

Resources for Working to Radically Rethink, Broaden and Deepen the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

WILPF 2015 Women's Power to Stop War Conference:
Workshop: "A Feminist Playbook for Peace: Re-Owning 1325"
The Hague, Netherlands
27 April 2015

1) **Brainstorm:** If your goal is to create a more just, gender-equitable and sustainable peace, what elements are missing from the UN WPS Resolutions and the WPS Agenda?

Examples of questions to help prompt thinking about this:

- How does war transform women's and men's lives and how can/should these transformations be responded to? (Examples of these transformations might include issues such as: destruction of means of livelihood; disrupted education; the development of more militarized gender identities; displacement; transformed household and family structures.)
- What are some expectable post-war issues and dynamics that impede the realization of gender equality, even when it is written into constitutional provisions?
- How might taking into account the root causes of conflict and inequality transform the agenda for peace negotiations and postwar reconstruction?
- What are the issues which are decided upon in peace processes that are seen as ungendered, or "not gender issues," or more serious, important and urgent than so-called "gender issues"?

2) **Analyze:** How and why are *ALL* of the above issues gendered?

Typical gender analysis questions for each issue might include:

- Where are the women, girls, men, boys? What are they doing?
(including asking this in places where women might appear invisible – they are always there!)
- Which women, girls, men, boys?
(Look at intersectionality, i.e., differences in age, race, class, caste, religion, ethnicity, nationality, citizenship, tribe, rural/urban/displaced, sexuality, gender identifications, etc. So you are examining not just the differences between groups, but also to series of power relations within which those different groups are situated)
- What are these different groups?
 - Needs
 - Capacities
 - Aspirations
 - Knowledge
 - Analyses of the situation
 - Activities
 - Sources of what kinds of power and authority

Vulnerabilities
Material interests?

- What are the structural power relations within which they function – that is, both power relations *between* the sexes and *within* each group?

3) **Analyze:** How is each of them linked to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda?

- How and why is it central to women's ability to participate in economic, political and social life?
- Why is the issue central to more creating a more gender-equal and sustainable peace?

4) **Analyze:** What are the intertwined political & economic dynamics that are shaping how each issue is addressed in a conflict or postwar setting, and what the gendered outcomes are?

Questions might include:

- What are the local, regional and global political economic relations that shape how road infrastructure is being rebuilt?
- Which international financial institutions are setting the conditions under which they will give loans, and what are the gendered impacts of those conditionalities?
- Who is designing development projects, on what scale? Which development banks or public-private partnerships or multinational corporations are funding and making decisions about the nature of those projects – and how do their decisions impact everything from local- or even national-level control to women's and men's lives and livelihoods?
- What are the dynamics propelling land acquisition and the negotiating of land concessions? By which international corporate or national actors? And how will that affect issues such as: armed violence; women's access to land and sustainable livelihoods; environmental degradation; labor conditions?

5) **Act:** Take action to leverage your analysis for transformative change! For example:

- Raise awareness of the importance of this expanded WPS agenda among activist groups, advocacy organizations and in intergovernmental bodies
- Mobilize to ensure that international mediators and participants in peace processes put the issues in this expanded agenda onto the table, as an integral part of their commitment to implement 1325
- Show that *every* issue on the table in peace negotiations requires gender analysis and has gendered implications, and demand that the gender dimensions of each be taken into account

More information:

Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights: <http://genderandsecurity.org/>
WILPF PeaceWomen: www.peacewomen.org

If you try this exercise with a group – or on your own - we'd love to know what you would add to the Women, Peace and Security agenda! Please let us know by emailing: carol.cohn@genderandsecurity.org and abigail@peacewomen.org. Thank you!