TRANSFORMING SECURITY
WOMEN DEFINE SECURITY DIFFERENTLY

KEY FINDINGS FROM WORLD PULSE

"When women have a voice in shaping security, an effective holistic approach is more common, which is necessary to address the non-traditional threats to security that are challenging the security arena.

We need to think differently and put women at the forefront of security leadership if we want a more secure world.

80% of women said they do not feel adequately represented among security actors.

Women See It First

...if policymakers the world over truly care about security, then the voice of women ought to be paid more attention to from the warnings they give at the onset of crises to proposals they bring forth in their different circles on how they and their families can stay out of trouble.

82% said that security discussions in their country don't represent them.

What is Security?

Security is not equal to more guns and police and military.

What Women Want

Institutions that work

Equal participation

Strong democracies

Women do not always want to participate in what can be oppressive structures.

While UNSCR 1325 and a human security approach has been recognised and often reaffirmed, structures and processes are not transformed beyond a militaristic and patriarchal approach; women are not being appointed to committees and engaged in a way that they feel safe and supported to contribute.

Security is not obtained through the use of force but achieved by working for integration, education and by the empowerment of all people.

To learn more about the project and read the full report go to oursecurefuture.org
KEY FINDINGS FROM WOMEN’S ALLIANCE FOR SECURITY LEADERSHIP

"I think their definition of security revolves around violence, military forces. It is different from mine. They define it this way due to a tunnel vision and traditional thinking of the meaning of security."

The normative frameworks for peace and security have become broader embracing women and youth, their participation and inclusion in politics and the economy, and in getting their voices heard. The only challenge now is getting member states to customize and implement the normative frameworks.

"Some policymakers do not recognize that women have a word to say."

Priorities for Women

41% of respondents ranked spread of weapons in their societies as very significant.

59% of respondents ranked concern over extremism based on faith & ethnicity as very significant.

53% of the respondents mention that their views have not been represented in security discussions at the country level.

70% have experienced physical violence and don’t trust that institutions will protect them.

71% disagreed with the security priorities & definitions of state decision-makers.

ABOUT THE PROJECT

The findings in this poll came from two online surveys conducted in the summer and fall of 2018 by the Women’s Alliance for Security Leadership/ICAN and World Pulse. Additionally, two focus groups were held in Jakarta, Indonesia in July 2018. The final survey included both qualitative and quantitative questions in five different languages: English, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Arabic. Most participants completed the English version. Participants were asked questions about how they define security, their security concerns and priorities, and security and representation. Women were recruited to participate through ICAN’s membership network, as well as through World Pulse’s networks and through promotions on social media platforms.

About Our Secure Future:

Our Secure Future: Women Make the Difference (OSF) is a program of One Earth Future, a Colorado-based organization focused on peace through governance. OSF’s mission is to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security movement. We believe women make the crucial difference in achieving peace through governance.

Thank You to Our Partners

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