

Empowering Peace: Cost-Effectiveness and Value-Added of Women's Conflict Prevention Work

Panel discussion on the occasion of the 68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

12 March 2024 | 11:30 AM to 12:45 PM (New York Time)

Convened in a hybrid format

In-person location: Conference Room 6, UN HQ

Livestreamed on UN Web TV

RSVP: tinyurl.com/3sh929s6

Organized by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, Government of Canada, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and UN Women

Background

Often in the landscape of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, women and their contributions are under-represented and under-valued, discrediting their impact on the effectiveness and sustainability of peace efforts. Nevertheless, from grassroots initiatives to international campaigns, women have been at the forefront, bringing their unique perspectives and experiences to the table. Their ability to identify the root causes of conflict, determine the needs of their communities and promote reconciliation has often led to more effective and resilient peace processes. Moreover, investing in women's peacebuilding efforts goes beyond conflict resolution and post-conflict reconciliation. Reinforcing women's roles as peacebuilders has a profound impact on their individual agency within the household and society. This, as a result, empowers women effectively contribute to conflict prevention, build communities that can better withstand conflicts, and promote sustainable peace. To this end, the United Nations Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) elevate women's contributions in their communities, enabling recognition and institutionalizing frameworks that bolster their impacts on participation, protection, prevention, and relief and recovery. This is further evidenced by the 2023 study conducted by the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) on women's transformational roles in local conflict prevention, drawing on and documenting the approaches and impacts of women peacebuilders in Burundi, Iraq, Palestine, Philippines, and Uganda.¹

¹ Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund. (2023). *Women's Transformational Roles in Local Conflict Prevention: Case Study of WPHF-Supported Civil Society Organizations in Burundi, Iraq, Palestine, Philippines, and Uganda*. <https://wphfund.org/2023/11/08/global-new-wphf-study-highlights-central-role-of-local-womens-organizations-in-conflict-prevention-provides-key-recommendations-to-scale-up-support-for-their-impact-on-the-front-lines/>

Recognizing the numerous contributions of women to mitigating conflict, promoting community resilience and sustaining peace, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), in collaboration with UN Women, produced a policy brief on the cost-effectiveness of women's peacebuilding and conflict prevention work. Accompanied by four case studies from Fiji, Kyrgyzstan, Somalia and Yemen, the policy brief examines women-led initiatives that effectively enabled conflict resolution and promoted stability. It further analyzes how — in these instances and on a broader scale — women's participation in peace and security processes results in political, socioeconomic and developmental gains.

On the occasion of the UN Commission on the Status of Women's 68th session (CSW68), GNWP, the Permanent Mission of Slovenia to the United Nations, Government of Canada, GPPAC, the WPHF, DPPA and UN Women will host a panel discussion to present key research findings on the cost-effectiveness and value-added of women's conflict prevention, peacebuilding, and recovery work. The research provides a strong evidence base and actional insights to guide policymakers and the donor community, aligning with this year's review theme: social protections, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The specific objectives of the event are:

1. To share key research findings on the cost-effectiveness and value-added of women's peacebuilding and conflict prevention and recovery work, highlighting local, women-led initiatives from different geographic regions;
2. To provide evidence-based insights and recommendations for policymakers and donors to formulate and implement inclusive strategies that support and enhance women and young women's contributions to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and recovery; and
3. To establish a platform for ongoing dialogue and engagement among diverse stakeholders – including civil society, policymakers, researchers, and the donor community – to assess and reinforce the evidence base on the cost-effectiveness and impact of women and young women's peacebuilding initiatives.

Format, speakers and audience:

The event will be convened in a hybrid format, held in the form of a moderated panel discussion. It will feature women peacebuilders, policymakers and representatives of International Financial Institutions (IFI). The target audience for this event includes policymakers, practitioners and representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations with mandates on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace, as well as IFIs. The event will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in International Sign Language. Interpretation in other languages may be provided depending on the speakers' list.

A provisional agenda will follow.