

**2019 – 2021 NATIONAL ACTION PLAN OF ARMENIA
FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UN SECURITY
COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY**

INFORMATION BROCHURE



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Year 2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Unfortunately, the world has not become a safer place since the time this Resolution was adopted; people in many parts of the world still face a reality where violence, discrimination and hatred dominate. It is our deep conviction that women do have a powerful role in terms of driving change towards peace and security, and that efforts related to security can be more sustainable with women as equal partners in conflict prevention, settlement and rehabilitation efforts, as well as in upholding sustainable peace. Therefore, their participation in the settlement of conflicts is more than a step forward to gender equality, it is also an instrument for strengthening peace and development opportunities.

The eve of the 20th anniversary since the adoption of the landmark Resolution is a good opportunity to revisit the progress made to date and to outline perspectives forward. In February 2019, the Armenian Government approved the first National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Thus, Armenia became the 80th UN member state to have adopted a National Action Plan. Preceding the adoption of the National Action Plan, the Government of Armenia, and the civil society each have exercised their specific efforts towards implementation of the provisions of 1325 Resolution. However, these were not actions structured by commitment. The development of the National Action Plan has been a lengthy process involving various government agencies, civil society, and international organizations. As a result, we have developed a comprehensive, coherent and streamlined

document, in which the state has taken a fundamental role as a key influencing factor to support Women, peace and security agenda.

We need to take innovative, gender-sensitive approaches to addressing the root causes and risk factors which have been obstructing women's participation and to establish conditions for eliminating the vicious forms of discrimination against women.

Among its commitments as a member of the Human Rights Council from 2020-2022, Armenia has highlighted the implementation of the National Action Plan under the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security agenda, considering it instrumental in terms of protecting women living in conflict zones and ensuring their active contribution to all phases of peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.

At the same time, we keep focus on overcoming the repercussions caused by the global crisis of 2020 - the COVID-19 pandemic. The government is exercising every possible effort to mitigate the adverse impacts of the crisis, realizing that the epidemic has caused a serious economic and social consequences, which affect the most vulnerable groups in society. Particularly, COVID-19 has had a disproportionately severe effect on women and girls.

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PREFACE

Historically, women have always taken an active role in supporting security and peace. One of the most remarkable evidences of the above was the International Conference of Women in The Hague during the First World War in 1915, attended by more than 1,300 women from 12 militant and non-militant countries with a demand to put an end to the destructing war. As a result of the Conference, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom¹ was set up and continues its activities to this day.

From 1975 to 1995², a number of international conferences dedicated to women were held within the framework of the UN agenda, which also emphasized the role of women in conflict resolution and peacemaking. The efforts of Women's World Movement also laid the foundation for the process of developing the most important document on women's rights, namely, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, that was adopted in 1979 and entered into force in 1981³. One of the key thematic directions of the Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 was "Women and Peace." As a result of nearly a century of struggle, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda was formulated, and was finally documented on October 31, 2000, with the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Ensuring equality between men and women is one of the priorities for the Republic of Armenia. Shortly after its independence, on 1993 Armenia signed the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. To date, a number of legislative regulations and strategies have been adopted to ensure equal rights for women and men, and to prevent and punish gender-based violence. On September 19, 2019, Government adopted Program of 2019-2023 on Strategic Measures for the Implementation of Gender Policy in the Republic of Armenia⁴. Pursuing the principle of equality between men and women in all aspects, the Government of Armenia approved the First National Action Plan for Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution on Women, Peace and Security agenda on February 28, 2019. The Republic of Armenia, in its capacity as the chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women in 2020-2021, has facilitated the meeting dedicated to the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Conference. Political declaration, adopted during the said meeting, reaffirmed the idea that **women at all levels of decision-making in peace processes and mediation efforts should have full, equal and meaningful participation.**

Thus, the purpose of this information booklet is to provide the readers information on UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which is the fundamental mechanism of the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda and the essence of the National Action Plan of Armenia.

PART 1

"Women, Peace and Security" Agenda. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its pillars

Within the past two decades, the gender sensitivity among the international community has significantly increased in the context of armed conflicts, fostered by the efforts of the international community and, obviously, the legal mechanisms established by the international structures. However, prior to these developments, scientific and professional references to women's role and experience in armed conflicts and peacebuilding processes have been insubstantial⁵.



The HALO Trust

The world's largest humanitarian clearance organization has been training and employing local women in humanitarian demining missions in the affected areas of Nagorno-Karabakh.

Throughout the years, much of the material in the scientific literature and in the media has portrayed women as "victims" in the context of armed conflict, ignoring women's contributions to armed conflicts, as well as during post-war and peacebuilding processes. Such tendencies have their logical explanation: the mechanisms for preventing and punishing violence in military conflicts tend to abate, while various manifestations of gender-based violence are escalating^{6,7}. The figure below outlines the key issues and challenges faced by women during genocide and other crimes against humanity, as well as during armed conflicts.^{8,9}

Figure 1. The key issues and challenges

VICTIMS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to the transformations in armed conflicts nowadays (particularly, modernization of military equipment and the creation of new types military equipment), about 90% of war victims include peaceful civilians, 90% of which are women and girls.
FORCED EXTRADITION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Women and children comprise more than 70% of the world's refugees. In some cases, that number rises to 80% (see the example of Syria), sometimes - to 90%.
TARGETING THE REPRODUCTIVE SYSTEM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forced pregnancy, • Genital mutilation and sterilization, • Mass infections of STIs, particularly HIV
SEXUAL VIOLENCE AND WAR RAPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sexual slavery, • Mass rape of women, • Group rapes, often accompanied by murder or amputation.
TAKING ON MULTIPLE ROLES IN THE FAMILY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Child and adult care, • Procurement of food in difficult military situations, • Taking care of other social needs.
HUMAN SHIELD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During the conflict, women continuing to live on the line of contact, along with children and the elderly, become human shields in the lack of adequate protection.

However, this does not mean that women should be perceived only as victims. As shown in Figure 1, during the most turbulent times women undertake the essential mission of sustaining the family. Women enroll as combatants during armed conflicts¹⁰. Women all over the world take an active role in various communities, as well as contribute to the peacebuilding processes in the country, assuming leadership positions in various areas, etc. Despite all this, it is indisputable fact that women are left out of the decision-making, conflict management and negotiation processes, as well as a number of other essential developments.

To address the above-mentioned gaps, various mechanisms have been established aimed at

1. eliminating the issues faced by women in armed conflicts by means of more effective mechanisms,
2. increasing women's participation in decision-making and negotiation processes.

Thus, at the United Nations Security Council session 4213 held on October 31, 2000, the Resolution 1325 was adopted unanimously¹¹. The adoption of the Resolution is perceived as a turning point in terms of the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda formulation, and the inclusion of women and the gender concept in peacebuilding processes. Particularly, this Resolution reaffirms the essential role of women in conflict prevention and resolution negotiation, peacebuilding, peacemaking and peacekeeping as well as in post-war situations and rehabilitation processes. It emphasizes the significance of women's equal participation in supporting peace and security. The "Women, Peace and Security" Agenda, based on international experience, states that during armed conflicts women and men suffer equally, although differently. And due to the said reason, there is a need for a separate set of instruments to explicitly address women's specific needs, as well as to incorporate their experience into various processes. Figure 2 shows the key features that make Resolution 1325 a cornerstone of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

Figure 2. Characteristics of UNSCR 1325

It is the first resolution of the UN Security Council to address the role, participation and experience of women in the context of armed conflicts.

It recognizes women's active participation in armed conflicts (not only as fighters).

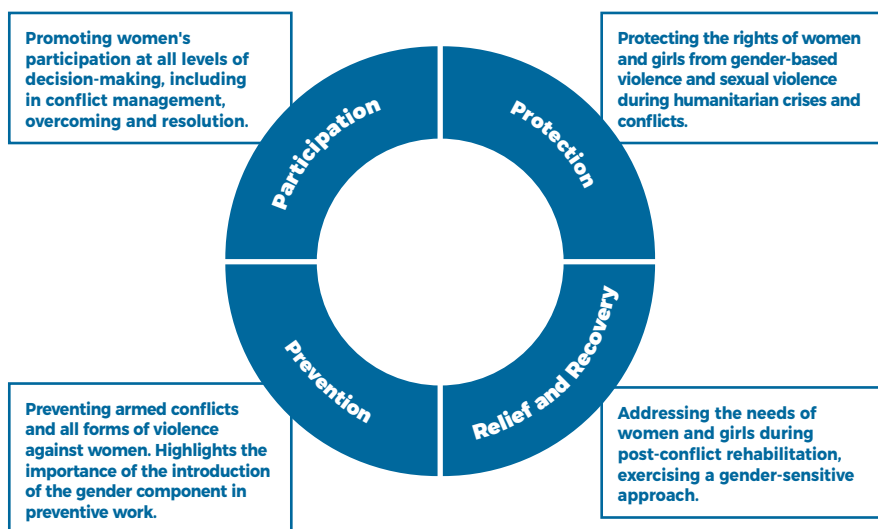
It calls on the UN member states to take appropriate steps to increase women's participation in decision-making, negotiation and peacebuilding.

It establishes a universal reporting platform for the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda.

In this regard, one of the paragraphs of the Resolution is particularly noteworthy, which calls on all states to put an end to injustice and penalize those who are responsible for genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and other violence against women and girls, excluding the possibility of amnesty.

Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council consists of 18 goals or provisions. Each of them is linked to one of the four pillars of the Resolution, which are: participation, protection, prevention, and recovery. Figure 3 shows the four pillars of the Resolution, along with the main objectives.

Figure 3. The four pillars of the UNSCR 1325



The adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 laid the foundation for the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda. Thus, the Resolution became the fundamental, although not the sole international legal mechanism governing the agenda. The following Figure 4 presents the Resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council in relation to the "Women, Peace and Security" agenda, which are intended to further consolidate the provisions of Resolution 1325.

Figure 4. Resolutions adopted by UNSCR and related to Resolution 1325

RESOLUTION 1820 (2008)	Recognizes sexual violence during wartime as a war tactic and a weapon of war.
RESOLUTION 1888 (2009)	Ensures the effective implementation of UNSCR 1820, and the establishment of the institution of Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issues of sexual violence in the conflict zones.
RESOLUTION 1889 (2009)	Includes a strategy to increase women's participation in the negotiation processes and calls for the elaboration of indicators to assess the effectiveness of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
RESOLUTION 1960 (2010)	Reaffirms commitments undertaken according to previous Resolutions on the prevention of sexual violence and mandates to combat against the impunity environment.
RESOLUTION 2106 (2013)	Calls on stakeholders, including the Security Council, to take more rigorous actions towards enacting the provisions of earlier Resolutions and further reducing impunity.
RESOLUTION 2122 (2013)	Introduces more robust methods to increase women's inclusion in conflict resolution processes. Reaffirms the irreplaceable role of women in establishing sustainable peace.
RESOLUTION 2242 (2015)	The Women, Peace and Security agenda is linked to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. Refers to the role of women in combating extremism and terrorism.
RESOLUTION 2272 (2016)	Provides resources for the fight against sexual exploitation and abuse during peacekeeping operations.
RESOLUTION 2467 (2019)	Calls on the parties to the conflict to stop sexual violence as part of their tactics and to develop distinct mechanisms for punishing the criminals.

PART 2

Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 through the National Action Plans: Armenia

With the adoption of Resolution 1325 by the UN Security Council, the member states reaffirmed the vital role of women in building peace and security. Resolution 1325 calls on states to go further than merely recognizing women's contributions, and additionally take more specific actions aimed at increasing women's participation in peace and security processes.

The existence of the Resolution is important, although not a sufficient condition to ensure all the necessary measures have been enacted. Understanding this issue, in 2005 the Security Council instructed member states to set up their own mechanisms for implementing the provisions of the Resolution by means of National Action Plans. The NAP represents a toolkit that comprises a set of well-structured actions to enable the implementation of the provisions and achievement of objectives set out by the Resolution 1325.

Figure 5. Specific characteristics of NAPs¹²



As of January 2020, 83 UN member states (43% of UN member states) have developed their NAPs¹³.

Thus, taking into account that the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms, the establishment of gender equality, as well as ensuring the active role of women in all cycles of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict are among the top priorities of the Republic of Armenia, on February 28 the Government of RA adopted the first National Action Plan for 2019-2021 and implementation timetable for fulfilment of

of provisions of the UNSCR Women's, Peace and Security. The NAP has been developed based on the action plan for 2017-2019 deriving from the National Strategy of Human Rights Protection adopted by the Government of Armenia through the GoA Decree N483-N of May 4, 2017. The 76th clause of the above Decree is related to the development of NAP for the implementation of the provisions of the Resolution 1325. The development of the NAP is also based on the Decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia dated September 13, 2017, by which an inter-ministerial commission was established for the NAP development. The fact that the NAP was adopted by the Government Decree is an evidence of the political commitment by the state to assume responsibility for the implementation of the NAP and to ensure its continuity.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs undertook the coordination of NAP development activities. It is noteworthy that preceding the NAP development, Armenia had already taken significant actions in this direction, both through state institutions and non-governmental organizations, as reported to the UN. Thus, on January 19, 2017, the Report on the implementation of Resolution 1325 by Armenia was circulated as an official UN document (S/2017/54). The key objective of the NAP is to support and monitor the implementation of Resolution 1325, as well as to promote it at all possible levels: local (improved public perception through various public awareness raising programs), national (acknowledged by the state as national priority in the area of human rights) and international (active involvement of Armenia in the activities of international organizations engaging in the areas covered by the resolution).

On April 23, 2020, by the Decree of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia N490-A, a Commission was established on Implementation and Monitoring of the National Action Plan for UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The Commission's activities are managed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Commission includes representatives of the National Assembly, Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure, Ministry of High Technological Industry, Ministry of Economy, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Police, Human Rights Defender's Office, Armenian Red Cross, various non-governmental organizations and stakeholder international organizations (UNFPA, UNHCR).

The Armenia's NAP encompasses 18 main objectives, which correlate with the 4 pillars of Resolution 1325: participation, protection, prevention and recovery. NAP clearly defines the objectives as well as the measures required to achieve these priorities, the timing for implementing the measures, performance indicators, the responsible executors/co-executors, as well as the financial sources.

PART 2.1

PARTICIPATION

Inclusion of women and their interests and needs in decision-making and other processes related to conflict prevention, management and resolution (effective participation of women in formal and informal negotiation processes, participation in missions aimed at establishing and sustaining peace and security, decision-making processes etc).

The first part of the National Action Plan focuses on expansion of women's participation in various areas. The Republic of Armenia emphasizes the importance of involving women living in conflict zones in conflict prevention and settlement processes. The Republic of Armenia focuses on ensuring the participation of women living in border communities in the economic, social, educational, and environmental aspects. This section outlines 7 objectives, as presented below.

- **Promoting the involvement of women in the Armed Forces, with a clear focus on peacekeeping missions.**

- **Promoting cooperation between the various stakeholders involved in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and settlement.**

- **Support in the introduction of the gender component in the RA Police.**

- **Promoting projects envisaging women's participation in economic, social and other spheres.**

- **Formation of civil security culture, specifically in border areas.**

- **Promoting women's participation in defense policy-making and decision-making processes.**

- **Support for the social adaptation of wives of military units servicemen at military units located in border areas.**

To achieve the above-mentioned objectives, the following measures are planned: raising awareness on gender issues, assessing the needs of various parties, women's capacity-building, increasing women's participation in the defense system and in peacekeeping missions.

The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs together with the International Organization coordinating activities of the Gender Thematic Group, the Police, the Ministry of Education and Science, the Ministry of Nature Protection, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development are the executing parties in charge for the implementation.

PART 2.2 | PROTECTION

Protection of women's physical, psychological and mental health, as well as security and rights. This also implies the establishment of gender-sensitive mechanisms that can monitor and record violations of women's rights occurring during conflicts, ceasefire, negotiation, and post-war situations.

Part 2 of the National Action Plan is related to protection. This section of the NAP includes 5 objectives, each of which aims to ensure the protection and security of women's rights in different social groups in many areas. The objectives are set out below:

- **Protecting women and girls from violence during conflicts.**

- **Ensuring the protection of the rights of women and girls affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.**

- **Providing special protection for displaced women and girls.**

- **Protection of the socio-economic rights of women and girls in the settlements affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.**

- **Cooperation with the authorities of the Artsakh Republic (Nagorno-Karabakh) on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.**

The key measures to achieve the above-stated objectives include: cooperation with international and national governance bodies to prevent violence against women during conflict and to offer protection to women and girls who have survived acts of violence; training of investigators, military prosecutors and judges; improved guidance mechanisms to women who have suffered violence; development of women's rehabilitation and reintegration programs; assessment of educational needs, provision of training to women who have suffered during conflicts; provision of refugee status and shelter in accordance with the procedure established by the law, etc.

The Ministry of Defense, the Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Police, the Ministry of Health, the Migration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, etc. are responsible parties in charge of the implementation of the above-stated objectives.

PART 2.3 PREVENTION

Elimination of various types of structural and physical violence caused by the conflict, especially sexual and gender-based violence. This provision envisages the availability of mechanisms to ensure the safety of women and girls at wartime as well as peace times. It is also important for women who have experienced violence to have access to justice.

Part 3 of the National Plan addresses the next pillar of Resolution 1325: Prevention. This section includes four objectives aimed at implementing various mechanisms to prevent violence. The objectives are listed below:

- **Prevention of gender-based violence.**

- **Raising awareness on topics related to women's issues, security and peace.**

- **Educational capacity-building, inclusion of information on Resolution 1325 in educational programs.**

- **aising awareness among the employees of the military police, penitentiary and military prosecutor's office.**

The following measures are envisaged for the implementation of the objectives: organizing information and training activities for peacekeepers and military police personnel, and with the appropriate consent - also for the representatives of the Investigative Committee and the Military Prosecutor's Office. Awareness-raising activities related to Resolution 1325 as well as on the other international documents addressing issues of women's rights, raising awareness in educational institutions on the Resolution and the Women, Peace and Security agenda mechanisms, etc.

The key responsible parties in charge for the implementation of these objective are the Ministry of Defense, the Police, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Education and Science.

PART 2.4

RELIEF AND RECOVERY

This pillar implies an assessment of the needs of women and girls during conflict time and in the post-war period. It is especially important to provide assistance to the most vulnerable groups, such as survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, former female combatants, refugees and others by implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programs. Involve women in rehabilitation/recovery activities in post-war situations (transitional justice, disarmament, dialogue, etc.).

The last, fourth part of the National Action Plan addresses the fourth pillar of the resolution which is relief and recovery. This section pursues two main objectives aimed at supporting women and protecting women's rights. The objectives are listed below:

- **Based on the results of the assessment, provision of social-psychological and legal assistance to women displaced or at risk of displacement.**

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- **Development of culture within the defence system ensuring protection of women's rights and equal opportunities, and introduction of monitoring mechanisms to support its continuity.**

In order to achieve these objectives, it is planned to first of all establish cooperation with international and local organizations to assess the needs of women and girls, and their families who are displaced or under displacement risk, as well as to implement integration programs for people with refugee status in Armenia. It is envisaged to conduct meetings and conferences with various society groups (with the participation of international experts) to raise awareness about the role of women in the fields of peace and security.

The Immigration Service of the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Development, the Ministry of Defense and the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs are responsible parties in charge for the implementation of the objectives.

PART 2.5 | **UNSCR 1325 Resolution and Armenia's actions in the context of women's rights protection**

Armenia, as a member of the international community continues to hold the major responsibility for ensuring the respect and protection of women's rights. Armenia is fulfilling this responsibility by ensuring the implementation of fundamental international documents on women's rights, including the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and Global Objectives for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development¹⁴ and other key instruments. These instruments serve as a basis for the development of various national programs in the field of women's rights and gender equality. At the same time, the development and implementation of all national programs on women's rights are of ongoing nature. The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is also perceived in this context as a key instrument in formulating the national agenda for strengthening women's rights and promoting their participation. The NAP addresses Armenia's priorities in terms of security issues and peace. To briefly describe the objectives outlined by the country in the context of the implementation of Resolution 1325, the following should be specifically highlighted:

Promote the experience sharing at the national, regional and international levels.

Collaborate with NGOs and civil society.

Implement joint efforts with all stakeholder structures involved in the NAP, including by means of awareness campaigns.

Strengthen the reporting capacities under NAP.

Focus on the needs of the most vulnerable groups.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 enables us to implement the objectives set out for us in a more comprehensive and coordinated manner.

PART 3

"Women, Peace and Security" agenda and the work performed by different actors

The development and enactment of the Armenia's NAP under UNSCR 1325 pursues various targeted initiatives and public measures. Since the adoption of the NAP, several measures have been taken by governmental and non-governmental institutions in Armenia, some of which are particularly noteworthy.



"Women, Peace and Security: International and Armenian Practice". March 15, 2019

On March 11, 2019, the annual "NATO Week" took place in Armenia, with the aim of raising awareness about Armenia-NATO relations through public diplomacy initiatives¹⁵. As part of activities during the week, presentation of UNSCR 1325 was held. Thus, on March 15, 2019, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs held a panel discussion on "Women, Peace and Security: International and Armenian Practice". The panel discussion was officially opened by the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, Zohrab Mnatsakanyan¹⁶. Clare Hutchinson, NATO Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security¹⁷, Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, Arman Tatoyan, Human Rights Defender, as well as representatives of embassies and international organizations, civil society, international experts and others were the honorary guests of the panel discussion.

Ms. Karine Sujayan, Head of the Human Rights and Humanitarian Issues Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Armenia, presented the Armenia's National Action Plan, outlining its main objectives, expected results and further actions.

As already mentioned, non-governmental organizations active in this field have also contributed to NAP development. This panel discussion organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs established a platform for a broader dialogue between the NGOs and the Government

on the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The discussion in this format was another evidence of the Government's commitment to its policy adopted on the Women, Peace and Security agenda; furthermore, it served as a starting point for other important public



"Women, Peace and Security: International and Armenian Practice". March 15, 2019

activities. On December 4, 2019, "Women's Role in the Establishment of Peace. Opportunities and Challenges" conference was held in Yerevan, as a platform for discussing the 18th objective of the UNSCR 1325 - prospects and opportunities for ensuring women's rights in the defense system, creating a culture of equal opportunities, and introducing its monitoring mechanisms¹⁸. The conference was officially opened by Ms. Zaruhi Batoyan, the Minister of Labor and Social Affairs. In the first part of the conference, the RA Prime Minister's spouse, Anna Hakobyan presented the "Women for Peace" campaign, which has a history of almost two years. As Mrs. Hakobyan presented, the campaign carries the following message as a statement: "To urge and demand, as a woman and a mother, that all parties and mediators in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict refrain from the war path, to prevent hostilities, to make all attempts to resolve the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict through peaceful negotiations". As it follows from the message, the campaign pursues the objective of preventing more human life casualties from happening. Afterwards, panel discussions were held on the situation of women in conflict zones, the existing opportunities and challenges, the opportunities for cooperation between different stakeholders, the efforts already taken in this direction, etc. Shombi Sharp, UN Resident Coordinator in Armenia, international experts, NGO representatives and others were the honorary guests of the meeting.

UNSCR 1325 calls on women to be equally involved in decision-making, negotiation, conflict management and resolution processes, as well as in security, defense, and peacekeeping missions.

The Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Armenia, being the executor and a co-executor of a number of provisions of the NAP of UNSCR 1325, has taken numerous measures aimed at promoting women's involvement in various units of the armed forces, especially in peacekeeping missions, protection of women from gender-based violence during conflicts, etc.



Scientific research activities carried out by the Ministry of Defense deserve particular attention: they focus on the perceptions of women's military service by different segments of society and the role of female military servicemen. The results of the study are summarized in the book "Perspectives on the Extension of Women's Involvement and Participation in the Defense Sector". The Ministry of Defense also published "Woman and the Army" paper, which presented two important issues from sociological, military-civil and socio-cultural perspectives: the involvement of women in the armed forces and women's participation in the defense of the state.

To comply with the provisions of the NAP, the Ministry of Defense has organized training courses for various target groups, especially for female servicemen. Women's rights and awareness-raising courses were organized for servicemen; focus group discussions were held to identify the causes of the challenges related to women's involvement in peacekeeping missions, videos on "How I Became a Peacekeeper" were prepared about female servicemen, training courses on women's rights and issues were organized for servicemen, etc. The Women, Peace and Security agenda places great emphasis on women's participation,



"Women's Role in the Establishment of Peace. Opportunities and Challenges", December 4, 2019



Discussion dedicated to the summing up of the events of the 2019 program of the UN Population Fund Cooperation Program

especially in peacekeeping missions. It is noteworthy that compared to 2018, the number of female servicemen in the peacekeeping brigade in 2019 increased by about 8%, and the number of those enlisted in AF subdivisions involved in the UN and NATO peacekeeping operations - by about 60%. Currently, the women's peacekeeping troops are part of the Armenian peacekeeping force in the NATO "Kosovo Forces" (Kosovo, KFOR) and "Resolute Support" peacekeeping missions (Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) as well as the UNIFIL (United Nations Interim Force) in Lebanon carried out under the auspices of United Nations. Ministry of Defense also held public events, round table discussions, etc.

The National Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia unites state bodies, non-governmental organizations, women affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, as well as women living in the borderline areas of Armenia, which provides an opportunity to accurately assess current risks and raise public awareness level. The program focuses on the most vulnerable groups of the population and helps to increase the level of civil protection and social and economic rights.

Armenia is a strong supporter of the universality of human rights and their equal, nondiscriminatory and non-selective approach as it is emphasized in the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights (Article 2) "No distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty." Adherence to this principle is especially key in the context of the humanitarian response, when assistance should be provided to civilians affected by hostilities. Therefore, the NAP has dedicated a separate section to address the issue of protection of displaced women and girls.

The civil society, and more specifically, women's rights organizations, groups, individuals, and others have made a significant contribution to the realization of all these goals. Over



Presentation of the 2013 Monitoring Report of the Civil Society on UNSCR 1325



"Women around the negotiating table - a fairer approach for all" conference, "Democracy Today" NGO, June 2019

many years, a number of organizations and women's groups have carried out peacebuilding initiatives, worked with various groups of women directly affected by the conflict, established links between different stakeholders, raised the issues of women and children affected by the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, implemented many programs in the border areas, and so on.

The formation of UNSCR 1325 monitoring group in 2013 is particularly needs to be highlighted²⁰. The activities of the group were directed towards the establishment of the Armenia's NAP under the UNSCR 1325, through the development of monitoring reports and its further advocacy. It is noteworthy that the reports refer not only to the situation of women in Armenia, but also address the situation of women in Artsakh. A number of organizations have included the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The NGOs have implemented programs aimed at localization of UNSCR 1325 and the NAP, and have organized numerous trainings on various issues on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as well as raising awareness of the key issues faced by women affected by the conflict. Annual awards, conferences, roundtable discussions, etc. are organized by the representatives of the civil society. More specifically, the programs aimed at establishing cooperation between Armenia and the women and youth of Artsakh are of particularly importance.

Thus, adoption of the NAP aimed at implementation of UNSCR 1325 marks a new phase for the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as this instrument has enabled more systematic and clearly targeted, purposeful actions with more effective and visible outcomes, in terms of women's decision-making, negotiation, conflict management and resolution, as well as women's inclusion in defense and security processes.

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Glossary of key terms used

Peace

Has two main definitions in the context of armed conflict: negative and positive.

Negative definition. A situation or period when there is no war.

Positive definition. A situation where people can resolve their conflicts without violence and are able to work together to improve living conditions.

Peacemaking

The process targets ongoing armed conflicts and usually includes all diplomatic or other steps aimed at reaching an agreement between the conflicting parties.

Peacebuilding

A comprehensive and long-term process which pursues the goals of establishing lasting peace and security, as well as the elimination of armed conflict, through the capacity-building in societies at all levels of conflict management.

Peacekeeping

Intended to facilitate the conflict-to-peace transition. Implemented by peacekeeping troops. The UN peacekeeping missions are guided by three fundamental principles: availability of conflicting parties' consent to carry out the mission, lack of bias, and no use of force unless faced with the necessity of self-defense or protection of the mission's core purpose.

“Women, peace and security” agenda

Considered an effective toolkit that pursues the objectives of establishing gender parity and sustainable peace through the inclusion of a gender component and a gender-sensitive approach in conflict management and resolution processes.

UNSC Resolutions

A UN resolution adopted by 15 member states of the Security Council and acknowledged as an official document expressing the position and opinion of the Security Council. One of the main goals of the Security Council Resolutions is to ensure international peace and security.

List of abbreviations and acronyms

AF	Armed Forces
GTG	Gender Thematic Group
MD	Ministry of Defense
MES	Ministry of Emergency Situations
MFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MSE	Ministry of Education and Science
NAP	National Action Plan
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NKR	Nagorno-Karabakh Republic
RA	Republic of Armenia
SC	Security Council
UN	United Nations Organization

