

Gender and Disarmament

While the link between gender and disarmament may not be apparent at first, gender has played an important role in disarmament affairs since the early 20th century. The learning unit will start by exploring the importance of gender mainstreaming and highlight historic examples of women's movements. The module will then examine the UN Framework on gender and disarmament, key treaties, conventions, and action plans, as well as the idea behind a feminist foreign policy and positions and actions of the EU.

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0. A Message from the Author

A quick video introduction from the home office.

Hello! My Name is Mara Zarka and I am a Research Associate and Project/Events Manager at the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in Austria. I am also the author of this learning unit on Gender and Disarmament.

While the link between Gender and Disarmament may not be apparent at first, through our journey together the role of Gender in Disarmament, dating from the 1900s to today, will be explored. My voice will guide you on this journey and I hope you enjoy the experience!]

1. Key Terms and Historical Overview

Key Terms and Concepts



Peace Delegates on NOORDAM - Mrs. P. Lawrence, Jane Addams, Anna Molloy.

US Library of Congress / [Wikimedia Commons]

(<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Noordam-delegates-1915.jpg>) (Public domain)

Two approaches to Gender and disarmament

[There are two main approaches through which gender and disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control are addressed.

The first approach examines how attributes, opportunities and relationships associated with one's gender impacts individuals in different situations, such as

- exposure to risk,
- likelihood of becoming a victim to violence,
- psychological and biological consequences and
- accessibility to resources and opportunities.

This approach looks at the impact of weapons through a gender analysis.

A disproportionate number of men compared to women are owners and users of small arms and light weapons, both in conflict and non-conflict situations. Given this, men comprise most gun violence victims, however, women are targets of certain types of gun violence, such as domestic violence.

While men may often be combatants in armed conflicts, women may have fled, been subject to violence, or needed to take on more responsibilities to ensure food, shelter and security for themselves and their families.

On the other hand, women may also serve as combatants during an armed conflict, a fact that many do not acknowledge. While fighting during conflict, women may have enjoyed relatively equal treatment to their fellow combatants, but once hostilities ceased, equality tended to go with it.

Additionally, men often have more access to resources in post conflict situations and are often better positioned to take advantage of reconstruction initiatives.

The second approach focuses on the meaningful participation of women in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation fora. Women are frequently underrepresented in security discussions. Promoting gender equality and improving women's leadership roles in decision making bodies is crucial to tackling the underrepresentation of women in key security forums. This approach is not limited to the multilateral organizations but also includes representation in national delegations, among the expert community and civil society.

Increased participation of women in peace processes has a direct and positive impact on the success and sustainability of peace negotiations. Equal, full and effective participation of women in peace negotiations is widely recognized as integral to maintaining international peace and security; enhancing social acceptance of peace agreements and strengthening credibility.

The two approaches described are interrelated and both are needed to promote gender mainstreaming in disarmament.]

In this video you will learn about key concepts such as:

- difference between sex and gender
- creation of gender norms
- What is gender mainstreaming and what tools could be applied to a gender mainstreaming approach?

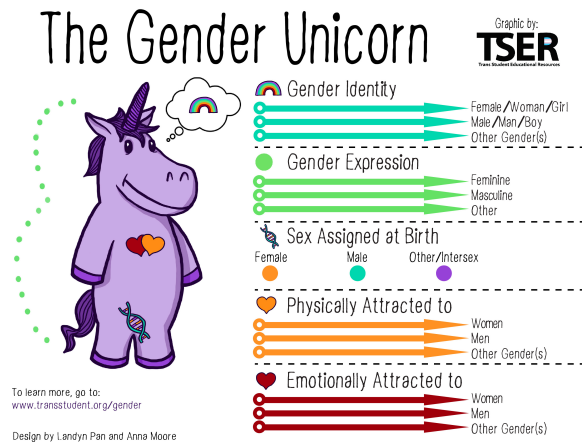
The Gender Unicorn

What is Gender?

The Gender Unicorn offers a sliding scale, not a checkbox, on individual identity and the difference between gender, sex assigned at birth and sexuality.

Gender ≠ Sex Assigned at Birth

- **Gender Identity:** an individual's internal sense of being female, male or other
- **Gender Expression:** the physical manifestation of an individual's gender identity, e.g. through clothing, hairstyle, body shape
- **Sex Assigned at Birth:** the classification and assignment of an individual being female, male or other/intersex based on biological and physical characteristics such as anatomy, hormones and chromosomes



www.transstudent.org/gender, Design by Landyn Pan and Anna Moore (CC BY 4.0)

Zooming in on Gender Mainstreaming

Gender mainstreaming helps bring a gender perspective into policy making. The video produced and kindly provided by the European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE) helps explain this concept highlighting two main dimensions:

1. Gender Responsive Content of Policies
2. Gender Representation in Policy Areas

To understand how this relates to disarmament note that:

- Gender norms shape how weapons are seen and used in society and their impact.
- Gender analysis can increase understanding on how arms control and violence impact all sectors of society.
- Collecting sex disaggregated data aids in gender analysis to better understand the impacts of weapons on society and the needs of different individuals and groups.
- Women are underrepresented in fora focused on peace and security. Gender balanced representation is a means to improve policy and decision-making in this regard.

[Your transcript here]

This video covers the history of women’s movements advocating for peace and disarmament. The video features key historical examples, such as:

- The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
- The Nuclear Protests at Greenham Common Military Base in the UK

- The Liberian Women’s Initiative

[Women’s involvement in disarmament dates to the early 1900s, when the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom or WILPF was formed in 1915. Throughout World War I WILPF, comprised of nearly 1,200 women, advocated for an end to the conflict and for international disarmament, and they did not stop there: the group exists to this day.

Though WILPF started the momentum for women’s advocacy of peace and disarmament, many other organizations and women’s groups have left their mark on history. Some notable examples include:

- the European Women Against Nuclear Armament, formed in 1959, which brought women from the East and West together to discuss the role of women in the atomic age;
- the Nuclear Protest at Greenham Common military base in the UK, where group members chained themselves to the fence of the airbase and demanded a debate with the government on nuclear armament. Protesters were challenging the government’s plan to place 96 cruise missiles on the base. The protest lasted for 19 years, spanning from 1981 to 2000, and made international waves throughout the 1980s and 1990s.
- In the 1980s a global Women’s Peace Movement spread across Europe, the US, Canada and Australia, all modelled on the Greenham Common experience.
- In 1994 the Liberian Women’s Initiative was formed under the slogan “disarmament before elections”, in which they fought to collect small arms and lobbied to attend peace talks.
- And in August 2000 the Women’s Forum 2000 gathered more than 1800 women in Hiroshima, Japan, to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons and to save humans from destruction.]

Case Study: WILPF

In 1915 women came together to try to stop the Great War. A group of over 100 women from warring and neutral nations gathered at the first Women’s Congress in The Hague on 28 April 1915. The outcome of the Congress was 20 resolutions at the core of which proposed mediation as an alternative to armed conflict and promoted women’s participation in international discussions and post war settlements. Another outcome was the creation of the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom which still exists today and now has a dedicated disarmament programme called **Reaching Critical Will**



First Meeting of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom in 1915.

Library of the London School of Economics and Political Science (Public domain)

Case Study: Greenham Common

- Started in 1981 when the Welsh group "Women for Life on Earth" marched to the Royal Air Force base at Greenham Common in England.
- Group members chained themselves to the fence of the airbase to challenge the government's plan of placing 96 cruise missiles on the base.
- When the government ignored the action, a peace camp was set up outside the base and was active for almost two decades.
- After the US and Soviet Union signed the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 1987, the last cruise missile was removed from Greenham Common in 1991.

I only meant to protest at Greenham nuclear base for a week, but ended up living at the Women's Peace Camp for five years. (...) Together we encircled the 9-mile perimeter fence, covering it with family photos and messages of fear, love and hope, showing why we wanted to prevent war.

Please read the full eyewitness testimony written for this eLearning unit by Dr. Rebecca Johnson who lived at the Greenham Women's Peace Camp from 1982 to 1987.



Dr Rebecca Johnson in July 1983 at the Greenham Common fence as more rolls of barbed wire are being put up.

Lesley McIntyre (All rights reserved)

Greenham Women's Peace Camp: a groundbreaking ecofeminist campaign to prevent nuclear war

By Rebecca Johnson

In the early 1980s, new types of nuclear weapons made many people wake up to the risks of nuclear extinction, as over 50,000 nuclear warheads waited for someone to make a mistake. People respond to fear in different ways. Going to the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp was my way to stop having nuclear nightmares.

NATO had designated the US Airforce base at Greenham Common to receive 96 nuclear armed cruise missiles in a 'dual track' decision to counter Soviet SS20s with US ground-launched cruise and Pershing II missiles targeted at Russia. Greenham was 60 miles West of London, near the UK's Aldermaston nuclear bomb factory. On 5 September 1981 the British government ignored 33 'Women for Life on Earth' who had walked from Cardiff in Wales to the USAF base in Berkshire calling for a public debate on these new nuclear deployments. So they pitched a peace camp in front of the base.

I only meant to protest at Greenham nuclear base for a week, but ended up living at the Women's Peace Camp for five years until US President Reagan and Soviet General Secretary Gorbachev signed the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty.

Our campaign hit the headlines when 35,000 women came to Greenham to 'Embrace' and 'Close' the base on 12-13 December 1982. Together we encircled the 9-mile perimeter fence, covering it with family photos and messages of fear, love and hope, showing why we wanted to prevent war. Then we blockaded all the entrances to halt work on the nuclear silos. This was achieved despite some of us being sent to prison for 14 days under a 'breach of the peace' law that dated back to the year 1361.

1983 was the most extraordinary year, marked by the arrival of cruise missiles at Greenham just weeks after NATO's 'Able Archer' military exercises nearly ignited nuclear war. On New Year's Day 44 women climbed on top of the nuclear silos and media sent pictures of us dancing around the world. More imprisonment, more actions, at Parliament and Downing Street. In May we mobilised a million women to become 'Greenham Women Everywhere' and oppose nuclear weap-ons all over the world. We then launched a federal court case in New York to prevent the US deployment of cruise and Pershing II in Europe.

It didn't succeed. The first cruise missiles were flown into the base in November 1983, and our nonviolent protests were met with escalating state violence from then on. In response, 50,000 women used our hands and voices to remove over half of the military perimeter fence in December. As 1983 ended, three Greenham women occupied the air traffic control tower for over five hours with a huge Christmas banner proclaiming 'Peace on Earth'.

By 1984, rainbow coloured camps stretched all around the Greenham base. At the heart of each was the fire, with blackened kettles and heated discussions. Our lives were punctuated by ar-rests, evictions and imprisonment. When police and bailiffs forcibly evicted us, tore down our shelters and extinguished our cooking fires we always returned, relit the fires, sang our songs and made more plans and cups of tea.

When the cruise missiles were taken out on their massive 'transporter-erector-launchers' to 'melt into the countryside' (as military planners said), we developed local 'Cruisewatch' networks and continued to challenge, block and demoralise the biggest military establishment in the world.

Greenham Women Everywhere connected with peace camps and protests in other countries and became a powerful inspiration for generations of women who love life and work together in all our diverse ways for a future free of personal and political violence. As ecofeminists we in-sisted that the personal is political and everyone has the power and responsibility to make the world better. Spiderwebs became the symbol of our feminist philosophy that connected our fragile lives to weave new ways to prevent violence and war.

Our lives of nonviolent protest grew into a powerful, creative crucible that also challenged and changed prevailing expectations of peace activism and sexual politics. Learning from survivors of patriarchal violence and wars, we can be found in many different campaigns against the rac-ism, colonialism and sexual violence embedded in patriarchal institutions and militarism of all kinds.

From nuclear weapons to climate destruction, the military-industrial philosophies and practices of patriarchal dominance have brought humanity to the brink of extinction. Greenham's legacy and feminist-humanitarian ideas also helped to build the International Campaign to Abolish Nu-clear Weapons, which grew out of the connections between activists, doctors, and the Japanese Hibakusha and indigenous people who campaigned so long to ban nuclear weapons, from their production and testing to their use and threats. The Greenham spirit lives on whenever we are together, and wherever fierce young activists campaign for climate action and liberation from misogyny, racism and the crushing weight of patriarchal violence, inequalities and injustice.

By 1992 the missiles and USAF had departed from Greenham. As the INF Treaty emptied the nuclear silos, Greenham Common was restored for local people and nature. On 22 January 2021, the world marked a new milestone as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) became international law.

Case Study: Greenham Common - Before and After



Greenham Common women dance on cruise missile silos New Year Dawn 1.1.1983.

Raissa Page / Richard Burton Archives. (All rights reserved)

The juxtaposition of these two images shows the powerful impact of the Women's Peace Camp at Greenham Common. The image on the left captures the 44 women who climbed on top of the nuclear silos opposing nuclear weapons and the arrival of the cruise missiles at Greenham Common in 1983. After 1983 the Women's Peace Camp continued to grow in numbers, voices and strength, as well as unwavering spirit. The movement rejoiced at the signing of the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty which resulted in the emptying of the nuclear silos from Greenham Common. The land was restored to the local people and nature, as the photo on the right clearly exemplifies.



Empty nuclear silo at Greenham Common after the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty was signed.

Dr. Rebecca Johnson (All rights reserved)

Two Approaches to Gender and Disarmament

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roles in decision making bodies is crucial to tackling the underrepresentation of women in key security forums. This approach is not limited to the multilateral organizations but also includes representation in national delegations, among the expert community and civil society.

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In this video you will learn about the two main approaches to gender and disarmament and how they evolved.

- **Promoting gender equality** and improving women's meaningful participation in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament fora.
- **Applying a gender lens** to disarmament and looking at the impact of weapons and disarmament on women.

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-16/>

2. The UN Framework

This is the intro



UN conference room.

UN Photo / Paulo Filgueiras (All rights reserved)

UN Framework on Gender and Disarmament

[The first UN Conference on Women was held in Mexico City in 1975 and was a driving force behind the UN framework. At the conference the interlinkage between equality, development and peace was established, with disarmament being part of the peace goal. Following the first conference, three subsequent conferences were held: in Copenhagen in 1980, in Nairobi in 1985 and in Beijing in 1995. Five-year review cycles followed the 1995 conference.

The Platform for Action, unanimously adopted during the Beijing 1995 conference, outlined comprehensive commitments under 12 critical areas of concern, including recognizing the role women have played in disarmament efforts and should continue to play in decision-making fora. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, or CEDAW, adopted in 1979 under the UN General Assembly, stresses the importance of women's participation and leadership in all policy areas, including disarmament. Both the CEDAW and Beijing Platform for Action are considered the key global reference points for gender and equality policy. In 2000 the role of women in peace and security was further realized through the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognized for the first time:

1. the different impact armed conflict had on women and girls compared to men and boys,
2. women's role in preventing and resolving conflict;
3. called for equal participation in security and peace-making efforts and
4. encouraged a gender component be included in all peacekeeping operations.
5. Since UN Security Council Resolution 1325, more than six subsequent resolutions have been adopted

and make up what is referred to as the Women, Peace and Security, or WPS, Agenda, that is supported by the United Nations and its Member States to better integrate women as agents of change in peace and security processes. The WPS Agenda provides the framework for gender mainstreaming in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and consists, broadly speaking, of four key pillars:

6. prevention of violence and abuse of rights
 7. participation in peace and security decisions
 8. protection in conflict; and
 9. relief and recovery in conflict and post conflict situations, with a focus on women's needs
10. The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions, has created a strong normative framework and has increased the international communities' attention to gender perspectives and the role of women in peace and security. It is argued that among the four broad pillars, the most important is participation – emphasizing the need to recognize the active and decisive role women should have in decision-making bodies and processes..]

In this video you will learn about:

- The UN World Conferences on Women
- The Beijing Platform for Action
- The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
- Women, Peace and Security Agenda
- UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions

Four UN World Conferences on Women

The first UN World Conference on Women was convened after the Commission on the Status of Women called for such a Conference to take place at the same time as the International Women's Year in 1975. The first conference laid the groundwork for the subsequent conferences. Each conference attracted more Member States and civil society representatives, starting with 133 governments present in 1975 to 189 countries represented in 1995. The fourth Conference was followed by a series of five-year reviews.

1975 - Mexico City, Mexico

- brought global attention to women's issues and interlinked goals of equality, development and peace
- 133 member states and over 6000 civil society participants

- 1975 proclaimed by UN General Assembly International Women's Year
- adopted world plan of action for implementation of the objectives of the international women's year – guidelines for advancement through 1985, including: opportunities to increase intellectual potential and resources to participate in political life – maximum participation of women as well as men in all fields

1980 - Copenhagen, Denmark

- reviewed progress made on attaining the goals of the first conference – focus on employment, health and education
- 145 member states and over 10,000 people attended NGO Forum
- highlighted political divisions and disagreements
- action plan made references to disarmament, including **“Women should be equitably represented at all levels, especially the senior levels, in delegations to international bodies, conferences and committees dealing with political, economic and legal questions, disarmament and other similar issues.”**

1985 - Nairobi, Kenya

- reviewed and appraised achievements of the first UN Decade for Women
- 157 member states and 12,000 people attended NGO Forum
- adopted Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women focused on measures on gender equality and women's participation in peace and development efforts
- **highlighted key role women can play on disarmament issues, including in nuclear disarmament**

1995 - Beijing, China

- advanced women's rights in the realms of poverty, education, health, decision-making and violence against women
- 189 member states and over 30,000 people attended NGO Forum
- adopted Beijing Declaration – Platform for Action focused on 12 critical areas of concern
- increased international commitment to advancement of women, calling for a gender perspective and outlining specific strategies in policies and programs at the national, regional and international level
- **linked disarmament and non-proliferation of WMD to women's empowerment**

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

1979 - CEDAW

adopted in 1979 by the UN General Assembly and stressed the importance of women's participation and leadership in all contexts, including disarmament.

... the full and complete development of a country, the welfare of the world and the cause of peace require the maximum participation of women on equal terms with men in all fields
?

1992 - General Recommendation 19

Expanded the Convention to include the obligation to prevent, investigate and punish violence against women.

2013 General Recommendation 30

Expanded the Convention by specifying the need to protect women from all forms of discrimination, especially related to women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. This moved the agenda forward in enhancing women's rights in conflicts.

2017 - General Recommendation 35

Provided further guidance towards the elimination of gender-based violence against women, updating General Recommendation 19.

Beijing Platform for Action – 12 Critical Areas of Concern

The Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action were adopted in 1995 at the Fourth World Conference on Women. The Platform for Action identifies 12 strategic objectives and actions to advance women and gender equality. The 12 critical areas of concern offer an important framework for governments, civil society and the public at large to focus their work and commitments to promote change and advance gender equality and women's empowerment. Regular five-year review cycles help maintain political will and sustain momentum to achieving these objectives.

The 12 Critical Areas of Concern are:

1. women and the environment
2. women in power and decision-making
3. the girl child
4. women and the economy
5. women and poverty
6. violence against women
7. human rights of women
8. education and training of women
9. institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women
10. women and health
11. women and the media
12. women and armed conflict

UN Women: The Story of Resolution 1325

UN Resolution 1325 was a landmark resolution as it was the first UN Security Council resolution to acknowledge women's experiences in conflict and peace processes to advance the international peace and security agenda. The resolution was adopted

unanimously by the UN Security Council on 31 October 2000.

The video produced by UN Women and kindly provided for use in this learning unit, offers background on the events that transpired leading to the adoption of this monumental resolution and the significance the resolution brought to the women, peace and security agenda and the international community at large.

[No transcript yet.]

Key Takeaways from UNSCR 1325 - Text from the Resolution

Participation

- **Urges** Member States to ensure increased representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions.
- **Urges** the Secretary-General to appoint more women as special representatives and envoys.
- **Further urges** the Secretary-General to seek to expand the role and contribution of women in the United Nations field-based operations.

Relief and Recovery

- **Encourages** all those involved in the planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration to consider the different needs of female and male ex-combatants and to consider the needs of their dependents.
- **Calls on** all actors involved, when negotiating and implement peace agreements, to adopt a gender perspective including, inter-alia:
- The special needs of women and girls during repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict reconstruction.

Protection and Prevention

- **Calls on** all parties to armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence.
- **Calls upon** all parties to armed conflict to respect fully international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and girls, especially as civilians.

Source: UNSCR 1325

UNSCR 1325 and Subsequent Resolutions

2000: SCRF 1325

- First resolution to recognize the unique impact of conflict on women and their role in preventing and resolving conflict. Calls for equal participation in security and peace-making efforts.
- Establishes the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda item in the Security Council.
- Specifically calls for the different needs of men and women ex-combatants to be considered in

disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes.

- Calls for mine-clearance and mine-awareness programmes to consider the needs of women and girls.

2008: UNSCR 1820

- Recognizes the detrimental impact conflict-related sexual-violence has on peace processes and international peace and security in general.
- Prohibits amnesty for sexual violence.
- Calls on consultations with women in and prevention of sexual violence in peacekeeping tactics and mediation methods, including in DDR processes.

2009: UNSCR 1888

- Stresses the need for the protection of women from (sexual) violence, including in DDR processes.
- Notes the promotion and empowerment of women and support for women organizations and networks as essential for peace.

2009: UNSCR 1889

- Requests that UN Secretary-General to appoint gender advisors to UN missions and ensure that UN bodies collect gender-disaggregated data in post-conflict situations.
- Reiterates the importance of women's representation in peace processes and institutions and to consider their needs, especially in DDR processes.
- Introduces a system for monitoring and reporting on WPS progress.

2010: UNSCR 1960

Asks conflicting parties to implement and enforce time-bound and specific commitments to address sexual violence, such as investigations.

2013: UNSCR 2106

- Affirms the participation of women in DDR processes is important to prevent sexual violence.
- Confirms the need to provide support to women in conflict and post-conflict situations.

2013: UNSCR 2122

- A more comprehensive resolution of those making up the WPS agenda. Stresses importance of improved quality and regularity of WPS reporting.
- Introduces a roadmap for more systematic implementation of commitments on the WPS agenda.
- Calls for strengthening the commitment to consult and include women directly in peace processes.
- Emphasizes the need for full and effective participation of women in DDR processes, and in efforts to combat and eradicate illicit transfer and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW).
- Acknowledges the adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and its Article 7.4.

2015: UNSCR 2242

- Links between women's participation in efforts to prevent and resolve conflict and the sustainability of peace and security.
- Includes some recommendations from the Global Study on 1325 that was commissioned by the UN Secretary General.
- Introduces a commitment to integrate gender analysis in the context of violent extremism.
- Encourages women to participate in the design and implementation of SALW control efforts.

2016: UNSCR 2272

Discusses sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations.

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-16/>

3. Treaties, Conventions and Action Plans



UN Photo / [Basile Zoma](https://dam.media.un.org/CS.aspx?

VP3=DamView&VBID=2AM94SEE1QFJ&SMLS=1&RW=1452&RH=875) (CC BY 2.0)

SALW and Cluster Munitions

[The international community has increasingly acknowledged the importance of women's participation in peace and security issues and the benefits of applying a gender perspective in developing policies. Though acknowledgement of the need for full equality between men and women dates back to the CEDAW in 1979, the enhanced recognition of the inclusion of women, in particular in peace and security matters, was strengthened through the emergence of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Since then, several international documents have addressed the role of women in peace and security and the need to promote a gender perspective.

Among these the Arms Trade Treaty, or ATT, that entered into force in 2014, stands out as the first ever legally binding regime to recognize the link between gender-based violence and international arms trade. Under its Article 7, Paragraph 4 provision, arms exporting State Parties should evaluate risks of arms "being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children." Should a risk be identified, then under the ATT it would be illegal to transfer weapons to a recipient State.

The UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects has recognized the negative impact illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, or SALW, has on women. The 2018 Outcome Document acknowledged that the eradication of SALW illicit trade is critical to combating gender based violence. Given the different impacts of SALW on gender groups, the Outcome Document encouraged gender mainstreaming in policies and

programmes, and the collection of data disaggregated by gender.

Another example can be seen in the Convention on Cluster Munition, which entered into force in 2010. Under Article 5 of the Convention, States Parties are obligated to provide age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance, such as medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, to ensure all members of society are included, and stipulates equal access to services and resources.

With the growing acknowledgment of the role of gender in disarmament, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, which does not include a gender-related clause in its text, has since added references to gender and the need for a gender perspective in its subsequent action plans. The Maputo Action Plan and the Oslo Action Plan both call for gender mainstreaming in mine action programming, including the need for age- and gender-sensitive victim assistance, mine risk education, and collecting data disaggregated by gender and age.]

In this video you will learn about key instruments that contain gender and disarmament aspects dealing with conventional weapons, such as:

- The Arms Trade Treaty
- UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (PoA)
- Convention on Cluster Munitions
- Maputo Action Plan
- Oslo Action Plan

Small Arms and Light Weapons and Gender

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT, 2014) is the first legally binding multilateral instrument to acknowledge the connection between international arms trade and gender-based violence (GBV).

Article 7 (4) states

The exporting State Party, in making this assessment, shall take into account the risk of the conventional arms covered under Article 2(1) or of the items covered under Article 3 or Article 4 in being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children.

Article 7(4)

Member States and civil society have undertaken **capacity-building efforts** to operationalize Article 7 (4). During Latvia's ATT presidency in 2018, it announced "gender and arms related gender-based violence" as the priority theme for its presidency. The

announcement provided an opportunity to deepen knowledge on the link between categories of conventional arms to which ATT applies and GBV.



Control Arms campaigner David Grimason lays a photo of his son Alistair during a demonstration close to the United Nations building on 25 July, 2012

Control Arms Coalition/Andrew Kelly (CC BY 2.0)

The UN Programme of Action to Reduce, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA, 2001) has also recognized the link between illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and gender-based violence.

Paragraph 14 of the **2018 Outcome Document** to the Third Review Conference states:

We remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on lives of women, men, girls and boys, and recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence.

UN PoA,2001; Paragraph 14 of 2018 Outcome Document.

Gender and Disarmament - Resolutions, Treaties, Conventions and Working Groups

[Since 2010, the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly on Disarmament and International Security has passed several resolutions on the subject of “Women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control”. The resolutions contain language on the gendered impacts of various types of weapons and women’s equal participation in discussions, decisions and actions on disarmament and international security. Resolution 65/69 was the first resolution adopted on 8 December 2010, and was led by Trinidad and Tobago to promote “equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, in particular as it relates to the prevention and reduction of armed violence and armed conflict.” Since the first resolution was adopted, the General Assembly has committed to adopting similar resolutions every two years.

Discourse surrounding the gendered impact of nuclear weapons has also emerged in recent years.

Ionizing radiation does not affect men and women equally, and women are more vulnerable to its harmful health effects compared to men. The gendered impact of ionizing radiation has been brought to negotiations within the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, or NPT, review process, with several States Parties submitting working papers and addressing gender concerns in their national statements. The 2018 Preparatory Committee Chair’s factual summary for the NPT Review Conference recognized the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and noted that it should be included in the review cycle discussions.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, or TPNW, was passed in July 2017, and derived from the Humanitarian Initiative. The Treaty includes under Article 6 a clause mandating States Parties to provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance to individuals who are affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons.

The Preamble of the TPNW also acknowledges the differing impact ionized radiation has on women, men, boys and girls, as well as the importance of “equal, full and effective participation of both women and men” in promoting peace and security.

Beyond these measures, references to women’s full and equal participation in discussions and policy-making bodies as well as the need to avoid gender bias are being considered in several additional forums. For example, gender references have been included in discussions on the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, especially when debating artificial intelligence and lethal autonomous weapons systems, as well as during working groups, such as that focused on the Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security in particular when addressing cyber space.

More attention has also been given to the full and equal participation of female delegates in disarmament discussions, especially recognizing that progress on gender parity within the NPT and other disarmament fora lags significantly behind other policy areas.]

In this video you will learn about key instruments that contain gender and disarmament aspects, such as:

- General Assembly and First Committee resolutions
- Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons
- Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
- Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
- Open Ended Working Group on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security

General Assembly Resolution

UN General Assembly Resolution 65/69, 8 December 2010 was the first resolution to be adopted by the UN General Assembly’s First Committee on Disarmament and International Security focused on “Women,

disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control". The resolution focused on:

- equitable **representation of women** in all decision-making processes on matters related to disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation
- support and strengthen the effective **participation of women** in organizations in the field at the local, national, regional and sub-regional levels

% of UNGA First Committee Resolutions with Gender References

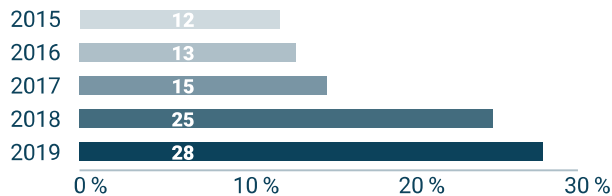


Chart showing percentages of UNGA First Committee Resolutions with Gender References.

First Committee Monitor, Reaching Critical Will, Vol. 17, No.6, Pg. 29, 9 November 2019 (CC BY 2.0)

Katrin Geyer from the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom reviewed the number of adopted General Assembly First Committee Resolutions that included gender references over a five-year time span, from 2015 to 2019. The data gathered from the Reaching Critical Will First Committee Monitor publication of November 2019 and illustrated in the above graph, demonstrates a positive upward trend of gender perspectives being increasingly included in peace and security discussions and reflected in adopted resolutions. It is important to note that over the years some resolutions have adopted stronger language on gender, while others included references to gender for the first time.

STATISTICS 2019

17 of the adopted resolutions in the UN General Assembly First Committee included gender references, accounting for 28% of all adopted resolutions. The resolutions addressed:

- women's equal participation
- gendered impacts of weapon systems and armed violence
- need for gender considerations in disarmament machinery

Of the 17 adopted resolutions, four included language on gender for the first time. The four resolutions focused on:

- Biological Weapons Convention
- Youth
- Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles in Surplus
- Composition of the Group of Governmental Experts on Nuclear Disarmament Verification

Nuclear Weapons and Gender

NPT Review Process

2018 and 2019 PrepCom Chair Factual Summaries/Recommendations to the Review Conference:

- endorsed **equal, full and effective participation and leadership** of both women and men in nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and the peaceful uses of nuclear energy
- welcomed an **increase in female delegates**
- recognized the **disproportionate impact** of ionizing radiation on women and encouraged discussion in the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) review process

At least three working papers submitted at the 2019 NPT PrepCom included gender references addressing the following topics:

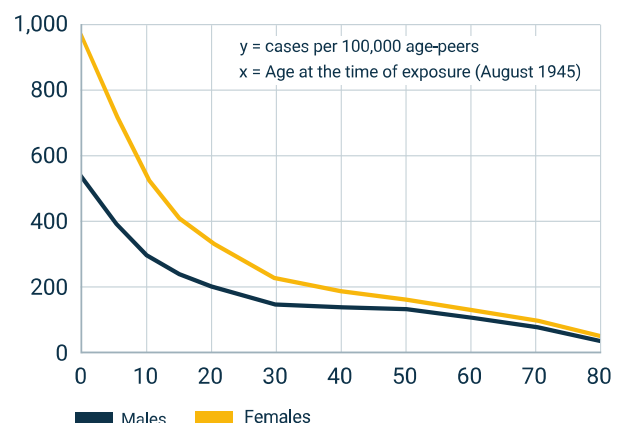
- integration of **gender perspectives** in the implementation of the NPT
- improving **gender equality and diversity** in the review process
- incorporating gender in the NPT, including by applying a **gender analysis framework**, increasing gender diversity at all levels of representation, and recognizing the disproportionate impact of ionizing radiation on women and girls

Ionized Radiation

Women are more vulnerable to the harmful effects of ionized radiation than men.

Long Term: women and girls have a higher risk of developing cancer than men or boys.

Increased Cancer Risk by Age at Exposure to 20mSv Radiation



Graph constructed for Gender and Radiation Impact Project. 60 years of A-bomb survivor cancer incidence data shown for each age-of-exposure cohort.

U.S. National Academy of Sciences (2006) BEIR VII, Phase 2 (CC BY 2.0)

Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons

- Cognizant of the disproportionate impact a nuclear weapons detonation has on women and girls –

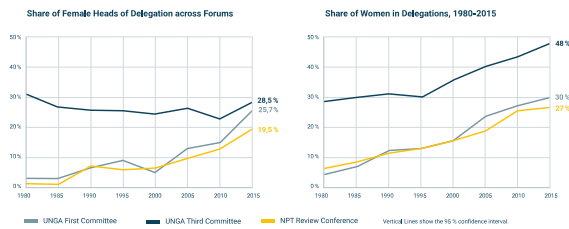
including ionized radiation but also in terms of socioeconomic development, food security and economy.

- Recognizes the need for equal, full and effective participation of both women and men in nuclear disarmament.
- Article 6: Victim Assistance

Each State Party shall, with respect to individuals under its jurisdiction who are affected by the use or testing of nuclear weapons (...) adequately provide age- and gender-sensitive assistance, without discrimination, including medical care, rehabilitation and psychological support, as well as provide for their social and economic inclusion.

Article 6: Victim Assistance, "Chance for Peace", speech to American Society of Newspaper Editors.

Women Representation in Disarmament Fora Over Time - 1980 to 2015



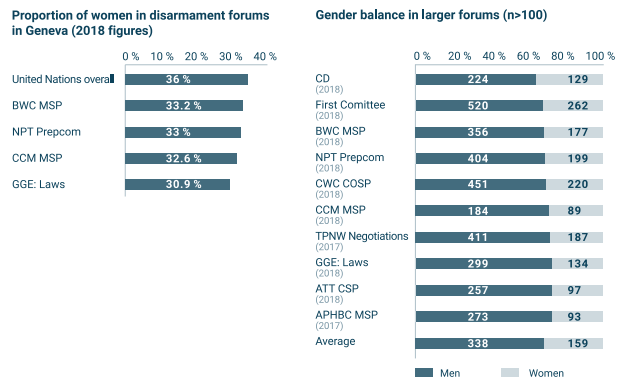
UNIDIR, "Gender, Development and Nuclear Weapons," October 2016, Figure 5 and 7 (CC BY 2.0)

Percentage of Women and Men in Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Forums

Women continue to be **underrepresented** in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation fora. The two figures to the right were provided by the UN

Institute for Disarmament Research and are extracted from their report entitled "Still Behind the Curve: Gender Balance in Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Diplomacy". The **first graph** highlights the percent of women represented in Geneva disarmament forums in the year 2018. In all fora for that year, women representation was below the baseline indicator of **36 percent**. The **second graph** highlights women representation in meetings relevant to the disarmament, arms control and disarmament field with more than 100 participants. The average female representation in such meetings is **32 percent**, which is below the average baseline and distant from gender parity aspirations.

For more information on the images and for further graphs on female representation in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control fora, please read the UNIDIR "Still Behind the Curve" report from 2019.



UNIDIR 2019: Still Behind the Curve (CC BY 2.0)

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-16/>

4. Initiatives, Implementation and Action



Conference booth International Gender Champions Geneva
ITU / V. Arce (CC BY 2.0)

Feminist Foreign Policy – Breaking Down Culturally Constructed Barriers

[In many cultures, weapons are associated with masculinity and the readiness to use military action and wield weapons. Often disarmament is identified with emasculation, whereas armament and a large stockpile expresses manliness and even at times male birth and dominance.

The link between masculinity and the use of force is demonstrated in an anecdote Dr. Carol Cohn was told by a male physicist who was a member of a nuclear strategist group working on modelling counterforce nuclear attacks and realistic estimates of the number of immediate fatalities.

“At one point, we re-modelled a particular attack, using slightly different assumptions, and found that instead of there being 36 million immediate fatalities, there would only be 30 million. And everybody was sitting around nodding, saying, ‘Oh yes, that’s great, only 30 million,’ when all of a sudden, I heard what we were saying. And I blurted out, ‘Wait, I’ve just heard how we’re talking – Only 30 million! Only 30 million human beings killed instantly?’ Silence fell upon the room. Nobody said a word. They didn’t even look at me. It was awful. I felt like a woman.” The physicist added that henceforth he was careful never to blurt out anything like that again.

The physicist who blurted out his distress was marked as feminine, causing the idea to be devalued in the discourse and preventing others from agreeing with him or leading to serious deliberations on the issue raised. However, limiting national and security strategy to just the weapons and their use neglects a significant part of the equation.

The emergence of a Feminist Foreign Policy has highlighted the need to also look at the human security dimension of conflicts. When devising policy, the

impact of the weapons, their destructive capabilities and the means to defuse a conflict, other than by the use of force, should all be taken into account. A Feminist Foreign Policy urges States to adopt a more comprehensive approach focused on intersectionality and the human security dimension.

The first State to announce a Feminist Foreign Policy was Sweden in 2014. The Swedish framework extends to all domains of foreign policy and is based on the so-called “three Rs”:

- rights
- representation and
- resources.

Since Sweden’s announcement, other States such as Canada and Mexico have also launched a Feminist Foreign Policy.

In promoting a Feminist Foreign Policy, states offer an alternative approach to strategizing about security and the use of weapons by elevating a gender discourse in matters concerning disarmament, the value of multilateral instruments, inspections, verification and reduction in arms. This shift in focus not only breaks down culturally constructed barriers and walls, but also moves the discussion from one associated with weapons and masculinity to one focused on human security, negotiation, cooperation and equality and equity of all.]

In this video you will learn about:

- the socially constructed perceptions of masculine vs feminine tendencies concerning international security and weapons policies and strategies
- the emergence of a **Feminist Foreign Policy**

Understanding Gendered Perceptions in International Relations

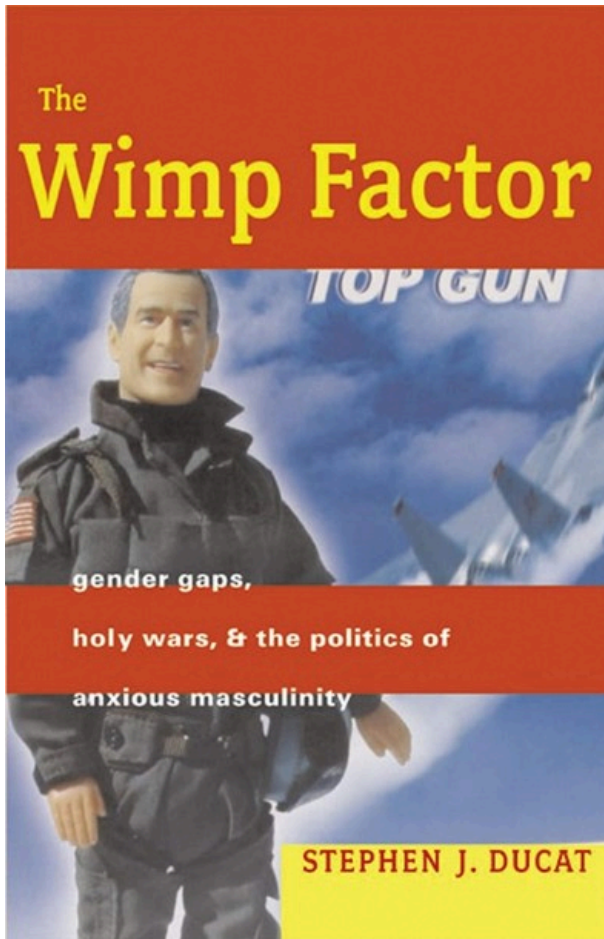
Gender is a way of structuring relations of power and can function as a symbolic system shaping our ideas about politics, weapons and warfare.

Gender coding related to human action refers to the tendency to perceive any action or endeavor, even at the subconscious level, as being more or less masculine or feminine and therefore valued or devalued accordingly based on individual/societal value systems.

This gendered effect has an impact on politics, especially related to weapons, and influences policy decisions and choices.

A clear example of the gendered effect was seen in the media’s portrayal of George H.W. Bush, in which fears of the 41st President of the United States being weak and not fit to run the country circulated the

media streams, with Newsweek calling Bush's greatest challenge his "wimp factor". Many media outlets announced that President George H.W. Bush freed himself of the "wimp factor" when he deployed forces overseas during the Gulf War. Authors, like Stephen Ducat, have shed light on the gendered effect in politics, in which his book **The Wimp Factor** looks at the connection between the fear of being perceived as weak or feminine and the tendency to embrace militaristic actions to be viewed more masculine.



TODO
 TODO (CC BY 2.0)

Often-gendered words

Male	Female
rational	irrational
thought	emotion
concrete	abstract
active	passive

The language used and the gendered effect of words in societies and communities have a symbolic impact on how topics are addressed. The above examples of gendered words define masculinity and femininity as opposites. In the arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation dialogue, "masculine" perceived traits and words are often more valued than "feminine" perceived traits and words. As in the example of George H.W. Bush and the "wimp factor", gendered words can

impact political actions, thoughts and even military decisions.

Evolution of Feminist Foreign Policy

In **2014** the world's first Feminist Foreign Policy was announced by **Sweden's Foreign Minister Margot Wallström**. Canada emerged as the second country to announce the adoption of a Feminist International Assistance Policy in 2017.

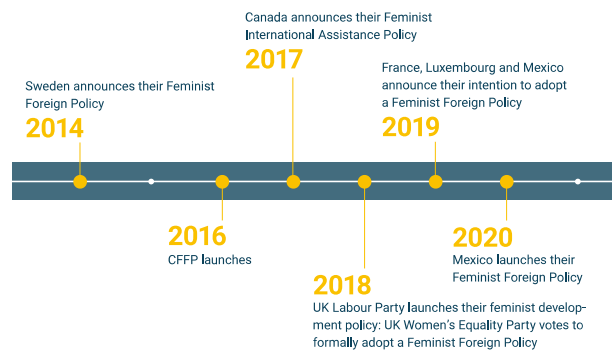
Since then, a handful of other countries have either announced intention to or adopted a Feminist Foreign Policy.

All policies are different, with Sweden's approach being the most comprehensive extending to all areas of foreign policy. The Swedish Framework incorporates the so-called 3 Rs:

- Rights
- Resources
- Representation

Proposals for the EU to adopt a Feminist Foreign Policy approach were presented in the EU Parliament led by the German Green Party. The EU Parliament adopted a Feminist Foreign Policy in late 2020 with 477 Members of the European Parliament voting in favor, 112 voting against and 94 who did not cast a vote.

(EU Observer, Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy)



Bernarding, Nina and Kristina Lunz, "A Feminist Foreign Policy for the European Union", Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy, June 2020 (CC BY 2.0)

Initiatives and Actions in Promoting Gender and Disarmament

[Despite the growing international norm to acknowledge different impacts of various weapon systems on gender, and commitments to gender parity and full and equal participation in disarmament discussions, work remains to be done in order to achieve the goals laid out in several international agreements.

One initiative that seeks to assist in this regard is the International Gender Champions, or IGC, which is a leadership network comprised of female and male heads of permanent missions, embassies, international organizations, civil society and the private sector. The goal is to break down gender barriers and make gender equality a working reality in their spheres of influence.

The initiative commenced in 2015 in Geneva, and since has grown to include hubs in more than four other cities. The network has over 200 active Champions and more than 100 alumni. All Champions commit to the panel parity pledge, an undertaking not to speak on single-sex panels, and they develop two personal commitments to be completed within one year, such as:

- promote work-family life balance through early information and advance notice of meetings to enhance predictability and planning
- produce at least two factsheets with recommendations for gender mainstreaming in multilateral negotiations; and
- introduce innovative recruitment and retention policies and practices to improve gender balance.

In addition, the IGC has developed over 5 impact groups, including one on disarmament with the goal of integrating the disarmament community into the wider gender equality agendas. In this regard a gender and disarmament resource pack was produced. Another impact group developed a gender-responsive assemblies toolkit or “how to” guide on how to implement good practices and achieve immediate, consistent and measurable progress on the road to parity. Worth mentioning is the impact group on trade, which spear headed the historic Buenos Aires Declaration on Women and Trade with over 100 member states and observers joining.

Another initiative modelled on the IGC was launched in 2018 called Gender Champions in Nuclear Policy, which is designed to support women in the nuclear policy field by adding commitment at the leadership level.

Civil society organizations and international organizations are also active in promoting gender equality and have designed and developed dedicated resources to help increase awareness and capacity-building in this area. eLearning modules, such as this one, are on the rise, with online courses developed by the UN Organization for Disarmament Affairs, or UNODA, and UN Women available.

Other organizations have comprised databases and established hubs focused on gender and disarmament, this includes the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and Reaching Critical Will.

Specific scholarship and mentorship programs have also flourished to promote the role of women in the

field, including UNODA’s Women Scholarship for Peace, the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies Young Women in Nonproliferation Initiative, and the International Atomic Energy Agency’s Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship program.]

In this video you will learn about actions, initiatives and educational opportunities focused on improving the role of women and providing a gender perspective in the disarmament field, including:

- International Gender Champions initiative
- Gender Champions in Nuclear Policy initiative
- Education and capacity-building opportunities, like Women Scholarship for Peace
- Databases and resources available

International Gender Champions

[Your transcript here]

The International Gender Champions (IGC) Secretariat produced a short video explaining the IGC initiative that strives to break down gender barriers and work towards gender equality. The video covers the three main pillars of the initiative:

- Gender Parity Pledge
- Individual Commitments by the Champions (minimum two SMART commitments)
- Impact Groups

What are SMART commitments?

Specific. Measurable. Achievable. Realistic. Time-bound.

Impact Groups

Six Impact Groups have been operationalized since 2017, including one on disarmament and one on justice.

Disarmament Impact Group

- Gender & Disarmament Resource Pack
- Factsheet on ATT and Gender

Justice Impact Group

Quiz

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-16/>

5. EU Positions and Actions



Dati Bendo / European Commission 2020 (CC BY 2.0)

Gender and Disarmament in the EU

[Gender equality and respect for human rights are at the core of the European Union's values. In 1997, under the Amsterdam Treaty, the European Union and its Member States endorsed gender mainstreaming as its official policy approach. The legal basis was strengthened under Article 8 of the Treaty of the Functioning of the European Union that states:

In all its activities, the Union shall aim to eliminate inequalities, and to promote equality, between men and women.

Since then, several subcommittees have been established to focus and monitor gender mainstreaming implementation in the EU's policies and programmes. In addition, the European Commission has adopted guidelines and targets for addressing gender perspectives systematically across all areas of its work. These efforts cumulated into the adoption of the first EU Gender Action Plan in 2010 to better mainstream gender in all the Union's policy areas. After the first five-year cycle, a second action plan was adopted in 2015, with renewed action plans anticipated every five years.

Since the adoption of UNSCR 1325, the EU and its Member States committed themselves to the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including in the full spectrum of the EU's common foreign and security policy, or CFSP.

These commitments have been emphasized in the Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, complimenting the first-ever adopted Conclusions on Women, Peace and Security in the Foreign Affairs Council in December 2018. Furthermore, the EU Global Strategy strives to increase the number of women in decision- and policy-making positions, as well as senior roles in EU institutions and Common Security and Defense Policy, or CSDP, missions and operations.

The promotion of increased participation of women in CSDP missions and operations is further guided by the EU's commitment to consider the contribution of both men and women in all aspects of its crisis management work. To assist in these efforts, dedicated Gender Advisers and focal points are involved in CSDP missions and operations to facilitate gender mainstreaming, though the overall responsibility for integrating gender mainstreaming lies with the Heads of Mission and Commanders. The first gender advisor was appointed to the EUFOR RD Congo EU military operation in 2006. The operation aimed to support the UN Mission present in the country and to help facilitate elections. Though CSDP missions and operations work within the EU framework, it is important to note that policy and initiatives are mostly driven by Member States through National Action Plans.

In 2015 a dedicated position, the EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325, was created to strengthen the WPS agenda in the EU CFSP. The creation of the position is an important step in promoting gender analysis, gender balance, and highlighting women's leadership in all areas of peace and security, including in multilateral negotiations and processes dealing with arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. In November 2018, the Council adopted a new Strategy against illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons, or SALW, and their Ammunition, in which the EU committed to mainstreaming gender considerations in the design of new projects related to the fight against gun violence and SALW control, as well as sharing of good practices in this regard. Since the adoption of Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011, new projects integrate gender perspectives through technical advice and expertise, development of educational products and training. The UNODA is assisting in the implementation of the Council Decision by developing online-based training on gender mainstreaming small arms control for UN staff and other practitioners. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia Pacific in cooperation with the United Nations Development Program, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons is also supporting the Council Decision through its Gender Coach Programme that pairs heads of SALW commissions with Gender Coaches to increase capacities in understanding linkages between gender and small arms. Given the EU's strong commitment to gender mainstreaming, references in other disarmament documents and processes, such as the Arms Trade Treaty and Anti-

Personnel Mine Ban Convention review process, are also noteworthy.]

In this video you will learn about the EU's approach to incorporating gender in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control policies.

This video will cover:

- EU official policy approach
- EU Action Plans and Strategies
- CSDP Missions
- the role of gender advisors

Gender in the EU - Some Actors

European Parliament's Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality (FEMM) FEMM is a Committee of the European Parliament focused on the challenge's women continue to face despite successes in women's empowerment. Work to move beyond gender mainstreaming in all EU policies to making gender equality a priority in the EU.

Recognizes that gender equality results in better legislation. Link to webpage:

[<https://www.europarl.europa.eu/committees/en/femm/about>]

EU Task Force on WPS The task force is a useful forum of exchange and partnership between the EU institutions, Member States and civil society. It was established in 2009 as an informal task force. In 2019 the name changed to EU Task Force on WPS. It meets four times a year:

- twice at the strategic level, which includes members of the EEAS and Presidency of the Council of the EU; and
- twice at the technical/working level.

Political and Security Committee (PSC)

The PSC is a permanent body within the European Union and is responsible for the EU's Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) and Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP). As such, the PSC is home to the WPS Agenda and EU's implementation. The body meets at the ambassadorial level and serves as a preparatory body for the Council of the EU. Link to PSC:

[<https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/council-eu/preparatory-bodies/political-security-committee/>]

EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325

The position was established in 2015 to increase visibility and importance of gender issues within EU's external policy and action as well as enhance EU engagement with international, regional and national actors on gender- and WPS-related policies and actions. The EEAS Principal Advisor on Gender and UNSCR 1325 regularly reports to the PSC. The position is currently held by Ambassador Mara Marinaki of Greece.

European Institute for Gender Equality (EIGE)

EIGE works within the framework of the EU policies and initiatives. It does not contribute to Common and Foreign Security Policy though. The Institute is however an integral actor in promoting equality between women and men across the European Union and offers expertise to the European Commission, the European Parliament, the Member States and Enlargement countries on gender. Link to EIGE website: [<https://eige.europa.eu/>]

High-Level Group on Gender Equality and Diversity

The informal group is comprised of representatives responsible for gender mainstreaming at the national level and is chaired by the European Commission. The group holds regular meetings focusing on the EU gender equality agenda. It is also the main forum for planning follow-up of the Beijing Platform for Action inside the EU, including developing indicators. It also prepares the EU for the annual meeting of the UN Commission on the Status of Women. Reference Link: [https://ec.europa.eu/info/policies/justice-and-fundamental-rights/gender-equality/who-we-work-gender-equality/high-level-group-gender-mainstreaming-and-advisory-committee-equal-opportunities-women-and-men_en]

Case Study: EUFOR RD CONGO

Operation EUFOR RD Congo: mandated to support the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC) during the national election process, both for President and Members of Parliament. The elections would enable the first democratic vote in 40 years. For the first time the EU appointed a gender advisor to the operation with the task of sensitizing, training, monitoring and supporting officers and soldiers with different responsibilities.



EUFOR RD Congo Mission Logo
European Union (Public domain)

Ms. Charlotte Isaksson, a gender expert in the Swedish Army, was appointed as gender advisor in 2006.

Ms. Isaksson also trained **multiplicators** – both women and men who could act as gender advisors and pass their knowledge and skills to others.

Gender Activities included

- observations
- planning
- direction and guidance on gender issues
- weekly gender report
- monthly statistics and information on female participants
- production of “soldier’s card” for troops on the ground containing clear instructions on gender issues, such as sexual abuse, and how to deal with child soldiers. The cards served as a framework for standard actions and behaviors to follow when confronted with different scenarios during the mission.
- Isaksson, Charlotte, Presentation on EUFOR RD Congo Mission, EU Operation Headquarters Postdam, September 2009, accessible on Public Intelligence website:
[<https://publicintelligence.net/eufor-rd-congo/>]

Most of the time women have not been asked for their views and perceptions. Yet, if you are to integrate a gender dimension into any activity, you have to assess the different impact those activities might have on women and men and in order to do that, it is a paramount to collect as much first hand information as possible.

Charlotte Isaksson

Gender Coach Programme on SALW

The video provided by the United Nations Development Programme and the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) highlights facts and figures that exemplify the gender differences in small arms and light weapons (SALW) when it comes to ownership and misuse of firearms.

It also focuses on work being done by the Gender Coach Programme, which was launched in 2017, to promote the inclusion of gender in SALW control policies and best practices. Please note that the video does not include narration.

[No transcript yet]

The programme

1. increases capacities of SALW Commissions to mainstream gender in SALW control
2. improves access to sex-disaggregated data
3. increases knowledge and expertise on gender aspects of SALW
4. increases participation of women in SALW control policy making

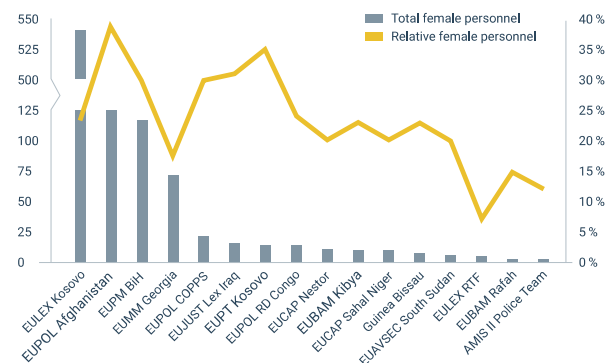
The work is supported and funded by the EU:

- EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/1788 of 19 November 2018
- EU Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 of 17 December 2018

Women in Civilian CSDP Missions

Between 2007 and 2013 there was an increase in women participation in Common Security and Defense Policy, or CSDP, missions. Overall, the proportion of women rose from 20% to 26% and the absolute number of female civil personnel in CSDP missions increased from 240 to 869. However, most personnel appointments are made through national secondments – meaning Member States’ individual efforts in achieving gender balance and collecting gender-disaggregated data is as important as EU-wide policies and commitments.

Absolute numbers and percentages of women deployed in individual civilian CSDP missions (2007-2013 averages)



European External Action Service. Featured in the article by Meiske, Maline, “Gender balancing in CSDP missions,” European Union Institute for Security Studies, ISSU Alert, Nr. 51, 2015 (CC BY 2.0)

View quiz at <https://eunpdc-elearning.netlify.app/lu-16/>

6. Summary and Further Resources



Thierry Roge / European Union, 2012 (All rights reserved)

Gender in disarmament dates to the 1900s when the **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** advocated for an end to WWI and for international disarmament. Greater international momentum was gained during the **four UN conferences on women** which resulted in the **Beijing Platform for Action** in 1995.

In 2000, the first **Security Council resolution** 1325 was adopted reaffirming the important role of women in peace and security and the need for special measures to protect women and girls in situations of armed conflict.

Over the years, considering gender in disarmament matters evolved into an international norm with two main approaches:

1. Promoting and increasing **women's meaningful participation** in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament fora and decision-making bodies.
2. Applying a **gender lens** to assess the differing impacts weapons have on women and men, girls and boys, to improve policies, strategies and distribution of resources.

As the norm to adopt a **gender perspective** in disarmament policies strengthens, so does the number of **treaties, conventions and action plans** that contain gender language, including the first legally binding regime to recognize the link between gender-based violence and international arms trade – **The Arms Trade Treaty** (2014).

The EU has been very active in promoting gender equality and adopting gender mainstreaming in all its policies, but much depends on individual Member States adopting the policies into their National Action Plans.

The role of gender in disarmament has come a long way but there is still a road ahead.

Further Resources

General Resources

- UN Women
- UNODA Gender Perspectives and Disarmament Policy Papers
- International Gender Champions Resources
- Gender Champions in Nuclear Policy Resources
- CNS Young Women in Nonproliferation Initiative - Resources

Good Reads

- UNIDIR "Still Behind the Curve: Gender Balance in Arms Control, Non-Proliferation and Disarmament Diplomacy."
- UNIDIR and ILPI "Gender, Development and Nuclear Weapons: Shared Goals, Shared Concerns"
- UNIDIR "Missing Links: Understanding Sex- and Gender-Related Impacts of Chemical and Biological Weapons."
- New America "The 'Consensual Straitjacket': Four Decades of Women in Nuclear Security"

Feminist Foreign Policy

- Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy
- A Feminist Foreign Policy for the European Union

EU Resources

- European Institute for Gender Equality
- European Commission and Gender Equality

UNODA Resources



Webpage of UNODA.

UNODA (CC BY 2.0)

- UNODA Disarmament Education Dashboard
- UNODA Women Scholarship for Peace: Global South
- Scholarship for Peace and Security

UNIDIR Resources

- Gender and Disarmament Hub

Reaching Critical Will Resources

- Gender and Disarmament Database



Webpage of Reasearching Critical Will.

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