

VOICES OF WOMEN IN CENTRAL ASIA: ADVANCING THE WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY AGENDA

1. Women's participation and leadership in peacebuilding and conflict prevention supports a more lasting peace. The involvement of women' civil society groups is crucial for ensuring that peace provision address social inequalities, especially gender equality.



2. Male prevalence in all law enforcement and military agencies must change if we are to achieve gender equality.



- 4.

Women should be included in the preparation of government responses to the Afghan crisis. Donor plans and programmes should consider UNSC Resolution 1325.

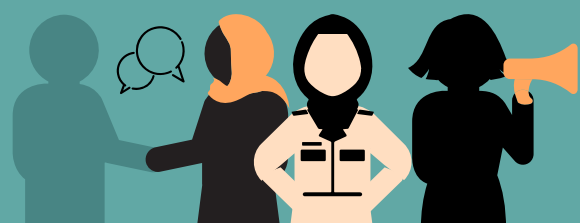


3. Legal sector reform is needed to bring justice to the victims of domestic violence or rape.



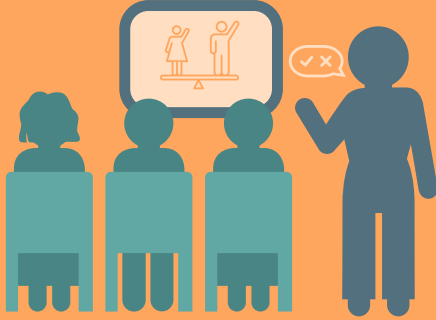
- 5.

The deepening Afghan crisis should be of regional and global concern because it highlights women as the first victims in the violation of fundamental human rights. Such a trend is likely to reinforce gender norms and roles that hinder women's role in addressing security challenges in the region.



6.

Security sector institutions should introduce mandatory courses on sexual exploitation and sexual harassment for military and security personnel.



7.

Governments should establish gender trainings for senior management in the Ministry of Defence and more women should hold senior positions within the Ministry of Defence and in security forces to fulfill international obligations and commitments regarding gender equality and women's empowerment.



8.

United Nations agencies should ensure representation of women in formal and informal peace processes, and in international conferences on peace, security, and humanitarian action.



9.

The United Nations should engage men and boys in all conflict prevention efforts.

10.

The United Nations should address the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian action and assistance, and further engage refugee women within any peacekeeping processes.

11.

More livelihood and protection women's centres are needed for displaced and refugee women and children.



12.

Immediate security and safety mechanisms are needed for Afghan women in politics and women's activists.



13.

National adoption of UN Resolution 1325 must be complemented with awareness-raising at local levels in both rural and urban areas. In addition, activities must engage youth with the Women, Peace and Security agenda.



14.

Currently, there is insufficient political will and lack of knowledge on gender equality and women's rights. Unless gender equality is placed at the top of the political agenda, progress will remain a challenge.

15.

Governments must fully fund and implement National Action Plans on UNSC 1325. They should collaborate with women's organizations to implement those plans.