



Enhancing the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 across the OSCE Region: Parliamentarians' Contribution to Women, Peace and Security

Call for Action – Helsinki +50 Process

Wednesday, 8 September 2021, 14:30 – 17:00 CEST, online

CONCEPT NOTE

2020 marked the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, a milestone resolution which recognizes women's participation as central to conflict prevention, management and resolution. The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda showcases the fundamental role of women in conflict resolution while concentrating on the link between gender inequality and conflict, as well as on its impact on women and girls. Throughout the past 2 decades, the UN Security Council adopted 10 resolutions¹ aimed at fostering the universal recognition of women's rights as human rights, while underlining the importance of full and equal participation of women in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes with a view to ensuring long-lasting and sustainable peace. The COVID-19 pandemic has served to exemplify the indispensable role of women in preventing and responding to persisting and new security threats and brought to light the disproportionate impact of such threats on women and girls.

Despite the WPS agenda providing the international community with an extensive and valuable acquis, progress on its implementation has been met with significant challenges and setbacks. According to a 2019 independent assessment commissioned by UN Women, only 50 % of the gender-related recommendations from the UN's Peace and Security Reviews have been implemented and 10 % had either regressed or remained stagnant². As of November 2020, 92 (47%) UN Member States and territories had adopted at least one NAP on WPS³.

In September 2020, UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, reiterated his call on advancing the WPS agenda under five key recommendations, namely: enhancing women's equal and meaningful participation in peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts, placing women's human rights at the forefront, encouraging greater investment in the social infrastructure and services that buttress human security, initiating a gender data revolution on WPS that reaches the general public and ensuring a universal compliance with a 15 % minimum

¹ In total, the UN Security Council has adopted 10 resolutions under the WPS agenda: *SCR 1325 (2000)*, *1820 (2008)*, *SCR 1888 (2009)*, *SCR 1889 (2009)*, *SCR 1960 (2010)*, *SCR 2106 (2013)*, *SCR 2122 (2013)*, *SCR 2242 (2015)*, *SCR 2467 (2019)* and *2493 (2019)*.

² UNDP, *An important milestone for women, peace and security*, Asako Okai, November 10, 2020

³ UN Women, Independent Evaluation and Audit Services (IEAS), *TRANSFORM magazine*, Issue 21/June 2021

of all official development assistance to conflict-affected countries being dedicated to advancing gender equality⁴.

The OSCE has committed itself to support the implementation of the WPS and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agendas across its 57 participating States. Its commitment has been outlined in its 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, in which encouraging women's participation in conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation is enlisted as a priority. The OSCE has early affirmed the link between security and sustainable development with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. The Organization's comprehensive approach to security rests on the recognition that conflicts may arise not only from political and military threats but also from economic tensions, environmental degradation, social insecurity and violations of individual's rights, all relevant for the achievement of the SDGs.

In the context of the 50th Anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act in 2025 (H+50), the OSCE PA has offered its contribution through its [Call for Action – Helsinki +50 initiative](#) to revive political interest in the OSCE by participating States and enhance the effectiveness of the Organization. With a view towards further implementing UNSCR 1325, and in line with its targeted acquis on WPS⁵, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly is hosting this event to discuss how political leaders and parliamentarians across the OSCE region can further the WPS agenda and how to reflect any relevant recommendations by the Parliamentary Assembly in the Helsinki+50 context. The event will be part of the Parliamentary Assembly's efforts to bring added value to advancing multilateralism and promoting lasting and sustainable peace within the OSCE region.

Invited speakers and participants will have an opportunity to exchange their views and valuable insight on the role of national parliaments and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in, *inter alia*, ensuring the full and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and resolution, protecting women and girls from gender-based violence in armed conflict as well as advancing broader gender equality throughout all phases of the conflict cycle. The participants will deliberate on the added value the parliamentarians bring to the implementation of the WPS not only in their functions of law-making and oversight, but also in their capacity as people's elected representatives that can use their platforms to generate political interest and mobilize action with regard to this topic.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- OSCE PA Members
- Representatives of relevant OSCE executive structures
- Interested signatories of the OSCE Call for Action

⁴ UN Security Council, [Report of the Secretary General](#), p.36-37, September 25, 2020

⁵ The Assembly's focus on WPS has been continuous. In its most recent [2019 Luxembourg Declaration](#) the PA focused on the role of parliaments in advancing sustainable development to promote security. The OSCE PA called for "*the full implementation of the OSCE's 2004 Action Plan on the Promotion of Gender Equality and UNSCR 1325 and associated Resolutions, and urged OSCE participating States to identify priorities, allocate necessary resources and commit to government action to promote the meaningful participation in the settlement of international disputes and post-conflict peacebuilding of a broad range of women with diverse life experiences, including racialized women, women with disabilities and low-income women*".

AGENDA

14:30 – 14:45 Welcoming remarks

- *Ms. Margareta Cederfelt*, OSCE PA President
- *Mr. Roberto Montella*, OSCE PA Secretary General

14:45 – 15:45 Panel Discussion

Panellists:

- *H.E. Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov*, OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities
- *Hon. Hedy Fry*, OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues, Head of the Canadian Delegation to the OSCE PA
- *H.E. Ambassador Neil Bush*, Head of the UK Delegation to the OSCE, Chair of the OSCE MenEngage Network
- *H.E. Ambassador Tuula Yrjölä*, Director of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre and Deputy Head of the OSCE Secretariat
- *Ms. Kari Henriksen*, OSCE PA Special Representative on South Caucasus

15:45 – 16:45 Debate

16:45 – 17:00 Concluding remarks

- *H.E. Ambassador Lamberto Zannier*, OSCE PA High-Level Expert

MODALITIES

Time: 14:30-17:00 (CEST)

Date: Wednesday, 8 September 2021

Language: English-Russian interpretation will be provided through the remote simultaneous interpretation platform “Interprefy”.

Technology: The event will be held through the WebEx video-conferencing platform.

Registration: Please click [here](#) and fill out the form by **Tuesday 7 September 17:00 CEST**. Contact Ms. Aidyn Kaiyrbekova at aidyn.kaiyrbekova@oscepa.dk or +43 676 720 99 07 for any issues related to registration.