



# WOMEN, Peace and Security



# Ireland's Approach to Women, Peace and Security Newsletter

October 2020



We would like to warmly welcome you to this newsletter as we mark Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Month and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a time to celebrate what the WPS agenda has achieved, but also for honest reflection on remaining challenges and the way ahead. While there have been landmark achievements in the last 20 years, women peacebuilders in the field are calling for a renewed commitment to more effective implementation and a considerable change of pace.

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## WPS Annual Open Debate

As we approach the WPS Open Debate on 29 October, let us recall the words of our Permanent Representative to the United Nations at the last debate in 2019:



*“The fact is, those who wage wars – not, in the main, women – continue to set the parameters for peace. Without women. Quite apart from the inequality this reinforces, let’s be clear. It is also fundamentally ineffective as a peacebuilding approach. We have the evidence that peace is more durable when women have participated in its negotiation... Put simply, WPS ought to be part of all our peacebuilding work. In this chamber, that means part of every mandate renewal, of every geographic and thematic discussion, of every local consultation, of every analysis completed in the field.”*

## Upcoming Events

- **GNWP Database Launch event**

We would like to invite all of the readers to the launch of a database on the role of women in peacebuilding during the Covid-19 pandemic, developed with Ireland’s support by our partners the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN Women (register [here](#)).

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Peacebuilders



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## Database Launch

### Peacebuilding in a Pandemic: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Women, Peace, and Security

Commemorating 20 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Date: 21 October 2020  
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 AM US EDT  
RSVP: [bit.ly/COVID-Database](https://bit.ly/COVID-Database)



We are looking forward to an insightful discussion with grassroots women peacebuilders who have contributed to the development of the database and to hearing their perspectives and recommendations for a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response. This will be preceded by a short demonstration of the database and its dashboard and followed by an interactive Q & A with opening remarks from Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Brian Flynn.

#### ***About the database***

GNWP, while conducting research and consultations commissioned for Ireland's 1325 anniversary project was able to collect, process and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of COVID-19 on women peacebuilders and their work. This data, in combination with additional primary and secondary sources including Surveys, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews was compiled in a database and will be made available and automatically translatable online. As part of the project, data visualizations will also be provided to facilitate analysis and the use of the database. It is our hope that this innovative database will serve as a resource for advocacy by civil society but also the UN and



government policy makers and practitioners.



The existence, and hopefully the active use of this the database, has the potential to enhance the development of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive interventions on COVID-19 as well as future humanitarian crises.

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Taking inspiration from grassroots women leaders and wishing to hear directly from them and learn from their experience, Ireland, in collaboration with UN Women and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), brought together women peacebuilders from different backgrounds and contexts in Colombia, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Uganda. Through consultations that focused discussions on the six priority areas outlined in the UN Secretary-General's 2019 report on WPS, we invited women peacebuilders to take stock of the WPS and Sustaining Peace agendas in 2020 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work.



## SAVE THE DATE

# LEARNING FROM GRASSROOTS WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security  
Agenda beyond 2020

with

**Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders**

**Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director**

Monday, 26 October 2020

10:30 AM-12:00 PM US EDT

RSVP : <https://bit.ly/3j55Qgg>



This High-Level event will launch the report of these consultations and highlight their key recommendations and will feature a keynote address by H.E. Mary Robinson, as well as contributions from grassroots women leaders who participated in the project, international leaders and champions of gender equality. We look forward a lively exchange of views on the concrete steps Member States and the international community can take to advance the WPS agenda on-the-ground and in international policy. Register [here](#).

- **Embassy Pretoria UNSCR 1324 anniversary event**

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 Peacebuilding at the Grassroots: Challenges and Opportunities  
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experiences as women in senior leadership roles, and their contribution to gender equality in their own organisations and externally, as well as their perspectives on women peace and security, sharing real, practical examples from their organisation's work and their own experience. Make sure to pencil in this event into your diary for the **16<sup>th</sup> November at 12.30pm**, Irish time. Link and invitation to the event will be shared on [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) soon.

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**Peacebuilders**” also introduced ICAN’s upcoming report and recommendations (report [here](#)).

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Ana is one of the many interviewed by our partner GNWP during the consultations mentioned above. Inspired by these incredible women and wanting to share their work with a larger public, a side-product of the report and the database, their story will be published on GNWP's blog in the form of "Women Peacebuilders Profiles". Don't miss the account about the paths to peace built by women from Colombia, Northern Ireland, Uganda and South Africa and check [@GNWP](#) and [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) twitter for new profiles every week.



*“2020 is an opportunity to reflect on what works and what does not work in peacebuilding, and how local women and their perspectives can be better included” – Tintswalo Makhubele, South Africa Congress of Non-Profit Organizations (SANOCO)*

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ongoing work of the [International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group](#), co-chaired by Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Michael Gaffey, was also highlighted as well as Ireland's ongoing support to address [Gender Based Violence within the Arms Trade Treaty](#).

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We mourn the loss of Eavan, who died in April of this year.

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## Ressources



- Advancing women's meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes in times of COVID-19 (UN Women)
- This photo book celebrates women leaders around the world and marks 20 years since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Oxfam)
- "What Fuelled the Far-Reaching Impact of the Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action as a Milestone for Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Support Operations and Where Is Implementation 20 Years Later?", 12/09/2020, Nina J. Lahoud, Journal of International Peacekeeping. Open Access [here](#).
- "Rooting out inequalities: Women's participation in forest management in conflict-affected areas of Karen state in Myanmar", International Alert, June 2020 [here](#)
- Amelia Stein Photo Exposition "the bloods" [here](#). Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer has produced a body of work that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

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Please feel free to contact us at [wpsconsultation@dfa.ie](mailto:wpsconsultation@dfa.ie)



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- Advancing [women's meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes in times of COVID-19](#) (UN Women)
- [This photo book celebrates women leaders around the world](#) and marks 20 years since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Oxfam)

- “What Fuelled the Far-Reaching Impact of the Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action as a Milestone for Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Support Operations and Where Is Implementation 20 Years Later?”, 12/09/2020, Nina J. Lahoud, Journal of International Peacekeeping. Open Access [here](#).
- “Rooting out inequalities: Women’s participation in forest management in conflict-affected areas of Karen state in Myanmar”, International Alert, June 2020 [here](#)
- Amelia Stein Photo Exposition “the bloods” [here](#). Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer has produced a body of work that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

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