

Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

**in co-operation with
the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Concept note on the conference Research Challenges on 'Women, Peace and Security'

Oslo, November 11th and 12th

This fall will mark the tenth anniversary of the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In cooperation with the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs the Peace Research Institute Oslo, PRIO, plans to commemorate the event in a conference which addresses some of the most pressing research challenges some of the themes of the resolution pose. Resolution 1325 established a comprehensive and ambitious program for the amelioration of the security and governance problems contemporary wars and post-conflict societies pose for women, for governments and for international organizations.

Even though awareness of the gender dimensions of peace and security issues has increased as a consequence of SCR 1325, the level of precise knowledge and reliable information on the gender dimensions of today's conflicts is still limited. This is true of both the qualitative and the quantitative impact of wars and conflicts on countries and people. Most of the statistics on the consequences of wars and conflicts on women and children are unreliable. Little is known about the effectiveness of national and international programs as well as the strategies and policies which are aimed at ameliorating the suffering of women and children. We do not know which effects the increasing participation of women in peace keeping operations has, and whether there has been an increase in the influence of women on decision making in general and peace building efforts in particular.

PRIO wishes to bring together researchers working within the fields of peace and security studies and gender studies to foster inter-disciplinary dialogue. We have chosen three key research challenges to be addressed at our conference:

- Sexual violence in war: what are the most important research questions?
- Post-conflict peace-building: What is the value-added of applying a gender perspective?
- Decision-making: What is the influence of women?