



The Representative Office of Norway  
to the Palestinian Authority



2021 Open Day

اليوم المفتوح لعام 2021

# HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

# حوار رفيع المستوى حول المرأة والسلام والأمن

Gaza | 19 - 20 October

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Photo: UNDP/Sarif Sarhan

# 2021 Open Day/High-Level Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security in Palestine



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# INTRODUCTION



In 2000, the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) established the global agenda for mainstreaming gender in peace and security - the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. UNSCR 1325 has been followed by nine additional resolutions. These resolutions outline UN and state obligations related to the needs and priorities of women and girls affected by conflict as well as to ensure that peace is brokered in an inclusive and sustainable manner.

In March 2021, The State of Palestine endorsed the second National Action Plan (PALNAP). The PALNAP identifies the priorities for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Palestine and is based on four pillars: 1) protection and prevention; 2) accountability; 3) participation; and 4) relief and recovery.

UN Women organized an Open Day/High Level Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) from 19 to 20 October 2021 in Gaza City. The event was held

on the 21st anniversary of UNSCR 1325, in partnership with the General Union of Palestinian Women and supported by the Government of Norway. The event brought together women and youth leaders from leading civil society organizations, representatives from Member States and high-level senior officials. The main stated purposes of the Open Day were to:

- Recognize the gendered impact of the Israeli occupation on women and girls;
- Advocate for the inclusion of Palestinian women in internal political and reconciliation processes;
- Increase awareness of existing peacebuilding and advocacy initiatives to UN officials, Member States' representatives and the wider Palestinian audience;
- Ensure the reconstruction of Gaza and the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are gender-sensitive and take properly into account women's needs;

- Highlight the priorities and challenges of the WPS Agenda in Palestine and promote an effective implementation of the PALNAP;
- Reaffirm the importance of hearing and including Palestinian women's voices in international fora and international political processes.

This report serves to document the discussion key points and recommendations presented during the Open Day. It seeks to inform the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Palestine, guide the development of future programmes and inform readers about the key recommendations and asks of Palestinian women and youth in the field of peace and security.



# OPENING SESSION

The opening session of the Open Day shed light on the challenges Palestinian women faced in light of Israeli occupation and political division and the consequences and impact on all aspects of economic, social and political life.

Participants described the present situation as one that makes a two-state solution unattainable. A number of recent developments were mentioned, including: the recent “continuous storming of Al-Aqsa by settlers under the protection of the occupation’s army to perpetuate the division of the mosque “spatially and temporally”, the expropriation of lands; forced evictions. Furthermore, the following critical dynamics were acknowledged: the occupation’s massive impact on the Gaza Strip through the imposition of a 14-year blockade; the prevention of the entry of basic materials and building materials; the “killing and displacement” as a consequence of multiple wars; and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was underscored that while such crises affect all Palestinians, they disproportionately affect women and girls.

While the occupation undoubtedly presented the largest obstacle to the implementation of Resolution 1325 in Palestine, there were internal challenges as well. Presentations noted the lack of Palestinian women’s participation in important peace and reconciliation processes as well as in the ceasefire negotiations, including during and

after the 2021 escalation in Gaza. Moreover, the prevailing patriarchal nature and the reluctance of the Palestinian political system to promote “the meaningful participation and equitable representation of women” was noted.

## Proposed recommendations

- The need to follow up on the implementation of all recommendations made at the Open Day in previous years;
- Urging Member States to ensure increased representation of women in decision making at all levels in national, regional and international institutions, and also in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict.
- Ensuring the inclusion of women in all peacebuilding efforts through setting up policies, procedures, political, developmental, and humanitarian programming and providing the necessary funding to achieve them in Palestine by the Member States;
- Encouraging the participation of Palestinian women in order to reach a durable peace;
- Emphasizing the importance of implementing the second Palestinian NAP on Women, Peace and Security and finding support from Member States to provide adequate funding;
- Ensuring the safety of women human rights defenders.

# PLENARY SESSION ONE: THE GENDERED IMPACT OF OCCUPATION ON PALESTINIAN WOMEN AND GIRLS, ENDING IMPUNITY AND PURSUING ACCOUNTABILITY

During this session, panellists outlined a number of consequential, recent and renewed dynamics that play a role due to their gender impact. Participants focused on a perceived increasing international awareness and shifts in the public and political discourse regarding the situation in Palestine, evident, for example, during the May 2021 escalation through worldwide demonstrations, including in the United States. A central development was the creation of a standing commission of inquiry by the Human Rights Council charged with investigating violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel.

Despite these developments, participants described another dynamic at the governmental level where an alliance between populist governments had effectively stalled the peace process over the last decade. This has had the effect of Israel not being held accountable and acting with impunity. Specific Israeli measures, such as settlement expansion, were seen to have made the two-state solution even less possible. The new US administration was described to be potentially taking a conflict management approach rather than a concerted effort to return to a peace process which was seen as possibly having dangerous consequences.

Within this framework, panellists further explored the gendered impact of these developments. The European Union's significant contributions to state-building efforts in Palestine were acknowledged but the discussion also recognized limited results

including a deteriorating situation for human rights and women's rights in Palestine (e.g., the hampering of public freedoms of expression and the continued application of the death penalty in Gaza). Moreover, participants highlighted that gender equality must include economic equality, and that the OPT actually scores among the last places worldwide in laws and regulations that restrict women's economic empowerment, with the situation being particularly critical and complex in Gaza. The gendered impact of the latest hostilities in Gaza was noted to have had displacement levels similar to the 2014 war, despite its shorter duration. GBV was described as on the rise, with reports of violence increasing after the war.

The plenary session described gender policy and women's rights as part of the larger context, reiterating the importance of Palestinian women to building Palestinian society. One panellist described women as "a fundamental component for the quest towards Palestinian self-determination."<sup>1</sup> The discussion pointed to examples from other countries including Syria and Ireland. In Syria, it was noted that women's advisory groups and women negotiators/representatives of parties have had a strong impact. In Ireland participants described the equal participation of men and women in internal reconciliation processes leading to better results, with women's involvement being seen as key to the inclusion of "provisions on equal opportunity, social reconciliation, needs of victims, integrated education" and critical factors in sustaining the civil peace agreement.

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<sup>1</sup> The case of Nisreen Abu Kmail was described as "quite telling of the obstacles Palestinian women in the face of the occupation" while Gaza was described as being "in a continuous state of de-development and deprivation."

## Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the first plenary session including:

- The involvement of Palestinian women in the negotiations based on international law and resolutions to reach a just and comprehensive peace ;
- Women's involvement in holding Israel accountable for its actions and their gendered impacts; being included in all committees in preparation for elections and in all parties after the election; and playing a meaningful role in the internal reconciliation of Palestinian society.
- Enacting legislations that ensure equality of the human rights of women and girls, such as: adoption of the Family Protection Bill; the publication of CEDAW in the Official Gazette; the thorough review and potential amendment of the draft penal code 2011; the review of the personal status law, the end of gender discrimination in the workplace and access to effective remedies;
- The guarantee of freedom of expression, the protection of civil society: to allow debate without the risk of reprisal and journalists to report without fear;
- The engagement of civil society in dialogues of reconciliation and civil peace;
- Ensure accountability for Israeli violations of international and humanitarian law, including on illegal settlements, forced evictions, demolitions, settlers' violence and the blockade of Gaza.



# PLENARY SESSION TWO: THE WPS AGENDA UNDER A CHALLENGING POLITICAL LANDSCAPE



Photo: UN Women in Palestine/Amjad Al-Fayoumi

During this session, panellists highlighted overarching challenges in the international system, in particular, related to the lack of enforcement of decades of resolutions including those related to the Palestinian cause and issued by the Security Council and General Assembly. The role of Palestinian women and the women's movement to hold the international community accountable for its failure to implement all international resolutions related to the OPT was emphasized. Palestinian women see the end of the occupation as a precondition for addressing successfully challenges within Palestinian society.

While UNSCR 1325 was seen as a landmark resolution, participants raised concerns that UNSCR 1325 did not address challenges faced by women under occupation. Participants described efforts by

the Palestinian women's movement to work on the localization of UNSCR 1325, focusing on protection and accountability.

## Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the second plenary session including:

- Issue a subsequent resolution to UNSCR 1325 that addresses the situation of women under colonial occupation;
- The Palestinian women's movement should develop a vision toward ending the Palestinian political division and be supported in implementing this vision through its 30% participation in dialogue sessions according to the decision of the National and Central Councils.

# PLENARY SESSION THREE: PROSPECTS FOR ADVANCING THE WPS AGENDA IN PALESTINE

The discussion of this session focused on a number of developments related to the WPS agenda locally as well as ways to further build upon progress that has already been made. First, the discussion highlighted the State of Palestine's National Action Plan (PALNAP) on women, peace, and security, adopted in early 2021. A number of concrete steps towards the implementation of the PALNAP were discussed, including that Palestine joined the Action Coalition on Women, Peace, Security and Humanitarian Aid in cooperation with UN Women; the Ministry of Women's Affairs (MoWA) was producing a number of studies focused on practical and strategic needs while also developing a media strategy to highlight women's issues and promote international accountability; and that a gender sectoral working group (LACS) was established. It was also acknowledged that MoWA was working on a cross-sectoral plan to raise staff capacity in the gender units as well as finalizing the National Anti-Violence Strategy which supports the efforts of the NAP. It was also stated that, after Palestine joined the International Criminal Court, the MoWA followed up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to open an investigation into Israeli violations against the Palestinian people, especially against women in the Gaza Strip.

In an effort to share experiences in implementing the WPS agenda from other contexts, the plenary also discussed Switzerland's successful implementation of the WPS agenda. Switzerland was described as taking multiple, significant steps such as: parliamentary adoption of a national gender equality strategy for 2030; the adoption of a foreign policy strategy on gender equality and women's rights in 2017; engaging women, civil society and women-led organizations in humanitarian responses and conflict resolution; and the creation of a Civil Society Support Room with the support of the UN

Special Envoy for Syria which provided a platform for civil society to provide possible solutions for the situation of women in Syria. While acknowledging that Switzerland experienced a "completely different context" the NAP was embedded in the WPS agenda and was not conceived as a "stand-alone tool."

The session also discussed the new action plan of the National Civil Society Coalition on UNSCR 1325. The main vision of the national coalition was described as complementary to the PALNAP. More specifically it was stated that the coalition sought to "protect women from Israeli violations and promote the accountability of the occupation" with the participation of women's organizations. Moreover, the pillars of the national plan were described as integrating a feminist vision with women and civil society organizations serving as the main actors – especially in Gaza.

## Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the third plenary session including:

- Donors should financially support the NAP within the scope of support provided to Palestine;  
The NAP should be used to access international mechanisms and to expose, prosecute, and hold the occupation accountable for its violations;
- National elections should take place including in East Jerusalem to renew democratically elected institutions. A strong parliamentary oversight over the implementation of the WPS national agenda should be guaranteed. Additionally, the government should engage civil society in peacebuilding efforts and the human rights policy – cooperation that is essential to supporting WPS agenda;



Photo: UN Women in Palestine/Amjad Al-Fayoumi

- The family protection bill should be adopted in order to strengthen the protection of women, children and the elderly;
- Youth must be engaged in order to create strong new advocates for women's issues;
- Women's organizations should pressure political parties, official bodies and decision-makers to promote women's political participation as a top priority;
- Recognizing the importance of women's economic empowerment as one entrance to political empowerment in order to achieve the dignity for women;
- Continue to support face-to-face meetings that bring together Gaza and the West Bank leaders to talk, discuss and exchange experiences;
- Ensure the existence of platforms that support interactive communication between Gaza and the West Bank on setting national plans.

# PLENARY SESSION FOUR: PALESTINE UNDER MULTIPLE CRISES: ENSURING A GENDER RESPONSIVE APPROACH TO GAZA RECONSTRUCTION AND RECOVERY AND HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

This session focused entirely on the situation in Gaza with panellists describing the scale and scope of the situation. It was acknowledged that the humanitarian consequences of “nearly 14 years of Israeli blockade, internal Palestinian political divisions, and repeated escalation” were devastating. In regard to the 2021 escalation, about 261 Palestinians had been killed (including 67 children and 41 women) while over 2,200 Palestinians were injured during the hostilities (including 685 children and 480 women).

The overlapping crises in Gaza were also described as being particularly impactful for women. One discussant stated that the formal unemployment level of women was high (noting that women do carry out a great deal of unpaid work in the house). One discussant stated that the health and economic conditions in Gaza were in constant decline with women and children experiencing greater vulnerability including those related to malnutrition, COVID-19, various other diseases and mental health. Gaza was described as experiencing “an unprecedented spread of violence against women and children, with a clear rise in cases of murder, suicide attempts and the spread of mental illness.” A participant highlighted an increase of GBV during the pandemic.

While participants described the challenges facing Gaza, they also emphasized the importance of engaging Palestinian women in “all decision-making processes” relevant to Gaza reconstruction and recovery. One panellist stated that women were “a pillar of Palestinian society” and underscored the

importance of ensuring dignity in Palestine.

Participants described the approaches of different international organizations, including ensuring a dignified life to women in Palestine by providing economic opportunities; supporting the passion of women and young entrepreneurs to develop their ideas; and prioritizing gender, climate change and citizen engagement. Humanitarian interventions should prioritize economic resilience programming that prioritize the needs of women, with a focus on female breadwinners most affected by conflicts, survivors of violence, women with disabilities, chronic diseases, and those with special needs and circumstances.” One discussant stated that involving women’s social centres was very important; that such centres could host meetings with female beneficiaries to collect their input women and for rehabilitation efforts including the construction of hospitals and schools.

This session gave the opportunity to Palestinian young female activists to share the dialogue platform with senior women leaders and members of the international community. Unexpectedly, their opinions and views sparked a heated debate. There were strong opinions over the role of the international community, the contribution of women leaders, and the perceived neglect for Palestinian youth. This debate highlighted a wide divide between different generations of Palestinian women’s rights activists. Participants tentatively on the need to further explore and reconcile these differences.





Photo: UN Women in Palestine/Amjad Al-Fayoumi

## Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the fourth plenary session including:

- Clear plans, strategies and procedures should be implemented to ensure the participation of women in the ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts (especially reconstruction committees) as well as emergency preparation. These plans should also include monitoring and evaluation tools;
- Increased funding for the protection of women, girls and children most affected by this escalation and other crises;
- The staff of women's institutions should be provided protection during escalations and emergencies to provide emergency humanitarian services;
- Women's organizations should be invited to engage in all humanitarian clusters including WASH, shelter, food security and education clusters to ensure a higher dissemination and integration of the concepts and applications of protection and gender-based violence;
- Build the capacity of humanitarian service providers in Gaza (particularly in the fields of protection, mental health, gender-based violence and human rights) on gender responsive programming;
- Support skills transfer from international institutions operating elsewhere in the world to enhance the capacities of local and women's institutions with regard to humanitarian interventions;
- Engage women to design programming in Gaza related to grants (not loans) that assist women and children.

# BREAKOUT SESSION ONE: HOW CAN WE GEAR INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT FOR THE WPS AGENDA IN PALESTINE: ARE WE TALKING TO THE RIGHT ACTORS?

The discussion in this breakout session revolved around international support for the Palestinian cause. Many participants pointed to the issue of UNRWA's 2021-2022 Framework for Cooperation agreement with the US which undermined the overall capacity of UNRWA to deliver services, negatively impacting women beneficiaries and workers. The importance of women's economic empowerment was highlighted and described as "a key element to be scaled up". In addition to economic empowerment, participants highlighted the need to enhance women's capacities as leaders.

Participants stated that increased international solidarity for the Palestinian cause was needed. It was recognized that many donors were reluctant to invest more long-term in Gaza, without substantive political changes. Some questioned whether the UN Security Council, in its current composition, was effective or if it needed reform. Discussants suggested that the UN should provide more international platforms to discuss women's issues outside of the Security Council and the CSW event. Some suggested that women's issues should be mainstreamed in all international conferences. It was also highlighted that to achieve the realization of UNSCR 1325 additional support for more marginalized women's groups, grassroots organizations and especially youth was needed.

The conversation in this breakout session also addressed competition experienced by different women's NGOs. Participants emphasized that the competition amongst different women's NGOs and organizations did not help reach joint objectives. They called for donors to design processes to support collaboration across organizations.

Finally, participants highlighted the importance of outreach to new supporters. For example, they stated that "talking to the right actors" might also mean increased outreach to men. A participant raised the point that discussions on women's empowerment in conflict countries tend to be "always only among women." Many described the importance of ensuring the attendance of men at conferences such as the Open Day in order to further raise awareness with men.

## Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the first breakout session including:

- When seeking to support Palestinian women in Gaza, shift from a pure humanitarian approach to more of a development approach and invest in the long-term capacities and success of women especially in Gaza;
- Donors supporting reconstruction in Gaza should ensure that women meaningfully participate in reconstruction efforts and women's needs are met in the Gaza reconstruction process;
- Provide more support for women's civil society organizations to serve in a monitoring and reporting role of Israeli violations;
- Ensure that all Palestinian women can have a Palestinian ID to be able to enjoy their basic civil and political rights;
- Further support more marginalized women's groups, grassroots organizations and especially youth groups;





Photo: UN Women in Palestine/Amjad Al-Fayoumi

- Use social media in a more targeted and strategic way to reach new audiences;
- Mainstream women's issues in all international conferences;
- Donors should encourage more collaboration and coordination amongst women's NGOs/ organizations to help reach joint objectives.

## BREAKOUT SESSION TWO: BUILDING ALLIANCES AND CONSTITUENCY BUILDING: FROM LOCAL PEACEBUILDING TO FORMAL PEACEBUILDING

The discussion in this breakout session centred around the intra-Palestinian political divide. Participants described the history of the division over time, from the 2006 general elections to the clear split in 2007 as well as the attempts to end the division starting from the “Makka agreement in 2007 to the Al-Shati agreement in 2014.” It was acknowledged that all previous attempts to end the division had failed. While some attendees called for a new general election to resolve the existing division, many attendees opposed this stating that the 2006 general election was the “main reason behind the current situation and the political division.”

Those in the breakout session discussed the consequences of the political division on formal peacebuilding efforts. A point was made that if there had been no political division “there would have been unified efforts towards building alliances internationally.” A discussant stated that currently the political division was considered “a real danger to the political identity, national geography, and the structure of Palestinian society.” The divide was also seen to have external repercussions and having the potential to contribute to the decline of the “achievements and gains made by the Palestinians.” Furthermore, the audience appeared to agree that negotiations with the Israeli government would have “looked different” if there was no political division as political unification would have yielded “unified demands.”

There were mixed opinions on the topic of fostering reconciliation and ending the political divide. Speakers lamented that “pressuring mechanisms” were very weak and “nearly non-existent.” Some participants addressed the role of Palestinian civil society on this topic. Thinking about ways to pressure the two

parties to start meaningful discussions towards reconciliation, the audience described existing civil society initiatives. Participants described these initiatives as “mere individual initiatives” without a unified approach that joined the efforts of the civil society. As a result, it was said that “such initiatives usually had no tangible impact.” Discussants raised the fact that Palestinian civil society was hesitant about starting initiatives to enhance local peace due to the “harassment they face by each of the conflicted parties.” One example of this harassment was described as “getting registration applications refused by the national registrar” which could sometimes have a significant effect on individuals at CSOs.

### Proposed recommendations

A number of recommendations emerged from the second breakout session including:

- Establishing a national unity government that can work towards building alliances and constituencies to achieve formal peacebuilding objectives;
- Supporting a community level initiative in a unified call to end of political division. This initiative should consider using national media to highlight humanitarian stories of those impacted by the political division to bring attention to the suffering caused by the political division;
- Civil society must support Palestinian youth to: raise awareness about the importance of local peace and the impact of the current political division; build Palestinian youth’s capacities in building peace; and work towards unifying national efforts towards reconciliation.

# KEY TAKEAWAYS

The 2021 Open Day/High Level Dialogue on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) brought together women and youth leaders from the Palestinian civil society, representatives from Member States and high-level senior officials. Its stated objectives included: to assess the impact on women and girls of recent escalations; to advocate for the inclusion of Palestinian women's voices; to increase awareness of existing peacebuilding and advocacy initiatives; to ensure the reconstruction of Gaza and the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are gender-sensitive; to highlight the priorities and challenges of the WPS agenda in Palestine; to promote the effective implementation of the Palestinian NAP; and to reaffirm the importance of hearing and including Palestinian women's voices in international fora and international political processes. Some of the most salient strategic recommendations raised in the Open Day are included here by topic area:

## Advocating for the integration of Palestinian women's voices by:

- Guaranteeing freedom of expression and the protection of civil society: to allow freedom of expression without the risk of reprisal and journalists to report without fear;
- Including women in all committees in preparation for future elections and ensure their meaningful participation in political parties;
- Supporting a community-level initiative to end the political division using media to highlight humanitarian stories of those impacted by the political division;
- Increasing funding for the protection of women, girls and children most affected by the recent escalation and other crises;
- Protecting the staff of women's institutions during escalations and emergencies to provide emergency humanitarian services.

- Member State should encourage more collaboration and coordination amongst women's NGOs/organizations to help reach joint objectives;
- The Palestinian women's movement should develop a feminist vision toward ending the Palestinian political division and be supported in implementing this vision.

## Supporting women-led peacebuilding and advocacy initiatives by:

- Including the participation of women from diverse political backgrounds and ideologies in a meaningful peace and reconciliation process;
- Engaging civil society early on in the peace process;
- Encouraging Palestinian youth to: raise awareness about the importance of local peace and the impact of the current political division; build Palestinian youth's capacities in building peace; and work towards unifying national efforts towards reconciliation.

## Ensuring the reconstruction of Gaza and the economic recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic are gender-responsive by:

- Designing and implementing clear plans, strategies, procedures, and M&E tools to ensure the participation of women's institutions in the ongoing reconstruction and recovery efforts (especially reconstruction committees) as well as emergency preparation;
- Donors supporting reconstruction in Gaza should ensure that women participate and women's needs are met in the Gaza reconstruction process;
- When seeking to support Palestinian women in Gaza, shift from a pure humanitarian approach to more of a development approach and invest in

the long-term capacities and success of women;

- Provide more support for women's civil society organizations to serve in a monitoring and reporting role of Israeli violations.

#### Addressing challenges of the WPS agenda in Palestine by:

- Enacting legislation that ensures fulfilment of the human rights of women and girls;
- Issue a subsequent resolution to UNSCR 1325 that addresses the situation of women under colonial occupation;
- Inviting women's organizations to engage in WASH, shelter, food security and education clusters to ensure a higher dissemination and integration of the concepts and applications of protection and gender-based violence;
- Supporting humanitarian service providers in Gaza (particularly in the fields of protection, mental health, gender-based violence and human rights) to develop their capacities.

#### Promoting the effective implementation of the Palestinian NAP by:

- Finding support from Member States to provide adequate funding for the second NAP;
- Adopting a unified aid coordination mechanism (pooled funding) to support the NAP and UNSCR 1325;
- Using the NAP to access international

mechanisms and to expose, prosecute and hold the occupation accountable for its violations;

- Continuing to support face-to-face meetings that bring together Gaza and the West Bank leaders to talk, discuss and exchange experiences;
- Ensuring platforms exist that support interactive communication between Gaza and the West Bank on setting national plans.

#### Women take part in international advocacy efforts using international accountability and human rights mechanisms (i.e., Human Rights Council, etc.) by:

- Mainstreaming women's issues in all international conferences;
- Supporting skills transfer from international institutions operating elsewhere to enhance the capacities of local Palestinian women's institutions.

#### Promoting internal reconciliation towards the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda

- Facilitating informal dialogues among Palestinian women's political leaders from diverse political background on differences and agreement in feminist issues;
- Supporting intergenerational exchanges and dialogues, to strengthen the link and build bridges between feminist leaders and young male and female WPS and youth activists.

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UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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