



## Global Action Spring 2009 Newsletter

Welcome to Global Action's (GAPW) Spring 2009 Newsletter.

This newsletter provides an outline of GAPW's program of work over the past few months and highlights some important, related areas of interest. Over the past few years GAPW has developed strong programming in the area of [Women, Peace and Security](#), which intersects with our work on [UN peacekeeping](#) as well as broader initiatives in [disarmament](#) and youth leadership development.

The Spring Newsletter focuses on women in leadership and decision-making, women in peacekeeping and women in disarmament. You will find information below on Global Action's participation in an [International and National Colloquium](#) and workshops relating to women in peacekeeping during a recent visit to Liberia, our involvement in the 2009 UN [Commission on the Status of Women](#), and our participation in a conference hosted by the Canadian Civilian Peace Service initiative.

Future newsletters will highlight a publication being prepared by GAPW and partner organizations on UN standing capacity (with in-depth regional perspectives) which we will formally launch in Jakarta in June. You will also find information about a forthcoming publication examining women's participation in peacekeeping and peace-building activities and implications for policy. And we will report on exciting work now underway with the [Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy](#) to promote the leadership of US Mayors on national peace and security policy.

In early 2009 Global Action launched its NEW website providing added details on GAPW programs, activities, future events, international advisers and institutional partnerships. Please visit [www.globalactionpw.org](http://www.globalactionpw.org) to view the new website.

Please email the Secretariat at [coordinator@globalactionpw.org](mailto:coordinator@globalactionpw.org) with any comments or questions. Thank you for your support to date.

**-Global Action Team**

---

### Table of Contents

1. International and National Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security, *Liberia*
2. Security Sector Reform and Peacekeeping, *Liberia*
3. Commission on the Status of Women, *New York*

4. Women Building Peace Conference and Civilian Peace Service Canada, *Ottawa*
  5. UN Peacekeeping: Regional Capacities
  6. Articles and Interviews of Interest
- 

## 1. International and National Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace & Security, Liberia

Monrovia, Liberia | March 7-10th, 2009

*"You exclude women, you fail; you include women, you build nations"*

Ms Michaelle Jean, Governor General of Canada



Global Action was recently invited to participate in the "[International and National Colloquium on Women's Empowerment, Leadership, Development, International Peace and Security](#)"; to discuss, learn, and share best practices and recommendations on how to promote women in leadership. The Conference was co-convened by President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia and President Tarja Halonen of Finland, attracting over 400 international participants and 400 Liberian national participants.

The Colloquium covered seven key thematic issues around which panel discussions and breakout sessions were organized: Women's Leadership, Women's Economic Empowerment and Decent Work, Millennium Development Goal Three, Implementation of Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325, Women and Climate Change, Migration and Youth. Global Action participated in the 1325 thematic issue and facilitated an in-depth session on Security Sector Reform and Gender.

### Key Colloquium Outcomes:

- The **Liberian National Action Plan** on Security Council Resolution 1325 was launched on March 9th.
- The **Angie Brooks International Centre on Women's Empowerment, Leadership Development, International Peace and Security** was launched in Monrovia on March 7th.
- The **Monrovia Declaration**, compiled and launched at the Colloquium, called for the full implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1325 and 1820, encouraged other countries to develop National Action Plans, made a commitment to honor women's leadership, supported efforts to empower women to participate in economic life, noted the impact of climate change on women and encouraged their participation at the Copenhagen Summit.
- **Call to Action on UNSCR 1325:** the Colloquium

- Called on all Member States to fully and effectively implement UNSCR 1325 at the national level through the development of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans with a secure budget line.
  - Called upon the Security Council to enforce UNSCR 1325 by creating a permanent working group on women and armed conflict and adopting additional resolutions to strengthen it further by the year 2010.
  - Called on the UN Secretary General to appoint a Special Representative for Women and Armed Conflict, accompanied by adequate resources.
- An **NGO Statement for the Colloquium** made specific recommendations relating to women's participation in peace negotiations and peace processes as well as gender-responsive justice and security, with signatories from 42 NGO's.

Please [click here](#) for a full report on the plenaries, the breakout session, and Colloquium outcomes.

Kavitha Suthanthiraraj, Global Action's International Coordinator, was interviewed by the UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) radio Youth Program while in Liberia. Please [click here](#) to hear Kavitha's reflections on the Colloquium and on Global Action's work with Women, Peace and Security.

---

## 2. Security Sector Reform and Peacekeeping, Liberia

**March 12-13, 2009**

Global Action conducted workshops with the Gender Unit of the Liberian National Police (LNP) and the all-women UN Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) Formed Police Unit -India. These workshops sought to engage participants on their perceptions, experiences and recommendations around gender mainstreaming in the Police Sector and UN Peacekeeping Missions. The sessions provided in-depth outcomes that will be documented and incorporated into upcoming GAPW research and publications.

### **UN Mission to Liberia (UNMIL) Formed Police Unit - India**



This unit consisting of 125 women is the first all-female contingent deployed to the UN as part of a peacekeeping mission. The all-female contingent was established in January 2007. Responsibilities assigned to the female police officers include patrol duties, rapid response assignments, crowd and riot control, general back-up support to the LNP and law enforcement agencies, and protection of UNMIL staff members and properties.

Global Action conducted a workshop with 25 police women from the current contingent seeking to document expectations of the mission and their mandate, their interaction with women and men in the local community, interaction with the Liberian National Police, cultural/language/social barriers and challenges faced by women in the security sector/UN, and how to encourage and sustain women's participation in peacekeeping.

[Click here](#) for key outcomes from the workshop.

**Recommendations:**

- The UNMIL Formed Police Unit, based on their training, expertise and gender sensitivity, should facilitate training sessions with the Liberian National Police - specifically the Gender Unit and the Women and Children's Unit.
- The UNMIL Formed Police Unit should seek greater exposure to local community (women, men and youth) via trainings, workshops, and school briefings to maximize their position as 'role models' and inspire more females to join the security sector.
- DPKO should utilize this UNMIL unit as a case study to encourage other troop contributing countries to increase the percentage of women participating in peacekeeping missions.
- DPKO should review the 'non-family' rule (for more secure missions) to encourage and sustain women within peacekeeping missions.

**Liberian National Police - Gender Unit**



This unit consisting of ten policemen and women was established in July 2008 and seeks to promote greater female participation and gender mainstreaming within the Liberian National Police (LNP). The unit, in conjunction with the Women and Children's unit and community policing efforts, is slowly beginning to tackle the issues of gender based violence.

Global Action conducted a workshop with the Gender Unit seeking to document motivations for joining the police force, challenges faced by women, interactions with local community and UNMIL, and the mandate and impact of the unit. [Click here](#) for key outcomes from the workshop.

**Recommendations:**

- Ensure the unit receives ongoing and adequate gender based training and also general police training
- Ensure a strong relationship is maintained between the UNPOL gender advisor and the LNP gender unit - from a gender perspective, this is a key link between the UN and the LNP
- Provide logistical and equipment support for the unit - currently they are operating with minimal technology and no policing equipment (ie; vehicles)

---

### 3. Commission on the Status of Women, New York

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Session of the [Commission on the Status of Women](#) (March 2-13) explored as its priority theme: "The Equal Sharing of Responsibilities between Women and Men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS." The Commission further examined the Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Processes, Women in Peacekeeping and Women in Disarmament. We cover these themes below.

### **Women in Decision-Making**

The Council of Europe organized an event on the theme of "Equal Participation of Women and Men in Decision-Making Processes at all Levels." Additionally, the Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations hosted a panel on women's decision-making in the context of decentralization, and the International Federation of University Women assessed both the normative and expediency arguments in favor of including women in all decision-making processes.

Global Action had previously sponsored a workshop on women in leadership and decision-making at the UN. Please [click here](#) for the full report.

#### **Key Recommendations:**

- It is necessary to make a clear distinction between progress at the parliamentary and local levels, for while some progress has been made on the national scene, equality in decision-making more rarely reaches local governing bodies.
- Women's organizations should have a higher profile, as they are important catalysts for progress at the local and community levels.
- Ensuring women's participation is not only a matter of legislation; awareness raising campaigns will also be needed to combat the stereotype that women are not qualified to participate in the political arena.
- Decentralization has the potential to strengthen democracy and to ensure equitable access to water, land, health services and education; yet it is important to recognize that decentralization does not inherently guarantee gender equality.
- National frameworks for gender equality (such a quota systems) ought to be encouraged; however, bottom-up strategies must also be employed to compensate for the limitations of such frameworks.

Please [click here](#) for a full report on the three panel sessions, including statistics on women's participation in national parliaments and observations of continued challenges to women in leadership roles at the local level.

### **Women in Peacekeeping**

The United Nations University hosted a panel session to highlight the role of women in peacekeeping operations and to assess progress toward the full implementation of SCR 1325. Panelists included a

former female peacekeeper, representatives from the United Nations Police Division and Ms. Theresa Kambobe, a Gender Trainer in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO).

Global Action recently engaged in workshops with peacekeepers in Liberia to document developments in women's participation in peacekeeping. Please [click here](#) for the full report.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Recruitment efforts within Troop and Police Contributing States will need to address the traditional, cultural impediments to women's participation in armed and police forces.
- Training programs need to be developed for women in the armed forces, such that they gain the competencies and experience to assume leadership roles, both within their national force and in peacekeeping operations.
- Develop a Gender Training strategy, one which considers the various levels of training and which standardizes the training materials used at the mission level.
- Enhance the capacity for gender mainstreaming both at Headquarters and at the field level.
- Engage in research, virtual discussions, and partnerships with civil society to identify and address the obstacles to women's participation and advancement in peacekeeping.

Please [click here](#) to read a full account of recent positive developments and persistent challenges to women's participation in peacekeeping.

**Women and Disarmament**

The NGO Working Group on Disarmament, Peace and Security and the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security hosted a panel to discuss the local-level implementation of SCR 1325 and the connections between women and disarmament. Global Action also participated in a brown bag seminar, coordinated by the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, on the same theme.

**Key Recommendations:**

- Women's organizations should stress the linkages between disarmament and women's issues to capitalize on media attention on armed violence and to ensure that National Action Plans on small arms make explicit reference to violence against women.
- The Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process should be informed by SCR 1325 and a gender component should be expressly included in the DDR mandate. Civil society and women's organization ought to be consulted, to ensure that the DDR process is inclusive of and accountable to women.
- Due to the stigma associated with sexual exploitation and the consequent difficulty of returning to one's community, a parallel yet distinct process to DDR should be developed.

- Even in post-conflict societies, there is a need to control access to guns and to assess how guns licenses are issued.

Please [click here](#) for a full report on how armed violence affects women and on the steps that women are taking to ensure effective disarmament.

---

## 4. “Women Building Peace” Conference and Civilian Peace Service Canada, Ottawa

Global Action was recently invited to participate in a “Women Building Peace” conference (February 15-16), sponsored in part by the Civilian Peace Service Canada. The conference provided Global Action with an opportunity, as a member of the [NGO Working Group](#) on Women, Peace and Security, to promote our collaborative advocacy work on the full implementation of [SC Resolution 1325](#), including more gender integrated UN policy bodies and peacekeeping operations.



The Conference featured Peggy Mason, the Former Canadian Ambassador for Disarmament and current Executive Committee Chair of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee, as well as Susan Brown, director of the PPT Peacebuilding Center, and other leading voices on the theme of women and peace-building. Panelists highlighted the many contributions of women leadership in conflict situations and developed strategies for further advocacy and public outreach.

The conference also examined potential roles for the [Civilian Peace Service Canada](#) in assessing, training and accrediting peace professionals and peace volunteers. Global Action made a special presentation on the [UN Emergency Peace Service](#) to explore potential avenues of synergy with the Civilian Peace Service.

---

## 5. UN Peacekeeping: Regional Capacities

### UN Support for AU Peacekeeping Operations

The [Security Council](#) met on March 18 to discuss how to strengthen the relationship between the United Nations (UN) and the African Union (AU) and to explore how the international community can support the peacekeeping capacity of the African Union.

The Council's discussion was framed by the [report of a joint AU-UN panel](#), established by the Secretary-General and tasked with exploring how to enhance the "predictability, sustainability, and flexibility of financing UN-mandated peace operations undertaken by the African Union."

### Blue Helmets Take Over for EU Troops

On March 15, [UN peacekeepers](#) replaced the European forces in Chad and the Central African Republic (CAR), assuming their military and security responsibilities. The [Security Council](#) welcomed the peaceful transfer of authority and applauded the European Union for its support of UN activities in the region.

The European Union launched a yearlong peacekeeping mission, known as EUfor, in March of last year. EUfor operated under a one-year UN mandate and was designed to serve as a "[bridging mechanism](#)" until UN forces could deploy to the region.

At full force, the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad ([MINUCRAT](#)) will include 300 police officers, 25 military liaison officers, and 5,200 military personnel. Of these, 2,300 are currently deployed, many of them "[re-hatted](#)" EUfor troops in an effort to prevent an interim security gap. The [Secretary General](#) encouraged Member States to continue providing troops and personnel, such that full deployment of MINUCRAT can be achieved.

Global Action has been conducting a series of interviews with regional participants to help analyze prospects for our [UNEPS](#) proposal and other UN standing peacekeeping capacity as well as and to identify successes and challenges in regional peacekeeping operations. This will be documented in a publication to be released in mid-2009.

---

## 6. Articles and Interviews of Interest

[Rutgers Law Review: On the 60th Anniversary of UN Genocide Convention.](#)

By Alex Hinton and Saul Mendlovitz

[Robert Zuber on "Visions and Choices"](#)

Robert Zuber gave an interview with Linda Longmire, an Associate Professor of Political Science at Hofstra University and the host of "Visions and Choices" radio show.

["Real Peace, Real Security"](#)

By Sharon Welch, GAPW Steering Committee Member

[Call to Action: Stop the Unfolding Humanitarian Crisis in Sri Lanka](#)

By Global Action Secretariat

["Stop the War on Civilians in Sri Lanka"](#)

Amnesty International Briefing

["Nuclear Abolition, Climate Protection and Our Cities' Future" Conference Report](#)

Produced by Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy and prepared by GAPW's Mariah Quinn

---