Gender and Security

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“The way we conduct war and peace is completely changed. We need a more diverse core of soldiers.”

Ine Erikson
Minister of Defense of Norway

War Redefined
What is Conflict?

Rise in intra-state violent conflict over:

• Ethnic and religious identities
• Control of natural resources
• Economic and political power
What is Conflict?

Systematic acts of violence against civilian populations

• 90% of casualties of war are civilians
• 70% women and children
What is Conflict?

New tactics of war

- Sexual violence
- Abduction for fighting
- Abduction for sexual slavery
- Forced displacement
What is Security?

Human Security: Freedom from fear and freedom from want

• Job security
• Income security
• Food security
• Health security
• Personal security
• Environmental security
Security and Development

UN General Assembly Resolution on Human Security (2012):

• Link between development, human rights and security
• People-centered, comprehensive prevention oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people.
Security and Development

Effective security operations establish safe and secure environments conducive to:

• Economic development
• Education
• Healthcare
• Growth of vibrant civil society

THESE GOALS CAN ONLY BE MET IF WOMEN ARE EQUALLY INVOLVED AS MEN IN SHAPING POLICIES AND PROGRAMS.
What is a Gender Lens?
Gender Analysis

• Access to Resources
• Knowledge, Beliefs, and Perceptions
• Practices and Participation
• Legal Rights and Status
• All of these reflect---Power
Gender Analysis for Conflict and Peace

- Different roles
- Different control over resources
- Power structures
- Gendered nature of causes
- Perceptions of causes
- Different security risks and needs
Inclusive Security
Why is it Important to Include a Gender Perspective?

• Gender as social constructions
• How conflict affects men, women, boys and girls differently
• How gender relations and power inequalities fuel insecurities

Gender mainstreaming = considering all of these for better outcomes.
Why Including Women Matters

• Bringing to the table all voices that can help us find real pathways to security and sustainable peace.

• Women as agents of change, not just victims
What Happens Before, During and After Conflict
Early Warning Indicators

• Inter-group tensions
• Localized conflicts
• Growing poverty
• Reduced access to food and safe water
• Lack of basic state services
• Lack of job opportunities
• Militarization of society
• Increased insecurity for women
During Conflict

- Participants in fighting
- Gender-based violence
- Denial of property and land rights
- Displacement and humanitarian situations
  - Lack of access to services
  - Insecurity and gender-based violence
  - Early marriage
After Conflict

- Reintegration into society
- Psychosocial effects – trauma
- Returning from displacement
- Economic opportunity
- Changed gender roles
- Broken down community structures & cultures
- Increase in gender-based violence and human trafficking
Women Are a Powerful Force for Peace

• Conflict prevention
• Building bridges
• Understanding community needs and addressing root causes
• Combating extremism
Increasing Operational Effectiveness

• Effecting institutional change
• Deescalating tensions and use of excessive force
• Improving response to gender-based violence
• Gaining trust of local communities
Increasing Operational Effectiveness

- Reaching out to women in closed cultures
- Gaining access that men don’t have
- Performing duties in segregated societies
- Situational awareness
- Gender-sensitive development
UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Calls on All Parties at All Times to Respect International Law

To increase the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict management and post-conflict reconstruction and promote inclusive development, peace and security

PARTICIPATION  PROTECTION  PREVENTION  GENDER MAINSTREAMING
U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

- National Integration and Institutionalization of a Gender Responsive Approach
- Participation in Peace Processes and Decision-Making
- Protection from Violence
- Conflict Prevention
- Access to Relief and Recovery