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.

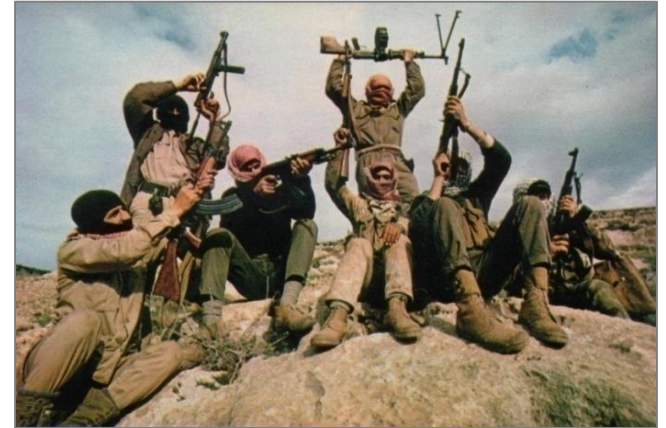- Women as agents of change, not just victims

What Happens Before, During and After Conflict

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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

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- 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
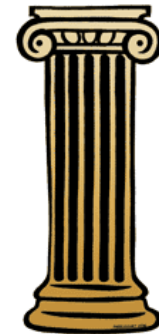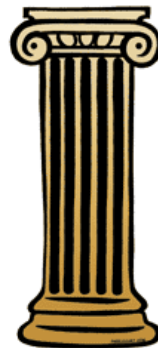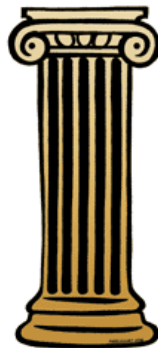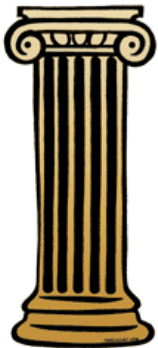- Gender-sensitive development

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