



Ten years Security Council Resolution 1325

Centre for Women
UN- ESCWA

A quarterly ECW issuance aiming at raising the gender awareness and responsiveness through highlighting the gender dimensions in various fields.

The resolution as milestone for the empowerment of women

The extent to which women are able to contribute to conflict resolution and peace building is one of the most important indicators for good governance and empowerment of women, especially when it comes to the representation of women in decision making processes. For many decades, member states of the United Nations and various entities of the United Nations system discussed how conflict and war affect women differently from men, and how their role for conflict resolution and peace building differs from the role that men play.

On 31 October 2000, after decades of negotiating, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. The resolution highlights the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building, urges member states to provide adequate protection for women and girls in conflict situations and to increase the representation of women in conflict resolution and peace building activities. The adoption of the resolution was a major breakthrough for the rights of women in the context of conflict – in terms of right to protection as well as of right to participation in all stages of negotiations and resolution of conflict and re-establishment of peace. For the first time in history, the gender dimension of conflict, conflict resolution and peace building was highlighted, and women were given an active role in addressing and ending conflict, while at the same time policy makers were given the responsibility to provide women with access to decision-making spheres and full participation in conflict resolution and peace building.

Main aspects of the resolution

- Increased representation on decision-making levels in member states and in the UN
- Increasing awareness for the gender perspective of conflict and peacekeeping, and providing adequate training to all involved
- Provide special protection to women and girls to gender-specific effects of conflict and war, e.g. gender-based violence and rape
- Pay special attention to needs of women and girls when planning activities related to protection and humanitarian aid

Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict

Ms. Margot Wallström was appointed in February 2010 and started the campaign *Stop Rape Now*

www.stoprapenow.org



Events in ESCWA related to the ten year anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325

- ▶ Ten years anniversary on women, peace and security, 25-26 October 2010:
 - Launch of the ECW flagship publication *Status of Arab Women: Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building*
 - Round table discussion *Ten years 1325: where are we now?*
 - Training workshop for member countries on how to draft national action plans for the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325

Highlights:

- The resolution as milestone for the empowerment of women
- From the United Nations Charter to UNSCR 1325
- How ESCWA celebrated the ten years anniversary of the resolution
- The study "Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building"

From the United Nations Charter to UNSCR 1325

The commitment of the United Nations to save its Member States from war is inscribed in the United Nations Charter. Despite this fundamental commitment, the broad acknowledgement of the devastating effects of armed conflict and war on women and girls and the role of women for conflict resolution and peace building has only grown slowly and has faced some challenges along the way.

In 1969, the Commission on the Status of Women addressed the need for special protection of women and children in armed conflict and war and in humanitarian emergencies. Inspired by this first discussion the General Assembly took up the issue and adopted the Declaration on the Protection of Women and Children in Emergency and Armed Conflict, which became an important document for the United Nations World Conferences on Women.

All four United Nations World Conferences on Women – Mexico in 1975, Copenhagen in 1980, Nairobi in 1985 and Beijing in 1995 – emphasized the linkages between gender equality, development and peace. While in the first years the discussion addressed the basic linkages and the role of women for peace and development, it later moved to analysing the impact of war on women and girls and started elaborating how women and girls can contribute to conflict resolution and peace building.

The World Conference on the International Year of Women in Mexico City in 1975 prepared the ground for drafting the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), often called the women's bill of rights, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 1979, then presented and discussed at the World Conference on the United Nations Decade for Women in Copenhagen in 1980, and entered into force in 1981.

The Nairobi World Conference in 1985 took up the issue of women's role for conflict resolution and peace building, and for the first time highlighted the various existing forms of violence against women in their daily lives and in all societies and geographical regions as major obstacle for peace and development.

In 1993, the General Assembly adopted the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and in 1994 a Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences was appointed.

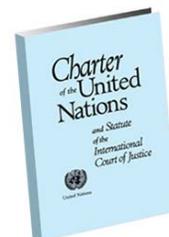
At the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995 in Beijing, women and armed conflict and war were identified as one of the twelve critical areas of concern, and the Beijing Platform for Action proposed a number of strategic activities and objectives for stakeholders for the protection of civilians, especially women and girls, in conflict. These commitments were reaffirmed in 2000 in a General Assembly session dedicated to women, development and peace, and again at the ten-year review of Beijing in 2005.

The topic of children in armed conflict is closely linked to that of women and peace, and the work on the former has always contributed to in-depth understanding and awareness-raising of the latter.

In March 2000, the Security Council issued a Presidential Statement on the occasion of International Women's Day, in which the linkage between gender equality and peace and the importance of women's full participation in peace operations were highlighted.

Also in 2000, the Secretary-General undertook an in-depth review of all United Nations peace and security activities, which found that there was a clear need for more equitable gender representation in the leadership of peacekeeping missions. The report led to the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Operations, which was adopted in June 2000.

As a result of all above steps, on 31 October 2000, under presidency of Namibia, the Security Council adopted resolution 1325 on women, peace and development. This resolution has become one of the most important and most translated resolutions of the Security Council, and led to a number of changes. Within the United Nations system, an Inter-Agency taskforce on Women, Peace and Security has been established and is coordinating the efforts towards the implementation of the resolution. In peace keeping operations and at United Nations headquarters, gender advisers have been deployed, training materials on gender issues have been developed and are being implemented, and more comprehensive information and data on women and gender issues has been collected and made available.



How ESCWA celebrated the ten years anniversary of the resolution

In celebration of the ten year anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, the ESCWA Centre for Women with the support of UNIFEM (part of UN Women) Arab states regional office, has dedicated a two-day event with three activities to the commemoration of this important landmark for the advancement of women.

The anniversary started with the launch of the flagship publication *Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building*. The launch was followed by a round table discussion with experts from the United Nations, governmental organisations, civil society organizations and academia, who discussed the study as well as United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the way forward for better implementation. The anniversary commemoration was rounded up by an intensive training workshop for participants from Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine and Yemen on how to draft national action plans for implementing the resolution on national level.



Elements of the anniversary:

- Launch of flagship publication Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building
- Round table discussion on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Ten years on – where are we now?
- Hands-on training workshop for interested member countries on drafting action plans for the implementation of the resolution

The study “Means to strengthen the role of women in conflict resolution and peace building”

The role of women in conflict resolution and peace building is one of the most important indicators for progress made by member countries in the area of empowerment of women, especially when it comes to the representation of women in political decision making processes. For that reason, the ESCWA Centre for Women undertook the initiative to assess the implementation of international legal instruments, including United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, for the protection of women and girls in armed conflict and war as well as for their integration in conflict resolution and peace building in the ESCWA member countries.

The study analyses how the implementation of such international legal instruments can – and hopefully will – contribute to better protection of girls and women in conflict situations. It comprises four parts: a regional overview and three country studies (Lebanon, Palestine and Iraq).

The regional overview provides a brief background on the situation of conflict in the ESCWA region, giving special attention to the devastating consequences of armed conflict and war specifically on women and girls. It then discusses how the implementation of international legal instruments, specifically Security Council Resolution 1325 and the subsequent Security Council Resolution 1820 that was adopted in 2008, can contribute to better protection of their rights and provides a number of concrete recommendations for policy makers. It also mentions the importance of the full implementation of CEDAW and the lifting of reservations by member states.

It further points out ten factors that have enabled a devastating escalation of the negative effects armed conflict and war have had specifically on women, among those the lack of awareness for the gender dimension of conflict and war, the lack of good governance, and the lack of international legal instruments before Security Council Resolution 1325. It concludes that the increased awareness and attention the situation of women in armed conflict and war gained after the resolution and related documents, is a positive sign and a step in the right direction and that although we still see horrendous crimes against women in current conflicts sets the scene for hope and action. It provides ten recommendations for international organizations, governments and the civil society how to make the best possible use of these international legal instruments, specifically Security Council Resolution 1325 for the better protection of women and increased involvement of women in conflict resolution and peace building.

The three country studies provide an insight into the concrete situation of women under occupation and during war and armed conflict in each of the countries, and show how the implementation of international legal instruments can contribute to the protection of human rights in these concrete conflict situations and to improved conflict resolution and peace building by integrating women into the process. They provide detailed information on each country's situation separately, but also highlight similarities, and provide a number of recommendations for further improvement and increased implementation of the available international legal instruments.

The study was prepared by the ESCWA Centre for Women in close cooperation with three national consultants and one regional consultant, and was discussed and fine-tuned in an expert group meeting at the UN-House Beirut in November 2009.

About Our Centre...

The ESCWA Centre for Women was established on October 1, 2003, following the Commission's adoption of Resolution 240(XXII). This resolution, recognizing that a fundamental part of development is the empowerment of women, called for the creation of a Committee on Women comprising the member countries, and for the establishment of a women's Centre at ESCWA. The Centre continues and expands on the work carried out by the Women Empowerment and Gender Mainstreaming Team, formerly a part of the Social Development Division at ESCWA.

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