

Women, Peace and Security: The Core of Global Action's Mission

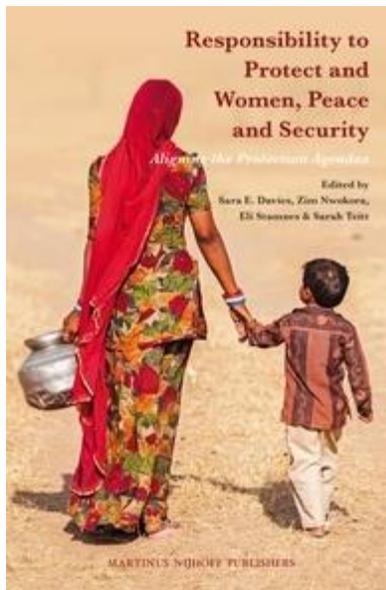


Below, you will find summaries of a cross section of recent Global Action (GAPW) activity on women's issues. A member of the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, we provide opportunities for women in diverse communities worldwide to assess their economic and security needs, promote their full participation in political and social life, end impunity for sexual violence, and link to important international policy processes. 2014 priorities include the following:

- We have rescheduled for 2014 two important workshops that we have co-organized in Cameroon and the Philippines. In Cameroon, we will meet with women's leaders and government officials in Central Africa to explore needs of women for economic access and security in the rural agricultural sector. The Philippines workshop is devoted to an exploration of future trends and preferred responses in the area of women's participation with a group of extraordinary women's rights advocates.
- We have been invited to El Salvador to help women's groups think through the implications of and then advocate for a Women's Court to help highlight and reconcile abuses of women during the country's long civil war.
- We have a contract with the German publisher, Springer, to edit a book on new trends in peacekeeping operations with a particular focus on gender dimensions. We anticipate a spring 2014 publication date.
- We have been asked to contribute to a process – HOPEFOR – wherein states will contribute to a gender and service-integrated, rapid-response capacity that can respond effectively to communities impacted by complex humanitarian emergencies – earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes and more.

GAPW Contributes to New Publication on the Responsibility to Protect

August 2013| Brisbane, Australia



GAPW's Melina Lito has contributed an article, "The Obstacles of Aligning Women Peace and Security and the Responsibility to Protect in UN Practice" to an important new book published by our colleagues in Brisbane, Australia.

In "Responsibility to Protect and Women, Peace and Security: Aligning the Protection Agendas," editors Davies, Nwokora, Stamnes and Teitt address the intersections of the Responsibility to Protect (R2P) principle and the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda. Widespread or systematic sexual or gender-based violence is a war crime, a crime against humanity and an act of genocide, all of which are clearly addressed by the R2P principle.

The protection of those at risk of widespread sexual violence is therefore not only relevant to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, but represents a fundamental sovereign obligation for all states as part of their commitment to R2P. This publication is the latest in a series of articles produced by our office that seeks to explore gaps in the norm and link the R2P community with Women, Peace and Security and other security dimensions of the UN system.

For access to the full table of contents, click here: <http://www.brill.com/responsibility-protect-and-women-peace-and-security#.UgrXQOatmck.twitter>

Improving Mentor-Mentee Relationships

September 13, 2013| New York, NY



On September 5th, Global Action and the New York Chapter of Women in International Security hosted a round-table discussion on women's mentorship. Participants native to Australia, France, the Philippines, Spain and Venezuela, among other countries, also represented an array of positions and affiliations within the peace and security community. The first in a series, Thursday evening's discussion laid the groundwork for the publication of a guidebook on mentor-mentee relationships that recognizes the diverse ambitions, needs and responsibilities that both impact and inspire women at various stages of their lives.

While acknowledging the power and potential of mentoring, women frequently highlight a number of challenges that have kept them from cultivating mentor-mentee relationships, in particular with other women. Among those include an absence of women in more senior positions, a perceived reluctance on the part of some women to open doors for others, and a difficult work-family balance that leaves little time for mentoring. Other women have stated they purposely sought out male mentors, believing men are more likely than women to "champion" or "sponsor" their younger peers. Then there is the matter of balance within the mentoring relationship as well, specifically the expectation that matters of character and not just matters of career are valid components of robust mentoring exchanges.

In an attempt to break through some of these challenges and encourage more effective mentoring relationships, the guidebook will draw on future round-table conversations, one-on-one interviews, and scholarship on global women's issues, mentorship and related fields.

A concept paper on the mentoring project is available [here](#).

Input is welcome into the proposed themes and discussion topics. Please contact Christina Madden at clmadden@gmail.com with comments, questions or for information on participating in future mentoring discussions.

Security Council Resolution 2016 joins Women Peace and Security Agenda

June 25, 2013| UN Headquarters, New York, NY



Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Ms. Zainab Hawa Bangura. Photo: UNSC

On 24 June 2013, the UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted the sixth resolution comprising the Women Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. Security Council Resolution (SCR) 2106 (2013) was initiated in support of the recommendations laid out by the Secretary-General (SG) in his March 2013 report to the Security Council on sexual violence in conflict. This resolution reaffirms commitments laid out in the previous WPS resolutions, emphasizes concerns about the effective implementation of such resolutions, mainly SCR 1960 (2010), and highlights the need to promote justice and accountability for crimes of sexual violence in conflict.

For Melina Lito's report, please click [here](#) .

For the full What's In Blue report, please click [here](#).

To catch our live Tweets during this debate and other relevant processes, follow us on @GlobalActionWPS.

GAPW Participates in NATO event on Women, Peace and Security



GAPW participated in a programme of briefings and discussions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) hosted in Brussels by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). NATO has taken significant steps to integrate the WPS agenda, mainly UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000), in various relevant aspects of its work.

Last fall, Mari Skare was appointed as NATO's Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security. Since last year, NATO has engaged in numerous engagements promoting the WPS agenda, including participating in the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security in November 2012.

This one-day programme was hosted by the Public Diplomacy Division at NATO Headquarters. The programme featured briefings and discussions on NATO's policy on implementing WPS, including its work in creating partnerships, as well as its work in Afghanistan. Among briefings by NATO officials, the programme also featured a discussion with Madame Skare.

Overall, the programme featured participation from a well-rounded group of experts, including practitioners, academics and members of the media monitoring and promoting the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. GAPW participated in the programme by focusing on the political dynamics surrounding the implementation of the WPS agenda.

GAPW thanks the NATO Public Diplomacy Division for hosting this programme and for inviting us to participate. We welcome further opportunities for collaboration.

For more information about this event, please contact Melina Lito, melina@globalactionpw.org

For more information about NATO's work on Women, Peace and Security, please visit http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/topics_91091.htm .

Women, Peace and Security in the Balkans

April 25, 2013 | UN Headquarters, New York, NY



April has proven to be another exciting month for the Women Peace & Security program at Global Action, especially with the Sexual Violence in Conflict (SViC) debate (please click [here](#) for a report on the debate.) Global Action was also honored to host a delegation from the Kosova Women's Network (KWN) to brief the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace & Security (NGOWGWPS).

The KWN is a network of 100 organizations working to promote women's rights in Kosova. Executive Director Igballe Rogova and Program Manager/Leader Researcher Nicole Farnsworth addressed the NGOWGWPS. Rogova spoke about her personal experiences in engaging with the UN Mission in Kosovo and promoting women's participation in the peace negotiations (as portrayed in KWN's recent book *1325 Facts & Fables*). Rogova and Farnsworth also discussed their current initiatives to promote women's rights in Kosova and challenges they face in securing the necessary political will for the advancement of women's rights. Particularly noteworthy are efforts currently underway to achieve justice and reconciliation in the region by bringing to the forefront and securing acknowledgment of violence against women during the conflict in the Balkans. Additionally, among several specific recommendations, the KWN stresses the need for capacity-building to ensure that gender mainstreaming is effectively completed in policies and established processes.

For information on this briefing, please contact Melina Lito ([melina\[at\]globalactionpw.org](mailto:melina[at]globalactionpw.org))

Achieving Gender Justice: The Case for Reparations

March 7, 2013| New York, NY



On the margins of the first week of the 57th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), Global Action through the leadership of Ms. Melina Lito, in partnership with the Permanent Mission of Finland and the ICC Liaison Office to the UN, hosted a high-level side event on Achieving Gender Justice: The Case for Reparations. The event featured Elisabeth Rehn, Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the ICC Trust Fund for Victims; Stephen Rapp, US Ambassador-at-Large for War Crimes Issues; Luz Mendez, President of the Advisory Board of National Union of Guatemalan Women; and Saidu Conton Sesay, Commissioner, National Commission for Social Action, Sierra Leone (a UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women grantee), and was moderated by John Hendra, Assistant Secretary-General of UN Women.

Examining the issue of how do we achieve the goal of transformative reparations for women, the purpose of the event was to focus on the potential contributions that reparations can have for achieving post-conflict gender justice as well as to explore possible approaches for reparations programmes in generating sustainable and transformative impact for women in overcoming gender inequalities and promoting economic development.

For the full report from the event, please click [here](#).

For the formal invitation, please click [here](#).

For the full concept note of the event, please click [here](#).

For Luz Mendez's remarks, please click [here](#).

GAPW Participates in CEDAW General Discussion

February 18, 2013 | UN Geneva, Switzerland



As has been highlighted on previous occasions on our website, GAPW has monitored and presented at various sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). The Committee reviews states' parties to ensure that they are abiding by their obligations under the CEDAW Convention. Last summer, GAPW monitored the Committee's work as they celebrated their 30th anniversary and reviewed states' parties during their 52nd session. Global Action also made a written submission during the Committee's General Discussion on the protection of women's human rights in conflict and post-conflict contexts.

Last week, Melina Lito of GAPW went to Geneva to participate in the Committee's 54th session and make an oral intervention at the Committee's General Discussion on Access to Justice. The Committee has formed a working group on the General Recommendation and is expected to put together a draft text during the course of 2013. Global Action submitted a written statement to the Committee reflecting the recommendations from our November 2012 seminar in Guatemala City: Security and Justice for Women in Guatemala. The oral intervention highlighted parts of the written submission.

The General Discussion brought together a variety of nongovernmental organizations, mostly Europe-based, that work on a wide-range of women's rights issues. Among the issues raised during the interventions included access to justice for widowed women, and the status of migrant women and gay and lesbian women. The Committee had also put together a series of panels focusing on procedural and institutional barriers that women face in accessing justice as well as social and economic challenges.

For those of who mostly work at the UN Headquarters in New York and focus mostly on the situation of women in conflict societies, the General Discussion served as an interesting opportunity to observe a different lens on the UN system and note the successes and challenges of the process in this setting. Additionally, it was a refreshing experience to have included in a discussion a broader range of women's rights, focusing not only to the rights of survivors of violence, but also to the challenges that widowed women, gay and lesbian, and migrant women face in their efforts to access justice.

GAPW's written submission to the General Recommendation is available [here](#).

GAPW Co-hosts International Seminar on Security and Justice for Women in Guatemala

November 29-30, 2012| Guatemala City, Guatemala



On November 29-30 2012, the Global Action team co-hosted a two-day International Seminar on Security and Justice for Women in Guatemala City, along with our partners at Union Nacional de Mujeres Guatemaltecas ([UNAMG](#)) and UN Women. The purpose of the seminar was to evaluate some of the structural and political challenges associated with security and justice for women in Guatemala, especially as it pertains to indigenous women. The seminar brought together women's civil society organizations, state officials, as well as members of various indigenous communities. Discussions over the two days focused on femicide, ending impunity, the impact of small arms and light weapons on violence against women, and the international legal framework that is in place for promoting security and justice for women.

The intent of the organizers was to generate recommendations from each of the four seminar panels that could then be used to influence the discussions at the next session of the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in March 2013; the Commission will be discussing the Elimination of All Forms of Violence against Women and Girls.

The event was particularly timely as it coincided with the UN Security Council Open Debate on Women Peace and Security, which was rescheduled for 30 November at UN Headquarters in New York. In addition, it was also interesting to engage in discussions on the advancement of women's rights in a country which currently sits on the Security Council. Finally, the event reinforced the gap that exists between the international political dynamics around Women, Peace and Security and the practical necessities that are needed to advance women's rights in local communities.

GAPW generated a full report of the seminar including the recommendations. For further information, please contact Melina Lito, melina@globalactionpw.org

For the program of the seminar, please click [here](#).

For Dr. Zuber's opening remarks, please click [here](#).

For remarks from Melina Lito please click [here](#).