WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY
GLOBAL DEVELOPMENTS AND LOCAL PRACTICE

Normative developments since 2000

Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820

SCR 1325: Key elements

- **Participation** and **representation** of women at all levels of decision making.
- **Protection** needs of women and girls in conflict.
- Inclusion of gender perspectives in UN Programming, **reporting** and in Security Council **missions.**
- Inclusion of gender perspectives in **post-conflict processes.**
- Inclusion of gender perspectives & **training** in UN **peace support operations.**

SCR 1820: Key elements

- Recognizes **sexual violence as a tactic of war**
- Recognizes sexual violence as a **security issue**
- Demands parties to conflict to adopt concrete **protection and prevention measures** to end sexual violence
- Asserts the importance of women's **participation** in all processes related to ending sexual violence in conflict, including peace talks

SG Report on women's participation in peacebuilding (2010)

First meeting of the Council (Oct 13), in which **gender equality and women's rights** were truly **mainstreamed** into peace and security discussions.

Plan of Action – 7 points endorsed by <u>ALL</u> UN entities

1. Women should be fully engaged in all **<u>peace talks and negotiations</u>;**

2. **Post-conflict <u>planning</u>** processes should involve women substantively;

3. **Adequate <u>financing</u>** provided to advance gender equality (15% target);

4. **<u>Civilian capacity</u>** to make State institutions more accessible to women;

5. Women to participate fully in **<u>post-conflict governance</u>** ;

6. **<u>Rule of law initiatives</u>** to prevent and respond to violations of women's rights;

7. **<u>Post-conflict economic recovery</u>** efforts should focus more on women's empowerment and women's delivery of frontline services.

UN WOMEN Strategic Framework

UN WOMEN main priorities:

• to increase women's leadership and participation in all areas that affect their lives;

• to increase women's access to economic empowerment and opportunities, especially for those who are most excluded;

• to prevent violence against women and girls and expand access to survivor services;

• **to increase women's leadership in peace and security and humanitarian response**;

• to strengthen the responsiveness of plans and budgets to gender equality at all levels.

• to support the development and implementation of a set of global norms, policies and standards on gender equality and women's empowerment

UN Women's Project Women for Equality, Peace and Development in Georgia

The **aim** of the project is to support the efforts and strengthen the capacities of IDP and conflict-affected women's groups, other partners from civil society, and government to advance gender equality and women's human rights in Georgia.

Outcome: IDPs and conflict affected women have increased resources, capacities, and voice to ensure their priorities are included in relevant policies, legislation, programs and budgets.

Achievements: Network of women across the ceasefire lines created

In 2010 an **international Social Art Project** implemented on UNSC resolution 1325 for 40 IDP and conflict-affected women from Shida Kartli, Samegrelo and Gali regions:

People to people diplomacy promoted through facilitating engagement of IDP and conflict-affected women in community art project;

IDPs and conflict-affected women increased awareness on UNSCR 1325;

Promoted participation and expression of IDP and conflict-affected women through exploring and analysing their conflict and displacement related experiences in the context of UNSCR 1325;

Both textile work and digital media were incorporated to create and enhance dialogue between IDP and conflict affected women and decision-makers;

Created the blog Women Connecting for Peace at http://unscr1325georgia.wordpress.com);

Quilt made by women

Capacity of women's network increased

In 2011 the series of trainings conducted for 20 women in social media and participatory video (PV) for advocacy and confidence building initiatives as a result:

Women increased knowledge of the value of social media in post-conflict reconciliation and peace-building;

Increased skills and techniques in blogging;

People-to-people diplomacy promoted throughout the engagement of conflict-affected and internally-displaced women in social media;

Created an online forum in which IDPs and conflict-affected women can communicate in an informal manner;

Increased women's skills in PV and its role in creating social change. Two short videos were made, available at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vPFWkhCmos0

Social Media and PV Workshops, 2011

IDP and conflict affected women took part in UN SCR 1325 NAP elaboration process for Georgia

Georgia adopted the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN SCR 1325 in December 2011

25 NGOs and more than 100 grassroots IDP and conflict affected women took part in UN SCR 1325 NAP elaboration process

The list of recommendations were submitted to the Gender Equality Council of the Parliament of Georgia and specially established a National Working Group on NAP development

Women's contribution into peace processes

Women's Information Center contributed and submitted list of recommendations to the CEDAW Committee on the occasion of a Global Consultation on Women in Conflict and Post-conflict Situations in 2011 (available at: http://www2.ohchr.org).

Recommendations from the South Caucasus Women's NGOs were submitted to the CEDAW Committee at Regional Consultations on the preparation of the CEDAW General Recommendation on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict context in 2012.

Joint network of women reporters established from divided communities

In 2012 initiative **"Women Connecting for Peace – The Voice of Change"**

was launched together with Institute for War and Peace Reporting aimed to:

Create the joint platform for reporting on women's rights and issues of concerns;

Increase IDP's and conflict affected women's communication, advocacy and reporting skills to advance women's rights;

Enhanced knowledge and awareness on the issues on women, peace and security, impact of conflict on women and girls and needs of women in during and post conflict situations;

Elaborated region specific and joint action plans for advocacy initiative and activities throughout using traditional and social media;

Equip IDP and conflict-affected women with necessary reporting skills including multimedia, improve outreach capacity and create various online tools that will help women to advocate around the issues of concern;

Key deliveries up to date

Training conducted in Advocacy and Reporting Strategies with the participation of Georgian, Abkhaz and South Ossetian women peace activists, journalists and bloggers in June, 2012 in Yerevan, Armenia

Joint action plan elaborated to report and document the women's human rights violations and issues of concerns in both side of conflict divide communities

Several articles reporting on women's rights violations and women's local activism are prepared and published in local media

Women's regional reporters network created –the online web page as a platform for sharing information, expertise, knowledge, experience and possibility for networking

Training in Advocacy and Reporting Strategies
in Armenia, June, 2012

Challenges

Lack of opportunities for frequent meetings between women from divided communities;

Security risks associated with free movement across the ceasefire lines;

Language barriers –not easy to find common language for communication between participants not all generations speck one language (especially youth);

The only option for joint meetings is third-country which is not always possible and is less cost effective;

Not all generations have equal skills in information technologies for communication;

Lack of availability of internet especially in rural areas and regions which limits opportunity for distance communication and networking;

Hard to identify participants from the divided communities with similar competencies, experience and knowledge on women's rights, gender equality issues and in reporting;

Lessons learned

Existing women's organizations in different locations represent as an opportunity for mobilizing recourses and identifying participants/beneficiaries;

Past joint work experiences and networks amongst women's NGOs in divided communities represent as one of the positively contributing factors for building trust to implement these type of initiatives;

Women demonstrate more motivation and interest to innovative approaches for confidence building initiatives such as using social media, visual communication and multimedia tools as advocacy strategies;

Joint confidence building meetings are much more affective when they are result based, with clearly defined objectives and aim to increase and create valuable capacity among participants;

Participants/reporters showed commitment and willingness to participate in future joint trainings as capacity building training also contributed to their skills' training and professional growth;