

Fact Sheet:

The U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace & Security and Their Work Relating to UNSCR 1325 and the U.S. National Action Plan

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

U.N. Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is a framework for more effective conflict resolution and sustainable peacebuilding. The Security Council unanimously adopted the resolution in October 2000, following persistent advocacy by grassroots civil society groups. UNSCR 1325 addresses not only the inordinate impact of war on women, but also the pivotal role women should and do play in conflict management, conflict resolution, and sustainable peace. UNSCR 1325's framework is comprised of four pillars—participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery.

U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace & Security (U.S. NAP)

The U.S. NAP was signed as part of an Executive Order by President Barack Obama on December 19, 2011. This Executive Order brings the women, peace, and security agenda into national policy and states that the following actions will be taken:

- Promote women's participation in conflict prevention, management, and resolution, as well as in post-conflict relief and recovery, advance peace, national security, economic and social development, and international cooperation;
- Recognize that sexual violence, when used or commissioned as a tactic of war or as a part of a widespread or systematic attack against civilians, can exacerbate and prolong armed conflict and can impede the restoration of peace and security;
- The U.S. government will have a National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security.

The U.S. NAP calls for women to be included in five major areas: national integration and institutionalization, participation in peace processes and decision-making, protection from violence, conflict prevention, and access to relief and recovery. The U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Defense have produced implementation plans for the U.S. NAP.

The U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace & Security (CSWG)

The U.S. Civil Society Working Group (CSWG) is a network of experts, NGOs, and academics with years of experience working on issues involving women, war, and peace. Inspired by and building upon the international Women, Peace, and Security agenda, the CSWG informs, promotes, facilitates, and monitors the meaningful implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

The CSWG has published several key documents to aid in the implementation of the U.S. NAP. *Guidance for the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security* and *U.S. Civil Society Working Group Expert Statement for the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security* were produced in 2011. In 2012 the CSWG put forward *Ten Recommended Action Points in the First 150 Days of the U.S. NAP*. The CSWG continues to hold consultations with the U.S. Department of State, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and the U.S. Department of Defense to discuss issues of U.S. NAP implementation as well as to help address challenges moving forward.