



European Women's Lobby Position Paper on Gender and Conflict Toward Human Security: Engendering Peace

'We thought that when we had peace we would get equality but now we've realised that until we get equality we won't have peace.' (Palestinian woman)

Conflicts as gender-based violence

Feminist theory teaches us conflicts, wars and militarism are gendered processes.¹ They use, maintain and often promote the ideological construction of gender in the definitions of 'masculinity' and 'femininity' and of course have disproportional impact on women and children, particularly the girl child. In effect, what that means is that men go to war to defend national/state values, territories, and borders and protect and defend their 'own' women and children. Women are regarded as 'the protected' and 'the defended' which inevitably means women having to 'survive the violence' and 'patch and mend the war-torn societies' instead of their equal participation in contributing to the democratic development, enforcement of rights and justice, and creating human security for all.

The European Union has defined equality between women and men as a fundamental right and its mission. This means that gender equality concerns should be mainstreamed in EU development and cooperation policies and in the framework of the European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP). Indeed, we are currently faced with a contradiction whereby the model of the European Union itself has been created to ensure lasting peace in Europe, and at the same time the European Union itself has been reluctant to take leadership role in promoting a culture of peace in the world. The absence of women in diplomatic positions and decision-making posts remain a persistent barrier to women's participation in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, peace building and post conflict resolution and reconstruction. In general terms, some progress was made in relation to EU position on women and armed conflicts in recognizing women's potential to contribute to peace building and conflict resolution but this still needs to be translated into concrete action.²

Despite UN and EU documents calling for the elimination of inequalities and the promotion of equality between women and men,³ the inequality between women and men is very much present and can be

¹ As in the work of: Niva-Yuval Davis, Jacklyn Cock, Cynthia Cockburn, Cynthia Enloe, Vesna Kesic, Biljana Rada Ivekovic, etc.

² Beijing +10, 1995-2005: review of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action by the European Union, report by The European Women's Lobby, November 2004

³ The Treaty on the European Community establishes gender mainstreaming in its Article 2.3 in order "to eliminate inequalities and to promote equality between women and men"; The UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Convention) recognises that women do not share equal status with men, thus allows, and indeed in some areas, calls for women to be treated differently from men to benefit equally as a result; The UN Beijing Platform for Action (BfA, 1995) identifies twelve critical areas as major obstacles to gender equality, among them the inequality between women and men in economic



observed in the very specific forms of violence witnessed during periods of conflict, and extended after it, including sexualized violence in war and violence committed in the aftermath of the conflict by former soldiers.

Women's organisations have stressed that the lack of political will to include women into decision making processes is the key to the answer why there such gender imbalance exists.⁴ Efforts of women's organizations dealing with gender and conflict/war and peace issues have a long tradition within the women's movement(s), dating from back to 1913. The demands to include women into peace-building processes intensified with the ongoing conflict/wars since the 90ies (Somalia, Rwanda, East Timor, former Yugoslavia), but no concrete or sustainable solutions were within reach of this goal. Prior to the adoption of UN SC Resolution 1325, and as a result of pressure from women's movements, efforts to change the situation started to become more visible. Women had hoped that when adopted, Resolution 1325 would become a vital instrument for women's full participation in peace-building, peace-making and conflict prevention.

From a democratic perspective, it should be self-evident that women should take part in peace-making and peace-building processes. But, because of patriarchal structures, women have been historically excluded when issues of conflicts/wars and peace have been and are discussed. The absence of women and their perspectives in peace negotiations, post-conflict reconstruction, disarmament, humanitarian relief and peace building mean the absence of sustainable peace and any chance of obtaining human security.

UN SC Resolution 1325⁵

The UN SC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security is the principal international instrument which incorporates and mandates a gender perspective in all aspects of peace-building, and from conflict prevention to conflict resolution. It means that a strong gender perspective must be mainstreamed throughout any peace processes, peace accords/agreements and peacekeeping operations. Resolution 1325 stresses four main areas of concern:

1. The increased representation of women at all levels of decision making and participation in peace-building and conflict prevention
2. The inclusion of a gender perspective in post-conflict processes (including peace processes) and training to promote gender perspective in peace building
3. Attention to specific protection needs of women – including from sexual violence
4. The inclusion of a gender perspective in UN programming, reporting and peace operations reports

structures and policies, in all forms of productive activities and in access to financial resources, education, services, power and decision-making, and the insufficient mechanisms at all levels to promote the empowerment of women.

⁴ Biljana Kasic: Women and the politics of peace. Contributions to a culture of women's resistance, Centre for Women's Studies Zagreb, 1997

⁵ See www.peacewomen.org



The Security Council of the UN unanimously adopted Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000. In the same year, November 2000, the European Parliament adopted a Resolution on the Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution.⁶ In many ways, this Resolution can be considered as complementary to the UN Resolution, with a specific focus on the EU. There have been many actions and initiatives taken to implement the resolution. However, there is no systematic approach to implementation within the United Nations and no mechanism for accountability. In addition, although many countries have developed National Action Plans for implementation, many of these also suffer from a lack of mechanisms for accountability – for example gender budgeting or time-bound measurable targets. It is precisely because of these issues that we need to revise and reinvigorate the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security as well as the European Parliament Resolution.

Since the unanimous adoption of Security Council Resolution 1325 in October 2000, the UN system has developed a 1325 Action Plan⁷ as the best way to translate objectives of the Resolution 1325 into reality. However, to date, very few countries have developed national action plans (NAPs). Ten of EU countries have already developed them: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, the Netherlands, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, and UK and three non-EU countries: Iceland, Switzerland and Norway. Canada, Cote D' Ivoir, Liberia and Uganda are the only countries outside Europe that have developed a National Action Plan. The majority of these national action plans fail to include gender budgeting, identifiable benchmarks and/or timelines for implementation, they are not "living documents" and that brings an additional concern for the viability of their implementation. Although the legal instruments are in place, including developed national action plans, implementing processes still need to be developed.⁸

At a European Commission International Conference on 'Women: Stabilising an Insecure World' in March 2008, Commissioner Benita Ferrero-Waldner asked: "What concrete steps can we take to increase women's contribution to human security at a local level and to expand that contribution to regional, national and international spheres? ... Women should be empowered to make their full contribution at the peace table and in post-conflict reconstruction. And how can we reinvigorate the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325?"⁹ The priorities should thus include:

1. Increasing women's involvement in conflict prevention and peace-building
2. Recognizing the ways in which women and men are affected differently by conflict;
3. Preventing gender-specific violence against women and girls and protecting the rights and needs of women and girls in armed conflict;

⁶ Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution, Rapporteur Maj Britt Theorin, November 2000

⁷ 2008-2009 UN System-Wide Action Plan on SCR 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security

⁸ Un-INSTRAW offers a thorough guide for governments, UN and regional organizations and NGOs, to policy and planning on women, peace and security (UNSCR1325) titled, 'Securing Equality, Engendering Peace' (2006) with the purpose to "help facilitate the development of realistic action plans ... through the provision of good practices, specific recommendation and a six-step model process"

⁹ Benita Ferrero-Waldner at international conference Women: Stabilizing an Insecure World, EC, March 6th, 2008.



4. Gender budgeting;
5. Identifiable benchmarks and time lines for implementation

UN SC Resolution 1820

The targeting of women and children in contemporary conflict around the world and the use of sexual violence as a method of warfare has been widely recognised as an international crime. The international cooperation in this domain has put in place some tools to bring perpetrators of such crimes to justice and to end impunity. More recently, and on June 19 2008, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflict. This resolution explicitly links sexual violence as a tactic of war with the maintenance of international peace and security. It allows for the possibility of a military and police response as well as judiciary, if appropriate.

The 15-member Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1820 (2008), which noted that "rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute war crimes, crimes against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide." It also notes the Council's intention to consider the commission of such violence when considering sanctions regimes.

On the national level, the resolution urges states to ratify or accede to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the Optional Protocols for each. It also notes the large role sexual violence against women and girls plays both during and after conflicts and demands parties to conflict take measures to provide protection against sexual violence. It also encourages the Secretary-General to continue to develop measures against sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers.

Questions and problems remain: there is a distinct absence of effective monitoring for sexual violence in ceasefires and a lack of effective peacekeeping responses. It is imperative that the ways in which sexual violence in peace processes is addressed and to reflect/act upon the possible stigmatizing impact of reparations for survivors. Vice President of the European Commission, Margot Wallstrom, says at the eve of the first year anniversary of adoption of UN SCR 1820: "I believe we have to get specific—if you look at Security Council Resolution 1612 protecting children in armed conflict, you see time limits, specified violators, and working groups. I am convinced that if we put those same specific mandates on Resolution 1820, we could begin bringing the end of sexual violence"¹⁰

Integrating a Gender Perspective into Peace-Building

International humanitarian and human rights law provide both the rationale and the international standards for incorporating a gender and a human rights perspective into peace building. In countries which have

¹⁰ <http://blogs.ec.europa.eu/wallstrom/stop-rape-now/>



integrated a gender perspective, such as in South Africa and East Timor, the effectiveness of some peace support operations is seen to have improved.¹¹ However, out of fifteen existing peace missions, only eight have gender advisors. Gender Units can, when receiving appropriate support, prove to be an appropriate and necessary mechanism for the contribution and support of effective gender mainstreaming mechanisms, from Headquarters to the field missions.¹² Gender equality itself, with a binding code of conduct¹³ and the involvement of women in conflict prevention and peace-building, is indeed an integral part of any peace making efforts.

To present day, the European Union has not set common standards for the behaviour and conduct of soldiers and peacekeeping forces, including humanitarian aid workers, acting on behalf of the EU in areas of conflict and war. Such standards should include an unequivocal condemnation of all forms of gender-based violence, including prostitution and trafficking in women and girls for the purpose of sexual exploitation.

Gender expertise is needed at the UN level, as well as in field missions/peace support operations in order to ensure the incorporation of a gender perspective into all missions from the mandates and terms of reference to operating manuals and training programs.¹⁴ Gender sensitive training should be compulsory for all personnel going to peace keeping missions, since turnover is high among field and military personnel in missions. Permanent gender advisors in the field could ensure sustainability of the implementation of gender perspective. If peace missions fail to include a gender perspective in their strategies and practice, or fail to recognise that women and girls have different needs, priorities and resources, they are unlikely to be able to uphold international standards and fundamental women's rights. Feminist gender analysis, when used, can transcend both conservative assumptions and well-meaning egalitarianism and give productive new insights to peace-building.¹⁵

The Impact of Gender Mainstreaming

Despite the lack of institutional support, the positive outcomes in several recent UN peacekeeping missions proved that commitment and dedication towards equality between women and men produced results: such

¹¹ An overview of the progress made on SCR 1325 is presented in UN-INSTRAW's guide: *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace*, 2006

¹² In 2000 women represented only 4% of police and 3% of military personnel in peacekeeping missions, www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/ngostatements/talkingpoints03.html (visited 22.04.2008)

¹³ UN Code of Conduct for Peacekeepers states that "UN peace keeper will always: Be aware of the human rights of women and children and never violate them ; Behave in a way that does not exacerbate violence [sic] of the human rights of women and children in the host country" and will never: "Commit any act that could result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to members of the local population, especially women and children; Become involved in sexual liaisons which could affect impartiality, or the well-being of others", *Gender and peacekeeping Operations, In-Mission Training package*, TES/DPKO 2001

¹⁴ *Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security* (UNCSR 1235), The United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, 2006

¹⁵ Cynthia Cockburn: *The gender dynamics of armed conflict and political violence* in *Gender, Armed Conflict and Political Violence*, ed. by C Moser and F. Clark, 2001



efforts improved the position of women by promoting gender equality. On occasions, gender units and gender advisors have enabled the participation of women, as part of civil society, to discuss the future developments and support women's groups in order to organize and prepare for peace negotiations or facilitate the exchange with the women from other conflict regions¹⁶ or support women to participate in decision-making from the local to the national level. A *Gender module*¹⁷ - compulsory gender induction training in the field, as well as gender units at Headquarters and in the field can ensure the gender mainstreaming standards and mandates that have been adopted by 189 Member States since 1995 and unanimously adopted by the Security Council in 2000 through Resolution 1325. Ensuring funding for gender units remains a substantial challenge. To have sustainable impact – including capacity building of local women's NGOs and women's rights training and outreach – gender units have to be properly funded.¹⁸

Gender Justice

At the aftermath of war, justice is demanded. Gender justice should be demanded as well. Gender justice means equitable promotion and protection of civil, political, economic and social rights for women and girls as well as men and boys. Gender justice calls for the end of, and if necessary the provision of redress for, inequalities between women and men that result in women's subordination to men.¹⁹ These inequalities may be in the distribution of resources and opportunities which enable individuals to build human, social, economic and political capital and in the conceptions of human dignity, personal autonomy and rights that deny women physical integrity and the capacity to make choices about how to live their lives.

Gender justice requires that women are able to ensure that power-holders- whether in the household, the community, or the state - can be held accountable so that actions that limit on the grounds of gender, women's access to resources or capacity to make choices, are prevented and sanctioned.

Feminist Analysis on Militarism and Human Security

“Women are at disproportionate risk from the security threats facing humanity. That holds true not only for the traditional security threats of poverty, conflict and disease, but also for the ever-expanding range of non-traditional security threats such as climate change, terrorism, religious extremism and international crime”²⁰

Militarism and militarization of the society are tools of patriarchy. Militarism depends on power and violence, while feminist anti-militarism is the non-violent answer to military power and gendered violence. There is a

¹⁶ On the experience of cooperation between women from different conflict zones, like Palestine-Israel, Women in Black movement, etc.

¹⁷ The Standard Generic Training Module (SGTM) 6C deals with Gender and Peacekeeping. In-Mission Training package, TES/DPKO 2001

¹⁸ NGO Working group on Women, peace and Security and Amnesty International, October 2003

¹⁹ unequal gender relations are central but explicit political position that defines gender justice as being about overcoming women's subordination is needed (AdeleyeFayemi 2004:45; Tamale 2002; Mama 2002).

²⁰ Benita Ferrero-Waldner, *ibid.*



need to discuss and redefine security from feminist point of view – what do women need to really feel secure? Is it guns and check points and soldiers or is it, for example, homes and economic opportunity and education and mobility²¹?

At the same time, the concept of human security is based upon civic values and asserts that security cannot be achieved through military, but through policies that strengthen democratic processes. The protection of civilian population in armed conflicts, disarmament, justice and democracy, as well as establishment of funds to assure human security in the post-conflict period, are crucial to enable development of a just society. Concerning women, protection, assistance and training for refugee, displaced and internally displaced women has to be of main concern. Sustainable development, proper standards of living for all, as access to health care, right to education, gender equality, respect of human rights and women's human rights and diversity, are preconditions for any sustainable peace and human security.

The role of women's NGOs

Women's NGOs working on gender and peace issues have experience, knowledge and capacity²² to facilitate, support, and monitor commitments made by their governments to work towards gender balance and gender mainstreaming in the realm of peace and security, and are mostly excluded from the policies/solutions toward the conflicts/wars.

- To disseminate information about Resolutions 1325 and 1820 to national and regional stake holders involved in decision-making, especially those in the prevention, management and resolution of conflict
- To publish reports using a strong gender perspective on conflict
- To offer gender specific training for UN and other international and national personal
- To offer training to build women's capacities to participate in decision-making at all levels
- To encourage women's organizations at all levels to prepare and support candidates for decision-making positions, including refugee women
- To lobby that General Assembly prioritize the budget for gender mainstreaming in peace operations and engage personnel with gender expertise
- To lobby for establishing gender focal points/gender units and utilize gender experts in all peace-building missions

Preconditions To Achieving Sustainable Human Security Are:

1. Gender Equality The Beijing Platform for Action, CEDAW and the SC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 articulated that equality and peace cannot be achieved without the equal participation of women and full integration of

²¹ http://www.ikff.se/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/esp_booklet_homepage.pdf

²² As MEP Luisa Morgantini said "women are protagonists not victims", at Public Hearing on Women and War , EU Parliament, 06.05. 2008.



gender perspectives. Thus, states should re-affirm the commitments that would empower women and girls and eliminate discrimination, such as their commitment to combat violence against women, increase girls' access to education, ensure women's equal participation in decision-making and access to reproductive rights, with firm benchmarks for action.

2. Gender Mainstreaming The UN system has to strengthen gender mainstreaming, as mandated.²³ The structural changes must take into account the inter-governmental commitment to gender mainstreaming by ensuring that the structural changes and financial and human resources within the UN promote gender equality. The Low percentage of women in high level posts within the UN should be addressed as a matter of priority. Resolution on the *Participation of women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution*, focusing Europe, and complementary to UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 should be revised so that mandated goals could be met.

3. Development Peace, development and human rights are inextricably linked. The link between conflict/war and poverty, as well as conflict prevention and development has to be considered and conditions tackled. Sustainable development should be reinforced by the political and financial commitments as a form of prevention. Gender analysis has to be taken in consideration as well.

4. Human Rights There is the need to strengthen human rights mechanisms in the member states as well as within the UN and EU/CoE in order to deal with all human rights in all countries and at all times, including time of conflicts. The entire UN/EU legal reform process must be based on gender mainstreaming human rights.

5. Disarmament and De-militarisation In the framework of human security, decisions on the disarmament of all weapons, including small arms and light weapons and nuclear weapons, should be carried out. Consistent with the provisions of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820, gender analysis of all situations off armed conflict should be performed. Demilitarisation does not only mean reduction of military expenditure and control of availability of armaments, but the shift in the politics – promotion of non-violent forms of conflict transformation and promotion of the respect of human rights.

6. Civil Society The states and the UN cannot be effective in their commitments toward sustainable peace without meaningful engagement from civil society organizations and strong partnership between member states and civil society. Women's NGOs proved to perform important role in peace-building and conflict prevention processes and they role must be re-enforced.

Governments' and the UN responsibility lay within the implementation UNSC Resolution 1325 and 1820 primarily as a **responsibility to protect**. But governments must understand that the responsibility to protect includes a responsibility **to prevent conflicts** and to rebuild societies after conflicts, through negotiation, support to democratization, in cooperation with civil society, and through technical and economic assistance. The principle of "do no harm" when intervening, has to be understood with regard to gendered violence, particularly sexual abuse of women and children.

²³ ECOSOC resolutions 1997/2 and 2004/4



EWL Recommendations²⁴

For many years, women have been addressing the issue of Security Council and demanding reforms. The reform of the Security Council should not only focus on enlargement issues, but also on methods of work and procedures in order to achieve a more democratic, transparent and effective Council. In this regard, the EWL takes into consideration the Cardoso report's²⁵ recommendations which call for broader and increased relations with civil society but considers the exclusion of women from Security Council as a reinforcement of gender inequality. The EWL recommendations are therefore to:

- 1. Re-affirm commitment** for the implementation of UNSC Resolutions 1325 and 1820 as well as the European Parliament's Resolution 2000/2025 on the Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution. The development of an **EU-wide Action Plan on SCRs 1325/1820** and the development of NAPs by all EU members is of urgent importance.²⁶ Candidate countries, some of them recently having faced conflict, should be pressured to develop National Action Plans for the implementation of the resolution as a precondition to EU accession. We call upon governments, relevant UN agencies and other intergovernmental bodies to provide **full financial support** for the implementation of Resolutions 1325 and 1820, as well as **adequate and sustainable funding for women's** equal participation in peace building, conflict prevention and conflict resolution processes. **Strict benchmarks for the implementation are needed, including gender budgeting**²⁷ and time lines for implementation.
- 2. Conduct a mapping/review** of gender issues within EU peace and security policy and programming; assess gaps and identify areas of EU strategic priority related to SCRs 1325/1820 and EP resolution 2000/2025; evaluate the implementation of SCR 1325/national action plans. Although NAPs should be context-specific, the overall result should be focused on increasing the participation of women and gender-sensitising peace and security policies and programs.
- 3. Actively promote the equal participation of women in conflict prevention, management and conflict resolution and in post-conflict peace building by**
 - **Developing the capacity of the EU within the Common Security and Defence Policy** to respond to conflict prevention and to promote the concept of human security.
 - **Providing a mandate** within the Common Security And Defence Policy to, *inter alia*: co-ordinate the EU with a focus on non-military crisis management; ensure the drafting, implementation and monitoring of codes of conduct for military and civilian factions intervening on behalf of the EU in

²⁴ Revised from EWL's Beijing +10, *ibid*.

²⁵ The Cardoso Report on UN-Civil Society relation: A third World Network Analysis, August 2004

²⁶ MEP Anna Gomes at Public Hearing on Women and War insisted that Commission demanded implementation of 1325 from the member states, EU Parliament, 06.05.2008

²⁷ 52nd Session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women considering the priority theme "Financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women", New York 2008



areas of armed conflict; and ensure that **at least 40% of women** are included in all reconciliation, peacekeeping, peace-enforcement, peace building and conflict prevention posts, including fact finding and observer missions acting on behalf of the EU and its Member States.²⁸

- **Provide a clear gender focused “Code of Conduct”** on the standards of conduct of military and civilian peacekeeping and humanitarian staff while on mission in areas of armed conflict. Such codes should stipulate that sexual exploitation constitutes acts of gross misconduct that can lead to sanctions and the termination of their employment.
- **Include a gender focal point** with adequate mandate, skills, and resources for all European Commission delegations in third countries.

4. Place women’s human rights at the core of donor policies for reconstruction and development by

- **Building support systems and investment in specialised services for the victims** of rape and trauma in the wake of gender-based violence perpetrated during conflict/war periods.
- **Making funds available to women’s organisations so they can seek redress** through the mechanisms of international law in the aftermath of armed conflicts.
- **Making funds available to women to participate and take leadership** in reconstructing community life and access to infrastructure such as water supply, electricity, schools, hospitals, roads as well as (re) building legal and administrative structures of the State.
- **Ensuring parity** of presence of women at donor conferences.

5. Condemn all forms of violence of gender-based violence in situations of armed conflicts and post-conflict societies.²⁹ Women and girls should have access to redress through the mechanism of international law in the aftermath of the conflict. Support to the ICC Tribunal for the cases of gendered war violence.

6. Provide full access to sexual and reproductive health services and to supportive programmes to women who have suffered sexual violence

7. Grant protection to women who flee their countries: In light of the fact that this issue remains a critical area of concern in the EU and in particular with regards to women asylum seekers, the EU and its Member States should, within the process of harmonisation of EU policies on asylum:

- **Grant women asylum by recognising gender-based violence and sexual violence** as a legitimate reason within the existing UN Geneva Convention of the Status of Refugees (1951) and include gender-based violence within the interpretation of the existing Convention’s five criteria (race,

²⁸As recommended in the European Parliament Resolution on “participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution.” 2000

²⁹ “accumulated violence in armed conflicts often leads to domestic violence in the post-conflict period” said MEP Luisa Morgantini, at Public Hearing on Women and War, EU Parliament, 06.05.2008.



- religion, nationality, political opinion, or membership of a particular social group).
- **Adopt the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees guidelines** on Sexual and gender-based violence against refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: Guide for Prevention and Response³⁰
 - **Adopt within the process of EU harmonisation of asylum policies**, the UN guidelines on “**International Protection – Gender Related Persecution within the context of Article 1A(2)**” to assist officials throughout all of the EU Member States in understanding the nature and determining the legitimacy of asylum claims by women on the basis of gender-based violence.
 - **Provide annual disaggregated data** on the: (i) numbers of and reasons for asylum claims; (ii) numbers of claims accepted/rejected and reasons thereof; (iii) numbers of women and men who are granted refugee status and (iv) those that are repatriated (voluntarily/forced) and (v) numbers of those sent to “third safe countries”.
- 8. Support** the International Criminal Court (ICC)³¹ to **pursue perpetrators of crimes** committed against women as crimes against humanity.
- 9. Ensure** that the **European Institute for Gender Equality** carries out research on gender mainstreaming in EU external missions
- 10. Invest** in civil society, by supporting women’s organisations (financially and otherwise), as both a means of conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction. In light of the changing nature of modern day conflict and war, the issue of prevention must be paramount. Therefore, the recognition of women’s NGOs is vital in sustaining civil society and creating a safe human security environment. In this context, the EU should support women in building communities and invest in women’s NGOs in EU external development policies and in the EU role as a donor organisation to areas of conflict and war.
- 11. Appoint an EU Rapporteur on women’s rights** to monitor implementation of gender policies in Europe, including the implementation of the policies on resolution 1325.³²
- 12. Develop and support alternative National Action Plans** to promote women in peace-building.

³⁰ United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees guidelines: Sexual and gender-based violence against refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons: Guide for Prevention and Response; May 2003

³¹ All 27 EU countries are parties to the ICC] of the current EU Member States have ratified the Rome Statute of the ICC, which is an important recognition of the commitment of the EU Member States to pursue perpetrators of crimes committed against women as crimes against humanity.

³² Recommended by MEP Raul Romera at EPLO’s roundtable Acting Together for Fostering peace: National Action Plans for UNSCR 1325, EP, 4. March, 2008



Key Milestones on Gender, Peace and Security Policy within The European Union

Participation of Women in Peaceful Conflict Resolution (EP Resolution 2000/2025(INI)
October 2000)

Resolution 1385 of the Council of Europe on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution:
The Role of Women” (2004)

Council Operational Paper on the Implementation of SCR 1325 in the ESDP
(November 2005)

A Roadmap for Equality between Women and Men 2006-2010 (March 2006)

Report on the Situation of Women in Armed Conflicts and their Role in the
Reconstruction and Democratic Process in Post-Conflict Countries (2005/2215(INI)
May 2006)

Checklist to Ensure Gender Mainstreaming and Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Planning and Conduct
Of ESDP Operations (July 2006)

Report on Women in International Politics (2006/2057(INI) 17 October 2006)

Council Conclusions on Promoting Gender Equality and Gender Mainstreaming in Crisis
Management (November 2006)



Postscript:

EWL's position paper was adopted by its membership at the same time as two further resolutions relating to women, peace and security were adopted by the UN.

More specifically, on the 30th of September 2009, SCR 1888 was adopted. This resolution complements SCR 1820 (2008), in that it deals specifically with sexual violence in times of conflict. It calls for the establishment of a Special Representative to the Secretary-General, who will be charged with a three year mandate on sexual violence in conflict. It also requests that states ensure access to justice for survivors, as well as increased access to health care, psychosocial support and socio-economic reintegration. The resolution also calls for an annual report from the Secretary-General on the implementation of SCR 1820, which should include information regarding parties to armed conflict that are credibly suspected of committing patterns of rape or other forms of sexual violence.

Further to this, on the 5th of October 2009, SCR 1889 was unanimously adopted. The resolution expresses concern over the under-representation of women in all stages of peace-keeping and urges Member States, international and regional organisations to take further measures to improve women's participation during all stages of peace processes, particularly in conflict resolution, post-conflict planning and peacebuilding. The Secretary General is called upon to develop a strategy to increase the number of women appointed to pursue good offices on his behalf, particularly as Special Representatives and Special Envoys, and to take measures to increase women's participation in United Nations political, peacebuilding and peacekeeping missions. The resolution also requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council within 6 months, for consideration, a set of indicators for use at the global level to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000). As 2010 marks the ten year anniversary of resolution 1325, the relevant actors are also encouraged, in the text of resolution 1889, to organize events at global, regional and national level to increase awareness of resolution 1325 and this important anniversary.

These two Security Council are welcome in reinforcing developments at the international level and will have to be taken into account during any future action.