

Role and participation of women in the establishment and implementation of international security policies

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Abstract

Women have long been excluded from peace and security processes, which include disarmament, despite being disproportionately affected by weapons. Emphasizing, the role of women in peace and security processes began to gain meaning only after 2000, when the United Nations Resolution, Resolution 1325 entered into force. In order for women to participate equally in such processes, the resolution emphasizes the necessity of women's participation as agents of positive change and not as weak and powerless victims. Contributing to a society where women can live freely in harmony without being marginalized.

The purpose of this paper is to explain the different roles that women have in creating security policies. Further, this paper explains the role of women in initiatives, peacekeeping and peace-building. The paper also explains the international mechanisms that promote the involvement of women in peace and security processes.

Keywords: United Nations resolution; disarmament; women's participation; peacekeeping and peace.

Introduction

In common use, gender equality refers to "equal rights, responsibilities and opportunities for women, men, girls and boys."¹ However, practice shows the opposite. More than 95 percent of peacekeepers are men.² With the contribution of women in peace-building and conflict prevention at many levels, only 2.5 percent of the signatories, 3.2 percent of the mediators, 5.5 percent of the witnesses, and 7.6 percent of the negotiators are women.³ This shows that in many cases is ignored the importance of the contribution of women as leaders, especially their help in conflict issues, reintegration efforts, economic and political development. For this reason, the inclusion of a gender perspective in the conflict study and especially in the security sector is relatively new.

¹ Thornton, Th. and Whitman, T..2013. "Gender and Peacebuilding". Integrated Peacebuilding: Innovative Approaches to Transforming Conflict, ed. Craig Zelizer, p.13

² United Nations Peacekeeping. "Gender Statistics". <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/gender.shtml> (Seen on October 20, 2017).

³ United Nations Entity for Gender Equality, UNIFEM. "Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations", p.3.

In 1988, the Millennium published a special issue on “Women and International Relations,” already widely known as the launch of a research program on feminist approaches to International Relations. Then, author Robert Keohane has characterized international feminist relationships as “very likely to start a productive debate involving international relations researchers, feminist thinkers, and others concerned about security in the most comprehensive sense.”⁴ Further, over the past decade, the United Nations with the Security Council have adopted a number of resolutions on women, for their participation in peace and security. So, acknowledging that sustainable security is not possible without women’s involvement, the United Nations in 2000 adopted Resolution 1325 of the Security Council. This resolution calls for gender equality, women’s representation in peace negotiations and at all levels regarding security issues, women’s involvement in disarmament, and reintegration and reconstruction efforts. Resolution 1325 and other resolutions adopted by the UN call on states, as classical subjects in international law and other UN institutions to ensure women’s involvement in peace-building. Today, the “Women, Peace and Security” (WPS) normative framework has emerged as a legitimate international security concern and has become an integral part of the discourse for peace and international security. Therefore, the purpose of this paper is to assess women’s influence and their involvement in international security, further identifying obstacles and challenges faced by women in peacekeeping and security operations, introducing some examples of the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and beyond. Finally, to see the results of the activities that have led women, peace, security and the agenda of a concrete change in the realization of women’s rights and a positive transformation in the quality of their lives.

The Normative Framework for Women, Peace and Security (WPS)

During the consultations on the Global Study, former Nepalese women in Nepal have spoken but they have had no voice in the country’s 2006 peaceful negotiations.⁵ Survivors of sexual violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina have explained that they have not yet seen justice, decades after the end of the conflict there.⁶ Continuing, during the Second World War, various women’s peace movements have continued to advocate for conflict prevention and international disarmament. Today, around the world, women are those who continue to bear the burden of conflict, and continue to be excluded from peace reconstruction efforts and peacekeeping. Women’s mobilization for peace started with movement, evolving at different levels of organization at the national and international level. For the first time, pacifist women from all over the world gathered

⁴ This is Robert Keohane’s approval over the back cover of Ann Tickner’s book on “Gender in International Relations: Feminist Approaches to Global Security” (New York: Columbia University Press, 1992).

⁵ Enloe, C. 2015. “Chapter 02: Women, Peace and Security”. Clark University, p.28.

⁶ Id, p.29

at the International Women's Congress in The Hague on April 28, 1915, set to "study, recognize and eliminate the causes of war."⁷ One of the greatest achievements was the establishment of the International Women's Peace and Freedom League. In this way, the growing normative framework for women, peace and security continued to grow. Much of the growth of the normative framework for women, peace and security is focused on the obligations to protect women in conflict environments, including sexual violence and discrimination.⁸ The United Nations Security Council has dealt with these issues in a number of resolutions like that; 1820, then 1888, 2106, and so on. Among their achievements, these resolutions have asked UN peacekeepers to receive training on how to prevent, recognize and respond to sexual violence; instructed that the UN sanctions regime should include those who commit sexual violence in conflict; and established the post of Special Representative of the Secretary for Sexual Violence in Conflict.⁹ Although Women, Peace and Security (WPS) remains focused on protecting women and preventing sexual violence, increased attention has been given to ensuring women's involvement in conflict prevention and beyond; reconstruction. By resolutions 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013), the Security Council turned its focus on the active roles of women as leaders in restoring peace and conflict prevention.¹⁰ Resolution 2122 further requires, among other commitments, UN missions should facilitate for full participation of women in the reconstruction of the post-election conflict, including; programs for demobilization, disarmament and reintegration (DDR); and in the security sector and justice reforms.¹¹ Such integration would lead to wider participation of women in security.

Peacemaking and peacekeeping

Women are typically excluded from the formal processes of peace. In missions led by the UN Peacekeeping Operations Department, they accounted for 3 percent of the total military contingents in 2010.¹² Then, women are usually underrepresented in their national parliaments, and this usually occurs in countries that have emerged from conflict or war. This is followed by a sub-representation in the peacekeeping forces as well as in making decisions in such cases as peace or peace-keeping between two or more states. In this context, this chapter will examine women's participation in peace processes, and whether women's participation is a premise contrary to the predominant concepts of peace and security? Further, is there a deeper and more

⁷ International Women's Relationship for Peace and Freedom. "History: 100 Years of Work for Peace and Freedom". <http://wilpf.org/wilpf/history/> (Seen on october 21, 2017)

⁸ Id.

⁹ Resolution 1820. 2008. UN Doc. S / RES / 1820 (United Nations Security Council, 19 June, 2008).

¹⁰ International Women's Relationship for Peace and Freedom, *supra* note 7

¹¹ Resolution 2122. 2013. parag.4.

¹² Orville, V. 2011. "The role of women in global security." United States Institute of Peace, Special Report 264

stable resistance to women's participation in this field? And finally, what are the opportunities and challenges of women's participation in peacekeeping processes?

From a different perspective, women's participation in processes such as peace and security has to do with increasing demand for democracy, lawmaking and equal social representation. Many of the leaders, shaping, supporting peace and transition processes still do not see women as valuable partners. This has caused a very small number of women who have participated in the UN peace operations. Only after 1991, there has been a participation of women in peacekeeping operations. Since this year, direct reference to women or gender found is only 16 percent of peace agreements. Meanwhile, the representation of women in the European Union (EU) is even worse. Of the 11 Special Representatives of the EU in conflict zones, currently only one is female (Rosalind Marsden, Sudan) and she is the first female nomination ever.¹³ So the question may be where are the women? A common response could be that there is a deficit of qualified women in peace and security processes. Although in some Peace Agreements, such as the Aceh Peace Agreement (APA), 2005, women have played a very positive role as advocates and peacebuilders.¹⁴ Even in this agreement, women have had the right to present their thoughts, ideas but not making decisions about international security.

Reintegration of women in peace

In the many efforts to prevent, resolve and reconstruct the conflict, women are systematically excluded from meaningful participation. Those during and after the conflict to the attainment of peace face different types of discrimination on the basis of gender. Economic activity is critical to women's empowerment, particularly in Afghanistan, where women are locked in the four walls of the home.¹⁵ Another common form of discrimination against women is the redistribution of land or resources as well as the DDR processes. Therefore, national policy development and international coordination have been seen as a new approach to gender reintegration, its development, and the increase in the number of women participating in peacekeeping processes in pre- and post-conflict areas.

The fundamental idea of reintegration of women is related to the role they have had as a fighter, supporting a peaceful reconstruction. The example of women's participation in Colombia in reaching a peace agreement with the FARC is a great example of how peace processes in which women are involved are better and more

¹³ The Center for Humanitarian Dialogue. 2011. "Peace in Asia and the Pacific: Participation, Perspectives and Women's Priorities", p.9.

¹⁴ Kamaruzzaman, Suraiya,. 2008. " Agents for Change: The Women's Role in the Peace Process in Aceh ". Issue 20: <http://www.c-r.org/accord-article/agents-change-roles-women-acehs-peace-process> (Seen on October 28, 2016).

¹⁵ Niethammer, C., Blackden, M., and Stachau, H. 2008. "Creating opportunities for women entrepreneurs in conflict-affected countries", Washington, DC: International Finance Corporation, p.34

stable than women's lack of processes. Women's participation is therefore important in DDR processes, and excluding them remains the critical opportunity for community reconstruction. Identifying that the revival of a community would only be possible even with the involvement of women in addressing decisions, as well as towards a balance of life, reintegrating the entire community. In this way, DDR is linked to the rule of law, the justice system, and in all these areas the needs of women and men need to be taken into account in order to gain protection from continuing violence. Such decisions may include amnesty, more local judges, convincing leaders to set aside land for mothers who raise children born of sexual violence during the war, or, as has happened in Uganda, a ritual cleaning for ex-warrior to open the way for their return to community life. A successful DDR means participation at a higher inclusive gender level. UN Resolutions are those which call for gender perspective inclusion, including consideration of the special needs of women and girls during repatriation and rehabilitation, reintegration and post-conflict rebuilding. Among other things, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 called for "member states to increase women's participation in decision-making in institutions and conflict resolution mechanisms at international, regional and national levels."¹⁶ Though, historically before the Resolutions, there has been a social mobilization for women's involvement in peace and security processes. Both at a global and national level, women have long been struggling with different Movements to participate in peace, security and disarmament.

The legal framework

Women's participation in international security would be impossible unless there was an international legal normative framework that foresees equal inclusion of men and women in the peace and security processes of the world as well. The international legal framework foresees the inclusion and protection of women from all forms of discrimination. The legal protection is available under international human rights law includes those provided for by the International Covenant on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (CEDAW), the International Covenants on Civil, Political and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment, Punishment and Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, apply to women and girls on grounds of non-discrimination. International conventions have positively affected the prevention of gender discrimination. Other conventions, such as Geneva Conventions, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Protocol on the Prevention, the Refugee Status Convention, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, etc., play an important role in Humanitarian Law (non-discrimination, gender, ethnicity, racial).

¹⁶ Resolution 1325.2000. Approved by the Security Council at its 4213th meeting, October 31, 2000.

Conventions have had an impact at all levels, national and international, thus involving women in solving security, ie disarmament. Developing the constitutional framework, accountability mechanisms, and legal and justice reforms are key aspects of security arrangements and the implementation of women's participation in settlement. For example, during World War I, about 1,200 women from the warring and neutral countries gathered to protest the conflict and continued to advocate internationally for disarmament and human rights.¹⁷

Resolution 1325

During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries it was a period of emancipation of women in terms of the right to vote, while, in the current era, since the Beijing Platform, the 1995 Platform, can be characterized as the beginning of the century to fight for the implementation of the Conventions that promote equality and integration, largely based on the definition of CEDAW, Resolution 1325, and other local, regional and global Conventions and programs. The adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is a historic reference point, marking the first time that the Security Council (UN) has addressed the role and experience of women in armed conflict. The resolution had a vital role to open up new dialogues and partnerships both globally and locally, and even created new sources for women's rights in peace and security at various levels. Further, the resolution calls for change in how the international community deals with peace and international security issues.

Conclusion

The first objective of the study was to ascertain the role and implications of women's participation in international security policies. Based on the research one of the conclusions is that women are underrepresented in all decision-making instances. Women are usually underrepresented in their national parliaments, and this usually occurs in countries that have emerged from conflict or war. This is followed by a sub-representation in peacekeeping forces as well as in making decisions in such cases as peace or peace keeping. For example, in missions led by the UN Peacekeeping Operations Department, women accounted for only 3 percent of the total military contingents in 2010. However, there has been a deep and sustained resistance to women's participation in the security field and international peace. This then had an impact on raising awareness of the role of women in peace and security.

Another conclusion of research is that women's participation in such processes, peace and security is simply about increasing demands for democracy, lawmaking, and

¹⁷ United Nations. 2002. Women, Peace and Safety. Study Submitted by the Secretary-General, pursuant to Security Council Resolution 1325, p.54.

equitable social representation. Many of the leaders, shaping, supporting peace and transition processes still do not see women as valuable partners. This has caused a very small number of women who have participated in the UN peace operations.

Following up this analysis, some future outlines can be settled:

Developing national policies and international coordination as a new approach to gender reintegration, its development, and increasing the number of women participating in peacekeeping processes in pre- and post-conflict areas.

Implementation of International Conventions and Resolutions with an emphasis on United Nations Resolutions. International conventions have positively affected the prevention of gender discrimination. Resolution 1325 has increased women's participation in international security and peacekeeping policies.

Building government and NGO awareness on standards for women's rights and the use of CEDAW to promote and seek women's rights.

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