



Breakout Session 2: “Strengthening the Leadership, Inclusion and Visibility of Women in Sustaining Peace Processes”

United Nations Headquarters, New York, 19 November 2018
15:00 - 17:00, Conference Room 12

THEME AND POINTS OF DISCUSSION

The theme of Breakout Session 2 is “*Strengthening the Leadership, Inclusion and Visibility of Women in Sustaining Peace Processes*”.

Date & Venue: 19 November 2018 from 15:00 to 17:00. Conference Room 12, UNHQ

Format: interactive discussion with short presentations from the speakers highlighting good practices on the theme. The last 20 minutes will be dedicated to interventions from the floor.

Points of discussion:

1. ***Changing mind-sets:*** transforming professional and institutional cultures of discrimination and gender bias in all its forms is essential to achieve gender parity. Do you see progress in this area?
2. ***Skills to lead:*** which are the skills women need to contribute meaningful technical and advisory services, tools, and ideas at the decision-making table? Which are the frameworks – institutions, laws, education, contacts, and resources – enabling women to develop and leverage such skills?
3. ***Complementary leadership:*** when it comes to preventing violent extremism, there are countless cases of women in civil society adopting effective nonviolent approaches rooted in cooperation, trust, and access to communities. Women are well placed to detect early warning signals of oncoming violence or radicalization. What is the added value of bringing more women to the table?
4. ***Good practices:*** what are good practices for (1) participation of women in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts; and (2) protection of women and girls’ human rights in countries in conflict or post-conflict situations? And (3) how can inclusiveness of women create an environment that prevents sexual harassment?
5. ***Recommendations:*** what are concrete recommendations and next steps to advance the inclusion and visibility of women in peacebuilding processes?

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the United Nations, Member States, regional organizations and civil society will mark the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security. The lead-up to this milestone, and the anniversary itself provides the opportunity to highlight and appraise progress made so far. Integral to the vision of the United Nations Secretary General on prevention is the inclusion and women’s empowerment in their fullest sense. Since his first day in office, the Secretary-General has taken steps to advance

gender parity at the United Nations. He has committed to integrate gender perspectives in mediation efforts dispatching women leaders as mediation envoys.

In many regions there are positive examples of women promoting dialogue and building trust and coalitions for peace. They bring different perspectives to bear on what peace and security mean and how they can be realized, contributing to a more holistic understanding of peace processes. With their inclusive approaches to preventing violence and conflict, making peace, and rebuilding societies, women consistently help to ensure that peace can be made and last.

Indeed, it is a truism that when women are included in peace processes, peace lasts longer. This includes the signing of peace agreements, and efforts to build equal and fairer societies in post-conflict settings. Since the adoption of resolution 1325, a great amount of progress has been made in recognizing the importance of women's leadership and meaningful participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peacebuilding. However, the number of women in decision-making positions remains relatively small.

The **Breakout Session will showcase the success stories of women who made remarkable achievements** in advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Their rich experiences will shed light on identifying the challenges and building on their successes.

SPEAKERS AND MODERATOR

- Sadhvi Bhagawati Saraswatiji, President, Divine Shakti Foundation; Secretary General, Global Interfaith WASH Alliance; Director, International Yoga Festival
- Rajiv Uttamchandani, President, H.E.R. Academy
- Thandeka Tutu-Gxashe, CEO, Tutu Desk Campaign
- Dr. Jeni Klugman, Managing Director, Georgetown Institute for Women Peace and Security
- Rehmah Kasule, President and Founder, Century Entrepreneurship Development Agency (CEDA) International

Moderator: Louise Kantrow, Former Ambassador to the United Nations for the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC).