

Facts about United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

What is a Security Council Resolution?

A resolution is an agreement among UN member states on how to act on a particular issue. When a resolution has been adopted it means that the issue will be added to the UN agenda and that member¹ states are bound to comply with it. Citizens have a right to demand that their governments, or other state's governments, comply with the resolution. A Security Council resolution is legally binding for all member states who have an obligation to report on how they are fulfilling the requirements of the resolution.

What is UNSCR 1325?

On October 31, 2000 the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1325 during its 4231st meeting. This was a milestone in the evolution of international women's rights and in the area of women, peace and security. The

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 is the first formal and legal document from the Security Council that requires parties in conflict to respect women's and girls' needs during their participation in peace negotiations and post conflict reconstruction. The resolution also emphasizes women's and girls protection both during and after armed conflict.

UNSCR 1325 did not emerge in a vacuum. It was the outcome of a concerted effort by international women's organizations and grassroots networks, working in partnership with supportive governments and UN entities. It was also the result of important commitments made during a series of UN conferences in the 1990s, stressing the need for the international community to embrace principles of human rights, diversity, good governance and participation when responding to situations of insecurity and violent conflict. UNSCR 1325 drew on the energy of this movement and built on the strengths of previous policy instruments.

¹ The United Nations has 192 member states, of which Nepal is one.

Why is UNSCR 1325 important?

- ▶ It is the most important commitment made by the global community through the UN's most powerful decision making body, the Security Council, with regard to women's participation in the maintenance of peace and security.
- ▶ As a Security Council Resolution, it is an international law and member states are obliged to comply with it. As Nepal is a member of the United Nations, it also needs to comply and work towards its implementation.
- ▶ It officially endorses the inclusion of women in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements
- ▶ It is the only resolution that focuses on the specific needs of women and girls both during and after armed conflict.
- ▶ It spells out actions all relevant stakeholders, including governments, the United Nations, civil society, police and judiciary, are obliged to implement in order to ensure the participation of women in peace processes and improve the protection of women and girls in conflict zones.
- ▶ This makes UNSCR 1325 a powerful advocacy tool for all stakeholders, from governments to grassroots civil society members, in order to hold accountable national governments for the implementation of policies and programming related to the meaningful participation and protection of women and girls.

Key Commitments in UNSCR 1325

The resolution calls upon the Security Council, the UN Secretary General, member states and

all other parties (non-state actors, militias, humanitarian agencies and civil society) to take action in four interrelated areas.

1. Participation of Women in Decision-Making and Peace Processes

- ▶ Member States to increase the representation of women at all decision-making levels in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. In Nepal this would be in line with the declaration passed by the House of Representatives in June 2006, articulating for 33% representation of women in all decision making bodies.
- ▶ UN Secretary General to appoint more women as Special Representatives and Envoys.
- ▶ Expand the role and contribution of women in UN field based operations, especially among military observers, civilian police, human rights and humanitarian personnel.
- ▶ Support local women's peace initiatives and indigenous processes for conflict resolution and involve women in all of the implementation mechanisms of the peace agreements. In Nepal, no women were involved in drafting the 2006 peace agreement. Only 4 out of 16 members in the Nepal interim constitution drafting committee were women.

2. Gender Perspective and Training in Peacekeeping

- ▶ Member states to increase their voluntary financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts.
- ▶ The Security Council should ensure that its missions take into account gender

considerations and the rights of women, including through consultation with local and international women's groups. .

- ▶ The Secretary General to provide to Member States training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women as well as on the importance of involving women in all peacekeeping and peace building
- ▶ The Security Council to incorporate a gender perspective into all peacekeeping operations
- ▶ Establish gender units at all senior levels.
- ▶ Gender training of all peacekeeping personnel.

3. The Protection of Women and Girls

The Resolution calls on all actors involved in negotiating and implementing peace agreements to adopt a gender perspective including:

- ▶ During repatriation and resettlement and for rehabilitation, reintegration and post conflict reconstruction and in the context of disarmament demobilization and reintegration. In Nepal, this refers to, for example, Maoist female ex-combatants receiving equal reintegration benefits to their male counterparts.
- ▶ The protection of and respect for human rights as they relate to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary. In Nepal's current context, this refers to a reflection of respect for human rights, e.g. in the interim constitution, the electoral act, the constituent assembly and the truth and reconciliation commission.
- ▶ All parties in conflict to protect women and girls from gender-based violence,

particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, and all other forms of violence in situations of armed conflict.

- ▶ Respect the civilian and humanitarian character of refugee camps and settlements, and to take into account the particular needs of women and girls, including in their design. In Nepal this can refer to the Bhutanese refugee camps.
- ▶ All states adopt special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence and other forms of sexual violence in situation of armed conflict.
- ▶ All states take responsibility for putting an end to impunity, including for those responsible for committing sexual violence and other violence against women and girls. In Nepal, this could refer to integrating gender perspectives into the truth and reconciliation commission, e.g. holding special women's hearings, which allow them to open up about sensitive issues such as sexual and gender based violence.
- ▶ Consideration to be provided to the different needs of female and male ex-combatants. Approximately 30-40% of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) in Nepal is female. After the first phase of weapons verification conducted by the UN, it is stated that only 19% of the PLA combatants are female, however, it is well known from other countries that female fighters often do not come forward during weapons verification.²
- ▶ 1325 also refers to women's needs during rehabilitation and resettlement. In Nepal this means that the needs of people who have been displaced by the conflict must be taken into account. Attention must be paid to the challenges of returning to their

² *Male fighters may put male counterparts forward in order to get higher reintegration benefits. Female fighters may be pregnant or may have left cantonment sites, and, therefore, have not come forward during the verification process.*

homes and resettlement in new areas. For widows, female-headed households, younger girls and single women there can be very serious security and livelihood threats.

4. Gender Mainstreaming in UN Reporting and Implementation Mechanisms

- ▶ The Secretary General to carry out a study on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-
- ▶ building and the gender dimensions of peace processes.
- ▶ The Secretary General to report on progress in gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions and other related areas to the Security Council.
- ▶ The integration of gender considerations and the rights of women in Security Council missions.
- ▶ Security Council members to consult with women's groups and organizations while on mission.

References:

Inclusive Security Sustainable Peace A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action: International Alert & Women Waging Peace, 2004
Information Booklet on UNSCR 1325 (Nepali Text), UNIFEM & Shanti Malika, 2007
Security Council 1325, Annotated and Explained, UNIFEM

Women's Participation in Peace Building Processes

Participation Perspective

UNSCR 1325 lays specific emphasis on the participation of women in all processes of conflict mitigation and peace building. In relation to the participation of women, this information kit focuses on the Constituent Assembly Elections.

Women make up more than half of the world's population and, often, the majority in war affected societies. From a democratic perspective, it should be self evident that women's proportionate participation should be ensured in all nation building processes. Peace negotiations are the first step towards a post-conflict society and women need to be part of the process in shaping their country's future. However, the typical universal perception towards women's roles during conflict is that men are involved in the fighting, while women take care of the family's survival. Women and girls are, therefore, often perceived as passive victims of war. Consequently, when governments design programmes and policies for post-conflict transition and beyond, they rarely seek out and consult women – often because they do not know about women's different roles during the conflict: as head of the household, as a fighter, as an activist, as a survivor, as a healer, as a mediator, etc.

During Nepal's conflict women have worked in the frontline of conflict and have held numerous roles – mobilizing individually and collectively to address the urgent needs of conflict affected populations during the armed fighting. Yet after the cessation of open armed conflict, the work of these women remains invisible. UNSCR 1325 both articulates and recognizes the different contributions that women and men can make to building peace and the need to draw on all of society's resources to engage in this work.

Where were women during Nepal's war and the Peoples' Movement?

- ▶ Women were in the frontline of the battlefield as it has been estimated that around 30-40% of armed Maoist fighters were women. In the Nepal Army, there are 1053 women out of nearly 900000. The majority of them are medics and legal affairs officers.

- ▶ Many women achieved martyrdom during the armed conflict as well as the peaceful people's movement.
- ▶ A large number of women and girls were subjected to torture, rape and other forms of sexual violence and many were also deprived from basic and natural rights such as education, health, marriage and reproductive rights.
- ▶ In the midst of acute crisis, women at the community, as well as central level, were found addressing immediate healthcare issues and working for survivors of violence. Some of the work that women's NGOs undertook was providing shelter to conflict affected women and children, empowering young women vulnerable to sexual exploitation, through skill training and job placement to both displaced youth and women.
- ▶ When men and youth fled villages, many women single-handedly led households and risked their lives negotiating with armed actors for survival. According to a national study on "Changing Roles of Nepali Women due to Ongoing Conflict" conducted by Samanata in 2005, 90 % of the respondents felt that due to the absence of men, women had to bear additional responsibilities.
- ▶ Many women crossed borders with their communities, and worked in refugee camps to trace the missing and to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of the violence.
- ▶ Significant number of women participated in the peaceful people's movement of 2006. They even organized protest programs such as rallies and processions against

the armed conflict. Even during the conflict, women's groups lobbied consistently for legal reform such as the domestic violence bill, women's citizenship rights, 33 % participation at all decision making levels and strengthening of national women's machineries.

Where were women during the peace processes?

- ▶ The 12 point understanding between the Maoists and the 7 political parties was signed in New Delhi in November 2005. But there was no participation of women in this milestone historical event for peace.
- ▶ There was no women's participation when the 25 points Code of Conduct was issued jointly by the government and the Maoists in May 2005. However one woman was included in the monitoring of the Code of Conduct.
- ▶ There were no women signatories or women's participation in decision making roles when the seven political parties and the Maoists signed another 8 point understanding in June 2006.
- ▶ In November 2006, there was a decisive peace agreement among the top leaders of the seven political parties and the Maoists. Here, too, women's participation was not considered important.
- ▶ The armed insurgency ended with the official declaration in December 2006, after the Nepal government and the CPN Maoist agreed to a detailed peace agreement. There was no direct participation of women even in this process. The issue of women's and children's'

Where are the women in the parliament and the government?

- ▶ The parliament which was reinstated as an outcome of the people's movement passed the declaration that 33% of the seats in all levels of the state were to be represented by women. The declaration was positive, but it has not yet been implemented.
- ▶ The House of Representatives with 205 members was restructured as a Legislative Assembly with 325 members. However the percentage of women representatives is less than half of the total 33% committed by the parliament. (Only 58 women from a total of 329 members, which amounts to 17.6% of the total.)
- ▶ Women's representation was only 10% (only three ministers) in the 24 member interim cabinet
- ▶ The government's ministerial level negotiation talk teams formed to find solutions to other movements which emerged during the transitional phase comprised of only male members. The Ministry of Peace and Reconstruction is being led by a man and the majority at the decision making level in the ministry also constitute of men.
- ▶ The Constituent Assembly Member Election Act 2007, the Elections Commission Directives and the Code of Conduct mention the need for women's participation.

rights was raised as a theme in only one point of the agreement and in other cases, their issues were raised partially and only in relation to other themes.

- ▶ Nepal's interim constitution was drafted in January 2007. It was only after protests that women's participation was included in the drafting committee. Four women were included in a 16 member team.

Why a new Constitution? What is a Constituent Assembly?

- ▶ The creation of a new constitution is the most important step while evolving from an absolute regime or state of armed conflict into a democratic one.

- ▶ A constitution and a legislative system are fundamental pillars for a legal system of governance.
- ▶ A constituent assembly is the most effective process while making a new constitution by the people. Direct involvement by the people, direct participation in the process and decision making role of the people ensures an agreement based on majority. It is the most democratic means for constitution building.
- ▶ The constituent assembly process ensures direct people's participation in the drafting of the country's constitution. It provides the opportunity for down-trodden, marginalized groups, including women, to take part in the making of the constitution and enhances their ownership towards it.

Provision in the Constituent Assembly Elections for Women's Participation

- ▶ Women's participation has been clearly stated as a prerequisite in all processes of Constitution Drafting for gender equality and addressing women's concerns in the Constituent Assembly Election Act.
- ▶ There will be two systems for the election. First-past-the-post race in 240 single-member constituencies, 240 seats through proportional representation with country as one single constituency and 17 members will be appointed by the Government totaling the number of members to 497.
- ▶ In regard to the proportional representation the closed electoral list should have 50% of women candidates. It is thus envisaged that the total number of women winning the elections for Constituent Assembly including through both the systems will be at least 33 %.

What should Nepal Government do to increase women's participation in all peace building processes in line with UNSCR 1325?

- ▶ Appoint significant number of women to all government levels and special committees and task forces relating to prevention, resolution of conflict and reconstruction.
- ▶ Recommend women candidates for UN posts and envoys and ambassadors.
- ▶ Train security forces and peacekeeping forces on the protection, rights and the particular needs of women as well as the importance of involving women in all peace keeping and peace building measures.
- ▶ Incorporate gender perspective while negotiating and implementing peace agreements
- ▶ Create a system that ensures the protection of and respect for human rights of women and children in relation to the constitution, the electoral system, the police and the judiciary
- ▶ Hold special women's hearings for Nepal's truth and reconciliation commission
- ▶ Make all parties to armed conflict fully respect, international law applicable to the rights and protection of women and children as civilians.
- ▶ Develop national action plan on UNSCR 1325 and its implementation
- ▶ Put an end to impunity in regard to crimes related to women and children, particularly sexual violence, from amnesty provisions.

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Election Commission Act, 2063 (2007), Election Commission, Nepal
Interim Constitution of Nepal, 2007

Inclusive Security Sustainable Peace A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action: International Alert & Women Waging Peace, 2004
Security Council 1325, Annotated and Explained, UNIFEM

Transitional Justice and Reconciliation

Protection Perspective

Another major focus area of UNSCR 1325 is the protection of women during and after conflict. In relation to the protection of women, this information kit mainly focuses on transitional justice.

What is Transitional Justice?

Transitional justice is a conception of justice associated with periods of political change, characterized by legal responses to confront the wrongdoings of repressive predecessor regimes. This includes prosecutions or civil lawsuits, amnesty, truth commissions, lustration or cleansing of security forces, formal reparations programs and state-sponsored commemoration provisions. Transitional justice refers to the short-term and, often, temporary judicial and non-judicial mechanisms and processes that address the legacy of human rights abuses and violence during a society's transition away from conflict or authoritarian rule.

What are the Goals of Transitional Justice?

- To address and attempt to heal, divisions in society that arise as a result of human rights violations
- To bring closure and heal the wounds of individuals and society, particularly through "truth telling"

- To provide justice to victims and accountability for perpetrators and maintain accurate historical record
- To obliterate crisis of confidence between the state and the citizenry and reform institutions to promote rule of law and human rights
- To ensure non-repetition of human rights violations and promote co-existence and lasting peace

How is Gender-Based Crime understood internationally?

Gender-based crimes are often underrepresented in international tribunals. Most acts of violence against women are never investigated, and perpetrators commit their crimes safe in the knowledge that they will never face arrest, prosecution or punishment. Impunity contributes to a climate where such acts are seen as normal and acceptable rather than criminal, and where women do not seek justice because they know they will not receive it. Nepal also witnessed similar occurrences in the last decade, as both warring parties committed massive breaches

of international humanitarian law. The four Geneva Conventions-1949 and two additional protocols-1977, recognize women's special needs for protection in conflict situations in the following ways:

- ▶ Distinguish sexual violence as a “grave breach” of the Fourth Geneva Convention; and
- ▶ Establish sexual violence, including rape (rape constitutes torture), as a grave breach of international humanitarian law- popularly known as rules of engagement.

How is women's voice incorporated in Truth Commissions?

Women generally tend to focus their testimony on their husbands, children and other loved ones, rather than on their own experiences. As a result, their own stories are overshadowed. The South African Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) indicates that in many cases women intentionally came to the TRC to tell the story of their loved ones, as a strategy to generate empathy and compassion

How are women protected in Nepal?

Given the collapse of the legal system in many post conflict states, justice mechanisms are most likely to fail to protect women at the national level. In Nepal's context, facts and figures demonstrate that sentences on rape and sexual violence are often minimal. Evidence is nearly impossible to collect, and in some cases, amnesty is granted. Even in peacetime situations, women are often discriminated against by court systems that are influenced by customary or religious norms and laws. Women often face public humiliation and their testimonies are not well-respected. There is ample evidence to indicate that the legal and administrative system in Nepal offers limited protection for women witnesses. There is still no legislation related to domestic violence. However, a technical committee has been formed by the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Welfare, with the inclusion of members from the civil society, to redraft the Bill.

Even when women are willing to come forward, they are often faced with having to relive their worst experiences without having the opportunity to fully tell their plights and pains. Women were never consulted during the past ceasefire dialogues nor brought to any negotiation table. Women are neither considered as key stakeholders in the ongoing peace process, nor in any other transitional endeavors such as arms management and transitional justice mechanism.

with members of both sides of the conflict. In an attempt to make it easier for women to be heard, a special women's hearing was convened. Ironically, the Salvadoran TRC in 1993 did not include reports of rape at all in its final report because they were seen as outside of its mandate to report on "politically-motivated acts." In Guatemala, sexual violence was included in the TRC report as part of the section on torture.

In Nepal, women victims often face a difficult choice since disclosure of sexual assault is risky and can result in estrangement from their family, mistreatment of their children and social exclusion. However, if crimes are not reported, women may be ineligible for reparations. The proposed TRC in the Comprehensive Peace Agreement lacks specific provision for women's mandatory involvement in the process as stipulated in UNSCR 1325. The recently formed TRC drafting committee is in the process of preparing an Act. The committee has 3 members out of which one is a woman. The proposed Commission has a mandate to investigate events surrounding the commission of gross violations of human rights and crimes against humanity but the Act does not contain any definition of these crimes. It does not make any reference of women's experiences and also does not state any recognition of gender based violence. There has hardly been any consultation among women's groups or other civil society institutions regarding the mandate and scope of the Act. Women are therefore less likely to be provided leadership positions while designing the TRC. However some initiatives have been taken by the civil society Accountability Watch Committee and National Human Rights Commission. Task forces have been formed to review the Bill and provide amendments and recommendations to the Government. Consultations are being held in this regard.

How are women treated in Reparations and Reconciliation?

Reparations and reconciliations are generally misunderstood as building and rebuilding of physical infrastructure and blood money compensation. Policies and procedures are often gender-blind, not recognizing the different needs and concerns of men and women. This can leave women without adequate compensation, as was the case in **South Africa**, where the reparations policy was initially formulated without regard for gender (it was later corrected through a Special Hearing). In **East Timor**, the Gender Affairs Unit of the UN mission convened 500 women in 2000 to recommend policies also on reparations for women victims of violence during the conflict.

In **Nepal**, as a post conflict reconstruction and reconciliatory approach, a "Peace and Reconstruction Commission" is proposed and a "Peace Trust Fund" has been established. The Peace and Reconstruction Ministry is responsible in dealing with reparation and reconciliation. The new draft TRC bill has a provision to offer amnesty even to serious human rights violation and crimes against humanity which also includes rape and sexual violence. Regrettably, such provision is in total non-compliance with various international practices of truth and reconciliation, human rights standards and humanitarian principles. Additionally, gender sensitive reparation policies, are not reflected in these initiatives. There is hardly any debate concerning women's specific roles and need in reparations and reconciliation efforts. In the latest development, the new budget for the fiscal year 2064-2065 BS has emphasized to support the highly-affected women due to conflict in 10 districts. A vocational training

package is envisioned for martyrs' families, wounded and the disabled as well as women and conflict affected persons as a reparation measure. Similarly, a rehabilitation, social reintegration, security and treatment program is envisioned for single women, disabled and internally displaced women.

How does amnesty impact women?

Since women are the hardest-hit by war-time atrocities, a decision to grant amnesty has particular impact on women. The decision to 'forgive' violence against women obstructs justice and opportunities for recuperation for the victim. Granting amnesty also may minimize the issue of sexual violence in the eyes of the population, allowing it to be set aside as an individual act or a private concern. In South Africa, crimes of a sexual nature were eligible for amnesty if they were proven to be politically motivated. This can be very difficult for women seeking justice, as the lines between political and personal motivation are blurred and difficult to prove. In Nepal, accountability towards women's rights violation is an important missing link. Due to rampant impunity, violence against women often goes unrecorded and there are hardly any instances where the perpetrators of gender-based violence during conflict have been brought to justice. The Council of Ministers enjoys prerogative for clemency in the Interim Constitution which may further foster culture of impunity and jeopardize the efforts of women in quest of justice and reconciliation in the post-conflict era.

How do women contribute to Transitional Justice?

a) **Women as Leaders:** On an international level, over 300 organizations supported the work of the Women's Caucus for Gender Justice during the design of the International Criminal Court and its statutes which led to several advances in international law on issues of transitional justice and women including:

- Guaranteed witness protection, support and counseling through the establishment of a Victim and Witnesses Unit;
- A mandate that judges have expertise on specific issues, including violence against women with a fair representation of men and women among judges; and
- A more far-reaching condition whereby states that ratify the Statute "amend their national law and adopt new legislation, if necessary, to ensure conformity with the Statute's provisions."

In East Timor's TRC, women's groups have been involved in public dialogues regarding the various options for transitional justice. In the design of Rwanda's transitional justice mechanisms, women parliamentarians played a vital role in moving rape from a "category four," low-level offence to the most serious "category one" level. In Nepal, the Interim Constitution has embodied provision to ensure women's participation in the Constituent Assembly election through proportionate representation. Several women's groups are striving for securing women's space and leadership role in the transitional endeavor.

- b) **Women as Jurors:** In 2003, seven of the eighteen judges elected to the ICC were women, a milestone in terms of the number of women serving on any international tribunal. Five of the fifteen commissioners in South Africa's TRC were women. The UN International Commission of Inquiry for East Timor and the Sri Lankan Commission on the Western and Southern Provinces are headed by women. In Nepal, involvement of women as commissioners in the TRC and other peace initiatives is a long-cherished demand. This is especially important regarding the long absence of officials in the Women's Commission.
- c) **Women as Witnesses:** As victims of direct and circuitous onslaught, women are also important witnesses, providing information about crimes committed against them and family members to TRCs. In South Africa's TRC, 52.9 percent of witnesses were women. It was accepted that mothers could speak and cry on behalf of their children, whereas men were not as comfortable showing emotions publicly. Many Bosnian women who were raped were afraid to testify out of fear that they would never be able to marry, that they would be shamed by society or that their attackers might seek revenge. After demanding protection before, during and after the trial, some women did come forward despite the risks. In Nepal, in the absence of a witness protection act, women fear to come forward with eyewitness accounts of the atrocities. Thus, the TRC act is expected to incorporate provisions to ensure women's protection-both as victims and witnesses.
- d) **Women as Violators:** Increasingly, women also have been perpetrators in the conflict, though generally on a far lesser scale than men. In Rwanda, approximately 3,000 women (out of more than 100,000 people accused nationwide) are awaiting or have been tried as perpetrators of genocide. In Sri Lanka, a sizable number of LTTE fighters are women. In Nepal, according to a crude estimate, more than one third of the PLA combatants are women. Many of them have been reportedly involved in committing activities in violation of the rules of engagement.
- e) **Women as Conscience-keepers:** Globally, women have been instrumental to initiate and support transitional justice processes and have often organized and advocated for their creation. Women possess arms to fight and arms to protect. Women are the best brigadiers of peace and reconciliation in the war-torn community. In Cambodia, a network of 62 women's organizations has worked with the women's ministry to draft a domestic violence law that remains in limbo before the National Assembly. Nepali women's initiatives are mainly focused on the proportionate inclusion of women in civil and political affairs and other state machineries during transition and beyond. Women's rights groups and media have adequately highlighted women's stories during and post conflict period. The "Accountability Watch Committee," a civil society initiative, has been initiated with women's direct involvement to advance the cause of accountability, impunity and justice. Organized advocacy to secure

women's space in transitional initiatives, such as women's inclusive coalitions, for both the participation in and monitoring of the constituent assembly election are some of the latest initiatives. Addressing the plight of single women, survivors of violence and trafficking, IDPs, refugees and returnees is vital to ensure gender justice during conflict, transition and beyond.

How can women become instrumental in reconciliation in Nepal's context?

- ▶ By demanding that women are meaningfully and proportionately involved in the design and proceedings of the proposed TRC.
- ▶ By persuading judges, prosecutors, advocates and commissioners to incorporate women's concerns with regard to transitional justice mechanisms.
- ▶ By engaging with the media to disseminate information in order to inform the public of the importance of transitional justice and the critical role of women in these processes.
- ▶ By providing testimony including direct personal experiences as well as those of friends and family members.
- ▶ By enabling women to come forward to voice their experience and treating them with respect to address the trauma and social stigma in their communities.
- ▶ By designing a gender specific model of reparations to ensure social justice for victims and guaranteeing that there is access to skill, education, care etc. for themselves and their families.
- ▶ By adopting an appropriate reintegration and reorganization program taking into consideration for special needs of women in the process of reintegration.
- ▶ By launching strategic litigation for the adoption of international conventions and customary laws to safeguard women during national trials.
- ▶ By recognizing and supporting women as true catalyst of peace, justice and reconciliation at all levels.

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The Role of Media

What role can the Media play?

- ▶ Raise awareness and knowledge about Resolution 1325 and other related international conventions, principles, commitments, and national declarations through one's media.
- ▶ Explain to people the importance of the Constituent Assembly and the new constitution and its implication on their lives, future etc.
- ▶ Constituent Assembly is an important event in the formation of the new Nepal. Advocating for women's proportional representation and distinctive participation can be made a major case through the media.
- ▶ Keep a check on the government by bringing forward the practice of civic journalism and by ensuring that the voices of traditionally marginalized sectors of the population are heard.
- ▶ Reach out to the rural regions, poor community, the illiterate and the marginalized community to bring out their voice as a national issue. Media can also strongly increase their participation in the state restructuring and constitution making processes.
- ▶ Create an environment to bring forward policies that would enhance recognition of women's role in society and give space to affirmative actions policies. Media can also portray women's positive characters and can present women's contribution in conflict resolution/management and also motivate them.
- ▶ Present these cases in a creative way, give more space and time in news, thoughts, discussion and programmes and directly increase the process of assimilating their voices. They can start a campaign to increase people's awareness by creating special programmes – hosting gatherings in communities to discuss the constitutional process – and broadcasting it widely.
- ▶ Create pressure in the formation of a Code of Conduct, and by monitoring and making public the activities of the entire process, the media can play a role of a rescuer.
- ▶ Monitor and report whether or not there is women's participation in the entire process of conflict management/resolution and the transitional period that Nepal is now going through as per resolution 1325.

Sample list of Story Ideas on Women Peace and Security

- ▶ Reporting on what mechanism, consultation is being taken to ensure women's representation in bodies formed for constitution making , whether women's views and rights are being included, are separate meetings being held with women etc.
- ▶ Women handling the trauma and violence that comes home with men whose lives have been devastated by war and to provide the continuity that enables families and communities to heal and move forward.
- ▶ Monitor and report on what kind, or whether gender perspective are being incorporated in deliberations/training and program implementation related to security and defense issues.
- ▶ Monitor the process of the drafting of the TRC Act on whether gender concerns are being given due consideration and recognition and what kind of consultations are being held with women.
- ▶ Interviews with concerned government representatives/officials on how conflict has affected the women, their strategies on increasing women's representation at the peace table and how UNSCR 1325 has been relevant in their work.
- ▶ A critical account of women in UN peacekeeping forces and peace building initiatives, with special reference to the UN's commitment to gender mainstreaming.
- ▶ An analytical report showing how and why UNSCR 1325 is important for women in Nepal and how they can advocate for the issue or become active in local groups working with the resolution.
- ▶ An investigative report on former women combatants in the camps, focusing on whether their different needs are considered and whether there is provision of basic health or sanitary facilities and whether they face any kind of discrimination in reintegration and reorganization.
- ▶ The different roles that women have played during and after conflict in communities as well as at the policy level, highlighting their positive participation and contributions.
- ▶ The multiple challenges women and men face in communities following a return home from years of war. The tensions between families and returning ex-combatants and the increase of domestic violence in the aftermath of war.
- ▶ The challenges and complexities women face upon returning to their traditional role as mother and wife in the home despite acquiring new skills and leadership qualities during conflict.
- ▶ The participation of women in the reintegration and reorganization process and the gender perspective incorporated in all peace negotiations.
- ▶ Interviews with UN envoys, mission representatives and national diplomats in connection to their mission plan in terms of gender integration, presence of gender experts etc.
- ▶ Interviewing men and boys about the important roles their wives/mothers/sisters play/played during the conflict and now.

Important events that may be used as News Pegs in the coverage of Women Peace and Security Issues

March 8th, International Women's Day

- This is an occasion marked by women's groups around the world. This date is also commemorated at the United Nations and is designated in many countries as a national holiday. The growing international women's Movement, which has been strengthened by four global United Nations women's conferences, has helped make the commemoration a rallying point for coordinated efforts to demand women's rights and participation in the political and economic process. Increasingly, International Women's Day is a time to reflect on progress made, to call for change and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by ordinary women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of women's rights.

September 21st, The International Day of Peace

- Established by a United Nations resolution in 1981, the International Day of Peace was first celebrated in September 1982. The occasion provides an opportunity for individuals, organizations and nations to create practical acts of peace on a shared date. The International Day of Peace is also used to highlight the Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001 to 2010.

October 31, Anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security

- UNSCR 1325 is a landmark document that marks the first time the UN Security Council addressed the impact of armed conflict on women and recognized

their contributions to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Women's groups and other civil society organizations around the world organize various activities to mark the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and draw attention towards its full implementation.

November 25 to December 10, 16 days campaign on violence against women

- This is a campaign that is symbolic of the global women's movement and end-violence networks. It is marked by hundreds of organizations around the world in activities ranging from media programs, to demonstrations, to conferences, exhibitions and performances. The first day of the campaign November 25 has been designated as the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women and the last day December 10 marks the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948. During these 16 days governments, international organizations and NGOs organize activities designed to raise public awareness different dimensions of violence against women.

Tij – A special day in August women celebrate Tij. Originally meant to maintain a fast for the long life of their husband now days the day is also taken as an occasion when women gather and rejoice together. The day can be used to highlight the power and perseverance of women and their contribution in keeping families intact.

Mothers Day – This day is devoted to honor one's mother and worship her.

References:

1325 Media Kit, International Women's Tribune Centre, 2006.

Inclusive Security Sustainable Peace A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action: International Alert & Women Waging Peace, 2004.

Where You Can Find More Information on Women, Peace and Security Issues

Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace:
A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action

http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/87_inclusive_security_toolkit.cfm

NGO working Group on Women, Peace
and Security

www.womenpeacesecurity.org

Peace Women (Women's International League
for Peace and Freedom)

www.peacewomen.org

Women's Commission for Refugee
Women and Children

www.womenscommission.org

HAGUE APPEAL for PEACE

www.peaceboat-us.org

UNIFEM

www.unifem.org/ http://www.womenwarpeace.org/csw/1325_home.htm

Women's Action for New Directions

www.wand.org

International Women's Tribune Centre

www.iwtc.org

Femmes Africa Solidarite (FAS) (Africa)

www.fasngo.org/

International Alert

www.international-alert.org

Initiative for Inclusive Security (formerly known
as Women Waging Peace)

http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/7_the_initiative_for_inclusive_security.cfm

Fiji Women's Crisis Centre

www.fijiwomen.com

Commission on women and Development
(CWD)

www.dgdc.be/en/topics/gender/index.html

Humanitarian Assistance, Peace and
Security Program

www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/vall/

The Peace Building Fund

www.acdi-cida.gc.ca/cida_ind.nsf/d86cbc87319a898c8

United Nations Women Peace and Security

www.womenwatch/daw/public/eWPS.pdf

Rojas, Catalina. In the Midst of War: Women's
Contribution to Peace in Colombia

www.womenwaginpeace.net/content/articles/colombiaFullCaseStudy.pdf

Women's Equal Participation in Conflict
Prevention, Management and Conflict

Resolution and in Post Conflict Peace Building

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/csw48/ac-wp-auv.pdf

Women Peace and Security, Study submitted
by Secretary-General Pursuant to Security
Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/public/eWPS.pdf

Negotiating the Transition to Democracy and Reforming the Security Sector

www.womenwaginpeace.net/content/articles/SouthAfricaSecurityFullCaseStudy.pdf

The Beijing Platform for Action

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/plat1.html

Women War and Peace

www.womenwarpeace.org/csw/1325_home.htm

The Gender Dimension of Post Conflict Reconstruction

www.wider.unu.edu/conference/conference-2004-1/conference%202004-1-papers/Zuckerman-Greenberg-0206.pdf

Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Operations

www.peacekeepingbestpractices.unlb.org/Nbestpractices.asp?bpr_id=3011

Human Rights Watch, Women's Human Rights

www.hrw.org/women/html

UN Commission on the Status of Women

www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/

UN Committee Against Torture

www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/6/cesr.html

Some National Organizations Working on Women, Peace and Security Issues

Beyond Beijing Committee

Tel: 977-01-5530880/5520054
Email: beyondbeijing@wlink.com.np

Centre for Victims of Torture, Nepal

Tel: 977-01-4373902/ 4373486
www.cvict.org.np

Child workers in Nepal (CWIN)

Tel: 977-01-4278064/ 4282255

Community Action Centre Nepal (CAC-Nepal)

Tel: 977-01-4375086/ 4378025
Email: cac_nepal@cac_nepal.wlink.com.np
cac_nepal@hotmail.com

Didi Bahini

Tel: 977-01-4226753
www.didibahini.org

Forum for Women Law and Development (FWLD)

Tel: 977-01-4242683/ 4266415
www.fwld.fwld@wlink.com.np

Informal Sector Service Centre (INSEC)

Tel: 977-01-4278770
www.insec.org.np, www.inseconline.org

Institute of Human Rights Commission-Nepal (IHRICON)

Tel: 977-01-231079
www.ihricon.org

Jagaran Nepal

Tel: 977-01-4219439
www.jagarannepal.org

Legal Aid Consultancy Centre (LACC)

Tel: 977-01-5543111/5542999
www.laccnepal.com

National Human Rights Commission

Tel: 977-01-5529659/5525842
www.nhrc-nepal.org

Nepal Children's Organization (NCO)

Tel: 977-01-4411202/4410844
www.nconepal.org

SAATHI

Tel: 977-01-5554560/5000063
Email: vaw@saathi.wlink.com.np
saathi.ktm@gmail.com

Sancharika Samuha

Tel: 977-01- 5538549/5546715
Email: sancharika@wlink.com.np

South Asia Partnership Nepal

Tel: 977-01-4223230/42230504242845
www.sapnepal.org

Women for Human Rights (WHR)

Tel: 977-01-4446020
www.whr.org.np

Women Security Pressure Group

Tel: 977-01-4419845
Email: wspg@mail.com.np

Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)

Tel: 977-01-2123124/2123136
www.worecnepal.org

Collective Campaign for Peace (COCAP)

Tel: 977-01-4265143/4260498
www.cocap.org.np

Friends For Peace (FFP)

Tel: 977-01-4480406
www.friendsforpeace.org.np

Nagarik Aawaz (NA)

Tel: 977-01-5536048/5553809
www.nagarikaawaz.org.np

National Peace Campaign

Tel: 977-01-4215142/4215143
www.campaign.org.np

Shanti Malika (Women's Network for Peace)

Tel: 977-01-231079
www.ihricon.org

(Source: UNIFEM: A Rapid Scan, Organizations Working on Women and Peace in Nepal, 2006)