

As the 10th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 approaches, GAPW has partnered with the United Nations University (UNU) and Soka Gakkai International (SGI) on a significant event both to assess progress on implementing the resolution and to introduce an important new resource for diplomats and leaders of women's NGOs.

On September 8 in Tokyo, leading scholars, activists and regional policymakers gathered at the UNU in order to participate in two related sessions. The first was an 'expert's meeting' to assess impacts and obstacles related to SC 1325, moderated by Vesselin Popovski, Senior Academic Officer of the UNU, who had sent questions to participants about the resolution in advance and asked for written responses. Featured interventions were made by Sarah Taylor of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, Jasmin Nario-Galace of Miriam College's Center for Peace Education in the Philippines, Joan Anderson of SGI, Mikiko Otani with the Asia Pacific Forum on Women, Law and Development and Maleeha Aslam of Pakistan, a post-doctoral expert on gender research at the UNU.

The second session was a more public event to highlight (with a mostly Japanese audience) ways in which we have fallen short of the promise of '1325' and related resolutions that mandate government action to promote the full participation of women and end impunity for sexual and other gender-based violence. For this session, we were joined by Sukehiro Hasegawa, former Special Representative of the UN Secretary General for Timor-Leste. Special messages from Noeleen Heyzer, UN Under-Secretary General, and from Daisaku Ikeda, President of SGI, were read to the audience as well. We were honored to have participation from UNIFEM, UNICEF, UNHCR and from diverse embassies including the Netherlands and Liberia.

A highlight of this event was the launch of "Promoting Women's Participation in Conflict and Post-Conflict Societies," authored by GAPW's Kavitha Suthanthiraraj and Cristina Ayo on behalf of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security and the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom. The book is designed specifically for use by diplomats and women's advocates and will soon be available as a PDF at our website, www.globalactionpw.org. Additional information regarding hard copies of the book is available by contacting coordinator@globalactionpw.org.

As a follow up, GAPW will be sponsoring and/or co-organizing a variety of events this fall -- focusing on promoting women's full participation in peace processes and the reintegration of women and girls in post-conflict societies -- with Sarah Taylor and other members of the NGO Working Group, Giovanna De Melo with the Permanent Mission of Cote d'Ivoire, Manuela Mesa with CEIPAZ in Madrid, and Luz Mendez of the National Union of Guatemalan Women.

In addition, GAPW's Jenneth Macan Markar is currently developing a program on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) which will be a major focus of GAPW's contributions to Women, Peace and Security once the 10th anniversary events have concluded.

We want to express our deep appreciation to UNU and SGI for their engaged leadership and generous hospitality which allowed us together to highlight issues impacting women that are only now garnering mainstream interest from the international community.