

MEETING REPORT

WOMEN BUILDING PEACE IN THE ARAB STATES

Regional Synergies and Cross-Learning



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UN WOMEN

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**Ministry for Foreign
Affairs of Finland**

Regional Workshop (Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia, Yemen)

WOMEN BUILDING PEACE IN THE ARAB STATES



ARAB STATES

UN WOMEN

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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

CSO	Civil society organization
INGO	International non-governmental organization
ISIL	Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant
NAP	National Action Plan
NGO	Non-governmental organization
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WPS	Women, peace and security

1. BACKGROUND

Since the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, there is robust evidence that women's active participation in peace negotiations has positively impacted the durability and quality of peace and contributed to the likelihood of reaching and successfully implementing a peace agreement. This has led to the growing realization that participatory and inclusive peace processes are necessary to maintain stability in the long term. Research has also shown the need to adopt a whole-of-society approach to peace and to synchronize and link bottom-up and top-down perspectives, including from Track 1 to Track 3 in peace processes, to reach sustainable peace.

Across the Arab region, women have been active in building peace from local to official levels through monitoring the implementation of ceasefire agreements, mediating intra-ethnic disputes, supplying legal and logistical support for peace negotiations, and negotiating and providing humanitarian aid. Women have played a critical role in fostering social cohesion and reconciliation across generations and in the (re)building of state–society relations. They have long been mediating conflicts within families, tribes and local communities during wartime. Yemeni women, for instance, engaged in cross-line negotiations that produced ceasefires, prisoner exchanges and resource management deals, while Syrian women negotiated with armed actors to achieve prisoner releases and a civilian safe zone.

A recent study by UN Women found that women have also played a vital role in connecting the different tracks in national peace processes, and are sometimes able to address issues the official methods could not tackle. In Libya, for instance, women have negotiated for reopening roads between cities and the return of displaced persons.

Yet despite their track record, women's contributions to conflict resolution often go unrecognized by high-level actors and the wider public. At the same time,

their efforts have not been built upon in official negotiations. The invisibility and marginalization of women's efforts also mean their work is not well documented and understood, posing a challenge for those who wish to offer them strategic support.

Greater attention and awareness are needed from peacebuilding actors on the role women can play and have already played in mediation. With the support of the Government of Finland, UN Women has been implementing the programme Women, Peace and Security (WPS) in the Arab States, which aims to make the WPS agenda a reality on the ground by supporting the development and implementation of National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1325. In the context of the programme, UN Women and the Government of Finland also ensure that women's mediation efforts are documented, supported and built upon in the context of NAPs on UNSCR 1325 and other peace and security processes.

The programme has established women mediators' networks to enhance women's leadership in conflict resolution by providing tools, capacity-building support and platforms for systematizing women's mediation efforts on the ground. In Lebanon, women peacebuilders, with the help of UN Women, have set up 12 women mediators' networks that aim to identify

tensions and resolve community conflicts through the promotion of nonviolence. In contrast, in Libya the programme has supported the community-level actions of the Libyan Women Network for Peacebuilding, including by linking their efforts to those of women at the Track 1 level.

UN Women's Syria WPS programme, which is also generously supported by Finland, aims to strengthen Syrian women's political participation at all levels. UN Women supports the Syrian Women's Advisory Board, which advises the UN Special Envoy for Syria on all aspects of the political process, including gender equality. Increasingly, the UN Women Syria programme also supports the local peacebuilding efforts of Syrian women in all three Syrian geographies and neighbouring countries.

To highlight women's mediation efforts in their communities and the lessons learned from interventions under the regional WPS programme and the Syria WPS programme, the UN Women Regional Office for Arab States and the Government of Finland organized a two-day workshop titled Women Building Peace in the Arab States: Regional Synergies and Cross-Learning.

The workshop's objectives were to explore lessons learned from women's peacebuilding work in their communities across Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as good practices and strategies to strengthen women's participation in local mediation. The discussions highlighted the local contexts of each country and identified the challenges and lessons learned from these contexts.



2. WOMEN IN MEDIATION

Women mediators are negotiating a wide range of conflicts at local and national levels on a variety of topics: resolving local community-related issues such as resource management and distribution; resolving disputes between host communities and displaced communities; and mediating issues related directly to larger conflicts, such as ceasefires or more sensitive matters such as exchange of prisoners. The workshop participants' interventions included a number of positive experiences, and women have played dynamic roles connecting the different tracks in peace processes. Women played several roles in these mediation efforts. Their positions could be official and visible in some cases or less visible in others, but the participants noted the reality that these efforts are mostly not recognized or protected. Women mediators had to deal with issues related to their own personal security, given the absence of reliable and accessible protection mechanisms in the context of ongoing conflicts.



The participants referred to some examples where women's mediation efforts were perceived positively at the local level, as in Lebanon, where UN Women supported the establishment of the first local network of mediators. This network worked on utilizing nonviolent communication and introducing a culture of mediation in schools and municipalities. In Libya, women's initiatives sought to release prisoners from the Misrata prison or facilitated agreements to help residents return to their towns, in addition to mediation efforts around natural resources among tribes.

Other mediation efforts were related to the larger conflict itself. In Yemen, for instance, women negotiated the release of political detainees and prisoners of war and opened roads around Taiz city; in Syria, women negotiated local ceasefires and de-escalated fighting so aid could pass through; and in Libya, women negotiated the reopening of the road between Misrata and Tawerga and the return of displaced persons.

Some mediation efforts at the national peace process level were recognized internationally. In Libya in 2020, for instance, 23 per cent of the UN-facilitated Libyan Political Dialogue Forum were women, which is considered a significant improvement in women's representation in the official Libyan peace process. Women managed to bring in community voices and demands to the Libyan Political Dialogue Forum and place community needs and perspectives on the dialogue's agenda.

In Yemen, the Yemeni Women's Pact for Peace and Security (Tawafuq), the Technical Advisory Group and the Women's Solidarity Network were established, creating bigger spaces for women's engagement in the political process. In Syria, the Women's Advisory Board served as the first formal women's advisory group to a UN Special Envoy and was created following demands made by a coalition of Syrian women leaders at the beginning of the UN-led political process. It is mandated to advise the special envoy on all aspects of the political process, including gender equality and women's rights.



3. WORKSHOP FORMAT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the workshop under discussion, 40 women peacebuilders and women leaders with a wide variety of experience in mediation and the political processes in their communities met for two days in Beirut. They came from different countries in the Arab region and from diverse, rich backgrounds – politics, civil society, diplomacy, academia and more. They collectively had myriad experiences in various peace processes and mediation efforts in their respective countries, which intensified the learning and knowledge exchange among them during the workshop.

The workshop created a space for the participants to discuss and explore women's role in local mediation, raise difficult questions and concerns, create a space for lessons learned, and exchange successful strategies. Furthermore, the workshop was an opportunity for women peacebuilders across the region to get to know each other better and build alliances. Active and beneficial discussions took place in the plenary sessions or during the working groups. These focused on the following themes in the context of local peacebuilding:

- Effective strategies used by women peacebuilders to influence peace and resolve tensions in their communities
- Challenges women have faced when building peace in their communities
- Lessons learned from other mediation efforts that can be applied to enhance women's contribution to mediation in the Arab region
- The role of the media in supporting women in local mediation initiatives to amplify their existing efforts
- Capacities and tools women require to be able to effectively contribute to local mediation in their areas



The workshop format varied to maximize the space for discussion and the exchange of lessons learned. This included plenary talks, short presentations and technical sessions; participants also had the chance to work in smaller groups for in-depth discussions.

The workshop started with a plenary session where experiences from Yemen, Libya, Palestine, Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Iraq, Syria and Finland were shared, which paved the way for additional involvement by the participants. The dynamic discussions revealed that women's organic engagement in different forms of local mediation in their local areas is genuine. It became clear that this is mostly not recognized by the communities and the local leaders, and in some cases is not even identified by the women themselves.

The discussions showed a clear distinction between mediation efforts at the high political level and those at the local level. The discussions highlighted the importance of recognizing women's engagement in the mediation processes locally and addressing the challenges facing women at local, national and international levels.

Sensitive and relevant issues such as women's protection and safety were discussed. The media was identified as the primary tool to increase women's security and as vital for changing the image of women in their communities.

The participants demonstrated a high level of engagement in the working groups and showed an openness to sharing and exchanging with each other.



4. OUTCOMES OF THE WORKSHOP

I. Challenges Facing Women in Mediation

On the first day, the attendees participated in five working groups; each group included representatives from each country, and they began mapping out lessons learned, challenges and opportunities for women's enhanced role in local mediation in the region. Each group worked on a specific topic:

1. Local agreements on natural resource management and climate change issues
2. Transitional justice issues
3. Brokering ceasefires
4. Preventing and resolving community tensions
5. Mediating in contexts of violent extremism

The groups shared the challenges women face when attempting to reach influential positions; they also discussed how to counter hate narratives and the exclusion of women in both physical spaces and cyberspace.

It was clear from the outputs of the working groups that the problems facing women are multifaceted. Based on the recommendations that the workshop generated, these problems require a holistic response that engages governments further to ensure that women's experiences better inform national and

regional counterterrorism policies and strategies, as well as women's economic resilience.

It is also crucial to increase women's leadership and participation in preventing the spread of extremism within their communities by building their capacity to identify early warning signs related to women's protection, and by promoting their engagement with new and traditional media to create effective counter-narratives to extremism, including in the online space; creative approaches are essential in this endeavour.

Participants highlighted the need for improved mechanisms to enable dialogue between governments and civil society actors towards better identifying early warning signs of extremism and the importance of women's role in this process, as well as the importance of integrating youth into prevention activities.

The participants also highlighted the reality that women have been part of conflict prevention work at the grass-roots level for decades, and their experiences carry critical lessons for the design and implementation of this work. However, these women rarely have access to the decision-making rooms where policies are developed.

The challenges the groups described can be categorized under two main headings.

I. Challenges Related to the Context of the Countries (Conflict, Journey towards Democracy, Occupation)

There are challenges related to the context of the conflict itself, its root causes and its consequences. During conflicts, women are subjected to different types of violence, which include detention, torture, killing, trafficking and numerous other kinds of gender-based violence, such as violence against women prisoners. On several occasions, women were recruited into armed militias.

These conditions made it even more challenging for women to take an active role in mediation

efforts. Women also did not have the needed skills and knowledge to operate in such dynamic conflict conditions, all of which added to the disconnection among women groups as well as among generations, which could be seen in the lack of active youth engagement.

Another specific context was described: the occupation in Palestine. This has created the conditions for extremist actions, which in turn contribute to the prolonged conflict.

II. Challenges Related to the Dynamics within Society

Patriarchal power dynamics, extremist religious and ethnic narratives, and poor security conditions have all heavily contributed to an environment of hostility towards women and their engagement, and have kept women from participating in peace processes at local and national levels. Furthermore, when calls for women's active engagement and protection occurred, women were accused of bringing in foreign ideas. Additional vital factors contributed to the hostility against women: a lack of a social contract in some contexts that respected the rights of all people regardless of their background or social group, and a lack of protection laws that contain precise protection mechanisms that women can safely access.

The groups were clear that broader poverty and lack of economic opportunities and essential services added to women's challenges. The participants recommended designing a new educational curriculum to address all the above-mentioned challenges in an attempt to deal with the violent and extremist ideas in society.

Group Presentations

1. Results of the working group on challenges facing women mediating local agreements on natural resource management and climate change issues

The overall discussions of the working group showed that poorly managed or inequitably shared natural resources can feed into and exacerbate pre-existing conflict dynamics; moreover, population growth and environmental degradation are intensifying competition over already scarce resources, such as land and water, and climate change threatens to increase such competition even further. Unsurprisingly, women were significantly affected by the scarcity of resources, especially in a conflict context.

Yemen

It was clear from the working group presentation that, in the context of such a complicated ongoing conflict, the social and political interests around issues related to climate change are rarely addressed. No practical activities were designed to tackle climate change, especially from women's perspective. Women are proportionally more affected by climate change, especially in rural areas, due to its effect on water scarcity and their work in agriculture.

The group also highlighted the importance of following up on the Sustainable Development Goals, especially during conflict, and raising awareness about their importance. Moreover, the importance of mainstreaming gender equality in the national strategic plans for climate change was emphasized, encouraging the government to include women effectively in local planning.

Morocco

The group presentation showed that women in rural areas are most affected by climate change, as there is a lack of water for household use and agricultural activities. The situation is pushing men to migrate abroad to seek alternative resources for their families, leaving women to deal with the consequences of their absence.

As was reported by the group, climate change is contributing to an increase in violence against women: it is affecting the rate of early marriage in communities due to economic hardship, and is increasing harassment against women (physical, verbal and sexual) in their daily journeys looking for water sources.

The weak coordination between the government and civil society in addressing this issue makes it even harder to find solutions.

Libya

The concept of climate change and its consequences is new for the authorities and communities. Meanwhile, communities, especially those in rural areas, have started to see some of its negative impacts in the form of floods, which affect women badly.

The Libyan government is working on a national plan to counter climate change; this is an opportunity for UN Women and local actors to mainstream gender equality into the plan.

Jordan

The group addressed the proportionate impact of climate change on women, especially in rural areas, due to its effect on water scarcity, and stressed the importance of taking the opportunity to work with the government and local civil society organizations (CSOs) on the second NAP on UNSCR 1325, which includes a component about climate change.

Lebanon

The working group reported that the Lebanese government has not taken any concrete actions to address issues related to climate change, and it highlighted the importance of working to increase awareness about the impacts of climate change on the community as a whole as well as its resources.

Iraqi Kurdistan

The group referred to weak coordination among official/governmental actors and civil society actors, and noted that the high number of refugees and displaced persons, including those in Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) camps, is making the situation even more fragile. There are already limited resources to meet their needs in the context of the prolonged ongoing conflict, and little societal awareness on the issue of climate change and its consequences.

2. Results of the working group on challenges facing women mediators in transitional justice

The working group reported that women usually are excluded from participating in efforts related to mediation and transitional justice, and they do not sit on committees that work on these issues – the dominance of men in this area is clear. As a result, women's needs were not being taken into consideration in these peace structures, which was reflected in the amnesty policies. This comes in a context where different parties have furthered their understanding of transitional justice and its implementation, which would affect the discrimination in redress and compensation, as well as the reconciliation efforts in the region.

3. Results of the working group on challenges facing women mediators in brokering ceasefires

The working group showed that ceasefire agreements in the region do not recognize the gendered impacts of the conflict nor the importance of the participation of women and their independent agency in promoting peace. It was clear from the different contexts that the representation of women in peace efforts, including in brokering ceasefires, is very minimal. The exclusion of women from formal negotiations reveals the limited support from governments in the region to either resort to mediation to end conflicts or to include

women in such efforts. It was noted that Palestine is facing additional challenges due to the occupation.

4. Results of the working group on challenges facing women mediators to prevent community tension

The presentation of the working group showed that the majority of women in society are not aware of their right to participate in the public sphere. Nor are they aware of the importance of their role in mediation efforts at the community level. In addition, women mediators/actors do not have the means to acquire the needed skills and qualifications in the region due to the discrimination against them as women as well as the lack of qualified training centres.

The working group pointed out how the dominance of cultural norms and patriarchal power dynamics in society prevented them from taking an active role in the mediation efforts at community and local levels. Deteriorating security conditions in the region also kept women from contributing to these mediation efforts.

The group stressed that the local authorities did not invest in engaging women in any form of peacebuilding; therefore, women have not been acknowledged as mediators in the community. The working group referred explicitly to election processes in the region, which are strongly affected by patriarchal power dynamics among prominent families, meaning that the results of any election process are a reflection of the patriarchal power dynamics rather than actual results, which provides women with few chances for proper representation.

In addition, the working group stressed the lack of legislation and laws protecting women from gender-based violence, thereby affecting their role in communitarian mediation and resulting in an absence of a human rights culture.

Women's representation within the security and policing sectors is still low, which adds to the disabling conditions for women's engagement. The group highlighted the importance of engaging younger generations of women, building networks, facilitating access to experts and looking to influential people in the local community for advice and support.

II. Best Practices Shared by the Groups

In the five working groups, the participants shared successful community-based approaches and good practices supporting women as leaders. They also highlighted the importance of networking among CSOs to protect women through partnerships, especially for those working in the public sphere, and tackling issues related to peacebuilding and justice.

The participants highlighted the need for a common understanding among actors on sensitive issues such as transitional justice. They showed consensus around using both traditional and new forms of media and adopting creative approaches to counter extremist ideology.

The participants emphasized the importance of understanding the local contexts of each region and designing interventions accordingly (contextual



peacebuilding planning). They also highlighted the importance of reassessing national strategies for implementing UNSCR 1325 in different contexts. The attendees placed significant value on building alliances to promote women's protection and active engagement.

III. Strategies Shared by the Groups

The participants shared particular strategies that worked positively in their regions, such as adopting context-appropriate reading and analysis methods in designing and implementing programmes and action plans, and contextualizing the interventions based on local resources and needs. In addition, they saw local actors as crucial entry points, and highlighted the importance of increasing these actors' ability to influence societal dynamics towards a space that is more accepting of women.

The participants acknowledged the need for women to have to the requisite skills and access to be active in mediation and peacebuilding, and referred to the importance of increasing women's capacities. Supporting women to build their legitimacy at the

local level is also vital; this in turn will increase their protection and will shed light on violations against women at the global level.

The attendees highlighted the importance of creating linkages among younger and older actors with expertise and know-how, and working towards building local, regional and international alliances, without forgetting to engage men who support women's engagement in peacebuilding.

Participants also advocated for the importance of mainstreaming gender equality through the media and education system (institutions and curricula) to shift the local discourse towards women's important role in mediation.

IV. Recommendations by Themes across the Region

On the second day, the participants worked again in five working groups and came up with a set of recommendations for UN Women and other supporting actors to enhance engagement with women leaders as mediators in the Arab region. The recommendations can be categorized into seven overall themes:

I- Boosting Networking and Building Alliances

- UN Women and international NGOs (INGOs) to create safe spaces for women mediators in the Arab region to exchange expertise and knowledge regarding their interventions on the ground, where lessons learned can be shared and concerns can be raised, and to create spaces for peer exchanges among mediators across the region
- UN Women and INGOs to support local women's groups in emphasizing the importance of personal protection for women mediators at the local level, in both private and public spheres, by amplifying the violations against them nationally and internationally and advocating for their safety and well-being
- UN Women and INGOs to provide spaces to link civil society groups/actors with national or local peace initiatives and foster trust and dialogue; to create opportunities to communicate with official mediation processes; and to facilitate regular meetings between women and conflict parties to include their perspectives and technical expertise
- UN Women to support medium-term and long-term programming to develop cadres of female mediators to ensure professionalism and sustained peace
- UN Women and INGOs to support women's groups in building alliances that include men and other stakeholders in society, such as the media, the private sector, faith-based institutions and multitrack diplomacy actors

II- Protection of Women Peace/Human Rights Defenders

- Violence in all forms still threatens women's role at all levels of engagement; capacity building should be used as a tool for protection
- Personal protection for women mediators at the local level is important, in both private and public spheres, and can be enhanced through collectively amplifying the violations against them nationally and internationally and advocating for their protection and well-being
- Work with women peace/human rights defenders to increase their capacities to positively engage with their communities, which would contribute to more acceptance of their activities and strengthen their legitimacy in their communities, leading to better protection at the local level
- Ensure that women peace/human rights defenders have better access to the tools and mechanisms that would help them identify local needs more effectively and design more effective programmes; this will increase their ability to have better access within their communities, increase their legitimacy and contribute to their protection
- Empowered women have a better chance of accessing higher positions of power

III- The Women, Peace and Security and UNSCR 1325 Agenda

- UN Women to engage more young women in designing and implementing NAPs and to create more spaces for youth to gain knowledge and expertise
- UN Women to advocate for the establishment of committees within the relevant ministries at the country level, to advocate for prioritizing women's protection, and to provide the needed support technically and financially to achieve that
- UN Women to work with regional Arab organizations to be more engaged in issues related to WPS and take an active role in designing NAPs
- UN Women to work with local actors to advocate for more agreements on UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions at the local level

IV- Priorities for Work on Mediation at the Local Level

- UN Women to work with relevant donors and local institutions to create “mediation centres” and encourage synergies and networking among these centres in the Middle East and North Africa countries (linkages between the Maghreb and the Mashreq)
- UN Women should prioritize its activities around local mediation using different entry points at programming and policy levels, and should adopt tailored programming targeting women in various capacities
- Mediation as a tool for community transformation should be reflected at the programming level by UN Women and other agencies
- UN Women and its partner organizations to work on mapping women actors engaged in mediation efforts at national and subnational levels and use those maps to enrich existed rosters of women mediators in the region (both women with expertise and young women with potential for local mediation)
- UN Women to seek creative local entry points, such as working with municipalities and universities to promote the concept of mediation as a way of life, especially in conflict areas
- UN Women should diversify their access to society and actively engage key local entry points, including religious actors, local leaders and others in order to implement change at the local level, to better acknowledge women’s role and engagement in the community, and to effectively fight extremism and illiteracy

V- Capitalize on the Role of the Media

- UN Women to support local actors to mobilize different media outlets (traditional and non-traditional) to promote the role of women in peace processes and local mediation
- UN Women to support local CSOs in awareness-raising campaigns and to document local expertise on mediation and the role of women
- UN Women and local CSOs to work to emphasize the importance of establishing a media action plan that ensures a reduction in hate speech against women and creates a more inclusive space for women’s engagement in local mediation
- UN Women and local CSOs to use the media and artificial intelligence to promote a positive image of women significantly different from, for example, the stereotypical images social media outlets use that present men as having agency and women as victims and marginalized persons requiring capacity building
- UN Women to work with relevant actors to document women’s participation in different mediation processes and promote such participation; to engage with media experts on presenting success stories of women in mediation, primarily by conducting evidence-based analyses of the different mediation roles (direct or facilitative) played by women regionally and globally; to understand the obstacles facing women’s participation; to highlight women’s differential impact on mediation; and to identify strategies and structures to promote women’s inclusion

VI- Capacity Building for Women Mediators

- UN Women to actively work on training and building the capacity of women peacebuilders at multiple levels of conflict resolution work, which would ensure women's inclusion and participation in all of them: mediation, negotiation, dialogue facilitation, restorative justice, trauma healing, cyberspace protection and leadership, as well as social capital optimization and community mobilization
- UN Women and other relevant actors to design strategic training programmes to meet the needs of local communities and the different contexts of each conflict, with a long-term approach to ensure a more significant impact on women's lives, increasing women's ability to create and lead change
- UN Women should work closely with women's groups and ensure their ability to conduct successful high-tech advocacy campaigns
- Local and national CSOs to work actively on raising awareness about the consequences of climate change and its relevance for communities
- INGOs to focus on spreading a culture of mediation and dialogue by creating school curricula and particular majors in universities in the Middle East and North Africa region (highlighted in the context of Lebanon and Libya)
- UN Women and local women actors to design contextualized training on UNSCR 1325
- INGOs to work with local actors to mobilize the usage of formal education to spread awareness about women's rights
- UN Women and other INGOs to create a safe learning space that guarantees an exchange between youth and people with expertise
- UN Women and other INGOs to support local actors to obtain the needed tools and strategies to be in line with international conventions

VII- Women's Participation in Peace Processes

- UN Women to work with INGOs to facilitate women's access to international mediation processes for greater exposure and learning opportunities
- UN Women and Offices of the UN Special Envoy to highlight the importance of women's role in conflict resolution, give credit to women's contributions, identify women as members of mediation teams, and publicly acknowledge their contribution to mediation, including with the media
- UN Women to work with women's civil society networks to convene women in the region for additional learning exchanges and to facilitate their access to funding opportunities that will support local initiatives
- Encourage the creation of gender-sensitive agendas for all political negotiation processes by conducting consultations with women and civil society actors
- UN Women and NGOs should be encouraged to reach out to women politicians and work with them to create synergies with women at the community level, and to work with them to emphasize the women's agenda in their political agendas
- UN Women and INGOs to advocate for the active engagement of women at all decision-making levels
- UN Women should actively work with international and national institutions to ensure women's strong representation in security institutions
- UN Women to work closely with government institutions to amend and adapt legislation that upholds women's rights and provides for the safety of women mediators, and to develop educational curricula



V. Recommendations by Country

PALESTINE

- UN Women should work closely with Palestinian women's groups to assess and strengthen work on early warning systems regarding domestic violence against women, explore the opportunities for creating a mobile application that women can access remotely and anonymously, and work on expanding the coverage of these services to all Palestinian cities
- UN Women to work with INGOs to create and fund the establishment of safe houses for women subjected to violence

LIBYA

- UN Women to communicate with the Libyan government and the relevant prosecutors to explain the difference between UNSCR 1325 and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) convention and highlight the importance of both
- Local women actors to gather forces to work against the decision made by the Libyan prosecutor to suspend the work on the UNSCR 1325 action plan, where UN Women's support is very much needed
- UN Women's office in Libya and other UN agencies should support local groups in creating the NAP for UNSCR 1325
- UN Women and the Office of the UN Special Envoy for Libya should advocate for more inclusion of women to provide broader participation in peacebuilding and peacekeeping processes

TUNISIA

- UN Women to work with Tunisian women actors on increasing their capacities in analysing and reading legal texts, the constitution and local government laws
- UN Women to work with local women groups to establish a network of women mediators in Tunis and provide the needed training and access to international mediation processes
- UN Women to work with Tunisian women actors to establish clear indicators to follow up on the implementation of the NAP in the country, with significant consideration of gender sensitivities in their action plans and knowledge production

MOROCCO

- UN Women to work with Moroccan women actors to launch work on the NAP, ensure the engagement of local civil society stakeholders, and allocate the needed financial and technical support to ensure the full implementation of the NAP at all levels
- UN Women and INGOs to use UNSCR 1325 as a normative framework to ensure women's full engagement in mediation efforts

SYRIA

- UN Women and other UN agencies to advocate for the protection of human rights defenders and women peacebuilders at local and international levels
- The Office of the UN Special Envoy for Syria to ensure the right of all Syrians to take part in the peace process in any form

LEBANON

- UN Women and local women's groups to advocate for the protection of women in politics in both private and public spheres
- UN Women to facilitate networking with women's mediation networks in the region and internationally
- UN Women to support local women's groups to advocate with the Lebanese government to ensure women's inclusion in different peacebuilding activities
- UN Women to support Lebanese institutions and the government technically and financially to develop the WPS agenda
- UN Women and INGOs to support local actors' efforts on transitional justice

JORDAN

- UN Women and INGOs to emphasize women's role locally by establishing women's centres within community-based organizations
- UN Women and INGOs to design special training modules to train women on political participation and build their capacities
- UN Women and INGOs to expand their coverage to include rural areas and distant neighbourhoods to ensure inclusivity in programming
- UN Women and INGOs to work with local women actors to ensure the availability of shelters and

safe houses for abused women, with a functional referral system that covers women's needs

- UN Women to convene learning workshops to better share experiences on conflict resolution and local mediation
- UN Women to work with local women's groups to establish a regional network of mediators
- UN Women to support local women actors in building national frameworks for women's efforts in mediation, such as the NAP on UNSCR 1325

IRAQ (IRAQI KURDISTAN)

- UN Women and INGOs to design capacity-building sessions for women in Kurdistan, acknowledging that organizations in Kurdistan were often excluded from previous capacity-building programmes
- UN Women and INGOs should acknowledge the existence of women's groups in Kurdistan and their activities, and provide direct support as needed
- UN Women and INGOs to provide the required support to the Higher Council for Women and Development

- UN Women and INGOs to provide relevant psychosocial support for women activists to allow them to contribute to peacebuilding
- UN Women to work with local women's groups to support ISIL-affiliated female survivors and female Yazidi survivors

PALESTINE

Recommendations to improve the early warning and response system to prevent conflict and violence:

- UN Women to institutionalize the early warning and response system, expand its operation to cover all of Palestine, and look at how to document the programme and duplicate it in other contexts, providing needed capacities such as training whistle-blowers in different cities

- UN Women to support local women actors to spread awareness about the early warning and response system and its importance for civil peace
- UN Women to assist in creating a mobile application to operate the early warning and response system and to facilitate the process of reporting violations efficiently

UN WOMEN IS THE UN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO GENDER EQUALITY AND THE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN. A GLOBAL CHAMPION FOR WOMEN AND GIRLS, UN WOMEN WAS ESTABLISHED TO ACCELERATE PROGRESS ON MEETING THEIR NEEDS WORLDWIDE.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the Sustainable Development Goals a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities: Women lead, participate in and benefit equally from governance systems; Women have income security, decent work and economic autonomy; All women and girls live a life free from all forms of violence; Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in building sustainable peace and resilience, and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and humanitarian action. UN Women also coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing gender equality.



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