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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

**Joint written statement\* submitted by Women's Federation  
for World Peace International, International Alliance of  
Women, Soroptimist International, Zonta International, non-  
governmental organizations in general consultative status,  
Coordination Francaise du Lobby Europeen des Femmes, a  
non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[23 May 2025]

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\* Issued as received, in the language of submission only.



# **Women in Conflict Zones: Innovative Leadership and Sustainable Solutions**

## **Introduction**

Our organization, together with our partner members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women Geneva, is committed to promoting peace, human rights, and the empowerment of women worldwide. As we address the critical intersection of women, peace, and security, we reaffirm our dedication to advancing gender equality, promoting peace education, prioritizing prevention and reconciliation, and ensuring that women's voices are integral to peace processes globally.

## **Women as Agents of Peace**

For decades, women have been at the forefront of peace movements and conflict resolution initiatives. Their roles as peacemakers, caregivers, teachers, and leaders are vital in shaping peaceful societies. However, despite their significant contributions, women remain underrepresented in formal peace negotiations and decision-making roles. This underrepresentation is not only a gender equality issue but also a hindrance to achieving sustainable peace.

Research consistently shows that peace agreements are more durable and effective when women participate in the negotiation process. Women's unique perspectives and experiences bring valuable insights into the complexities of conflict and its resolution. Their involvement helps address underlying social inequalities and fosters inclusive solutions that benefit entire communities.

## **Challenges Faced by Women in Conflict Zones**

Women in conflict zones face a multitude of challenges that are often overlooked in traditional security frameworks. They are disproportionately affected by violence, displacement, and economic instability. Furthermore, women are frequently targeted for sexual and gender-based violence, which is used as a weapon of war to terrorize populations and destroy communities.

Addressing these challenges requires a comprehensive approach that recognizes the specific needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings. It is essential to ensure their protection and provide access to justice for survivors of violence. Additionally, women must be empowered to participate in peacebuilding efforts and decision-making processes at all levels.

## **Strengthening Women's Leadership and Participation**

Empowering women through education and leadership opportunities is crucial for enhancing their participation in peace and security initiatives. Education equips women with the knowledge and skills needed to advocate for their rights and contribute to the development of their communities. Leadership training programs can further build their capacity to influence peace processes and hold decision-makers accountable.

To achieve meaningful progress, we must break down the barriers that prevent women from accessing leadership roles in peace and security sectors. This includes addressing cultural norms and stereotypes that marginalize women's contributions, as well as providing resources and support for women's organizations working on the ground.

## **Integrating Gender Perspectives in Peacekeeping Operations**

The integration of gender perspectives in peacekeeping operations is vital for enhancing their effectiveness. Female peacekeepers play a crucial role in building trust with local

communities and addressing the specific needs of women and children. Their presence can also help prevent and respond to incidents of sexual exploitation and abuse.

The Women's Federation for World Peace International calls for increased recruitment and deployment of women in peacekeeping roles. Additionally, we urge the implementation of gender-sensitive training programs that equip all peacekeepers with the skills needed to promote gender equality and protect human rights.

## **The Role of Women in Climate Change and Security**

Climate change is an emerging threat to global security, with profound implications for vulnerable populations, particularly women. As resources become scarcer due to environmental changes, conflicts over land, water, and food are likely to increase. Women, who often bear the responsibility for securing these resources for their families, are disproportionately affected, their leadership in finding local solutions, disregarded.

Women must be included in climate adaptation and mitigation efforts to ensure comprehensive and sustainable peace strategies. Their knowledge and leadership are critical for developing solutions that address both environmental challenges and social inequalities. Even without specialized training, their local knowledge and commitment provide essential advice for lasting solutions.

## **Call to Action**

In light of these challenges and opportunities, the Women's Federation for World Peace International urges member states and international bodies to take the following actions:

1. **Promote Women's Participation:** Ensure that women are represented in all peace and security processes, from grassroots initiatives to high-level negotiations. This includes setting quotas and targets for women's participation and creating supportive environments that enable their full engagement.
2. **Enhance Protection and Support:** Strengthen legal frameworks and support services to protect women and girls from violence in conflict zones. This includes ensuring access to justice and providing comprehensive support for survivors of gender-based violence.
3. **Invest in Education and Leadership:** Increase funding for educational programs and leadership training for women and girls. Empowering women through education is a powerful tool for promoting peace and security.
4. **Integrate Gender Perspectives:** Implement gender-sensitive policies and practices in peacekeeping operations and security initiatives. This includes increasing the number of female peacekeepers and providing gender training for all personnel.
5. **Address Climate Change Impacts:** Recognize the links between climate change and security, and include women in climate adaptation and mitigation strategies. Their involvement is essential for developing resilient and inclusive solutions.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, the Women's Federation for World Peace International reaffirms its commitment to advancing the women, peace, and security agenda. We believe that the full and equal participation of women is not only a matter of justice but a prerequisite for achieving sustainable peace and security. Let us work together to create a world where women's rights are upheld, their voices are heard, and their potential is fully realized for the benefit of all humanity.

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