



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM
UNITED KINGDOM

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

The role of women in post-conflict settings was only recognised in 2000 when the United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 was passed. Having long received inadequate policy attention, the Resolution formalised the obligation on governments to include women in all peace processes and protect women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict.

WILPF actively lobbied for Resolution 1325
and continues to call for universal recognition and broader use.

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Women and children account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict as refugees and internally displaced persons.

Increasingly, it is civilian populations who are bearing the brunt of armed conflict. Some 85-90% ^[1] of armed conflict casualties are civilians - women, children and the elderly - and it is mainly women and girls who face rape, sexual violence and sexual slavery as a weapon of war.

Women build societies from the very foundation. They bear children, provide early education, look after family health and form vital societal cohesion. Yet too often, women are excluded from peace talks. When women are not represented at all levels of decision-making processes, the process toward reconciliation and durable peace is weakened.

UNSCR 1325 includes calls for:

- Increased representation of women at all decision-making levels for the prevention and resolution of conflict
- More women to be appointed as special envoys by the UN Secretary General
 - The expansion of the roles and contributions of women in UN field-based operations, especially among human rights and humanitarian personnel, civilian police and military observers
- All parties in armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and sexual abuse

WILPF International monitors the United Nations through its PeaceWomen programme - <http://peacewomen.org>. Work ranges from policy advocacy to local capacity building with teams and partners around the world. Sign-up to a variety of WILPF newsletters - <http://www.wilpf.org/wilpf-news-and-alerts>

^[1]<http://www.globalresearch.ca/90-of-all-deaths-in-war-are-civilians/5382520>