

The Role of Women in Global Security: A Comprehensive Outlook

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Abstract

The concept of International Security has become one of the most crucial aspect of the global politics. These security issues are becoming the matter of concern for the entire global community. Woman as an important part of the global security discourse fetches the attentions from the world. Increasing issues of violence against women in a post-conflict period has critically challenged the women's position in international sphere. The changing dimensions of notion of security and appearing effects have strictly warned the evolving woman security threats all around the world. This paper will try to navigate the role of women in maintaining global security.

Keywords: international security, global community, women security etc.

The emergence of feminist movements in the international security studies have laid the foundation of addressing woman centric security issues, while deviating country's attention from the traditional security aspects of millitry to the crimes against woman in conflict prone areas, even more critically. Despite of women's remarkable contribution for maintaining global security, and yet, still women are missing from the centre of discussions. Where are the voices of women? The voices of those who have suffered and lost so much and yet remain so resilient. In October 2020, the international community celebrated the 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It is a time to take stop and evaluate the progress achieved for women's security. It has been almost 20 years since the adoption of the resolution, but as time has marched by the relevance of 1325 has increased, it is still so very pertinent today.

We have learned that sustainable peace cannot be achieved without women's security and equality. The socio-eco and political treatment of women in any society is a barometer where we can predict other forms of oppression. And, we have acknowledged that, countries where women are empowered are vastly more secure. In a comedy show at the Met in 1984, Robin Williams boldly declared that, if women ruled the world, there would be no more war, just stern negotiations every 28 days but along the same lines, international relations theorist Francis Fukuyama declared that, "the increasing prominence of women in global politics would lead to a world led by wimps, which would be both boring and dangerous." A number of evolutionary theorists of IR suggest that wars are fought because men need access to women with whom to reproduce, and feminist evolutionary theorists argue that women's progress toward gender equality will make the world more peaceful.

Recently, many state militaries have been stepping towards establishing gender equality through increase in women's presence in leadership positions in global politics and with increasing military openness to homosexual, queer, and genderqueer members. We measure the rise in violence through the decrease in women's rights and shrinking spaces for women's voices as a threat to gender equality which bears the potential to create peaceful society. There is a cost to failing to protect women in the context of armed conflict, but also tremendous collective costs we pay as a global community for failing to achieve our goals of building peace, and reconstructing post-conflict societies. The level of activism that women have shown in maintaining regional as well as international security is quite appreciable, and can act as a potential model for other aspiring women group who wants to continue the effective legacy forward.

Women are highly visible when it comes to building street level peace accords, peace villages and promoting a culture of tolerance at the local community level, but they are rarely to be found at the negotiating table, especially at the national and international levels. At the negotiating table, civil society groups mobilised around peace tend to get marginalised and dominated to women's peace activism, particularly gets undervalued and highly ignored. In the case of Somalia and Afghanistan despite the significant mobilisation of women at all levels of struggle, when the time for negotiations came, women were excluded from all the negotiations and political decisions.

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 was a watershed moment in the history of Women securitization, provides the foundation of the international Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda. In the years since the passage of UNSCR 1325 resolution draw attention to gendered impacts of conflict-related violence and advocate for the full participation of women at all stages of peace-making process. This has become the cornerstone of global engagement with gender issues. It calls for gender mainstreaming across all peace and security areas and seeks to challenge the narrow definition of security as defence.

Despite the historical exclusion of women from negotiating tables and security apparatuses, the evidence of women's contributions to conflict prevention and resolution is growing. Several empirical analyses confirm that women offer unique, substantive and measurable contributions to securing and keeping peace. Evidence shows that security efforts are more successful and sustainable when women contribute to prevention and early warning, peace-making, peacekeeping, and post-conflict resolution and rebuilding. A qualitative evaluation of women's influence in recent peace processes notably in Guatemala (1996), Northern Ireland (1998), Liberia (2003), and the Philippines (2014) further illustrates the critical role that women can play in resolving conflict and promoting stability. It is clear that the constituency of women is a key resource for promoting peace and stability.

Women can act as a catalyst in the transformation from conflict to peace. Women can play a prominent leading role in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, and in the restoration of the rule of law, governance and democracy. It is women who serve as the mediators of disputes at the community levels; hold families together in times of conflict; identify and manage resources when there are few and in many cases defend and protect often at great risk. Their bodies carry the scars of violence and the wounds of loss, but still in the face of all adversity and destruction women are resilient. In the part of a larger global trend, the most recent episodes in zones of conflict of weakened states shows an endemic quality to violence against women. From Bosnia to Rwanda, from Syria to Congo, and Iraq to Afghanistan, women and girls have become targets of indescribable brutality in the post-Cold War era, including killings, sexual violence, torture, and forced captivity.

However, concurrent with these troubling trends of victimization, the last several decades have also seen important gains for women in the sphere of international security. Women have become more prominent in leadership roles at the community, state, and international levels, including in non-traditional spheres such as foreign policy and defence, and in places as diverse as Albania, Bangladesh, and Chile. As Sally Armstrong's phrase of "Ascent of women" has also been evident in policy innovations, including UN resolutions on war rape and sexual violence and on women, peace, and security (WPS), reaffirming the important role of women in international security. The rise in prominence of the gender perspective has also challenged alliances like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization to rethink how they engage in military interventions.

In this context, the sixth annual workshop of the organization Women in International Security-Canada (WIS-Canada), held in 2013 at the Canada- focused on the complexity

of the relationships between and among women, violence, and international security. The workshop considered four important aspects of this relationship—women as targets and victims of violence, women as agents of violence, women as scholars and analysts of violence, and women as policymakers and practitioners in the field of international security. Although efforts are made to achieve gender equality and gender mainstreaming within UN peacekeeping

missions, numerous challenges emerge during this process. UN policies generally have limited impact on national institutions, and member-states have been slow in adopting the provisions of “Women, Peace and Security” resolutions.

This has serious implications for peacekeeping missions, as the inability of member-states to comply with certain provisions affects UN actions in the field. This is particularly the case with protection strategies, which can be severely undermined by contingents not prepared to deal with this problem, or unwilling to incorporate gender approaches in their activities. In the light of improving women capacity building, all UN member states needs to tackle such issues with proper consensus and cooperation in the light of creating more significant policies which would confer a sustainable gender equality in the international leadership.

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