

# Fact Sheet

## Understanding United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

On October 31, 2000 the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution **1325** on Women, Peace and Security.

Resolution **1325** calls for:

- participation of women in peace processes
- gender training in peacekeeping operations
- protection of women and girls and respect for their rights
- gender mainstreaming in the reporting and implementation systems of the United Nations relating to conflict, peace and security

### *Why is a United Nations Security Council Resolution important?*

A Security Council resolution is a commitment made by the United Nations and Member states to take action on specific issues. States are expected to comply and work towards implementation. Women's organizations and peace groups around the world are working to hold governments accountable for the commitments they made in Resolution 1325.

### *Responsibilities of the Supporters of Resolution 1325*

To address these four areas of action, the resolution identifies 18 steps to be taken by the United Nations Secretary General, the Security Council, Member States and all parties to armed conflict.

### *Resolution 1325 calls on the United Nations to:*

- increase women's participation at decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace processes
- appoint more women at senior levels & involve more women in UN field missions as military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian officers
- provide gender training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and needs of women and girls
- carry out a UN study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peacebuilding, the gender dimensions of peace processes and conflict resolution ensure that all civilian personnel of peacekeeping operations receive gender sensitive training

### *Resolution 1325 calls on UN Member States, such as Canada to:*

- increase women's representation at all decision-making levels

- fund and provide support for gender sensitive training and impunity and prosecute those responsible for genocide crimes and gender-based violence
- make HIV/AIDS awareness training programmes available to military and civilian police

### *Resolution 1325 urges parties to armed conflict to:*

- respect international law on the rights and protection of women and girls
- take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence
- pay attention to the needs of women and girls in conflict, peace and security
- adopt measures to support local women's peace initiatives involve women in all stages of peace processes

### *Resolution 1325 - Resources*

To learn more about 1325 please visit the following sites:

1325 Peacewomen E-News

<http://www.peacewomen.org/news/1325News/1325ENewsindex.html>

NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security  
Recommendations for the Secretary General's Study on Women, Girls, Peace and Security

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/ngo/ngostatements/recsSGreport.html>

The Office of Gender Affairs (OGA) for the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC)  
<http://www.monuc.org/gender/>

Women, Peace and Security: Study submitted by the Secretary General pursuant to Security Council resolution 1325 (2000)  
<http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/eWPS.pdf>

Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peacebuilding  
<http://www.unifem.undp.org/resources/assessment/index.html>

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Recommendations for Implementation  
<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/CombinedRecommendations.html>

**Also available in this series:**  
How can we use Resolution 1325?  
Beyond Resolution 1325

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## How can we use Resolution 1325?

The adoption of Resolution 1325 inspired a number of studies, consultations and lobby efforts in Canada and around the world. Here is a sample of activities:

### Resolution 1325 - In Canada

- Canada was on the United Nations Security Council when Resolution 1325 was adopted.
- Canada helped establish the Friends of 1325, a coalition of countries to discuss priorities for the implementation of 1325 and build momentum domestically, regionally and internationally.
- The Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security (CCWPS) brings together parliament, civil society and government officials to promote the domestic implementation of this resolution.
- In October 2002 the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee and the International Development Research Centre co-sponsored a panel discussion on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Accomplishments and Challenges.
- Canada and the United Kingdom developed The Gender Training Initiative: a three-day course for both military and civilian personnel on gender sensitive approaches to peace support operations.
- During 2002, the Human Security Program at the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, held peace and security roundtables such as the Afghan Women's Roundtable. Academics, government officials and members of civil society met to address a variety of issues including the challenges of implementing 1325.
- In 2003, the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee made a submission to DFAIT's foreign policy dialogue.

### Resolution 1325 - Around the World

- **Women's participation in post-conflict reconstruction in Iraq - May 2003** PeaceWomen maintains a regularly updated list on recent civil society, UN and government initiatives to address women's participation in reconstruction in Iraq.
- **Launch of UNIFEM's Independent Assessment November 2002** UNIFEM launched its Independent Experts Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and the Role of Women in Peacebuilding. According to the independent study, if the plight of women in war is to be improved, the UN and member states must make a greater effort to include women in all aspects of peace operations, including crafting peace and reconciliation programs
- **Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security - October 2002** Security Council held an open debate in which representatives from 37 countries addressed a variety of issues related to women and conflict.

#### Also available in this series:

Factsheet: Understanding UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Factsheet: Beyond Resolution 1325

### What can you do to promote Resolution 1325?

Resolution 1325 provides a platform from which individuals, non-government organizations, governments and international institutions can advocate for the inclusion of women in all aspects of conflict peace and security. It is a commitment made by the government of Canada and by governments from around the world. There are ways in which you or your organization can advocate for the implementation of Resolution 1325. Here are few ideas!

#### Generating Awareness: Become Informed!

- Develop materials to use 1325 as an advocacy tool
- Issue press releases about your organization's activities
- Subscribe to 1325 E- News  
<http://www.peacewomen.org/news/1325News/1325ENewsindex.html>
- Monitor the Canadian government's response and participation in conflict zones
- Attend seminars, workshops and conferences related to women, peace and security

#### Influencing Policy and Policy Makers: Ask how Canada has implemented Resolution 1325?

- Learn about Canada's policies and programming in conflict, peace and security by contacting the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca>, the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) <http://www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/index.htm>, the Department of National Defence (DND) <http://www.dnd.ca>, and Citizenship and Immigration Canada (CIC) <http://www.cic.gc.ca>
- Lobby your local Member of Parliament (<http://www.parl.gc.ca>)
- Participate in relevant policy dialogues such as the Canadian Foreign Policy Dialogue
- Contact the House of Commons Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and International Trade and the Sub committee on Human Rights and International Development (<http://www.parl.gc.ca>)
- Lobby the Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights (<http://www.parl.gc.ca>)

#### Building Networks

- Collaborate and coordinate activities with other organizations and individuals
- Become a member of the Gender and Peacebuilding Working Group of the Canadian Peacebuilding Coordinating Committee ([www.peacebuild.ca](http://www.peacebuild.ca))
- Become a member of the Canadian Committee on Women, Peace and Security
- Gather and share information on and experience in women, peace and security
- Join the Women, Peace and Security list serv  
<http://list.web.net/lists/listinfo/women-peace-and-security>