



Consultation Paper on Women Peace and Security

Introduction

Women peace and security being a global concern has been marked by the adoption of the UNSCR 1325 which strive towards the full and equal participation of women in decision making process around issues related to peace and security. The global question aroused about the implementation of such resolution is that the states which have adopted it with the related other 7 resolution. Do they succeeded in its implementation and put to the end impact of conflict on women in the war thorn countries?. The introduction of a 30% parliamentary gender quota in 2016 marks a significant achievement for Somalia. To achieve the introduction of any quota, in spite of a long campaign driven by an active civil society, urging for such a measure. The parliamentary gender quota in Somalia has led to greater awareness of women's political rights amongst men and women, as a growing body of evidence at the global level attest.

Quotas cannot alone transform underlying distributions of power or discriminatory norms, nor can they equip women with the political skills required to succeed and influence once in office. Despite a strong history of activism on women's political rights, and valued roles in clan activities and local peace building processes, Somali women have not experienced notable increases in their formal political power or status

Women are formally excluded from clan discussions and decision-making structures. In a political system predicated on balancing power between clan and sub-clan groups, women are therefore The formalization of clan-based power sharing through the "4.5 formula" that has served to further institutionalize this exclusion, and has concentrated power among a limited group of powerful male elders.

The quota marked an important step towards women's equal political representation, though the knowledge, practice and attitude observed in women parliamentarian doesn't support at all the

wide spread need to boost the women self-esteem that has been drastically affected by the following factors:

- Women Demographically are the majority of the population but they are still dominated by the socio cultural norms in which patriarchal anarchy prevails. They beg recognition of their God given Human rights.
- Clanism is a significant barriers which determines the male representation of the clan for centuries that have legitimized the male role model since male elders in power are responsible for the selection of the candidates for the leadership position
- Women seen unreliable clan representative in political office because of their dual affiliation to the their fathers and husbands 'clans associate split loyalty.
- Cultural stigma attached to women in Government adopting position leadership which delegitimize women's authority.
- There are also cultural norms and stigma to certain elements of Islamic jurisprudence which they interpreted the inhibition of women from taking senior leadership including judges etc . However religious leaders emphasized the importance to make clear distinction between culture and religion highlighting there is no part of Islam which prohibit women entering politics.
- Poor collaboration of female politicians and civil society women organizations and the well noted competition culture between them.
- The Gender based violence Particularly the sexual based violence afflicted to the vulnerable groups of the society (women , children both boys and girls) that are the hidden and not mentioned issues by the families of the survivors no complaint reaches the police stations for intervention and justice . The perpetrators walk freely unpunished for their crimes in addition to that in the war thorn countries the sexual based violence is now recognized to be the most effective war weapon to humiliate the enemy, very useful in displacing the rest of the community when men resulted defeated escape and also girls are held hostage for sex slavery from which derives forced impregnation of girls and obliging them to bear their enemy children
- Exchange of young girls forcibly married to the killers of their dears for peace development processes among the clan at war. In this case the consensus of the such girls is not considered at all.
- Women refugee are the silent majority which needs the promotion of peace and security in the hosting country where they are constantly affected with psychological, verbal physical, sexual, financial abuse in all walks of lives by perpetrators that are usually from the least expected sites where they ask assistance or at the place of work.

Example: A pregnant women beaten in front of all the people at the gate of UNHCR by the security guards till she fainted down .

Another case where the UNHCR affiliated organizations relocated families in unsecure place ruled by gangsters where they were obliged to let their children work for gangsters and at the minimum refusal though they informed every possible agency related to the their security for on time intervention they have not been listened till they been have burnt alive. When the case become serious and taken to the court the UNHCR resettled one of the officers of the relocating agency, while the officer in charge of the protection has been changed in a low

profile. Another involved person have been sent back to Somalia and recommended to an international agency where he is working now. The children resulting without mother are waiting till now to be resettled but unfortunately no reply is coming out of the UNHCR office

Here with this consultation paper we would like to present a tri dimensional perspective approach to be considered in the national action plan related to the advancement of women peace and security

- There is further need to build a pipeline of viable female candidates by strengthening education and training opportunities for girls and young women at the grassroots level, and providing access to 'hard' resources such as political finance for those women less able to access the funds needed to run for office.
- There is the need to more effectively support politically-active women to influence and operate within government structures.
- Build women's 'hard skills' in negotiation, influencing and consensus building and the technical expertise to enable women to work with legitimacy in key sectors and at all levels
- Support merit-based recruitment and promotion, and provide incentives, which encourage the inclusion of women in positions of meaningful influence across different levels of government.
- Facilitate connections among different local organisations in support of the women's political empowerment agenda, to help mobilise around common interests and challenges.
- Urge for implementation of UNSCR1325 through local action plans, National Action Plans (NAPs), or Regional Action Plans (RAPs), that incorporates strong accountability mechanisms, sustainable budget, and strong disarmament provisions;
- Support programs and advocacy efforts that urge donors to fund grassroots women's leaders and civil society organisations
- Having an in-depth Look to women refugee status in the African and Asian continents
- Support local Refugee CBOs struggling in ameliorating the status of women refugee lives in terms of basic needs such as shelter, medication, education, financial stability and security wise.
- Educate women and girls refugee in skill development, good parenting skills and children education emphasizing the encouragements to learn their indigenous language and culture for prevention of the incompatibility of the hosting country culture easily adopted by the children and the parents attached to their indigenous culture that cause wide sense of distress on children.
- Support women refugees with small scale entrepreneurial projects to boost their self esteem and reliance through the development of talent, skills and indigenous knowledge through the capable CBO which have been intensively trained for the assistance of their own community
- Equipping the centers for women and children empowerment through educational material and facilities for Youth development in different aspect.
- Support psychosocial programs art and music therapy for survivors of violence of the refugee community particularly unaccompanied children, single mothers, elderly people, people living with Aids, disable and people in need of special care.
- Support Inclusive programs supporting the integration with the hosting community through Sport, Culinary arts handcraft and learning the language of the country.

- Listen and learn from the experts: Women Civil Society! Consult and include women civil society groups at home and abroad today
- Finally I would like to thank the Irish foreign affair and trade Ministry that has gave us the opportunity to forward to their attention our consultation paper regarding the Women peace and security for the national action plan . We hope that these brief notes will be red and given due consideration and the meantime to be useful asset for the action plan .

Thanks and regards

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