



Women, Peace & Security.  
Photo courtesy of UN Photos: Christopher Herwig.

## ■ FACT SHEET

# UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325

With regard to trials of sexual violence as a war crime, crime against humanity, crime associated with genocide, and use in torture, sexual violence has been the “least condemned war crime”.

### Overview

In October 2000 the Security Council of the United Nations (UN Security Council) unanimously passed a resolution (UN Security Council Resolution 1325 or UNSCR 1325) that, for the first time, recognised (a) the impact of conflict on women and girls, (b) their increased vulnerability to sexual violence during conflict and (c) their exclusion from peace agreements/negotiations and post conflict reconstruction despite their significant contributions to resolving conflict, enabling peacebuilding and the maintenance of peace. UNSCR 1325 recognises the importance of women’s experiences of conflict in peace processes and in conflict resolution; looking at women as active participants – rather than simply victims.

Since adopting UNSCR 1325 in 2000, three additional resolutions have been adopted in order to ensure accountability and leadership in addressing the situation of women and girls in conflict. Together they are known as the resolutions on Women, Peace and Security. The following resolutions are intended to strengthen the response and implementation of UNSCR 1325:

Resolution 1820 (2008) - calls for an end to widespread conflict-related sexual violence and for accountability in order to end impunity.

Resolution 1888 (2009) - focuses on strengthening leadership and institutional capacities within the UN and in member states to end conflict-related sexual violence and calls for the appointment of a Special Representative to monitor and report on efforts made and ongoing issues. This position is currently held by Margot Wallström.

Resolution 1889 (2009) – calls for the establishment of global indicators to measure progress on UNSCR 1325 implementation.

Together, the resolutions on Women Peace and Security focus is on the 4 “P”s

- Prevention of conflict;
- Protection of women and girls during conflict; and
- Participation of women in:
  - peacekeeping
  - peacemaking
  - peacebuilding
  - political decision-making
- Prosecution of gender-based war crimes



International Women's Day Observed in Liberia. Photo courtesy of UN Photos: Eric Kanalstein.

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**'It is very difficult to progress gender equality and the empowerment of women in communities affected by conflict'. Stephen Smith, Past Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Women's Day, 9 March 2010**

### Why is UNSCR 1325 and the related resolutions relevant to Australia?

**'It is very difficult to progress gender equality and the empowerment of women in communities affected by conflict'. Stephen Smith, Past Minister for Foreign Affairs, International Women's Day, 9 March 2010**

- Over three quarters of Australia's bilateral aid programs operate in countries that are experiencing, recovering from or vulnerable to conflict.
- Australia has been a long-standing supporter of United Nations (UN), and other multilateral peacekeeping and peace-related operations ranking 12th highest of all UN Members in terms of financial contributions to UN peacekeeping operations. Australia is strategically placed to ensure that gender equality and women rights are integrated into all conflict resolution and post conflict reconstruction initiatives.
- Working to implement UNSCR 1325 and associated resolutions will ensure that Australia meets its obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International

Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention against Torture (CAT).

- Finally, it greatly enhances our work towards achieving targets set under the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

### How can Australia effectively implement UNSCR 1325?

At the national level:

- Develop and adopt a National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 using a participatory, transparent process that involves political leadership from all relevant government agencies with civil society. Ensure that there are clear targets, indicators (quantitative and qualitative) to measure progress and clearly identify responsibility within a whole of government approach.
- Integrate National Action Plan's into domestic law and legal systems and other relevant national policies, particularly national security plans, existing planning frameworks such as Poverty Reduction Strategies, gender and development plans, and peacebuilding plans.
- Develop systems for monitoring and accurately assessing the plans implementation with lines of accountability.

- Ensure that the national action plans hold private sector actors including outside contractors accountable to UNSCR 1325 standards, in line with broad principles of corporate social responsibility.

At the regional level

- Australia should use its strategic position in the Pacific Islands Forum to encourage government partnership ("twin") with one or more other countries towards development and implementation of 1325 National Action Plans with financial and technical resources provided to support this.

At the international level

- Advocate for creating a United Nations High-level Steering Committee on Women, Peace and Security to bring greater visibility and coherence to UN SCR 1325 within the UN system.

### References and Other useful links:

[www.saynotoviolence.org/make-women-count-for-peace](http://www.saynotoviolence.org/make-women-count-for-peace)

[www.realizingrights.org/?option=content&task=view&id=407](http://www.realizingrights.org/?option=content&task=view&id=407)

[www.peacewomen.org/](http://www.peacewomen.org/)

[www.1325australia.org.au/](http://www.1325australia.org.au/)

[www.genderequalityonline.org.au](http://www.genderequalityonline.org.au)