



WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY 2020 MESSAGE GUIDE

Dear Colleagues,

2020 is a big year for women.

When it comes to Women, Peace and Security we have many advancements to celebrate. It's been 25 years since the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing where our community established and adopted the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. Since that time, 40 percent of member states have adopted National Action Plans to include women at all levels of decision making. 2020 is also the 20th anniversary of the passage of UNSCR 1325. In the United States, 2020 is the Centennial of Women's Suffrage and could bring the passage of the Equal Rights Amendment.

The WPS Community—made up of academic experts, civil society leaders, government officials and private sector partners, among others—has made tremendous progress. However, through our research we have learned that many outside of this concentration are still unfamiliar with the topic. It's not uncommon to hear WPS referred to as an unproven concept, despite extensive concrete evidence of the efficacy of the approach. It is also not uncommon to hear it be discussed as a "Western agenda," despite origins in the developing world and conflict zones. Those who do know about Women, Peace and Security are often unaware of how it intersects with every aspect of national security, and how they can help advance implementation.

Why view the world through the lens of women? Women make up half of the global population and focusing on gender parity helps elevate the need for focusing on diversity in all aspects of our work. In addition, we know that women view security differently. By embracing this reality we broaden our scope as practitioners to include concerns that range from health and personal safety to the environment, economics, technology, and other issues.

To that end, we have developed this Message Guide to help guide our friends and allies in strategies for better implementing WPS priorities as they conduct outreach. To assemble this manual, we have collated input from throughout the WPS Community. Our assessments are by no means exhaustive, but we are confident that the broader trends are reflective of the community's objectives.

We have developed this guide with the intent of providing a road map for government, academic institutions, think tanks, media, and private sector partners to support the objectives of WPS. **Involving women at all levels is not only a human right, but it leads to better security outcomes across all issues.** We share that objective and we welcome you into the conversation in making 2020 a major milestone for women, for human security, and for peace.

Sincerely,

Sahana Dharmapuri

2020 IS A LANDMARK YEAR FOR WOMEN



#GenerationEquality

#GenerationEquality is the UN Effort to mark the landmark year for women in 2020.
[More information here](#)

March 8	International Women's Day	The global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. 2020 hashtag: #EachforEqual More information here
March 9-20	Commission on the Status of Women	The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) is the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women. During the Commission's annual two-week session, representatives of UN Member States, civil society organizations, and UN entities gather at UN headquarters in New York. More information here
May 7-8	Generation Equality Forum	This civil society-centered, multi-stakeholder, global gathering for gender equality will kick off in Mexico City and be connected in real time across the world through interactive satellite sessions to maximize participation. It is a global public conversation for urgent action and accountability for gender equality. #GenerationEquality More information here
June 26	#UN75	The UN Charter was signed on this Day in 1945. The Sustainable Development Goals, including SDG5 on gender equality and empowerment will be highlighted at an event in San Francisco.
July 7-10	Generation Equality Forum	The UN sponsored global convening on gender equality kicked off in May in Mexico City will conclude in Paris.
August 18	Women's Suffrage Centennial	Passed by Congress on June 4, 1919 and ratified on August 18, 2020, the Nineteenth Amendment to the US Constitution guaranteed American women the right to vote. #suffrage #VotesForWomen
September 4-15	Beijing + 25	In 1995, by the report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, governments adopted the Beijing Platform for Action. The Platform identifies 12 "critical areas of concern": poverty, education and training, health, violence, armed conflict, economy, power and decision-making, institutional mechanisms, human rights, media, environment, and the girl child. An event commemorating the Beijing Conference will take place during the 75th UNGA session, which will convene in September 2020.
September 21	The United Nations General Assembly	The beginning of the high-level meetings will begin with the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the organization as well as the 5th Anniversary of the Sustainable Development Goals.
October 11	International Day of the Girl	This day aims to highlight and address the needs and challenges girls face, while promoting girls' empowerment and the fulfillment of their human rights.
October 24	75th Anniversary of UN Charter	In 1945, the UN Charter became active.
October 31	UNSCR 1325 + 20	Adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence in situations of armed conflict. More information here
November 25	International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women	Violence against women continues to be an obstacle to achieving equality, development, peace as well as to the fulfillment of women and girls' human rights. This day begins 16 days of activism that will conclude on December 10, International Human Rights Day. Traditionally, participants in the global campaign are asked to wear orange. #oranjetheworld More information here

Ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment

First introduced in 1923, the Equal Rights Amendment was recently passed by the Virginia Legislature, making it the last state required for ratification. Stating that "equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex," the deadline for states to pass the ERA ended in 1982. Although the future of the ERA is uncertain, it will certainly be part of the conversation in 2020.

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KEY POLICY OBJECTIVES OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

**MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION +
MORE RESOURCES +
BROADER POLITICAL WILL
= BETTER OUTCOMES**

GLOBALLY



- End all forms of discrimination and violence against all women and girls everywhere.
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Support and include women peacebuilders. This includes protecting them from violence and intimidation and funding their work.
- Consult with women's social justice and peace organizations to inform security decision-making.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources and equal access to technology.
- Invest in women's funds for peacebuilding and development.

IN THE US



- Commit to diversity in political appointments and staff at all levels in government and public life.
- Fund and fully implement the US WPS Strategy.
- Include civil society in government decision making in a more meaningful way.
- Implement gender parity strategies in academics, the military, the private sector, media, and all aspects of public life.

HOW DO WE DEFINE SUCCESS?

Twenty-five years after Beijing, how are we doing? And how do we define success? The clearest objective is laid out in Sustainable Development Goal 5: Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls. But what does that mean?

Translating these broad set of objectives into key deliverables we can define clear measures of success:

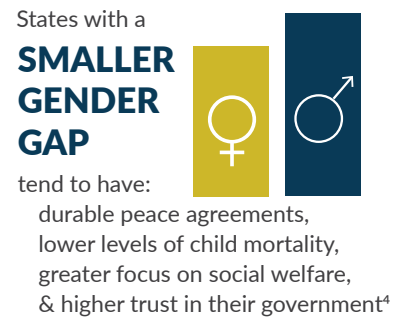
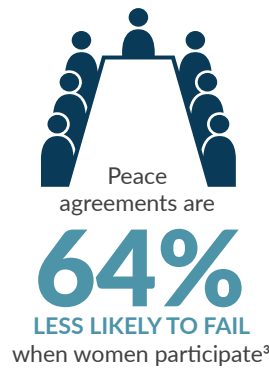
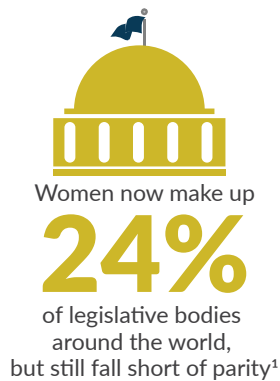
1. Every country in the world adopts a Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan that is fully funded to enable women to achieve parity in governance, the economy, and all other sectors.
2. Women realize parity at all levels in all sectors to include government, education, the private sector, and health to name a few.

3. All nations broaden their definition of security to include transnational and emerging issues such as climate, technology, and the economy to better match the way women view security concerns.
4. Individual personal safety of all people is respected by every nation.
5. All nations champion multilateralism—as well as sovereignty—in approaching global challenges.

This sounds like a radical agenda, but we have proof that the shared experience of women around the world indicates these are the systemic changes that must be made if women are to achieve equality and the world is to achieve peace. Furthermore, stating these objectives clearly empowers women to not settle for minor indications of progress but rather to focus on global change.

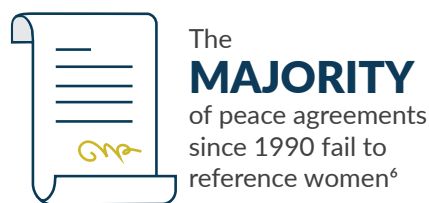
25 YEARS SINCE THE MOST VISIONARY AGENDA FOR EMPOWERING WOMEN WAS CREATED IN BEIJING...

WE'VE MADE PROGRESS...

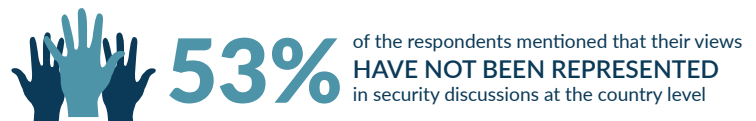
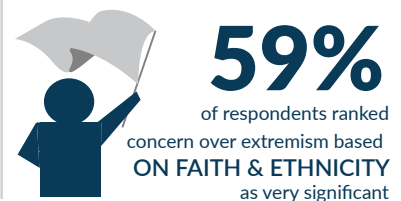
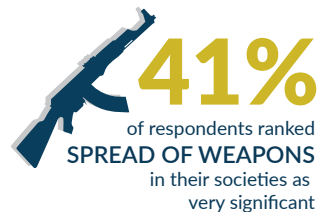


...BUT MORE WORK NEEDS TO BE DONE

At the current rate, it will take



IN A RECENT SURVEY⁸....



1. Sara Atsike, A.W. Geiger, and Alissa Scheller, "The share of women in legislatures around the world is growing, but they are still underrepresented," Pew Research Center.
2. <https://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>
3. Desirée Nilsson. "Anchoring the Peace: Civil Society Actors in Peace Accords and Durable Peace," *International Interactions* 38.2. 31 Jan. 2012.
4. Valerie M. Hudson, Bonnie Ballif-Spanvill, Mary Caprioli, and Chad F. Emmett, *Sex and World Peace*, (New York: Colombia University Press, 2012.)

5. "Mind the 100 Year Gap," World Economic Forum, 2020.
6. "Women's Participation in Peace Processes," Council on Foreign Relations, 2019, p 8-9.
7. "A staggering one-in-three women, experience physical, sexual abuse," UN News, 24 Nov. 2019.
8. Our Secure Future, 2019. [Transforming Security: Women Define Security Differently.](#)

BEST PRACTICES WHEN TALKING ABOUT WOMEN



LIFT UP THE STORIES OF WOMEN

Individual stories resonate and are relatable. When possible, include individual stories in research, panel discussions, and news reporting.



EMBRACE REAL WOMEN, NOT STEREOTYPES

Women aren't victims or heroes. They aren't saints or sinners. Experiences of women are complex and genuine. Sharing these stories strengthens a new representation of women in the world.



WELCOME MEN AS ALLIES

Men want a better world too, and embracing their support will help achieve better outcomes. Panels about women don't need to be all male. Programs supporting women can be run by men.



PRIORITIZE DIVERSITY OF ALL KINDS

Women make up 50 percent of the world and often gender-based data is the easiest to research. Focusing on women should be used to empower all communities and diversity of all kinds and experiences should be celebrated.



EMBRACE A PARTICIPATORY PROCESS

Women want to be heard and they will speak if given the opportunity, but from panel discussions to social media, often women are placed in male-dominated environments. Look for ways for women to participate fully and on equal footing.



SUPPORT WOMEN ONLINE

Women are more likely to face harassment online and in the media than men. Vocal support will increase participation and help create a safe space for women to participate.



MEET PEOPLE WHERE THEY ARE

Not everyone knows what WPS is or understands why including women is critical to our security. Engage audiences by educating and listening.

WHAT YOU CAN DO



ALWAYS DO GENDER ANALYSIS

Socially constructed roles of men and women must be understood in any project or program design and analysis as most roles related to class, age, or ethnicity. Gender analysis has helped address everything from the pay gap to emergency food assistance.



ALWAYS INCLUDE WOMEN

Inviting women to join panels is not enough. They must be included in meetings and asked about in projects. Include women authors in reading lists and female sources in news articles.



LEAD BY EXAMPLE

Creating a culture of inclusion starts with you. Ask women to speak up. Ask your supervisors to implement training. Add gender analysis to a project. See what happens and then tell your story.



CREATE ACCOUNTABILITY

Every organization has the opportunity to improve their approach to gender. Set public standards and metrics to hold your organization accountable.



PROMOTE YOUR WORK

The more conversations, research, and analysis that exists, the better. Sharing your work will provide more evidence for policymakers on how critical this issue is.



KEY MESSAGES ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

From its foundations in the Global South to its adoption by all nations, Women, Peace and Security has prioritized the full participation of women in all aspects of security decision-making.



Full participation of women leads to better security outcomes



Gender impacts every aspect of national security



Though we see signs of progress, gender equality is far from being achieved

CALL TO ACTION

**WHAT WILL YOU DO TO HELP ACHIEVE
GENDER EQUALITY IN 2020?**



OUR SECURE FUTURE

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