocates with political leaders, and donors and other international organisations interested in sponsoring a more stable and lasting peace with women working through religious organisations to achieve it.

10. Reports on strengthening gender-disaggregated data and feminist storytelling to engage in evidence-based policy

1. Feminist storytelling on shifting power and resources to movements in Asia-Pacific, Latin America and Africa

Title of the resource: Global Fund for Wom=n "Show Me the Money: Feminist Stories on Shifting Power and Resources to Movements" (2024)

Languages: English; French; Spanish; Portuguese

In short:

This report presents stories from over 110 feminist actors from Asia-Pacific, Latin America, and Africa to amplify the voices of grassroots feminist organisations on the impact of funding to movements. It explores the intersections of accountability and economic justice, advocating a shift in the overall funding ecosystem and directing flexible resources to feminist grassroots and youth organisations.

Concrete action points

- Provide no-strings-attached funding through flexible, core and long-term financial support directly to the grassroots level.

- Adopt accessible funding models that recognise the varying capacity levels of feminist organisations and movements.

- Support women's funds to expand the local mobilisation of resources to hard-to-reach communities for stronger and more sustainable feminist movements.

- Trust feminists as experts to set their own priorities and solutions for social change.

- Apply an intersectional lens and foster alliance-building to increase funding, reach and power to communities.

- Invest in data and joint efforts that push for transparency to better monitor Global Environment Facility commitments and other international mechanisms.

Back to Categories

2. Measuring social norm change through storytelling in Nepal

Title of the resource: J. Holland, P. Rishal "Measuring Social Norm Change Through Storytelling: Baseline Report" UN Women (2023)

Languages: English

In short:

This report presents the findings of baseline research on the pathways of gender social norm change that can support country strategy and adaptive programming. The research is part of a 5-year project funded by the Government of Finland on longitudinal impact monitoring. The findings are based on over 1,000 stories collected using a feminist and participatory mass storytelling methodology across five districts in four provinces of Nepal. Over the next 4 years, this impact-level social norms research will be repeated as 'midline' and 'endline' data collection. Future methodological design tweaks might include more thematically focused exploration, allowing programme managers and policymakers to monitor and explore specific social norm patterns and trends across Nepal in greater depth.

Concrete action points

- The act of storytelling is a transformative event in the lives of the storytellers.

- Analysing storytelling reveals insights on a range of social norms and behaviour that affect the daily lives of the storytellers and others like them in their communities.

- Research on storytelling can form the heart of a transformative programming approach centred on group reflection and action.

3. Gender data for FFP

Title of the resource: Hivos, Data2X "Moving Commitments to Action: Gender Data as a Cornerstone of Feminist Foreign Policy" (2024)

Languages: English

In short:

This brief highlights the critical role of gender data in the development, implementation and success of FFPs. It demonstrates how to implement principles of gender data for FFP in policy recommendations and suggests ways to do so.

Concrete action points

- Push to include gender data as part of national FFP policies and commitments. Develop strong Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability, and Learning frameworks, including clearly identified objectives and indicators, responsible agencies and reporting timelines, and mandates to publicly report progress.

- Ensure efforts to integrate gender data within FFP policies and commitments are developed through meaningful consultation and engagement. Key stakeholders should include feminist activists, academics and civil society, particularly those who will be most impacted by FFPs.

- Outline and adopt feminist principles for the collection, analysis and use of gender data.

- Go beyond gender disaggregation and analysis to also examine the power dynamics embedded within data systems, processes and practices.

- Put in place financing for FFP gender data collection, capacity building and use. Ensure this financing is sustainable and well-integrated within FFP policies and commitments.

- Champion the importance of gender data for FFP in international and multilateral forums and convenings (e.g. G7, G20, UN General Assembly, Commission on the Status of Women, OECD DAC, and designated FFP spaces and convenings).

Back to Categories

4. Gender-based data and policy action

Title of the resource: Metropolis "Gender-Based Data and Policy Action" (2022)

Languages: English

In short:

This policy brief introduces the data feminism approach, outlining seven principles for wielding the power of data to challenge unequal power structures and work towards justice. It emphasises analysing how power operates, valuing multiple forms of knowledge, and challenging binaries and hierarchies. The brief suggests that local and regional governments can adopt this approach to ensure that data collection and analysis contribute to more equitable policymaking. It is based on an expert roundtable that assessed how local and regional governments can identify and correct gender bias in data used for policy design.

Concrete action points

- Assess gender-oriented data needs for policy design. Collect sex-disaggregated data and develop gender-specific indicators.

- Identify biases in the data collection process. Local and regional governments should conduct detailed algorithm audits and analyses of technological gadgets before generalising their use to avoid replicating discriminatory actions.

- Implement gender policies at the metropolitan level. Compiling gender-sensitive data and implementing public policies at this level entails coordination between administrations, which results in the use of the most valuable data in decision-making and more effective implementation of public policies.

- Develop gender-oriented training to promote data production among governments and the private sector.

- Promote data gathering through coalition-building. Increase the target community's engagement by making them not only the subject of indicators but also a leading partner in collecting data.

- Increase technological sovereignty. Local and regional governments and communities should understand where their data comes from and how it is being processed and analysed.

5. Storytelling for peace and security: why, what and how?

Title of the resource: United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia "Storytelling on Peace and Security" (2020)

Languages: English

In short:

This handout investigates why, what and how to use storytelling to devote more attention, visibility, and solutions to peace and security through sharing stories. It provides examples from writing, digital, photos, etc. on messages related to youth, women, peace and security. It suggests prompts to guide story development (shared below).

Concrete action points

- What you want to change? Describe the central conflict or challenge you would like to address to inspire others to act.

- Who is your key audience? Different audiences require different approaches.

- What is your core message? Why are you telling this story: raise awareness, change behaviour or attitude(s)? Distil your solution and mission into one memorable idea.

- What is your story type? The proven story types can help you shape your narrative for impact.

- What is your call to action? Your story should make the audience "act" in some way.

- Decide on your story medium. A story can be "told" through writing (articles, books, blogs), speeches (presentations, interviews, panels, conversations), digital stories (video, animation, photos, long reads) and audio stories.

- Create and share your story. Be authentic and vulnerable to establish an emotional connection and inspire empathy in your audience. Make your story concrete, visual and jargon free. Choose the right channels and medium to reach your target audience.

Back to Categories

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