

UNITED NATIONS GLOBAL OPEN DAY FOR WOMEN AND PEACE

HIGHLIGHTS: JUNE 7-11 2010

By 11 June, 15 countries will have held their Open Day for Peace. Preparatory meetings for upcoming Open Days are also underway worldwide. Highlights so far include:

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon issued a public message in support of the Global Open Day, noting that “sustainable peace is possible only with women’s full participation – their perspectives, their leadership, their daily, equal presence wherever we seek to make and keep the peace”.

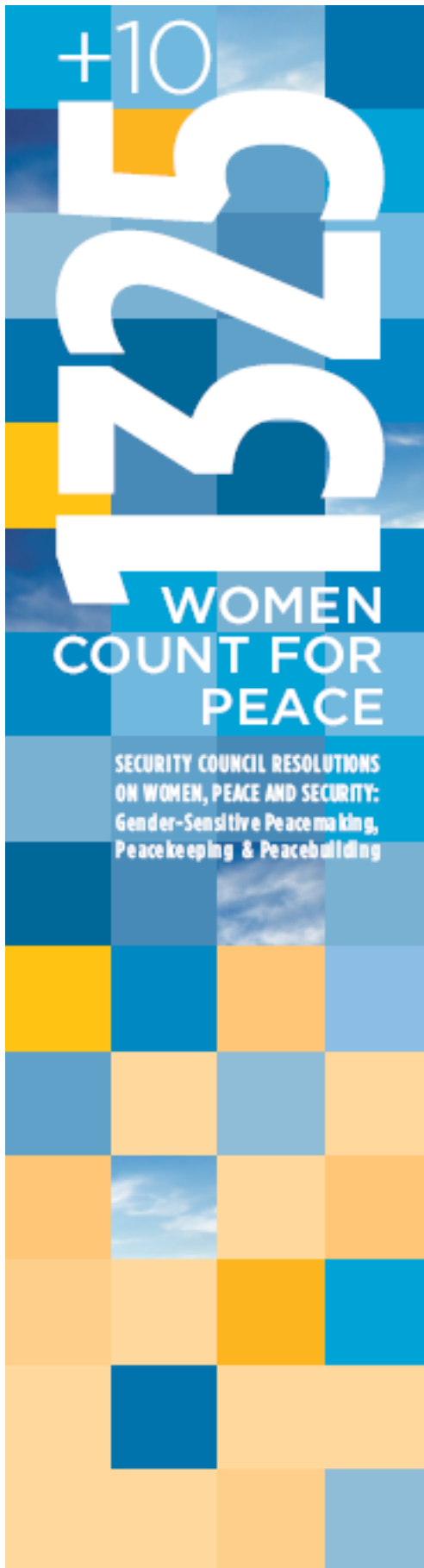
In **Sierra Leone**, the Open Day was planned in conjunction with the launch of Sierra Leone’s National Action Plan on Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820. There was a colourful and musical march of women from the security forces, civil society organizations, and girl students from at least seven schools, to the meeting venue. Key issues raised by the women included violence against women; investing in the future of Sierra Leone, investing in girls; constitutional review process; and resource allocation.

In **Liberia**, women peace leaders presented Special Representative of the Secretary-General Ellen Margreth Løj with a policy statement which highlighted three areas of concern: sexual violence, peace-building and security sector reform, with specific actions under each area required to promote and sustain peace and security in Liberia.

Special Representative Løj said that she was there to listen to the women on behalf of the entire UN System in Liberia, adding that the points they raised were extremely relevant to the challenges in there.



At the Open Day event in **Kosovo**, women peace activists voiced concerns related to women’s human, economic, and social security. The Special Representative of the Secretary-General promised to relay their views to Secretary-General Ban.



In **Darfur, Sudan**, 40 participants representing women's groups, youth, internally displaced persons, the North Darfur State Government's committee on Resolution 1325, and participants and signatories to the Darfur Peace Agreement, took part in the Open Day. Women spoke about the need to increase their representation in decision-making, and about protection from conflict and ending impunity for war crimes, including sexual violence.

In **Southern Sudan**, women discussed their concerns with UN Deputy Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator, focusing on the prevention and protection of women's rights, and participation in and promotion of peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The



Deputy Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator acknowledged that women could make a vital contribution to peace and state-building in the region.

In **Somalia**, the Open Day saw the participation of about 40 women, UN officials, and international and local media. In addition to making recommendations to the UN, international community, and Somali Government, the women committed to forming a task force on Resolution 1325 to raise awareness and push for the comprehensive implementation of the resolution.

Show your support for Resolution 1325 by signing up to the **Global Petition** at www.saynotoviolence.org