



OPENING THE DOORS TO WOMEN'S MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION



DPPA
Preventing Conflict · Sustaining Peace

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

Twenty years of the women, peace and security agenda have fundamentally changed the way we view peace and security

As a result of concerted mobilization, women's participation, protection, and rights are now recognized as core aspects of peace and security.



More is needed to convert grassroots women's leadership into political power and influence

Around the world women are demanding inclusive and just political and economic reform. Yet women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes remains an ongoing struggle.

KEY CHALLENGES

Women's exclusion in the world leads to women's exclusion from peace processes

Wartime delegations to peace talks are a reflection of the male-dominated societal and conflict dynamics. Women today make up only 18.9 per cent of national parliamentarians in conflict and post-conflict countries – even less than the low 24.9 per cent of women parliamentarians worldwide.

Gender biases in peace and conflict work undermine planning and response

Failing to address different social expectations for women and men, boys and girls reinforces men as “default beneficiaries” of conflict prevention and peacebuilding. It also undermines inclusive and peaceful societies.

A focus on formal peacemaking limits engagement with grassroots women peacebuilders

The urgency of stopping violence too often prevents longer term initiatives and partnerships, including on gender equality, that enable sustainable peace.



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WHAT IS DPPA DOING TO MOVE FORWARD?

At the heart of UN peacemaking and preventive action, DPPA is accelerating its efforts to open the doors to women's meaningful participation in all of our work.

WE ARE INCREASING THE PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

- As of September 2020, women represented 54 per cent (14 of 26) of Heads or Deputy Heads of Special Political Missions and were leading efforts to find political solutions to crises. This is a substantial increase from just 14 per cent in 2015 (3 of 22).
- 31 per cent (4 out of 13) of the UN Secretary General's Envoys, Representatives, and Advisers were filled by women undertaking diplomatic efforts.

Leading peacemakers, mediators and diplomats

Margaret Anstee was the first woman to head a peacekeeping operation (in Angola in 1992), but it took decades after the birth of the United Nations for women to hold dedicated good offices roles.



Ann Hercus, appointed in 1998 as the first Special Advisor to the Secretary General on Cyprus, laid the ground work for peace talks between Greek and Turkish Cypriots.



Karin Landgren was the first woman to head three United Nations peace operations as Representative then Special Representative of the Secretary-General: the UN mission in Nepal, 2009-2011; the UN Office in Burundi, 2011-2012; and the UN Mission in Liberia, 2012-2015.

Mary Robinson, appointed in 2013 as the first woman Special Envoy for the Great Lakes region of Africa, put initiatives to benefit women in the region at the core of her work.



Hanna Tetteh, appointed 2018 as Special Representative of the Secretary General (SRSG) to the African Union and head of the UN Office to the African Union, is working with women's groups and African women mediators to advocate for women's leadership and to end to women's human rights violations across the continent.



Pioneering negotiators

Both currently serve as members of DPPA's Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisors.



Miriam Coronel-Ferrer, chair of the Government of the Philippines' panel in the talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front that resulted in the 2014 Comprehensive Agreement on the Bangsamoro. She was the first woman in the world to sign a major peace agreement as a head of delegation of one of the main parties.

Juanita Millan Hernandez, representative of the Government of Colombia in peace talks with the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC) that resulted in the 2016 peace accords. As a member of the bipartisan Sub-Commission on Gender, she worked across the aisle and with grassroots women to put gender at the core of the agreement.



WE ARE STRENGTHENING GENDER RESPONSIVE PEACEMAKING AND MEDIATION SUPPORT

- Between 2015 and 2019, DPPA elevated the seniority of gender expertise within Special Political Missions.
- DPPA staff at headquarters and the rapidly deployable Standby Team of Senior Mediation Advisers also provide advice on the design and management of inclusive mediation and negotiation processes.
- Thanks in part to in-house gender expertise:
 - In Colombia, the UN Mission successfully advocated, along with civil society, for the government's National Commission on Security Guarantees to formally include representatives of women's organizations. They are positioned to shape policy, including relating to women human rights defenders.
 - In Iraq, a new inclusion mechanism was established - the Women's Advisory Group in Reconciliation in Politics.
 - In Somalia, the mission engaged women women, including from minority communities, in the development of the constitutional review process and on women's representation in federal elections.
 - In Yemen, the mission held a high-level strategy meeting to design and support concrete actions to enhance gender inclusion in the Yemeni peace process.

DPPA is also planning other context specific strategy meetings, including in Afghanistan and in the Geneva International Discussions.

LEARN MORE ABOUT GENDER RESPONSIVE PEACEMAKING



- [COVID-19 and conflict: Advancing women's meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes](#)



- [Gender in the Colombia Peace Agreement: Challenges and Lessons Learned](#)



- [Behind the Numbers: DPPA at the 20th Anniversary of the women, peace and security agenda](#)



- [United Nations Peacemaker](#)



- [Stories of Exceptional Women Building Peace Around the World \(PBSO\)](#)

WHAT IS DPPA DOING TO MOVE FORWARD?

WE ARE ENGAGING WOMEN PEACE ACTORS IN WOMEN'S MOVEMENTS AND GRASSROOTS CIVIL SOCIETY

Women's participation in peace negotiations
increases the durability and quality of peace

- Recent research shows that autonomous social movements organizing to advance women's status drives policy change to address violence against women, a critical component of peace that works for women.
- Research also shows that collaboration and knowledge-building among women signatories and diverse women's groups contributes to better substance of peace agreements and higher rates of implementation.



Agenda-setting civil society



In **Colombia**, women's movement coalitions actively participated in the UN-supported process and worked with the government and former FARC-EP in the Gender Sub-Commission established formally as part of the Peace Talks, which resulted in one of the most inclusive peace agreements in the world.



In **Lebanon**, women's rights and feminist activists have been at the forefront of popular protests and continue to push to ensure equal nationality rights; address discriminatory personal status laws; increase women's political representation; and ensure legal protection against sexual harassment and violence against women.



In **Libya**, women-led civil society contributed to women being over a quarter of the participants in the April – July 2018 Libyan National Conference process. They continue to push for inclusive political solutions to the conflict.



In **Syria**, women civil society, including on the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, contributed to ensuring that women achieved 28 per cent representation in the Syria Constitutional Committee.

DPPA AT THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNSCR 1325

At the 20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the women, peace and security agenda, the international community must accelerate delivery on women, peace and security commitments for women on the ground.

Peacemakers today face historic challenges but also historic opportunities. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated inequalities and put a spotlight on preexisting fissures in social, political and economic systems. It comes on top of an already challenging global context characterized by a hardening political climate, increasingly complex wars, and rising xenophobia and backlash on women's rights. Yet, like any crisis, it brings the potential for change. The Secretary General has called upon the global community to save lives, protect societies, and recover better.

The pandemic reminds us that we cannot have security in the world without security for all – for women, for refugees, for disabled people, for youth. Women's meaningful participation is vital to building people-centred security, upholding women's rights and sustaining peace and justice.

As we look toward the next decade of the women, peace and security agenda, DPPA is committed to building a world of more equal power and accelerating ambition, action and accountability on women, peace and security.

Together, we can open the doors to women's meaningful participation in all of our conflict prevention, peacemaking and peacebuilding work. Together, we can build peace by and for *all*.

Rosemary DiCarlo,
Under-Secretary-General for
Political and Peacebuilding Affairs



JOIN US!

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Opening the doors to women's meaningful participation is a political choice. On 8 March 2018, Security Council members chose to be represented largely by women in observance of International Women's Day. In the next decade, it is time to make opening the doors to women not the exception, but the rule. (UN Photo)



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