

The Initiative for **Inclusive Security**

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

FOREWORD TO THE TOOLKIT UPDATED EDITION

The Initiative for Inclusive Security (formerly Women Waging Peace) is pleased to present an update to *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action*. Since the Toolkit was published with International Alert in 2004 there have been many developments in the world of women, peace and security. Some of these developments reinforce concepts outlined in the Toolkit. In other instances, new ideas have been tested that deserve further documentation. Similarly, some world events have a direct connection to the principles advocated in the Toolkit. Some, such as the election of Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (the first democratically-elected female national leader in Africa) are simply so exciting that they deserve special attention.

In this annex we provide: updates on changes in international, national and regional policies and organisations; very recent examples of women's leadership worldwide and new programs and initiatives developed through women's efforts. These additions augment ideas that have made *Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace* a vital resource for academics, policymakers, NGOs and women leaders around the world.

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CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

KEY INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND LEGAL MECHANISMS: WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN THE CONTEXT OF PEACE AND SECURITY (P. 15)

International policies and legal mechanisms continue to progress in favor of women's inclusion. National governments, multilateral organisations, financial institutions, and regional bodies recognize the importance of women's participation at all levels of peace processes. These policies hold governments accountable for including women in peace processes.

G-8 (p. 19)

- Gender equality was highlighted as a pathway to development and good governance at the 2007 G8 Summit in Germany. Several measures were put forward that focus on the vital role of women, including the empowerment of women through education and economic programs, fighting the rise of HIV/AIDS in women and girls, protecting women's human rights, and working toward the prevention of sexual violence.¹

Southern African Development Community (p. 23)

- The Southern African Development Community (SADC), comprised of 14 member states, endorsed a Gender Protocol in July 2007 that requires governments to promote women's empowerment. The protocol includes implementation of gender equality in areas such as constitutional rights, education, governance, conflict resolution, the media and

employment. As of 2005 three countries in SADC had attained 30 percent participation of women in decision-making structures as outlined in the 1997 SADC Declaration of Gender and Development.²

HUMAN RIGHTS (P. 28)

Women's inclusion in peace and security is increasingly promoted under the larger umbrella of human rights. International policies and legal mechanisms that advance human rights often contain specific language and provisions that address women's empowerment. Multilateral institutions which protect and govern human rights place a special emphasis on the rights of women.

Addressing Human Rights During Conflict: What Laws Exist? (p. 32)

- Over 15 African countries have now ratified the 2003 Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa. The first countries to ratify the protocol were Cape Verde, The Comoros, Djibouti, Gambia, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, South Africa, Benin and Togo. Countries ratifying the protocol commit to combat all forms of discrimination and violence against women.³
- UNIFEM reported in November 2006 that the number of countries with laws addressing domestic violence had increased to 89, up from only 45 in 2003. Funding for initiatives fighting gender-based violence, such as the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against Women, increased dramatically as well. In 2006, the UN Trust Fund supported initiatives with \$4 million, double the 2005 amount.⁴

Addressing Claims and Enforcing Laws: What Mechanisms Exist – International Level (p. 36)

- As of March 2006, 182 countries (over 90 percent of UN member states) are party to CEDAW; 78 of those have adopted CEDAW's Optional Protocol, which outlines a process for filing claims of sexual discrimination.⁵
- In March 2006 the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) replaced the UN Commission on Human Rights. UNHRC has 47 member states and a slightly broader mandate than the Commission. On 28 March 2007, 56 UN member states asked that gender integration be included in the Council's permanent agenda.⁶

ENDNOTES

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- 3 "African Protocol on Rights of Women Enters into Force." UNIFEM News. 26 July 2007 <http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=353>.
- 4 "More Countries Have Laws Banning Domestic Violence, Says UN Women's Rights Official." UNIFEM News. 26 July 2007 <http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=552>.
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- 6 "Petition to the UN Human Rights Council." Human Rights News. 26 July 2007 <<http://hrw.org/english/docs/2007/04/12/global15684.htm>>.

CHAPTER TWO: CONFLICT PREVENTION, RESOLUTION AND RECONSTRUCTION

CONFLICT PREVENTION (p. 1)

Women have traditionally played important roles in conflict prevention and resolution. Today they are expanding those roles, becoming significant arbiters of conflict not just within communities, but between states and warring parties as well. Women in civil society are finding new and creative ways to prevent conflict.

upon to participate in negotiations. Even when excluded from formal negotiations, women are using alternative channels to contribute to negotiations and their outcomes. Gender “units” or “support teams” are often convened in parallel to negotiations and their input fed into the talks by a special representative or member of the negotiating team. This allows for a more inclusive process when formal participation cannot be achieved.

Effective Response (pp.9 – 12)

- **Burma:** The Women’s League of Burma focuses on community reconciliation by facilitating local dialogue. Small group discussions and workshops build trust and understanding among various groups of women, families, communities and political groups. Over 800 women have participated in the League’s “Women as Peace Builders,” program to enhance communication among ethnic groups. The League has received numerous awards for challenging human rights violations in a country known for its repressive military dictatorship.¹
- **Macedonia:** At the University of Skopje, a group of women direct the Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution. The Center fosters reconciliation by training teachers and bringing together educators and researchers to agree on a common history of the Macedonian conflict. This history will assist in the healing process and in preventing future conflict.²

Participants at the Table (pp. 20 – 21)

- **Sudan:** In December 2005 a team of 15 women called the Gender Expert Support Team attended the 7th round table of African Union peace talks regarding the conflict in Sudan. Hailing from three different regions of Darfur, the women have diverse professional backgrounds and worked together to engender the Darfur Peace Agreement.³

Women as Conveners and Catalysts (pp. 24 – 25)

- **Uganda:** The Uganda Women Coalition for Peace is a coalition of non-governmental women’s and human rights organisations pushing for women’s inclusion in the Juba peace talks.
- **Israel/Palestine:** In 2005 a group of Israeli, Palestinian and international women founded the International Women’s Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace (IWC), with the goal of ensuring implementation of UN Security Council (UNSC) Resolution 1325 in all phases of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The IWC’s members are prominent women from

PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND AGREEMENTS (p. 16)

Peace agreements are becoming more gender-sensitive as women are more frequently called

civil society, politics and academia committed to a sustainable and peaceful solution to the conflict. They believe such a solution will not be possible without the active involvement of women from both parties and the international community.

PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS (p. 33)

As peace support operations grow in number and mandate, more international bodies are making efforts to include women in the design and implementation of peace support initiatives. Incidents of peacekeepers engaging in sexual and gender-based violence have spurred policymakers to address gender more thoroughly in training of peacekeepers and to specifically seek female recruits for peace operations. Despite significant strides in this area, the field still lacks a model for the inclusion of women in recruitment and engagement with peace support personnel.

Peace Support Operations and Mandates (p. 34)

- Since 2004 the UN has added the following peace support operations:

Who is Involved in Peace Operations? (p. 35)

- In 2006 the **United Nations** formed the UN Peacebuilding Commission to combine its broad capacity and experience to advise and propose integrated strategies for post-conflict recovery.⁴ The commission was formed as part of a broader push for UN reform, stemming from the failure of the UN to prevent the invasion of Iraq in 2003. The commission will choose four to six countries in which to operate each year.⁵
- In an effort to implement UNSC resolution 1325, the UN established gender units in all multidimensional peacekeeping operations as well as appointing a gender adviser at headquarters. Out of 18 UN peace operations, 10 have full gender advisory capacity. The remaining missions have gender focal points, meaning that otherwise employed full-time mission staff are responsible for gender-related aspects of the mission as well. The UN has also developed resources to aid in gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions.⁶
- As of April 2007, women constitute only 6 percent of police personnel within UN missions⁷ and only 2 percent of UN mission military personnel.⁸

Region	Operation Country	Mandate
Africa	Chad and Central African Republic	To help create security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and displaced persons to Darfur.
	Darfur (joint with the African Union)	To support the implementation of the Darfur Peace Agreement and to protect its personnel and civilians.
	Sudan	To support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement between the Government of Sudan and the Sudan People’s Liberation Movement, and to support humanitarian assistance and protection and promotion of human rights.

The Resources for Peace Support Operations (p. 36)

- Since 2004 the **US Department of State** has awarded DynCorp International several new contracts to recruit and train military and police in countries such as Liberia, Iraq and Afghanistan. The Department of State values the Iraqi contract at over \$1.2 billion.⁹ Two other US contractors, Pacific Architects and Engineers, Inc. (PAE) and Civilian Police International LLC, also provide recruitment and training services for security personnel in Haiti, Liberia, Kosovo and other countries.

Accountability of Peace Support Operations to Local Populations (p. 37)

- In 2005, responding to evidence of grave sexual misconduct by UN forces in the Democratic Republic of Congo and elsewhere, Secretary General Kofi Annan requested a report on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping operations. The report, authored by Jordanian Permanent Representative Prince Zeid Ra'ad Zeid Al-Hussein, was delivered to the General Assembly in March 2005. It called for increased accountability for the UN, troop-contributing countries and individual peacekeepers.

Structures in Peace Support Operations Addressing Gender and Women (pp. 37 – 38)

- **Liberia:** In 2006 the first all-female Formed Police Unit (FPU) of the UN was deployed to Liberia. The policewomen are part of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) in India and were specifically requested after previous forces had difficulties dealing with women and women's issues.¹⁰ Shortly after arriving in Liberia, the FPU's professionalism and

competence earned it the additional duty of providing security to President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf. In 2007 the unit's term was extended from six months to one year.

- **Sudan:** In 2005 the United Nations Security Council passed UNSC Resolution 1590 which specified the need to include women in the process of national reconciliation, and recognized the special needs of women and children combatants in the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration program. This was the first time in the history of UN peacekeeping missions that women's inclusion was part of the mandate of a mission. Partially as a result of this resolution, a Gender Unit was established within the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) to gender mainstream all aspects of the mission. The Gender Unit provides training on gender issues for UNMIS staff, supports the governments and people of Sudan to advance gender equality and is developing a specific gender action plan for Darfur, which will address the high level of gender-based violence.¹¹

***POST-CONFLICT RECONSTRUCTION* (p. 51)**

The key development processes that govern post-conflict reconstruction are also becoming more gender sensitive. The international community is beginning to recognize and fill the need for increased women's participation in the planning and execution of post-conflict reconstruction. By intervening at crucial points in development planning, women are becoming more effective and valued in rebuilding conflict-torn nations.

Who and What is Involved in Post-Conflict Reconstruction? (p. 52)

- **The World Bank:** In 2006 the World Bank established a four-year Gender Action Plan. The

plan targets infrastructure, agriculture, private sector development and finance programs to advance the economic empowerment of women. Institutional gender mainstreaming within the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation is emphasized, as is the importance of funding results-based programs.¹²

UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (p. 55)

- In January 2007 UN Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon proposed splitting the Department of Peacekeeping Operations into a Department of Peace Operations and a Department of Field Support, and creating an Office for Disarmament Affairs to replace the Department for Disarmament Affairs. The General Assembly approved the restructuring, which became effective in mid-2007.

Influencing National Policies and Budgets (p. 63)

- **Liberia:** On 12 February 2007 The Initiative for Inclusive Security, in partnership with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the World Bank, hosted 18 Liberian women government and civil society leaders for a one-day symposium on gender in Washington, DC. The symposium provided an important opportunity to ensure that Liberian women are full partners in their country's reconstruction, and was held in parallel with the World Bank-sponsored Liberia Partners' Forum, a donor conference. As a result, women's groups in Liberia have held extensive consultations to provide input into the Poverty Reduction Strategy, the blueprint for the country's economic development.
- **Sudan:** In 2005, in conjunction with the Oslo donor conference following signing of

the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, the Government of Norway, the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and UNIFEM organized a symposium on women's rights and leadership in post-conflict Sudan. The symposium issued groundbreaking recommendations for increasing women's roles in governance, institutional development, economic policy and social services.¹³

ENDNOTES

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- 2 Ibid.
- 3 "Breakthrough for Women in Abuja: Darfurian Women Participate in Peace Talks." UNIFEM News. 7 August 2007 <http://www.unifem.org/news_events/story_detail.php?StoryID=382>.
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CHAPTER THREE: SECURITY ISSUES

DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION (p. 1)

The international community and individual countries are making efforts to ensure that disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programs take into account the experiences and needs of female ex-combatants and the contributions of women in the communities of reintegrated individuals who are mostly men. Advances in UN policy on DDR are gaining momentum as international bodies recognize the shortcomings of previous programmes and come up with innovative improvements.

Who Designs and Implements DDR? (p. 2)

- **Great Lakes Region:** The Multi-Country Demobilisation and Reintegration Program (MDRP) is a multi-agency effort supporting demobilisation and reintegration in the Great Lakes region in Africa. Following a 2005 consultation on gender and DDR with UNIFEM and female ex-combatants from the region, the MDRP established a gendered approach to DDR. MDRP now takes a gender-sensitive approach to address the specific needs of men, women, boys and girls to continue their efforts of successful reintegration.¹

How is DDR Conducted? (pp. 2 – 4)

- In December 2006 the UN published the *Integrated Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS)*, a comprehensive set of policies, guidelines and procedures covering 24 areas of DDR. The IDDRS consolidate policy guidance on

DDR, providing a United Nations-integrated approach on the planning, management and implementation of DDR processes, and were developed by an inter-agency working group including UNIFEM.²

What is the Impact of DDR on Women? (pp. 4 – 5)

- In May 2006 UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report of lessons learned from UN involvement in DDR processes. Among the lessons learned was a failure to recognize the diversity of people and their roles within armed groups when registering ex-combatants. Women often did not receive DDR assistance packages because they were forcibly recruited or played a support rather than a combat role. When women do receive DDR support, it is usually in the form of a generic benefit bundle more suitable to male ex-combatants. The Secretary-General's report on DDR also raised the need to address sexual and gender-based violence and its convergence with HIV/AIDS in DDR programs. An inter-agency working group was formed as a result of this report, with a mandate to address the issues raised in the report, including attention to gender and DDR, and to establish standards for DDR programs.³
- **Central African Republic:** In July 2005 ex-combatants in the northwestern part of the country began to participate in the DDR program conducted by the United Nations Development Program. In just one month in the capital of Bangui, 733 ex-combatants were demobilised, including 314 women. While success or failure of the DDR effort to accommodate female ex-combatants is not yet known, a regional conference on DDR attended by the Central African Republic decried the lack of knowledge on how to best

support the needs of atypical ex-combatants such as women and children.⁴

- **Colombia:** The DDR process involving the paramilitary United Self Defenses of Colombia (AUC) did not plan for women in the demobilised groups, despite an estimated 7 percent of women in paramilitary ranks. It is yet to be seen if women combatants will bode better in the peace process with the two largest guerrilla groups, the National Liberation Army (ELN) and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), where the number of female combatants is estimated at around 30 percent and up to 40 percent, respectively.
- **Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC):** During a conference on DDR in June 2007 a broad representation of Congolese stakeholders highlighted the treatment of female ex-combatants as a key issue to be addressed in the disarmament process. Over 130,000 ex-combatants have been demobilised thus far in the DRC, of which 2,610 were women. It is estimated that the former figure is only about one-third of total combatants.^{5,6}

SMALL ARMS, LIGHT WEAPONS AND LANDMINES (P. 11)

Although the international community is beginning to change the way it treats the issues of small arms, light weapons and landmines, a gendered approach to these efforts has yet to materialize. Governments and international donors are putting resources into raising awareness of these tools of conflict, but few programmes consider how to specifically target females. Women's civil society organisations are taking an active role in ridding their communities of weapons of war and healing the trauma these weapons have caused.

Recovering Stocks (pp. 16 – 18)

- **DRC:** In the northeastern section of the country, the United Nations Mission in Congo held a ceremony at which over 55,000 munitions were destroyed in May 2007, most handed over by the more than 22,000 adult ex-combatants who disarmed in the area. At least 100,000 arms have been recovered, along with 1,000 landmines. The ceremony was hailed by former fighters as well as the Forum des Mamans de l'Ituri, a platform of local NGOs for women.⁷

Mine Action (pp. 18 – 20)

- **Tajikistan:** Tajikistan has the highest number of landmines in Central Asia, with more than 25,000 square kilometres of land in need of mine clearance. From 1992 to 2007 more than 600 people were killed or injured by landmines. In general, men have left the countryside to search for work, leaving the women and children to cultivate the land and collect firewood, placing them at highest risk for landmine accidents. The country hopes to be mine-free by 2010. The government is undertaking mine awareness education in schools and community centers.⁸
- The **UN** has an inter-agency mine action strategy for the years 2006 to 2010. Included in this strategy are objectives such as reducing deaths and injuries caused by landmines or explosive remnants of war (ERW) by at least 50 percent, mitigating the risk to community livelihoods, expanding freedom of movement, and integrating mine-action needs into national development and reconstruction plans.⁹

Why Should Women Be Involved in Practical Disarmament? (pp. 20 – 21)

- **India:** In the northeastern state of Manipur, over 10,000 people have been killed due to armed violence. The Manipuri Women Gun Survivors Network was established by women to heal the scars that gun violence caused to their community. The Network gives grants to women who are the primary sources of income in their households following the death of their partner during the war. The Network sponsors education and support for children of survivors, and raises awareness of the effects of gun violence in the community.¹⁰

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM (p. 31)

Although international bodies and national governments are beginning to recognise the importance of involving women in security sector reform, strategies remain nascent. Little is known about how to effectively bring women into reform processes, and civil society has yet to significantly mobilise around this issue. Despite these challenges, the number of women in security forces is on the rise, and important international actors are making preliminary efforts to ensure women's inclusion. Documentation and learning from these efforts are critical for real change to occur.

Women in Security Forces (p. 35)

- **Bangladesh:** Since the first deployment of female police officers in peacekeeping operations, other women police have expressed interest and excitement at the possibility of serving in missions abroad. The Bangladeshi government is encouraging women's recruitment and deployment.¹¹
- **Liberia:** The all-female Formed Police Unit from India has been a success, with its initial

six-month deployment extended to a full year. The women are part of India's Central Reserve Police Force and have experience from conflicts in Kashmir and northeast India. The unit has given talks to Liberia's female police cadets and has also conducted drug raids.¹² The head of the unit, Seema Dhundia, reports that its presence has resulted in an increased number of Liberian women volunteering for the national security forces.¹³ That being said, the policewomen are frustrated that they are not being put in situations as challenging as they are accustomed to back home; women's brigades in other countries might face the same unconscious discrimination. This unit will be replaced by another all-women Indian force when their tour is up.

- **Liberia:** Ellen Johnson Sirleaf's administration is pushing for women's inclusion in police and armed forces, setting targets of 20 percent for women's recruitment. The United Nations Mission in Liberia is assisting in this effort through recruitment campaigns for the national police that specifically target women. The Liberian Ministry of Education is offering an accelerated learning program so female police recruits can attain the minimum education requirement for service while completing their regular training regimen.
- The US Department of State's Bureau for International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) held a conference in conjunction with The Initiative for Inclusive Security in June 2007 to address how to better recruit and retain women for international civilian police missions. The conference generated several recommendations, including devising specific incentives for women and rewarding contractors' efforts to recruit women. According to INL officials, the agency implemented several of these recommendations before the end of 2007.

ENDNOTES

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CHAPTER FOUR: JUSTICE, GOVERNANCE AND CIVIL SOCIETY

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE AND RECONCILIATION (P. 1)

Much has been learned about the value of including women in transitional justice mechanisms, particularly from South Africa. Many other national transitional justice bodies and the international donors who support them are committed to ensuring that gender is an integral part of justice and reconciliation.

Who is Involved in Transitional Justice Mechanisms? – At the National Level (pp. 3 – 8)

- **Liberia:** The Liberian Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) was inaugurated in 2006 with the goal of unifying the people of Liberia, healing the country and creating an accurate record of the abuses perpetrated during the civil war. Four of nine commissioners are women. The Commission will document all human rights violations and validate all testimonies, including soliciting statements from the diaspora. The TRC is mandated to give special attention to the most vulnerable groups, including women, children and the elderly.¹
- **Colombia:** In 2005 the Colombian congress passed the controversial Justice and Peace Law (JPL) which regulates the disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration of members of the paramilitary United Self-Defenses of Colombia (AUC). The law also established mechanisms for reparations to victims as well as a limited system of judicial accountability for AUC leaders. Many women's groups work with government, civil society and international institutions to advocate for gender-sensitive implementation of JPL, assisting women through the reparations claim process,

advocating for effective protection for witnesses and victims and participating in sensitisation workshops for judges and prosecutors.

Women as Judges and Commissioners (p. 9)

- **Colombia:** The 2005 Justice and Peace Law established a transitional justice process to address crimes committed by paramilitary groups, while offering reduced sentences to those who confess and forfeit their assets for reparations to victims. The law also created the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation (NCRR), a semi-governmental body that includes civil society and government representatives. In 2006, following intense advocacy from women's groups and from two of the four female commissioners of the 13-member NCRR, a unit on gender and minorities was established to advocate for gender-sensitive implementation of the JPL. Among other achievements, the unit created a set of gender-sensitive criteria for reparations in 2007.

Women as Witnesses (pp. 9 – 10)

- **Colombia:** Under the Justice and Peace Law's transitional justice mechanism, as of October 2007, women filed 90 percent of the criminal claims against paramilitary combatants.

CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND LEGISLATION (P. 16)

Increasingly, constitutions and legislation are protecting and advancing women's rights. Due in part to pressure from civil society and the

international community, national governments are passing legislation and changing constitutions to ensure women's rights are protected and women are included in government structures and decision-making bodies. Women in government leadership positions are also promoting women-friendly legislation.

How Can Women Promote Gender Equality Through Legislation? (pp. 27 – 30)

- **Sierra Leone:** In 2007 Sierra Leone passed the Registration of Customary Marriages and Divorce Act, the Domestic Violence Act and the Devolution of Estates Act, known collectively as the “Gender Bills,” designed to empower women and girls. The Registration of Customary Marriages and Divorce Act protects girls from underage forced marriage and also ensures equal protection to men and women after divorce. The Domestic Violence Act categorizes domestic violence as a crime and provides protection to victims. The Devolution of Estates Act provides women and children with inheritance rights and no longer allows “widow inheritance,” which required widows to marry the eldest brother of the deceased. These three laws continue to move Sierra Leone closer to compliance with international human rights standards.²
- **Chile:** Under the leadership of its first female president, Michele Bachelet, who was elected in January 2006, Chile passed legislation allowing women to breastfeed at work, established domestic violence shelters for women and children and created stiffer penalties for men who fail to pay alimony.³
- **Israel:** The Knesset (or parliament) passed a law in 2005 requiring the inclusion of women in peace negotiation teams and in all domestic, foreign and security policymaking. This was in part due to the diligence of Isha L'Isha's Women Leading Peace project, which strives for the full implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in Israel.⁴
- **Liberia:** A new rape law was passed in 2006 thanks to the diligence of the Association of Female Lawyers in Liberia. The law broadened the definition of rape to include penetration with foreign objects and raised the definition of a child to anyone under the age of 18.
- **Palestinian Authority:** In 2005 the Palestinian National Authority issued a presidential decree supporting women's full participation in all peace-building efforts. The decree specifically encourages Palestinian women to participate in peacemaking through the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace.
- **Rwanda:** In August of 2006 the Forum of Female Rwandan Parliamentarians (FFRP) introduced into parliament a progressive gender-based violence bill. This was the first piece of legislation in Rwanda to originate in the legislative rather than the executive branch. The FFRP included men in all phases of the law-making process, from public consultations in which parliamentarians discussed the issue of gender-based violence, to the introduction of the bill in parliament.

DEMOCRACY AND GOVERNANCE (P. 36)

Women are increasing their numbers in formal government structures around the world, albeit with substantial variation across regions and countries. Post-conflict countries are among those with the highest percentage of women in government, as the transition from violence to stability offers a rare opportunity to boost women's participation. Women also are becoming more effective participants in formal decision making, partially by working together across party lines to advance broad social agendas.

Regional Averages of Women in Parliament⁵

As of 31 July, 2007	Single House or lower House	Upper House or Senate	Both Houses combined
Nordic countries	41.6%	---	41.6%
Europe - OSCE member countries including Nordic countries	21.1%	17.4%	20.3%
Americas	19.4%	17.3%	19.1%
Europe - OSCE member countries excluding Nordic countries	19.0%	17.4%	18.6%
Sub-Saharan Africa	17.0%	20.7%	17.5%
Asia	16.6%	16.5%	16.6%
Pacific	12.6%	31.8%	14.7%
Arab States	9.5%	6.3%	9.0%

Regions are classified by descending order of the percentage of women in the lower or single House

Who Designs and Implements Governance Programmes? (p. 43)

- The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) is increasingly involved in the security and reconstruction of **Afghanistan**. NATO countries often take the lead in their respective areas of responsibility through Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT).

5. Promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction: Value women's knowledge and experience
6. Ensure gender-responsive recovery: Support men and women to build back better
7. Transform government to deliver for women: Include women's issues in the national agenda
8. Develop capacities for social change: Work together to transform society

What International Policies Exist to Advance Women's Participation in Good Governance? (pp. 43 – 44)

- In 2006 the **United Nations Development Program (UNDP)** issued an eight-point agenda to mainstream gender in its post-conflict recovery programmes. The eight points are:
 1. Strengthen women's security in crisis: Stop violence against women
 2. Advance gender justice: Provide justice and security for women
 3. Expand women's citizenship, participation and leadership: Advance women as decision makers
 4. Build peace with and for women: Involve women in all peace processes

How Do Women Contribute to Good Governance? (pp. 44 – 45)

- **Brazil:** The women's caucus in Brazil worked together to introduce a bill on violence against women, using public hearings throughout the country to build broad support for the legislation. The bill became law in August 2006.⁶
- **Chile:** Michelle Bachelet was elected the first female president of the country and assigned an initial cabinet of 50 percent men and 50 percent women. Since then political issues have caused a cabinet reshuffle, resulting in the replacement of two female ministers with men.⁷
- **Colombia:** Female legislators created a women's caucus in July 2006 despite a climate of intense

political opposition. With 16 senators and 17 deputies as of November 2007, the caucus covers a wide political spectrum. Members have made important strides in working together toward the common goal of women's rights and representation.⁸

- **Congo:** The presidential and legislative elections of July 2006 resulted in only 8.4 percent female representation in Congo's lower house and 4.6 percent in its upper house.⁹ Despite the low number of women elected in the legislature of DRC, women were heavily involved in the election process. Four women ran for president and 1,311 women candidates ran for legislative positions, at least two women for every seat. Women also participated extensively as observers, monitors, electoral assistants and witnesses of candidates with a near equal number of women and men working at the polling stations.¹⁰
- **India:** On 21 July 2007 the country elected its first female president, Pratibha Patil. Indira Gandhi was the nation's first female prime minister, a more powerful position (1966-1977; 1980-1984).¹¹
- **Liberia:** In January 2006 Ellen Johnson Sirleaf was inaugurated as the first female president in the nation. She became the first woman head of state in Africa and the second black woman in the world elected as a head of state. She garnered much of her support in the election from women voters, who were mobilised by an extensive network of women's organisations. President Johnson Sirleaf aims to rebuild her country, reconcile its people and promote the leadership of women.¹²
- **Sudan:** In 2007 a national women's caucus was formed within the Government of National Unity. The women's caucus is the only cross-party grouping of parliamentarians in Sudan's assembly.

CIVIL SOCIETY (P. 48)

Women have made significant strides in most societies over the last century, increasingly assuming leadership roles, particularly in civil society. The election of Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Michelle Bachelet as heads of state, and of Angela Merkel as chancellor, are major victories for women in government. Civil society has captured far more women leaders than the government or private sector. As leaders of civil society organisations, women advocate not just for women's rights; their work addresses a wide range of issues, thus translating their unique perspective into advocacy and action.

Women's Solutions and Activities in Conflict-Affected Societies (pp. 56 – 59)

- **Israel/Palestine:** In 2005 a group of Israeli, Palestinian and international women founded the International Women's Commission for a Just and Sustainable Palestinian-Israeli Peace (IWC), with the goal of ensuring implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in all phases of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The IWC's members are prominent women from civil society, politics and academia committed to a sustainable and peaceful solution to the conflict. They believe such a solution will not be possible without the active involvement of women from both parties and the international community.
- **Liberia:** Women's organisations in Liberia coordinate their activities and advocate for a common agenda through the Women's NGO Secretariat, an umbrella organisation for women's groups. This forum gives women's organisations the space to work together across political and ethnic divides, and provides financial and technical support for various national women's groups.

- **West Africa:** The Mano River Peace Network (MARWOPNET) includes Sierra Leone, Liberia and Guinea. MARWOPNET collaborated with the Network of Women Ministers and Parliamentarians (NEWMAP) in Sierra Leone to emphasize the needs of women in their country. They have been specifically working to reduce maternal mortality rates and incidents of gender-based violence, as well as advance women's legal rights and protection from discrimination. As illustrated by the laws recently passed (see above), this collaboration among women in civil society and legislatures is an effective combination.¹³
- **Colombia:** In 2005 Patricia Buriticá Céspedes, president of the Iniciativa de Mujeres por la Paz, was appointed to the National Commission for Reparations and Reconciliation (NCRR). At NCRR she has achieved greater inclusion of women and women's priorities, including the creation of a unit devoted to women and minorities and gender-sensitive criteria for reparations.

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CHAPTER FIVE: PROTECTING VULNERABLE GROUPS

REFUGEES AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS (P. 1)

Women make up the majority of refugees and IDPs and are most vulnerable to further abuses in camps. Early relief operations that provide services to these populations have yet to establish a model to address gender and ensure women have a voice in camp decision-making and in return policies.

Who Provides Protection and Assistance to Refugees and IDPs? (pp. 5-6)

- In 2006 UNHCR provided assistance to 4.5 million refugees (out of 9.9 million), 733,622 recently returned refugees, 5.8 million stateless persons and 12.8 million IDPs. The number of “people of concern” for UNHCR was 32.86 million worldwide. About 49 percent of the refugee population is female. Over 40 percent of refugees are in Asia, 32 percent in Africa, 20 percent in Europe, about 0.5 percent in Latin America and the Caribbean, more than 6 percent in North America and 0.93 percent in Oceania.¹
- The global number of IDPs in 2006 was 12.7 million, with the highest concentration in the following countries: Colombia (3 million), Iraq (1.8 million), Uganda (1.6 million), Sudan (1.3 million) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (1.07 million).²

How Are Women Affected by Displacement? (p. 7)

- **Darfur:** In March 2007 the United Nations Human Rights Council published a report

documenting grave abuses against women, finding that “rape and sexual violence are widespread and systematic.” Numerous reports from international organizations have also decried the use of rape as a weapon of war in Darfur.

SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH, RIGHTS AND SERVICES (P. 18)

Due in part to the increased visibility of gender-based abuses during war and the incidents of sexual violence perpetrated by peacekeepers, the international community is paying more attention to sexual and reproductive health, rights and services. National advocates are working with the international community to find more effective ways of promoting family planning and reproductive rights.

The Vulnerability of Women: Sexual and Gender Based Violence (pp. 21 – 22)

- **Liberia:** Sexual and gender-based violence remains extremely prevalent in Liberia. A 2005 survey of six counties found that almost 75 percent of female respondents had been raped. A new rape law was passed in 2006 as a result of the advocacy of the Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia. The law broadens the definition of rape to include penetration with foreign objects and raises the definition of a child to anyone under the age of 18.³
- **Darfur:** In a report released by the International Rescue Committee (IRC) in August 2006, 200 assaults occurred in a five-week period in a single Darfurian refugee camp. In response, the Women’s Commission for Refugee

Women and Children suggested alternatives for firewood collection, since women are most often targeted when collecting firewood. Their recommendations included disseminating fuel-efficient stoves, developing alternative fuels and organizing firewood patrols.⁴

Key Initiatives to Deliver Reproductive Health, Rights and Services (pp. 26 – 27)

- **Yemen:** Family planning advocates in Yemen significantly lowered maternal mortality rates and increased the use of contraceptives by engaging religious leaders in the promotion of family planning by advancing religious interpretations that favor reproductive rights.⁵

HIV/AIDS (p. 32)

Recognizing that women are disproportionately affected by HIV/AIDS in conflict areas, both government and civil society are customizing HIV/AIDS prevention and treatment programs according to gender.

Gender Differences and HIV (pp. 33 – 34)

- Since 1985 the global proportion of women among adults with HIV/AIDS has risen from 35 percent to 48 percent. There has also been a sharp increase in HIV infection among young women, who now make up more than 60 percent of 15-24 year-olds living with HIV/AIDS.⁶

What Has Been Done at the Local, National, Regional and International Levels to Address HIV/AIDS? (pp. 41 – 42)

- **Brazil:** The Brazilian government, in conjunction with various United Nations agencies, launched an initiative in 2007 to curb the rise of HIV infections in women. With goals of 1) increasing the number of women tested and 2) boosting female condom procurement, the plan comes at a time when HIV infection rates for women have increased by 44 percent from 1996 to 2005.⁷
- **Latin America and the Caribbean:** The First Congress of Latin American and Caribbean HIV-Positive Women, Adolescents and Girls was held in Panama City in October 2006, with 242 delegates from 20 countries. The congress was organized by the International Commission of Women Living with HIV/AIDS Latina (ICW Latina) and several UN agencies. Ten commissions made up the final declaration to the United Nations calling for the fulfillment of the agreements reached by the United Nations General Assembly Special Session on HIV/AIDS in 2001. The event was the first of its kind.⁸
- **Sub-Saharan Africa:** Physicians for Human Rights released a report in May 2007 detailing the concerns related to women's rights and HIV/AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa. Due to their lack of control over sex decision making, discriminatory beliefs and the prevalence of HIV-related stigmas, women have become 75 percent of HIV-positive 15-25 year olds in the region. The report found many women to be in dire economic situations resulting in forced sexual engagement in exchange for food.⁹

CHILDREN'S SECURITY (p. 49)

Although women are often counted among vulnerable groups, they also play an important role in protecting marginalised people, especially children. Civil society organisations are garnering increased support from international organisations who are building child-based programming into development and humanitarian assistance programs. Women legislators work within their governments and with civil society partners to pass child- and family-friendly legislation.

Regional Initiatives (p. 57)

- **West Africa:** The West Africa Network for Peace Building established the Youth and Peace Education Program (YPE) in 2005 to raise awareness of non-violent conflict resolution strategies and strengthen linkages between formal and non-formal education structures in peace education. YPE's activities include a peace poem competition, a dance troupe project and training of peace education curriculum developers.¹⁰

National Actors (p. 57)

- **Colombia:** Senator Gina Parody D'Echeona led the push for the government to investigate and disclose the fate of more than 2,000 children who were irregularly demobilized in 2005 and 2006 without the economic, educational and psychological benefits of the formal demobilisation program.
- **Afghanistan:** Help the Afghan Children has piloted a Peace Education Program within sponsored schools in Afghanistan. The programme establishes centres in schools to train teachers in peace education and creates safe spaces for children to resolve conflict among themselves.¹¹

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