

# Liechtenstein's engagement on *Women, Peace and Security*



**Women have to be actively involved in conflict prevention and in peace and recovery processes.** Millions of women are directly or indirectly affected by violence and conflict. However, they are rarely given a voice in peace talks and remain largely excluded from recovery processes. As a result, the rights and needs of half the population are often neglected in peace agreements, which has proven to hamper efforts to build sustainable and lasting peace and ensure long-term security.

For many years Liechtenstein has been committed to furthering the implementation of the United Nations (UN) Security Council's agenda on *Women, Peace and Security*, with a focus on ensuring the **equal participation of women in peace and mediation processes**. Liechtenstein furthermore supports efforts **to end sexual violence in armed conflict** and **to strengthen criminal accountability**. It is a long-standing supporter of the International Criminal Court which is a key actor in the international fight against impunity for sexual and gender-based violence.

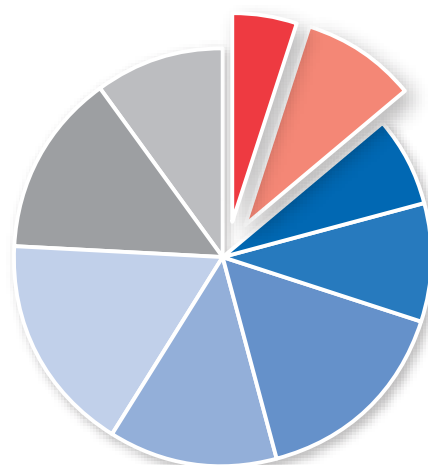
## UN Security Council agenda on *Women, Peace and Security*

In 2000 the UN Security Council (UNSC) addressed for the first time the impact of armed conflict on women by adopting Resolution 1325. It recognizes the underestimated and unused potential of women in conflict prevention and peace processes and is the cornerstone of the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda. The agenda serves the purpose of furthering the implementation of Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions.

## UN Women

The United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women was founded in 2010. Ensuring the equal participation of women in all aspects of peace and security policy is one of its core principles. **Liechtenstein is a member of the Executive Board of UN Women in 2014 and is dedicated to playing an active role in the work of this UN entity.**

## Contributions multilateral development cooperation 2013



- 5% Women, Peace and Security agenda
- 9% Women
- 7% Children
- 9% Fight against torture
- 16% Good Governance
- 13% HIV / AIDS / Health
- 17% Fight against crime and corruption
- 14% Environment and sustainable development
- 10% Other

Source: Ministry for Foreign Affairs

## Events 2014

- March  
Kick-off event in the TAK
- June  
Film series with discussion rounds in the Takino film theatre
- September  
Lecture at the Liechtenstein Institute
- Oktober  
Annual event of the International Humanitarian Cooperation and Development
- ... and more events in New York



### Political support

The implementation of the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda requires persistent political commitment. **Liechtenstein, together with other States and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), works tirelessly to raise awareness about the need to bolster implementation efforts and to enhance understanding of the agenda's various aspects.** To this end, Liechtenstein cooperates closely with two NGO partners organizing a successful lecture series and preparing and making available practical tools and information material:

The **NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security** is a coalition of NGOs, connecting local and national women's rights organizations in conflict areas with political decisionmakers at the UN Headquarters in New York.

**PeaceWomen** is dedicated to the promotion and monitoring of the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda. Together with Liechtenstein and Switzerland it has published a manual and a smartphone application providing information on the agenda and its implementation.



### International humanitarian law

Conflicts today tend to increasingly involve non-state actors. The NGO **Geneva Call**, supported by Liechtenstein, seeks to engage those actors in dialogues in order to ensure that they adhere to international humanitarian law. The NGO encourages the signature of **Deeds of Commitment to respect internationally agreed norms**, thereby preventing acts of sexual violence and making sure that perpetrators of such crimes will be held accountable. The intergovernmental facility **Justice Rapid Response (JRR)** trains experts from different backgrounds to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity and severe human rights violations. **Liechtenstein supports JRR's work in the area of sexual and gender-based violence.**

### Mediation and peacebuilding

Most current conflicts are fought by state as well as non-state actors. The UN and international organizations and entities have limited access to non-state groups and thus quickly reach their limits when trying to resolve these conflicts. It is therefore important to develop alternative means of establishing and conducting dialogue for peace talks between state and non-state actors. **Liechtenstein supports initiatives working to ensure the participation of women and the implementation of the *Women, Peace and Security* agenda in mediation and peace processes.** Partners are the NGO **Concordis International**, headquartered in London and the **Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue**, based in Geneva.

### Sexual violence

In conflicts, sexual violence is often used as a weapon. Most victims are female. Liechtenstein supports two shelters for female victims in the eastern part of the Democratic Republic of Congo, operated by the Congolese NGO **SOS Femmes en Danger (SOSFED)**. Women seeking refuge are provided with accommodation, food, medical treatment and vocational training. SOSFED also helps victims to return to their families and to reintegrate into their respective communities.

### Facts and figures

An estimated number of 50'000 women were raped during the Bosnia war. Approximately 500'000 women and girls were targeted in the Rwanda genocide ... Merely four UN managerial positions in mediation are occupied by women ... Only 4 % of participants in peace processes between 1992 and 2011 were female ... Less than 10 % of financial means in peace processes are specifically dedicated to women's issues ...

Source: [www.unwomen.org](http://www.unwomen.org)

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