

HÖFÐI HOUSE REPORT 2019



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CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Twenty years have passed since the United Nations Security Council adopted its landmark resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, and women want to know: where are we now?

Resolution 1325 addresses the disproportionate and unique impacts that conflict and war have on women and girls specifically, in addition to recognising the importance of including women at all stages of the peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes. **UNSCR 1325** formally acknowledges the fact that women must be equal partners in peacebuilding efforts if sustainable peace and systemic change are to be achieved.

The Power Together: Reykjavik Summit assembles an astounding group of global women leaders each year, whose expertise and experience are paramount in critically assessing the progress and shortcomings of women in peace and security, in addition to outlining innovative future actions.

According to UN Women, women continue to be significantly marginalised in peacebuilding processes. Progress remains stagnant; between 1992 and 2018, women represented 13 percent of negotiators, 3 percent of mediators and only 4 percent of signatories in notable peace processes.¹

Additionally, governments and organisations often fail to acknowledge the critical role that women play in informal peace processes.²

This lack of substantial improvement, despite extensive research³ revealing the importance of female participation to increase the sustainability, durability and quality of peace, is disheartening.

Excluding women from formal diplomatic structures, while simultaneously failing to recognise the indispensable work they do in less formal settings, is preventing structural change. Against this background, **Women Political Leaders (WPL)** remains committed to amplifying the essential contributions of women in peace and security.

At the **PowerTogether: Reykjavik Summit 2019**, WPL didn't just create a "seat at the table" for women leaders, rather it afforded them their very own space to share their solutions and ideas about practical and meaningful solutions for the future, in a place - the Höfði House - marked by historical decisions of the past.

The PowerTogether: Reykjavik Summit 2019 convened a group of women from the upper echelons of political leadership. Presidents, Prime Ministers, civil society powerhouses and changemakers debated, discussed and reflected upon the countless challenges that linger for women in peace and security. While these women expressed many diverse thoughts, of one point they were decidedly certain: it's time for a new approach that demands accountability and measurable results. Women, and the world, cannot afford to wait another twenty years for purposeful change.



HÖFÐI HOUSE : A HISTORIC LEGACY

The Höfði House embodies the transformative power of peacebuilding dialogue. Originally built in 1909 for the French Consul to Iceland, this beautiful building has hosted some of the world's leading diplomats, politicians and changemakers,⁴ including the historic summit between American President Ronald Reagan and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986, which would help bring about the end of the Cold War.

The historical impact of the Höfði House in conjunction with Iceland's outstanding record as a global leader in equality initiatives between women and men make it the perfect location for women leaders to contemplate the most important peace and security issues of our time.



The Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre at the University of Iceland takes its name from this symbolic house in a reference to the role Iceland played as a small non-militarised state in the conflict between two superpowers. The Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre, a collaborative effort of the City of Reykjavik and the University of Iceland, was established in October 2016. It is a forum for international multidisciplinary cooperation, with an emphasis on peacebuilding "from below", understanding "the local" in peace processes, and sub/non-state actor roles as either spoilers or supporters of peace. The centre focuses on unconventional actors in international relations, such as cities, businesses, NGOs, citizens, women and minority groups (including queer groups, immigrants, asylum seekers and refugees), building on theories of paradiplomacy and grassroots efforts in peacebuilding. The Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre is run under the auspices of the Institute of International Affairs (IIA) at the University of Iceland, a multidisciplinary organisation, which

provides education, promotes research, and carries out service projects in the field of international relations. The creation of the Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre has led to an expansion of the research area of the IIA with greater emphasis on the challenges now facing modern societies, such as climate change, immigration and refugee issues, and the rise of populist and nationalist rhetoric.

FOREWORD

2020 : AMPLIFYING VOICES TO ACCELERATE EQUALITY

2020 will mark twenty years since the landmark passing of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. To this day, 80 countries have pledged to implement resolution 1325 through the use of National Action Plans. UNSCR 1325 remains one of the most outstanding achievements for women's leadership and equality worldwide.

So, what changes can women in peace, security and beyond expect to see today? How has the transformative nature of this resolution altered the way we conduct peacekeeping operations, negotiations and conflict management?

Despite serious progress, such as increased international awareness and acceptance of the role that sexual violence plays in conflict and the benefits of including women in peacebuilding processes, the advancements made have largely been symbolic in nature. A lack of implementation and accountability mechanisms have made it difficult to deliver on the ambitious recommendations of UNSCR 1325. While rhetoric abounds, practical programmes are disconcertingly absent.

In the spirit of global leadership and shaping an international community where women and men are equal, Women Political Leaders (WPL), in cooperation with the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL), the University of Iceland and the Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre, hosted its second annual **Power Together: Reykjavik Summit** at the prestigious Höfði House.

WPL earnestly recognises the missed opportunities and hindered progress that a global lack of women in peace and security processes, at all levels, has for the wellbeing of both men and women. That is why WPL reconvened women leaders from the upper echelons of political office to critically assess the situation at hand.

Innovative and transformative threats to peace worldwide, demand transformative solutions. Women are incredibly capable of providing these types of solutions and are ready to do so. The question remains: how can we realise the pledges of UNSCR 1325 and accelerate women's overall involvement in peace and security? What can policymakers, international institutions, governments and civil society actors do to ensure that words are revolutionized into action?

The WPL Power Together: Reykjavik Summit 2019 is ready once more to amplify and accelerate change, and it will continue to do so until every country in the world has successfully implemented UNSCR 1325.

Silvana Koch-Mehrin
Founder & President,
Women Political Leaders

Hanna Birna Kristjánsdóttir
Chair of the Board,
Women Political Leaders

FOREWORD

PREFACE HÖFÐI HOUSE REYKJAVÍK PEACE CENTRE AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ICELAND

Women, minority groups, citizens, cities and other sub- and non-state actors are taking on a bigger role in the international arena, creating new power dynamics and a greater need for critical, unconventional and inclusive approaches to peace and conflict studies and processes. These demands emerge simultaneously with increased nationalism and extremism, where populist parties and politicians have gained in global prominence. Technological advances have made it easier for marginalized and oppressed groups to mobilize, whilst giving populists a greater platform for spreading mis- and disinformation on critical issues, such as climate change, migration, race and gender. This phenomenon makes explicit the different and multifaceted role women can play on the international arena, from shaking every part of the societal structure in the #metoo movement, to being attacked in a brutal war against women at the hands of extremist and terrorist groups like ISIS and Boko Haram.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 stresses the important role women should have in conflict resolution and responses, as well as the urgency of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Twenty years on women still haven't really gained a seat at the table, despite research showing their instrumental role in peace processes for sustainable peace. It is thus even more vital to ensure that the promises of 1325 are fulfilled, pushing for National Action Plans and the funding needed to effect a real change. Today's challenges call for a critical approach and a closer look at the discourse on peace and security - at the UN level, as well as in policymaking on state and municipality level - and how women are portrayed in that discourse. Does the discourse take into account the complex role of women in the international arena or is it based on binary and gendered ideas of women and men as either victims or perpetrators of violence?

It is important to pave the way for the words to become action. We believe Iceland has a lot to offer to this international dialogue; not due to its experience of war and armed conflict – after all Iceland is repeatedly ranked the most peaceful country in the world (Global Peace Index) but precisely because of the absence of war and conflict. Additionally, Iceland's success in striving towards gender equality provides a solid platform for a deeper conversation about how to reach the ultimate goal of a gender equal world.

We want to thank all of the women leaders for keeping the dialogue alive and joining us for an enlightening discussion on women, peace and security in Höfði House. Special thanks go to the Council of Women World Leaders (CWWL) for the organisation of this vital meeting of women leaders in Höfði House.

Auður Örlýgsdóttir

Project manager at Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre at the University of Iceland

Pia Elizabeth Hansson

Director of Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre at the University of Iceland

SESSION TOPICS & GUIDING QUESTIONS

Taking a seat to stand up for women's equality: how the integrated inclusion of women can improve peacebuilding processes

Uzra Zeya, Alliance for Peacebuilding President and CEO, framed the discussion along three, mutually reinforcing lines of effort: 1) claiming a seat at the table for women in peace processes and broader conflict prevention, 2) closing the data gap with respect to women's roles in informal peacebuilding, and 3) encouraging and funding National Action Plans as a means to drive progress on WPS.

I. Claiming a Seat at the Table

Women account for nearly 50% of the global population, yet have been continually excluded from peacebuilding processes as formal participants. This exclusion has prevailed despite evidence establishing women's inclusion in conflict prevention and resolution as critical to the sustainability, durability, and overall success of peace.⁵

From Northern Ireland to Liberia to Colombia, historical experience shows that higher levels of women's participation can improve outcomes before, during, and after conflict. Consequently, the inclusion of women in peace processes is not just a nice thing to do, it's an imperative if we wish to avoid regression or return to conflict.

In spite of strong evidence favoring the inclusion of women, the current state of the peacemaking field tells us a vastly different story. Women made up approximately 2% of mediators, 8% of negotiators and 5% of witnesses and signatories in official peace talks between 1992 and 2019.⁶ Only 2% of funding dedicated to peace and security in fragile states goes to gender equality or women's empowerment.⁷ In a review of 1,187 peace agreements between 1990-2017, only 19% contained any reference to women and only 5% mentioned conflict-related gender-based violence.⁸

Guiding Questions

- In light of the twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325, how can we translate aspirations into action?
- How can women claim their rightful seat at the table in formal global peace processes, allowing more effective responses to the threat of conflict?
- What role do donor nations have in leveraging aid to redress exclusion of women from peace processes? How could this play out in current ongoing contexts, such as Afghanistan, Syria, Yemen, Venezuela, and Ukraine?
- How can regional and multilateral organizations help achieve meaningful progress in this area?

2. Closing the data gap

The case for including women in formal peace processes is clear. However, there is a substantial absence of evidence regarding the impact of the more informal roles women play in peacebuilding.

While it is true that women suffer in higher numbers from the indirect effects of conflicts, such as human rights abuses, economic devastation, social order breakdown and spread of infectious diseases, reducing them to a singular narrative as the "victim," ignores their integral role helping at risk communities endure and recover from violent conflict.

Because women often operate outside of formal structures, and are not mobilisers of fighting forces, they tend to be viewed as less threatening. Strategically, this grants women access to information and opportunities that are otherwise not commonly available to male leaders.⁹ Additionally, studies have demonstrated that women are more likely to build coalitions across divides as they tend to reject hierarchies based on group belonging.

Guiding Questions:

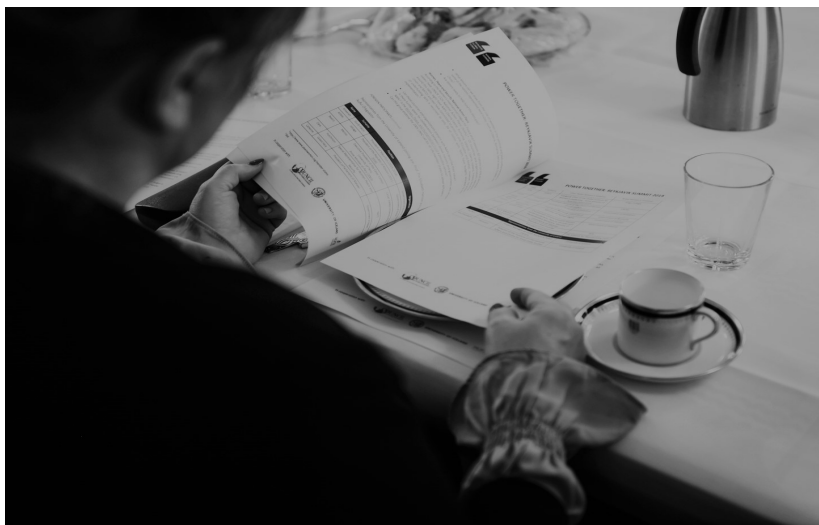
- How can we close the data gap with respect to women's informal but vital roles in peace efforts, especially at the community level?
- What lessons can we draw from the role of women in the political and post-conflict transitions in some of the nations represented here today, such as Liberia, Romania, Sierra Leone, Ecuador, and China?
- Are donors ready to help fund this data gap?

3. Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans

According to the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 82 nations (or 42% of UN member states) have UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs). Of the countries and organizations represented around this table, eight have NAPs (Sierra Leone, Romania, Iceland, Liberia, Iceland, Finland, the African Union and NATO) and two have committed to producing their own National Action Plan (Ecuador and Malta). However, the issue of underfunding women, peace and security persists as only 34 of the 82 states with NAPs have specific budgets allocated for their implementation.¹⁰

Guiding Questions:

- Can the countries and organizations present with NAPs describe their value?
- Is there further space for collaboration between donor nations and governments with unfunded NAPs? Is the Women, Peace and Humanitarian Fund a possible vehicle for this?
- Can this group endorse the 2005 UNSC call for all UN member states to adopt Women, Peace and Security NAPs?



CONFERENCE NARRATIVE

IT'S TIME TO DECIDE: WHAT SIDE OF HISTORY WILL YOU BE ON?

The impending twentieth anniversary of the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, a pivotal resolution that recognises the differential impact that conflict and war have on women, as well as women's critical role in peacebuilding efforts, amplified the significance of the second annual Power Together: Reykjavik Summit at the Höfði House. Building upon the declaration produced at the inaugural summit in 2018, this year's meeting allowed women leaders to delve deeper into the specific roles that women occupy in conflict management and peace processes.

The discussion investigated a variety of pressing topics, from the novel role of artificial intelligence increasing wartime inequalities to the inability of decision makers to define new security risks like climate change. The central conclusion, however, focused on the importance of developing concrete and context-specific mechanisms to help successfully implement existing legislation. The women leaders noted that a major gap exists between advocacy and implementation. If the world truly wishes to achieve gender equality and reap the proven benefits of having increased female participation



in peace and conflict management, then it must urgently address this divide. Otherwise, we may find ourselves waiting another twenty years for tangible change.

CONVERSATION

The opening remarks of the discussion noted that the security of women in conflict areas is deteriorating, due in large part to new threats like artificial intelligence and algorithmic military systems. Because of the constantly evolving developments, some questioned whether or not it would be wise to propose amendments to the declaration.

As the conversation moved forward, the perceived notion of incompatibility between women and militarism came into play with participants pointing out that having a military and being militaristic are completely different phenomena. Therefore, women must be more active in defining their role within militaries as they can shift the conversation about militarism and disarmament to a more productive route. A route that does not categorically involve aggression or hostility.

The need for women to more openly discuss militarism, war and weapons introduced a new, and essential, point to the exchange: women are able to occupy a variety of multifaceted roles in conflict management, peacebuilding and negotiation processes. Policymakers and global society must cease boxing women into the singular stereotypical role of “victim” if the true impact and involvement of women is to be recognised and accurately understood.

In order to achieve this ambition, it is crucial that institutions, like the UN, examine their own systems, best practices and failures. For example, this may involve more painful reflections and explicit sanctions regarding the sexual abuses perpetrated by peacekeepers and aid workers.

It may also involve the critical evaluation of NAPs (National Action Plans), which were developed by states to help actualise the targets goals of UNSCR 1325. Because these documents are not legally binding, the women leaders have often found themselves feeling frustrated at the lack of accountability and implementation mechanisms. They asked themselves: what is the difference between twenty years ago and today?

To revitalise the UNSCR 1325, the discussants suggested sharing advice, best practices and funding ideas with governments, Ministers of Finance and other interested parties. In particular, the lack of funding raised substantial concerns as, globally, approximately 1% of funding for development aid is allocated to peacebuilding efforts. This means that it is also imperative that civil society organisations and local solutions are factored into the funding equation.

Donor politics also play into the dilemma surrounding funding, and some participants wondered what to do when donor states are part of the problem. In addition, certain states are ignoring new, unprecedented challenges. The global peace and security landscape is constantly evolving and solutions must evolve accordingly. The women leaders lamented the inability of decision makers to listen to these new challenges, which include water shortages and the effects of climate change. While these may seem like non-traditional peacebuilding and conflict issues, they are in fact twenty-first century issues that reflect current developments in the international arena.

Another twenty-first century challenge that needs to be comprehensively addressed is the cultural and societal differences that dictate circumstances in different countries. Bearing this in mind, the summit participants thought that it might be useful to specify point 3 of the outcome declaration.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, the women leaders utilised their expertise, insight and experience to investigate the most pressing issues facing women on their journey to equality in peace and security spheres. This investigation led them to question the progress that has been made, and opportunities that have been missed, since the implementation of UNSCR 1325 almost twenty years ago. Is it time to look beyond the horizon of NAPs and find a new way to propel women's leadership in all areas of security? Should a proposal be made for the Commission on the Status of Women in this regard?

As this discussion clearly demonstrates, women political leaders are at the forefront of modern conflict and peacebuilding challenges. Their transformative approach toward peace and security, combined with a critical eye and holistic understanding, represents the future of peace and security dialogue. By reaffirming the commitments of the 2018 Hōfōi House declaration and underscoring key areas for further action and debate, these women continue to stand on the right side of history. Now, it's up to an international community of policymakers, civil society organisations, local communities and individuals to decide which side of history they wish to stand on.

DECLARATION

Women Leaders: Power, Together Declaration 2019

The Höfði House symbolizes change, transformation and, most importantly, peace. The building is the site of the historic 1986 summit between American President Ronald Reagan and Soviet Premier Mikhail Gorbachev which eventually led to the end of the Cold War. Building on the Women Leaders: Power Together Declaration 2018, and with the imminent 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020, women leaders at the Reykjavík Summit 2019 call on all leaders to ensure peace and security, and to include the following measures:

- We call on all national leaders of countries (at risk of conflict, in an ongoing conflict situation or post- conflict setting) to ensure women's participation in negotiation and implementation of peace agreements and peace processes in order to contribute to their sustainability, durability and success.
- We call on donor nations to leverage aid to redress exclusion of women from peace processes.
- We call on all stakeholders involved in a peace agreement and peace processes to address conflict-related gender-based violence.
- We call on national governments, international organisations, NGOs and donors, to support collection of evidence on the impact of the more informal roles of women in peacebuilding, e.g. women as leaders of peacebuilding movements, women's role as mediators, women's role within religion, women as community advocates of peace, and even women as perpetrators of violence.
- We call on global and national leaders and donor nations to prioritize and allocate budget to the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans (NAPs), and for all UN member states to commit to NAPs, in anticipation of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020.

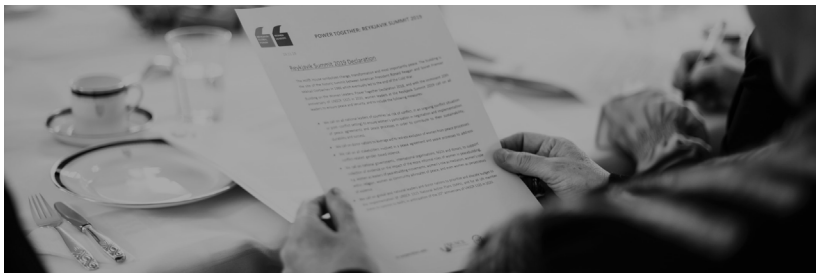
What's Next

As Michelle Bachelet, the United Nations Commissioner for Human Rights, stated “We simply can no longer afford to deny the full potential of one half of the population. The world needs to tap into the talent and wisdom of women. Whether the issue is food security, economic recovery, health, or peace and security, the participation of women is needed now more than ever.”

In line with these poignant words, Women Political Leaders will continue its annual presence at Davos and the annual Munich Security Conference to advance the agenda of women in peace and security. WPL is also looking forward to its annual participation at the SDG Global Festival of Action. In 2020 WPL will host a session on women's leadership and challenging perceptions that lead to the exclusion of, and bias against, female leaders.

Slowly, yet surely, the world is beginning to realise the transformative effects that female leadership has had, and could have, on peace and security issues. By continuing to promote this important conversation at the second annual Power Together: Reykjavik Summit, Women Political Leaders hopes to not only construct a narrative in which women leaders are given a seat at the decision-making table, but also a narrative in which they can define their own role(s) in peace and security spheres.

For more information on all of our upcoming events, past advocacy projects and reports please visit the WPL website at: <https://www.womenpoliticalleaders.org/> or send an email to: mail@wpleaders.org.



SHARING PERSPECTIVES

A collection of contemplations, ideas, concerns and propositions from the women political leaders attending the Summit who aim to define a new peace and security agenda in which women are comprehensively integrated, and urgent new threats are ethically and appropriately addressed.



“ Women have always been the unsung heroes when it comes to recognizing their contribution in conflicts, peacebuilding, peace-keeping and in the reconstruction processes.

Sustainable peace is achievable if and only when we recognize that women are part of the solution. Honouring the contribution of those who have fallen ensures her legacy. **”**

Ameenah Gurib Fakim

President of Mauritius (2015-2018)

“ The world has witnessed that in order to create a healthy society, where values such as respect, compassion, honesty, civility, acceptance, recognition and appreciation thrive; we need an equal and fair representation of both genders, all nationalities, religions and ethnicities.

Women, who have taken leadership positions, have demonstrated that their approach to more sensitive matters of society has been more empathic than men's and their way of leadership has always been intertwined with the social component by taking into account the wellbeing of the entire community and not the interests of the privileged few.

Including more women in senior level positions in politics and economy is not only the fair and just thing to do, it is also the rational thing to do. **”**

Atifete Jahjaga

President of the Republic of Kosovo (2011-2016)

“ The contribution of women in peacebuilding processes can be summarized in their proactive presence that promotes equal opportunities for both men and women, boosting the development of the democratic regimes. Consequently, the added value that women represent is not only positive for women, but a legacy for the next generations. Thus, we can assume as an unshakable truth that women have been and continue to be the main agents of change, with constant energy and the certainty of acting in a useful and lasting way for the welfare of humanity. ”

Beatriz Merino

Executive President of the Cesar Vallejo University of Peru,
Prime Minister of Peru (2003)

“ Women, Peace and Security is 20 years old. The agenda has come of age and so it is time to reflect, reshape and revise WPS.

We need to unpack the lessons learned from the past two decades and apply them to new and emerging challenges. WPS is and will always be essential, but we must make sure it is also relevant. ”

Clare Hutchinson

Secretary General's Special Representative for Women Peace and Security, NATO

“ Even in the midst of the crippling coronavirus pandemic, violence, conflict and wars still rage around the world as we approach the twentieth anniversary of the passage of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security.

While advances have been made, there is still far to go. In the next 20 years of 1325, women should push for broad and deep conversations and change, moving resources away from militaries and war and toward fulfilling the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The world desperately needs to focus on bolstering human security and not increased militarism under the guise of national security. ”

Jody Williams

Chair, Nobel Women's Initiative,
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1997)

“ On current trends, it will be generations before we see gender equality. The impact of this inequality will be felt on a personal and community level, but will also have widespread economic, political and social ramifications. We know equality of education and opportunity for girls pays dividends for them, their families, communities, nations, and even the planet. We also know involving women in peace negotiations results in higher quality and more durable outcomes.

So we must remove the barriers that prevent girls from learning, and the ceilings that keep women from fulfilling their roles as equals. Real equality starts with education, and ends with women in leadership.”

Julia Gillard

Inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership,
Prime Minister of Australia (2010-2013)

“ Talk is cheap. Twenty years on from UNSCR 1325 we still wrestle with recognising the importance of justice in treating women as equal partners in economic development, peace-building and political leadership. Let's move from concept to concrete action. Women are still being marginalised from real power. How to change this? Blood, sweat, tears and a continued commitment to W-O-R-K. The pandemic uncovered the need to deal with toxic situations. Let's create more safe spaces for women to thrive. Let's make a conscious commitment to support, mentor and nurture women. Let's determine to support each other. Now is the time for meaningful action and follow-up.”

Paula Cox

Premier of Bermuda (2010-2012)

“ As much as we should celebrate UNSCR 1325 for what it was – a landmark at the time – we still need to recognize that the fight is far from over. There needs to be a global acceptance of women’s crucial role in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace-making and peacebuilding. Sustainable peace can only be achieved if women are included in the process. As much as we want to feel optimistic that we are indeed heading in the right direction, what lies ahead is still a long and winding road. Bringing women of influence to the table for a meaningful dialogue is more crucial than ever. Women’s voices need to be heard in political leadership – only then can we hope for a real change to occur. ”

Pia Elísabeth Hansson

Director of the Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland

“ 2020 was to be the “Year of the Woman”; instead it has become the year that all women stare down an unknown enemy, COVID19. UNSC Resolution 1325 was adopted recognizing the organic bond between women citizens and a nation’s survival, which is now under threat due to unprecedented spikes in domestic violence; little is known about its economic impact (annually \$4.4 trillion, 5.0 % of global GDP pre COVID19). To mitigate this, Women leaders must look to investing in women’s economic empowerment. Entrepreneurship & e-commerce are the fail-safe channels when we cross the red sea that is COVID19. ”

Shandana Gulzar Khan

Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians, Deputy Minister and Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Commerce of Pakistan

“ Novel threats to peace and security, like climate change, migration or pandemics demand new solutions; solutions that are both sustainable and transformative. Women have shown time and again that they are able to provide this very type of decision-making power, despite facing substantial obstacles in accessing leadership positions in the peace and security sector.

Twenty years have passed since the global community pledged to fulfil the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and we are still facing the same questions: how can we realise these pledges? What can politicians, institutions, governments and civil society actors do to galvanize action?

WPL is spearheading the international response with its annual gathering for high-level women leaders in politics, security and peacekeeping at the historic Höfði House. To revolutionise the conversation surrounding leadership, security, and peace, women should not have to wait to be invited to the table. This is why WPL has provided a space for them to convene and discuss some of the most important issues of our time. ”

Silvana Koch-Mehrin

Founder and President of Women Political Leaders

“ Two decades is too long to wait for WPS rhetoric to match reality. Women are disproportionately affected by violent conflict and yet remain excluded from formal peace processes, with their vital roles as informal peacebuilders not recognized or adequately understood. The COVID-19 crisis shows disproportionate impact on women, especially in terms of their role as 70% of global health first responders and the surge in domestic violence that has accompanied social distancing restrictions. At the same time, the exemplary performance of women leaders in pandemic response, from New Zealand to Germany to Taiwan, is a powerful reminder of the societal gains that come with inclusive leadership. Peace is not possible without equity and inclusion, and, collectively, we must demand bold action to make this ambition a global norm. ”

Uzra Zeya

President and CEO, Alliance for Peacebuilding

PARTICIPANT PROFILES

Ameenah Gurib Fakim

President of Mauritius (2015-2018)



Ameenah Gurib-Fakim was sworn in as the 6th President and the First Female President of the Republic of Mauritius in 2015 and served in that capacity until March 2018.

She has also worked as the Managing Director of the Centre International de Développement Pharmaceutique (CIDP) Research and Innovation.

As a Founding Member of the Pan African Association of African Medicinal Plants, she co-authored the first ever African Herbal Pharmacopoeia. She has authored and co-edited 30 books and several scientific articles in the field of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

She was elevated to the Order of GCSK by the Government of Mauritius, and received the Legion d'Honneur from the Government of France in 2016. In 2017, she received the lifelong achievement award of the United States Pharmacopoeia-CePat Award and the American Botanical Council Norman Farnsworth Excellence in Botanical Research Award. In 2018, she received the Order of St George at the Semperopernball, Dresden, Germany.

Elected Fellow of several academies and societies, Ms Gurib-Fakim received several international prizes including the 2007 l'Oreal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science, the African Union Commission Award for Women in Science, 2009.

Atifete Jahjaga

President of the Republic of Kosovo (2011-2016)



Atifete Jahjaga served as the fourth, and the first woman President of the Republic of Kosovo. Jahjaga is Kosovo's first non-partisan candidate, the first female head of state in the modern Balkans, and the youngest female world leader to be elected to the highest office. Jahjaga constantly participates in national and international events aimed at empowering women and supporting the survivors of sexual violence during the war. She continues to be resolute in her fight against violent extremism and radicalization and a staunch promoter of peace and stability for the Balkans and beyond.

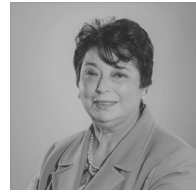
During her presidency, Jahjaga worked diligently to bring women to the forefront of Kosovo's political, economic, and social life as a means of ensuring a long-lasting democracy. In 2012, she hosted the International Women's Summit "Partnership for Change— Empowering Women," gathering 200 leaders from Kosovo, Europe, North America, Africa and the Middle East. The Summit provided a venue for women from the region to cross ethnic barriers and led to the creation of the Pristina Principles, which affirm the rights of women to political participation and representation, economic resources, and access to security and justice. These principles were adopted as a resolution by the Kosovo Assembly.

Jahjaga is a member of the CWWL since 2012 and is recipient of numerous honors and awards, including the Doctor Honoris Causa from the University of Durham (2013), the Leadership in Public Service Award from the Clinton Global Initiative(2014), and the honorary degree of Doctor of Law from the University of Leicester (2015).

In March of 2018, she established the Jahjaga Foundation- an initiative that focuses on youth and women empowerment towards achieving social change in Kosovo.

Beatriz Merino

Executive President of the Cesar Vallejo University of Peru,
Prime Minister of Peru (2003)



Ms. Beatriz Merino, a graduate of the London School of Economics and Harvard Law School, has an extensive career in the public and private sectors. She was a Congresswoman, Senator, Head of the Peruvian Tax Agency, Head of Customs and National Ombudsman elected by more than 2/3 of the Peruvian Congress. She served as the first woman Prime Minister of Peru as well as in Latin America.

In the private sector, Ms. Merino was a global executive. She held various top management positions in Peru, the USA and Latin America at Procter & Gamble Co. At the World Bank, she was a senior specialist for the public sector. She also served as president of the Peruvian Oil and Gas Trade Association and the Peruvian Pension Fund Trade Association.

Ms. Merino has been awarded many honors, including: Harvard University's Lifetime Achievement Award; the Grand Cross of the Order of the Sun, which is the highest civil honor awarded by the President of Peru. She was also a Fulbright Scholar and is currently a member of the Advisory Council of LASPAU, an institution affiliated with Harvard University.

Clare Hutchinson

Secretary General's Special Representative for Women Peace and Security, NATO



Clare Hutchinson was appointed as NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security in January 2018.

She is responsible for the facilitation and coordination of NATO's work on Women, Peace and Security and promoting gender equality across the Alliance.

Ms. Hutchinson worked for the United Nations where she was instrumental in the development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda for the UN Department of Peacekeeping. Working both in New York at UN HQ and in field missions for over two decades, MS. Hutchinson designed and implemented gender and WPS strategies at strategic and operational levels.

A citizen of Canada, she has previously worked in media, risk communications and public relations for governmental and international non-governmental organizations.

Ms. Hutchinson holds Master's Degrees in International Relations (MA) and Political Research (MRes) from the University of Newcastle, UK.

Beatriz Merino is currently the Executive President of the Cesar Vallejo University in Peru.

Catherine Gotani Hara

Speaker of the Parliament, Parliament of Malawi



Honourable Catherine Gotani Hara started her political career as a teenager, running the University of Malawi's (Chancellor College) wing of the Malawi Congress Party, successfully engaging young intellectuals and making it a vibrant political party on campus. She was elected as the Member of Parliament for Mzimba North East in 2009.

Hon Hara served the country as a Minister of Health, Minister of Environment, Deputy Minister of Gender and Deputy Minister of Transport.

She was the first Malawian to be recruited to the level of Programme Officer, for the UK Department for International Development (DFID), where she was responsible for the twin sustainable livelihoods programmes of Malawi and Mozambique.

As a business woman, Hon. Hara has over the years developed a range of businesses in the following areas: Agriculture , Transport , Energy, and Export.

Jody Williams

Chair, Nobel Women's Initiative,
Nobel Peace Prize Laureate (1997)



Jody Williams received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1997 for her work as founding coordinator of the International Campaign to Ban Landmines, which shared the Peace Prize with her that year.

She's an outspoken peace activist who struggles to reclaim the real meaning of peace—a concept which goes far beyond the absence of armed conflict and is defined by human security, not national security. Williams believes that working for peace requires dogged persistence and is not for the faint of heart.

Since January of 2006, she has chaired the Nobel Women's Initiative, which she took the lead in establishing along with her sister Nobel Dr. Shirin Ebadi of Iran. The Initiative uses the prestige of the Nobel Peace Prize and the influence and access of the women Nobel Laureates themselves to support and amplify the voices of women around the world working for She holds the Sam and Cele Keeper Endowed Professorship in Peace and Social Justice at the Graduate College of Social Work at the University of Houston where she has been teaching since 2003. With her 2013 memoir, *My Name is Jody Williams: A Vermont Girl's Winding Path to the Nobel Peace Prize*, she challenges "ordinary" people to be active agents of change.

Julia Gillard

Inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership,
Prime Minister of Australia (2010-2013)



Julia Gillard was sworn in as the 27th Prime Minister of Australia on 24 June 2010 and served in that office until June 2013. Ms Gillard is the first woman to ever serve as Australia's Prime Minister or Deputy Prime Minister.

As Prime Minister and in her previous role as Deputy Prime Minister, Ms Gillard delivered nation-changing policies including reforming Australian education at every level from early childhood to university education, creating an emissions trading scheme to combat climate change, improving health care, commencing the nation's first ever national scheme to care for people with disabilities, addressing the gender pay gap for social and community sector workers and delivering an apology to all those who had suffered through the practice of forced adoptions.

In October 2012, Ms Gillard received worldwide attention for her speech in Parliament on the treatment of women in professional and public life. She currently serves as the inaugural Chair of the Global Institute for Women's Leadership at Kings College in London, which through research, practice and advocacy, is addressing women's under-representation in leadership.

Ms Gillard is the Chair of Beyond Blue, one of Australia's leading mental health awareness bodies; is Chair of global funding body for education in developing countries, the Global Partnership for Education; and is Patron of the Campaign for Female Education.

Laura Liswood

Secretary-General of the Council of Women World Leaders
(CWWL)



Laura Liswood is an international, award-winning speaker who conveys her insights regarding leadership, diversity, women in politics, and business to both large and small audiences. In her speeches, she explores the questions surrounding myths of leadership and lessons of leaders. She looks at best practices of excellent leaders drawing upon the interviews she has conducted with women heads of state and heads of government. She shares insights on how to enhance opportunities to lead and shape one's career successfully. Liswood is an expert on diversity and unconscious bias and why they matter.

Liswood is the Secretary General of the Council of Women World Leaders, located in Washington, DC, which is composed of women presidents, prime ministers, and heads of government. The work of the Council expands the understanding of leadership, establishes a network of resources for high-level women leaders, and provides a forum for the group to contribute input and shape the international issues important to all people. Liswood co-founded the Council with President Vigdís Finnbogadóttir of Iceland. It is the only organization in the world dedicated to women heads of state and government.

From 2002 to 2015, Liswood held the position of Senior Advisor at Goldman Sachs, a global investment bank. She was previously Managing Director, Global Leadership and Diversity for Goldman Sachs.

Liswood holds an M.B.A. from Harvard Business School and a B.A. from California State University, San Diego. She holds a J.D. degree from the University of California, Davis, School of Law, and is admitted to practice law in California and Massachusetts.

Paula Cox

Premier of Bermuda (2010-2012)



The Hon. Paula Ann Cox was first elected to the Bermuda Parliament in 1996. In 1998, she was appointed as the first PLP Minister of Labour, Home Affairs and Public Safety. She has served as Minister of Education and Development, assumed the Ministry of Finance portfolio in 2004 and in 2010 became the Premier of Bermuda and continued to serve as the Minister of Finance and Premier until December 2012. She received a CBE in the Queen's Honours.

In 2011, she received the Caribbean Region's "Woman of the Year Award" and "Women Who Make A Difference" Award from the International Women's Forum. She won two awards from the Women of Great Esteem organization and was judged as the most effective politician in the Best of Bermuda Gold Awards three times.

While no longer an elected public servant, the Hon. Paula A. Cox is a strong proponent and advocate of effective and good governance. She was the Founding President of the International Women's Forum-Bermuda Forum and a former member of the global board of the IWF. Currently, she serves on the Board of the Bermuda Credit Union, chairs the Board of the global African Diaspora Consortium and also is a member of the Advisory Board of the International Black Women's Public Policy Institute (IBWPPI). She is employed as General Counsel for Horseshoe Insurance Services Holdings Ltd., an Artex company.

Pia Elísabeth Hansson

Director of the Institute of International Affairs, University of Iceland



Pia Hansson is the Director of the Institute of International Affairs and its three centres, the Centre for Small States Studies, the Centre for Arctic Studies and Höfði Reykjavík Peace Centre. Pia holds a B.A. degree in Communication from the University of Minnesota and an M.A. degree in International Relations from the University of Iceland. She also pursued an M.F.A. programme in Television Production at the City University of New York. For years Pia worked as a broadcasting producer and director, both in Iceland and abroad, until she became the Media Specialist at the U.S. Embassy in Iceland from 2000-2006. In the winter of 2007-8 Pia served as the Head Spokesperson for the Sri Lanka Monitoring Mission (SLMM), a Nordic ceasefire monitoring mission in Sri Lanka, on behalf of the Icelandic Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

Shireen Mehrunnisa Mazari

Federal Minister for Human Rights, Government of Pakistan



Dr. Mazari holds a B.Sc.(Hon) from the London School of Economics, and a Masters, M. Phil and PhD, from Colombia University. Her PhD thesis was on Concepts of Hegemony & International Regimes: A Case Study of the International Trade & Nonproliferation Regimes.

She was Director General of Institute of Strategic Studies, from 2000 to 2008. Her previous professional assignments include: Consultant on Defense and Security, Editor-in-Chief and Publisher of PULSE Weekly, Chairperson and Associate Professor in Quaid-i-Azam University. While at Quaid-i-Azam University, Dr Mazari was elected as President of the Academic Staff Association and in these capacities she also served as President of the Federation of All Pakistan University Academic Staff Associations(FAPUASA).

Dr. Mazari has been a regular columnist for the main English dailies of Pakistan and was Editor of The Nation, a leading English Daily, from 2009 to 2010. She has written extensively on issues of defense and security. Dr. Mazari has also authored a book titled "The Kargil Conflict 1999 Separating Fact from Fiction".

She was also DG/CEO of the Strategic Studies Institute Islamabad Pvt (SSII) a private research centre. She resigned from her DG/CEO position before becoming a federal minister to avoid any conflict of interest.

Shandana Gulzar Khan

Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians,
Deputy Minister and Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of
Commerce of Pakistan



Hon. Shandana Gulzar Khan is the Chairperson of the Commonwealth Women Parliamentarians (CWP) network and a Member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. A legal professional with extensive knowledge and experience in international trade, economic law and policy, she has written on Pakistan's first IP framework, e-commerce policy & GI law. Besides having served as Parliamentary Secretary for Commerce & Industry, Hon. Shandana Chairs the Sub-committee on Agriculture products, focusing on women farmers, workers & youth. She also heads the Parliamentary taskforce on SDG 5 and is helping develop Pakistan's first SDG road map. Part of that work is focusing on quick results for girl child marriage restraint legislation. Hon. Shandana is also serving in committees on industry & production, privatisation and planning & development.

Silvana Koch-Mehrin

Founder and President of Women Political Leaders



Silvana Koch-Mehrin is the President Founder of the Women Political Leaders (WPL), the worldwide network of female Politicians. Its mission is to increase the number and influence of women in political leadership. Silvana served as Vice-President of the European Parliament (2009-2011) and Member of the European Parliament (2004-2014).

Before her time in politics, Silvana founded and ran a public affairs consultancy in Brussels, which later merged with a larger US firm. Silvana worked as Senior Special Advisor for EY, and as a Senior Policy Advisor for GPLUS Europe.

In addition to her work for WPL, Silvana serves on the board of the Council of Women World Leaders, the network of female Presidents and Prime Ministers. She is a member of the senior network of the European Leadership Network (ELN), and a Board Director of the Social Progress Imperative, and represents the European Union since 2016 in the Executive Committee of W20, an official engagement group of the G20. In 2019 UN Women invited Silvana to join the Leaders of Generation Equality campaign, and lend her voice, impact, and power to supporting Generation Equality from the launch on September 25th, 2019 throughout 2020. In 2018 and 2019 she has been ranked as one of the 100 most influential persons in gender equality by apolitical. Silvana is a regular speaker at institutions such as the UN, OECD, World Bank and other international fora. Silvana is a Young Global Leader Alumni of the World Economic Forum.

Uzra Zeya

President and CEO, Alliance for Peacebuilding



Uzra Zeya is CEO and President of the Alliance for Peacebuilding, where she draws on over two decades of diplomatic experience in Near East, South Asian, European, human rights, and multilateral affairs. As Chargé d'Affaires and Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. Embassy Paris from 2014 to 2017, she oversaw the day-to-day operations of Embassy Paris, six constituent posts, and 50 offices and agencies engaged in U.S. government work.

Ms. Zeya served previously as Acting Assistant Secretary and Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor, from 2012 to 2014. Since joining the Foreign Service in 1990, Ms. Zeya served in New Delhi, Muscat, Damascus, Cairo, and Kingston. As Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary of State from 2011 to 2012, she helped shape the U.S. response to the Arab Spring and deepened U.S. engagement with emerging powers. She also served as Deputy Executive Secretary to the Secretary of State, as Director of the Executive Secretariat Staff, and as UN General Assembly Coordinator. She is the recipient of the Légion d'honneur, France's highest civilian honor, and 15 Superior Honor and Senior Performance Awards. A graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, she speaks French, Arabic, and Spanish.

FINAL NOTES

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