



Fostering inclusion to build resilient societies: How women peacebuilders prevent conflicts and atrocities on the ground

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by violent conflict, including atrocity crimes, whether it is as a result of direct targeting, such as in cases of sexual and gender-based violence, or in bearing the worst of the subsequent economic and social costs. The Global Study stresses that prevention of such conflict is at the center of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, stating: “The women, peace and security agenda is about ending conflict, not making it safer for women.”¹ Women, in addition to being greatly impacted by violent conflict, also play a vital role in the implementation of conflict and atrocity prevention measures. In fact, as they are able to identify otherwise overlooked conflict drivers, women’s inclusion leads to the formulation of more effective prevention mechanisms.² Furthermore, women’s meaningful participation in peace processes has repeatedly been proven to increase the likelihood of establishing sustainable peace and building more resilient societies.³ Despite such significance, more work remains to be done in order to fully realise and effectively make use of the diverse ways in which women’s important contributions can be leveraged at all levels. This includes incorporating women’s equal participation in both long-term and short-term prevention and response measures, whether it is within their communities or at the national or international levels.

As such, the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York, the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), working in partnership within the Prevention Up Front (PuF) Alliance, will convene a side event to the annual UN Security Council (UNSC) Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in October 2018. This side event will include a panel of experienced practitioners who will discuss the benefits of and best practices for integrating and including women peacebuilders in conflict and atrocity prevention. The event will support collaboration and cooperation across communities of practice and contribute to women’s equal participation in peace processes, as well as emphasise the role of women in building sustainable peace as key agents of change not only as victims of violence or observers.⁴ Increasing and improving efforts to foster women’s inclusion and to ensure better integration across the conflict and atrocity prevention, WPS, and peacebuilding sectors including during humanitarian crises will increase all stakeholders’ abilities to develop more coherent policies and practices to better sustain peace.

The panel will bring a global perspective featuring local experts from diverse backgrounds and regions in order to discuss practical examples of successes and challenges at the local, national and regional level, as well as to identify opportunities for the increased inclusion of women in conflict and atrocity prevention. A policy memo including recommendations will follow.

Objectives of the side event:

- Identifying the gap between current policies and practices for conflict and atrocity prevention;
- Outlining the necessary course of action for the implementation of existing policies at the local, national and regional levels;
- Creating an opportunity for information sharing and learning between experts working in conflict and atrocity prevention across sectors resulting in tangible recommendations for how these can be transformed into accountability actions.

¹ UN Women, “Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325,” p. 191, http://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/en/GlobalStudy_EN_Web.pdf.

² Ibid. p. 198.

³ Ibid. p. 41.

⁴ The Global Study recommends to “desist from any use of observer status as a substitute for real and effective participation” in peace processes. Ibid. p. 58.



About the organisers:

The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES), established in 1925, is the oldest political foundation in Germany. Its formation, mission, and social democratic tradition is informed by the political legacy of its namesake, Friedrich Ebert, the first democratically elected German president. FES focuses on the core ideas and values of social democracy—freedom, justice, and solidarity. This connects us to social democracy and free trade unions. As a nonprofit institution, we organise our work autonomously and independently. The FES office in New York serves as a liaison between the FES field offices and partners in developing countries and the United Nations system, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Our mission is to strengthen the voices of trade unionists, progressives, and the Global South within these international institutions. The FES contributes to debates on sustainable economic and social development, on peace and security issues, and on reforming the global governance architecture with a well-functioning and well-funded United Nations at its center. Online at <https://www.fesny.org/>.

The International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) convenes and collaborates with civil society, Member States, and regional and sub-regional organisations to strengthen normative consensus for the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) and further the understanding of the norm; push for strengthened capacities to prevent and halt genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing; and mobilise non-governmental organisations to push for action to save lives in RtoP country-specific situations. Online at <https://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/>.

The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) is a global member-led network of civil society organisations (CSOs) that actively works on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The network consists of fifteen regional networks of local organisations with their own priorities, character and agenda. These regional networks are represented in an International Steering Group, which jointly determines our global priorities and actions for GPPACs conflict prevention and peacebuilding work. GPPAC seeks a world where violence and armed conflicts are prevented and resolved by peaceful means based on justice, gender equity, sustainable development and human security for all. GPPAC is a global network that links civil society with relevant local, national, regional and international actors and institutions to collectively contribute to a fundamental change in dealing with violence and armed conflicts: a shift from reaction to prevention. Online at <https://www.gppac.net>.