Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) is a national and global policy agenda formalized by the passing of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The agenda has three core themes: it promotes the role of women in preventing and resolving conflict, protects women and from gender-based violence during and after conflict, and advances the full and equal participation of women in efforts to establish and maintain peace and security. There is strong evidence that women’s engagement in peace and security is essential to building enduring peace. Gaps remain, however, in the implementation of the WPS agenda nationally and internationally. In the U.S., in particular, more can and must be done to ensure the meaningful participation of women in peace and security processes.

**KEY TAKEAWAYS**

1. **Women’s engagement is critical to building lasting peace.**
   
   Evidence shows that the meaningful engagement of women in peace and security processes increases their chance of success. When women are involved, peace agreements are more sustainable and last longer.

2. **Women’s participation results in more peaceful, just, and prosperous societies.**
   
   Women participants more often broaden security agendas to include social, economic, and justice priorities. The result is more durable peace strategies and more peaceful societies.

3. **More needs to be done to involve women in peace and security decisions.**
   
   While the evidence showing the advantages of women’s participation is abundant, progress toward equal participation is incomplete.

Data shows that when women are meaningfully engaged, societies:

- Are more financially secure
- Are less prone to conflict
- Have more stable rule of law

_Feminist organizations have repeatedly called for disarmament, arms control and shifting military spending to social investment. Still these calls have gone unanswered._

- Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka
  
  Executive Director of UN Women
WHAT IS UNSCR 1325?

The UN Security Council is charged with maintaining international peace and security and is made up of 15 member countries. The resolutions it adopts are formal recommendations to the UN body, which is made up of 192 countries.

UNSCR 1325 is a landmark achievement for global gender equality. It reaffirms the distinct role that women play before, during, and after conflict. It also acknowledges that women and girls experience war and conflict differently than men and boys and advocates for the full and equal participation of women in peace and security efforts worldwide.

The resolution challenged UN Member States to integrate the WPS agenda into their domestic and foreign policy. As of 2020, 84 UN Member States have developed National Action Plans (NAPs) that outline a national strategy for implementation of the WPS agenda.

Gender of negotiators in major peace agreements (1990 to 2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Men</td>
<td>87%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: CFR

Peace agreements with reference to women, girls, or gender (1990-2018)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reference</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reference</td>
<td>19.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No reference</td>
<td>80.1%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: PA-X Database

WAND’S VIEW

WAND knows that when women are empowered, peaceful change is possible. Through its Women Legislators’ Lobby (WiLL) program, grassroots organizing, and the En Voz Alta program WAND provides the tools and opportunities to empower women as leaders on critical peace and security issues. Promoting women’s meaningful participation in security decisions is part of WAND’s core mission. WAND believes that the implementation of the WPS agenda is an integral part of achieving the inclusion of women and gender perspectives in national and international security decisions.

U.S. Timeline

- **October 2000**: Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security is unanimously adopted by the UN Security Council
- **December 2011**: Executive Order 13595 initiated the process of developing a National Action Plan for implementing UNSCR 1325
- **June 2016**: The U.S. NAP is updated and the Obama administration renews its commitment to implementation
- **August 2017**: Senate passes the WPS Act
- **September 2017**: House passes the WPS Act
- **October 2017**: The Women, Peace, and Security Act is signed into law, requiring that the U.S. develop and adhere to a national WPS strategy
- **June 2019**: The Trump Administration releases the U.S. Strategy on WPS
- **June 2020**: DHS, DOD, State, and USAID release WPS implementation plans

Source: CFR
Source: PA-X Database