







20th anniversary of Resolution 1325 on WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY in Bosnia and Herzegovina



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INTRODUCTION

2020 marks the 20th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325. UN Women, grounded in the vision of equality enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, works to establish a powerful normative framework to ensure women's needs, voices, and perspectives to prevent, resolve, and recover from conflict and build sustainable peace are represented.

The UN Security Council Resolution 1325 was adopted in 2000 and calls for the full and equal participation of women in the process of conflict prevention, and building peace and security. The adoption of the Resolution is particularly significant since it is the first resolution that deals with the effects of conflict on women and girls, emphasizing the need for their protection during and after conflict.

Resolution 1325 calls on all parties of armed conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence

To mark the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UN Resolution 1325, the Agency for Gender Equality of BiH of the BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees (AGE BiH/MHRR BiH), OSCE Mission to BiH, the Office of the European Union Special Representative in BiH and UN Women BiH invited key actors to take stock of the progress achieved and recommit to the accelerated future implementation of the Resolution and building and preserving peace and security

Recording of the online conference is available <u>here</u>

towards European integration, in line with the EU - Bosnia and Herzegovina G7/WPS Partnership Roadmap.

The online conference, held on November 6 2020 via Zoom, brought together the key actors in the area of implementation of UN Resolution 1325 in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and provided an overview of key results of its implementation in BiH, which is carried out through three generations of Action Plans. The event also opened a discussion by key stakeholders in the country and the region on the achievements and new challenges related to security of women and girls, but also their inclusion in decision-making processes.

The anniversary celebration gathered high-level representatives of BiH authorities and the international community, alongside professionals from international development organizations, governmental and non-governmental sectors, and civi society activists.

Introductory statements were delivered by Minister Miloš Lučić, BiH Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees, Minister Sifet Podžić, BiH Ministry of Defense, Ambassador Kathleen Kavalec, Head of OSCE Mission to BiH, Ingrid Macdonald, UN Resident Coordinator in BiH, Ekaterina Dorodnova, Deputy Head of EU Delegation in BiH, and Torgny Svenungsson, Head of Development Cooperation of the Embassy of Sweden to BiH



INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES



Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security highlights that efforts aimed towards peace, reconciliation and security are more sustainable when women are equal partners in the prevention of violent conflicts, protection and provision of assistance, as well as in recovery from conflict and building a permanent peace. Higher participation of women is not only about fulfilling their human rights, but is also a key to sustainable development.

MILOŠ LUČIĆ

Minister for human rights and refugees of Bosnia and Herzegovina

We are often asked how to integrate the gender perspective in daily military operations. If we don't recognize the gender perspective, we will not take into consideration a lot of relevant and accurate information, and we will probably fail to carry out our mission properly. Implementation of the gender perspective is our obligation from the strategic to the tactical level, first and foremost through international and national documents and policies, as well as other regulations.

SIFET PODŽIĆ

Minister of defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina





The women, peace, and security framework should be fully integrated into our COVID-19 responses. Women need to be involved in the highest levels of decision-making to ensure their needs are taken seriously.

KATHLEEN KAVALEC

Ambassador and Head of OSCE Mission to BiH

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESSES



A critical aspect of realizing sustainable peace and development around the world, including in BiH, is the need to succeed in achieving gender equality. With women making up 51% of BiH's population, they have a fundamental right to participate in decisions affecting their future.

INGRID MACDONALD

UN Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

Ensuring that national budgets for the implementation for Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans are adequately funded and putting in place well-designed monitoring and accountability systems coordinating the activities of government bodies at all levels, remain priorities.

EKATERINA DORODNOVA

Deputy Head of EU Delegation in BiH





The core of the women, peace and security agenda is participation in decision-making processes - not only related to peace and security, but in relation to all areas and levels of society. Women and men's equal power to shape the society and their own lives is the fundamental core of Sweden's feminist foreign policy.

TORGNY SVENUNGSSON

Head of Development Cooperation, Embassy of Sweden to BiH

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Ambassador Mara Marinaki

Principal Advisor on Gender and on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the European External Action Service

"We are fully behind the view already expressed at all levels, academic and political, that only an inclusive peace is likely to be sustainable. Therefore, peace processes where women participate as witnesses, as negotiators, mediators and signatories are most likely to last longer."



The key points of Ambassador Mara Marinaki's address have stressed how important a role BiH has in the successful implementation of Resolution 1325, and reiterated that the political leadership of the EU is fully committed to implementing the agenda of Resolution 1325 with all partners. She affirmed that every peace process is more likely to last with women's participation.

Additionally, Ambassador Marinaki shed light on the impact that COVID-19 has, predominantly on women, and how it has aggravated gender inequalities. This is why the call to action of the Secretary-General of the United Nations is highly important in addressing the global surge of domestic violence, an initiative supported by the EU as well, with 147 member states joining in order to organize the most efficient response

to this challenge. From the EU point of view, she reported that 23 of 27 member states adopted the National Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The EU Framework of policies on WPS included the Strategic Approach in December 2018 as well as its Action Plan with concrete steps adopted in July 2019.

The Strategic Approach to gender equality and female empowerment is a key prerequisite for dealing with conflict, and the prevention and countering of radicalism. Policies of the EU Framework emphasize the importance of women's leadership and aim to ensure security for women and girls. Progress equally engages men and boys in the process as positive agents of change.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES



Ambassador Melanne Verveer

Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender

"This anniversary should be a time for recommitment, a time for progress in implementing WPS National Action Plan, a time to evaluate it, and to resolve to accelerate progress in order to advance peace and stability, and opportunity throughout BiH."

Ambassador Melanne Verveer underlined that there is no security without economic opportunity and how it is fundamental to apply a gender lens to decisions, policies and programs to ensure that the needs of all the people are being addressed. Beside economic participation that is vital to security, she also mentioned the issue of political participation where women face threats and harassment too often.

Mentioning that the security of women is a reliable indicator of a peaceful state, Ambassador Verveer reiterated that one must understand the gender impacts of COVID-19 and the crisis that it

represents. In that sense, if we do not apply gender to relief and recovery, we would not be effective in our efforts to fully recover and build back a stronger society. In order to prevent further violence, it is necessary to train the police, judges and prosecutors, and make sure that perpetrators are prosecuted and conflict-related sexual violence addressed.

There is a lot to be done, as she concluded, but Resolution 1325 should be used as an important reconciliation tool, because there is an ongoing need to heal division in communities.

KEYNOTE ADDRESSES

Samra Filipović Hadžiabdić

Director of Agency for Gender Equality of BiH

"This resolution has a transformative potential and it is a powerful tool for supporting democratic participation and decision-making, and consequently the transition from gender inequality to gender justice, and from conflict and violence to sustainable peace."



Samra Filipović Hadžiabdić underlined that the Action Plan for the implementation of Resolution 1325 is an excellent tool for the institutionalization of the principles of this Resolution into all programs and policies of state institutions, as it serves in the process of rebuilding society.

It has helped to change the notion of security from the context of only national security to an individual security plan with a gender equality aspect for all citizens. It has served for the advancement of international cooperation in this domain because countries such as Finland, Moldova, and Albania have developed their National Action Plans using the structure of the BiH plan. The State Department also used it for structuring their own.

The Agency for Gender Equality of BiH has made further efforts to improve the modality of cooperation with non-governmental organizations, and produced six action plans on a local level. Creation of a Regional Action Plan was announced as well.

Although the implementation of Resolution 1325 marks success, many stereotypes and traditional perceptions, as well as preconceptions about gender roles and male dominance in the security sector stand in its way. Their elimination requires a multidisciplinary approach. Ms. Filipović Hadžiabdić concluded that there is a long road ahead of BiH to utilize the transformative potential of Resolution 1325.

PANEL

From global to local level - all aspects of the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 in BiH

The anniversary event marking 20 years of UN Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security included a panel discussion with some of the key actors in the implementation of this Resolution from local to global level. The panel was moderated by **Kika Babić Svetlin**, Expert Advisor at Agency for Gender Equality of BiH of the Ministry of Human Rights and Refugees of BiH.

The importance of considering all strategic and other policies from a perspective of gender equality was underlined – a long-standing practice of the Ministry of Security of BiH. Currently, there is a 40% representation of women police officers from BiH in two UN peace missions in South Sudan and Cyprus. "I believe we have moved away from the question of why the gender perspective is important to how we can successfully implement it in practice, and in everything we do," noted Dr. Sc. Ankica Tomić, representative of BiH in MARRI (Migration, Asylum, Refugees Regional Initiative), and former representative of Ministry of Security of BiH in the Coordination Board of BiH Council of Ministers for the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security".

Kristina Jozić, Director of Women Police Officers Network, pointed out that continuous education on gender equality has been introduced into police structures. However, there are still no women in decision-making positions, while their representation in all law enforcement agencies in BiH is around 5 to 15%. "What is especially concerning is the fact that no law enforcement agencies - and there are sixteen of them in BiH - are run by a woman," underlined Ms. Jozić.

The local level was emphasized as an especially important dimension of the implementation of Resolution 1325. **Vinka Berjan**, Chairperson of the Commission for Gender Equality of East Ilidža Municipality, talked about how this municipality developed its own local action plan, which helped the economic empowerment of women in this local community. "In agreement with the president of the Municipality Assembly, information on violence against women is presented once a year in the Assembly sessions. As a majority in the Assembly, men listen about gender-based violence in their local community," concluded Ms Berjan.

The panel especially drew attention to the question of security, which should always be observed through the prism of gender, and further highlighted the role of women in the prevention of radicalization. "The analysis of online activities of the extreme right in BiH, but also in the region, conducted by the Atlantic



Initiative, is worrying if we observe it in terms of women's security. These groups distribute fake news, conspiracy theories, claiming that those who promote gender equality and feminism are their enemies and that they compromise their faith, nation and tradition," said Majda Halilović, chief of research department at Atlantic Initiative.

On a global level, BiH has shown its commitment and continuity in adopting and implementing the Third Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. However, there is an evident systematic lack of financing on a global level. As mentioned in the Global Study¹, it is important to increase women's participation at all levels. Furthermore, as pointed out in the Report of the Secretary-General regarding the Implementation of Resolution 1325², it is of crucial importance to protect women activists, and channel military expenses to social and economic security.

"Women, Peace, and Security is not an agenda that can wait until other matters have been resolved. It is a precondition for resolving conflict, and, in order to maintain peace,



it needs investments and financial resources," stressed Valeria Vilardo, Gender-responsive Resilience and Recovery Specialist (Peace, Security and Humanitarian Department) at UN Women Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia.

"The inclusion of human security in the National Action Plan in BiH, that entails all security issues, is especially important not only for the understanding of Resolution 1325 here in BiH, but also in the region," said Vanja Matić, Gender Officer at OSCE Mission to BiH.

In conclusion, the panel discussion offered an insight into the activities related to UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security from a local to a global level, and showed that its implementation is the only way to strengthen the peace and stability.

Closing address by DAVID SAUNDERS, UN Women BiH Representative

"It's clear that the findings and lessons from this conference will be truly valuable as we seek to rejuvenate and take the extensive success of your experiences forward on continuing with the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 in your current National Action Plan."

Addressing the participants in his concluding words, UN Women BiH Representative, David Saunders, reminded that Resolution 1325 was mainly initiated by conflicts in BiH and Rwanda. He emphasized that the anniversary event presented the progress Bosnia and Herzegovina has made in the implementation of this Resolution. He stressed the importance of three key points in the discussion: the involvement of women in decision making, the importance of protection of human rights defenders and the real need for all countries to dedicate resources for the implementation of Resolution 1325.

Mr. Saunders emphasized that the Women, Peace and Security agenda is more relevant now than ever before, and requires stronger cooperation between the government and civil society actors. In that regard, the accountability in gender norms and commitments is central to the success of all of these



processes. One of the most crucial points that Mr. Saunders emphasized is that BiH has the opportunity to mobilize within all government levels, but also across the regional and international level, and to shape a better future using Resolution 1325 as a key instrument.

¹ Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace, A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, available at https://wps.unwomen.org

https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/global-norms-and-standards#_SG_reports_WPS



THE FOUR PILLARS OF UNSCR 1325



PARTICIPATION

Increased participation of women at all levels of decision-making, in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict; in peace negotiations, in peace operations, as soldiers, police, and civilians; and as Special Representatives of the UN Secretary-General.



PROTECTION

The protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence, including in emergency and humanitarian situations, such as in refugee camps.



PREVENTION

Improving intervention strategies in the prevention of violence against women, by prosecuting those responsible for violations of international law; strengthening women's rights under national law; and supporting local women's peace initiatives and conflict resolution processes.



RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Advancement of relief and recovery measures to address international crises through a gendered lens, by respecting the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps, and considering the needs of women and girls in the design of refugee camps and settlements.

UN Women/Christopher Herwig

The world has changed since the United Nations Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 in October 2000. The nature of conflict in certain regions is qualitatively different, the content of what we mean by 'peace' and 'security' is evolving, and the understanding of what we mean by 'justice' has also transformed. Although the world has changed, there have been a number of successes in implementation over the past twenty years. However, much of the progress toward the implementation of Resolution 1325 continues to be measured in 'firsts,' rather than as standard practice.

UNSCR 1325 RELATED RESOLUTIONS

Building upon commitment to the women, peace and security agenda, the UN Security Council has further considered women, peace and security as a cross-cutting issue in its work and adopted ten thematic and country-specific resolutions relevant to the agenda. They serve as guidelines to promote gender equality and strengthen women's participation, protection and rights across the conflict cycle, from conflict prevention through post-conflict reconstruction.

- <u>Resolution 1325 (2000)</u> [S/RES/1325 (2000)] Affirms the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peacebuilding and governance.
- Resolution 1820 (2008) [S/RES/1820(2008)] Recognizes sexual violence as a tactic of war and a matter of international peace and security that necessitates a security response.
- Resolution 1888 (2009) [S/RES/1888(2009)] Strengthens efforts to end sexual violence in conflict by establishing a Special Representative of the Secretary-General and team of experts on rule of law and sexual violence in conflict.
- Resolution 1889 (2009) [S/RES/1889(2009)] Establishes indicators for the monitoring of Resolution 1325 and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on women's participation and inclusion in peacebuilding.
- Resolution 1960 (2010) [S/RES/1960(2010)] Establishes a monitoring and reporting mechanism on sexual violence in conflict.
- Resolution 2106 (2013) [S/RES/2106(2013)] Stresses accountability for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict, as well as women's political and economic empowerment.
- Resolution 2122 (2013) [S/RES/2122(2013)] Positions gender equality and women's empowerment as critical to international peace and security, recognizes the differential impact of all violations in conflict on women and girls, and calls for consistent application of WPS across the Security Council's work.
- Resolution 2242 (2015) [S/RES/2242(2015)] Establishes the Informal Experts Group (IEG); addresses persistent obstacles in implementing the WPS agenda, including financing and institutional reforms; focuses on greater integration of the agendas on WPS and counterterrorism and countering violent extremism; and calls for improved Security Council working methods on women, peace, and security.
- Resolution 2467 (2019) [S/RES/2467(2019)] Positions conflict-related sexual violence as firmly rooted in the broader women, peace and security agenda; stresses justice and accountability efforts, especially gender-biased asylum laws; calls for support and protection to women's civil society organizations; and calls for attention to the issues of children born of rape. First WPS resolution that is not adopted unanimously. UN Women's role in counterterrorism is also highlighted, as it was in 2242, but this time alongside UNODC and OSRSG-SVC.
- Resolution 2493 (2019) [S/RES/2493(2019)] Calls for full implementation of all previous resolutions on women, peace and security; requests the UN to develop context-specific approaches for women's participation in all UN-supported peace processes; and urges Member States to ensure and provide timely support for the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women in all stages of peace processes, including in the mechanisms set up to implement and monitor peace agreements.



Since the adoption of the Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, activities have been implemented in Bosnia and Herzegovina to raise awareness of the role and participation of women in peace-related processes and the development of peace and security. By adopting its third Action Plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 for the period of 2018 – 2022, BiH has shown its commitment and continuity in the systemic implementation of the Resolution. The Third Action Plan contains three strategic goals:

- Increasing women's participation in the army, police and peace missions, including their participation in decision-making positions;
- Increasing the level of human security through the prism of gender equality;
- Enhancing the conditions and access to UNSCR 1325 Action Plan.

Indicators of the representation of women in the army, police and peace missions, including their participation in decision-making positions, point to continuous progress. However, it does not yet reflect equal gender representation. The practice of harmonizing policies, laws and by-laws with the Law on Gender Equality of BiH was continued by the relevant institutions and agencies, with the aim to systemically introduce the principles of gender equality and improve the position of women in defense and security sectors. In terms of increasing the level of human security through the prism of gender equality, the third UNSCR 1325 Action Plan introduces a gender-responsible approach to current security threats and challenges, in addition to supporting victims of sexual violence and other forms of suffering during the war in BiH.

Activities are being regularly implemented to raise awareness and educate experts and the general public on the issue of human trafficking. In terms of current security threats and challenges, activities and analyses were initiated, showing the different positions, needs and interests of women and men under conditions of natural disasters, migrations or extreme radicalism. Certain areas of BiH are especially affected by the migrant crisis (Bihać area), however due to insufficient systemic protection, the brunt of care for migrants is conducted by international and non-governmental organizations.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, no laws have been adopted on a country-wide level to regulate the rights of survivors of wartime rape and torture, and there is no fund for reparations payment using established mechanisms of victim redress. A revised National War Crimes Processing Strategy was adopted in September 2020.

The advancement of cooperation with non-governmental organizations, as well as an intensified regional cooperation on gender issues, are priorities. A Regional Baseline Study was developed with the support of UN Women, including the review of the institutional and legislative framework and policies on gender equality in six countries in the region, covering the period from the introduction of the gender equality issue until today. One of the priority areas of policy analysis is "Gender and Security", that is the Resolution 1325.

