

## Side event 'Women's Contribution to Global Peace in Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security'

For UN security Council resolution 1324 click here or copy the link into your browser :  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

The side event was inspired by the numerous peace initiatives undertaken by women or in which women have taken part. The important level of success : much of it is due to the involvement of women is remarkable.

Anya Wiersinga opened the event by thanking the Finnish delegation in Strasbourg as well as the Commission on Social Cohesion and global challenges for their help and support. She said that we need to be aware that civilians women and children are victims of violence, and that, in war zones, women stand in need of protection. Member states are in a position significantly to influence the rule of law, humanitarian work and related issues. We should also consider what we can do after the side event, with reference to civil society and its role.

### Ana Equani

1. We are proud of our Convention for the prevention of violence against women<sup>1</sup> and we can identify issues related to inequality and violence. Gender is an important aspect because of its specificity.
2. The next Annual Forum on global Democracy will examine the events of the year together with their effect on women. This will not only be concerned with Europe. We have just finished a global level examination of thirty initiatives concerning violence against women. It seems that the greater number of these initiatives are European ones.

**Mrs Antilla** (?) from the Finnish delegation opened the event.

1. She is greatly interested in Women's contribution to world peace and women should not be excluded or distanced from the process of making decisions. Because their contribution concerns the whole of humanity, the Council of Europe should promote gender mainstreaming. Indeed we say that conflict has no gender although civilians, - therefore women - suffer when there is armed conflict.
2. We could develop a system for managing conflict. An example is an action plan on resolution 1325 in Finland<sup>2</sup> Finnish delegates to international seminars also make a significant contribution. Nevertheless, conflict situations are not the only issue because there are serious problems of which famine is an example.
3. In addition there is some exclusion of women from public life, while we should also have a more extended perception of the construction of peace. We hope that the council of Europe and member states will facilitate the implementation of UN resolution 1325.

**Mrs Kovacs** also referred to resolution 1325,<sup>3</sup> which underlines conflicts involving girls and women. As president of the Committee on legality and non discrimination she proposed that we should concentrate on the role of women in relation to gender perspectives and sexual violence and

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/treaty/210>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/finland\\_nap\\_2012.pdf](http://www.peacewomen.org/assets/file/finland_nap_2012.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ods/S-RES-1325\(2000\)-F.pdf](http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ods/S-RES-1325(2000)-F.pdf)

so on. She referred to 2120<sup>4</sup> on the role of women in the armed forces. It is important to underline equality and we look forward to receiving the agenda on women and gender. Gender perspectives are a good instrument for crisis management while we must also develop programmes for protection and ensure that there are appropriate sanctions.

Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury<sup>5</sup> is the founder of the global movement for culture and peace. He thanked Anja, who has been his colleague for a long time as well as the Finnish delegation.

Rajaa Altalli said that peace is an integral aspect of human existence. There is always a place for peace. But we should not forget that 50% of women are marginalised. Women should be involved in the development of culture and peace, and they are recognised in their work for peace. Women are a counterweight against violence, while they also give a lot of encouragement to the abandonment of the culture of war and its replacement by a culture of peace. That is the most significant development, since the Beijing Conference, on the role of women and security to the concept of which it contributed so much.

In looking back to 1995 we recall a declaration that brought worldwide recognition of Women's contribution to peace building,<sup>6</sup> about which there will be a formal resolution in October.

The adoption of Resolution 1325 should open to the door to opportunity. By choosing women laureates we underline the need to ensure that women are equal partners. Women should have the same opportunities as men. There is strength in participation, and it is essential for women to take part in dialogue.

Nkkenje **Lack of tolerance** . It is not just national projects that ensure responsibility. If women were more involved there could be less extremism. Eleanor Roosevelt used to say that the extent to which women can contribute had been set aside. At the time there was a culture dominated by men, while both the capacities and perspective of women are rather different from their male collaborators.

*Redress* was launched in London in June 2014. 20% of parliamentarians were women and this marginalisation of women is not acceptable. Male politicians want to be someone, whereas women want to achieve results. »

Without women's activities our planet would not be a place for all. As a consequence, last Friday the UN Security Council warned us of circumstances that constitute a threat to women. Feminism adds to our global view of politics. I am proud of feminists. We should all be feminists. There is no peace without development and for women that applies in the opposite direction ... without women neither of these things would be conceivable.

Rajaa Altalli who is a member of the Syrian Council for women said that her father had been kidnapped from a bus station in 1992. He was taken by the security forces and this resulted in three years in Prison. He was liberated by Bashar Assad. Mr Altalli made a promise that he would not be involved in public or political affairs. During the war in Syria, in 2011 he was doing his PhD in Boston. She could not accept that that their parents were in prison. Young people should fight for human rights not only those of women, but also their civil rights and so on. Women are not

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<sup>4</sup> <http://assembly.coe.int/nw/xml/XRef/Xref-XML2HTML-en.asp?fileid=22939&lang=en>

<sup>5</sup> Former under secretary General and High Representative of the UN

<sup>6</sup> <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/>

mentioned but women help other Syrians who are displaced. I need to replace Dora who has gone to the United states.

Resolution 2000 was about changing the nature of warfare and against the exclusion of women from the peace process. In the European People's Party women are accepted as a party (??) and the parties have a role in women and girls in view of the extent of rape and violence. We see that there is an important role in the future for Syrian women who have disappeared from councils or decision making groups. It should also be noted that involvement in councils is not the only role of women. When half the population live in security there is a sense of safety. The UNO and the EU should ensure that women are involved in everything. Syria, as a modern state, should guarantee rights and equality.

**A Member of the Parliamentary Assembly** thanked the Finnish delegation for their support. If we are serious about peace we should take women seriously. I am not just talking about Cyprus (my country) since 1974 and the occupation. It is really women's contribution to the development of peace in our Island. They take part at a number of levels that include working groups and technical committees. Women enable us to make contacts. In 11/26 the women are in charge. Two women are members of the Kurdish Cypriot negotiating team. There is no discrimination related to sex, gender or gender orientation. We, the Cypriots, believe in the unity of our island across its divisions.

Ambassador Böker from the Netherlands (on Cyprus)

Maria and I will share six minutes. There has been an ethnic division, with no contact at the popular level before 2003. In view of some easing of the situation in respect of the Green Line, a women's NGO brought up resolution 1325 and the realisable paths to peace set out in a white paper. The agenda was the organisation of peace and sustainable development. Questions involved the method of government, property, the economy and citizenship. Historical issues included the fact that there was no women's organisation, while there were also psychological and political issues. We discussed resolution 1325 which concerns the specific issue of women as well as knowledge and experience that runs across the green line.

Une « intervenante » expressed agreement between Maria and me. Cypriot women did not negotiate. The decision and the debate were based on ethical lines and women worked with the deciders at the grass roots as well as at the international level. ESCADE has produced a lot of material. Women should take part in the constitutions (??) of participating states. It is necessary to have procedures to ensure equal participation, although federal infrastructures are a pipe-dream. We should rather work on education, gender and private and public educational systems.

We need security in the provision of resources for politics and other activities. We need a culture of reconciliation and civic identity with and invitation to men to become involved.

There has been a committee with a restricted mandate since 2007. It discusses a national action plan but much remains to be done, especially in relation to social, cultural and political equality.

**Mr Salul** : See resolution 1325 and the role of women. The resolution makes an important point in facilitating women's participation in conflict resolution. An advisory group on gender was established in 2009. It was a contribution by gender perspectives to an eventual solution. The Turkish President is also in favour of the contribution of women and there is a 57.95% representation of women in the supreme court for example. Nevertheless we are aware of the work that remains to be done.

Anja : **Mr Nicolette**, called one of the « founding fathers » of the Council of Europe, said that without peace there are no rights, no democracy, no rule of law. 1325 demonstrates the need for women at the negotiating table. We do not initiate peace here in Strasbourg but rather in the forty-seven member states. We should look at their constitutions.

The two communities in Cyprus are traumatised.

Intervenants : Rajas Altalli, Ambassadeurs Anwarul K Chodhury, Elvira Kovacs, Sirkka-Lisa Antilla, Anna Rurka, Claudia Luciani, Hamza Ersan Saner, Stella Kyriades, Anje Wiersinga