



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR **PEACE & FREEDOM**

Does Gender Equality Lead to Peace? Fact Sheet Building on the Global Study on 1325

"All oppression creates a state of war."
- Simone de Beauvoir, *The Second Sex*

Gender equality is the number one predictor of peace – more so than a state's wealth, level of democracy, or religious identity.¹ Gender equality is also an obligation: because women are human beings, states are obligated to overturn obstacles to women's human rights, maximise investment in women's equal human rights, and ensure gender equality moves forward rather than backward.² Creating a world of gender equality and gender justice means building collective power rather than dominating power. It means creating a world where people and planet can flourish – regardless of age, race, gender, class, ethnicity, ability, or sexual orientation and gender identity. It means overthrowing relations of exploitation and violence from the personal to the political to the international levels. It is therefore no wonder that violence against women and social, political, and economic inequality between women and men increase risks of state instability, internal disputes, and international conflict.

Facts and Figures

The Global Study on UNSCR 1325³ affirmed that preventing gender-based harm is critically linked to preventing armed violence. Strengthening gender equality and women's human rights is both a human rights obligation and also key for cultivating peace from the home to the world. Key facts and figures from the Global Study include:

- The 10 worst-performing countries on maternal mortality are all either conflict or post-conflict countries (UN Women, 194).
- Women's participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent, and by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years (UN Women, 41-42)
- Peace agreements are 64 percent less likely to fail when civil society representatives participate (UN Women, 42)
- In 2012-13, just six percent of all aid to fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as the principal objective; only two percent of peace and security aid targeted gender equality as a principle objective (UN Women, 373)

¹ Hudson, Valerie et al. (2014), *Sex & World Politics*. Columbia University Press

² Nexus Brief: How to Apply a Human Rights Framework to Macroeconomic Strategies (2012) (CWGL) Available: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/docman/economic-and-social-rights-publications/nexus/517-nexusbrief3/file>

³ The Global Study on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 (UN Women) (2015) Available: [http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf)



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- Although the World Bank has increased its gender allocations to fragile states, overall allocations to fragile states remains much lower than to non-fragile states: in fiscal year 2014, USD \$3.38 million was allocated to gender informed interventions in fragile states, compared to USD \$34.15 million in non-fragile states – about one-tenth of the investment (UN Women, 377)
- Only 15 (24 percent) out of 62 United Nations entities reporting data in 2015 had systems to track resources for gender equality and women's empowerment (UN Women, 379)

International Legal Commitments

The international community has committed to respecting, protecting, and fulfilling women's equal human rights progressively, without regression, using maximum available resources.⁴ Key commitments include:

- Beijing Platform of Action (1995)
- Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and CEDAW General Recommendation 30 (paragraph 28 (a) (2013)
- Maastricht Guidelines on Violations of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1997)
- Sustainable Development Goals (2015): Goal 5: "Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls."
- United Nations International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) and CESCR General Comment 16 (para. 37), 14 (para. 54) and 15 (paras. 16(a) and 48)
- UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325 (OP 7), 1820 (OP 13), 1888 (OP 22), 1889 (OP 19 (c and d)), 2106 (OP 19), 2122 (OP 11), 2242 (OP 1, 3, 13)
- Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993)

Key Recommendations

Promoting gender equality and women's human rights requires recognising and transforming social, political, and economic structural obstacles that privilege masculinity over femininity for human security and peace for all people. Key recommendations from the UNSCR 1325 Global Study include:

- Undertake participatory gender and conflict risk analysis (including vulnerability analysis) to inform the design, costing and implementation of all interventions in conflict-affected contexts (UN Women, 386)

⁴ Nexus Brief: How to Apply a Human Rights Framework to Macroeconomic Strategies (2012) (CWGL) Available: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/docman/economic-and-social-rights-publications/nexus/517-nexusbrief3/file>



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- Establish systems across all financing actors to promote transparency and accountability, by tracking whether financial allocations further gender equality in a fully comparable manner, including in peace, security and emergency contexts. To achieve this, build the capacity of all actors to monitor and evaluate the impact of funding – including governments in conflict affected settings, donors, peace-keeping missions, and peacebuilding interventions (UN Women, 90, 156, 386)
- Prioritize the design and implementation of gender sensitive reparations programmes with transformative impact, including through implementing the Guidance Note of the Secretary General on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence (UN Women, 401)
- Design, implement and monitor economic recovery programmes and macroeconomic policies in a gender-responsive manner, and evaluate them for their impact on women's economic security (UN Women, 182)
- Improve coordination of donors' aid activities to ensure a more even distribution of gender equality-focused aid across all fragile states and economies (UN Women, 386)
- Significantly increase allocations to dedicated financial mechanisms that promote gender equality, women's human rights and empowerment, such as the UN Fund for Gender Equality, the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, the UN Fund for Action Against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) and the new Global Acceleration Instrument on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Engagement (UN Women, 386)

To learn more

- Addis Ababa Action Plan on Transformative Financing for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2015) Available: http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/news/action_plan_on_transformative_financing_for_gewe.pdf
- Analysis of National Budgets With a Gender Perspective to Detect the Level of Commitment by the Government on Gender Issues (2009) Equidad de Genero
- Balakrishnan, Radhika. (2011). *Economic Policies and Human Rights: Holding Governments to Account*. Zed Books
- Budlender, Debbie and Guy Hewitt. (2003). *Engendering Budgets: A Practitioner's Guide to Understanding and Implementing Gender-Responsive Budgets*. The Commonwealth Secretariat
- Costing and Financing 1325 (2010) (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders) Available: <https://www.cordaid.org/nl/publicaties/costing-and-financing-1325/>
- Feminist (Re)interpretation of the Dayton Peace Accords (2014) (WILPF/Women Organising for Change in Syria and Bosnia and Herzegovina) Available: <http://womenorganizingforchange.org/Development/wp-content/uploads/2016/02/DPA-report-FINAL.pdf>



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- Financing for the Implementation of National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Critical for Advancing Women's Human Rights, Peace and Security (2014) (Cordaid) Available: https://www.cordaid.org/media/medialibrary/2014/10/FinancingUNSCR1325_2014_27oct.pdf
- Hudson, Valerie et al. (2014), *Sex & World Politics*. Columbia University Press
- *Integrating Gender into the New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* (2012) (Cordaid) Available: [https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/01/Cordaid-7247-02-PP-Gender into the New Deal-DEFHR-web.pdf](https://www.cordaid.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/3/2013/01/Cordaid-7247-02-PP-Gender%20into%20the%20New%20Deal-DEFHR-web.pdf)
- Nexus Brief: How to Apply a Human Rights Framework to Macroeconomic Strategies (2012) (CWGL) Available: <http://www.cwgl.rutgers.edu/docman/economic-and-social-rights-publications/nexus/517-nexusbrief3/file>
- The Global Study on the Implementation of the UNSC Resolution 1325 (2015) (UN Women) Available: [http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](http://peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf)