



Report on the 58th Session of the
Commission on the Status of Women
March 10 – 21 2014



peacewomen
women for peace + peace for women

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The PeaceWomen team is very grateful to all of you who represented WILPF during CSW 58 and helped us with the monitoring of a vast variety of Women, Peace and Security related events. Thanks to: Shafferan Sonneveld, Cristina Chahine, Sandra Neuman, Abigail Ruane, Maria Butler, Barbara Trojanowska, Princess Ayelotan, Dixie Hairston (US Practicum) Jenna Cooper (US Practicum) Alyssa Mouton, US Practicum) and Arielle Stephens (US Practicum).

Report author: Sandra Neuman

Editors: Abigail Ruane and Shafferan Sonneveld

Design and Layout: Shafferan Sonneveld

Cover Photo: Cristina Chahine

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List of Abbreviations

ARROW	The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women
ATOP	Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention
AU	African Union
AWA	African Women's Alliance
AWAVA	Australian Women against Violence Alliance
AWID	Association for Women's Rights in Development
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women
Cordaid	Catholic Organisation for Relief and Development Aid
CSW	Commission on the Status of Women
CWGL	Center for Women's Global leadership
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECOSOC	United Nations Economic and Social Council
EU	European Union
FEMNET	The African Women's Development and Communication Network
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation
FTF	Feminist task Force
GBV	Gender-based Violence
GLWP	Great Lakes Women's Platform
GNWP	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
ICT	Information, Communication and Technology
ICW	International Council of Women
IDLO	International Development Law Organisation
IGO	Intergovernmental Organisation
IGLHRC	International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission
IWHR	International Women's Human Rights
IWRAW AP	International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia-Pacific

KNCW	Korean National Council of Women
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MENA	Middle-East and North Africa
NAP	National Action Plan
NDI	National Democratic Institute
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWPC	National Women's Political Caucus
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
PSCF	Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SSR	Sector Security Reform
UK	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN NGLS	United Nations Non-Governmental Liason Service
UNPBSO	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office
UNSD	United Nations Statistics Division
UU-UNO	Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VAWG	Violence against Women and Girls
WHRD	Women Human Rights Defenders
WFUWO	World Federation of Ukrainian Women's Organisations
WFWP	Women's Federation for World Peace

WILPF Women's International League for Peace and Freedom
WIPNET The Women in Peacebuilding Programme
WPS Women, Peace and Security

1. Introduction

The 58th session of the Commission on the Status of Women took place at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 10 to 21 March 2014. The theme this year was the *"Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls"*.

This summary provides an overview of CSW 58 events from a Woman, Peace and Security (WPS) perspective.

The events summarized in part 5 of this report are only a fraction of the events that took place during CSW 58. To make the best use of our finite capacity, we have been selective, and attended and reported only on events with topics strongly related to PeaceWomen/WILPF and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as well as geographical focus areas.



2. Outcomes of CSW 58

Late on the on the evening of Friday, March 21st, one of the world's main bodies dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's rights came to agreement to strengthen gender equality in development. The 58th Commission on the Status of Women (CSW 58) reached consensus in recognising that the current development agenda has resulted in only slow and uneven progress for gender equality and women's rights, and called for the next development agenda to address this gap as a critical priority. In particular, the commission called for gender equality to be prioritised in the next development agenda through both a stand-alone gender equality Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) and integration of gender throughout all other goals. This was critical to strengthening momentum for addressing key gaps on gender equality and women's rights gaps in the design of the next development agenda.

In addition to supporting gender equality in the next development agenda, there was some recognition of interrelationship between gender equality, development and peace. The CSW 58 recalled the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) resolutions (paragraph 9). They recognized conflict as an obstacle to development, and called for measures to implement and monitor the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations, ensure women's effective participation in peace processes and conflict situations, and to end impunity (paragraph 42 B part (ss)). They also acknowledged the contributions of civil society, women's organizations and feminist groups (paragraph 40), and the important role of women human rights defenders and the need to protect them (paragraph 42 A (f)).

The Commission also addressed some key issues critical to preventing conflict and promoting peace.

The Agreed Conclusions called Member States to “monitor and evaluate the impact of all economic decision-making on gender equality, including public sector expenditures, austerity measures, where they apply, public-private partnerships and investments, and official development assistance, and take corrective action to prevent discriminatory impacts and achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women, including by ensuring promoting women's full and equal participation in economic decision-making structures” (paragraph 42 C (ccc)). A strengthening of this approach is critical to designing development for conflict prevention and peace.

Despite gains, there continued to be resistance. Challenges were made even on some references to women's rights, especially sexual and reproductive health and rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, particularly led by the Holy See. A small number of States led by the USA and China managed to delete support for reducing military spending to strengthen development financing. This is a failure of the CSW 58 Agreed Conclusions, not to include already agreed language from Rio (1992) and Beijing (1995) on financing development by reducing military spending. New ways to tackle this resistance and galvanize support for stronger progressive language in the post 2015 development framework must be found.

As the MDGs near their 2015 expiration and a post-2015 sustainable development agenda is designed, CSW 58 put a strong call to place gender equality at the center of sustainable development. It brought attention to the need to design development for peace. And it highlighted the need for continued strong advocacy to avoid going backwards but move forward toward the world we all want and so critically need.

3. WILPF at CSW 58



WILPF members had an energizing experience at CSW 58, where 75 activists and advocates from the WILPF global network joined over 3000 other civil society participants at hundreds of events in a two week long hustle and bustle around UN Headquarters. WILPFers came from Syria, Nigeria, Pakistan, Colombia, Geneva and many places in between. We united as a delegation to collectively raise our voices and bring attention to the fact that you get what you pay for, and there can be no peace or development without disarmament and women's full and equal human rights.

Together, we spoke fiercely and truthfully. We organised 10 successful events and we mobilized and build momentum around WILPF's 100th anniversary movement recognizing Women's Power to Stop War! Thanks to everyone who joined us and shared a photo in our #100Women4Peace photo campaign or

engaged with our unprecedented social media discussions through #CSW58 #WILPF100 #DisarmSDGs!

WILPF's inspiring Secretary General, Madeleine Rees was honored as the recipient of the Dean's Social Justice Award by the CUNY School of Law on March 13th for her leading legacy of advocating for women's human rights throughout conflict. "When women are not represented in peace processes, it is a failure. It is absolutely vital to include women in peace negotiations", Madeleine remarked discussing the situation in Syria. We all joined in celebrating Madeleine and her work with WILPF for peace.

"Together and in many forums, WILPF participants united to demand action creating peace through demilitarization and disarmament", recalls WILPF PeaceWomen Programme Director Maria

Butler, who coordinated WILPF's work at CSW. Many of WILPF's events were standing-room only, demonstrating the importance of the issues we addressed.

At WILPF's event, "No Development without Disarmament," panelists Rehana Hashmi (WILPF Pakistan), Debir Valdelamar (WILPF Colombia), Joy Onyesoh (WILPF Nigeria), Ray Acheson (WILPF Disarmament Programme), and WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees brought regional and global perspectives to show the links between conflict prevention, development, disarmament, and peace. Rehana Hashmi of WILPF-Pakistan discussed the impacts of drones, small arms and the war economy on development in Pakistan. "This war economy is not taking us anywhere," she said. Debir Valdelamar of WILPF-Colombia reminded us that "peacemaking happens at the local level" and shared examples of WILPF's work with displaced women in Colombia.

At WILPF's "From Bosnia to Syria" event, WILPF partners and Syrian women peace leaders Nawal Yazeji and Sabah Alhallak, as well as Bosnian women peace leaders Nela Porobic Isakovic and Gorana

Mlinarevic, shared experiences from the powerful recent workshops WILPF held bringing Syrian and Bosnian women together to learn from each other's experiences and strengthen women's participation and rights in peace processes. Women both from Syria and Bosnia highlighted the need for women to be seen as agents not as victims and to design gender equality into post-conflict governance systems.

WILPF launched our WILPF PeaceWomen mobile application on Women Peace and Security (WPS)- now available on all smart phones! – at our event, "Access and Technology: Breaking Down Barriers to an Holistic Women, Peace, and Security Agenda" .

In addition to holding our own WILPF events, the PeaceWomen team (Maria Butler, Abigail Ruane, Cristina Chahine, Sandra Neuman, and Shafferan Sonneveld) monitored over 60 events related to the women, peace and security agenda during this years' CSW.

For current updates on Women Peace and Security, subscribe to PeaceWomen's monthly ENews and follow us on Facebook and Twitter.

4. Background on CSW 58 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is a commission of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is dedicated to gender equality and advancement of women worldwide. CSW is arranged every year at the United Nations in New York, to evaluate progress on gender equality, identifying challenges, set global standards and formulate concrete policies to promote gender equality and women's empowerment worldwide.

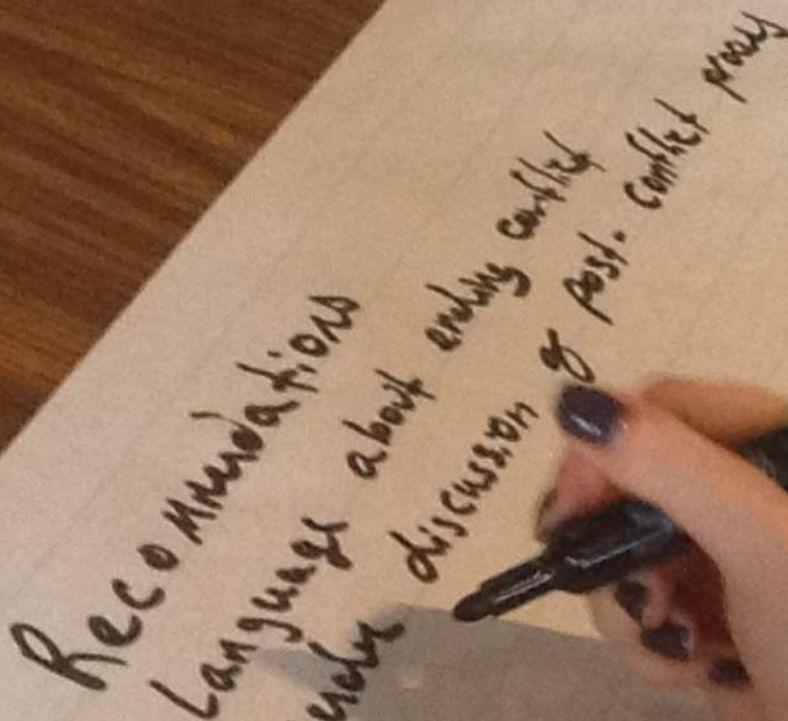
Every year has a different priority theme. This year the theme was *"Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls"*. This also addressed next steps for after the MDGs expire in 2015, described as "post-2015," especially in terms of emerging SDGs.

Besides the official events there are side events, parallel events, workshops and conversations circles.

CSW provides a unique opportunity especially for global civil society groups and grassroots organisations to raise their voices and participate in discussion on these issues.

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda

refers to Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2009), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2010), 1960 (2011), 2106 (2013), and 2122 (2013). These resolutions guide work to promote and protect the rights of women in conflict and post-conflict situations.



Recommendations
Language about ending conflict
enable discussion of post-conflict process

5. Overview and Summaries from Women, Peace and Security Events at CSW 58

As part of this year's CSW theme - *"Challenges and achievements in the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals for women and girls"* - WILPF demanded that development be designed for peace and gender equality by addressing the root causes of violence and war and integrating disarmament, women's human rights, and WPS into the emerging SDGs.

In addition to the events we hosted, WILPF PeaceWomen monitored over 60 events related to the

WPS agenda. Events were hosted both by Non-Governmental organisations (NGOs), Intergovernmental organisations (IGOs) and Member States, such as Sweden, Norway, Liberia, Australia, Ireland, Nigeria and Libya.

Many of the conflict-related events dealt with the situation of women and girls in the MENA-region, as well as Syria, Liberia and Colombia.

Some of the **overarching themes** during this years' CSW were:

- Ensure gender equality as a stand-alone goal in the post-2015 development agenda
- Design development for peace by integrating women, peace and security in the sustainable development goals
- Stop violence against women and girls
- Strengthen women's participation in peace processes for sustainable peace and development
- Include men and boys to reach gender equality

Summaries from WILPFs Main Events at CSW 58

Name of Event:	No Development without Disarmament
Organised by:	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)
Panelists:	Rehana Hashmi (Peace Activist and Human Rights Defender from WILPF Pakistan), Joy Onyesoh (Women's Rights Activist from WILPF Nigeria), Debir Valdelamar (Youth and Women's Rights Activist from WILPF Colombia), Madeleine Rees (Secretary-General of WILPF), and Ray Acheson (Disarmament Expert and Director of WILPF's Disarmament Programme)
Themes:	Disarmament, WPS, Development

On Tuesday, 11 March, 2014 the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom hosted the event, "*No Development without Disarmament*". The event brought together regional and global perspectives on women's peace activism to discuss how to strengthen an integrated approach to peace as part of a post-2015 development agenda that invests in gender equality, sustainable development and peace, rather than inequality, militarism and war.

“Women are needed to include gender perspective in Colombian negotiation”

According to WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees, an integrated approach that prevents conflict by reducing militarism and arms and strengthening women's participation and rights is critical to sustainable development and peace. Hashmi of WILPF-Pakistan discussed the impacts of drones,

small arms and the war economy on development in Pakistan. “This war economy is not taking us anywhere,” she said, also adding, “it is critical to involve women in peace dialogues.”

“The use of nuclear weapons would be catastrophic for development”

Valdelamar of WILPF-Colombia reminded participants that “peacemaking happens at the local level” and shared examples of WILPF's work with displaced women in Colombia and as part of the first Colombian women peace summit. “Women are needed to include gender perspective in Colombian negotiation,” she said. According to WILPF Reaching Critical Will Director, Ray Acheson, arms threaten livelihoods and peace, and “the use of nuclear weapons would be catastrophic for development.” Moving from the local to the global, the common message was that we cannot have sustainable development without disarmament and there is a need to invest in equality and peace as opposed to inequality and militarism and war.



Photo credit: Princess Ayelotan

Name of Event:	Women, Peace and Security: Participation in Peace Processes
Organised by:	Australian Mission to the UN, the UK Mission to the UN and WILPF
Panelists:	Senator the Hon. Michaelia Cash (Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women, Australia), Hon. Maria Miller AM (Minister for Women and Equalities, United Kingdom), Nawal Yazeji (Syrian Women's League), Debir Valdelamar (Colombia Section of WILPF), Rita Martin (Director of EVE, Organisation for Women's Development in South Sudan), and Hon. Amb. Natasha Stott Despoja (AM, Amb. for Women and Girls, Australia)
Themes:	Peace Negotiations, Women's Participation and Peacebuilding

On March 12, 2014, WILPF, with the Missions to the UN of Australia and the United Kingdom, held a panel discussion to strategically consider the successes in and challenges to women's participation and leadership in peace negotiations and peace building, looking specifically at the evolving peace processes in Syria, Colombia and South Sudan. Australian Amb. Stott Despoja provided an overview of the UN Resolutions and highlighted some of the areas that constitute as barriers for women's participation. She noted that despite international policy developments, women are still often excluded from official efforts to bring peace to conflict-affected societies. Moreover, she noted that women's contribution to broader peacebuilding often goes unrecognised.

“The UK calls for increased women's participation in peace processes”

Speaking on behalf of the UK, Hon. Minister Miller stressed the pivotal role of women in conflict management and resolution in order to create sustainable peace and noted the UK's leadership on implementing the WPS agenda. She also stated that “the UK calls for increased women's participation in peace processes”, while advocating the use of National Action Plans (NAPs): “we believe in NAPs to report on women, peace and security.” The

discussion then shifted directions to provide insight on women's participation in peace processes from three conflict areas: Syria, Colombia and South Sudan.

Yazeji of the Syrian Women's League explained how Syrian women have been eager to be part of the peace processes, yet have been excluded from negotiations. She said that “peace without women is never real peace” and that the Syrian women “need the support of the international community.” Valdelamar of WILPF-Colombia provided positive examples of how women in Colombia are actively participating in the conflict resolution - two out of the five people at the negotiation table are women. She noted that “peace starts at local levels” and as such, barriers preventing access to peacebuilding and participation in peace efforts at local level need to be addressed and eliminated.

“Peace without women is never real peace”

Martin of Eve, South Sudan, described the critical crisis in South Sudan and the dire conditions of civilians. While the South Sudanese Constitution states that women should comprise 25% of decision-making, in the first round of peace negotiations there were no women negotiating on the side of the government. She called for an inclusive process that addresses, *inter alia*, Security Sector Reform

and gender equality and she called for increased monitoring of early warnings.

“We cannot expect peace to endure when half the population is side-lined!”

Both Australia and the UK wholeheartedly supported the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and reiterated their strong belief that women need to be involved in peace processes in order to garner sustainable peace. The case studies from Syria, Colombia and South Sudan demonstrated the perseverance that women have in order to be part of peace processes and the continued obstacles women face that prevent them from meaningfully participating in their country’s conflict resolution processes. As Cash concluded, “we cannot expect peace to endure when half the population is side-lined!”

Photo credit: Shafferan Sonneveld



Name of Event: **From Bosnia to Syria. Women & Conflict: Sharing Lessons and Strategy**
Organised by: WILPF, MADRE, CWGL, IWHR Clinic, and Kvinna till Kvinna
Panelists: Madeleine Rees (WILPF Secretary General), Nela Porobić Isaković (Women's Peace Activist from Bosnia-Herzegovina and WILPF Project Coordinator for "Women Organizing for Change in Syria and Bosnia"), Gorana Mlinarevic (Women's Rights Activist and Researcher from Bosnia-Herzegovina), Sabah Alhallak (Women's Peace Activist from Syria), and Nawal Yazeji (Women's Peace Activist from Syria)
Themes: Participation, Peace Processes and Conflict

On March 12, at the third day of CSW 58, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) organised a panel discussion at the UN Chapel on to discuss how to strengthen women's participation in peace processes based on experiences in Bosnia and Syria. The session shared insights from the powerful recent workshops WILPF held bringing Syrian and Bosnian women together in Lebanon to share experiences from Bosnia and Syria and strengthen women's role in peacemaking in the Syrian conflict.

“Because of the patriarchal framework of the Dayton Peace Agreement, we now do not have entry points for gender justice”

A key lesson learned from Bosnia was that treating women as victims promotes gender injustice and violence both in the short and long terms - in both women's exclusion in the peace talks and also in post-conflict governance arrangements. “Because of the patriarchal framework of the Dayton Peace Agreement, we now do not have entry points for gender justice,” said Bosnian activist Mlinarevic.

According to WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees, excluding women also excludes critical knowledge about how to rebuild communities and co-

exist after conflict, and sets up “frozen” conflicts with arrangements based on power sharing rather than designed for peace.

Bosnian activist Porobic Isakovic argued that the international community was complicit in both women's exclusion and its long-term impact on peace because action was based on views of women as victims rather than agents of change. Syrian activist Yazeji demanded that the international community build on these lessons learned: “We need a democratic transition with equal human rights so no one can ignore us anymore,” she said. Syrian activist Alhallak highlighted the urgency of the situation: now that the conflict has reached its third year, the top priorities of Syrian migrants she works with are security, freedom and justice.

As a whole, the discussion highlighted how peace designed by war-mongers is a recipe for failure, while peace through women civil society leaders can change

“Working with Syrian and Bosnian women reaffirmed my faith in humanity. It has been so powerful.”

the game. According to WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees, “working with Syrian and

Bosnian women reaffirmed my faith in humanity. It has been so powerful.”



Name of Event: Access to Technology: Breaking Down Barriers to an Holistic Women, Peace and Security Agenda

Organised by: WILPF, Liechtenstein Institute on Peace-Determination at Princeton, Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN

Panelists: Maria Butler (WILPF), Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Ghida Anani (AbaadMENA), Bukeni Tete Waruzi (Witness), and Stefan Barriga (Permanent Mission of Liechtenstein to the UN)

Themes: Technology, Participation, WPS agenda, Advocacy, Equal Participation

On March 13, 2014, the WILPF held an event on how to leverage innovation, ideas and partnerships to strengthen women’s peace activism and impact. It was also the formal launch of the WILPF PeaceWomen expanded Women, Peace and Security (WPS) mobile application.

According to ABAAD Founder Anani, “To create change, you have to build a model that makes the old system obsolete.” Anani spoke about the importance of teaching youth and women to use social media to

make their words and photos reach out to the international community, and her work with ABAAD on this in the Middle East and North African (MENA) region: “Technology can help overcome a gap between activism and academia and support women’s truths.”

WITNESS Senior Warunzi highlighted the importance of addressing risks of gender based



violence rather than treating technology as a panacea within the context of WITNESS's use of human rights videos to promote accountability and justice. He cautioned that technology should be used carefully to promote security especially for those in situations of risk.

“Technology can help overcome a gap between activism and academia and support women’s truths.”

WILPF’s PeaceWomen Program Director Maria Butler, one of main founders of the PeaceWomen’s WPS mobile application, introduced PeaceWomen’s app as one innovative way to communicate the Women, Peace and Security agenda. She discussed how civil society as well as policy makers can use it to challenge systemic gender resistance by including a gender perspective in global and national policy, and called on attendees to push the boundaries to ensure a holistic implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Finally, WILPF Secretary General Madeleine Rees called for strengthened efforts to connect the dots between diverse agendas in a way that addresses gendered risks while leveraging innovation and partnerships for change.



Name of Event: **From Bosnia to Syria. Women’s Organisation for Peace, Rights and Accountability**

Organised by: CUNY School of Law, WILPF, MADRE, RUTGERS, Kvinna till Kvinna

Panelists: Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Barbro Svedberg (WILPF) Abigail Disney (Filmmaker) Radhika Balakrishnan (Center for Women’s Global Leadership), and Liesl Gerntholtz (Human Rights Watch)

Themes: Peace Processes and Participation

On the evening of Thursday, March 14 WILPF’s Secretary General Madeleine Rees was awarded the 2014 CUNY School of Law Dean’s Social Justice Award in recognition of her leading legacy of advocating for women’s human rights in the context of conflict. The event started with a video documentary of women peacemakers from around the world thanking Rees for her courage, leadership, and inspiration. It then provided space for an acclaimed panel to reflect on Madeleine’s impact on their own work for gender justice, equality, and peace.


All of the speakers honored and thanked Rees for the work she has done for women all over the world. Human Rights Watch Executive Director of the Women’s Rights Division Liesl Gerntholtz appreciated Rees for always creating space for women to talk to other women, from the grassroots level to diplomats and everywhere in between. Acclaimed filmmaker Abigail Disney said that she knew that Madeleine was a visionary and a genius when she met her. Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) Executive Director Balakrishnan affirmed Madeleine’s and WILPF as “radical partners” for peace.



After the reflections, CUNY School of Law Dean Michelle Anderson invited Rees to the stage and presented her with the Social Justice Award. Anderson asked her about her experience and recommendations for moving peace processes forward in Syria. Rees highlighted how women are not only victims of war but have a vital role to include their knowledge in peace processes, and should be the architects of peace. She described the exclusion of women in Bosnia peace processes as an archetypical example of how excluding women closes the space for women's participation and rights through a victim

narrative that is extraordinarily difficult to take back. Rees said it is critical to build on lessons from Bosnia in Syria, including by pushing for Special Envoy Lakhdar Brahimi to have a high level gender advisor on his team -- a gap until now that has most likely contributed to the exclusion of women in the peace talks.

Following the celebratory video, panel, and discussion, was a reception attended by many friends and colleagues.



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Summaries from Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Related Events at CSW 58

Monday 10 March 2014

Name of Event:	Has Violence become a Societal Culture in Liberia
Organised by:	Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia, WIPNET, Liberia
Panelists:	Munah Kieh Kelly (Women's NGO Secretariat of Liberia) and Esther S. Davis (WIPNET, Liberia)
Themes:	Sexual Violence against Women, Participation in Politics, Human Rights

The event included an interactive discussion and a presentation that focused on telling stories how the situation looks in Liberia today when it comes to violence against women (VAW). The event highlighted how VAW has become the most common human rights violation in Liberia. Even though women's situation has improved in Liberia and gender-based violence (GBV) has decreased it is still widespread across the country. Despite the election of Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf women are still under-represented in politics in Liberia. The strategy of the

event organisers is to try to make men see that change is needed in Liberia.

One of the strategies of the organisations is to make men understand that gender issues are important for women. A challenge is that it is a difficult process since the man is seen as the breadwinner in the family. The organisation tries to explain that if women are empowered they can help out and help share responsibilities. However, men still are intimidated as they feel that women try to take responsibilities from them.

Name of Event:	Responding to and Stopping Violence against Women: Best Practices and Innovations
Organised by:	Australian Women against Violence Alliance (AWAVA), Scottish Women's Aid, End Violence against Women, Imkaan, Center for Non-Violence, Domestic Violence New South Wales (NSW)
Panelists:	Julie Oberin (Chair AWAVA, Australia), Marai Larasi (Imkaan and End Violence against Women, UK), Margret Augerinos (Centre for Non-Violence, Australia), Lily Greenan (Scottish Women's Aid, UK), and Tracy Howe (Domestic Violence NSW, Australia)
Themes:	Prevention of Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

At this event, the panelists discussed the respective work of their organisations. The chair of Australian Women Against Violence Alliance (AWAVA) spoke about the Australian Government's report that was published in 2011, "*Safe and Free from Violence – The*

National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022", which outlined a strategy to address domestic and sexual violence by coordinating action across all Australian Governments and communities. One of the goals in the 12-

year plan is to try to hinder the spread of the problem before it gets out of control. To assist in the implementation of the national plan, a practical toolkit was developed as a joint project between the AWAVA, the Queensland Centre for Domestic and

“The world is not changed by writing a book and other people reading it, but by talking to people about the issue.”

Family Violence Research and the Central Queensland University. The toolkit has different parts, such as how to understand violence against

women, why it happens and how it can be prevented. It further consists of primary preventions with methods and approaches as well as raising awareness and changing attitudes. The final part is a step-by-step guide to take action: working in partnerships and community meetings. The prevention aspect was highlighted as crucial to the action plan. Greenan gave the audience and other panelists the Scottish context and how they work with primary prevention. Greenan said that “the world is not changed by writing a book and other people reading it, but by talking to people about the issue.” Speakers also addressed the need to be pay more attention to address the root causes and the need to work with children and young people in schools to educate about violence, break the taboo and to start to talk about violence that occurs within the home.

Name of Event:	Protect Women Human Rights Defenders: From Resolution to Solutions
Organised by:	Norway, Nobel Women’s Initiative, ICAN, JASS Meso-America, International Service for Human Rights, Amnesty International, Association for Women in Rights & Development, Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition
Panelists:	Charlotte Bunch (Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)), Hans Brattskar (Deputy Foreign Minister of Norway), Suzanne Tamidence (ICAN Project), Christina H. Hernandez (JASS Meso-America), and John Hendra (Deputy Executive Director, Policy and Programme Bureau UN Women)
Themes:	Human Rights, VAW

During this event the panelists discussed the issue on how to protect women human rights defenders (WHRD). The panelists acknowledged that WHRDs are particularly vulnerable to violence because of power relations in societies and social norms. According to Bunch, “violence against women is present in all cultures in the world.” Tamidence affirmed that it is critical to uphold women’s fundamental rights irregardless of culture or religion.

A main challenge that the panelists brought up is how to enable WHRDs to continue their work despite obstacles. According to the panelists, it is critical to

have international political will to protect WHRDs, and we need a feminist and humanistic perspective to advocate for them.

“Violence against women is present in all cultures in the world.”

According to Brattskar, states do not have to agree with human rights defenders but they have to accept and protect them.

Hendra pointed out four critical actions to take for WHRDs:

1. Recognize the importance of WHRD
2. Ensure that WHRD can carry out their work without violence
3. Create enabling environment through funding streams

4. Ensure access to justice to and an end to impunity.

The event underscored the significant need to redesign the next development agenda to go beyond the MDGs in emphasizing the unique needs faced by WHRDs and implement appropriate measures to address those needs and rights in the post-2015 development agenda.

Name of Event:	Breaking the Taboo, Making Inclusion a Reality: Sexual and Gender-based Violence Targeted at Women
Organised by:	Human Rights Watch, International Disability Alliance, Liechtenstein Permanent Mission
Panelists:	Charlotte McClain-Nhalpo (Coordinator for Disability and Inclusive Development at the United States Agency for International Development (USAID)), Lynne Featherstone (Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for International Development, UK), Stefan Barriga (Deputy Permanent Representative for the Government Principality of Liechtenstein), Hon. Minister Ms. Jo Goodhew (Women's Affairs Minister, New Zealand), Daniel Seymour, and Kriti Sharma (Fellow, Disability Rights Division, Human Rights Watch)
Themes:	GBV, post-2015 development agenda

During the event the panelists discussed the issues of disability in the context of post-2015 development agenda. The main question was how to empower women with disabilities and especially how to promote their inclusion in GBV programs. The speakers agreed that oftentimes women and girls with disabilities are most vulnerable in the society – they experience double discrimination and abuse because they are women and because they are disabled. The research on women with disabilities shows that they are twice as much likely to be abused: they are not rarely kept isolated by their families and consequently they often lack access to education what makes them particularly vulnerable. On the other hand, in many

cases disability is a consequence of sexual and gender based violence.

A particularly interesting presentation was delivered by McClain-Nhalpo who is the Coordinator of Disability and Development at the USAID. She claimed that not enough attention is paid by practitioners and policy makers to women with disabilities and she went on to argue that these issues have to be addressed within the Women, Peace and Security agenda. McClain-Nhalpo stressed that NAPs on WPS must include measures for women with disability – as the US NAP does.

Name of Event: **Social Media and Engaging Young Women with UNSCR 1325 in Asia**
Organised by: ISIS International, JERA International, and Asia Pacific Women's Watch
Panelists: Carole Shaw (CEO of JERA International and Isis General Member), Luz Martinez (Past Chair of the Board of Trustees, Isis International), Nicole Hutchison (Activist School Coordinator, Isis International), Sepali Kottegoda (Chairperson, Asia Pacific Women's Watch), Velayudan Jayachithra (Programme Officer (Media), Asia Pacific Women's Watch), and Rahmi Dian Agustino (Advocate from Search for Common Ground in Indonesia)
Themes: Women, Conflict, Social Media

According to the panel, social media can aid and support women in raising their voices to address the issue of conflict. The session explored what these women are doing in Asia to bring about social media as a platform for engaging women and promoting knowledge on UNSCR 1325. This project is still in its early stages but carries concrete steps towards engagement and understanding for women on issues of conflict. The work done so far reaches out to communities of women in Asia who are uninformed

about what they can do and how they can participate in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the form of National Action Plans. Each panelist spoke about her involvement in the process, the struggles, and the achievements. The speakers addressed the gap between women, conflict and social media; their work is forming a positive role for women to play on handling the topic of conflict by harnessing it through using social media.

Name of Event: **Engaging Men as Partners for Gender Equality in the Post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda**
Organised by: MenEngage Alliance
Panelists: Oswaldo Montoya (MenEngage Alliance), Marco Aurélio Martins, (Promundo Brazil), Tim Shand (USA MenEngage), Leyla Sherafi (United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)), Rob A. Okun (MenEngage USA), Abhijit Das (India), and Yajanti (Care International)
Themes: Gender Equality, MDGs, GBV, Sexual and Reproductive Health

This panel focused on how to engage men as allies in achieving gender equality, something that rarely is mentioned in the development frameworks especially in the MDGs. Shand highlighted how we need to build on the MDGs with a clear connection for women and men in access to sexual and reproductive health. Das discussed the importance of keeping girls in schools to preventing child marriage and empowering girls. He further noted that the fathers

and brothers have important roles in this by creating support groups addressing issues that women and girls face, like discrimination in various areas. Yajanti brought up examples from her study on gender-based violence in Sri Lanka. The study addressed a link between masculinity and GBV and how men had to be seen as change agents and to engage them to fight patriarchal norms.

Name of Event: **Empowerment through Education: How Islamic Jurisprudence can be Central to Opportunity**

Organised by: KARAMAH

Panelists: Aisha Rahman (Karamah Executive Director), Aisha al-Adawiya (Karamah President), Bushra Jabre (Senior Communications Advisor at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Health), and Dr. Mohamad Abdel Aziz Gadelhak Ibrahim (UN Sharia Expert)

Themes: Women's Empowerment, Sharia, Education

KARAMAH, an American organisation of Muslim Women lawyers defending human rights, hosted the event to highlight the women's rights that are available to Muslim women. Jabre highlighted how women's rights are available to Muslim women via the Quran and discussed how to enable women who live in Islamic countries to claim their rights in their own localities, focusing on small enterprises in Lebanon. Jabre called for the extension of education and training opportunities to women and girls at all levels in order to secure their economic empowerment. Ibrahim highlighted how there is an

entire chapter in the Quran that indicates that women have a right to engage with their social and economic rights, using examples of women with agency from the *hadith*. Most importantly, Ibrahim explained how he, in his role of UN Sharia Expert, negotiates ways to empower women with community leaders, in Afghanistan for instance, by using Sharia as the basis, not necessarily international law, so that they feel it is culturally legitimate to empower women and not just a Western imposition. The panel concluded that there needs to be a focus on women's education, so that they can read and analyze the Quran themselves, using *ijtihad*, to empower themselves with Islamic rights.

Name of Event: **The Role of Men and Boys in Contributing to the Achievement of Gender Equality Goals and Women's Empowerment**

Organised by: Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA)

Panelists: H.E. Amb. Mårten Grunditz, Maria Arnholm (Swedish Minister for Gender Equality), Dr. Abhijit Das (MenEngage Alliance), Dr. Jeni Klugman (Director of Gender and Development at the World Bank Group), Maria Andersson (Swedish Association for Sexuality Education), and Hakima Abbas (Director of Programs, AWID)

Themes: Gender Equality, Involving Men and Boys

This panel highlighted the role and contribution of men and boys in achieving gender equality and women's empowerment. All panelists were convinced that it is time to shift the balance and involve men in

achieving gender equality and sustainable change for women. Sweden's Amb. Grunditz stated that men and boys have been included and central in Swedish gender equality policy since 1970s and is

therefore central in Swedish development cooperation. Abbas spoke about the importance of the role of mothers in the upbringing of their sons in order to prevent the recruitment to religious fundamental groups in the society. Andersson highlighted how it is not possible to reach sexual and reproductive rights without gender equality, and how we need to start seeing men as agents for change. She further stated that gender equality should be a standalone goal in the post-2015 development

agenda. Sweden's Minister for Gender Equality stressed that gender equality matters and that men and women should enjoy the same rights in the society. Das stressed that the active engagement of men is a question of humanity. Klugman's evidence showed that social rules and norms are difficult and it is important to work in schools and even pre-schools; getting the messages and messages right and promoting positive roles.

Name of Event:	Realizing Gender Equality and Women Empowerment in Africa: Nigeria
Organised by:	The Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the United Nations Millennium Campaign
Panelists:	Aminata Toure (Prime Minister of Senegal), Dr. Aja Isatou Njie- Saidy, (Vice President & Minister for Women's Affairs of Gambia), Hon. Minister Ms. Lulama Xingwana (Minister for Women, Children and People with Disabilities of the Republic of South Africa), and Dr. Precious K. Gbeneol (Senior Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs)
Themes:	Gender Equality, MDGs, post-2015 development agenda

The Federal Government of Nigeria in collaboration with the United Nations Millennium Campaign facilitated a panel of African Ministers and Governmental officials which addressed achievements and the challenges for the MDGs in African States and internationally, and provided recommendations for the post-2015 development agenda moving forward. The panel addressed the country contexts of: Gambia, Nigeria, South Africa, Senegal, and Kenya. Speakers discussed how issues of Poverty, Education, Health, Gender and Child rights

in particular remain unfinished business of the MDGs, and how women and children continue to be marginalized and must be addressed more effectively in the post-2015 development agenda. Experiences such as in South Africa shows that educating young women can strengthen women's empowerment and change. Panelists affirmed that gender equality remains a core issue, and the next development agenda should strengthen women's participation across the board, including with 50/50 in parliament, government, and business.

Name of Event:	Conversation Circles on Women, Peace and Security and Violence against Women
Organised by:	Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), SIG, NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, World Federation of Ukrainian Women's organisations (WFUWO), WILPF, Meaningful World, NGO CSW
Panelists:	Helena Grönberg (Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)), Mary Mack (Soka Gakkai International), Dr. Abigail Ruane (WILPF)/PeaceWomen), Michele Campbell (Association for Trauma Outreach and Prevention (ATOP)/Meaningful World), Martha Kebalo (WFUWO), and Friederike Schwarzkopf (GNWP)
Themes:	WPS, VAW

This event provided an overview of CSW and it discussed what the role of NGOs are during the CSW and what the modalities are for NGO participation. The objective of the Conversation Circle on WPS and VAW is to ensure that WPS issues and VAW are adequately addressed in the draft Agreed Conclusions of CSW 58 by generating concrete language input related to WPS/VAW and to identify lobbying strategies for the integration of these perspectives into the Agreed Conclusions.

“The post-2015 development agenda must support a transformative agenda rooted in women’s human rights.”

The structure of the event was that the participants were put into conversations circles discussing specific topics related to WPS and VAW for about 45 minutes. This was followed by a presentation of each group presenting a summary of their discussions. Finally, the presentations were concluded by a synthesis of the presentations and discussions by WILPF’s Abigail Ruane.

These were the conversation circles:

1. Promotion of Gender Perspective
2. Security Sector Reform (SSR)
3. Prevention and Protection from VAW in Conflict and Post-Conflict Services to Victims
4. Prevention and Protection from VAW in Conflict and Post-Conflict Services to Victims
5. Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding/Women in Leadership Roles
6. Women’s Participation in Peacebuilding/Women in Leadership Roles

Ruane provided an overview on the status of the MDGs framework and its connection to the SDGs processes. According to her, the SDGs provide a political opportunity to translate consensus in the the CSW Agreed Conclusions for greater impact. This is a key reason why this Conversation Circle on WPS and VAW and the resulting discussion points are relevant this year. Ruane called for advocates to use CSW to build momentum on designing the next development agenda for peace, which was a major gap in the MDGs.

“Today’s discussions clearly illustrate how drawing on women’s voices and experience is crucial,” she said, thanking participants for their work. “The post-2015 development agenda must support a transformative agenda rooted in women’s human rights.”

Name of Event:	Economic Rights, Gender-Based Violence and Sustainable Development
Organised by:	Center for Women's Global Leadership
Panelists:	Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Radhika Balakrishnan (Center for Women's Global Leadership), and Anita Nayar (UN Non-Governmental Liaison Service, (NGLS))
Themes:	Gender Equality, Human Rights, Justice, GBV

This event discussed gender equality, women's rights, gender-based violence, militarism and macro-economic policies, and how these issues affect the post-2015 SDG agenda. Panelists highlighted how post-2015 discussions raise issues that are not new, including: human rights, conflicts, socio-economic rights and justice. They noted that although the context has changed it remains critical to address

these same issues effectively. The panel all agreed that for the need to put women's human rights at the centre of the agenda to eliminate militarized violence against women. It is also critical to address structural issues. The panelists further stated that human rights are not just about waiting for violence to happen but about preventing it before it takes place.

Name of Event:	Combating Violence against Women – A Regional Perspective
Organised by:	Poland
Panelists:	Hon. Minister Agnieszka Kozłowska-Rajewicz (Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment, Minister in the Chancellery of the Prime Minister (Poland), Lynne Featherstone (Minister at the UK Department for International Development and Ministerial Champion for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Overseas), Prof. H. Hashimoto (Representative of the Government of Japan), John Hendra (Assistant Secretary General, UN Women Deputy Executive Director)
Themes:	VAW

Poland facilitated a high level panel with international figures of state from Poland, the UK, Japan and the UN Women Deputy Executive Director. The session focused on VAW and provided reflections on what governments in Poland, the UK and Japan have done, are doing, and need to do. According to participants, the key to addressing violence against women is prevention: preventive measures and strategies need to be adopted, implemented and applied globally. Two milestones in the timeline towards attaining active steps in addressing issues of violence against

women include CSW57 in 2013, and the Istanbul Convention in Turkey in 2011. Speakers noted that SDG indicators need to set a baseline in place for strong implementation guidelines addressing violence against women. Laws and policies must serve the community and provide officials a baseline for reparations, services and redress for survivors and victims. The process following acts of violence must have the proper management to ensure rehabilitation and support for the victim with efficient solution making processes.

Name of Event:	Keeping Women and Girls Out of School: The EU's Problem with Religious Freedom
Organised by:	KARAMAH
Panelists:	Aisha Rahman (KARAMAH Executive Director) and Aisha al-Adawiya (KARAMAH President)
Themes:	Right to Education, MDGs, Religious Freedom, (Challenges to) Women's Empowerment, Structural Violence against Women, Women's Participation

This past year, KARAMAH and KARAMAH-EU helped file a landmark lawsuit against Belgium's Flemish public school system. The system banned girls from wearing the headscarf while attending school. At this event, Karamah showed a video of Muslim girls' testimony on the consequences of the headscarf ban. Female Belgian students are either losing access to primary education or are forced to compromise their religious beliefs to advance their education and careers. This denial of cultural/religious freedom and full access to education – both fundamental rights – is especially destructive to the large female professional and

working class population, making MDGs realization exponentially more difficult. The denial of basic civil rights and xenophobia also leaves women and girls marginalized in society. Aisha Rahman said: “the Belgian government is limiting women, the same way that the Taliban has been limiting girls from entering schools.” The conclusion is that the ban on the headscarf in Belgium marginalizes Muslim women in Belgium as their freedom of religion is violated, their access to education is hampered and as a result, their short- and long-term economic empowerment and participation in society is endangered.

Tuesday March 11 2014

Name of Event: Nuclear Proliferation and the Peace and Security Agenda: the Challenges it Poses for the MDGs for Women and Girls in Africa
Organised by: WILPF Nigeria, Nigerian Women's Network, Norwegian Aid
Panelists: Joy Ada Onyesoh (WILPF Nigeria)(Chair), Sheila Mweemba (Norwegian People's Aid), Nounou Booti Meeti, Ray Acheson (WILPF Reaching Critical Will), and Mimidoo Achakpa (Moderator)
Themes: Disarmament, Nuclear Proliferation, MDGs, Africa

The event examined African women's engagement in the nuclear weapons discourse. It showcased how this engagement provides an opportunity for setting the agenda for a global movement working towards the prospects of a ban on nuclear weapons and raising awareness on the links between masculinity, violent conflict, nuclear proliferation and the WPS agenda in Africa. The panel also examined the challenges that nuclear proliferation poses to development and in particular, the MDGs for women and girls.

“We have to use the privilege of Africa being a nuclear weapon free zone.”

The event began by showcasing a video that demonstrates the detrimental effect of nuclear weapons. Mweemba showed how everyone is affected by the use of nuclear weapons. She provided a detailed analysis showing how the use of nuclear weapons goes against the MDGs. “No one will be immune,” said Mweemba. “Prevention is better than a cure! Why wait until there is a disaster for us to react?”

According to Onyesoh of WILPF-Nigeria, the complete abolition of nuclear weapons is crucial. She highlighted the importance of state compliance with international treaties including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, and reminded the audience that the continent of Africa has been a nuclear weapon free zone. “It's critical to have a holistic conflict

prevention perspective,” stated Onyesoh, noting that Nigeria's NAP on 1325 has become a very important tool in this regard. Meeti stressed that African women need to use this “African Women decade” to engage globally with institutions to address the issue of conflict and disarmament and particularly the ban on nuclear weapons. “We have to use the privilege of Africa being a nuclear weapon free zone,” said Meeti. “Let's do it and let's ban nuclear weapons now!” Acheson summed up the discussion and what is happening on a global level, reflecting WILPF's work with the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN). “We want to prevent financing nuclear weapons: governments should withdraw money from companies that are producing nuclear weapons,” Acheson said. The panel concluded that the use of nuclear weapons is a threat to all of humanity and it has a devastating impact on development including the MDGs and any SDGs. There is a need for complete global nuclear disarmament and African women's full engagement in the issue early on in the process. Without women's this early and meaningful participation, their interests will not be considered.

“We want to prevent financing nuclear weapons: governments should withdraw money from companies that are producing nuclear weapons”

Name of Event:	Accelerating Progress on the MDGs for Women and Girls: High level Statement from Heads of UN Agencies
Organised by:	UN Women, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), UNFPA, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Panelists:	Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Executive Director, UN Women), Irina Georgieva Bokova (Director-General of UNESCO), Dr. Babatunde Osotimehin (Executive Director of UNFPA), Helen Clark (UNDP Administrator), Michel Sidibé (Executive Director of UNAIDS), and Dr. Joan Clos (Executive Director of UN-Habitat), Navi Pillay (High Commissioner of OHCHR)
Themes:	VAW, MDGs, Socio- Economic Status, Human Rights

A high level panel from a number of UN Agencies addressed the connection between the MDGs and the role of women. A common theme amongst all the panelists was: “Take action where it is most needed.” According to the panelists, the years of collective data need to be evaluated and summed up to really focus and strategize on what needs to be taken care of and in turn discovering the most effective way in which to handle the data as it connects to each individual. A humanistic approach that addresses people’s health, well-being, and livelihood – including of the bi, transgender, and queer community – is critical.

Mlambo-Ngcuka the Executive Director of UN Women kick-started the discussion and noted the elements blocking women from attaining equality. She addressed the issue of violence against women and gender based violence and the structural obstacles to gender equality within the MDGs and the need to break them down. Mlambo-Ngcuka emphasized the importance of women’s rights and

land access as well as the need for female mobilization and representation in governments and parliaments alike. On the issue of partnerships, she noted UN Women’s “HE for She” campaign which aims to increase men’s support as allies against inequality against women. Mlambo-Ngcuka called for governments and agencies to address women’s roles and rights in all of their work.

Bokova, Director General of UNESCO discussed the need to ground women’s rights through education, eradication of extreme poverty, and the promotion of equity amongst men and women alike. Pillay, the representative from the World Bank, highlighted how women’s economic deprivation affects the whole economy and damages capacity for progress and development. As a whole, the panel brought attention to the substantial work to be done to overcome the structural challenges of the MDGs in achieving gender equality as the next development agenda is being designed.

Name of Event:	Towards 2015 for African Women and Girls: Accelerating Implementation of the Millennium Development Goals and defining a Post-2015 Development Agenda and the African Agenda 2063
Organised by:	Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations Development programme, Regional Bureau for Africa
Panelists:	Hon. Ms. Nana Oye Lithur (Minister for Gender, Children and Social Protection, Ghana) Hon. Ms. Joyce Laboso (Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly, Kenya), Mar Dieye (Assistant Secretary-General, Regional Bureau for Africa, UNDP), Hon. Ms. Lulama Xingwana (Minister for Women, Children and Persons with Disabilities, South Africa), Leah Chatta-Chipepa (Executive Director Akina Mama wa Africa and Representative NGO CSW/Africa), Mr Thomas Gass (Assistant Secretary-General, Department of Economic & Social Affairs), and Mr Maged Abdelaziz (Under Secretary-General, UN Office of the Special Adviser on Africa)
Themes:	MDGs, Sexual and Reproductive Rights, Political Participation, Education, VAW

The panelists discussed how even though Africa has made progress in many areas and many of the MDGs have been reached, women and girls still are disadvantaged in health, education, and political participation. They also face high levels of violence. Panelists highlighted how it is critical to strengthen women's inclusion in periods of transition, which many African countries are going through.

“African women do not own their own bodies.”

According to Hon. Ms. Oye Lithur, gender is and should remain at the core of the post-2015 development agenda. Poverty is a hindrance and sexual and reproductive rights need to be addressed. According to Lithur, a major challenge here is that “African women do not own their own bodies.” Hon.

Ms. Xingwana stressed the importance for a standalone goal on women's empowerment, something that was welcomed by the other panelists. Hon. Ms. Laboso said that there has been an increase in the number of women in parliament but noted the need for improved engagement of women in Kenya by parliament. She further brought attention to how free primary education has boosted the access of boys and girls to school and their participation in their communities. Chatta-Chipepa said that women's leadership should be at the center of peacebuilding and that there should be zero-tolerance on violence against women. She asked who Africa is rising for? According to Chipepa, there is a strong gap between the striving nation that Africa appears on paper and lived realities. Overall, the panel brought attention to the need for increased investment and action strengthening women's rights and participation for sustainable development and peace.

Name of Event: **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Millennium Development Goals and Sustainable Development Goals: Research and Action**

Organised by: International Sociological Association

Panelists: Dr. Jan Marie Fritz (President of the Clinical Sociology Division of the International Sociological Association), Dr. Rosemary Barberet (Associate Professor at John Jay College), and Katie Orenstein (Founder and CEO of The Op-Ed Project)

Themes: UNSCR 1325 and SDGs

The event combined the theoretical/academic and practical/activist perspectives on UNSCR 1325 and the SDGs. As for the academic contributions, Fritz held the presentation “Notes on UNSCR National Action Plans” and Barberet spoke on the relation between justice for women, the MDGs and the post-2015 development agenda. Both speakers stressed two major problems: the lack of resources allocated to the implementation of the WPS agenda as well as the lack of transparent indicators of its implementation. Their contributions were followed by a presentation by Orenstein entitled “Who

Narrates the World? Changing the World’s Conversation”. Orenstein addressed the importance of paying attention to who tells the story, whose voices are heard and whose concerns are addressed. She presented her innovative “The Op-Ed Project”, which aims to increase the number of women thought leaders in key commentary forums. A Rwandan woman who survived the Rwandan genocide and is now owner of the “Why do I exist?” initiative raised the problem that WPS policymakers and researchers too often use complex terminology that is not understood by grassroots women – and ultimately not effective.

Name of Event: **Women PeaceMakers' Recommendations for the Post-2015 MDG Agenda**

Organised by: Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice

Panelists: Madeleine Rees (WILPF), Donald Steinberg (World Learning), Dee Aker (Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice), and Rehana Hashmi (Sisters Trust Pakistan)

Themes: MDGs, disarmament, human rights, conflict related societies

On Tuesday, 11 March, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice organised a panel discussion where the panelists examined security dimensions for women and girls which must be addressed in advancing the MDGs in conflict related societies. All panelists agreed upon that it is critical to work with women at local level including in grassroots organisations. They highlighted the importance of

involving men and boys and including everyone to promoting gender equality. Hashmi brought attention to destructive financing priorities, stating that “for women they cannot find resources but for drones and missiles they can.” She also pointed out the importance of defending human rights defenders at the local level, not only international level, in order to continue and protect their important national and local work. According to Rees, peace is not

possible by only talking to the men with the guns, and will not lead to sustainable development: including women peacemakers is critical to long lasting peace and sustainable development. Affirming this point,

Steinberg described his involvement in peace processes and stated that the single clearest reason for why peace fails is the systematic exclusion of women in peace processes.

Name of Event:	Involving Religious Leaders in Women's Rights Work: Innovative Practices and Challenges from the Field
Organised by:	Women Peacemakers Program, The City College of New York, Ecumenical Women's Initiative, ABAAD - Resource Centre for Gender Equality, and Cordaid, hosted by the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN in New York.
Panelists:	Akinyi Walender (Director of Women's Leadership for Peace and Security Programme, Cordaid), Patricia Ackerman (Director Women's Studies Program of the City College of New York), H.E. Ms. Lillianne Ploumen (Minister of Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Netherlands), Carolyn Boyd Tomanovic (Managing Director of Ecumenical Women's Initiative, Croatia), Anthony Keedi (Program Coordinator, ABAAD – Resource Centre for Gender Equality, Lebanon), and Isabelle Geuskens (Executive Director of the Women Peacemakers Program).
Themes:	Women's Empowerment, Women's Rights, Women's Participation, Religious Freedom, Religious and International Institutions

The panel highlighted challenges and opportunities at play when working with religious leaders for the advancement of the gender equality agenda. Geuskens explained that women rights advocates receive a lot of religious pushback from religious fundamentalists posing major challenges in terms of furthering women's rights. Nevertheless, they also find motivation from their religious teachings to carry out peace work, to promote women's participation on peace processes and to advance women's rights.

The other speakers highlighted local and global trends of working with religious leaders to advance women's rights, including in Lebanon, the Balkans and Nigeria. Walender explained how religion is a critical issue to address when working for social change: "The reality is that religion matters to a lot of people; it continues to be a defining characteristic in the political and cultural norms that shape our societies. We cannot talk about changing power relations and social inclusion without accounting for the role of religion, religious institutions and religious leaders.

“The hierarchy of religious institutions are often reluctant to engage with women-led civil society initiatives for peace, sometimes creating obstacles particularly in religiously diverse communities. However local clergy on the ground are at times some of the most open for dialogue as they share the reality of their communities.”

We cannot act as strategic or effective agents of change for gender equality without engaging religion.” Tomasovic outlined the challenges and opportunities involved: “The hierarchy of religious institutions are often reluctant to engage with women-led civil society initiatives for peace, sometimes creating obstacles particularly in religiously diverse communities. However local clergy on the ground are at times some of the most open for dialogue as they share the reality of their communities.”

The panel concluded that religion can indeed play a role in ushering peace and promoting women’s rights,

especially by engaging with progressive and moderate voices including religious leaders, women theologians and women activists of faith. The panel’s recommendations included: 1) Support and involve progressive religious voices for the women’s rights agenda. 2) Invest in building bridges between secular women’s movements and progressive faith-based women’s movements to strengthen the women’s rights constituency. 3) Create an enabling and safe environment for progressive religious voices, including women theologians.

Name of Event:	Ending Violence against Women and Girls - The Missing Millennium Development Goal
Organised by:	Australia, World Bank Group, Global Women's Institute, George Washington University, Tongan Women’s Centre – Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women and Girls – Women & Children Crisis Centre – Tonga
Panelists:	H.E. Amb. Natasha Stott Despoja (Australia), Lynne Featherstone (Minister at the UK Department for International Development and Ministerial Champion for Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Overseas, UK), Dr. Jeni Klugman (Gender and Development Director at World Bank Group), Mary Ellsberg (Director Global Women’s Institute), and Ofa-Ki-Levuka-Guttenbeil-Liklilli (Tongan Women’s Centre - Pacific Network Against Violence Against Women and Girls - Women & Children Crisis Centre, Tonga)
Themes:	VAW, Development, MDGs

“We need to engage with men and boys to end sexual violence.”

The event, moderated by Australia, highlighted the key gap in the MDGs of a target on ending GBV and the need for addressing this issue in the post-2015 development agenda. H.E. Amb. Stott Despoja put the issue squarely on the table, stating, “In Australia, we call domestic violence our dirty little secret.” Featherstone affirmed the UK Coalition Government’s desire for a stand-alone goal to empower girls and women and to achieve gender

equality and to mainstream gender across the entire post-2015 development framework. “Girls and women need to live in a world that is free from violence,” stated Featherstone, noting how the UK government has tackled the issue of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) in the UK. “We need to engage with men and boys to end sexual violence” she added.

According to Klugman, “No country, rich or poor, has sorted their issue on violence against women.” Klugman showed a wide range of statistics that demonstrate how violence against women and girls (VAWG) has detrimental consequences to development, as it affects a broad range of areas including health, work and education and

leads to lower productivity. She also highlighted how the World Bank is engaging in institutional strengthening and partnerships development with UN Women to pilot the collection of data on gender-based violence.

According to Mary Ellsberg, “Countries with lower gender equity have higher rates of violence against women.” Finally, Ofa-Ki-Levuka-Guttenbeil-Liklilli shared stories and quotes of women and girls that experience VAWG and domestic violence in Tonga

and how women led civil society can strengthen women’s security and rights. According to Ofa-Ki-Levuka-Guttenbeil-Liklilli, “We are breaking up the cycle of rape.”

“No country, rich or poor, has sorted their issue on violence against women.”

Name of Event:	In our Right Minds: Guiding Women to their Strength as Leaders – Leading Men to Strength without Armour
Organised by:	Nobel Women's Initiative Global Fund for Women
Panelists:	H.E. Amb. Carlos E. Garcia Gonzales, Ingrid Stellmacher (CEO & Founder, Le Menach Foundation), Dr. Pam Rajput (Chair Secretary General on the Status of Women), Klevsia Kovaci and Sharo Pedrosa (Co-Founders of Montage Initiative's Student Advisory Board), and Whitney Keaton (Lead Back-up vocalist for Alicia Keys).
Themes:	Protection, Human Rights, Activism, Eradication of Historical Identity of Women as seen through Literature, and other Sources.

The Mission of El Salvador, the Montage Initiative, and The Le Menach Foundation facilitated an enlightening interactive discussion on how to draw on transformative understandings of masculinity and femininity to create effective leadership by both women and men in designing the future. ECOSOC Vice President affirmed the value of women and highlighted the trajectory of UN policy and the work of UN Agencies on women’s rights. He brought attention to the need to permanently improve women’s conditions worldwide, from employment to protection and human rights. Dale Allen engaged the audience via a theatrical performance on women’s accomplishments in history and what needs to be done today. Stellmacher presented a short clip of her film, “*Dignity Diaries*” which featured Ziauddin Yousafzai, the father of Malala Yousafzai. “Patriarchy breeds poverty” she stated, bringing attention to a variety of dimensions in this regard, including

knowledge and choice as well as money and material goods. She spoke about the importance of engaging men to bring women into roles of leadership in every sector.

Rajput from UN Women spoke of her experiences with what widows are enduring in India due to inheritance rights and why tradition has continued to restrict women’s security, opportunities and rights. Too many women are suffering and living in solidarity unnecessarily. Lastly, two representatives from the Montage Initiative spoke about their experiences as young women from an educational institution working for women’s rights in an educational setting. Recruiting and educating the youth to be inclusive of all people and removing detrimental gender stereotyping is critical to strengthen the ability of women everywhere to live in a secure environment.

Name of Event:	Moving Beyond the MDGs for the Realization of Gender Equality, Women’s Rights and Women’s Empowerment
Organised by:	AWID, Center for Women’s Global leadership (CWGL), Feminist task Force (FTF), The African Women's Development and Communication Network (FEMNET), Huairou Commission, International Women's Rights Action Watch, Asia-Pacific (IWRAP AP), WEDO, and WILPF on behalf of the Post 2015 Women’s Coalition
Panelists:	Esther Mwaura-Muiru (GROOTS KENYA), Azra Abdul Cader (The Asian-Pacific Resource and Research Centre for Women (ARROW)), Martha Benevides, (FTF), Nerea Craviotto (AWID), Shanti Dairiam (IWRAP-AP), and Savi Bisnath (CWGL)
Themes:	MDGs, Gender Equality, Women’s Rights

The Panel highlighted regional and global perspectives on development of the post-2015 development agenda and called for action to strengthen a better world for all that upholds women’s participation and rights through strengthening the women’s movement and in advocacy, solidarity, and strengthened financing and capacity of women’s rights organisation.

“This world is unsustainable. It is like a table with two legs, and we are holding up the edges! It does not make sense.”

According to Benevides, “this world is unsustainable. It is like a table with two legs, and we are holding up

the edges! It does not make sense.” Craviotto painted a stark picture of the funding landscape, noting that although there is an increasing trend of bilateral aid toward women’s rights, most money does not target grassroots women’s organisations or provide long-term support. Mwaura-Muiru and Cader highlighted the importance of connecting local women’s experiences to global policy and frameworks by sharing experiences from Sri Lanka and Kenya, including on issues of women’s leadership and sexual and reproductive health and rights. Dairiam highlighted how a human rights framework based on the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) is critical to all global policy including the post-2015 development agenda to ensure substantive equality that does not just guarantee women and men “suffering equally” but brings everyone up to a level of human rights and flourishing by upholding obligation of both means and of results.

Wednesday March 12 2014

Name of Event: Engaging Men and Boys to achieve the Millennium Development Goals for Women and Boys
Organised by: Brazil and Switzerland
Panelists: Oswaldo Montoya (MenEngage Alliance), Benno Bättig (Secretary-General of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs), Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (UN Women Executive Director), Antonio de Aguiar Patriota (Permanent Representative of Brazil to the United Nations), and Bafana Khumalo (Sonke Gender Justice)
Themes: Gender Equality, Masculinity, Involvement of Men and Boys

This parallel discussion focused on the need to look engage men as strategic allies when working with gender equality as gender is an issue for all of us. Panelists agreed that having men as allies will result in more choices and advantages for all. The panel agreed that we need to break social norms and gender stereotypes, which limit opportunities for women and girls and constrict men and boys to specific roles.

“Gender equality is not a woman’s issue – it is an issue for all”.

According to de Aguiar Patriota, “we have to change the perception of masculinity, that men are violent and aggressive by nature”. Mlambo-Ngcuka stated: “gender equality is not a woman’s issue – it is an issue for all”. Mlambo-Ngcuka further highlighted how gender equality is about transforming unequal power relations between men and women; it is about changing institutions, changing economic and social structures that perpetuate discrimination. Montoya talked about our obsession with masculinity and manhood. According to Montoya “being a real man is being responsible, thinking about humanity.”

Name of Event: 20 Years of the Special Rapporteur on Violence against women: Achievements, Gaps and Challenges
Organised by: Special Rapporteur on VAW
Panelists: Rashida Manjoo (UN Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women)
Themes: Sexual Violence against Women, Gender Equality, SDGs, UNSCR 1325

This event was a briefing on VAW around the world. The rapporteur brought attention to a key accountability gap where States still fail to protect women even though it is their obligation to do so. She suggested a standalone goal in the coming SDGs on violence against women. She asked how we can have effective sustainable development without a goal

on violence against women. Women face low-level warfare in local communities every day. There is a need to address inequality and discrimination that further violates women. The rapporteur questioned why has no one discussed turning the declaration (SCR1325) into a treaty? She said that it is because it is about women.

Name of Event:	Violence against Women in Politics – The Challenging World of Women in Politics
Organised by:	Ireland
Panelists:	Mona Lena Krook (Professor at Rutgers University, New Jersey), Nicole Ameline (Chairperson of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women) (CEDAW) and Member of the National Assembly of France), Mary Macleod (Member of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom), and Joan Burton (T.D. Minister of Social Protection of Ireland (Chair))
Themes:	Gender, VAW, Inequalities

The event addressed the challenges that women face once elected to office and the obstacles they face in order to be treated as equals in politics. Women in politics are often scrutinized on the way they look, speak and behave. These obstacles threaten women's rights and women's ability to contribute through politics to the development of their country. Krook spoke about the general trends of violence against women and sexism, most notably the increasing number of murder and kidnapping of women politicians, the increase of sexual threats and sexual harassments. She highlighted the danger of both physical and psychological violence against women. Moreover, Krook addressed ways to tackle violence against women, which includes implementing national laws that criminalize acts of violence against women, like in Bolivia. Ameline highlighted how the CEDAW

Convention can be utilized to tackle gender inequalities. She particularly outlined the dangers in stereotypes and how social media can be utilized to report acts of violence against women. McLeod particularly addressed the role the media has in negatively portraying women in politics in the media, particularly in the UK. She encouraged women to speak out against violence against women in politics in the media, for instance through social media.

Overall, the panel recognized the huge trend of violence, both physical and psychological, against women in politics in all countries around the world. It is crucial to tackle the root causes of violence against women. It is imperative for women to speak out against violence happening to other women (in politics) and gender stereotyping, either through political journalism or social media.

Name of Event:	UNiTE Campaign Panel on Sexual Violence
Organised by:	United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)
Panelists:	Anne-Birgitte Albrechten (United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) Deputy Executive Director (Moderator)), H.E. Amb. Mirsada Colakovic (Permanent Representative of Bosnia and Herzegovina to the UN), Jeane d'Arc Byaje (Deputy Permanent Representative of Rwanda to the UN), Tine Morch Smith (Deputy Permanent Representative of Norway to the UN), Zainab Hawa Bangura (UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict), and Jasminka Dzumhur (Ombudsperson for Human Rights for Bosnia and Herzegovina)
Themes:	Sexual Violence against Women. Conflict

Hosted by UNFPA in collaboration with the UN Secretary's Campaign "*UNiTE to End Violence Against Women*", the panelists addressed the issue of sexual violence in conflict and the needs of victims and survivors, with a special emphasis on learning from the experiences of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Rwanda. Colakovic asserted that there is a risk when the full nature of sexual violence is not fully captured. According to her, sexual violence is a cultural phenomenon. It has no exclusion and no boundaries. Sharing experiences from Rwanda, d'Arc Byaje said that during the Rwandan genocide, rape and sexual assault were used as a weapon of war to humiliate the targeted tribe. Rwanda's response has been to set up mechanisms to criminalize sexual violence (enhancing access to justice and fighting impunity), to enact legislation to protect women and girls and to respond to violence against women and girls. This includes

training judges on the impact that testifying about sexual violence can have on women. Dzumhur, highlighted some issues from Bosnia and Herzegovina, including the lack of data on sexual violence from post-war until present. Also, there has been no key witness in court, though there are existing professionals dealing with victim-survivors of sexual violence to help them on the post-traumatic stress of the war. Bangura, in agreement with what the other panelists, asseverated on why it is crucial to respond swiftly to the needs of sexual violence victim-survivors. The fact that these women are trapped in the horror of silence leaves many lasting scars in their lives. In conclusion, her last words were "rape is not a second class crime committed against second class citizens. If you don't respect your women during peacetime, you will not protect them during a conflict period."

Name of Event:	How to Enact and Implement CEDAW Locally: Lessons from San Francisco, the First City for CEDAW
Organised by:	San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women, Women’s Intercultural Network, Global Women’s leadership Institute
Panelists:	Anita Lee (First Lady of San Francisco), Krishanti Dhamaraj (Executive Director, iAngel), Amy Ackerman (San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women), Emily Murase (Executive Director, SF Department on the Status of Women), and Marilyn Fowler (Founder/President/CEO, Women’s Intercultural Network)
Themes:	CEDAW, Women’s Human Rights

In this event panelists from the San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women shared their lessons on how they became the first city in the world in 1998 to adopt a local ordinance reflecting the principles of CEDAW. Although CEDAW has been ratified by many democratic countries the United States (US) failed to pass on a national level. The key elements for passing CEDAW in the city of San Francisco were the political and social climate, the leadership of institutions/individuals and the community engagement. Dhamaraj said that “movements are born out of exclusion – if we were the norm we would not be here separating ourselves and pushing for basic rights that we should have just because we are human”. The department of San Francisco Commission on the Status of Women now primarily focuses on four program areas: Women’s Human Rights, Violence against Women, Women in the Workplace and Girls.

According to Murase, CEDAW has now helped address domestic violence homicides. San Francisco

“Movements are born out of exclusion – if we were the norm we would not be here separating ourselves and pushing for basic rights that we should have just because we are human”.

has now had 44 months with ZERO domestic violence homicides. Fowler stated that she works with the San Francisco Department on the Status of Women as “peer leaders” and sharing resources with them. Overall, the panel affirmed that although every city will be different in what it takes to adopt CEDAW, San Francisco has demonstrated that CEDAW can be an effective tool at the city level well as national level to strengthen women’s human rights.

Name of Event:	From MDGs to SDGs: The Need to Accelerate Investment in Women and Girls
Organised by:	African Women's Alliance (AWA), Inc. /Sister to Sister International Inc, Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) Global Watch/United Nations Association (UNA) Suriname Women's Consortium of Nigeria, Women's Network Suriname – Netherlands – USA
Panelists:	Dr. Irma Loemban Tobing-Klein (President MDG Global Watch, President UNA Suriname/Acting Chair Women's Network Suriname-Netherlands-USA), Dr. Gail Wright-Sirmans (Esq., Harvard trained civil rights attorney and scholar), H.E. Crispin Gregoire (Chief Strategic Monitoring and Support Caribbean Country Offices Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean, UNDP), and Fruzsina Molnar Straus (Sustainable Development Officer at the World Federation of the United Nations Associations)
Themes:	MDGs, post-2015 development agenda, Disarmament, VAW, Gender Equality Goal

The event examined the MDGs and their contribution to gender equality, highlighting how development occurs when women's rights are improved. Strauss provided an overview of the MDGs and the upcoming post-2015 development agenda and the SDGs. She noted that "gender equality should be a cross-cutting goal" and said "women should be involved in the process."

“Gender equality and women’s empowerment should be a standalone goal and it should have cross-cutting effects.”

Gregoire provided an overview of development trends in Africa and the Caribbean and noted that the post-2015 development agenda must build on the MDGs, while involving women in the process. She brought attention to the issue of disarmament, noting that it is necessary to disarm young people and demobilize gangs, especially with regards to small

arms and light weapons, including in the many conflicts around resources and drugs.

According to Strauss, it is critical to integrate security issues in the post-2015 development agenda. McDonald highlighted how violence against women is one of the obstacles preventing women from successfully fostering their personal development, which has a direct impact on the development of the country. He noted that there is no reference to violence against women in the MDGs and that gender-based violence should be adequately addressed by every UN Member State: "women and girls need to live free from the threat of violence, so they can work on their futures." Speaking on behalf of Suriname, he stated that: "gender equality and women's empowerment should be a standalone goal and it should have cross-cutting effects."

Overall, the panel affirmed that women need to be adequately involved in the SDG/post-2015 process so that their issues are fully taken into account and that Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment must have strong standing, preferably as a

stand-alone goal with cross-cutting targets. All agreed that development is not sustainable unless women's

rights and issues are fully addressed.

Name of Event:	Gender Equality: The Aha Moment
Organised by:	UN Women
Panelists:	Mbaranga Gasarabwe (Assistant Secretary-General for Safety and Security of Nations), Patricia Nozipho Bardill (Interim Chief of Staff, UN Women), Gary Barker (International Director, Promundo and Co-Chair, MenEngage Alliance), and Theano Lianidou (Former Managing Director and President of Boards at Mars Inc)
Themes:	Gender Equality

On March 10, UN Women hosted “Gender Equality: the Aha Moment” which addressed personal perspectives for engagement toward gender equality. Nozipho Bardill spoke of the importance to understand the mechanics of oppression, why it occurs and what it means. She said that power is a relationship not a commodity that you carry everyday in your pocket, it does not remain static but transforms with different times of life and relationships. Barker addressed creative ways of

combatting gendered oppression: he discussed how the MenEngage Alliance uses a different approach to connect with men by looking at the humanity in men and how they can actively change instead of pointing out to them what they had done. This contributes to men's as well as women's wellbeing: “With the change comes the gain.” Gasarabwe highlighted the Aha moment is not reacting to change; the Aha moment transforms you so that you become drivers of change in a way that you never were before.

Name of Event:	Equality for the Women in the Arab World
Organised by:	Arab Women's Network and Jordanian Women's Union
Panelists:	Muna Mansour (Executive Secretary, Arab Women's Network)
Themes:	Gender Equality, Rule of Law, Human Rights

This parallel event gave a general overview of the women's situation in the Arab countries. It brought up both challenges and achievements for the women in the region. Some of the problems that were highlighted included the absence of rule of law, corruption, and human rights violations. Gender inequality was said to be mainly based on patriarchal

norms in the Arab countries. Even though there have been improvements in education for women and girls there are still limitations in political participation and in the economy. It was further highlighted that with increased political activism by the women they risk more domestic violence.

Name of Event: Utilizing Grassroots Power and Technology Toward Zero Exploitation of Women and Children

Organised by: Burundi, The Universal Peace Federation, The Connected Hearts Inc

Panelists: H.E. Ms. Clotilde Niragira (Minister of National Solidarity Human Rights and Gender, Burundi), Nelly Niyonzima (Founder Executive Director, The Connected Hearts Inc), Yvonne Williams (Founder and Executive Director of Trafficking in America Task Force), Dr. Linda Young (President of the National Women's Political Caucus (NWPC)), Shyam Pokharel (Managing Director at Samrakshak Samhua, Nepal), Senator Moise Jean Charles, (Senator Republic of Haiti), and Adolfo Luque (Founder Tierra Peruana, Peru)

Themes: Human Trafficking, Gender Inequality, Inclusion of Men

This session addressed the issues of exploitation of women and girls through human trafficking. Williams talked about the importance of dealing with the root causes that influence trafficking culture. We need to ask questions deeper questions such as, why some families are willing to sell their children? Why is there so much wealth and so much poverty? She also highlighted the significance including men in the discussions; otherwise it will only widen the gap between women and men. Young spoke about her organisation NWPC, that works in the USA to encourage and support women to take political leadership positions. The need remains for more women in political positions especially in decision-

making positions and there should be equal participation.

Pokharel talked about the how the organisation Sisterhood of Survivors assists women who have been trafficked and teaches them their legal rights and train them to become certified paralegals. These women can then find jobs in police stations and help other women who are victims of trafficking by being the first point of contact for that girl/woman and doing so protect their legal rights. Other panelists talked about the need to maximize grassroots potential to end slavery.

Name of Event: Engaging Women for Resolving Conflicts Usher in Peace, Disarmament and Development in South Asia

Organised by: Control Arms Foundation of India, WILPF, European Commission, Welt Hunger Hilife

Panelists: Binalakshmi Nepram (Founder Manipur Women Gun Survivor's Network and Secretary General, Control Arms Foundation of India), Maria Butler (WILPF), Sarah Boyd (The Gender Agency, Australia), and Fiona McAlpine (Manipur Women Gun Survivors Network)

Themes: UNSCR 1325, Disarmament

The panel addressed women's activism for peace in South Asia with a focus on engaging women and reducing arms. Panelists brought attention to how

militarism increases conflict and reduces the space for peace. They highlighted how the mounting arms trade and heavily armed zones are preventing

people's right to peace in their region. Governments, military, and civil society are living in a reality of weapons and arms from production to distribution and use. This reality is placing the state in a position of paralysis for the people and the region at large. Each panelist spoke about her involvement in the process, the reality of what is being lived out daily, and what the international implications are.

Panelists affirmed that solutions start with grassroots communities. It is these often women-led

communities which are critical to promoting peace and providing education and awareness about UNSCR 1325 as a key tool. A widespread reality for women in South Asia is that women are not included in the conversation about how to develop peace and stop the arms trade in Southeast Asia. Yet women are key actors in breaking down unstable and conflict ridden areas in the region. To promote peace, it is critical to strengthen women's voices and reduce militarism and arms.

Name of Event:	Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women in the Asia-Pacific Region
Organised by:	Korean National Council of Women (KNCW), International Council of Women (ICW)
Panelists:	Dr. Jungsook Kim (KNCW), Mdm. Cosima Schenk (ICW), Dr. Hyungjoon Kim (Myungji University, Korea), Dr. Younghai Park (BPW Korea/APWW), Ms. Linda Liu (National Council of Women, Taiwan), Dr. Junhui Joo (Women's Institute of Negotiation & Leadership), and Prof. Pam Rajput (High Level Committee on the Status of Women, India)
Themes:	Gender Equality, Empowerment of Women, Political Participation, VAW

This event addressed gender equality and empowerment of women in the Asia-Pacific region. Panelists asserted that although gender equality has improved, it is still an issue, which needs to be addressed especially with regards to the high level of violence against women in the region. A holistic approach to the issue needs to be addressed which also addresses concerns such as technology and women's exposure through Internet.

The panelists all brought attention to the importance of political participation by women. Kim and Liu stressed the significance of having quotas for women's political participation. Hyungjoon Kim

stressed that cultural change leads to women's political participation and women's empowerment. However, cultural change is a slow process. Hyungjoon Kim affirmed the need for moving forward together, saying that "problems of women are problems of men and progress on women is progress for all".

“Problems of women are problems of men and progress on women is progress for all”.

Friday March 14 2014

Name of Event: Great Lakes Women's Platform (GLWP); Funding for Women's Activism for Peace, 2014-2016

Organised by: The Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region, Global Fund for Women, Femmes Africa Solidarité

Panelists: Miranda Tabitha (UN Senior Gender Advisor under the direction of Mary Robinson), and Harriete Bright (Femmes Africa Solidarité)

Themes: Sustainable Peace, Women's Movement

The event informed the audience about the "*Women's platform for peace, security and cooperation framework, 2014-2016: "Women have the solutions"*" – under the direction of Mary Robinson, Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General for the Great Lakes Region and the former President of Ireland. With this initiative, Robinson seeks to ensure that the women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) will be engaged in the implementation of the 2013 Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC), which is the hallmark peace agreement to bring sustainable peace in DRC and the Great Lakes Region. The

GLWP has three core activities that they will carry out during the time period 2014-2016: 1) To provide grant-making support to women's rights organisations; 2) To convene grantees for collective action and shared learning; and 3) To communicate the success of women's groups and advocate with donors for increased resources for women's movements. It was noted that the outcome of the GLWP initiative should support a stronger women's movement in the Great Lakes Region that is able to challenge violations of women's human rights in effective ways.

Name of Event: Open Discussion on Beijing +20

Organised by: The Permanent Mission of Iceland to the United Nations and the NGO CSW Forum

Panelists: H.E. Amb. Greta Gunnarsdottir (Ambassador for Iceland), Lakshmi Puri (Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations and Deputy Executive Director of UN Women), and Soon Young Yoon (Chair, NGO CSW, New York)

Themes: MDGs, SDGs, Gender Equality

In 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women took place in Beijing, which brought attention to the fact that women's rights are human rights. This conference also created concrete recommendations on how to strengthen gender equality, development and peace. The post-2015 discussions today are focused on developing a new development agenda

that builds on the expiring MDGs through a new set of SDGs. However, 2015 also marks the 20-year review of the 1995 Beijing Conference - providing a strategic opportunity for strengthening gender considerations into the next development agenda.

This event addressed how to strengthen integration of post-2015 development with Beijing+20 discussions to design the next development agenda based on gender equality, development, and peace. During this event, Puri spoke about the work plan for the post-2015 development agenda and the need to mobilize all actors for this process, saying that “we need to reconfirm and recommit to the outcome - Beijing is still an important point for women's equality, where 30,000 women and organisations gave their all.” She further spoke of how there is a need to bring in a whole generation into the discussion, the need to analyze what the gaps are and the need to talk about

more effective implementation. There is also a need to accelerate implementation and translate the Beijing Platform into reality. Several strategic objectives were highlighted, including the need to support the Sustainable Development Goals Open Working Group, revitalizing the debate of gender equality and ensuring adequate policy and legislation making. Yoon highlighted the need to strengthen commitment efforts, capacity building and communication channels. Finally, the panel stressed the importance of local leaders, voting dynamics and encouraging women to participate in the dialogue of the sustainable development agenda.

Name of Event:	Women’s Role in Post-Disaster Reconstruction and Recovery
Organised by:	Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO)
Panelists:	Wendy Flick (Haiti Program Unitarian Universalist Service Committee), Myra Shird (Federal Emergency Management Agency Capacity Building Branch), and Amands Nesheiwat (UN Foundation for Post Conflict Development)
Themes:	Women’s Participation, Post-disaster and Recovery, Gender Equality

The UU-UNO hosted this event about women’s vulnerability in post-disaster and recovery. The panelists gave both international and domestic perspectives on women’s roles in post-disaster reconstruction. Flick, who have worked in Haiti, the Philippines and Africa, highlighted that gender is even more of a marginalizing factor when a disaster occurs - women become more vulnerable to rape and trafficking. However, she underlined that a disaster can have positive facts as well. She said that women are very resourceful, good at networking and they come up with innovative solutions both during and after a disaster. Shird addressed the importance of infusing women in post-disaster reconstruction. She

emphasized that women’s way of decision-making is very comprehensive and they have good reasoning abilities, while acknowledging and including the rights of others. Therefore, it is crucial to include women and to get them involved. Nesheiwat also spoke on the need for women in post-recovery work. In addition, she emphasized the importance of grassroots organisations in local capacity building and the need to include their knowledge. Overall, the panelists stressed the positive elements that may emerge from a disaster, such as innovative solutions, building new bridges and resourcefulness. Most importantly, the panel stressed the need to infuse more women in all positions in society.

Name of Event:	The Effects of Economic Sanctions on Women and Children in Sudan
Organised by:	Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus
Panelists:	Amira El Sir Omer (Former Chairperson, Social Affairs Committee, Sudan Parliament, Member of the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus), Samia Hassan Seid Ahmed (President of the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus, First Vice President of Arab Parliament), and Rashida Syed Ahmed (MP Sudan National Assembly, Member of the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus)
Themes:	Development, MDGs, Women's Participation

This event was about the impact of US sanctions on Sudan. The panel members discussed how the US boycotting of Sudan negatively affects the civilians of Sudan, with particular focus on the adverse impact of the sanctions on women and children. They discussed the double standards of the international system in applying sanctions. Ahmed explained that as a result of the sanctions, Sudan was not able to fulfill the MDGs, because the sanctions hamper the development process in areas directly related to the MDGs, such as health and agriculture. For instance, the price of food has soared. The aim of the panel discussion was to raise awareness of the sanctions, so that civil society can help the Sudanese Women Parliamentarians Caucus to lobby the US government

to eliminate the sanctions. One highlight of the event was during the rounds of questions when a Syrian woman encouraged the need for Sudanese women and Syrian women to work together to advocate the negative impact of sanctions on civilians: "We in Syria are suffering similar conditions of the sanctions. That's why we understand the predicament of the Sudanese women. Sanctions always affect women and children. We need to work together in networks, so we can separate women and children from the political spectrum. Sanctions from the UN and the US on countries that they do not favour are not restricted to a small sector of society. The ones that are affected by sanctions are women and children."

Name of Event:	Information and Communication Technologies for Women's Economic Empowerment and Poverty Reduction
Organised by:	UN Women
Panelists:	Liz Ford (Deputy Editor, The Guardian, (Moderator)), Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women), Susan Truppe (Parliamentary Secretary, Government of Canada), Rane Johnson (Principal Research Director, Microsoft), Jensine Larsen, Chief Executive Officer, World Pulse), Gary Fowlie (Head, Liaison Office, International Telecommunication Union (ITU)), Megan Clarcken (Vice-President, Watch Product Leadership, Nielsen) and Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN Women)
Themes:	Information, Communication and Technology

Education is about communication, Mlambo-Ngcuka stated in her opening speech at this event about information, communication and technology for women. Ending extreme poverty is crucial and when governments embrace technology, this will help as one of the means to addressing poverty, which proves that there is the deliberate effort to ensure that technology, such as mobile technology (phones), is also beneficial for the poor and in the long run. Knowing that technology has the power to penetrate deeper into rural communities, it can help the poor people to facilitate their lives. It helps to deliver information globally such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), maternal health and education for young people about reproductive health. She predicted that there is a synergy between the ongoing main discussion of the CSW 58 and technology. The fact that the provision of

information, communication and technology (ICT) for women can lead to women's economic empowerment, provides opportunity for women to enter into the knowledge arena - enabling women to get decent employment, as well as the means to be empowered through lifelong learning, helping them to improve themselves continuously.

Fowlie indicated the importance of putting women at the forefront of ICTs and pointed out the gaps that women are facing, especially in capacity and affordability. There are more men than women in terms of Internet usage. Few women are creators of ICTs when indeed, that is where the availability of employment lies. The panelists' general conclusion and recommendations included the need for proliferation of more women producers in technologies and that women should stop consuming and start producing.

Name of Event:	Finance Resolution 1325 Implementation, Advance Women's Rights: Now, in 2015 and Beyond
Organised by:	GNWP, Cordaid and UN Women
Panelists:	Dewi Suralaga (Cordaid), Charles Vandi (Gender and Children's Affairs, Sierra Leone), Sadhuram Sapkota (Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction of Nepal), Ursula Keller (Switzerland), Paivi Kannisto (Ministry of Finance, Finland), Irma van Dueren (the Netherlands), Henk-Jan Brinkman (UN Peacebuilding Support Office/Peacebuilding Fund (PBF)), and Mavic Cabrera Balleza (GNWP)
Themes:	UNSCR 1325, Women's Rights, Financing, WPS, NAPs

Cordaid and GNWP Organised an event that gathered a panel consisting of women peace activists, policy makers and other government and UN representatives to discuss the formation of a Financing Group that will advocate for securing funding for the implementation of NAPs of the UN Security Council Resolutions on the WPS agenda.

Two issues were highlighted by Cabrera Balleza, namely the lack of political will and the absence of dedicating funding at national level for NAPs on UNSCR 1325. There were mixed statements on

creating a Financing Group; some speakers questioned if there is a real need for a new fund and new mechanisms, since this means more costs and resources and administrative work. Suralaga addressed that there is a need for a group discussing the financing of WPS. Vandi said that Sierra Leone was the first country in Africa to develop a NAP on WPS and welcomed the idea of a financing group. Van Dueren emphasized the importance of addressing and funding the elimination of VAW and participating in the post-2015 development agenda. Keller underlined that gender equality should be a standalone

goal in the post-2015 development agenda. Audience member Lee Webster from the United Kingdom stressed that it is relevant to discuss funding UNSCR

1325 NAPs now, because women are building peace on a shoestring.

Name of Event:	Gender and Peace in the Post-2015 Development Agenda
Organised by:	Saferworld and Conciliation Resources
Panelists:	Sanne Tielemans (Policy Analyst, Conciliation Resources), Virisila Buadromo (Executive Director, Fiji Women's Rights Movement), Nahla Valji (Peace and Security Policy Adviser, UN Women), Hannah Wright (Gender, Peace and Security Advisor, Saferworld), and Annette Musu Kiawu (Deputy Minister, Liberian Ministry of Gender and Development)
Themes:	NAPs, post-2015 development agenda, Resolution 1325, WPS Agenda

The panel discussion explored how peace can support gender equality, how gender equality can support peace and what a gender and peace perspective means for CSW 58 and the post-2015 development agenda. The panel suggested targets and indicators that illustrate how gender, violence and peace issues can best be integrated into the framework. Kiawu highlighted how women have participated in the Liberian peace processes and how post-conflict policies and laws incorporate women's participation in decision-making. Most importantly, she highlighted that Liberia uses NAPs for the WPS agenda and that they support a standalone goal on gender equality. Buadromo provided the Fijian perspective of women's involvement in national decision making, highlighting that women are often excluded. She

brought light to the fact that Fiji has one of the highest rates of violence against women in the world. Valji highlighted that 2015 is going to be an important year, in terms of the end of the MDGs, the Beijing Conference and the review of UNSCR 1325. She called for gender to be mainstreamed in all areas of the post-2015 development agenda. Wright called for greater attention to conflict prevention and noted that this is a neglected area in the WPS agenda. Wright and Valji both agreed that security needs to be redefined and human security needs to be emphasized. The panel agreed that it is vital for women to be involved in peace processes and that gender and women rights issues need to be incorporated in all aspects of the post-2015 development agenda.

Saturday March 15 2014

Name of Event:	Singers in the Band: A Screening Symposium on Military Sex Trafficking
Organised by:	The International Institute on Peace Education and GNWP
Panelists:	David Goodman (Filmmaker), Rabbi Jon Cutler (Captain in the United States (US) Navy and served as a US Navy chaplain), Ann Wright (Retired colonel in the US Army and Army Reserves), Mavuc Cabrera-Balleza (International Coordinator of the GNWP), and Tony Jenkins (Global Coordinator of the International Institute on Peace Education)
Themes:	Sexual Violence against Women, Military Sex Trafficking

This event was a screening of the documentary by David Goodman called "*Singers in the Band*". In this documentary, David Goodman and his team go undercover to follow the process of sex traffickers in the Philippines who contract women as singers and send them to South Korea to work in bars that service US Military Bases. The film exposes the role the US military plays in fostering prostitution and sex trafficking of women and the culture that supports it. The documentary tells compelling narratives of women and girls within the sex trade and gives a broader picture of the sex trade and international politics. The documentary also shows interviews with active and retired US Military staff.

The panel discussion after the film focused a lot on the US military. Wright stressed that 1/3 of the women in the US military have been sexually assaulted. She said that it is necessary to increase public attention on sexual violence by the military and that the Government needs to do more. Cabrera-Balleza spoke about all the resolutions we have on eliminating VAW and how groundbreaking UNSCR 1325 was as it highlighted women as agents. She also said that the US still has not ratified CEDAW. All panelists agreed that sexual violence is a problem that exists everywhere and we need to expose it to overcome it.

Monday March 17 2014

Name of Event:	Libya's Forgotten Women Speak up
Organised by:	Permanent Mission of Libya to the United Nations and Permanent Mission of Italy to the United Nations
Panelists:	Dr. Fardia Allaghi (President of Libyan Forum for Civil Society (Moderator)), H.E. Amb. Ibrahim O. Dabbashi (Permanent Representative of Libya to the United Nations), H.E. Amb. Sebastiano Cardi (Permanent Representative of Italy to the UN), Madiha Alnaas (Researcher on Libyan Women Identity and a Specialist on Violence against Women), Gülden Türköz-Cosslett (UN Women), Azza Al Maghur (Lawyer and Human Rights Activist), and Maysoun Tughar (Financial Adviser and Supporter of Women's NGOs)
Themes:	VAW, Revolution, WPS, Political Participation

This event highlighted issues and challenges that Libyan women face today and what impacts the revolution has had on women in Libya. H.E. Amb. Cardi and H.E. Amb. Dabbashi spoke about the important role women have in the revolutionary transition in Libya, while highlighting that women continue to face challenges to fully participate in society. Allaghi, said women are most affected by the insecurity in the country despite the fact that they never took up arms themselves. Moreover, she noted that women's representation has been deteriorating lately, in parliament and in the newly-appointed constitutional assembly.

Allaghi said that she was tired of the negative portrayal of Libya by Western media, showing either news of women being discriminated or nothing at all. She said that "many Libyan men are actually with us and supporting us women." She further stressed that international statistics are either faulty, because they were performed under Ghadaffi's rule, or absent. The panelists therefore called for international organisations to go to Libya and conduct research. They noted that numbers on GBV do not exist and that it is impossible to end VAW without statistics. Al

Maghur emphasized some positive effects of the revolution, including that people now have free press and free media and for the first time in their lives, they can demonstrate freely. She further added that one of the remaining problems in the country is the militia. She said that it is impossible to have a democratic process with a militia and that militias' aim is destruction and democracy's aim is construction - ergo, only one can exist at a time. Alnaas questioned who is determining the agenda on what Libyan women need and whether Libyan women are involved in this process. She also said that "UNSCR 1325 should be used as a tool to include - not to exclude." Allaghi discussed the security issue and the need for the international community to combat and control the spread of arms. All panelists finally agreed that a revolution takes time but it is now up to the people to decide what they want.

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Tuesday March 18 2014

Name of Event:	Strategies for Enhancing Women’s Political Participation: the Role of Education in Capacity Building
Organised by:	Women’s Consortium of Nigeria, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Nigeria African Women’s Alliance, Inc., Millennium Development Goals Global Watch
Panelists:	Matilda Johnson (Women’s Affairs and Family Life Sub-committee of the Gambia Christian Council), Amina Salihu (Gender Consultant, Nigerian Women Trust Fund, Nigeria), and Irin Dejufo (Federal Ministry of Women’s Affairs and Social Development, Nigeria)
Themes:	Women’s Political Participation, Women’s Empowerment

This parallel event had a panel with speakers from Nigeria, Suriname, and Gambia. They discussed how to enhance women’s political participation and the importance of access to quality education for women and girls in capacity building. It was highlighted how education expands the choice for women and girls as it empowers them and open up doors to future political participation, economic participation and social justice.

Political participation was highlighted many times by the panelists as important for women. However, they stressed that the perception that politics is something scary and only for men needs to be changed. The event highlighted that it is time to break the stereotype that women’s place is in the home. The panelists also discussed the idea of having quotas to get more women into politics, although everyone had different opinions about whether it was a good idea or not.

Name of Event:	Justice for Women by Women
Organised by:	Mission of Italy, International Development Law Organisation (IDLO)
Panelists:	Irene Khan (Director, IDLO), Maria Bashir (Chief Prosecutor General, Heart Province, Afghanistan), and Olga Sanchez Cordero (Justice of the Supreme Court, Mexico)
Themes:	Women’s Access to Justice

The IDLO presented a strong and informative panel on the issues going on with women and their participation and roles in the field of law/lawmaking. Attention was given to the role women are playing within the legal system as prosecutors, lawyers and judges. The panelists all spoke on the issue that when women are represented in the field of law, particularly in developing regions of the world, a fair perspective and account is brought before a judge. A move

towards a gender perspective and strong female representation provides a balance and provides a fair evaluation within the framework of the legal system. The panelists highlighted the issues in their respective countries, which were Afghanistan and Mexico. Two relevant points were brought up in the discussion: 1) Accessibility to justice can be challenging particularly in rural areas and 2) Female representation needs be increased as women’s voices on all issues

under the law are valid and have to be given the same attention as that of a male.

The women's issues that were spoken of include cases of violence, rape, abuse and women's physical safety. Research has shown that when these issues are presented in front of a female judge, the victim is at ease to speak freely and with less anxiety. This in turn

provides a pro-woman approach and will form a gender-equalized perspective when discussing issues pertaining primarily to women in the court of law. The main question is how to get women into more positions within the legal jurisdiction to consequently empower women and adequately confront the issues women face daily.

Name of Event:	Follow-Up to Conversation Circle on Violence against Women (VAW) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS): Strategizing for the 15th United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 Anniversary and the previous Conversation Circle
Organised by:	GNWP, WILPF, NGO Working Group on WPS
Panelists:	Dr. Abigail Ruane (WILPF) and Sarah Taylor (NGO Working Group on WPS)
Themes:	WPS, VAW

This event served as a follow-up discussion to the first Conversation Circle on VAW and WPS held on March 10, 2014. It provided updates on the draft of the Agreed Conclusions and updates on the 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

In terms of updates on the draft of the Agreed Conclusions, Ruane noted that there was push back on women human rights language and that there were challenges in the area of conflict as the language concerning conflict had been featured in brackets. The paragraph on maximizing investment in gender equality did not have any reference to financing development with disarmament. Ruane stressed the need to include support for a SDG on gender equality in the text. Wright from Saferworld noted that a reference to conflict prevention had disappeared and said Saferworld is working with supportive UN Member States to get this language back into the text. Ruane and Taylor shared a summary of the language related to WPS and VAW in the draft Agreed Conclusions to help participants in their

advocacy efforts, and participants explored strategies on how to lobby key States and regional organisations to include the desired language of WPS and VAW in the final Agreed Conclusions.

Subsequently, Taylor provided an overview of preparations for the 15th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 including on messaging and events. She noted that some organisations are using UNSCR 1325's 2014 Anniversary this October to launch a call for regional organisations, local organisations and member States to honor their commitments (including 2010 WPS commitments), and demand not just commitments but achievements by 2015. She also noted that there will be a high level/ministerial level review in 2015, which will need to be complemented by local and regional engagement. Participants agreed that it was important to continue working together to leverage the 15th anniversary to strengthen the implementation and impact of the WPS agenda.

Name of Event:	Criminalization of Sexual and Reproductive Behaviors: Impeding Progress on the MDGs
Organised by:	Ipas, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission (IGLHRC) and Amnesty International
Panelists:	Gillian Kane (Ipas Senior Policy Advisor), Marianne Mollmann (Director of Programs, IGLHRC), Carrie Eisert (Amnesty International), Gretzel Brozovich (Ipas Bolivia) and Chrispine Sibande (Ipas Malawi)
Themes:	VAW, Women's Reproductive Rights, Gender Identity

This panel discussed how restrictive and punitive laws on sexual and reproductive conduct and identities can block progress toward achieving the MDGs. The panel concluded that laws criminalizing reproductive and sexual behavior do not support gender equality and consequently, they do not work and they are discriminatory. Eisert argued that States should not control women's sexual activity and that criminalization of sexuality compromises access to health care. Mollman talked about the criminalization

of sexual orientation, for instance in Uganda, and that in many countries around the world, there are arbitrary laws that penalize those who cross-dress or even talk about homosexuality. Brozovich showed the discriminatory impact of the criminalization of abortion in Latin America, highlighting the human rights violations of women seeking abortion. Finally, Sibande demonstrated how criminalizing abortion rights impede women's rights in Malawi and Rwanda.

Name of Event:	Increasing the Number of Women as Heads of State and in Government
Organised by:	National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Panelists:	Dr. Farida Jalazai (Associate Professor of Political Science University of Missouri-St.Louis), Retired Honourable Kim Campbell (Former Prime Minister of Canada), and Susan Markham (Director of Women's Political Participation at NDI)
Themes:	Political Participation, Women Leaders

The discussion brought together a panel of practitioners, academics and women leaders to address the context in which women seek and attain the highest levels of political leadership. The panel explored paths taken by current and former heads of state including Retired Hon. Kim Campbell, former Prime Minister of Canada, as well as strategies and recommendations for women aspiring to be leaders. Jalazai said that women have made inroads in quantities in political positions however they have not been able to hold on to them. The panel addressed that women struggle with structural issues when

aspiring for leading positions, such as social, economic and political barriers. Also, women's achievements do not stick to them - they always need to continue to prove themselves, which is an issue that men do not face or least not to the same extent. The panel's recommendations and strategies for women seeking higher political leadership include: to obtain the necessary skills, to engage both men and women as allies and to get more relevant experience. They also highlighted the importance of having female role models.

Name of Event:	Stories of Women's Leadership: Achievements and Challenges toward Achieving the Post-2015 Agenda
Organised by:	Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) International. The Sound Essence Project, WFWP USA
Panelists:	Moderator: Alexa Ward (Deputy Director, WFWP UN Office), Carolyn Handshin (Director UN Office, WFWP International), Sachiko Kimura (Project Director and Overseas Volunteer for Zambia, WFWP, Japan), Arceli Hernando (Director of Student Affairs, Bohol Island University), Greta Anderson (Young Adult Volunteer with Service Experience in Israel, Palestine, Uganda and the US)
Themes:	Women's Leadership

This event discussed how women could act as leaders in their community and in their family. Handshin shared that women need to be recognized and empowered as leaders in their family. She called for a shift from patriarchy to familiarchy and that family should be considered the new framework of peace. Kimura talked about her work in Zambia as a leader. Hernando talked about the challenges of being a

Director of Student Affairs of Bohol Island University, and how to mobilize students to care about world issues. She explained how she tries to build future leaders that are engaged in social responsibility. Finally, Anderson shared how she volunteered in Israel and Palestine, Uganda and the USA in peace and poverty programs. She concluded with the words: "Think Globally, Act Locally."

Wednesday March 19 2014

Name of Event:	Turning Money into Honey: Women’s Role in the Management of Natural Resources and Extractive Industries in Liberia for Durable Peace
Organised by:	United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (UNPBSO), UN Women, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations
Panelists:	H.E. Amb. Stefan Tillander (Chair of the Liberia Configuration of the Peacebuilding Commission, to the Security Council, Sweden), Julia Duncan Cassell (Minister of Gender and Development, Liberia), Lwopu Gawee Kandakai (Liberia Land Commission), Alice Kamara (Rural Women’s Rights Activist and Head of “PeaceHut”), Etweda Cooper (Superintendent Working with Rural Women) and Emily Stranger (Programme Manager at UN Women in Liberia)
Themes:	Natural Resources, Women’s Participation

The UN PBSO, UN Women, civil society, government representatives and non-profit organisations met to discuss the mobilization of women and natural resources. Minister Cassell said in her opening speech that Liberian women were the ones with the loudest voice in the peace process many years ago and that while women in Liberia continue to struggle, their voices remain crucial. Liberia is known to be rich in natural resources and women depend on these resources and land access. Land in particular is one of the most important aspects of a woman’s livelihood in Liberia despite the fact that corporations are seeking economic gains via land access.

Kamara, a rural women’s activist and head of the women’s Peace Hut in Liberia told a story women’s collaboration against a logging company that was destroying forests and damaging roads, while polluting the water system. The women in the community worked together to create a roadblock and drove them out of town as they feared that the damage on the roads would hinder them to transport

goods to the market, impairing their economic and social development.

Cooper, a former leader of the Liberian women’s movement emphasized that “we are the drivers of our country.” Because of many land rights issues in Liberia, Kandakai is today working to encourage women about land ownership and management. Kandakai has oversight on the Land Dispute Resolution Program with a special focus on women’s access to land. She is trying to make the process more transparent, affordable and gender-friendly since there still is a taboo in some local communities with traditional practices for women to access and own land. She said that in some cases women have been forced to move, because a land dispute could not be solved.

Cooper stressed that it is not fair to take away a woman’s livelihood and that women need to stand up to corporations and authorities that claim that women cannot manage natural resources. To the contrary, women are extremely skilled: they clear the land, they plant, they harvest, they process and they take the products to markets.

Thursday March 20 2014

Name of Event:	Women of South Sudan Front and Centre: Mobilizing for Peace after the Addis Ababa Cessation of Hostilities Agreement
Organised by:	UN Women, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Cordaid, PeaceisLoud, Norway and United Methodist Women
Panelists:	Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka (Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN Women), H.E. Amb. Geir O. Pedersen, (Permanent Representative of Norway to the United Nations), Hon. Betty Ogowaro (Member of the National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan), Hon. Grace Abalang (Member of the National Legislative Assembly of South Sudan), Rita Martin (Director of EVE, Organisation for Women's Development in South Sudan), and Leymah Gbowee (Nobel Laureate, Peace Activist and Founder of Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa)
Themes:	Participation, Peace Negotiations

This event provided space for dialogue on the critical role of women in the South Sudan peace talks in Addis Ababa. Following the recent escalation in armed violence in South Sudan, the women of South Sudan were quick to mobilize for peace. South Sudanese women are building an inclusive movement that aims to transform the existing narrative of polarization to one of inclusiveness. Speakers discussed the current situation of women and urgent protection needs. The panel focused on participation and agency particularly related to the negotiations; cessation of hostilities; and also the African Union (AU) Commission of Inquiry. There were calls for an independent civil society voice in the peace talks and Ogowaro stated the need for “women to be on the

mediation team” and strengthened links between women at the table and women on the ground. Martin called for long-term and continuous support for women in peace talks. In addition, the proliferation of small arms was underlined. Nobel Laureate Gbowee reminded the room that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results. She was referring to our collective work in relation to women’s participation at peace talks. She recalled and praised WILPF founder, Jane Addams, and underlined that 100 years ago, peace women were doing the same as today - organizing and calling for peace and voice - and yet still today in South Sudan, Syria and Colombia, women are excluded.

6. Useful Links

PeaceWomen

www.peacewomen.org

The Commission on the Status of Women

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw

The NGO Committee on the Status of Women

www.ngocsw.org

UN Women

www.unwomen.org



Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Office

777 United Nations Plaza, 6th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Tel: [\(212\) 682 1265](tel:(212)6821265)

Fax: [\(212\) 286 8211](tel:(212)2868211)

www.peacewomen.org

info@peacewomen.org
