

UNSCR

1325

and its complementary resolutions

Mainstreaming WPS agenda into approaches and programme design
of the security and Media institutions and civil society organizations
Knowledge Guide



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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

Acknowledgements

We would like, at ABAAD, to thank the experts for their contribution to this work and for sharing their expertise. We are also grateful for the discussions and valuable comments of the members of the technical review committee. We would like to extend our gratitude to the two experts who prepared this toolkit: Ms Joumana Merhi and Ms Manar Zaiter, as well as the members of the technical review committee:

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WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

Women International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is an international non-governmental organization, with national offices in all continents, as well as an International Secretariat headquartered in Geneva, and an office in New York focusing on the UN work (United Nations).

Since its inception in 1915, WILPF has been gathering women from all over the world, to work together for peace through non-violent means and to promote political, economic and social justice for all.

It is one of the first organizations to obtain an advisory seat (Class B) at the United Nations, and it is the only anti-war women organization to be recognized as such.

Fields of work of the organization: women's rights, peace, security and disarmament.

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ABAAD– Resource Center for Gender Equality is a non-sectarian, non-political, non-profit civil organization established in June 2011 and is a UN ECOSOC accredited organization that aims to achieve gender equality as an essential condition to sustainable social and economic development in the MENA region.

The dynamic team is comprised of dedicated activists, lawyers, consultants, social workers and researchers, who creatively test new approaches as part of a larger effort to achieve an equitable society, free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women.

ABAAD advocates for the development and implementation of policies and laws that enhance women's effective participation, through a rights-based approach that would bring about tangible change to gender justice.

As a leading agency on gender equality in the MENA region, ABAAD also seeks to support and build the capacities of local, regional and international entities that are working on protection programmes, case management, sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), Mental Health & Psychosocial Support and sexualities. Through its pioneer "Masculinities" programme, ABAAD effectively engages men in working towards achieving an equitable society, free of hegemonic masculinities and violence against women.

For more information, please visit the Abaad website: www.abaadmena.org

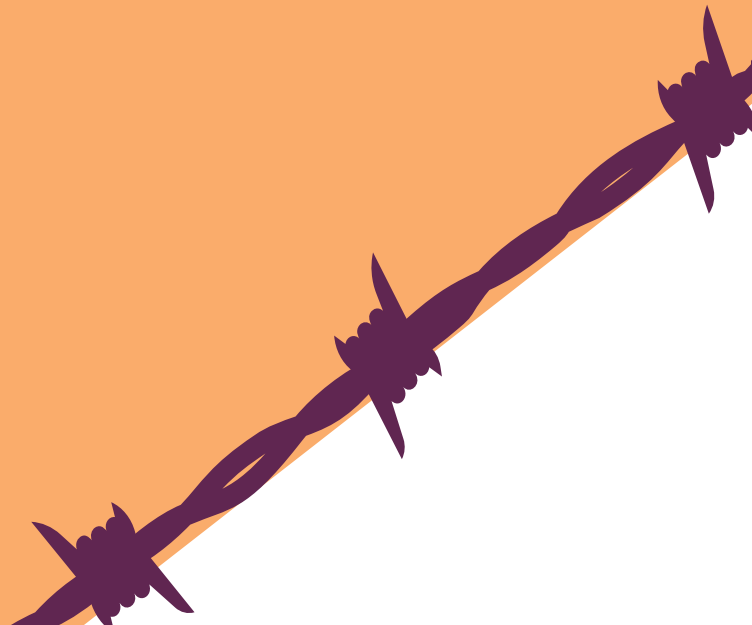
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PREAMBLE

Since 2012, ABAAD has been working, through various strategies, on implementing UNSCR 1325, first by mainstreaming it into its programs, then by incorporating it in the core design of its responsive plan to the Syrian refugee women and girls crisis in Lebanon.

This response is implemented by sector, targeting sectors such as: Media & information, security, women NGOs and at different levels: First, policy dialogue with the decision makers and the stakeholders in order to set a draft action plan leading to the drafting of the National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 . ABAAD has also undertaken a dialogue with the media, the humanitarian organizations and the donors, underlining the best practices for the protection and empowerment of women in situations of conflict, and promoting women's role in conflict settlement and peace building; second, awareness raising and a series of local consultations with grassroots women (and men) about UNSCR 1325 ; finally, the research/resource production level such as the production of a simplified Arabic version of UNSCR 1325 ...

In line with such endeavors, and in compliance with the vision and mission of ABAAD as to ending violence against women and girls in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region, a task that is inspired by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Elimination of All kinds of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, as well as the international conventions and resolutions related to gender including UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions, this Knowledge Guide was developed within the "Women in the peace building process" project, with the support of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which aims at advancing the defense of women's rights and gender equality in the MENA region, through the promotion of women's participation in peace and stability processes.



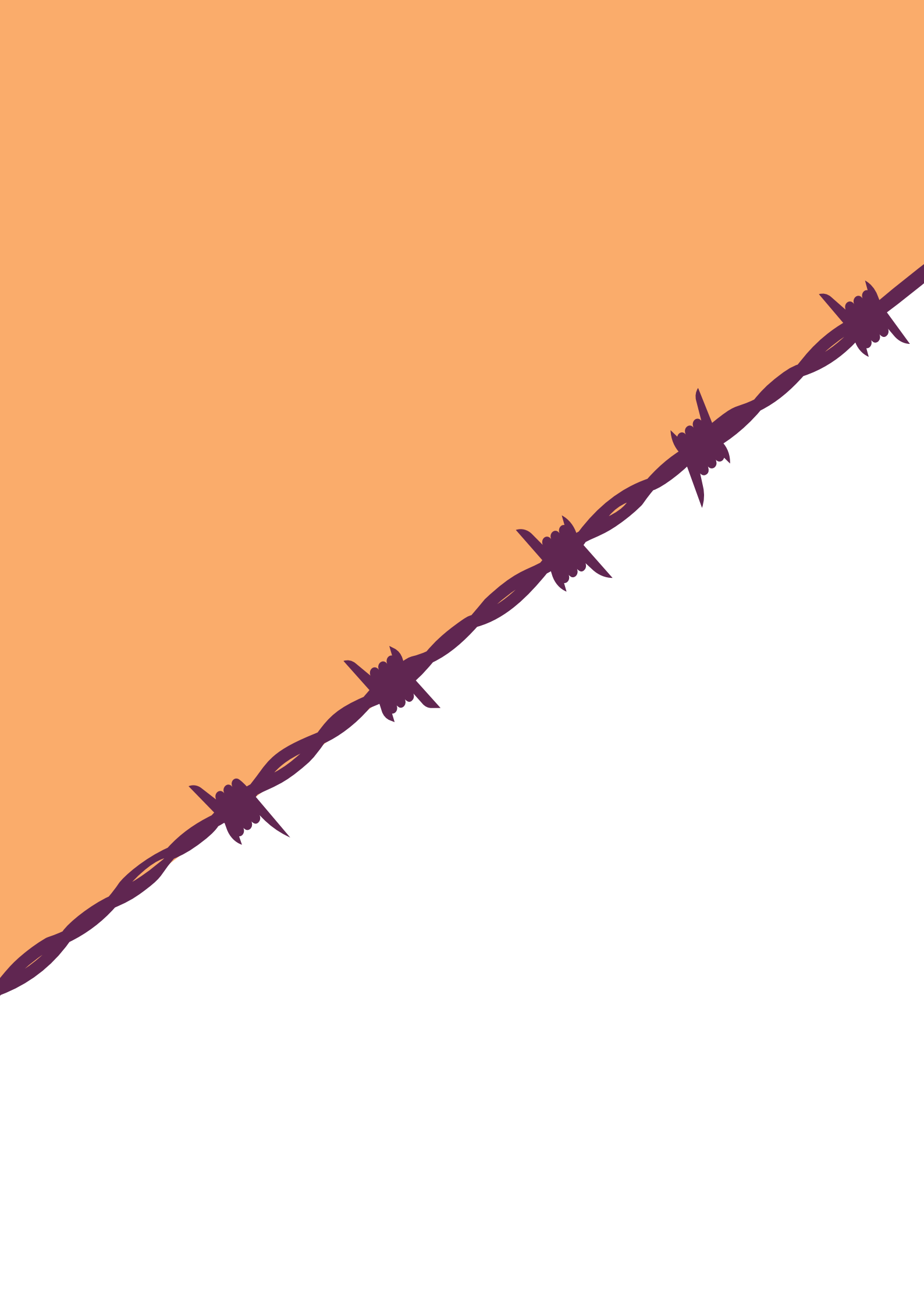
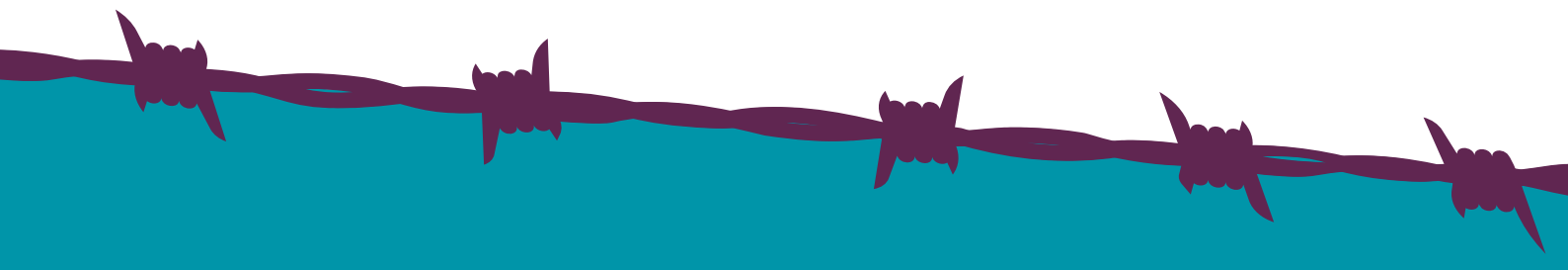


TABLE OF CONTENTS

GENERAL INTRODUCTION	13
Glossary and definition of terms and concepts	14
PART I	18
About UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions	18
First: General introduction of UNSCR 1325	19
Second: Women and girls in situations of war and armed conflicts and facing terrorism and extremism	21
• Impact of wars and conflicts on women and girls	21
• Women facing extremism and terrorism	24
• What international law protects women and girls during armed conflicts	28
Third: UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions	39
• Resolution 1325	39
• Complementary resolutions of Resolution 1325	42
Fourth: Pillars of UNSCR 1325	47
• Prevention	47
• Protection	48
• Participation	55
• Relief, recovery and reconstruction	59
Fifth: Relation of Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions with the human rights system	64
• UNSC R 1325 and the CEDAW	64
• UNSC R 1325 and the Beijing Platform of Action	68
• UNSC R 1325 and Agenda 2030	70
• UNSC R 1325 and the international protection mechanisms for women	73
Sixth: The UNSCR 1325 national action plans	79



PART II

82

About UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, and the ways to incorporate it into work approaches of the security and Media & information institutions and civil society organizations programs 82

First: The civil society

83

1. UNSCR 1325 and the civil society 83
2. The role of civil society in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 85
3. Incorporating UNSCR 1325 into the strategies, the action plans and the interventions of organizations 87
4. Advocacy and awareness raising on UNSCR 1325 89

Second: Resolution 1325 and the security sector

94

1. Background of the role of the security sector in dealing with women's issues in contexts of conflict 94
2. Role of the security sector in addressing gender-based violence in situations of conflict 96
3. Integrating the UNSCR 1325 approach and philosophy into the security sector interventions 100

Third: UNSCR 1325 and the media sector

105

1. Background of the UNSCR 1325 and the media 105
2. UNSCR 1325 and the social media 111
3. Integrating UNSCR 1325 into the media action (press – TV...) 114

EXERCISES

118

Exercises of Part I

- Women and girls in situations of war and armed conflicts and facing terrorism and extremism 120
- Relation of Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions with concepts, standards and mechanisms of human rights 127
- Areas of focus of Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions 134

Exercises of Part II

- Resolution 1325 and the civil society 144
- Resolution 1325 and the security sector 148
- Resolution 1325 and the media 151

ANNEX: SUPPORT MATERIAL FOR EXERCISES AND TRAINING



“ Women in war-torn societies often preserve the survival of such societies. They preserve the social structure. They change destructive social services to take care of the sick and the injured. Consequently, women are the primary generator of peace. ”

Kofi Annan, UN Secretary General

“ ... We must also recognize the links between sexual violence in conflict, gender inequality and discrimination, and violent extremism and terrorism. Extremists and terrorists often build their ideologies around the subjugation of women and girls, and use sexual violence to fuel in various ways, from forced marriage to virtual enslavement. Sexual violence continues to fuel conflict and severely impacts the prospects for lasting peace. ”

Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

In December 2011, Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to three women for their peace-building work: Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkol Karman, for their non-violent struggle for women's rights to full participation in peace-building and spread of democracy. The Nobel Prize committee mentioned for the first time the UN Security Council Resolution No 1325, asserting the links between global peace and security, women leaderships and prevention of war crimes against women.



LIST OF ACRONYMS

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
CAT	Convention against torture
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DEVAW	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
FTFs	Foreign Terrorist Fighters
GBV	Gender-based Violence
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICTR	International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IDW	Internally Displaced Women
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
LPDC	Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NAPs	National Action Plans
NCLW	National Commission for Lebanese Women's Affairs
NGO	Non-Governmental Organizations
OHCHR	Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
PVE	Preventing Violent Extremism
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VAW	Violence Against Women
VNR	Voluntary National Report

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

On the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution No 1325, and coinciding with the national plan on Resolution 1325 adopted by Lebanon in 2019, this guide was designed for building the capacities of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) that are operating at the national and local levels, as well as the Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), the Media sector and the Security sector on Resolution 1325, and on the incorporation of its perspective and provisions in the drafting, execution, monitoring and documentation of programs; in addition to integrating the lens of the Resolution in the guidance, case management and women education operations at the local community level. This guide is addressed to the benefit of any person who strives to build capacities around the Resolution for these three frameworks.

Through our ongoing work that was initiated by ABAAD in 2012 around Resolution 1325, we noticed the need for ensuring a knowledge framework regulating the Resolution, in terms of the justification for its adoption, its elements and components, its complementary resolutions, and its links to the other international women's rights standards and mechanisms. We also noted the need for adapting this knowledge framework to the local context of Lebanon, i.e. to the link between the Resolution and the rest of relevant strategies and plans. Finally, within the framework of our action with the different actors, including the CSOs, the public sector and the media, the need for a knowledge framework specific to the Resolution was revealed in its relation with the mentioned actors, and this is what is offered by this guide, which constitutes one of the aspects of the response to the efforts for political, economic and social sustainable development in the region.

It is not a training manual in the sense that it develops a specific training program or a certain training session. It has not been designed to set up plans for training sessions and execution practices for those sessions, but rather to be a comprehensive knowledge reference guide that focuses on knowledge concepts and contexts for UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, and which will be followed by a series of training packages specialized in the fields related to the different contexts: civil society organizations, security sector and the media.

The guide contains a whole comprehensive part related to UNSCR 1325, its components and its relation with international human rights standards, another part related to the three contexts (CSOs, security sector, media); the intersection between UNSCR 1325 and the interventions by such actors shows the importance of the Resolution as to their interventions and general aspects for the ways to incorporate this Resolution into their various interventions.

While we have been seeking to enrich and adopt this package nationally, a technical review committee of experts representing the different abovementioned sectors was established to review and develop the content, as well as to make suggestions to improve the quality and efficiency of the guide.

GLOSSARY, DEFINITIONS OF TERMS AND CONCEPTS

Definition of human rights¹ : Human rights are global legal guarantees of the protection of individuals and communities against Government measures, which protect fundamental freedoms and human dignity and allow the person to live in dignity as a human being and frees him/her from fear and need. It is the minimum requirements needed for safeguarding human dignity, and for allowing the person to live in dignity.

International Humanitarian Law (IHL): It is a set of international rules derived from conventions and traditions which aim specifically at settling humanitarian problems resulting directly from international or non-international armed conflicts and which limit, for humanitarian reasons, the right of the parties to the conflict to use means of war, or protect the persons and properties that are or might be exposed to conflict.

International Human Rights Law (IHRL): It is a set of legal rules and principles foreseen in international conventions and treaties, or derived from the international custom, which ensure the rights and freedoms of individuals and groups against the State mainly. Such rights are considered as inalienable and binding for the State which should respect them and protect them, as well as commit to implementing them after adopting them.

Human Rights Charter: It includes a number of instruments:

- The Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948
- The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) 1966
- The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) 1966
- The first Optional Protocol to the ICCPR
- The second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR
- The Optional Protocol to the ICESCR

Declaration on the elimination of Violence against women: It was adopted by the UN General Assembly by virtue of its Resolution No 48/104 on the 20th of December 1993. This Declaration foresees that VAW is one aspect of unequal power relations between men and women throughout history, which led to the dominance of men over women and discrimination against women, and prevented full empowerment of women. This Declaration reveals the different aspects of VAW like violence in the family, violence in society, and violence perpetrated or tolerated by the State. The UDHR also indicates the fact that certain specific categories of women are exposed to violence, including minority women, indigenous women, refugee women, and women in extreme poverty, women held in correctional institutions or in prisons, women and girls with disabilities, older women, and women in conflict. The UDHR also set up a number of measures that the States should take to prevent and end violence. The States should also condemn VAW and abstain from taking traditions and customs or religion as a pretext to avoid meeting their obligations as to ending this violence.

Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (2000): It was adopted by the UNGA on the 15th of November 2000. It supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime adopted in the same year. This Protocol determines the acts that constitute the crime of trafficking in persons through a wide and detailed definition. "Trafficking in persons shall mean the recruitment, transportation, transfer, harboring or receipt of persons, by means of the threat or use of force or other forms of coercion, of abduction, of fraud, of deception, of the abuse of power or of a position of vulnerability or of the giving or receiving of payments or benefits to achieve the consent of a person having control over another person, for the purpose of exploitation. Exploitation shall include, at a minimum, the exploitation of the prostitution of others or other forms of sexual exploitation, forced labor or services, slavery or practices similar to slavery, servitude or the removal of organs...". The Protocol calls on the States to protect and assist the victims of trafficking in persons

1. The definition is one of the training material of the publications of the Arab Institute for Human Rights, on its website :<http://aihr-iaadh.org/ar>

and to ensure the respect of all their human rights; it also calls for the promotion of co-operation among states parties in order to achieve these goals.

International resolution: It is a legal action that expresses the position of an international organization, or any of its branches. It is binding as a charter for the persons and bodies that its provisions address, and who thus shall be liable internationally for not abiding by it. The most important international resolutions are those that are issued by the UN Security Council under Chapters Six and Seven of the UNO Charter; Chapter Six deals with settling disputes with peaceful means while Chapter Seven tackles the possible actions in cases of threat to and breach of peace as well as in cases of aggression. The UN Security Council resolutions issued under Chapter Seven are executable by use of military force in order to impose the respect of any resolution that is issued under this chapter. As for the resolutions that are adopted by the UN General Assembly and the International Criminal Court, they are not binding, contrary to the UNSC resolutions, due to the absence of executory force to put such resolutions into force forcibly.

Discrimination against women: Article one of the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) considers that "the term "discrimination against women" shall mean any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, on a basis of equality of men and women, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other field."

Violence Against Women (VAW): The 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) defines Violence Against Women as being "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life"². Although the CEDAW does not include any direct mention of VAW, the definition of discrimination against women as per Article 1 of the Convention covers, according to the Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women, gender-based violence (GBV) – i.e. violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately³.

Gender: The United Nations Development Fund for Women UNIFEM defines gender as "the socially constructed roles for both males and females; and these roles that are acquired through education change over time and vary considerably within the same culture and from a culture to another." Gender means the way the society looks at us, as women and men, and the way it expects us/our behaviors to be. This is due to the way the society is organized and not to biological (sexual) differences between men and women. The World Health Organization also defines gender as being: "the socially constructed roles, behaviors, activities and personal characteristics that are considered by society as convenient for men and for women". For the Committee on the elimination of discrimination against women, the term "sex" refers to biological differences between men and women. The term "gender" refers to socially constructed identities, attributes and roles for women and men and society's social and cultural meaning for these biological differences resulting in hierarchical relationships between women and men and in the distribution of power and rights favoring men and disadvantaging women. This social positioning of women and men is affected by political, economic, cultural, social, religious, ideological and environmental factors and can be changed by culture, society and community"⁴.

Gender-based violence (GBV): It is violence that is directed against a person because of their socially defined role, which is a violation of the fundamental right to life, freedom, security and dignity, to gender equality, to non-discrimination, and to mental and physical health. It is "any harmful act that is directed against individuals or groups of individuals based on gender... it can include violence based on gender, sexual vio-

2. the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) was adopted by the UN General Assembly by virtue of its Resolution No 48/104 on the 20th of December 1993.

3. Committee on the elimination of violence against women: "Recommendation 19 – Violence against women", para 6.

4. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW) was adopted by the UN General Assembly by virtue of its Resolution No 48/104 on the 20th of December 1993.

lence, domestic violence, trafficking in persons, forced/early marriage and harmful traditional practices. For the Committee on the elimination of VAW, gender-based violence (GBV) is: "violence directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty. Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence. Gender-based violence, which impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of human rights and fundamental freedoms under general international law or under human rights conventions, is discrimination within the meaning of Article 1 of the Convention"⁵.

Sexual violence: It is a form of gender-based violence and covers "any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act, or sexual comments or proposals of unwanted sexual acts, by violence or coercion, or acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim, and in whatever context"⁶. Sexual violence takes many forms, and includes rape, sexual abuse, forced pregnancies, sexual slavery, harassment and sexual exploitation.

Armed conflict: Based on the interpretation of the two additional protocols to the Geneva conventions (1977), armed conflict is war or an armed dispute that is trans-boundary or within the same country where regular armies are in confrontation with armed groups, or armed groups are fighting each other. Armed group means any armed organization that has control over a specific geographical region and has the necessary command and leadership structure.

Sexual violence in conflict: It refers to rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization and other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys that is linked, directly or indirectly (temporally, geographically or causally) to a conflict. This link may be evident in the profile of the perpetrator; the profile of the victim; in a climate of impunity or State collapse; in the cross-border dimensions; and/or in violations of the terms of a ceasefire agreement.⁷

Protection: It can be defined as any measure aiming at ensuring the respect of the rights of the holders of those rights and preventing any attack against them. Protection can be direct or in-kind such as the existence of a shelter for victims of violence, or legal i.e. with the existence of laws that prove specific rights and include punitive measures in case they are not respected.

Prevention: It is about measures taken either to prevent a certain breach from happening, like ensuring lighting and guarding for the water resources and roads leading to them in the refugee camps, in order to prevent any aggression against women; or to fortify a certain position facing risks, like adopting legislations that can protect women against specific risks such as domestic violence or sexual aggressions, which helps raise awareness and mainstream gender issues.

Participation (in decision making): It is one of the forms of recognition of equal rights of persons, and between men and women. It contributes to excluding conflict, replaces it with the idea of cooperation, and establishes their ability to lead and to act responsibly in managing their affairs and controlling their destiny.

Relief and recovery: Relief is about offering assistance and action aiming at saving lives and mitigating sufferings, as well as preserving human dignity during emergencies such as armed conflicts. As for recovery, it is the process of restoring the situation to its state prior to the occurrence of a crisis or disaster.

Protection and accountability mechanisms: They are legal-judicial frameworks such as international tribunals, or committees related to human rights conventions, such as the CEDAW Committee.

5. The definition is used in the UNSG reports following Resolution 1960 (2010) on the parties suspected of rape or other patterns of sexual violence, or their responsibility for such acts, during armed conflict. See for e.g. "Sexual violence in conflict: UNSG report", 792/A/67 – 149/S/2013, March 14, 2013, para. 5.

6. The definition is used in the UNSG reports following Resolution 1960 (2010) on the parties suspected of rape or other patterns of sexual violence, or their responsibility for such acts, during armed conflict. See for e.g. "Sexual violence in conflict: UNSG report", 792/A/67 – 149/S/2013, March 14, 2013, para. 5.

7. UNSG report: "Conflict-related sexual violence", 203/S/2015, March 23, 2015, para. 2.



ABOUT UNSCR

1325

AND ITS
COMPLEMENTARY
RESOLUTIONS

PART I

In line with the goal and objective of this guide, this Part presents the knowledge framework related to UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, and all international and regional contexts related to it.



First: General introduction of UNSCR 1325

It is true that conflicts threaten everybody with adverse consequences, they have however a special impact on women and girls, because in general, the latter can only access to resources that provide them with protection and the possibility to provide for themselves. They are also more exposed to gender-based intentional attacks.

They are more excluded from the political process that is indispensable for installing peace and security. Women and girls suffer from many forms of violence and discrimination during times of conflict and in post-conflict periods, which is considered as a prolongation of pre-conflict violence and discrimination. Violence against women and girls increases because of their gender, and this violence will continue after the conflict if it is not countered thanks with clear and specific measures.

The woman becomes many times the first victim during wars and armed conflicts. Targeting women is in many cases a military strategy for destroying the enemy. Rape, very common in armed conflicts, is considered as a crime and can even be seen as a genocide, as noted by the International Criminal Court. In the same context, women rarely play an active role in decisions leading to armed conflicts; they rather work on preserving social order in the middle of conflicts, and strive to guarantee a normal life, as much as possible. Moreover, women bear most of the time, an unequal share of the results of war. Many women were left widowed facing the overload of work needed to provide for their family, while they have to deal by themselves with trauma resulting from violence and particularly conflict-related sexual violence. All these factors should be taken into consideration more and more, especially in peace keeping missions, whereas the most important assistance can be given to women, proportionately to their special needs.

That is how the need for legal tools to protect women in armed conflicts appeared; one of those tools is UN Security Council Resolution No 1325 of the 31st of October 2000. It represents one element of a series of resolutions that push in the same direction. For example, Resolution No 1820 (2008) focuses on the promotion of protecting women against sexual violence during armed conflicts and calls for fighting impunity and achieving accountability. It also calls for gender mainstreaming and increased women involvement in peace processes. As for Resolution No 1888 (2009), it constitutes a practical quality step through the appointment of a UN Special Representative of the Secretary General for sexual violence in conflict. Resolution 1960 (2010) calls for the establishment of mechanisms for the promotion of the principle of accountability and impunity as foreseen in Resolutions 1829 and 1888. It also calls for the adoption of the principle of Name and Shame, i.e. naming the perpetrators and shaming them. Resolution 2016 (2011) represents an example of how the international community interferes through the UN Security Council in order to ensure the protection of civilians and assert the fight against impunity policies, by granting the International Criminal Court the competence to examine a certain situation and take the necessary legal measures. As for Resolution 2122 (2013), it calls for the promotion of women's presence and role in decision making instances, talks related to conflict resolution and peace promotion. It asserts the need for providing access to assistance and medical services to women who became pregnant due to rape in armed conflict.

UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions offer an advanced legal and physical framework for the protection of women and girls in armed conflict, by calling for gender mainstreaming in security and peace fields. This resolution thus represents a qualitative step towards the expansion of the prevention, protection, participation, relief and reconstruction umbrella, and moving from general humanitarian concept to gender specific concept that is based on specific gender needs and takes into consideration a number of factors (age, geography, economy, community culture...).

Resolution No 1325 on women, peace and security was adopted unanimously by the UN Security Council on the 31st of October 2000. That was the first time that the UN Security Council confronts the disproportionate and unique impact of armed conflicts



on women, and acknowledges how women's contributions to conflict resolution and peace building have been ignored. The Resolution stressed the importance of women's equal and full participation as an active agent in building peace and security. Resolution No 1325 is a binding resolution for the United Nations and all member States. This resolution encourages member states to prepare each their own National Action Plan (NAP) to promote the Resolution at the national level.

The UNSCR 1325 recognizes that conflicts affect women and girls differently than their impact on men and boys and that women must be part of the conflict resolution process and long-term peace building. Many things have changed since the adoption of UNSCR 1325. There has been growing recognition that protecting women and girls against sexual and gender violence is a major challenge for the humanitarian efforts and peace keeping efforts. The women alliances concerned with peace have become stronger and in some contexts were able to put the women's concerns on the agenda of peace talks. The transitional justice mechanisms have increasingly responded to war crimes perpetrated against women, while a clearer interest has been given to the means through which conflicts affect women and to the need for specific measures for the protection of women who testify in this regard. In some cases, post conflict planning and need assessment were decided, and the financial frameworks need to put the women's participation and concerns at the core of their recovery efforts.

Resolution No 1325 makes the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment one of the global peace and security concerns and an issue that is closely linked to negotiation on peace agreements, planning refugee and IDP camps, peacekeeping operations, and reconstruction of war-torn communities. Meeting the needs of women may contribute to installing permanent peace. What reinforced the UNSCR 1325 is the adoption by the Security Council of other resolutions related to issues of women, peace and security. The responsibility for the implementation of resolutions related to women, peace and security lies mainly on the shoulders of the UN member States in partnership with a number of stakeholders such as the civil society and international and regional organizations dealing with security. The implementation of these resolutions within the United Nations System is concentrated on offering effective support to the member States and other actors regionally and nationally. There are many methods of implementation by the member States of these resolutions in their own national contexts, including setting the national plans on Women, Peace and Security. However, setting up independent plans is not the only method for achieving this; the main elements of the resolutions related to women, peace and security can be integrated depending on how close they are linked to priority plans of the ministries of defense, interior, justice, economy and social development, gender affairs, development, and foreign affairs. Furthermore, the national action plan development process can be used in creating new budget allocations and launching the procedures within each of these ministries and each of the relevant departments, in order to promote the goals related to women, peace and security.

Second: Women and girls in situations of war and armed conflicts and facing terrorism and extremism

- **Impact of wars and conflicts on women and girls**

Conflict and instability exacerbate pre-existing patterns of discrimination and violence against women and girls and expose them to more severe risks of violations of their human rights. Therefore, wars affect women and girls in a much different way than men. However, given the exclusion of women from peace processes, this is rarely talked about, and therefore not addressed or tackled, neither during national dialogues and negotiations, nor when drafting peace treaties and new constitutions.

Traditions and cultural and social legacies impose stereotypes about different roles for women and men in society, often with temporary change to these predetermined roles during wars and conflicts. Usually men take up arms, leaving the home and family to be taken care of by women.

This means for many women that they have to play the role of breadwinner, business owner and defender of human rights, areas that they have not been allowed access to before. However, women have proven that they are more than capable of taking responsibility even in the harshest of conditions.

Women can sometimes change their status in society during wars and in the post-conflict phase, but soon the situation return to what it was before, and roles may even become more conservative from a gender perspective, and the rights that women were able to suddenly obtain before are denied, in the name of religion or political beliefs. Moreover, experience has shown that the fewer women occupying decision-making positions in a country, the easier it is to overlook issues related to gender equality and women's rights.

Conflict can result in the growth and acceptance of higher levels of violence against women and girls, including arbitrary killings, torture, sexual violence, forced marriage, child marriage, etc. Women and girls are mainly and increasingly exposed to the use of sexual violence, including using it as a means of warfare. Although women and girls are generally the primary victims of sexual violence, men and children also fall victim to sexual violence, especially in contexts of detention.



Sexual and gender-based violence is also on the rise in post-conflict societies, due to the general breakdown of the rule of law, the spread of small arms, the breakdown of social and family structures, and the "normalization" of gender violence as an additional component of already existing discrimination. Trafficking is also exacerbated during and post-conflict due to the breakdown of political, economic and social structures, high levels of violence and intensified militarization.

As for the failure to provide basic services to the population (including refugees and displaced persons), during conflict and in situations of instability, it can have a disproportionate impact on specific population groups, including women and girls, often related, once again, on pre-existing cases of discrimination. Girls may encounter an additional obstacle to their access to education, which is not considered a priority in situations of war and conflict, for reasons including fear of attacks and target-specified threats addressed to them, as well as additional caregiving and house chores responsibilities that girls are often obliged to carry out. During wars and conflicts and in refugee situations, the number of women who are providers for their families increases, forcing women to search for alternative sources of livelihood because the survival of the family is now dependent on them.

Access to basic services, such as health care, including sexual and reproductive health services, can be impossible to provide, consequently, women and girls may be more exposed to the risk of unplanned pregnancy, maternal mortality and morbidity, and serious sexual and reproductive injuries, and sexually transmitted infections, as a result of factors including conflict-related sexual violence.

In the same context, Internally Displaced women can be disproportionately affected by the loss of their livelihoods when they are displaced. They may, for example, not be able to exercise their usual livelihood due to the loss of job opportunities. The loss of housing and land can also disproportionately affect women for example, due to the lack of property deeds. Internally Displaced Women often do not have access to adequate services and responses in the field of reproductive health care and can be exposed to violence, abuse, sexual exploitation, exploitation at work, trafficking in persons, forced recruitment and abduction. Internally displaced women and girls are also often excluded from decision-making processes.

Women and girls should not only be seen as victims of conflict and instability. Throughout history, they have played, and are still playing, the role of fighters as part of formal civil society, as human rights defenders, as members of resistance movements, and as actors in both formal and informal peace-building and recovery processes. Post-conflict situations and reforms can be seen as an opportunity to transform societal structures and norms that existed prior to the conflict, in order to ensure further access to human rights for women. But women's exclusion from efforts aiming at preventing outbreaks of conflicts, and from post-conflict transition and reconstruction processes is a matter of concern for the international community.

Sexual violence remains the greatest and biggest threat that touch women and girls specifically, as one of the forms of violence that occur during armed conflicts. Gang rape and sexual abuse are used by armies, armed groups and militias as a strategic weapon to punish individuals, spread fear, defeat adversaries, and humiliate men by conveying a message telling them that they are not capable of protecting their women.

Besides serious mental and physical harm caused by sexual violence and fear of unwanted pregnancy, or fear of HIV/AIDS infection, the victims of sexual violence will also have to fight against rape-related stigma. Many women do not have the courage to talk about what they have gone through or even ask for help because they are afraid of being rejected or abandoned by society. When the war ends, they find themselves obliged to cope with the shock of seeing their rapists enjoy their life as if nothing happened, and even meeting them face to face in the streets of their town.

In November 1998, and for the first time in history, rape was considered as a crime by virtue of the international law. One of the prosecutors of the International Criminal Tribunal of Rwanda (ICTR) mentioned that rape could be considered as a crime against humanity by itself. With the adoption of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court in

the same year, the ICC was established on a permanent basis and it became possible to consider rape, forced prostitution, sexual slavery, and forced pregnancy and sterilization, as crimes against humanity and war crimes.

But the existence of a mechanism to achieve justice does not necessarily mean that it can be applied on the ground, as impunity instances for crimes of in-conflict sexual violence have been recurring. Although there are many United Nations resolutions which clearly stipulate the obligation of States to provide health care to victims who need it in the post-conflict period, insufficient resources are allocated to most health facilities working in the field of reproductive health, which is not only a serious violation of women's rights, but also a serious obstacle for States trying to conduct necessary reconciliations and thus achieve a lasting peace.

The main forms of discrimination that affect women during conflicts include the following:

- Trafficking of women and girls is exacerbated during and after conflict, and sexual, economic and military exploitation of women increases;
- Basic services provided to the population during conflict decline, which limits the access of women and girls to resources. Girls face obstacles to their access to education, and women face obstacles to their access to health services, especially reproductive health. Internal displacement, exodus and asylum prevent women from exercising their rights and deprive them of their right to a decent life. Women's contributions to conflict resolution and peace-building are ignored.
- Sexual violence against women and girls is growing: rape, sexual abuse, forced pregnancy, sexual slavery, harassment, sexual exploitation, and even captivity. And cases of forced disappearance, torture, forced displacement, and other crimes are increasing.
- Gender-based violence is used to destroy the demographic structure of societies and spread panic in them.
- Poor access to justice for women due to insecurity and absence of the rule of law in situations of conflict and civil unrest.
- The problem of poverty and the inability to access social services provided by governments, and the inability to ensure income and meet family needs are exacerbated.
- Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence remains a serious concern, including with continued incidence of rape, harassment, sexual slavery, and forced marriage. All forms of violence against women increase during and after conflict as part of a continuum of acts of violence (Paragraph 152 - Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action).



- **Women facing extremism and terrorism**

The world is currently in the grip of fear of growing violent extremism and systematic acts of terrorism that are perpetrated by terrorist and extremist groups, as well as human rights violations. Women, girls and women's groups are now trapped between terrorism and counter-terrorism.

Many studies show that societies that respect women's rights are less exposed to extremism and assert the necessity to avoid securitizing women's rights and using them as an important tool for combating terrorism. With the rise of extremism and terrorism the risk of reactions against women's rights defenders and women's rights issues increases. Violent extremism of the modern time deliberately targets women and girls, and the participation of women can be exploited in the broad efforts to combat terrorism, which can further marginalize women, increase women's insecurity, and create fears of "exploitation" of women by the government, rather than enabling them to participate fully in society and to overcome the obstacles they face.

Freedom of expression in a democratic state requires allowing for expression of different points of view, regardless of the degree of extremism, except for hatred speech.

A common denominator among extremist groups is that their progress comes with an attack on women and girls' rights, including the right to education, the right to public life, and the right to make decisions about their own bodies. For example, the abduction of women and girls has become a deliberate tactic to lure security forces into an ambush or to force ransom payment or exchange of prisoners. "Research indicates the exposure of abducted women and girls who live in captivity with Boko Haram includes a range of abuses including physical and psychological abuse, forced labor, forced participation in military operations, forced marriage of their abductors, and sexual assault, including rape."

Sexual violence and sexual gender-based violence is also an explicit tactic of terrorist forces such as ISIS. Yazidi women and girls who fled ISIS control in northern Iraq reported horrific sexual violence, and having been victims of trafficking by ISIS fighters as slaves. Information collected by the Iraqi Fact-Finding Mission in 2015 mentions crime of genocide committed against the Yazidi population, as well as crimes against humanity, war crimes and other outright violations of human rights, including against women and girls. Reports indicate that forced marriage to foreign fighters has become increasingly common in areas under the control of ISIS. This phenomenon has also been observed in IDP camps, and in neighboring countries, where refugee communities resort to measures such as child marriage, especially of girls, and school dropouts, the ban of outings with the purpose of "protecting" daughters and wives.



Despite slow global progress towards achieving gender equality, including through the achievement of the MDGs, there are concerns that extremist groups that prefer tough cultural and religious practices will reduce the gains acquired by women, especially with regard to health and education. Throughout the world, extremists have committed acts of violence and threatened the personal security of women in an attempt to limit their fundamental rights, including their participation in public life. Moreover, violence against the rights of women and girls is getting growing global attention, especially on conflict-related sexual violence and on the use of sexual violence which is closely related to the strategic goals, ideology and financing of extremist groups.

It is worth noting that women are not only victims, but have long been involved with groups practicing violent extremism. Their roles vary according to each group and can include carrying out suicide bombings, joining women branches of political parties or women's brigades within armed organizations in addition to intelligence gathering. Women can also empathize and mobilize, by providing health care, food and safe housing for extremists who practice violence and for terrorists. For example, although mothers can constitute an entry point for prevention efforts, they may also become a source of extremism.

In order to understand women's desire to become members of extremist groups, it is important also to recognize the nature of the women's status context. Usually women who are victims of violence and discrimination feel that they have no non-violent choice. Protracted displacement also affects their decision to join extremist groups. All these experiences have constituted the women's political identity, and they usually produce extremely engaged rebellious women.

Policies and public debates seldom recognize that women might have such grievances and motives. Some women have effectively joined violent extremism movements, some against their will, but others out of enthusiasm. They might join those groups, as mentioned before, and for the same radical reasons as those of men. In addition to that, they might also be seduced, because they come from conservative families, and through strong internet propaganda images, into those extremist groups as militants for "liberation".

At the same time, on the other hand, women are also on the front lines fighting violent extremism. Examples include mothers who de-radicalize their children, female police officers who participate with communities in Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) activities, and women lecturers who speak up for religious tolerance. So women's roles are huge, but the opportunities for their involvement, especially at the upper levels, are limited.

Although the inequities and inequalities inherent in gender relations represent a long-term threat to development and stability, gender equality is a prevention of extremism and violent extremism. So, it is very important to communicate with women leaders as a critical resource for peace. Increased acknowledgment of women's participation and empowerment should not be part of counterterrorism strategies but part of the civil peace agenda. Numerous studies have increasingly shown a correlation between women's rights and the decline in violent extremism. Countries with relative gender parity are less vulnerable to violent extremism.

The discussion and debate around many means to counter terrorism and violent extremism shows a huge divide between decision makers and practitioners. The first trend set by many security think tanks is to include the issue of women and gender equality in military planning. It urges the military officers in the field to involve, empower, and train women to be aware of the fact that they are used as sources of information. This is a dangerous and short-sighted use that puts women at risk, isolating them from their communities and their families also, even if it achieves results in the short term, in the long run it will destroy the social fabric for the society that is being built. The second trend is a constructive approach and comprehensive and inclusive policies, which include many strategies, including development, human rights and women's rights, in a top-down model imposed by the top and basically complemented by a military strategy or counter-terrorism strategy.

This trend is currently predominant in the UN dialogues. The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted unanimously in September 2006, and the resolutions that

were taken upon its review, represent a strategic framework and political guidance for the UN System collective counter-terrorism efforts. Terrorism is described in the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. This Strategy has four pillars:

1. Addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism
2. Preventing and combating terrorism
3. Building states' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard
4. Ensuring respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

It is understood that the dimensions of peace and security in fighting terrorism are particularly expressed in Pillars 1 and 4. Although the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy does not include a specific mention of gender, the decision adopted during the fourth biennial review encourages member states and UN agencies, in addition to international and regional organizations to "examine women's participation in the efforts to prevent and combat terrorism". The UN Secretary General report for 2014 on the activities of the United Nations in terms of execution of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy mentions that women can play an important role in preventing violence based on extremism and build the capacity to confront it.

The UN human rights system has increasingly tackled the issue of gender and terrorism. General Recommendation No 30 issued by the CEDAW Committee concerning the status of women in the context of conflict prevention and in situations of conflict and post-conflict, recommends that state parties "reject all forms of rollbacks in women's rights protections in order to appease non-State actors such as terrorists, private individuals or armed groups". The Human Rights Council asks the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism to undertake, inter alia, "to mainstream gender in all aspects of his mandate". The report of the Special Rapporteur to the General Assembly in 2009 urges the governments to tackle the issue of gender inequalities that makes women the target of terrorism and to guarantee that the victims of terrorism receive support, including through lifting discriminatory obstacles (such as unfair inheritance laws) which undermine assistance. The UNGA resolutions on the protection of women's rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, urged the state parties to "shape, review and implement all counter-terrorism measures in accordance with the principles of gender equality and non-discrimination".

The Security Council has repeatedly referred to women in its resolutions and statements relating to terrorism. Resolution 2178 which was adopted in September 2014 focuses on the threat posed by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs) and acknowledges for the first time the need to empower women as a mitigating factor for the spread of violent extremism and terrorism. But this paradigm shift within the UN system remains deeply problematic and goes against everything the women already residing in local communities say. Although empowering women as a rampart against extremism is an important idea, such empowerment should never be part of Chapter VII of the Charter related to the use of force. It should not come within the scope of the fight against terrorism, but as part of civil assistance in development and human rights programs.

When fighting Violent Extremism, the international community moves towards an inclusive national building approach which includes human rights and women's rights as part of the counter-terrorism approach. Many member states and women organizations strongly support the inclusive building approach because it allows for more inclusive governance that does not depend solely on military means, because human rights and women's rights are also two components of the "checks and balances" of governance.



In Lebanon, the National Strategy for Preventing Violent Extremism, which was endorsed by the Council of Ministers in early 2018, was based on a clear understanding of the gendered nature of VE. The strategy devoted one of its pillars to “gender equality and women’s empowerment”. This pillar covers four fields of activities:

- a) Women’s awareness of their constitutional and legal rights and the dangers of violent extremism at both individual and family levels;
- b) Legislative reform to achieve justice and eliminate all forms of discrimination against women;
- c) Women’s participation in social, cultural and development activities;
- d) Women’s participation in decision-making and policy processes.

- **What international law protects women and girls during armed conflicts?**

Having reviewed the situation of women in contexts of war and conflict, it is necessary to familiarize with the international legal framework that protects women and girls in those periods. This section exposes the International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the International Human Rights Law (IHRL) in addition to the International Refugee Law, as the legal frameworks that protect women's human rights in contexts of conflict and conflict impact.

- **International Humanitarian Law (IHL)**

According to the ICRC, it is the law that applies during conflicts, and it is composed of a number of rules that aim at mitigating the impact of armed conflicts. It also protects people who do not participate or cease to participate in hostilities, in addition to the fact that it restricts the means and methods of war¹.

There are some basic principles that need to be respected by virtue of the IHL, namely:

1. The principle of humanity i.e. giving humanitarian considerations a top priority.
2. The principle of distinction between civilians and combatants, and between civilian targets and military targets. The parties to an armed conflict must distinguish, at all times, between civilians and combatants and between civilian targets and military targets.
3. The principle of proportionality. The balance of humanity and military necessity is strongly shown in the IHL rules of proportionality.
4. The principle of military necessity from which stems the prohibition of inflicting unnecessary suffering². According to IHL, no attack shall be launched if it is expected to cause incidental loss of civilian life or injury to civilians or damage to civilian objects that would be excessive in relation to the expected direct military advantage. These principles include the duty to take precautions to spare the civilian population before and during an attack, to prevent unnecessary suffering or excessive injury, and to prohibit indiscriminate attacks.

The IHL is part of the public international law that includes a wide range of treaties, the customary law, principles and rules. Traditionally, the public international law is considered as the framework that regulates relationships between states, however, its rules have evolved to cover a wide range of actors. All actors that are parties to a war, whether governmental forces or armed non-State groups, shall now respect the IHL³.

The International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the International Human Rights Law (IHRL) are complementary and constitute part of the public international law. Both seek to protect human rights, although from a different angle. The aim of IHRL is to protect human beings at all times, both in war and in peace. But some of the IHRL treaties allows governments to limit certain rights in a state of public emergency, while the IHL does not allow any objection because it is binding in all cases and it was originally designed to apply in emergency situations, namely armed conflicts⁴.

The IHL takes its sources from the treaties and the International Customary Law. Its rules appear in a set of conventions and protocols⁵.

One of these sources is the Hague Rules relating to the laws and customs of war, which are considered part of customary international law; they are binding for all states regardless of whether they accept it or not.

1. <https://www.icrc.org/ar/war-and-law>

2. <https://casebook.icrc.org/glossary/fundamental-principles-ihl>

3. <https://ijrcenter.org/international-humanitarian-law>

4. States may not limit their obligations to the fulfillment of certain rights, such as the right to life, the right to psychological and physical integrity, the right to be free from slavery, and the right to ensure the enjoyment of legitimacy in criminal matters: "There is no crime or punishment without a text, the law does not apply retroactively, and the person is not punished for the same act twice", in addition to the right not to be imprisoned as a result of non-payment of a civil debt, the right to protection from enforced disappearance, the right to protect the legal personality and not to be deprived of it, and the right to freedom of opinion, belief and conscience. For more, see Article 4 of the Special International Covenant on civil and political rights (ICCPR), read in light of the Human Rights Committee's General Commentary No. 29.

5. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/HR_in_armed_conflict_ar.pdf

Another source is the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the Additional Protocols of 1977, which form the core of International Humanitarian Law⁶. The Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols do more than just codify provisions for helping and protecting civilians, as they establish the right to relief in addition to the rules of conduct during hostilities. They are international treaties that contain the most important rules to curb the barbarism of wars. They provide protection to persons not taking part in hostilities (civilians, health workers, aid workers) and those who ceased to take part in hostilities (wounded, sick, shipwrecked soldiers, and prisoners of war).

The IHL protects women in many ways. The restrictions that the law places on the means and methods of combat protect women from fighters. The rules relating to the protection of prisoners, the sick, the wounded and the shipwrecked shall also apply to them. As for women who do not participate in hostilities, they are subject to the rules relating to the protection of the civilian population.

These protections are enshrined in the four 1949 Geneva Conventions and the two Additional Protocols of 1977 and in a number of other documents. Women who do not, or no longer participate, in hostilities are protected against the effects of the fighting as well as against abusive treatment by parties to armed conflict. Women have the right to humane treatment, and to respect of their lives and bodies, and not be subjected to torture, degrading treatment, violence or harassment. The IHL sees that it is necessary to treat pregnant women and mothers of young children, especially breastfeeding mothers, with special care. This applies for example, to the provision of food, clothing, medical care, evacuation and transportation⁷. Special protection also applies for women on cases in which they are subjected to detention or arrest. It is necessary, for example, to provide places for sleeping and sanitary facilities separate from those of men. IHL also stipulates that their special needs should be taken into account in situations of pregnancy and breastfeeding, whether in custody or amongst the civilian population.



6. <https://www.icrc.org/ar/document/geneva-conventions-1949-additional-protocols>

7. <https://www.icrc.org/ar/doc/war-and-law/protected-persons/women/overview-women-protected.htm>

According to the IHL, women must enjoy "special protection" against sexual violence. This violence includes rape and forced prostitution, as well as any form of indecent abuse, and these are all acts that constitute war crimes. The IHL also warns against threatening women of sexual violence and stresses in this regard the need to hold women in quarters separated from men's quarters to avoid sexual abuse. According to the Geneva Convention IV relative to the protection of civilian persons in time of war, women must be protected in particular against aggression, rape, forced prostitution or any form of sexual harassment⁸.

It is true that the IHL has granted women's protection great importance, still it is necessary to mention the partial vision in dealing with the status of women in contexts of conflicts. The Geneva conventions and the related protocols have stressed the importance of granting special protection to women, and treating them based on the respect due to their gender, i.e. moving away from the context of weak status for women and just negative impact on women and treating them as victims. This was one of the background thoughts for the adoption of UNSCR 1325. The Resolution has indeed asserted the need for full implementation of the IHL and the IHRL which protect the rights of women and girls during and post conflicts, and the importance of their equal and full participation in all efforts aiming at preserving and promoting peace and security, and the necessity to further their role in decision making related to preventing and solving conflicts.

International Humanitarian Law has viewed women as victims in need of protection and assistance, and not as active and capable agents who have rights, which reflects the stereotypical view of women and their role and experiences in the stages of conflict. It adopts a traditional view of women as a victim in need of protection, and does not focus on mechanisms to prevent gender-based violations. Many of the IHL articles focus on women's need for protection because of their biological characteristics. In this regard, the UN General Assembly issued several resolutions and declarations that included the obligation to provide special protection for women from violence in national legislations and take the necessary measures to implement it, however, it remained conventional despite being based on the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

With the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993, the vision for the protection of women developed into a comprehensive vision to the culture of society, which requires a broad commitment by the State through its legal, administrative, financial and educational procedures. With the development of women's rights within human rights, concepts have evolved and the bodies concerned with women's rights are now convinced that efforts to protect women from violence in general will only succeed with a comprehensive vision of their role in society and their full-fledged equality with men. This protection requires a high level of prevention as well as the need to change stereotypes of women and men and recognize what women do if they are liberated from these stereotypes.

8. First Additional Protocol, Articles 75 and 76



Within this scope, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution No 1325 relating to Women, Peace and Security, then a series of complementary resolutions, in view of undertaking changes to the approach followed by the International Community vis-à-vis conflict prevention, peace keeping and peace building operations.

Besides women, the four 1949 Geneva conventions and their two 1977 additional protocols offer special protection to children in armed conflicts⁹. Children's protection during conflicts is not restricted to the Geneva conventions. It is incorporated into the rights guaranteed by the Convention on the Rights of the Child, whereby all states parties to the CRC commit to respect the rules of the IHL that apply to them during armed conflicts and that are related to the child, as well as to take all practically possible measures to ensure protection and care for children who are affected by any armed conflict. Two protocols were added to the Convention and they are very important for the protection of girls in contexts of conflict. The first is the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflicts (OPAC)¹⁰. The second is the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography¹¹. In addition to these sources of protection, it is necessary to mention the Declaration No 3318 (XXIX) of the 14/12/1974 which calls for the provision of protection for both women and children in situations of emergency and international conflicts, asserting the prohibition of attacks and bombings on the civilian population, especially women and children and condemning such barbaric acts. It evokes the importance of offering guarantees to protect women and children during armed conflicts in compliance with the commitments stemming from Geneva 1925 Protocol.

Lebanon:

Lebanon joined the Geneva conventions and their protocols¹² except for Protocol III, in 2005¹³.



9. <https://www.icrc.org/ar/doc/resources/documents/interview/children-interview-101207.htm>

10. <http://www.ohchr.org/AR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPACCRC.aspx>

11. <http://www.ohchr.org/AR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/OPSCCRC.aspx>

12. https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/applic/ihl/ihl.nsf/vwTreatiesByCountrySelected.xsp?xp_countrySelected=LB

13. <https://treaties.un.org/pages/showdetails.aspx?objid=0800000280158b1a>

• International Human Rights Law

It is a branch of the Public International Law and is composed of a set of rules and legal principles, written and customary, which guarantee the respect of human rights and freedoms and the prosperity of human beings. It aims at protecting the individual's civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It consists of treaties, general principles of the law, jurisprudence, international and national justice, the decisions of the organizations and the international conferences.

The UN Charter is the first instrument that indicates explicitly and clearly the responsibility of the International Community as a whole in the adoption and preservation of human rights and in setting up a general and comprehensive international order to determine the content of these rights and work on inventing different mechanisms for protecting and supporting them¹⁴.

The UN Charter was followed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on the 10th of December 1948. It is considered as an example that must be followed by all peoples and nations, and a criterion used to measure the level of respect and application of international human rights standards. It is also an international customary rule that is respected and implemented by the States.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)

It was adopted on December 16, 1966 and entered into force in 1976. It deals with all civil and political rights, including: the right to life and privacy, fair trial, peaceful assembly, equality before the law, freedom of expression, freedom of thought, freedom of religious belief, freedom from torture, prohibition of slavery in all its forms, and rights of individuals to belong to religious, ethnic and linguistic minorities. According to this Covenant, States undertake to respect the rights recognized in it and to guarantee these rights to all individuals present without any discrimination on the grounds of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, wealth, descent, or other reasons¹⁵.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)

It was adopted on December 16, 1966, and the rights it protects are: The right to work that includes conditions for improving work, the right to a fair wage, the right to form trade unions, the right to social security, the right to a decent life (clothing, housing, food), the right to education, the right to participate in cultural life and to benefit from scientific progress. It also undertakes to guarantee access to the rights set forth therein for everybody, without distinction as to race, color, sex, language, religion, political or non-political opinion, national or social origin, descent, or any other reason¹⁶.

Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

It was adopted on 10/12/1984. "Torture" means any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental, is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from him or a third person information or a confession, punishing him for an act he or a third person has committed or is suspected of having committed, or intimidating or coercing him or a third person, or for any reason based on discrimination of any kind, when such pain or suffering is inflicted by or at the instigation of or with the consent or acquiescence of a public official or other person acting in an official capacity. It does not include pain or suffering arising only from, inherent in or incidental to lawful sanctions. According to this convention, each State Party shall take effective

14. <http://www.un.org/ar/charter-united-nations>

15. First Optional Protocol to the CCPR. It entered into force in 1976 and it concerns the possibility for the individuals to lodge complaints. As for the second OP to the CCPR related to death penalty, it entered into force in 1991.

16. Optional Protocol to the ICESCR. It entered into force on the 5th of May 2013 after having been adopted by the UNGA on the 10th of December 2008. It grants the Commission the competence to receive and examine notifications according to the provisions of this Protocol.

legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to prevent acts of torture. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification of torture. An order from a superior officer or a public authority may not be invoked as a justification of torture¹⁷.

International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of racial discrimination

It was adopted and entered into force in 1969. Racial discrimination is defined in the Convention as “any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life”.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)

Adopted in 2006, this Convention concerns any discrimination, exclusion or restriction on the basis of disability that has the purpose or effect of impairing or frustrating recognition of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, the enjoyment or practice of those rights and freedoms, on an equal basis with others, in all political, economic, social, cultural, civil or any other fields. It includes all forms of discrimination, including denial of reasonable facilities; its most prominent characteristic is that disability is not considered a disease, and it adopts a rights-based approach. It has made a shift in the approach to disability towards recognizing that all people should have the opportunity to realize their full potential through access of persons with disabilities to the same rights and opportunities.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers

Adopted on December 18, 1990, this Convention applies to all migrant workers and members of their families without discrimination of any kind such as gender-based discrimination, sex, race, color, language, religion or conviction, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, nationality, age, economic position, property, marital status, birth or other status.

International Convention for the Protection from Enforced Disappearance

It was adopted in 2006 and defines enforced disappearance as the arrest, detention, abduction or any other form of deprivation of liberty by agents of the State or by persons or groups of persons acting with the authorization, support or acquiescence of the State, followed by a refusal to acknowledge the deprivation of liberty or by concealment of the fate or whereabouts of the disappeared person, which place such a person outside the protection of the law. This Convention mixes IHL with IHRL and stresses that no exceptional circumstances shall be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance. It considers enforced disappearance a crime against humanity when it occurs in a systematic way. According to this Convention, no one shall be subjected to enforced disappearance. No exceptional circumstances whatsoever, whether a state of war or a threat of war, internal political instability or any other public emergency, may be invoked as a justification for enforced disappearance.

Convention against all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

According to this Convention, States shall reject all forms of discrimination against women and adopts for that purpose different measures including embodying the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions; adopting appropriate

17. Optional Protocol to the Convention against torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment. It was adopted in 2002 and entered into force in 2006. The aim of this Protocol is to establish a system based on regular visits paid by international and national independent bodies to places where people are deprived of their freedom, with the goal to prevent torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment.

legislative and other measures prohibiting all discrimination against women; establishing legal protection of the rights of women on an equal basis with men ensuring effective protection of women; taking all appropriate measures, including legislation, to modify or abolish existing laws, regulations, customs and practices which constitute discrimination against women¹⁸.

The Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)

For this Convention, which was adopted on the 20th of November 1989, a child means every human being below the age of eighteen years. According to this Convention, States Parties shall respect and ensure the rights set forth in the present Convention to each child within their jurisdiction without discrimination of any kind, irrespective of the child's or his or her parent's or legal guardian's race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national, ethnic or social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to ensure that the child is protected against all forms of discrimination¹⁹.

Lebanon:

- In 1948, Lebanon contributed to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and adhered to it in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- In 1972, Lebanon joined the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. But although it signed in 2007 the Optional Protocol to the Special Covenant relating to the acceptance of individual complaints procedures, it has not acceded to the Second Optional Protocol on the abolition of death penalty.
- In 1972, Lebanon joined the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. However, it has not acceded to the Optional Protocol on Individual Complaints.
- In 1971, Lebanon joined the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
- In 1991 Lebanon joined the Convention on the Rights of the Child, In addition to its accession to the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. As for the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, it was signed in 2002.
- In 2007, Lebanon only signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, without adherence to the Optional Protocol.
- Lebanon has not taken any steps to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and the Members of their families.
- Lebanon only signed the International Convention on the Protection of Enforced Disappearances, a year after its approval in 2006.

18. The Optional Protocol to the CEDAW was adopted and submitted for signature, ratification and accession in 1999 and entered into force in 2000. The State party to this Protocol recognizes the competence of the Special CEDAW Committee in receiving notifications from the part of individuals or groups of individuals, or on behalf of them, claiming that they are victims of violation by that State party of any of the rights mentioned in the Convention.

19. Two protocols supplement the Convention, these are the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflicts which was adopted and submitted for signature, ratification and accession in 2000 and entered into force in 2002; and the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, which was adopted and submitted for signature, ratification and accession in 2000 and entered into force in 2002.

• International Refugee Law

In addition to the International Humanitarian Law and the International Human Rights Law, there is another legal context regulating the rights of women and girls in context of conflict that cannot be ignored: it is the International Refugee Law.

The International Refugee Law is considered part of the larger framework which is the International Human Rights Law. Refugees have the right to access to two partly interconnected sets of rights: the rights granted to them as individuals and guaranteed by international human rights standards, which include the Convention against torture (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Racial Discrimination (CERD)²⁰; and second, the specific rights related to their refugee status²¹.

The UN General Assembly approved the special Convention relating to the status of refugees in 1951 (Refugee Convention)²² and the supplement Protocol in 1967.

Refugees enjoy rights that are established by the special Convention relating to the status of refugees of 1951.

These rights are diverse and include:

- right to education and recognition of school certificates and academic degrees held by the refugee, and exemption from tuition fees and scholarships.
- Right to public relief and assistance.
- The right to transfer assets to another country where refugees are allowed to move.
- The right to obtain citizenship and to reduce the burdens and fees of procedures for obtaining it to the minimum possible.
- Right of residence and settlement.
- Access to treatment that provides refugees with the care that nationals of the host country enjoy.
- Right to litigate before the courts and to obtain legal aid.
- Practicing self-employment and establishing commercial and industrial companies.
- Practicing a liberal profession if the conditions for its practice are met.
- The right to housing under the supervision of the authorities of the country of asylum.
- The right of the refugee to have his/her personal status - i.e. issues related to marriage, its conditions and inheritance, divorce and custody - to the law of the country of his nationality. That means that the Personal Status Law of the country of asylum does not have to be imposed on him/her.
- The right of the refugee to receive the best possible treatment, with respect to ownership of movable and immovable property such as real estate and other related rights.
- The right to enjoy the same treatment granted to nationals of the host country in respect of the following matters:
- Obtaining the assistance of the authorities of the asylum State to obtain any documents, papers or certificates.
- Freedom to practice religious rites and provide religious education for refugee children.
- Respecting the rights related to personal status, such as the right to marry.
- Enjoying the treatment granted to foreigners in connection with the possession of movable and immovable property.
- Enjoying the same protection granted to citizens with regard to the ownership of technical rights and industrial property.
- The right to join non-political associations and trade unions.
- Freedom of movement within the territory of the host country.
- The right to obtain a personal identity card for each refugee in the event that he/she does not possess a valid travel document.

20. Overview of the refugees' rights, Amnesty International, <http://www.amnestymena.org/ar/magazine/issue21/OverviewOfRefugeeRights.aspx?articleID=1118&media=print>

21. <https://drc.ngo/media/1217437/guide-to-international-refugee-law.pdf>

22. <https://www.ohchr.org/ar/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/StatusOfRefugees.aspx>

The 1951 Convention and its Protocol do not include any definition of the belonging to a specific social category, although the States recognize that the impact of the status of refugee is different on some groups such as women²³ and in spite of the huge numbers of women who often represent at least half of the refugees and who have different and additional needs in all aspects of their experience as refugees. In conditions that are often chaotic such as the case of refugee crises, women are highly exposed to sexual violence and other forms of violence²⁴. Moreover, they often bear the responsibility for the other members of the family who are more vulnerable like children and the elderly. In camps, the absence of traditional modes of decision making might leave women without a voice in matters that affect their daily life and their security. Women might also be exposed to the risk of sexual violence from other refugees, local residents, close combatants, police officers, or security agents in the host country. They might face additional hindrances represented in pregnancy due to rape, as is the case of girls who get pregnant at a very early age. Women and girls are often separated from their families and communities in addition to the burden and the stigma they carry. Many women are forced to practice sex for survival by ensuring food for them and for their families.

There are many international attempts that aimed at granting women refugee issues great attention, mainly the Beijing Platform for Action, in addition to the CEDAW.

The Beijing Platform for Action stressed the importance of guaranteeing protection, assistance and training to the women refugees and homeless who are in need for international protection, as well as IDPs.

In the same vein, the CEDAW committee has adopted the same approach. In 2014, it adopted Recommendation No 32 on the gender-related dimensions of the refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women.

In this Recommendation, the Committee considers that displacement arising from armed conflict, gender-related persecution and other serious human rights violations that affect women compounds existing challenges to the elimination of discrimination against women. Through this Recommendation, the Committee asks the States to:

- Commit to respecting the rights and abstain from adopting any measure that discriminate against women refugees;
- Meet the obligation of due diligence vis-à-vis women refugees by taking the legislative measures and other measures that can prevent acts of discrimination against women, investigate those acts, prosecute the perpetrators of those acts before the courts and impose adequate sanctions on them, and offer compensation to women victims of discrimination;
- Provide protection against all forms of sexual violence especially trafficking²⁵.

23. <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/5b1cf7b94.html>

24. <https://drc.ngo/media/1217437/guide-to-international-refugee-law.pdf>

25. PDF/N1462788.pdf?OpenElement/88/627/https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N14

Lebanon,

Lebanon has not acceded to the 1951 Refugee Convention and its Protocols. But it has been a host country historically for refugees.

Regarding the Palestinian refugees, they have been residing in Lebanon for more than seventy years but the Lebanese legislator has not yet provided a legal definition for them, and they fall administratively into three categories:

Refugees registered with the Ministry of Interior and Municipalities - Directorate of Political Affairs and with UNRWA;

- Refugees registered with the Directorate of Political Affairs in the Lebanese Ministry of Interior, but they are not registered with UNRWA;
- Refugees who are not registered with the Lebanese state nor with UNRWA (non-IDs);
- Nine years ago, a fourth category was added to them: the Palestine refugees from Syria (PRS)²⁶.

In the absence of official statistics on the number of Palestine refugees in Lebanon, the Lebanese-Palestinian Dialogue Committee (LPDC), in partnership with the Lebanese Central Administration of Statistics and the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics undertook to launch a project of a comprehensive census of population and housing in the Palestinian camps and agglomerations in Lebanon²⁷. Although Lebanon was one of the countries that ratified most of the provisions of the 1965 Casablanca Protocol, which stipulates the need to treat Palestinians in Arab countries where they live like they treat their own people in terms of residence and travel, and to facilitate job opportunities for them while preserving the Palestinian citizenship, Palestinian refugees in Lebanon have always been treated as foreigners deprived of their most basic rights stipulated in international covenants in terms of work and property. Palestinian refugees in Lebanon are exposed to a number of violations that affect legal personality, thus depriving them from legal protection, such as the right to freedom of movement, residence and travel, the right to work and have liberal professions²⁸, the right to own property, restrictions on property registration procedures for a foreigner married to a female Palestinian refugee, the right to decent housing, the right to health, the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the right to form associations and other issues, which affects their overall reality and their enjoyment of many of the human rights.

In addition to Palestinian refugees, Lebanon has been hosting huge numbers of Syrian refugees since 2011 due to the war in Syria. Lebanon has been ranked on top of the list of countries hosting refugees according to the UNHCR²⁹. Different efforts are being deployed to deal with the refugee crisis including “Lebanon Crisis Response Plan 2017-2020”. This Plan was launched in January 2017. It estimates that there are more than one million Syrian refugees in Lebanon who are registered with the UNHCR, while the Lebanese authorities estimate this number at 1.5 million. The multi-partner Lebanon Crisis Response Plan (2017-2020) has provided an integrated developmental framework to face the needs of the refugees as much as possible, based on the national laws and policies, through the development of the capacities of the national institutions and local CSOs to provide services, and thus mitigate the impact of the presence of the refugees by offering support to the host communities and the most vulnerable Lebanese people at the same time³⁰. However, in spite of the different efforts undertaken, the life of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon has been vulnerable and fragile all these years, and they have

26. Human rights organizations coalition report submitted in November 2015 to the Human Rights Council in Geneva within the global VNRs on the situation of human rights in Lebanon.

27. <http://www.lpdc.gov.lb/DocumentFiles/CensusPDFpanflet.pdf>

28. In 2005, the Lebanese Minister of Labor at that time issued a memorandum allowing the Palestine refugees to obtain a work permit for some jobs that are not regulated by liberal professions orders and for which it was difficult to obtain permits. But the memo did not give them access to 30 professions. The Lebanese state worked on amending Article 59 of the Labor Law and Article 9 of the Social Security law but it did not issue application decrees for the two amendments, which made their enforcement dependent on the decision of the successive ministers of labor. A big number of Palestinian workers pay the due fees to the NFSS without benefiting from any coverage or allowances.

29. <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/4be7cc27207.html>

30. <https://www.unhcr.org/ar/4be7cc278c2.html>

been living in very difficult conditions due to the limited opportunities for livelihood and the essential reliance of humanitarian aid. Reports show that more than three quarters of the refugees live under the poverty line³¹. This is due to many reasons mainly the issue of the legal status of the refugees, under the successive security decisions³²; the lack of legal quality has left the Syrian refugees exposed to many violations³³.

Concerning women refugees, the CEDAW committee has adopted a set of recommendations addressed to the Lebanese State in 2015 in the context of the VNR on the implementation of the CEDAW. These recommendations included the adoption of asylum procedures that take into consideration gender discrepancies; the creation of a data collection system on GBV incidents, especially sexual violence, child marriages, and/or forced marriages of women and girl refugees; and offering the victims medical and psycho-social assistance and a guarantee for legal recourse³⁴.

31. <https://data2.unhcr.org/en/documents/details/61312>

32. <http://www.general-security.gov.lb/ar/posts/33>, <http://www.labor.gov.lb/AllLegalText.aspx?lang=ar&type=11>

33. 300040/14/02/<https://www.hrw.org/ar/news/2017>

34. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=CEDAW%2fC%2fLBN%2fCO%2f44&lang=ar&5

Third: UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions

• UNSCR 1325

UNSCR 1325 evokes the issue of women protection in situations of armed conflicts. It is a document composed of 18 points focusing on four axes of reflection (prevention – protection – involvement – relief). They focus on four intertwined topics: 1- Women's participation in decision making and peace building processes; 2- Gender mainstreaming in training on peace keeping operations; 3- Importance of gender mainstreaming in UN agencies; 4- Protection of women.

UNSCR 1325 calls upon the International Community to protect women during armed conflicts and punish the perpetrators, to empower them in relief and recovery operations, and in the field of peace keeping and stability. It relies in its content on the IHL and IHRL as well as the relevant protection and accountability mechanisms.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 recognizes the sexual and gender dimensions and differences in the protection of human rights in conflict and beyond, and calls on all parties involved in the armed conflict to take into account the protection of women and girls, in particular from taking measures of sexual violence. These measures include an international guarantee of women's human rights and the protection of women and children from sexual abuse and sexual violence and lifting the immunity of perpetrators of genocide, crimes against humanity, and war crimes, including crimes of sexual and physical violence. UNSCR 1325 focuses on the need to lift impunity in relation to sexual violence and rape, especially when governments are held responsible for the affiliated members of armed forces and the civilian police. The Resolution also stresses the recognition that the needs to protect women and girls change during the transition from the conflict phase to the post-conflict phase.

The Resolution aims at developing a new vision that is coherent with the women perspective in pre-conflict and during the conflict periods, in order to make sure that women are empowered to contribute to the conflict resolution, that violence against women and girls is prevented and that its perpetrators are prosecuted, and that women are contributing to the drafting of recovery and peace building initiatives and benefiting from them.

Security Council Resolution No. 1325 was issued by the Council's session No. 4213 held on October 31, 2000. The Resolution, including eighteen articles, urges the member States of the United Nations to empower the women of the world, whether living in countries of armed conflict or living in free countries, to participate and play an important role in preventing international armed conflicts, and to play a greater role in preventing local armed conflicts.

The Resolution also calls for the participation of women in decision-making positions in order to participate in establishing solutions and peacemaking, and for appointing more women as special representatives and envoys to carry out good offices on behalf of the UN Secretary-General. On the other hand, the Secretary-General expresses his readiness to ensure that Security Council missions take into account gender considerations and women's rights, including consultation with local and international women's groups.

The Resolution expresses in its preamble the concern of the United Nations about the continuation of armed conflicts in the world, and the increase in the number of civilian victims of wars, especially among women and children. The Resolution also reflects the growing concern of the international organization of the use of women and children in combat because of the imbalance in power relations in societies. The reins of power are in the hands of males in general, and they are the ones who possess the tools of social control and the means of power and subjugation over vulnerable and weak groups.

The adoption of Resolution No. 1325 by the international institution came after the adoption by the same organization of a series of resolutions and policies that lead to the development of women's role and participation at the leadership level. The United Nations has in many instances urged and guide member States to take further measures and policies capable of increasing women's participation in decision-making positions. In its quest for women's participation, the United Nations expresses a systematic policy towards developing women's status in the world, and its strategic view which aims at offering chances for women's participation. The United Nations is based on its conviction that the status of women in the world is still below the ambition and set goal, so they need interventions and dynamics to move them out of the situation of misery, marginalization, inferiority and deprivation of the most basic rights. The Resolution also expresses the view of the United Nations that links the achievement of sustainable development to the participation of women in all decision-making positions.

UNSCR 1325 covered the areas of conflict prevention by integrating gender concepts into early warning systems, undertaking public education and prosecuting violators of women's rights, in addition to the protection of women during and after conflicts by their communities and the national and international security officers, and the participation of women in decision-making related to conflict, including in peace-building operations and all public decision-making processes associated with establishing and building peace that involve women and deal with their needs for relief and recovery, redress for injustice, and investment in socio-economic security.

The main points covered by the UNSCR 1325 are the following:

- Women's participation at all levels of decision-making: this includes their participation in national, regional and international institutions, conflict prevention mechanisms, peace negotiations and peacekeeping operations (as policewomen, women soldiers and civilian workers), as well as, as representatives of the UN Secretary-General.
- Protection of women and girls from sexual and gender-based violence: this includes training for peacekeeping operations staff in the field of women's rights and taking effective measures to protect them.
- Working on preventing violence against women through the promotion of women's rights, accountability and enforcement of laws: One of the most important points in this item covers the prosecution of those responsible for war crimes - such as sexual violence - and the exclusion of sexual violence crimes from general amnesty agreements. It also stresses the responsibility to promote women's rights within the framework of the State's public law.
- Mainstreaming a gender perspective in peacekeeping operations: including the appointment of gender advisers in all United Nations peacekeeping operations, taking into consideration the specific needs of women when drawing up policies, as well as allowing access to information made available by women's organizations for all policies and programs.

Bases on the above, the main axes of the Resolution can be summarized as follows:

Prevention | Protection | Participation | Relief and recovery

The importance of Resolution 1325, as well as all the resolutions that complement it, is that it links the particular experience of women in terms of conflict to the issue of peace and security. UNSCR 1325 and the resolutions that followed it explicitly recognize the role of women and their ability to prevent conflict, during conflict and in the process of reaching peace agreements and after the conflict and the phase of reconstruction. Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security cover a broad range of principles and guidelines associated with improving the position of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and encourage the integration of a gender perspective into all aspects of conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

• Resolutions complementary to UNSCR 1325

In general, resolutions on Women, Peace and Security cover a broad range of principles and guidelines associated with improving the position of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, and encourage the integration of a gender perspective into all aspects of conflict prevention, peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction.

UNSCR 1325 (2000) was followed by a number of UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security (nine resolutions until 2019). Six of these resolutions are complementary and state that “Sexual violence has been and continues to be used, in some contexts, as a method of warfare intended to achieve military and political objectives. So sexual violence requires a tactical response, security wise and a strategic response, politically wise. This means that the United Nations security mechanisms such as peacekeeping missions should address sexual violence through training and operational responses by armed personnel, in addition to providing a rapid response task force composed of judicial experts to support countries in preventing impunity for these crimes. The term security and political response also means that peace negotiators and mediators include sexual violence on the agenda of peace talks³⁵.» These resolutions have developed mechanisms for involving women in different conflict-related stages, in addition to preventing impunity.

Why complementary resolutions to UNSCR 1325

- Sexual violence has been and continues to be used, in some contexts, as a method of warfare to achieve military and political goals.
- Sexual violence requires a tactical response, security wise and a strategic response, politically wise.
- UN security mechanisms such as peacekeeping missions must address sexual violence through training and implementation responses by armed personnel.
- Providing a rapid response task force composed of judicial experts to support countries in preventing impunity for these crimes.
- Peace negotiators and mediators to include sexual violence on the agenda of peace talks.

UN Security Council UNSCR 1325 (2000)

It is the first pivotal decision that links women's experience with conflict to global peace-keeping and security. The decision stresses the importance of women's equal and full participation as an active element in conflict prevention and solutions finding, and in peace negotiations, peace-building and peacekeeping. Member States are required to ensure equal and full participation of women in all efforts aiming to maintain peace and security and strengthen these efforts. All actors are urged to increase women's participation, include of a gender perspective in all areas of peace-building.

UN Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008)

It is the first Security Council resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a method of warfare and to consider its prevention an essential factor of the process of maintaining global peace and security, which requires a response for peacekeeping, administration of justice and peace negotiations. According to the Resolution, sexual violence in conflict situations constitutes a war crime. It demands that the parties to the armed conflict take immediate appropriate measures to protect civilians from sexual violence, including training of forces and imposition of appropriate military sanctions. While there is no specific strategy in UNSCR 1325 for providing the Security Council with information, Resolution 1820 established a mechanism for periodic reports to be submitted by the Secretary-General to the Security Council.

UN Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009)

An important aspect of this Resolution is that it stresses the importance of ending impu-

35. Women, Peace and Security: Guiding principles for national implementation", UN Women, p. 5.

nity as a key factor in ending the conflict and avoiding a return to it. Resolution 1888 is a follow-up to Security Council Resolution 1820, and an enhancement of its implementation tools through the appointment of leaders and building judicial response experiences and reporting mechanisms. It mandates peacekeeping missions to protect women and children from sexual violence during armed conflict, and requests the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict (becoming later the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict).

UN Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009)

This Resolution specifically addresses the exclusion of women from early recovery and peace-building action and the lack of adequate planning and funding for their needs. It calls for a strategy to increase the numbers of women in decision-making and conflict resolution.

A set of indicators on Women, Peace and Security were also included in the Resolution in response to the UNSC request in Resolution 1889. These are measurable indicators used to assess the implementation of UNSCR 1325, quantitatively and qualitatively, within the area of concern with accountability and effective monitoring of progress. The indicators provide a scientific strict basis for the efforts aiming to accelerate the execution of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The purpose of these indicators is to allow the United Nations to determine whether the efforts aiming at involving women in peace-building and meeting their needs in terms of protection and recovery are achieving the expected results. These indicators have been incorporated in the Report of the Special Rapporteur on VAW: causes and results: "Indicators on Violence Against Women and State Response" (6/A/HRC/7). These indicators are an efficient M&E tool which helps understand where we are, where we are heading to, and how far we are from our goal.



UN Security Council Resolution 1960 (2010)

This Resolution provides an accountability system for conflict-related sexual violence. In accordance with the Resolution, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the Committee on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict includes "lists of shame" in its annual report, which means identifying names of people and armed groups suspected of committing crimes of sexual violence in conflict. The Resolution also grants the Security Council the capacity to take measures and decide sanctions against groups or States in order to put an end to the continuation of this type of crime.

UN Security Council Resolution 2106 (2013)

Resolution 2106 also emphasizes the importance of gender equality and the political, social and economic empowerment of women in efforts to prevent sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations. This Resolution has been adopted in supplement to Resolution 1960.

UN Security Council Resolution 2122 (2013)

It emphasizes accountability in the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and the importance of involving women in all stages of conflict prevention, resolution and recovery. It calls upon states to meet their obligations to end impunity and to adequately investigate with those responsible for war crimes, genocide, crimes against humanity, or other serious violations of the International Humanitarian Law. It decides to conduct a high-level review in 2015 to assess progress made at the global, regional and national levels in the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

Women are fully included in peace talks and transitional justice, as it declared on the 18th of October 2013 the necessity of putting women leaders at the center of decision-making positions to resolve conflict and promote peace. This Resolution empowers women of stronger participation in conflict resolution and puts the responsibility on the Security Council, the regional organizations and the members of the United Nations to break down barriers and create spaces for women's participation. It paves the way to a more systematic approach towards concrete implementation of commitments on Women, Peace and Security. These measures include: develop and disseminate technical expertise to missions, support peace talks, and improve access to and analysis of timely information on topics related to women's participation in conflict resolution and women's participation in peace talks. This Resolution acknowledges the impact of conflicts on women because of inequality in citizenship rights, such as women's lack of access to services, their inability to own land and to obtain identification documents after conflict. Thus, this Resolution will bring about unprecedented and unexpected developments. It also addresses the rights of women who have become pregnant due to rape crimes. So the international community has recognized the need to ensure access to humanitarian aid, including (reproductive and sexual) health services aid, including rape pregnancies.

UN Security Council Resolution 2242 (2015)

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2242 (2015) on the 13th of October 2015 during the high-level review of the 15th anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325. This is the eighth resolution on Women, Peace and Security. The Resolution sets the agenda for Women, Peace and Security as a key element in the efforts to address the challenges of the current global context, including the rise in violent extremism, climate change, and unprecedented numbers of displaced people and refugees. The resolution clarifies the objective links between women's participation in the one hand, and sustainable peace and security on the other. The resolution provides an extraordinary new tool for all actors to further implement the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. The resolution addresses a number of technical areas, including the commitment to integrating gender analysis in the context; taking into account the effects of violent extremism; the need to ensure wider consultations with women's organizations, including those affected by this violence; and encouraging the determination of new targets in order to ensure greater numbers of female peacekeepers. The resolution stresses the need for more senior women leaders at all levels of decision-making. Contrary to previous resolutions which focused on the need to train women to participate in peace processes, Resolution 2242 also refers to the need to train mediators on the impact of operations holistically and on the ways to achieve this, in clear acknowledgment of the evidence linking their participation of women in peace agreements and sustaining peace. The Resolution also highlights the need to address the funding gap for women organizations. Based on the Resolution, the Security Council will establish an informal expert group on Women, Peace and Security to ensure consistent flow of information on the impact of conflict on women and in order to intensify oversight of the implementation of commitments under the Resolution.

This Resolution adopts the set of recommendations made in the framework of the assessment of progress achieved 15 years after the adoption of UNSCR 1325, emphasizing the important role that women play in all phases of the conflict and in the context of combating terrorism and extremism. It also mentioned the gravity of these violations and the serious commitment of the international community to deal with them, and to consider all forms of sexual violence as crimes threatening international peace and security. This opens the door for the international community to intervene legally according to the provisions of Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter.



UN Security Council Resolution 2467 (2019)

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2467 on April 23, 2019. It focuses on requiring all parties to armed conflicts to immediately end all acts of sexual violence, and calls for adoption and implementation of specific and time-bound commitments by these parties to combat sexual violence. In this Resolution, the UN Security Council welcomes the efforts made by the Secretary-General, his Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Group of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence, in urging all parties to conflict to make time-bound commitments and develop plans to prevent all acts and forms of sexual violence in conflict situations. It encourages the appointment of high-level civil, military and police coordinators, as needed; they would be responsible for fulfilling those obligations. The Resolution also encourages national authorities to consolidate legislation to enhance accountability for sexual violence. It stresses the critical role of local investigations undertaken by States and their judicial systems in preventing sexual abuse in conflict situations, in putting an end to it and ensuring that those responsible for it are held accountable. The Resolution encourages further strengthening of efforts that aim to monitor and document sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations.

UN Security Council Resolution 2493 (2019)

Adopted by the United Nations Security Council on October 29, 2019, on women, security and peace, it urges all countries to abide by all previous UNSC resolutions in this regard, which stipulate ensuring the protection of women and girls and their full participation in peace processes and promoting all women's civil, political and economic

rights. The Resolution also calls for the appointment of protection advisers on gender issues and/or women's affairs in order to protect "full participation" in the preparations for elections, disarmament, judicial reforms, and broader reconstruction processes after the end of the conflict.

Other relevant resolutions

In addition to these resolutions, UN Security Council Resolution 1612 (2005) was adopted to link the issue of armed conflict with its special impact on children. Girls are often deprived of school, because there is a prevailing preference to give this opportunity to the males in the family if the sources are scarce; girls are sometimes asked to serve the rest of the family in the event of the absence or death of one of the parents; or they are forced to drop out due to road hazards in situations of conflict. Girls are also forcibly married, raped or taken captive, in addition to being subjected to many forms of sexual or other violence because of their gender.

In December 2015, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2250, which drew attention to the importance of giving specific consideration to young men and women within the framework of the United Nations work and the States' responsibilities in general, under the Women, Peace and Security agenda, as well as the protection of civilians in war-time. The Resolution emphasizes the involvement of young men/women in the different phases of conflict, and the importance of ensuring an appropriate environment that supports the activities of young men and women, taking their needs into consideration specifically in the procedures and different mechanisms. More specifically, the Resolution referred to concern about the use of modern technology to influence youth towards adoption of violence and extremist thoughts. On the other hand, it notes the general role that young people can play in combating such extremism. Resolution 2250 was based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions.

Fourth: Areas of focus of Resolution 1325 and its complementary resolutions

This section will present the four areas of focus of UNSCR 1325: Prevention, Protection, Participation, Relief and Recovery, and Reconstruction. The situation of Lebanon will be presented as to each one of the areas, with focus on the legal, political and social context which governs women and girls.

4.1 Prevention Pillar

Prevention aims to prevent all forms of violence against women, in particular sexual and gender-based violence, and to establish enforcement systems taking into account the issues of gender in order to monitor the rights of women and girls during periods of conflict, ceasefires, peace negotiations and in post-conflict periods, reporting and responding to them, as well as developing the response of active security forces to any violations of the rights of women and girls and to hold them accountable. It also aims to include provisions that meet specific needs and issues of women and girls in early warning systems and conflict prevention mechanisms and monitoring their implementation.

For prevention to be effective, there must be a strong and decisive political will and a comprehensive vision of gender equality, and action on all levels: institutional and policy (measures and procedures) as well as legal, and the level of prevailing cultural structure. This should cover areas of intervention such as the national mechanisms for the protection of women and the national policies and plans for the advancement and protection of women from violence. National Action Plans must be developed to implement UNSCR 1325, in addition to training on gender issues and raising awareness about UNSCR 1325. It is necessary to pay attention to the special experience and vision of women in the pre-conflict stages, which requires the existence of practical mechanisms to involve women's institutions and gender experts in the process of developing early warning systems and mechanisms for conflict prevention and monitoring of their implementation. It is important to emphasize the relationship between gender and prevention in terms of the importance of developing gender-sensitive early warning systems on the one hand, and to achieve this, the necessity of integrating gender experts in the development of early warning systems, on the other hand.

UNSCR 1325 is based on early warning of any signs of a danger that could lead to conflict. To reduce the occurrence of developments and alarming events, proactive steps must first be taken to reduce the structural causes leading to the impact of the conflict on women, and not only monitoring these indicators when they occur. There should be some actions taken to reduce the causes leading to such risks: the degrading view of women – the exclusion of women from decision-making – the exclusion of girls and women from education, employment and other important matters that raise the status of women, and other related and intertwined matters.

The importance of developing prevention mechanisms is not limited to countries that are not experiencing conflict, but this is especially important in post-conflict countries or countries emerging from conflict, where prevention mechanisms are particularly important in order to ensure that there is no return to conflict, especially if the causes of tension that led to the conflict still exist. Thus, the prevention systems are in the case of countries that are emerging from conflict is an important mechanism to ensure that lessons are learned and that there is no repetition. As for countries that are not in conflict situations, prevention mechanisms are still important in order to develop early warning systems nationally and internationally (i.e. also in relation to other countries), and to also guide international cooperation.

Indicators of early warning systems

- Indicators related to the general context and country characteristics towards women and girls
- Indicators related to human rights and security
- Indicators about political and institutional factors

- Economic indicators
- Indicators about consensus factors

The development of prevention mechanisms is important for non-conflict countries and post-conflict countries or countries emerging from conflict as prevention mechanisms are particularly important to ensure that there is no return to conflict, especially if the causes of tension that led to the conflict still exist.

What is needed to strengthen the prevention of women from genderbased violence?

- Education on a culture of peace, human rights, democracy and nonviolent alternatives to conflict resolution, with a focus on protecting women through formal education curricula, activities of civil society organizations, workshops and intellectual and youth fora, media and advertising...
- Awareness, training and sensitization of members of the armed forces on the concept of gender and the adverse consequences of failing to protect women in armed conflict, such as the risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV, psychological consequences of violence and its impact on the productive capacities of women...
- The participation of women in decision-making mechanisms in post-conflict periods and peace-building efforts is an important factor for their success. It is linked to the desire of fighters and armed groups to fully reject violence. Moreover, for a woman, as a wife, mother, or daughter of a member of armed groups, or as a direct victim of armed conflict, has an active role to play in this regard.
- Follow-up and document every issue related to gender, and report all relevant violations, especially those related to security and peace.
- Creating communication networks between components of the public sector, the private sector, research institutes, universities and community organizations, local and non-local civil society to push towards achieving the above-mentioned steps

4.2 Protection Pillar

Protection is to ensure the safety, physical and mental health and economic security of women and girls, and respect for their humanitarian rights, and to ensure the consistency of national laws in the protection and implementation of political, economic, social and cultural rights for women and girls with international standards, by activating existing mechanisms and operational structures to enhance the security of women and girls and their physical integrity to ensure that women and girls at risk have access to livelihood support services and increased access to justice for women whose rights are violated.

According to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: "Acts of conflict-related violence are perpetrated everywhere, at home, in places of detention, IDPs and refugee camps; violence can happen at any time, for example when performing daily activities such as collecting water, going to school or to work. Conflict-related violence and GBV can have multiple perpetrators. They can be members of official armed forces, para-military groups, peacekeeping forces or civilians. Regardless of the nature or duration of the dispute or the parties involved in it, women are being deliberately and increasingly targeted and subjected to various forms of violence ranging from murder, to torture, mutilation, sexual violence, forced marriage, forced prostitution, causing forced pregnancy, forced abortion and sterilization."

During armed conflicts, protection must focus on:

1. Protection of refugees and displaced persons: "Women and girls constitute about 50 per cent of any group of refugees or displaced persons. It is one of the most vulnerable groups as to the loss of the protection provided by their homes, government and family structures. Women and girls face hardship along the long journeys to exile, and are exposed to harassment or indifference and to repeated sexual assaults - even after they have reached an apparently safe place. In addition, women IDWs often suffer from similar experiences.
2. Reducing violence against women: Violence against women often increases in

times of conflict and is an extension of violence against women in pre-conflict periods, and it is likely to occur after the end of conflicts. To ensure the protection of women from violence at all stages of armed conflict, legislation must be enacted criminalizing all forms of violence against women in the public spheres; penalties should be imposed, commensurate with the gravity of the crime; perpetrators of crimes should be punished; impunity must be ended in all areas, for all cases and circumstances; and the right to remedy and reparation must be ensured for all those affected. Such legislation must include a clear definition of violence and its various forms in the national law in line with international law. The adoption of legislation is a must to effectively enforce the criminalization of violence against women.

3. Reducing/Preventing trafficking in women and girls: The phenomenon of trafficking in women and girls is exacerbated during and after conflict, which constitutes gender discrimination due to the collapse of political, economic and social structures, the rise in VAW levels, and the intensification of militarism. The trafficking trend may also result from the fact that third countries seek to restrict migrant flows from conflict-affected areas, using strict measures such as embargo, expulsion or detention
4. Protection of stateless women and children: Conflict can also be a cause of statelessness, making women and children particularly vulnerable to various forms of violence and abuse. Women may lose their nationality if they are unable to prove it because the necessary documents such as identity documents and birth registration certificate have not yet been issued or have been lost or destroyed during conflict. Stateless women and girls face increased risks of abuse in times of conflict because they do not enjoy the protection that is usually guaranteed by citizenship.

General recommendations to protect women from gender-based violence, including sexual violence³⁶:

- Establishing safe centers for women and providing health services and access to education in the sites.
- Ensuring that shelter sites are women-friendly, safe and provide health and child-care.
- Informing women of the benefits available to them and of their legal rights.
- Protecting women from gender-based violence within sites of asylum or displacement and while on their way home.
- Considering sexual violence as a breach of the ceasefire (see later on peace agreements).

What is needed to strengthen the protection of women from gender-based violence?

Below is only a non-exclusive sample of these actions:

- Endorsement of a comprehensive law to combat violence against women
- Activating the Law on Protection from Human Trafficking
- Endorsement of the refugee law
- Adopting soft criteria for registering refugee or displaced women
- Providing programs for listening and providing psychosocial support services

The reality of women's protection in Lebanon:

• On the protection of refugee women:

Refugee women in Lebanon, of all stripes, suffer from cumulative discrimination on the basis of asylum and the resulting situation is that she is socially and economically exposed, suffering also from gender-based discrimination. What distinguishes the status of refugee women in Lebanon is that it is subjected to a breach of refugee women's civil rights as a result of the failure to approve and ratify the Convention on the Rights of Refugees and the Casablanca Protocol, which guarantee non-discrimination between

36. Information from "Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations: The Relationship between Presence and Influence", UN Women, 2012, pp. 12-16

refugees and citizens in civil rights. What distinguishes the refugees' situation is the multiplicity of references concerned with their situation in terms of security protection and services. The most important categories of refugees in Lebanon are: The Palestinians who are the oldest, since they came to Lebanon following the 1948 Nakba; the Syrians after the outbreak of the Syrian revolution, who represent a third of the Lebanese population now; and Iraqi refugees, who have been flowing to Lebanon since the mid-1970s for political reasons, and their number increased dramatically after 2003.

The situation of Palestinian refugee women: Palestinian women suffer from the brunt of chronic asylum and the repercussions of a flaw in the implementation of the Casablanca Protocol regarding the denial of civil rights. They also depend on the international community represented by UNRWA in terms of health, education and relief services. Despite UNRWA's efforts to reduce discrimination against women through the presence of women in decision-making positions, the provision of statistical data disaggregated by males and females, and the creation of development programs specifically for women, still the main obstacle to achieving a reduction in discrimination against women is the limited resources at the disposal of UNRWA which is unable to turn such initiatives into tangible achievements. Palestinian refugee women and Lebanese women also share the burden of discrimination resulting from the gaps in the application of personal status laws and the discriminatory culture against women when entering the labor market available to them, with regard to wages and other types of abuse. In addition, they share suffering from violence within the family, and there are (sample) studies showing a prevalence of physical violence of around 18 percent. As for the Syrian refugee women, a large percentage of them suffer from limited allocated budgets, insufficient to secure health, education and relief services, in addition to the spread of domestic violence.

The situation of women Syrian refugees in Lebanon: Women and children constitute 75-80 percent of the Syrian refugees in Lebanon. Most of the women Syrian refugees are the breadwinners for their families because of the loss of the father (because of "arrest, martyrdom, missing, divorce, natural death, fighting"). "Most refugee women have 3-5 children and they are the ones who provide for the family's needs ("food, allowances from UNHCR and relief associations), although the illiteracy rate is about 25-35%. The woman Syrian refugee suffers from many forms of violence and discrimination: discrimination by aid workers in the distribution of relief and the issue of child marriage is widespread among the Syrian refugees; minors are often forcibly married to relatives or to Lebanese men for fear of sexual violence threat due to asylum situations. A number of cases of non-registration of marriage officially have been observed, with just "lawful" marriages held before the sheikh. Some widowed women are forced to marry informally under the pressure of economic need. The economic situation of refugee women pushed some women to search for a job, and they usually had never worked previously because of social and cultural constraints in their neighborhoods in Syria, which exposes them to exploitation. Social restrictions on the movement of women and girls continue to result in restricting their participation in social and economic activities and their access to services.

Also, the current services available to women and children who have experienced violence are insufficient, and most refugees are not even aware of the existence of such services, as 83% of the refugees do not know about the services available to survivors of GBV. When battered women are able to report the violence they face, they feel more comfortable to report the problems they face to the clergy so that the latter inform the security services or relevant service providers. Women and girls' access to specialized services and basic resources remains a major challenge because of their inability to leave the home without a family member, and therefore this leads to the inability of women to participate in economic, educational, social activities or to seek assistance. There is a need among Syrian refugee women for centers or organizations that provide legal and social counseling services, and for sufficient and specialized staff to deal with their cases, despite the difficulties that they may encounter in the event that they decide to use such services.

• On protecting women from violence in Lebanon

The Lebanese Parliament approved Law No. 293 "The Law to Protect Women and other Family Members from Domestic Violence" on April 1st, 2014, after years of struggle by the National Alliance to protect women from domestic violence. This law is important not only to protect women from violence inflicted on them in the private sphere, but also as a legal entry point to prevent gender violence that concerns all women residing in Lebanon. Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code, which exempts the rapist from punishment in the event of a valid marriage contract to the victim was abolished in 2017. Civil society organizations are still calling for the abolition of Article 518 and amendment of Articles 505 and 519 related to this chapter.

Despite this, Lebanon still suffers from the lack of a database on the practice of gender-based violence on women and girls, as there are no accurate national statistics that reflect the extent of this phenomenon. Law 293 was relatively successful on several levels, the most important of which is breaking the silence on issues of domestic violence in Lebanon and recognizing the role of the State in terms of protection, in addition to strengthening the media's interaction with women's issues. And most importantly, it was successful at the institutional level, in strengthening the role of the security forces and the judiciary in addressing domestic violence. Nevertheless, many human rights organizations and human rights bodies still consider the law, as it was approved by the General Assembly of the Parliament, unable to provide full justice and effective protection for women in Lebanon because of the distortions inflicted on him by the legislator. Domestic violence has been addressed through law 293 within a protectionist approach vis-à-vis individuals, and the spirit of the Penal Code has remained the same since 1943 based on the intention to provide protection for the society rather than the individual. Which means that protection that can be secured to the individual remains limited. The fact that Law 293 abides by the provisions of the various personal status laws is one of its most prominent problems, so the crime of domestic violence is still not considered a crime in its own right. The Law does not explain whether other offenses within the penal code also fall under the domestic violence law. Moreover, the Penal Code does not recognize or criminalize marital rape, in addition to the limited protection ensured to children due to the fact that it is determined in relation to the age of custody. There is also ambiguity as to the understanding of the pledge to prevent exposure. In addition, the expansion in the application of Article 133 of the Penal Code, which is related to waiving the personal right relative to the waiver of the general right, cannot be overlooked. There is also a conflict in the competence of the courts when obtaining a protection order that includes alimony, because religious courts deem any such order a violation of their jurisdiction.

Years after the adoption and implementation of Law No. 293 and on April 7, 2017, a draft law was launched to amend it.

The main proposals contained in the draft law amending Law No 293 are:

- **Redefining the family to include both spouses not only during the conjugal bond but also after its dissolution.**
- **Redefining domestic violence to also reflect the use of power within the family by physical force or else.**
- **Punishment includes every person who incited, participated or intervened in this crime, even if they are non-family members, to avoid resorting to people who are alien to the family.**
- **Inclusion of a special provision for penalties that prevent from referring to the provisions of the Penal Code. Therefore, the crime of domestic violence becomes a crime in itself, and all its criminal consequences are punished, including intentional and unintentional killing, sexual exploitation, deprivation of liberty, physical, moral and economic harm.**
- **Adopting the principle of judges' specialization in domestic violence cases by assigning judges in each governorate to receive complaints and follow up on all their stages, among attorneys, judges or magistrates.**
- **Allocating a protection order to women.**
- **Inclusion of children protection regardless of the age of custody.**
- **Enforcing the woman's right to take out her children with her legally, as well as all other persons residing with her if they are at risk.**
- **It is mandatory for the abuser to undergo rehabilitation sessions under the protection decision.**
- **Activating the protection orders execution mechanism among the competent authorities.**
- **Approval of the amendment allowing the attorney general to take action in the implementation of the protection order issued by the judge of urgent matters.**

• **Problems of the Lebanese Penal Code:**

Despite the progress made in the removal of articles in the Penal Code that discriminate against women, some texts include many discriminatory substances, mainly:

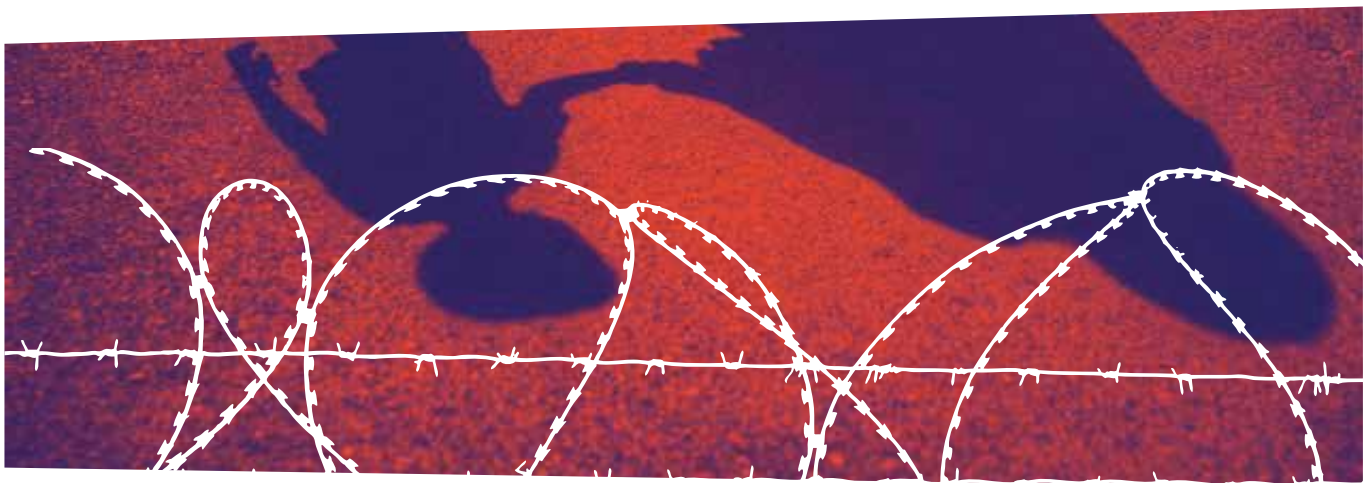
- Article 252, which states the following: "The perpetrator of the crime he committed out of a fit of anger as a result of an unjust and dangerous act done by the victim, shall benefit from a mitigating excuse." It is still legally possible for the perpetrator of an honor murder to benefit from another article in the Penal Code to reduce the sentence. In addition, from a social and educational point of view, the Lebanese government has not taken any action to modify the socially common misconceptions about the concept of "honor".
- Articles 503 to 521 of the Penal Code relating to rape, indecency, kidnapping, solicitation, indecent assault, and breach of women's sanctity places. The criminal acts listed in these articles are attributed to the woman and her exposure to domestic violence, sexual violence and psychological violence. Hence, the necessity to tighten the penalties stipulated in the aforementioned articles and to be strict in their application.
- Articles 539, 209, 540, 541 and 543 of the Penal Code, relating to abortion. Abortion is still prohibited by Lebanese law. Only therapeutic abortion is permitted and only under specific conditions.

- Articles 487, 488, and 489 of the Penal Code related to adultery offenses, as the Administration and Justice Committee still insists on keeping these penalties for the sake of what they call “family preservation”.
- The Penal Code continues to criminalize homosexuality that is punishable under Article 534 as a sexual activity that is “contrary to nature”. Although this article is rarely used in court against women, the mere existence of this article violates the presumption of equality, and contradicts the State’s obligation to respect and protect human rights, non-discrimination, equality and prohibition of torture.
- No recognition of single mothers in Lebanon.
- The Lebanese legal system does not have a definition of sexual violence. The only direct reference to it is in Law 293 but it is a short definition because its scope is limited to the family and the crimes listed by the Law on the Protection of Women and other family members from domestic violence. In addition, the Penal Code did not enumerate “crimes of sexual violence”, but rather dealt with a number of crimes that are included in the law within the context of sexual violence, thus excluding a number of crimes that fall within it, and failing to adopt the definition contained in the Rome Statute.
- The Lebanese labor and penal laws do not address the issue of sexual harassment. The Lebanese law does not define the term of sexual harassment nor use it. However, the Penal Code includes punishment for offenses that qualify as sexual harassment, including Articles 385, 519, 507, and 532.
- Although there is no direct text criminalizing sexual harassment, the criminal judiciary has developed many of the cases to which the description of harassment as criminalized by the Penal Code can be applied.

• Child Marriage in Lebanon

The Lebanese legislation allows child marriage, which is a violation of Lebanon's international obligations and a violation of children's rights as far as the protection issue is concerned. As there is no single law in Lebanon that determines the age of marriage for all male and female citizens, as the Lebanese are subject to the regulations of their respective religious affiliations which are entitled, according to Article 10 of the Constitution, to issue their own legislation related to personal status including marriage, divorce, alimony, custody, and marriage age... Therefore, the age of marriage varies from one religious community to another.

Despite the amendment made by some religious communities regarding the age of marriage, most of them still recognize child marriages. Therefore, child marriage is considered legal, although Lebanon has ratified the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and although Lebanon has expressed no reservations to Paragraph 2 of Article 16 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) which does not recognize child marriage and states that “the betrothal or marriage of a child shall have no legal effect, and all necessary action, including legislation, shall be taken to specify a minimum age for marriage and to make the registration of marriages in an official registry compulsory”.



• Trafficking in women and girls:

"Lebanon acceded in 2005 to the Convention against Organized Crime and to the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially women and children, complementing it. At the national level, Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. 164 was promulgated in 2011. In 2014, the government established an office to combat human trafficking at the Directorate General of the Internal Security Forces". Although the Anti-Trafficking in Persons Law No. 164 foresees severe penalties, but so far only a few rulings have been issued based on it. The first court ruling to pardon a victim of sexual abuse from punishment³⁷ was issued on November 27, 2017, by the Criminal Court in Beirut prohibiting punishment for a woman forced into prostitution by her husband.

The title of human trafficking in Lebanon raises many issues, some of which are related to Law No. 164 which has many gaps, others are structural, represented in the criminalization of prostitution in the Lebanese Penal Code.

- The legal status of the victim is one of the most prominent gaps.
- In Law 164, the Lebanese legislator has limited the scope of protection for the victim of trafficking to the prohibition of punishment against her, and has not attempted to deny her criminal liability.
- Foreigners in Lebanon are often arrested, detained and deported without being given an opportunity to defend themselves. These are either judged quickly and sometimes collectively, without the presence of a lawyer, or they continue to be detained in the custody of the General Directorate of Public Security until their deportation without referring them to the courts.
- Little attention is given to female refugee victims of trafficking. Reports indicate that Syrian women are more vulnerable to the risk of trafficking for purposes of forced prostitution and sexual exploitation in Lebanon.
- Failure to establish a fund to assist victims of trafficking, which would be filled with funds seized from traffickers, and which was assigned to the Ministry of Social Affairs until the date of drafting of this report.
- There are a very few female investigators within the law enforcement agencies staff concerned with this type of cases.
- Lack of a monitoring system for migration patterns to and from Lebanon, and lack of a system to monitor whether foreign migrants are involved heavily into sex work.
- Law 164 does not explicitly mention the geographical jurisdiction for enforcement outside the country, for better action in the fight against trafficking in persons that affects all victims, including the Lebanese who are outside the country.
- The lack of laws and policies to protect women and girls from employment agencies primarily involved in trafficking, but measures are limited to administrative measures taken by the General Directorate of General Security against these agencies.
- The absence of valid laws and policies related to marriage agencies, specifically those involved in arranging marriages with foreign people.
- There are many obstacles to eliminating the exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women, including the need to intensify efforts and programs that:
 - affect the individual and the family by providing support, assistance and protection to vulnerable groups
 - Aim to spread awareness at the public level on the risks of exploitation and trafficking
 - Aim to reduce the demand for services that could be exploited for trafficking
 - Work on intensifying efforts to prosecute those involved in the exploitation of prostitution and trafficking in women
 - Work on activating a national protection system for the victims of this crime to ensure the application of the principle of exempting victims from punishment and providing the victim with access to integrated assistance.
 - Tackle the issue of lack of legislation related to sex tourism

37. Published in No 53 of the Legal Agenda <http://legal-agenda.com/article.php?id=4262>

4.3 Participation Pillar

Women detain unusual social and political leadership positions when men leave for battle, migrate, or relocate and leave women with the primary responsibility for managing daily life at home, in the community, or during displacement or asylum. However, after the conflict ends, there is a desire to return to normal life but this may also mean a return to unequal gender relationships. However, this becomes unrealistic because of the specific role that women play during the conflict. Therefore it is necessary to institutionalize the social and political gains made during the war period—despite the suffering aspect³⁸.

The political participation of women should begin not only in the conflict resolution and post-conflict stages, but also there is great importance for them to participate in Parliament, in government and in decision-making processes in periods of peace, i.e. before conflict. There is paramount importance in changing the causes leading to discrimination and violence against women in all circumstances. It is worth noting that the right to political participation and to public life is one of the fundamental women's rights, embodied in many international agreements.

UNSCR 1325 calls for an increase in the proportion of women participating in decision-making positions; the inclusion of women and the inclusion of their interests in the decision-making process related to conflict prevention, management and resolution; increasing women's representation and meaningful participation in the United Nations and other international missions relevant to peace and security; increasing their representation and meaningful participation in formal and informal peace negotiations, peace-building processes; and increasing women's representation and meaningful participation in national and local governments, as citizens, elected officials, and decision-makers. The Resolution also calls for increased participation of women and women's organizations in activities to prevent, manage, resolve and respond to conflict and to violations of human rights of women and girls.

• Women's political participation at the decision-making level

UNSCR 1325 emphasized the important role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts and in building peace, and the need to ensure increased representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national, regional and international institutions and mechanisms to prevent, manage and resolve conflicts and designate female representatives of the Secretary-General and the States as peace envoys or participants in UN field operations.

Resolution 1820 also emphasized the important role of women in preventing and resolving conflicts and in building peace, and the importance of their equal contribution and full participation in all efforts aimed at maintaining and strengthening peace and security, and the need to increase their role in decision-making related to conflict prevention and resolution. It underlined the obstacles that impede women's participation and full contribution to conflict prevention.



38. Gender and conflict analysis', UN Women, p.2

As for Resolution 2122, it recognizes the need to work diligently on implementing UNSCR 1325 and intends to pay more attention to the issue of women in leadership positions and women's participation in conflict resolution and peace-building processes. It recognizes the need for updated information and analysis on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls, the role of women in peace-building, and the dimensions of peace processes related to women and the issue of conflict settlement. The Resolution also aims at including provisions on facilitating the full participation of women and providing them with full protection in: the preparation for elections, political processes, DDR programs, and reform processes. Therefore, it encourages member States to establish funding mechanisms dedicated to supporting the work of the organizations that support women's leadership development process and seek to ensure their full participation at all levels of the decision-making process related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325. It stresses the importance for member states that are undertaking electoral processes and constitutional reforms in the post-conflict period, to continue their efforts with the support of United Nations entities, in order to ensure full and equal participation of women in all phases of the electoral process, noting the need to pay special attention to the safety of women before and during the elections.

Representatives of the governments of Arab countries also announced in the Cairo Declaration for Arab Women (issued in Cairo - HQ of the League of Arab States - dated on February 23, 2014 and adopted by the United Nations), their commitment to developing and supporting mechanisms for women's political participation and to promoting a quota for their participation in all the elected councils. Recommendations have also been made by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women regarding the participation of women in public and political life (General Recommendation No. 5, Seventh Session, 1988) (General Recommendation No. 8, Seventh Session, 1988) (General Recommendation No. 23, Sixteenth Session 1997)

• Participation of women in peace-making

It is essential to involve women in negotiation and conflict resolution efforts as their different experiences in conflict give them different perspectives on the social and economic reality that must be dealt with in any peace agreement and post-conflict governance arrangements. Sexual violence should be included in the definition of the ceasefire and that it be detailed in the provisions for monitoring the ceasefire. Agreements should recognize that conflict-related sexual violence is used as a method or means of warfare and include it in the formulation of provisions on security and justice. Women should be part of the discussion, planning and implementation of a number of conflict-related aspects, including:

- Humanitarian interventions, which include the delivery of urgently needed relief items,
- Ceasefire or pre-ceasefire measures,
- Peace negotiations, whether about to start or already underway;
- Post-conflict needs assessment or other planning processes, which identify priorities for public investment
- Donor conferences, in which plans are developed and funded based on needs assessments;
- Development of an integrated strategic framework to ensure coherence between national priorities and international support
- Establishment of peacekeeping missions or international political missions, and setting up of their withdrawal processes
- Development of poverty reduction strategies
- Development of National Action Plans (NAPs) on UNSCR 1325 to highlight Women, Peace and Security issues in national planning in the areas of defense, justice, interior affairs and gender.

Roles through which women can participate in peace processes:

- Mediators or members of mediation teams
- Delegates on behalf of negotiating parties
- All-female negotiating parties representing the women's agenda
- Signatory and witnesses of conventions
- Representatives of women's civil society acting as observers

- In a side forum or parallel movement
- Gender advisors to mediators, facilitators or delegates
- Members of technical committees, or a separate working group dedicated to gender issues

• Women's Economic Participation

The inclusion of women in economic recovery processes in post-conflict countries yields important benefits for building peace. The contribution of women to post-conflict economic security is neglected and there is a tendency for women to lose out their jobs when the war ends and they are pushed to return to their traditional roles. Therefore, clear plans must be set up in order to benefit from women's activity, especially the new roles and capabilities that women have acquired in the period of conflict. Research indicates that the inclusion of women in economic recovery processes in post-conflict countries may lead to achieving important benefits for peace building.

Usually efforts focus in post-conflict periods, on creating job opportunities that target young males in order to keep them away from conflict-related activities. Women are in dire need of these jobs to address the urgent survival crisis generated by the conflict, especially as some women become the breadwinners of their families, which cases usually increase dramatically after conflicts.

What is required to promote women's participation?

Achieving the principle of participation requires a number of measures aimed at empowering women at different levels (including, inter alia):

- Legislatively, by adopting laws commensurate with the relevant global standards, which would lift discrimination and marginalization that affect women's rights at the local levels; developing appropriate mechanisms and procedures to put the principle of parity enshrined in the Constitution into effect. The adoption of an electoral law that observes the principle of horizontal and vertical parity is seen as a first step in the right direction.
- Economically, by enacting legislation that will advance women's liberation economically and financially, in order to achieve women's economic independence.
- Politically, in the various stages, from before the outbreak of armed conflict, to the military operations stages, to peacekeeping, relief, recovery and reconstruction. This calls for making room for women to move up the ladder of party responsibilities and public affairs institutions.
- Professionally, by organizing training courses and workshops on management and cultural diversity; improving professional performance review and appraisal mechanisms and employment standards; and combating sexual harassment.



The reality of women's political and economic participation in Lebanon

• Political participation

Article 12 of the Lebanese Constitution states that every Lebanese shall have the right to hold public office; no preference shall be made except on the basis of merit. Lebanon is a democratic republic that adopts a free economic system. Its parliamentary system foreseen by the Constitution and protected by the laws allow for broad participation of the population in political life, and neither the constitution nor the civil law differentiates between women and man in political rights; laws stipulate equality between women and men in Lebanon in political and citizenship rights. As for the practical level, the political participation of women remains inferior and marginal, which is one of the problems that stand in the way of empowerment and advancement of women and prevent them from being considered as full-fledged partners in the management of the state and society.

The percentage of women candidacies reached 11% in the 2018 elections (113 women ran for elections and 127 withdrew). Due to the electoral law, they could not all be part of any list, and thus the percentage of women who entered the Parliament fell to 4.7%. As for the percentage of voting compared to men, the percentage was equal. The percentage of women in decision-making positions is small compared to men. The number of women who were elected during the municipal and mukhtar elections that took place in 2016, increased by 100 women compared to the elections held in 2010, but women occupy only 5.5% of the municipal councils' seats. The latest figures of the Central Bureau of Statistics show that the proportion of women in the judiciary is 50%, among lawyers 45%, in the Bar Association committees 17%, in the Order of Physicians 29%, in the Order of Engineers 12%, while the female deans of universities did not exceed 35%. In the executive power, the status of women has improved a little compared to 2014, and we have 6 women ministers in the government of 2020 out of twenty, i.e. 30%. Only 23.5% of women are in the labor market, compared to 70.3% for men.

Thus, political participation still faces obstacles at all levels, including economic ones. Women cannot participate in the electoral battle under the election law that was drafted by the government in 2018, as the financial cost of the elections is an obstacle. It is also true that the still marginalized patriarchal social/cultural dimension has not helped women to be independent.

To this day, the government does not have a plan to enhance women's opportunities for political participation and decision-making. The government has refused agreeing to the quota system as a procedural tool for applying equality and improving women's opportunities for political participation. As for the political parties, the situation is not better, as women's issues in most parties are considered a pure women's affair, and no chief of party or his political office has ever evoked a women issue and treated it or taken a supportive position to it, except through partisan women as well as in unions where women's presence is still shy if not non-existent.

One of the most significant challenges faced by women candidates in the 2018 elections, was the absence of a quota for women in Parliament and within political parties; the adoption of the preferential vote in the current electoral law; the high electoral spending ceiling that harnessed the electoral process in favor of some well-financed politicians; the quasi-absent support from political parties to women candidates and the patriarchal mentality that prevented many women from running for office; the refusal of the Ministry of interior to issue a decision that allows women to run for election either under her name or under her husband's which prevented many women from running; and finally, the inaction of the ministry of state for women's affairs as to imposing the inclusion of one woman at least in each electoral list.

• Participation of women in peace-making in Lebanon

Women in Lebanon have long been involved in building social movements for change, political reform and democracy, and their participation in the protesting movements in the 1960s and 1970s was strong and is still active nowadays. Some women are indeed

leading the scenes of the uprising and the revolution in Lebanon and played an off-setting role in preserving its peaceful nature. Even during the civil war, women played a role in stopping the fighting and achieving national reunification. Late human rights activist Laure Moghaizel took the initiative to set up many endeavors to stop the fighting and spread a culture of nonviolence and human rights, and led a coalition of civil society organizations that organized for a long period human chains on the demarcation lines.

However, women did not participate in all the stages of political decision-making and peace-making in Lebanon, as women were excluded from the Taif Conference in 1989, which was mediated by Saudi Arabia, put an end to the 15-year civil war in Lebanon and resulted in the National Accord Document. Women did not participate in the Doha Conference in Qatar in 2008, which ended with an agreement after an 18-month crisis and some bloody incidents that jeopardized civil peace. Nor did women participate in international conferences held to save Lebanon from economic crises, including the three Paris conferences, the Lebanon Support Conference in 2017, and the Cèdres Conference in 2018.

4.4 Relief, Recovery and Reconstruction

In relief and recovery operations, it is imperative to ensure that all members of society have access to security, food, health care, housing and other basic needs. In such operations, beneficiaries are often seen as a single homogeneous group, with no regard to their roles in terms of community, gender, age group, and different needs. Peace-building initiatives and gender-sensitive recovery enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives and contribute to achieving a more equitable and sustainable peace. That is why these initiatives must be gender sensitive, able to address the specific needs of women's and girls' reproductive health in conflict and post-conflict situations, and address the needs of women and girls, especially vulnerable groups (IDPs, victims of sexual violence and GBV, former fighters, refugees, and returnees) in the framework of relief and early recovery operations and in economic recovery programs, in addition to making sure that institutions and processes related to transitional justice, reconciliation and post-conflict reconstruction are gender-sensitive, and that programs concerned with disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, and security sector reform programs take into consideration specific security and other needs specific to female security actors, former combatants, and women and girls associated with armed groups. The work of national governments, civil society organizations, and international development and humanitarian aid agencies must concentrate their efforts on drafting programs that promote gender equality and women empowerment in conflict and post-conflict situations.



The Women, Peace and Security Program is strongly linked with post-conflict reconstruction and economic recovery, as well as with planning in the field of development, that supports women's rights and repairs resulting damages, which prevents the emergence

of conditions that lead to the outbreak of conflict again. Only a few ceasefire or peace agreements include provisions that tackle conflict-related sexual violence. Ignoring women's contribution to peace processes can establish for a pattern of marginalization that extends long after the conflict. Parties to peace talks must commit to including sexual violence in the definition of ceasefire and agreements must recognize that conflict-related sexual violence is used as a method or a means of warfare and include it in the formulation of provisions related to security and justice.

Addressing conflict-related sexual violence at the beginning of a mediation strategy can increase the prospects for durable peace by alleviating security concerns and improving transparency, accountability and trust between the parties. But if this issue is left unchecked, it could be used as a reason to continue hostilities outside the framework of agreements and monitoring teams, which could lead to cycles of revenge and extra-legal retaliation, and to the risk of undermining trust in agreements and in the mediation process.

Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programs tend to ignore the fact that there are women and girls combatants among the belligerent forces. These women and girls are usually excluded from training packages and financial support offered to demobilized soldiers, and thus have to face poverty and social stigma.

Priorities during peacemaking and reconstruction processes

- Security and protection
- Economic empowerment, reconstruction and economic and social recovery
- Women's participation in negotiation and peace-making processes
- Former fighters
- Police and security services
- Community reintegration
- Security Sector Reform efforts
- Gender sensitive transitional justice
- In the field of security and protection:

Considering gender-based violence as a violation of the ceasefire,

- Providing training at all levels of the national and international armed forces
- Undertaking security sector reform and establishing a gender-sensitive disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process
- Establishing special measures for the protection of women refugees and internally displaced women
- Ending the proliferation of small arms and light weapons
- Allocating quotas for women in the police, military forces and ceasefire monitoring teams
- Conducting screening and sorting operations in the police and military forces and the ceasefire monitoring teams to exclude the perpetrators of violations
- There are demands within certain contexts to give sufficient attention to issues such as anti-personnel mines, violence, threats to women's human rights defenders and child soldiers.



- In the field of economic empowerment, reconstruction and economic and social recovery
 - Ensuring women's rights to own land and inheritance
 - Access to credit, including grants and interest-free loans
 - Securing educational opportunities for women and children
 - Significant investment in skills development and capacity building
 - Pay special attention to the needs of female-headed households
- In the field of women's participation in negotiation and peace-making processes
 - Making sure that the special needs of women are taken into consideration during repatriation, rehabilitation, reintegration and recovery processes in the post-conflict phase
 - Determining allocations, special measures and funding funds to facilitate this participation
- In working with former fighters
 - Recruiting and training ex-combatants to occupy positions in the police and security forces
 - Making sure that female combatants are allowed to work under the supervision of female field workers
 - Training support workers on understanding and meeting women's needs.
- In the field of police, security and justice
 - Establishing a civil police force in which women hold a high percentage (for example, at least 30 percent)
 - The proportion of women employed in the military and judicial bodies is not less than 30 percent, for example.
 - Adopting positive measures for admission to military and judicial institutes and institutions
 - Security sector reform efforts should include six actions: positive action, gendered budgeting, human rights and training, gender-sensitive planning tools, special focus on sexual violence and a culture of peace.
 - A plan should be adopted to increase the employment of women by specific percentages during a specific period of time
- In the area of community reintegration
 - The various programs should target the reintegration of the whole community in order to provide an incentive for local communities to participate in the rehabilitation of fighters and their families
 - Reintegration programs can include school funding, employment plans, and vocational training
 - Families should be reintegrated, not just individual combatants, in order to support the recovery of the community.
- In Security Sector Reform Efforts
 - Developing and adopting gender-sensitive budgets.
 - Resuming the provision of basic public services and improving their level
 - The personal security of women is a prerequisite for their active participation in peace-building
 - Police restoration and reform are among the mainstays of post-conflict recovery measures



- Introducing amendments to the mandate and role of the police, amending practices, recruiting women to serve in the police, involving women in accountability systems
- Making sure that states fulfill obligations to take legislative and administrative measures to integrate a gender approach in all paths to transitional justice and to ensure adequate remedies for women subjected to discrimination and redress for women whose rights are violated. Reparations take the following forms: restitution, compensation, rehabilitation, indemnity, guarantees of non-repetition and prosecution. Non-judicial methods such as truth and reconciliation commissions, institutional reforms and traditional mechanisms can play an important role in correcting the historical record and increasing accountability for crimes committed against women during war.
- In the area of gender-sensitive transitional justice

Transitional justice – or the pursuit of inclusive justice during periods of political transition – is concerned with the development of a wide range of different strategies to address the legacy of human rights violations in the past, and to analyze and implement them in practice with the aim of creating a more just and democratic future. It is based on the belief that judicial policy is responsible and must include measures with the dual objective of accountability for past crimes and prevention of new crimes, taking into account the collective character of some forms of violations.

Transitional justice aims to deal with the legacy of abuse in a broad and comprehensive manner and includes: criminal justice - reparation justice - social justice - economic justice.

Transitional justice is one of the concepts that may seem confusing at first, because the justice described here as transitional is not of the traditional type of justice associated with the judiciary and courts of all kinds. However, it has some elements in common with the traditional justice, such as returning the right or part of the right to a person whose rights have been violated for some reasons, especially those related to politics. That is why this kind of justice is used in transitional periods such as a change of government, a change of ruler, or a change of policy by a ruler, like when he replaces the policy of closure and repression by a policy of liberation and openness accompanied by reforms and reparations for victims of serious violations that are most of the times collective. Choosing a transitional justice approach is not inconsistent with recourse to criminal justice at the national level and even internationally. Multiple experiences



confirm that a one-size-fits-all model cannot be applied to all cases, but each situation has its specificities. **The principle of transitional justice is universal, while the method is specific.**

Transitional justice mechanisms should ensure accountability for the serious human rights violations against women, provide a comprehensive analysis of gender-based violence and abuses perpetrated by previous regimes, and suggest the means to ensure transformative forms of reparation for women victims, and to lay the ground for gender-sensitive reform of political and legal institutions as part of a guarantee of non-recurrence of the violations. Besides prosecution, non-judicial mechanisms such as truth and reconciliation commissions, institutional reforms and conventional mechanisms can play an important role in rectifying the historical record and increasing accountability for crimes committed against women during wars, without which it would be very difficult to overcome cycles of violence and retaliation that lead to instability.

Transitional justice mechanisms must acknowledge and respond to war crimes committed against women, with clear attention to the ways in which conflicts affect women, and to making specific arrangements for the protection of women who testify in this regard.

Transitional Justice Principles and Objectives

- Truth disclosure
- Accountability
- Reparation and rehabilitation
- Institutional reform and rehabilitation
- Preserving the national memory
- National reconciliation and confidence building



Fifth: The relationship of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions with human rights concepts, standards and mechanisms

UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions cannot be understood outside the scope of understanding and reading their relationship with various human rights concepts, standards and mechanisms and with the development agenda.

The following paragraph deals with this context in terms of:

- UNSCR 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against women
- UNSCR 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action
- UNSCR 1325 and Agenda 2030
- UNSCR 1325 and international protection mechanisms for women

UNSCR 1325 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women³⁹

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is fundamental to the realization of women's human rights. The agreement constitutes an international charter of rights for women as it establishes binding legal obligations relating to the equal enjoyment of women in all areas of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. It is true that the Convention did not address women's issues in different contexts of conflicts and wars, but it does not allow states to deviate from the obligations of the Convention during periods of conflict or public emergency. States' obligations continue during these periods.

Historically, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has attached great importance to women's issues in the context of conflict through many strategies. The first of these strategies consists of adopting general recommendations on women in conflict prevention, during conflict and in post-conflict situations⁴⁰.

In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women adopted General Recommendation 30, which provides credible guidance for States parties to the CEDAW on legislation, policies and other appropriate measures to protect, respect and fulfill the human rights of women in situations of conflict and instability. It calls on States to fulfill their obligations under the Convention, including its due diligence obligations, before, during and after the conflict. The Committee, by virtue of this Recommendation, reaffirms that during conflict or states of emergency, the obligations of states parties remain in force without distinction between citizens and non-citizens within its territory or effective control, even if it is not located within the territory of a State Party. The Committee has repeatedly expressed concern about the real gender effects of conflict, women's exclusion from conflict prevention efforts, post-conflict transitions and

39. The UNGA adopted the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on the 18th of December 1979 and the CEDAW entered into force on the 3rd of December 1981.

40. The Committee has, since its first session in 1982, worked continuously on clarifying the Convention and the ways to implement it in order to put an end to discrimination. Article 21 of the CEDAW allows for the adoption of general recommendations on items and thematic issues by virtue of the convention. The general recommendations explain the scope of the Convention and offers detailed guidance to the States on how to execute the commitments.

reconstruction, and the fact that the state party reports do not provide sufficient information on the application of the Convention in such cases.

The general recommendation makes clear that the Convention applies to all forms of conflict and post-conflict situations, and addresses critical issues facing women in these circumstances, including violence and challenges in accessing justice, education, employment and health. It offers guidance on the obligation of States parties to exercise due diligence in relation to crimes against women by non-governmental actors⁴¹.

The UN Security Council adopted Resolution 2122 on the same day the Committee adopted its general recommendation. It aims to remove barriers to women's full participation in all efforts of conflict prevention and resolution, and reconstruction. The Resolution makes strong reference to human rights and is characterized by an integrated approach to peace, security and human rights⁴².

The Recommendation stresses the relationship of the Convention with Security Council resolutions because of the need for a coherent and integrated approach. The UN Security Council agenda on Women, Peace and Security is part of the broader context of implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocol. There is an overlap between General Recommendation No. 30 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, which are mutually reinforcing documents in several methods, are important and are most effective when used together. In this regard, the Committee recommends that States parties ensure that NAPs and strategies for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions are consistent with the Convention and that sufficient budgets are allocated for its implementation.

The primary objective of General Recommendation No 30 is to provide guidance to States Parties on legislative and policy measures and other appropriate measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention to protect, respect and fulfill women's human rights in conflict prevention, during conflict and in post-conflict situations⁴³.

General Recommendation No. 30 notes that violence against women and girls is a form of discrimination arising from gender inequality as described in the Convention. Therefore, the Committee subsequently worked on issuing General Recommendation No. 35 on gender-based violence against women, which is an update of General Recommendation No. 19. In accordance with it, the Committee recalls that GBV against women and girls constitute discrimination under the Convention⁴⁴.

In line with the approaches that followed Resolution 1325, the Recommendation focused on the importance of conflict prevention, and this includes:

- Establishment of effective early warning systems for the collection and analysis of open source information, and preventive diplomacy and mediation and the preventive efforts that address the root causes of conflict.
- Strong and effective regulation of the arms trade, and adequate control of the circulation of conventional arms, which are often illegal, including small arms, in order to prevent their use in committing or facilitating serious GBV acts.

41. Guidebook on cedaw general recommendation no. 30 And the un security council resolutions on women, peace and security, unwomen, 2015

42. <https://www.wilpf.org/cedaw-settles-the-link-between-the-wps-agenda-disarmament-and-womens-rights/>

43. <https://www.peacewomen.org/node/90846>

44. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/PeaceAndSecurity.aspx>

Also, and in line with the “protection component”, which is the most important component of UNSCR 1325, the Recommendation emphasized the importance of protection from sexual violence and the prohibition of gender-based violence in all its forms by State and non-State actors, by:

- Enacting laws, policies and protocols;
- Preventing the perpetration of gender-based violence in all its forms, in particular sexual violence, by State and non-State actors;
- Ensuring access to justice for women and girls; taking gender-sensitive investigative measures, implementing training courses and developing codes of conduct and gender-sensitive protocols for police and military forces, including peacekeepers; and building the capacity of the judiciary, including in the context of transitional justice mechanisms, to ensure its independence, integrity and impartiality;
- Unifying methods of data collection on the incidence and prevalence of gender-based violence, especially sexual violence;
- Allocating adequate resources and taking effective measures to ensure that victims have access to all services;
- Developing and publishing Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and referral methods to link security agencies with service providers concerned with GBV.

The Recommendation also dealt in great detail with the issue of trafficking, and stressed the importance of working on:

- Preventing trafficking and related human rights violations that fall under its legal jurisdiction and prosecuting its perpetrators;
- Adopting a zero-tolerance policy based on international human rights standards on trafficking, sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, which target specific groups such as national forces, peacekeeping forces, and other humanitarian actors, border police and immigration officers, and provide these groups with gender training on how to identify vulnerable women and girls and protect them;
- Drafting a migration policy that is inclusive, gender sensitive, rights-based and ensures that women and girls coming from conflict-affected areas are not subjected to trafficking;
- Adopting bilateral or regional agreements and other forms of cooperation to protect the rights of women and girls who are victims of trafficking.

In the field of political participation, the Recommendation focused on:

- Ensuring equal representation of women at all levels of decision-making in national institutions and mechanisms, including their representation in the armed forces, police and justice institutions; and the transitional justice mechanisms;
- Ensuring the inclusion of women and civil society organizations that focus on women's issues and women representatives of civil society, on an equal footing, in all peace negotiations and post-conflict rebuilding and reconstruction efforts.

Examples of Questions asked by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to States Parties that present periodic reports that relate to the obligations of States towards women in the context of conflict

What early warning systems are in place to prevent conflict? Do early warning indicators take into consideration the gender differences and do they give the gender-based violations that affect women particular attention? Has the country ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)? What are the details of the efforts made by States Parties, through domestic and foreign policy, to effectively regulate conventional and illegal weapons, including small arms? What measures have been taken to prohibit, prevent and punish all forms of conflict-related violence against women and girls? What are the legal, medical and psychological services available to victims of conflict-related violence? What measures have been taken to ensure effective access for all women and girls to these services? To what extent are women's civil society organizations included in peace negotiations and post-conflict reconstruction? What training was provided to support women's civil society participation and leadership in such processes? What are the numbers of women within the negotiation and mediation teams in the States Parties, including at the highest levels? Have any measures to ensure access of women and girls to education at all levels in post-conflict contexts been taken? Do these policies address women's roles and needs within the formal and informal sectors? Does the state recognize the special status of rural and other disadvantaged groups of women, since they are disproportionately affected by the lack of adequate health and social services as well as by the inequity of access to land and natural resources? What measures have been taken to ensure that women and girls have access to equal health services? Do the political and legal responses for the displaced persons recognize gender-based needs of displaced women and girls?⁴⁵

45. <https://www.unwomen.org//media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2015/guide-book-cedaw-generalrecommendation-30-women-peace-security-ar.pdf?la=en&vs=1850>

The latest strategies adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in its work on UNSCR 1325 are concluding observations of the Committee to States Parties in the course of submitting national reports on their fulfillment of the CEDAW. Through its periodic review, the Committee attaches great importance to UNSCR 1325 and countries are often recommended to adopt a National plan for UNSCR 1325 and to allocate sufficient financial and human resources to ensure its implementation. But there are gaps in terms of inclusion of information on UNSCR 1325 in the reports, whether government reports or shadow reports.

Lebanon:

In 1996, the Lebanese State signed the CEDAW by virtue of the Law no. 592 which became effective on 1/8/1996, but this adoption included reservations on essential themes: item 2 of Article 9 related to nationality and items (c), (d), (f) and (g) of Article 16 concerning personal status, in addition to the reservation on Article 29 thereof. Lebanon has not adhered to the Optional Protocol of the Convention.

Article 2 of the Code of Civil Procedures in Lebanon states that the provisions of international treaties supercede the provisions of ordinary Law: “The courts shall comply with the principle of the rules of hierarchy. In the event of conflict between the provisions of international treaties and those of ordinary law, the former shall take precedence over the latter. Courts shall not declare null the legislative authority’s activities on the grounds of inconsistency of ordinary laws with the Constitution or international treaties”⁴⁶.

In 2015, and in the context of the concluding observations submitted by the CEDAW Committee to the Lebanese State, the Committee stressed the need to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) relating to Women, Peace and Security, to ensure women’s participation in all phases of peace processes in line with General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) in which the Committee addressed the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, and to seek the support of the international community to help the State party fulfill its obligations.

UNSCR 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action

The Beijing Platform for Action is a political agreement in which the 189 UN Member States committed to promoting gender equality. In 1995, in the Beijing Declaration, the international community pledged to work for the advancement of women through 12 important areas: poverty; education and training; health; violence against women; armed conflict; economy; power and decision making; institutional mechanisms; human rights; the media; environment; and issues of girls. The curriculum sets out a program for governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector to work on protecting women’s human rights, and to ensure gender mainstreaming in national, regional and international policies and programs. To ensure that States fulfill their obligations, progress in the implementation of the Declaration and Platform for Action will be reviewed every five years, through country reports and synthesis reports provided by the UN regional commissions based on the national reports, and the synthesis

46. http://legallaw.ul.edu.lb/LawView.aspx?opt=view&LawID=244565#Section_259810

Among the most important issues addressed in the Beijing Platform for Action is the issue of Women, Peace and Security⁴⁸. The Beijing Program for Action states that “International humanitarian law, prohibiting attacks on civilian populations, as such, is at times systematically ignored and human rights are often violated in connection with situations of armed conflict, affecting the civilian population, especially women, children, the elderly and the disabled.” It also states that “While entire communities suffer the consequences of armed conflict and terrorism, women and girls are particularly affected because of their status in society and their sex.”⁴⁹ The Beijing Platform for Action is considered the first international statement of recognition of gender effects of conflicts and constituted the first call for women full and equal participation in preventing and resolving conflicts⁵⁰.

Lebanon:

The National Commission for Lebanese Women's Affairs (NCLW) is an official body linked to the Presidency of the Council of Ministers, established by law 720/1998 ⁵¹.

https://www.unescwa.org/sites/www.unescwa.org/files/page_attachments/lebanon_nclw_beijing_25_report_2019_final_0.pdf

51. <https://nclw.gov.il/%d987%%d8%af%d981%%d986%%d8%a7-%d988%%d8%b1%d8%a4%d98%a%d8%aa%d986%%d8%a7/>

UNSCR 1325 and Agenda 2030

On the 1st of January 2016, work began on the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda 2030, adopted by world leaders in September 2015. According to the Agenda, countries will mobilize efforts to eradicate poverty in all its forms, fight inequality and tackle climate change, while ensuring that no one is left behind.

Agenda 2030 calls on all countries, poor, rich and middle-income, to take action to boost prosperity, and to work at the same time on protecting the Planet. It realizes that the eradication of poverty must go hand in hand with the strategies that build economic growth and address a range of social needs including education, health and social protection, and employment opportunities, while addressing climate change and environmental protection⁵².

The goals of the Agenda were divided into 17 main goals and 169 targets that correspond to the Millennium Development Goals to complete what has not been achieved. Therefore, it covers wide scopes through goals and targets that reflect the interrelationship between the pillars of sustainable development.

The SDGs are comprehensive and inclusive; they seek to leave no one behind, and aspire to “a world where respect for equality and non-discrimination prevail everywhere” between and within countries, including gender equality, by reaffirming responsibilities of all states to “respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race or ethnicity, color, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, or on the basis of ownership, birth, disability, or any other basis”⁵³.

The seventeen goals: End poverty in all its forms everywhere, Zero Hunger, Good health and well-being, quality education, gender equality, clean water and sanitation, clean and affordable energy, decent work and economic growth, industry, innovation and infrastructure, reduced inequalities, sustainable cities and communities, responsible consumption and production, climate action, life underwater, life on land, peace, justice and strong institutions, partnerships to achieve goals⁵⁴.

Through SDG5, Agenda 2030 emphasizes the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls. The targets of SDG5 are diverse and include:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate
- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences

52. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/development-agenda/>

53. <http://www.ohchr.org/AR/Issues/MDG/Pages/MDGPost2015Agenda.aspx>

54. <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/sustainable-development-goals/>

- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels⁵⁵.

Through the SDG 16, the Agenda addressed the issue of peace, which is intended to:

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development⁵⁶.

Lebanon:

In 2015, Lebanon, like other countries, adopted the 2030 sustainable development Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Lebanon agreed to commit to these goals through the speech made by the Prime Minister at the Sustainable Development Summit on September 26, 2017, in New York⁵⁷. The Lebanese government formed in June 2017 the National Committee for Leading and Coordinating National Efforts to Implement the Development Agenda 2030⁵⁸. Lebanon has also prepared its Voluntary National Report (VNR) to the United Nations High Level Political Forum, which was held on the 8th of July 2018⁵⁹.

The document produced by the United Nations on Lebanon's relationship with the sustainable development goals considered that the sustainable development goals constitute an opportunity to set a clear and am-

55. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/gender-equality/>

56. <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/ar/peace-justice/>

57. <https://www.sdglebanon.com/service>

58. VNRs are part of the follow-up and review efforts for Agenda 2030. The review takes place before the High-level political forum concerned with sustainable development on a voluntary basis, under the supervision of the State. But the report should be prepared in a participatory way with all stakeholders and actors of the Agenda. It aims at tracking the progress achieved in terms of implementation of Agenda 2030. For more information on the VNR guide published by the sustainable development division, UN economic and social affairs department https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18061VNR_Handbook_Ar.pdf

59. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/19484Lebanon_VNR_2018.pdf

bitious vision for Lebanon after fifteen years, as it will provide avenues to enable the Lebanese to work for a better equality-based future. The document explains the reasons related to Lebanon's position in relation to the 17 goals and the existing gaps that require development efforts⁶⁰.

Lebanon, like other countries in the world, has developed national frameworks for the execution of the Agenda. Since the implementation of Agenda 2030 is the responsibility of several ministries and is not confined to one ministry, this necessitated the creation of a coordination mechanism among all ministries and official departments concerned. Therefore, on June 21, 2017, the Lebanese Council of Ministers adopted a decision to form the National Committee to lead and coordinate national efforts to implement the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Agenda 2030. The tasks of the Committee are:

1. Integrating the programs, projects and initiatives undertaken by the government with the Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Spreading awareness about the SDGs and the importance to achieve them.
3. Developing a national database for SDGs indicators, to see where we stand, where we should be, and what are the loopholes and obstacles we face.
4. Submitting periodic voluntary reports to the United Nations, which are national reports on the progress of work towards achieving SDGs. This measure helps Lebanon obtain the necessary funding for development projects and other infrastructure projects, and the development of the national economy.

60. https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/2f9000_47824aa67041432280c7803446bf83b8.pdf

• UNSCR 1325 and international protection mechanisms for women

After we reviewed UNSCR 1325 and particularly its relationship to the International Humanitarian Law and International Refugee Law system, in addition to its intersections with the system of various human rights concepts and standards, it is important to link it with the international protection system of women's rights, which includes the work of bodies, councils and committees.

UN Security Council⁶¹.

Through UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, the role of the Security Council with regard to women's issues in the context of conflict and the inclusion of these issues, therefore, within the agenda of the Council are clearly demonstrated⁶².

Human Rights Council⁶³

The Council attaches special importance to peace issues, and one of the Council's work strategies are investigative committees and fact-finding missions, which are increasingly being used to address cases of serious violations of IHL and IHRL⁶⁴.

International Criminal Court

Its work is regulated by the Rome Statute, adopted in Rome on the 17th of July 1998. It is the first permanent international criminal court to be established by a treaty to help put an end to the perpetration of the most serious crimes which create concern to the international community. Its Statute came into force on 1/7/2002. As for the jurisdiction of the ICC, they are crimes of genocide, crimes against humanity, and crimes of aggression⁶⁵.

The Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court prohibits "Rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity" and is gender-sensitive in defining the crimes of genocide (Article 6), crimes against humanity (Article 7) and war crimes (Article 8).

The former International Criminal Tribunals for the former Yugoslavia and Rwanda (ICTR and ICTY) have raised standards of accountability for crimes of sexual violence against women. Although their judgments constitute a small part of the cases, but they set historical precedents for the prosecution of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide and they have, through their verdicts, recognized rape as a means of torture and as a form of persecution. The Tribunals also recognized that sexual violence is a weapon of war used as a tool of terrorism and destruction. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, for example, has considered rape an act of genocide for the first time in history in 1998.

61. The Security Council, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, has effective powers. This includes taking measures to implement the rules of international humanitarian law. Measures Establish mechanisms to implement these rules, including the adoption of economic sanctions as a mechanism to compel states to respect international law. The UNSC may in the event that economic measures are ineffective, take the means of military repression, by interfering with military force to implement the rules of IHL, for humanitarian purposes.

62. The Council relies on Chapter VI to resolve disputes for a peaceful solution, but in the event of a threat to the peace, breach of it and the occurrence of aggression, it relies on Chapter VII, and it has the authority to adapt the situation, as a threat to peace or aggression in order to present its recommendations or decides what measures must be taken.

63. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/HCR/Pages/AboutCouncil.aspx>

64. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/HCR/Pages/COIs.aspx>

65. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/InternationalCriminalCourt.aspx>

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict⁶⁶

UN Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009), established the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, which is chaired by a Special Representative who serves as a UN spokesperson and political advocate on conflict-related sexual violence. The United Nations Team of Experts Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established pursuant to UN Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009), as a multi-entity team⁶⁷ to assist governments in conflict and post-conflict situations by strengthening their capacity to address conflict-related sexual violence, particularly in connection with criminal investigations and prosecutions; evidence collection and retention; investigation and prosecution within the military justice system; criminal law reform and law of procedures reform; protection of victims, witnesses and judicial officials; reparation for survivors of sexual violence.

Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict⁶⁸.

In July 2005, the Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict was established pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1612. The Working Group is composed of 15 members of the Security Council and meets in closed sessions to review reports relating to children in armed conflict within specific country situations. It also reviews progress made in the implementation of action plans to end violations against children and other relevant information.

Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)⁶⁹

OHCHR strives to implement human rights standards around the world. It cooperates with governments, parliaments, judicial authorities, national human rights institutions and of course civil society organizations. The OHCHR manages early warning and human rights protection in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity⁷⁰.

Contractual Mechanisms

Of the many conventions issued by the United Nations, only nine provide for ten protection mechanisms to monitor the implementation of the Convention and the commitment of the States Parties to its requirements. Some of these treaties are supplemented with optional protocols that address specific concerns⁷¹. Each convention creates a committee, and the committee is made up of experts chosen among those with competence and experience in the field of human rights, particularly in the field of the relevant convention. The task of the bodies⁷² that are established under treaties is to monitor the progress made by the States Parties to the treaty and address the difficulties and obstacles facing the implementation of the treaty by examining the periodic reports of the States Parties. The committee also receives individual complaints, and adopts the General Comments explaining the treaty provisions. Contractual mechanisms provide a space for civil society to protect human rights both through shadow reports and indi-

66. <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/ar/un-and-the-rule-of-law/the-special-representative-of-the-secretary-general-on-sexual-violence-in-conflict>

67. Includes technical experts from the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, UNHCR and UNDP.

68. <https://childrenandarmedconflicts.un.org/ar/>

69. It is part of the United Nations Secretariat and is based in Geneva. It has country offices and regional offices. Established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993.

70. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/AboutUs/Pages/WhoWeAre.aspx>

71. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/Pages/TreatyBodies.aspx>

72. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/cedaw/pages/cedawindex.aspx>

vidual complaints, as well as civil society participation in consultations prepared by the convention bodies. These bodies attach importance to issues of women and girls in the context of conflict in different ways related to their missions, their powers and the issues of competence for them. These bodies have worked on discussing and analyzing the impact of conflicts on civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. They also have strongly developed the field of State obligations regarding these rights in the context of conflicts.

Human Rights Council Special Procedures

This is the name given to a group of human rights experts tasked with providing reports and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective. To date, there are 44 thematic mandates, i.e. measures that tackle on human rights issues such as: torture, enforced disappearance, freedom of opinion and expression, violence against women, education, housing, health, terrorism, trade and human rights, arbitrary detention... There are also 12 country mandates that study the general conditions of human rights in specific countries. The special procedure is either an individual (called "Special Rapporteur" or the "independent expert") or a group composed of five members, all appointed by the Human Rights Council. They act in their personal capacity and pledge to uphold independence, competence, qualification and integrity through impartiality and honesty. The term of the mandate holder is limited whether it is a thematic or a country-based mandate, a maximum of six years. Special procedures submit annual reports to the Human Rights Council⁷³ and the General Assembly⁷⁴. Special procedures attach great importance to women's issues in addition to the issue of impact of conflicts on thematic issues of their concern, and dozens of reports have been issued in this context.

Example:

- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education for refugees
[PDF/N1824169.pdf?OpenElement/69/241/https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18](https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18/PDF/N1824169.pdf?OpenElement/69/241/https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N18)
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education on the contribution of the right to education to preventing atrocities and grave human rights violations.
[243/https://undocs.org/ar/A/74](https://undocs.org/ar/A/74)
- Report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in times of emergency
[PDF/G0813531.pdf?OpenElement/31/135/https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08](https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08/PDF/G0813531.pdf?OpenElement/31/135/https://documents-ddsny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G08)

Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a state-driven process, under the auspices of the Human Rights Council. The UPR provides all states with the opportunity to declare actions they have taken to improve the human rights situation in their countries and to fulfill their human rights obligations. The aim of such mechanism is to improve the human rights situation in all countries and to address human rights violations wherever they occur⁷⁵. Through this mechanism, the Council attaches great importance to the issues of Women, Peace and Security through the recommendations received in the context of periodic national reviews.

73. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/SP/Pages/AnnualreportsHRC.asp>

74. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/SP/Pages/GAReports.aspx>

75. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx>

Lebanon:

Lebanon interacts with human rights treaty bodies⁷⁶. Concluding remarks have been made in this regard by a number of treaty bodies⁷⁷. Like the rest of the world, Lebanon interacts with the Universal Periodic Review⁷⁸. The date for the submission of the third report to the Human Rights Council will be during the thirty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council in 2020⁷⁹.

In the same context, Lebanon interacts with the special procedures system⁸⁰, and it is among the countries that have adopted the open invitation system on March 17, 2011. Lebanon received some visits and rejected others⁸¹.

As for the national mechanisms, the Lebanese Parliament approved Law No. 62 on 3/11/2016 to establish the National Human Rights Commission. The Lebanese government issued a decree naming the commission members dated May 21, 2018⁸². The national Commission is responsible for monitoring the human rights situation, according to the law by reviewing laws, decrees and administrative decisions. It investigates complaints of human rights violations and issues periodic reports about the results. In times of war, the Commission will monitor violations of IHL and works on ensuring accountability, and it has an important role in promoting and monitoring laws and standards concerned with human rights.

Also, within national mechanisms, and in connection with the obligations arising from the Optional Protocol to the Convention on Prevention of torture and other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment or punishment, a permanent committee called the “Prevention of Torture Committee” is established within the National Human Rights Commission, works on protecting the rights of detainees and persons deprived of their freedom, and has independent legal personality in everything related to torture and its prevention⁸³.

76. www.ohchr.org

77. https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/Countries.aspx?CountryCode=LBN&Lang=AR

78. It is the latest international protection mechanism for human rights established by General Assembly Resolution 60/25 of 15 March 2006 and detailed in Resolution 5/1 of the Human Rights Council of 18 June 2007. Through this, the Human Rights Council was mandated to review on a periodic basis every four years and a half, the performance of all UN Member States of their human rights obligations and commitments with the aim of improving the human rights situation in these areas. For more information see: <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRSessions.aspx>

79. https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_3rd_cycle.pdf

80. This name refers to a group of human rights experts tasked with providing reports and advice on human rights from a thematic or country-specific human rights perspective. Mandate-holders conduct country visits to analyze the human rights situation at the national level. Some countries have drawn “permanent invitations” to the Special Procedures, which means that they are ready to receive a visit from any thematic mandate holder.

81. https://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=ar

82. 295832/28/10/<https://www.hrw.org.ar/news/2016>

83. The Lebanese Parliament amended Article 401 of the Lebanese Penal Code to consider torture as a crime, including acts that result in pain, bodily harm or extremely mental. Law entered alive the implementation took place on October 26, 2017, after its publication in the Official Gazette.

National plans

Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda requires planning and establishing a monitoring and accountability system. Resolution 1889 emphasized the issue of accountability, effective monitoring of progress, and provision of indicators on a tangible practical basis, which enhances efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

For the sake of the implementation of the agenda, countries shall develop National Action Plans (NAPs) to implement UNSCR 1325. The NAPs contribute to providing the necessary data on the fulfillment of UNSCR 1325 which provides the conceptual basis for these commitments.

National action plans are one type of plans among many that countries adopt to implement resolutions in their national contexts. Resolutions can also be integrated into other national strategies and plans related to gender equality or to ending VAW, or within the plans and strategies of relevant ministries and frameworks such as the ministries of defense, interior, justice, development and foreign affairs. However, the process of developing a stand-alone plan remains a necessity because it helps in securing the necessary resources and in institutionalizing the implementation of the agenda goals⁸⁴.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has motivated countries' efforts to address gender dimensions and promote women's participation in peace operations. A number of countries have developed NAPs to implement UNSCR 1325 while others are working on it. Other countries have included the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in their national plans of action on gender equality. Countries National Action Plans were used as a tool for identifying priority areas of action on the Women, Peace and Security agenda and they differ between countries.

NAPs are the main vehicle for UN Member States to translate international commitments related to Women, Peace and Security into national policies and programs. For Security Council Resolution 1325 to bring about the promised change, implementation must go beyond the UN headquarters and reach out to the national and local levels where women are exposed to violence and insecurity on a daily basis.

NAPs are part of an important localization of the obligations contained in UNSCR 1325 into concrete actions. Simply put, National Action Programs are documents that set the domestic course of a country's policy to achieve Women, Peace and Security goals: Women's participation, protection from sexual violence, conflict prevention and post-conflict peace-building.

So, NAPs should, in their substance, provide a tool for contextualizing Security Council Resolution 1325 and translating its objectives into national and local facts⁸⁵.

As of September 2019, there are 11 regional action plans, and 82 UN member states have NAPs under UNSCR 1325⁸⁶.

Some of the common elements needed to develop a development action plan that can be a tool for coherent and targeted measures can be mentioned, including⁸⁷:

- Strong leadership and effective coordination requires development, implementation and monitoring of effective national action plans in line with government commitment and clear government leadership, both politically and technically.
- The importance of effective coordination between the group of actors involved in implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda. To do this, several countries at the national level have established either a task force, a steering committee or a working group to coordinate between various ministries and stakeholders.

84. UN Women Sourcebook on Women, Peace and Security: Overview of Content

85. [/https://www.wilpf.org/national-action-plans-localising-implementation-of-unscr-1325](https://www.wilpf.org/national-action-plans-localising-implementation-of-unscr-1325)

86. <https://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

87. https://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/ar/AR_CH10.pdf

- Participation. In addition to government leadership, effective national implementation plans and strategies require broad participation from civil society organizations, academic institutions, donor partners, women and men, as well as communities and local populations directly affected by the conflict. These actors can make a significant contribution to design, implement, monitor, evaluate and review these plans. The benefits of broad participation are too many to ignore. Inclusion could increase awareness, and ensures a diversity of perspectives on security issues that affect diverse stakeholders. Thus, broad participation that strengthens the right to equality and non-discrimination, makes the resulting plans and strategies more responsive to needs and expectations on the ground, and increases the level of ownership and commitment to implementation.
- Determining the costs of implementing NAPs and setting related budgets. There is a strong consensus that financing that is sustainable and predictable is a requirement for the effective realization of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. NAPs are unfortunately often just ideal papers and concepts unless realistic plans are drafted and funded. To ensure sustainability of funding, we should start from a comprehensive and realistic process to determine the costs of NAPs as of the planning stage, and it is necessary to allocate specific funding for its implementation.
- Solid M&E frameworks. For NAPs to produce solid results in the lives of women and girls and their local communities, their actual impact should be systematically monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Having an effective M&E system can help to improve policies and programs, strengthen commitment and partnerships, encourage accountability and build a basis for sustainable investments.
- Drafting indicators. This helps to enable different actors to determine whether efforts to engage women in building peace and meeting protection and recovery needs contributes to achieving the necessary results.

In the Netherlands, for example, the second NAP was co-signed by three ministries, four research institutions and more than 30 civil society organizations.

The National Action Plans for Security Council Resolution 1325 are one of the tools through which civil society can promote global commitments to local impact. To benefit from national action programs for change, civil society should engage in an ongoing way, either formally or informally and as much as possible, with the development of NAPs for implementation processes. In addition, they can use the NAP as a tool to promote change in how the government and civil society can operate together for gender peace and justice, and to promote women's participation, protection and rights in a wide range of fields.

Civil society can be a key partner in the development of NAPs by providing civil society input to the steering committees working on the plans, providing recommendations on how to effectively implement, mobilizing support, building local capacity to implement, contributing to fundraising campaigns to support action initiatives at the national level, and monitoring and evaluation process and accountability for commitments⁸⁸.

Finally, it is important to keep in mind that these are merely processes and facilitators of actions and not ends in themselves.

Given the importance of NAPs as the primary tools for implementing commitments at the national level, action may not be the ultimate remedy. It is just one way for further implementation. Hard work begins with ensuring that commitments made become actions taken. Most importantly, these actions should result in transforming the established and inefficient international security system into a system that not only overcomes the exclusion of gender analysis methods, but refocuses on prevention and peace⁸⁹.

88. www.iknowpolitics.org/sites/default/files/leveraging-unsr-1325-national-action-plans-for-local-change.pdf

89. <https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/implementing-resolution-1325-role-of-national-action-plans>

Sixth: The National Plan for Resolution 1325 in Lebanon:

Work on the Women, Peace and Security agenda intersects initially in Lebanon with many relevant national strategies and plans. The National Commission for Lebanese Women adopted a National Strategy for Women in Lebanon (2011-2021) which focuses on 12 fields of intervention, including the protection of women and girls in emergencies and armed conflict and the protection of women from violence. In 2012, the Council of Ministers approved this strategy in principle. The main strategic objectives include the cancellation of all laws that are discriminatory against women and the adoption of laws to protect women from sexual violence, in addition to the possibility of access to health services with a special focus on mental health and awareness raising about reproductive health for women and girls. The goals of the National Strategy for women also deals with women's participation in political life by increasing the number of women in the local and national government institutions and in political parties.

The Strategy focuses on protecting women and girls against all forms of violence, increasing access to services for survivors of violence, and working on determining the spread of gender-based violence in Lebanon. More specifically, the Strategy has three main objectives related to women and girls in emergency and conflict situations: 1) ensuring the participation of women and girls in dialogue and conflict resolution; 2) building women's capacities for conflict prevention; 3) making further efforts to put an end to negative results and repercussions of displacement and migration on displaced women in host communities.

There is also the National Strategy for Gender Equality, which was adopted by the Ministry of State for Women's Affairs for 2017-2030. It deals with the following areas: poverty, legal reforms and decision-making, education, economy, employment, entrepreneurship, violence against women, health, media, culture, environment, peace and security, crises and natural disasters, and institutional mechanisms. The work areas of this Strategy have been adapted to the new Agenda 2030, in line with Lebanon global commitment to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



In a related context, work on the Plan intersects with the National Strategy to prevent violent extremism (VE). In December 2017, Lebanon launched the National Strategy to Prevent Violent Extremism. It sets nine goals, which include conducting research and studies on VE from a gender perspective, promoting concepts of citizenship and conflict prevention, increasing women's participation in the security sector, decision-making in political and economic life, and improving gender equality laws.

Finally, we cannot but mention the National Strategy to combat violence against women and girls set up by the Ministry of State for women's affairs and launched in February 2019. It concerns all Lebanese and non-Lebanese girls and women on Lebanese territory. It is addressed to men and boys as perpetrators of violence. This Strategy includes all forms of violence against a person by another person or several persons of the immediate or extended family, or against a person who is not a relative who resides in the same house, including male and female domestic workers. It covers acts of violence committed separately, as well as acts of humiliation, threats, denial of education, discrimination in inheritance, forced or early marriage, forced labor or beggary, sexual exploitation or forced sex, prostitution, human trafficking, "honor crimes", forced abortion, mutilation or female genital mutilation, marital rape and incest⁹⁰.

With regard to the National Plan for UNSCR 1325, and after multiple efforts, the Prime minister issued an assignment in 2017 to the NCLW, which is the official body concerned with women's affairs in Lebanon, to develop an Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. In accordance with this national commitment, the NCLW conducted the process of drafting a national action plan on the aforementioned resolution through a participatory approach in cooperation with other government institutions and some civil society organizations, and with the support of United Nations agencies.

A steering committee was formed to develop a national action plan for UNSCR 1325 on October 2017. This steering committee was composed of a number of ministries, civil society organizations concerned with the issue, and some United Nations agencies. This plan was approved by the Lebanese Council of Ministers in 2019.

In 2019, the Lebanese Government adopted the first national action plan for Lebanon to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which provides a comprehensive national framework for Lebanon's long-term stability and security, and constitutes a fundamental pillar for the achievement of Agenda 2030 Sustainable Development Goals. The Plan provides a range of tools and resources which aims at advancing women's systematic participation in conversations on peace and security issues while promoting at the same time, the protection of women and their presence in leadership positions. The Plan was developed through a broad consultative approach and included a well-defined framework with clear cost estimate, whose activities are aimed at achieving equality in terms of peace and security internally, and Lebanon's commitment to work on achieving peace and security at the regional and global levels. With this Plan, Lebanon commits to involve women in political dialogues and peace-building efforts, and to increase their representation in the security forces. It also commits to encouraging their participation and representation in local and national government structures⁹¹.

The National Action Plan for Lebanon includes five strategic priorities under the four UNSCR 1325 pillars⁹²:

- **The first strategic priority: participation in decision-making at all levels**

The Lebanese government shall work on increasing women's participation and representation in local and national government structures. It shall also make sure that appropriate measures are taken to increase women's participation in the security and defense sectors. The government will ensure active participation of women in conflict prevention and in peace mediation and negotiation processes. In addition, the Lebanese government will remove obstacles to help women access the economy to create favorable conditions for sustainable peace.

- **The second strategic priority: Conflict Prevention**

The Lebanese government shall make sure that women play an effective role in preventing conflict and reducing tension at national and local levels. The government will

90. NCLW-NAP-1325-AR-report-Combined.pdf/12/https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/2019

91. <https://www.lb.undp.org/content/lebanon/ar/home/news-centre/pressreleases/NCLW.html>

92. NCLW-NAP-1325-AR-report-Combined.pdf/12/https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/2019

also strengthen the role of women in preventing violent extremism and executing early warning mechanisms.

- **The third strategic priority: Preventing and protecting women and girls from gender-based violence**

The Lebanese government shall work on protecting women, children, girls and boys from sexual and gender-based violence, discrimination, abuse and exploitative practices, including human trafficking. The Lebanese government will enact and implement laws to protect all women and children, to ensure access to all multi-sector services, including access to shelter, redress and health services.

- **The fourth strategic priority: Relief and Recovery**

The Government of Lebanon shall address the needs of women and girls in terms of relief and recovery, as a result of natural disasters and conflicts.

- **The fifth strategic priority: Legal Framework**

The Lebanese government shall work on amending, adopting and implementing laws and policies in order to prevent discrimination against girls and women and to protect them from all forms of violence and exploitation.

Finally, a Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework has been developed for the Lebanese National Action Plan 1325, which includes specific indicators to measure the progress made in terms of strategic priorities and actions implemented over four years. National stakeholders will be informed about the progress to guide them through monitoring and reporting on implementation efforts. A national baseline study is expected to be prepared during the first year of implementation, in order to determine the baseline data needed to help in monitoring and reporting over the four years of the NAP. A final evaluation of the NAP 1325 will be prepared during the fourth year of implementation.



ABOUT UNSCR

1325

AND ITS COMPLEMENTARY
RESOLUTIONS AND THE WAYS
TO INCORPORATE IT INTO
THE WORK APPROACHES OF
THE SECURITY AND Media &
INFORMATION INSTITUTIONS
AND CIVIL SOCIETY ORGA-
NIZATIONS

PART 2

The second part focuses on the intersections of this Resolution with the Civil Society, the security sector and the media. In this part, we will tackle the role and tasks of each sector and its capacity building efforts in the field of implementation and integration of UNSCR 1325 within work approaches.



First: The civil society

The Civil Society has played a powerful role, throughout the world, in lobbying for the adoption of UNSCR 1325 and contributing to drafting it. This is mainly due to the essential contributions of women's organizations to conflict prevention, peace-making, and on the front lines of post-conflict recovery, when the State and the donor community have not done their job yet. International NGOs have also played a role, especially what the global feminist movement has done, in addition to all the components of civil society at the national level, which played a role in breaking the silence on violence against women and participated in building peace and security.

1. UNSCR 1325 and civil society

Civil society organizations have demonstrated the ability of social movements to bring about real bottom-up change. Social movements, especially those that refer to citizenship and human rights, can do much more to make a real difference to the lives of men, women, boys and girls than any countries and institutions. Many CSOs are close to the grass-roots or right holders audience, and has the ability to work with them to lobby and shape policies that guarantee human rights, set public and governmental agendas and create the political will to take action related to their rights. Wherever progress and wide-scope transformation are achieved, the main factor in the success is usually attributed to cooperation and joint action with other CSOs; the role of civil society being used as an independent oversight and monitoring tool.

All Women, Peace and Security action and the implementation of UNSCR 1325 require partnerships with civil society, as well as the creation of national coalitions (governmental and civil) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions. The women's organizations and movements play a decisive role in accountability and monitoring of government actions and government accountability for its commitments to women, including with regard to peace and security. The role of civil society to protect women's rights against violence has been the main leverage for the women's rights vision and its development within human rights. It is part of a basic mission carried out by civil society organizations, especially human rights organizations, which adopt the gender and rights-based approach. With the issuance of the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 1993, the women protection vision evolved to become inclusive of the culture of society, and not the vision of international humanitarian law that looked at women as victims who need protection and assistance.

The evolution of the work of civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, contributed to the creation of a series of actions aiming to promote and respect human rights by acting as a force for policy development and legislation, as well as its work in the field of human rights protection for all groups of women and girls, against all violations, superstitions, confiscation or restriction. This includes actions of listening, guiding and control, observation, monitoring, investigations and investigations, preparing reports, putting pressure on decision-makers and informing public opinion, lobbying and mobilizing support, caring for and supporting victims of violations, violence and discrimination, and proposing changes in laws and policies.

The civil society position, with its diverse and multiple components: professional organizations and community organizations and institutions, labor unions,

research and academic institutions and other structures, places civil society in an important position to guide and develop policies related to women, security and peace and to set NAPs for UNSCR 1325 and follow-up their implementation, and also hold all actors accountable, including governments, state institutions and the private sector. Civil society can play this role at the local, national, regional and international levels.

The tasks of CSOs can be defined as: promoting women's rights and protecting them from all forms of violence, discrimination, and promoting their active participation in decision-making and peace-building, in general, as follows:

- Protecting women's rights by all available means. Women's organizations provide services to protect women victims of violence and threats.
- Monitoring, documenting and preparing reports on the status of women's rights.
- Promoting women's rights by combating all forms of discrimination and violence against them.
- Lobbying and influencing policies to achieve gender equality.

As for the fields of work of civil society organizations, they are various and numerous, but they unanimously agree on the need to achieve compliance of national laws with the international references, especially those related to women's rights, raising awareness about rights, embedding a culture of human rights, equality, advocacy for human rights and women's rights, and the process of networking or joint civil human rights action. In addition to all of the above, they play a role in contributing to the preparation of a special national action plan for UNSCR 1325 at the national level and participating in its implementation, evaluation and development.

The main points related to the role of civil society regarding the Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security:

Resolution 1888

expresses its intent to make better use of opportunities for periodic field visits to conflict areas, by organizing opinion-sharing meetings with local women and local women's organizations in the field.

Resolution 1960

affirms that, in order to carry out their mandates, UN missions must communicate with local communities in an appropriate manner; it encourages the Secretary-General to improve their capacity to do so.

Resolution 2106

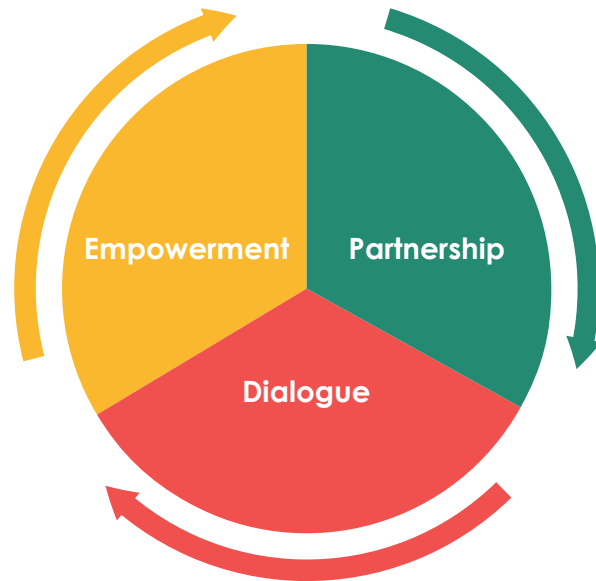
Emphasizes the important roles that civil society networks and organizations can play, including women's organizations, in strengthening community-based protection against sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict situations and providing support to victims in order to access to justice and reparation.

Resolution 2122

Encourages Member States to establish funding mechanisms dedicated to supporting the work of organizations that support the process of women leaders development and seek to ensure their full participation at all levels of the decision-making process related to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and to building the capacities of these organizations by, inter alia, increasing donations to the local civil society.

According to the UNSC resolutions package on Women, Peace and Security, the role of civil society in their implementation revolves around three main issues:

Effective and impactful **dialogue** to develop basic proposals and ideas for developing the national action plan through national consultations to prepare the NAP and evaluate its results partnership in the planning, preparation and implementation of the NAP for UNSCR 1325, especially in the field of awareness raising and education on UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions; **empowerment** and capacity building of civil society and the different actors to integrate UNSCR 1325 into work strategies, plans and projects as well as by dealing with individual cases according to the decision approach.



2. The role of civil society organizations in implementing UNSCR 1325

UNSCR 1325 aims to increase the role of civil society organizations by developing a new vision that is consistent with the perspective of women in different periods; pre-conflict, during the conflict and post-conflict, in order to ensure that women are empowered to contribute to conflict resolution, that VAWG is prevented and perpetrators are prosecuted, and that women contribute to shaping recovery and peace-building initiatives and benefit from them.

In order for civil society organizations to play their role, they must ensure that their capacities and the capabilities of their staff as to how to integrate UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions approach and effects in all their fields of action, are strengthened and built. This should concern its integration into their vision and objectives, their strategies, policies, and strategic and annual action plans, or their work projects and their execution programs. They must set indicators for this, and check their implementation and evaluate their outcomes.

The work programs of civil society organizations, especially women's organizations, in the field of combating gender-based violence and discrimination, focus on two main dimensions: advocacy, i.e. working on public issues from the perspective of public opinion, and legal, psychological and social counseling, i.e. offering advice to individual cases and directly to rights holders. So we need to check that UNSCR 1325 approach is integrated into the programs that are implemented, whether at the level of public opinion or at the level of individuals directly through direct services offered to individuals. At both levels, the impact and results of the work of the CSOs must be: to create a new and radical awareness to oppose all forms of violence and discrimination against women as a condition of civil peace; enable the society to build mechanisms to prevent and protect against gender-based violence and discrimination before, during and after conflicts; strengthen the capacities of women for political and economic participation and empowering them to make peace; and consider that relief, recovery and peace-building work should reach out to all categories in society on the basis of equality and without any discrimination whatsoever against women and girls.

The role of civil society in implementing UNSCR 1325 can be summarized as follows:

Awareness - Accountability - Participation and the proposal power – Coalition building - Lobbying

1. Awareness: raising awareness and building knowledge and capacity on the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including awareness on the special impact of conflict on women and girls; raising awareness on the various Security Council resolutions and their

requirements, with the aim of lobbying and building political will amongst all stakeholders (i.e. rights holders and commitment holders). Awareness raising must include all levels of action in the field of advocacy and provision of individual services and consultations.

2 - Accountability: Accountability for the procedures and processes of inter-ministerial organization to fulfill the preparation of the NAP and determine who will lead the planning process; Accountability to ensure broad institutional support and adhesion to the Plan and make sure that planning is done by a high-level body that has enough government support, human and financial resources, and competence to coordinate the drafting of a strategic document that would be endorsed and implemented by all stakeholders.

3- Participation and power of suggestion: through participation in the planning, implementation and evaluation of the Plan; participation in the evaluation of the strategic priorities; participation in the implementation of the Plan through partnerships; participation in the Coordination Authority to follow up the implementation of the Plan; participation in the development of accountability procedures, adequate indicators for monitoring and audit of the implementation of the Plan; participation in the development of stakeholders' capacities; participation in grassroots consultations with communities and populations directly affected by conflict; participation in policymaking to eliminate violence and discrimination against women and girls; participation in submitting proposals for laws that guarantee effective prevention and protection of women and girls from violence at all times; participation in raising awareness, including about engaging the media and issuing early warnings about implementation challenges.



4- Coalition building and lobbying: in order to develop specific proposals and recommendations for the implementation of UNSCR 1325; expand and mobilize the grassroots of active organizations in order to influence the implementation of UNSCR 1325; strengthen and build the capacities of organizations as rights holders; commit at the same time to the implementation of UNSCR 1325; establish an alliance or coalition that includes the various components of civil society, and strengthen networking among them, which would be a component of the consultative forum which includes civil society organizations and the government in view of regularly exchanging information and achieving transparency.

The efforts by women's movement are significant in promoting women's political participation:

Many NGOs in Lebanon are active in the field of women's rights in order to support women's political participation. Some of them like Women for Politics, which includes 150 organizations and activists⁹³, lobby for electoral law reforms and the introduction of women quota. Many of them focus on female candidates through specialized programs aimed at preparing them as cadres; networking is accomplished among women who intend to run in order to create support networks among them; training workshops are held on the electoral law for female candidates and voters in different governorates; and workshops are held to develop their performance and information skills. Some organizations work with the media to create a gender-sensitive media environment during election coverage, in order to counter what was described as media blackout on women candidates. Some organizations also focus on educating women about their right to vote and its necessity and importance to them as citizens, through panel discussions and workshops in districts and governorates. The role of these organizations bridges the gap in the work of state institutions as to gender equality and promotes women's political participation.

3. Incorporating UNSCR 1325 into the organizations' strategies, plans of action and interventions

Civil society and women's organizations are taking these steps in order to put women on the agenda of decision-makers, this is done through many activities, which can be summarized as follows:

- Field monitoring and documentation of all that women and girls are exposed to in situations of armed and civil strife and in transitional stages.
- Preparing reports that highlight and shed light on the impact of armed and civil conflicts on the lives, rights and security of women and girls, especially the most vulnerable groups such as women refugees, displaced women and women victims of sexual violence, which allows to measure the impact and identify the needs in order to claim them and work on them. Civil society organizations prepare reports on the situation of women; writing shadow reports helps structure the priorities and needs related to women's rights.
- Conducting research, collecting data and information, analyzing and distributing data on how women and girls are affected in conflict areas. The role of women and girls in peace-building and conflict prevention is usually not recognized, and women's success stories are hidden, which affects strategically on their exclusion and marginalization.
- Monitoring the progress of the National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 ; thus building a civil coalition for monitoring and accountability must be undertaken, and pressure must be exerted on governments to push them to provide protection, financial resources, and necessary services to IDPs and refugees, and to strengthen the women's political role in peace building, as well as building partnerships with the government to carry out these tasks.

93. Fatima Nasrallah: "Voices raised in Lebanon: the Women "quota", a preamble for gender equality in politics, Al hayat newspaper, May 31, 2017.

- Coordinating efforts and establishing a network calling for the activation of UNSCR 1325, in order to contribute to raising the voice to be heard louder and more clearly and to constitute a force of pressure and influence on decision makers and policy makers.
- Raising awareness about human rights and citizenship, and the rights of women and girls.
- Providing psychological, legal and social assistance and support to women and girls victims of conflict, especially victims of sexual violence, and raising awareness about the importance of their participation in peace-building.
- Publication, media, creation of social media pages and blogs on the Internet to spread awareness and organize digital campaigns electronic for that purpose, while emphasizing the importance of clarity and caution in the discourse, by taking digital security measures to avoid prosecution.

Standard Operational Procedures on Gender-Based Violence

Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) on GBV have been prepared in partnership between ABAAD and the Ministry of Social Affairs in Lebanon, with the aim to provide standardized criteria and mechanisms and tools for dealing professionally and respectfully with survivors of gender-based violence, managing their cases, providing them with protection, and referring them to social, psychological, health, rehabilitation and legal services that are convenient for their needs.

The GBV SOPs aim to:

1. Standardize response approaches and minimum standards for working with survivors and managing their cases while preserving their rights and dignity, and making sure that they are not exposed to additional risk or harm.
2. Providing a platform for cooperation and coordination between the various concerned sectors and exchange of information and data amongst primary stakeholders, including ministries, local and international NGOs, agencies, and UN bodies providing services to GBV survivors, whether in normal settings or in cases of humanitarian emergency.
3. Defining quality standards for services, competences of organizations and service providers, skills, responsibilities and labor standards required by the sector.
4. Laying the foundations of a “referral system” at the national level and providing practical guidance to activate it.
5. Providing practical means and tools that facilitate and standardize methods of dealing with and referring GBV survivors.
6. Clarifying the roles of the relevant parties (highly qualified and

specialized facilities of the Ministry, security forces HQs, NGOs, hospitals, etc.) in dealing with survivors and setting up a working mechanism to initiate either the case management and direct provision of services, or the referral to the appropriate authority that can provide the necessary care services.

7. **Contributing to improving a fair and just response to the needs of survivors and providing services specialized in high quality using human rights standards that reduce harm, discrimination, duplication of services and excessive use of resources.**

4. Advocacy and awareness-raising on UNSCR 1325

Ensuring the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions requires from civil society organizations and institutions to create and develop advocacy activities, with the aim of lobbying for their implementation, ensuring the protection of women and promoting their political participation in peace-building. Advocating for civil society is important because it has different motives to participate in community and political change, and wants to achieve some change or influence towards protecting the rights and interests of the rights holders, given that the role of civil society in implementing UNSCR 1325 is focused on awareness - accountability - participation and proposal power – coalition building - lobbying, all of which require a package of advocacy tools.

What are the advocacy campaigns?

Advocacy campaigns are designed to support the proposed policy and create community consensus and public understanding of it, advocating for the issue subject of public policy and pushes decision makers to take a decision about it. Advocacy campaigns can be undertaken by CSOs, especially women's organizations, for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, through the organization of campaigns and lobbying for the adoption of the National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, as well as lobbying for its implementation and finding the necessary budgets for it. They can be organized to raise awareness and build a supportive public opinion for Women, Peace and Security, especially in conflict-torn countries or post-conflict countries, as well as in countries surrounded by conflict areas and which are an environment favorable for asylum.

Advocacy is a communicative act and a strategy of political, legislative or regulatory influence on decision-makers, in order to set policies and programs, adopt laws or take measures in favor of a particular issue. It takes place through processes that combine demonstration, persuasion, negotiation, and pressure, pressure group being outside the decision-making process.

It can be summarized as the application of a process aimed at influencing those in positions of power in order to change public policies for the benefit of the people who are affected by these policies. The definition of advocacy consists of elements that describe the different stages of this process, namely: Part of the democratic process, carried out by civil society with the aim of influencing government policies, to influence decision-makers and to increase people's awareness of their rights and responsibilities in society. It is also used by political parties to mobilize a majority for supporting proposals.

Advocacy

Application of a process: a process or a series of actions, i.e. a set of co-ordinated activities with a single objective.

In order to influence: to persuade through pressure and to indicate the best situation through the use of arguments.

It targets those in power: which may be political, economic or unanimous, on individuals or systems.

Change: Advocacy aims to change or modify something in society.

Public policy: What can be changed are policies, laws, positions, and values.

For the benefit of those affected by these policies: Lobbying aims to work to secure the rights of people or achieve change for people victims of injustice.

The five steps in the process advocacy:

Step one: Identify the problem/issue

Step Two: Research and Analysis

Step Three: Planning

Step Four: Execution of the campaign

Step Five: Evaluation



Step one: Identify the problem

The advocacy problem/issue should be fair and based on the right and not on the need. There is a difference between problem and issue; the first is the result of the second, the problem is that which is visible to the eye, while the issue may be invisible. The extent of the problem's impact on society and its prevalence must be studied, and the appropriate political moment to present it must be selected. After identifying the problem, we have to make sure that the group considers it a priority, e.g. through a quick poll. In fact, one of the main reasons for failure of advocacy campaigns is our lack of understanding of the needs and interests of the affected groups.

Step Two: Research and Analysis

Data collection and analysis enables the identification of the topic for action, the identification of several solutions to a problem, and the selection of a goal for the advocacy, in order to influence decision-makers directly, inform the media, the public opinion, the target group and/or who influences them (the secondary target group), confront counter-arguments and attitudes, change the perceptions surrounding a topic or

shape and debunk preconceived ideas, and emphasize successful actions/programs and policies in order to reconsider unsuccessful strategies.

Research findings should be incorporated into each step of the campaign. They should also be summarized in an easy-to-read format that policy and decision makers and journalists can use easily, and should never exceed one page or two.

Step Three: Planning for the Campaign

- **Defining goals and objectives:** Campaign goals should be subject to SMART technique, which helps determine what should be changed and the objectives should reflect the desired changes.
- **Concerned persons identification and analysis:** a concerned persons is anyone who has a direct interest in the outcome of our campaign; concerned persons are the people who are directly affected by the problem, groups responsible for causing the problem, groups interested in solving it, whether they are allies, neutral or opponents. Stakeholders must be analyzed specifically. A stakeholder analysis will help answer many questions necessary for developing a working strategy.
- **Defining the target audience:** For each of the desired changes, the concerned person is each person with a high impact on the problem, regardless of the degree to which he agrees with our position. Before addressing the target group, we need to know many things about them: Why are they against or supportive to the issue or action? What is their strength? Who supports them? And why? What is their interest? What is their plan and what are their working rules?
- **Adopting the strategies or policies of the campaign,** and determining how to approach, mobilize, empower and build the capacities of stakeholders; and how to address the target groups and urge them and convince them. Coalition policies, coalition building and information and advertising policies must be defined and various files related to the campaign must be prepared.
- **Campaign slogan:** It is necessary for the advocacy campaign to have a slogan that is simple and expressive of the campaign's theme – conciseness - attractiveness. The advocacy message must also be defined; it is the main idea that we want to convey to the stakeholders and the target groups. The message content elements: what we want to achieve - why do we want to achieve it (positive outcome of action and/or negative consequences of not taking action) - Suggest how to achieve it - What action we want the audience to take. The message should be simple, clear, direct and attractive, based on the real life of people who suffer and the values, concepts and principles of human rights; it should invoke international human rights instruments and respect the integration of a gender-based approach and women's rights and underline human rights violations and the ways to promote and protect those rights.

Step Four: Execute and implement the plan

Once we have finished preparing the action plan, we must start implementing it. It is necessary to continue the campaign until the demand is met. We should not start the campaign and then stop, even if the pace of activities is getting slower, we must not stop. We must not get distracted by other issues. If we want to succeed, we have to keep on working on advocating for the issue we have chosen and continue fighting, i.e. continue with the same long struggle to achieve the claim.

Fifth: Monitoring and Evaluation

By carefully evaluating and monitoring the campaign, adjustments can be made and

lessons learned for future campaigns. Campaign monitoring is about collecting information on its impact to check whether the campaign is helping or making a difference. Campaign monitoring includes keeping records of the media coverage and collecting supporting statements... As for evaluation, it is an analysis of the information collected, it is an estimation of the Campaign's strengths and weaknesses and of what it has already achieved. Monitoring helps detect changes occurring in the structure, in the stakeholders and in the problem itself, which might require a change in the Campaign. When the Campaign ends, a final evaluation must be done, which would help other advocacy campaigns, whether the evaluation is carried out by the Campaign implementers themselves or by a third party.

Strategies used in the “The White Doesn’t Cover Rape”



1. Policy work with decision makers

- Individual meetings with all representatives of the Administration and Justice Committee (17 members)
- Working with some people who have influence over the committee members
- Weekly follow-up on the work of the Committee and its consensuses

2. Evidence-based advocacy

Before launching the campaign, ABAAD conducted a poll to measure the knowledge of the Lebanese, their practices and their orientations with regard to Article 522. The most prominent findings were the following:

- Only 1% of the Lebanese are aware of the existence of Article 522 of the Lebanese Penal Code
- 60% of the Lebanese people demand the abolition of Article 522

- 84% of the Lebanese believe that Article 522 protects the rapist from prosecution and punishment
- 81% of the Lebanese believe that Article 522 deprives the woman victim of her right to justice.
- 73% of the Lebanese consider that the existence of Article 522 constitutes an additional element of pressure on women to accept marrying the rapist
- 70% of the Lebanese reject the argument that Article 522 preserves the honor of women

3. Public opinion campaign

- Campaign on all social media outlets
- A media campaign on the roads
- Activities on the ground
- Sit-ins in front of Parliament
- A female football match between a team of journalists and the Lebanese champion mini football team
- Participation in the Beirut International Marathon
- Symbolic sit-ins in front of Parliament
- Interactive material on social media

Campaign messages

1. Women survivors of rape have the right to refuse to marry the rapist, and not to be stigmatized by society.
2. Distinction must be made between the act of rape as a crime, and what society considers the honor of women.
3. Forcing women to marry a rapist is repressive; it is an established act of rape against women on a daily basis. Therefore, parents must be convinced that forcing the victim to marry the rapist is not the solution, and it is not a “sutrah” (social protection from shame) for women.
4. Rape is a crime, and the offender must be punished.

The media coverage of the “White Doesn’t Cover Rape” campaign exceeded 100 instances in the local, regional and global media in less than a month

Second: UNSCR 1325 and the Security Sector

This section of Part II deals with the title “UNSCR 1325 and the Security Sector” and analyzes the reasons for talking about the role of the security sector in issues related to women and girls in conflict contexts, particularly in relation to their role in addressing gender-based violence and directed at women and girls. Then, it attempts to review ways and mechanisms for integrating decision-making approaches within this sector interventions. And finally, the Lebanese context is described in this regard.

1. Background information on the role of the security sector in relation to women's issues in conflict contexts

The security sector/system is understood as comprising all state institutions that play a role in ensuring the security of the state and its citizens. This includes the armed forces/ army (including regional and international forces), the police, the gendarmerie, the paramilitary forces, the presidential guard, the security agencies, the intelligence, the coast guard, the border guard, the customs, the army reserves and internal security units, the judiciary and law enforcement agencies: such as ministry of justice, prisons, Criminal investigations units, the Prosecution, the judiciary (courts and tribunals), and the bodies in charge of executing judicial rulings. This also covers irregular forces: such as liberation armies, combatant armies, private bodyguard units, private security companies, private military companies and militias affiliated with political parties.

Security institutions representing diverse sectors of society – at all levels – reflect the citizens they serve as to the race, the geographical distribution, religion, gender and language. Such institutions are characterized by their great ability to ensure security and justice for all categories of citizens and consolidate their confidence in them. These institutions also represent an essential indicator of democratic governance in the country. Therefore, it is extremely important to discuss the role of the security sector before and during conflicts for the following reasons:

- The need to acknowledge the different security needs of individuals of different gender, ethnicity, age, sexual orientation, nationality, social class, religion and other factors.
- The growing number of GBV cases and their multiple forms, and the need to understand and approach them, both before or during conflicts.
- The role of the security institutions in taking measures that limit the various violations of human rights, in their quality as law enforcement agencies.
- The role of the security sector in addressing and dealing with GBV in order to provide security for all and consequently preserve peace and strengthen the rule of law.
- The need to understand and eliminate all forms of crime and cases of insecurity that affect the most marginalized groups.
- The important role of the security sector in early warning, and consequently prevention of human rights violation. The types of violations of human rights provide an early indication of a potential or emerging crisis, and early, targeted human rights interventions, have a significant effect in preventing deterioration in the situation or in mitigating such deterioration when it does occur⁹⁴.
- The role of the security sector in protecting against extremism. The police units, especially those working with the local communities, often represent the first contact point between the citizens and the State in the struggle against VE. The Police behavior will determine whether the people will perceive them as their protectors, or will exacerbate the grievances that often contributes to the growth of extremism⁹⁵.
- Holding perpetrators of crimes accountable requires that justice and police services support and facilitate the participation of victims/survivors in justice process, and the strengthening of their capabilities to seek justice, while ensuring that the burden of recourse to justice is not placed on their shoulders but on the State's.
- Failure to continuously and consistently consider issues related to protection and

94. <https://www.ohchr.org/AR/AboutUs/Pages/Violenceandinsecurity.aspx>

95. Arabic-PVE-and-Security-3.pdf/04/<https://www.icanpeacework.org/wp-content/uploads/2018>

- support, throughout the whole justice process, can result in catastrophic results.
- The dynamics of inequality between women and men create gender-related vulnerabilities, such as the economic and legal status, among other things, and the impact on women's recourse to justice services, and creates obstacles to access to justice.
- The justice and police services must not weaken the position of the rights of women and girls, and but rather gender-transformative.

Achieving this contributes to:

- Developing a security sector that promotes women's rights within its practices, laws and regulations. Strengthening the capacity of the security sector in addressing GBV issues in conflict contexts, does not only benefits women, but also helps save security and justice services in addition to preventing human rights violations.
- Providing services in an efficient manner, imposing oversight on security institutions and holding their staff accountable.
- Transformation into a trustworthy institution that has effective work and responds to the security needs of women and marginalized groups through the establishment of security services that are characterized by efficiency.
- Transforming the security establishment into a professional service that adopts an approach that meets the needs of communities, as well as transforming the security sector into more transparent, democratic and effective institutions.
- Ensuring stronger protection for women. A women-centered approach to the delivery of justice and police services places the needs of women and girls and their realities, and not the goals of judicial institutions, at the core of any justice related service. This means prioritizing women's safety, empowerment and recovery; treating all women with respect; supporting and providing them with information throughout the justice process. Systematic, clear and effective communications, coordination of services, and referral networks between justice service providers and other service providers, are considered an essential factor for the preservation of the safety and the protection of the victim, and for making sure that the victim/survivor receives the services and support she deserves.
- Providing more effective justice systems. The role of the security and military sector in addressing violence is as important as the role of the judiciary services. Access to justice systems requires that all justice systems, both formal and semi-judicial, are guaranteed, affordable, and truly accessible to women, and that they are adapted to fit the needs of women, including those who face multiple or complex forms of discrimination. In this context we note that, according to international standards, all judicial bodies are obligated to refrain from engaging in any act of discrimination or practice of discriminatory or gender-based violence against women, and that all legal proceedings in cases related to GBV allegations are impartial and honest and are not influenced by gender stereotypes against women, or the discriminatory interpretation of legal provisions, including international law. Any application of pre-conceived ideas and stereotypes about what constitutes gender-based violence against women, and what women's reactions to this violence should be, and the standard of proof required to prove its occurrence, affects the women's rights to equality before the law, to a fair trial and to an effective remedy.
- Enhancing the efficiency of the services provided by the security agencies, in terms of establishing security agencies that represent various sectors of society, and can deal well with the issue of gender-based violence.
- Respecting human rights in the context of combating terrorism. National counter-terrorism strategies must be implemented in parallel with a separate civilian operation, focused on respecting the autonomy of women and activists in peace-building operations and civil society organizations. They should take the initiative, work and partner in order to design PVE programs outside the framework of combating terrorism or any military operation. Such programs that are designed by local people in partnership with women, with the help of international actors, are more likely to find resonance in the local community, invest in and securitize women's rights.

In Lebanon, ABAAD works in cooperation with the Ministry of Social Affairs on the Standard Operating Procedures for Gender-Based Violence in Lebanon.

According to these SOPs, the mission of the Internal Security Forces (ISF) shall include a legal and explicit role in providing public comfort, protecting people, ensuring the implementation of laws and carrying out police duties. It is natural for the ISF to have an active participation in protecting and supporting GBV survivors, by virtue of the decrees and laws in force. The tasks of the ISF in cases related to gender-based violence revolve around five main roles: listening, referral, protection, proactive treatment and cooperation.

Based on these SOPs, it is necessary to ensure the quality and professionalism in providing these services. In order to undertake an active and professional role, the ISF encourage survivors to report acts of violence committed against them through a clear message disseminated on the ISF's commitment to responding to GBV. Among the measures pro

posed by this package:

- **Qualifying a number of ISF posts for reporting and responding to GBV cases, geographically well distributed, guaranteeing privacy and accessible in an easy and secure format.**
- **Providing a dedicated telephone number for GBV cases reporting.**
- **Active cooperation with the Public Prosecution Office, the service providers and local community institutions to ensure rapid response and avoid delays in referrals to the judiciary or health and legal service providers.**
- **Ensuring the availability of all ISF services for all GBV cases without discrimination of any kind, especially in the case of survivors with disabilities, with clear flyers made available about the services available.**
- **Ensuring available services that meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups.**

2. The role of the security sector in addressing existing GBV in conflict situations

During conflicts, gender-based violence against women and girls intensifies both in public and private spheres. Conflict related acts of violence can happen anywhere, at home, in places of detention, in refugee camps, in the battlefields and in other places. Violence can occur at any time and its perpetrators are many. Regardless of the nature or duration of the conflict or the parties involved in it, it takes place deliberately and increasingly targeting women who are subjected to various forms of violence, ranging from murder, to torture, mutilation, sexual violence, forced marriage, forced prostitution, forced pregnancy, forced abortion and sterilization⁹⁶. It is true that violence is one, whether it affects men, women or children, but the impact of gender-based violence

96. Guide on the UNSC R 1325 and its complementary resolutions and the role of Parliamentarians in their implementation, ESCWA, Mervat Reshmawi, 2016

on women and girls intensifies and becomes evident during wars, as the demarcation line between VAW and violence against any other person is that women experience violence through their own body (harassment, trafficking and rape⁹⁷). As a result, conflicts threaten everybody with devastating consequences, but seem to have a special and different impact on women and girls, because women and girls cannot protect and take care of themselves, and are excluded from the policy processes that are indispensable to establishing peace and security⁹⁸. For this reason, no security forces can remain neutral when dealing with GBV/VAW issues in conflict contexts.

Cases of gender-based violence cases received by the ISF posts in Lebanon. The security forces receive cases of any act of assault and physical, psychological, sexual or economic abuse, including:

- **Physical abuse of all kinds.**
- **Threatening to kill or directly harm the survivor or someone close to him/her**
- **Abuse resulting from family disputes against one or more family members**
- **Rape, marital rape, indecent assault, sexual harassment, indecent acts, incest, and others.**
- **Fleeing from home as a result of abuse.**
- **Deprivation of liberty.**
- **Suicide attempts resulting from physical, psychological, sexual or economic abuse**
- **Abuse and harm resulting from trafficking and sexual exploitation.**

In times of armed conflict or inter-State conflicts, borders can become conflict-ridden military zones to the maximum extent and sites of violence and human rights violations. Pre-conflict police and border control forces may include conscripts with very little training or well-armed paramilitary forces, and the priority is to defend the territories and not the safety and security of individuals. This is why post-conflict border control reform is a very sensitive matter, because of border disputes and border control by local armed groups.

During armed conflict or regional turmoil, the focus is on containing citizens and defending borders for fear of intrusion by enemies, and the legacy of border control in many post-conflict and transitional states may mean that security is to be dealt with in a gender-neutral way, in addition to the need to give priority to pure security actions. Accordingly, the inclusion of gender issues with security matters in border control operations promotes the effectiveness of the security role. This improves the border control capabilities in addressing violations that affect women and girls greatly. For example, one of

97. Policy on violence structuring and repetition of gender stereotypes amongst Syrian women refugees in Lebanon, Maya Helou, 8/12/2014

98. Women, Peace and Security: meeting the promise. How to revive the 1325 agenda after 15 years, Oxfam, September 2015.

these violations is trafficking in persons. Taking the initiative to include gender issues in the border control process during conflict is considered vital because of the growth and diversity of organized crime, especially crimes related to trafficking in persons and in arms.

In the same context, it is important to understand the role of women when laying the foundations for stability in a certain region. If women are the ones taking care of their families, providing them with food and water, the spread of police patrols in the areas where women work will add to their feeling of security and allow them to continue with their work. This constitutes a tactical assessment that, from a security point of view, is seen as creating favorable conditions for the course of daily life as an indispensable thing because it provides the basis for stability.

For these and other reasons, there is strong recognition of the need to strengthen the capacity of the security sector to address gender-based violence and dealing with it in conflict contexts and in post-conflict environments. Thus, achieving this represents a real commitment to compliance with international laws.

These obligations come from a set of international standards, which stress the responsibility of the State for the actions or omissions of its agencies, which might constitute gender-based violence against women, which includes the actions or omissions of officials in executive, legislative, and judicial agencies in that State. Hence the 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action emphasized the need to provide police officers, military forces, staff and judges gender sensitive education on human rights. Recommendation No. 19 of the CEDAW Committee considered that subjecting law enforcement officers to gender responsive training is fundamental for effective implementation of the Convention. Likewise, the 1998 United Nations General Assembly Resolution 52/86 on crime prevention and criminal justice measures to eliminate violence called for strengthening the police to ensure a prompt response to VAW.

According to these international standards, States are required to refrain from engaging in any practice or act that directly or indirectly discriminates against women, and to ensure that authorities and public institutions act in accordance with this commitment. This means ensuring non-discriminatory laws, policies, programs and actions against women. According to this international system, countries must have an effective and accessible legal framework as well as legal services to address all forms of gender-based violence against women perpetrated by State employees, whether in its territory or outside its territorial borders. It is also the responsibility of states to prevent these acts from occurring and avoiding any omission to act from the part of its institutions and personnel, including through training, adoption, and implementation and monitoring of legal provisions, administrative regulations and rules of conduct, and for conducting investigations, prosecuting offenders and applying necessary legal or disciplinary sanctions, as well as reparation, in all cases of gender-based violence against women, including those that constitute international crimes and in cases of failure, negligence or omission on the part of public authorities.



Security sector: relevant laws and decisions

A. Law on the Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence in Lebanon:

The law gave an important role to the security forces and the judicial sector. In the event of calling 112, the respondent shall do the following, and be otherwise subject to legal prosecution under service memorandum No.164/204, dated 20/5/2013:

- **Say his/her name, rank and the section in which he/she serves;**
- **In case the woman has left the house, indicate to her the nearest police station,**

or the way to the Public Prosecution office (whether the occurrence of violence has exceeded 24 hours or not);

- Inform the police station within whose scope the act of violence took place, to go to the place in case the victim is detained and cannot leave home;
- Dispatch the Red Cross agents to the scene of the violence in case the victim needs to be transferred to hospital as a result of violence that she was exposed to;
- Orient her to associations that can provide her with legal and psycho-social assistance, including a place to stay in case she does not wish to lodge a complaint.

When ISF members arrive at the scene of the violence, they can take the victim with them to the police station to file a complaint, or to hospital if needed, they should abide by the orders of the Public Prosecution.

In case the victim goes to the police station, the investigating officer must comply, and under penalty of disciplinary prosecution, with the provisions of Service memorandum No. 164/204, and according to Law No. 293, do the following:

- Introduce him/herself and receive the lady appropriately;
- Not to neglect any domestic violence complaint under penalty of disciplinary sanction;
- Reduce the number of agents conducting the investigation with the woman (two at most);
- Secure the needed privacy for good execution of the complaint; Not to interfere and not to influence the woman to push her to waive the complaint;
- Inform the woman of her right to obtain a protection order;
- Orient the woman to associations that can provide legal and psycho-social assistance, including a shelter,
- The woman can also request a social worker to attend with her during the hearing session at the station.

- B. General Memorandum No. 316/204 dated 7/30/2018 on the principles of communication and action by the concerned police agents, in matters of complaints of domestic violence.
- C. In 2018, the hotline number 1745, which is directly linked to the operations room of the General Directorate of Internal Security Forces, was launched.
- D. Many police officers and agents underwent extensive training in skills related to handling domestic violence complaints, in addition to preparing specialized trainers who are experts in this field.
- E. The binding service memorandum issued on September 25, 2017: The General Directorate issued the general memorandum No. 339/204 for the Internal Security Forces on "Principles of Use and Investigation of Crimes of Trafficking in Persons and Crimes of Sexual Assault and providing support to victims." Within the framework of the commitment of the General Directorate of the ISF to combat human trafficking crimes and crimes of assault, in particular crimes against women and children, and to provide support to their victims, and based on the principles stipulated in the Code of Conduct for Internal Security Forces, a special memorandum was issued regarding the ways to treat and investigate crimes of trafficking in persons and crimes of sexual assault and provide support to their victims. The memorandum fixed the legal framework for human trafficking crimes, the practical indicators that can be monitored for cases of trafficking and abuse, the investigative skills, the guidelines to be respected in the course of an investigation, the guidelines for dealing with victims/survivors of trafficking offenses and other related issues, particularly guidance for victims of abuse.

3. Integrating the UNSCR 1325 approach and philosophy 1325 into the security sector interventions

Strengthening the capacity of the security sector to deal with GBV issues in conflict contexts intersects with the focus of protection from violence, especially protection from sexual violence, which was emphasized by the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We mention here Resolution 1820, which gave a great deal of importance to this pillar, and included a number of requests addressed to all parties to conflict to immediately take appropriate measures to improve such protection⁹⁹. The Resolution also asked all parties to the armed conflicts to take immediate adequate measures to protect civilians, including women and girls, from all forms of sexual violence; such measures may include, inter alia, enforcing appropriate military disciplinary measures and emphasizing the principle of command responsibility; and training the forces on absolute prohibition of use of all forms of sexual violence against civilians, disclosing the misconceptions that fuel sexual violence, and carrying out thorough examination of members of the armed and security forces for any history of rape and other forms of sexual violence, and evacuating women and children who face an imminent threat of sexual violence to safe areas.

The Resolution also encourages countries to consider the measures that they can take to enhance the awareness and responsiveness of their staff who participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations to protect civilians, including women and children, and prevent perpetration of sexual violence against women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations¹⁰⁰.

One of the strategies that can be worked on to achieve these goals is to promote gender issues and include them in the security sector reform measures. This refers to “assessing the implications of including women and men in any procedures. This includes legislation, policies or programs in all areas and at all levels. This also includes developing a strategy to ensure that the concerns and experiences of women and men are transformed into an integral part of the design of public policies and programs, as well as its implementation, monitoring and evaluation so that women and men can benefit equally from it and prevent gender inequalities from persisting.” The promotion of gender issues and their inclusion in security sector actions also means that the impacts that all policies and programs designed to reform the sector on men, women and children, must be taken into account at every stage of those policies and programs, including planning, implementation, follow-up and evaluation procedures¹⁰¹.

The Model Strategies for Combating Crime adopted by the United Nations in 1997 recognize the need for developing an active policy to include a gender perspective in the overall stream of all VAW related policies and programs, to achieve gender equality, equality and equity in access to justice, in addition to achieving the goal of gender balance within decision-making domains related to eliminating violence against women¹⁰².

These strategies urge states to do the following within their national legal systems:

- A. Ensure that provisions of laws, codes and applicable procedures relating to violence against women are consistently enforced and in a manner that ensures that all criminal acts of violence against women are recognized and adequately addressed by the criminal justice system;
- B. Develop methods of investigation that are not humiliating for women subjected to violence, and that reduce interference in their affairs, while adhering to international standards to gather the best evidence;
- C. Ensure that police actions, including decisions regarding the arrest and detention of the perpetrator of violence, and the conditions related to his release in any way, take into consideration the necessity to ensure the safety of the victim and all the

99. <https://www.nato.int/docu/review/2017/Also-in-2017/women-peace-security-violence-conflict-sexual-resolution-angelina-1jolie/AR/index.htm>

100. [https://undocs.org/ar/S/RES/1820\(2008\)](https://undocs.org/ar/S/RES/1820(2008))

101. Gender and its impact on the defense sector reform, gender and reform of the security sector package, Geneva center for the democratic control of armed forces.

102. Model strategies and practical measures to eliminate VAW in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice, adopted by the UNGA by virtue of Resolution No 52/86 on the 12th of December 1997.

- people with whom she has family, social or other ties, and ensure that these measures also prevent any new acts of violence;
- D. Grant the police the power to respond promptly to VAW cases;
- E. Ensure that the practice of police prerogatives is in accordance with the rule of law and code of conduct, and that the police can be held accountable for any breach thereof;
- F. Encourage women to join the police force, including the operational units.

In the same context, and concurrently, the Resolution calls for the following:

- A. That the police forces shall, subject to judicial authorization, where required by national laws, have sufficient authority to enter buildings and execute arrests in cases of violence against women, including confiscation of weapons;
- B. The woman who has been subjected to violence should be given an opportunity to testify in the lawsuit, equal to the opportunity given to other witnesses, and measures should be taken to facilitate women's testimony and protect their privacy;
- C. There must not be any discrimination against women in the rules and principles of defense, and the perpetrators of VAW must be prevented from escaping criminal liability based on motives such as honor or provocation;
- D. Criminal or other liability of perpetrators who perpetrate acts of violence against women unintentionally under the influence of alcohol or drugs should not be lifted;
- E. During judicial proceedings, consideration should be given to evidence of acts of violence, ill-treatment, stalking and exploitation that were previously committed by the offender, in accordance with the principles of national criminal law;
- F. The courts shall, subject to the provisions of the national constitution, have the power to issue protective orders and restraining orders in cases of VAW, including orders of eviction of the perpetrator from the dwelling, and prohibiting contact with the victim and other affected parties, within and outside the dwelling, and imposing penalties in case of breaching of these orders;
- G. The possibility to take measures where necessary to ensure the safety of victims and their families and to protect them from intimidation and retaliation;
- H. Considering safety risks when making decisions regarding non-custodial or quasi-custodial sentences or release bail, parole, conditional release or probation stay.

Finally, it stresses the duty of states in:

- A. Reviewing, evaluating and revising its adjudication policies and procedures, to ensure:
 - 1 Holding criminals accountable for their acts of VAW
 - 2 Putting an end to violent behavior;
 - 3 Considering the impact on victims and members of their families of provisions imposed on perpetrators of violence who are family members;
 - 4 Promoting sanctions similar to those imposed for other violent crimes;
- B. Ensuring that women subjected to violence are notified of any release of the offender after detention or imprisonment, whenever the safety of the victim is more important in this notification than infringing the privacy of the offender;
- C. Taking into consideration the severity of the physical and psychological harm and vulnerability to the harm, in the sentencing process, by different means including recourse to data on the effect of the harm on the victim, where practices such as recourse to such data are permitted by law;
- D. Making sure the courts have the full range of sentencing dispositions available to protect the victim and all other affected people and the society from further violence;
- E. Making sure that the sentencing judge is encouraged to recommend, when issuing the judgment, the treatment with which the offender is to be treated;
- F. Ensuring that adequate measures are in place to eliminate violence against women in detention, for any reason whatsoever;
- G. Developing and evaluating programs for the treatment of offenders for the different types of offenders and the different profiles of offenders;

- H. Protecting the safety of victims and witnesses before, during and after criminal proceedings.

The role of the ISF in dealing with and protecting GBV survivors is subject to the following decrees and laws:

1. Law No. 17: Organization of the Internal Security Forces
2. Decree No. 1157 to determine the organic organization of the Internal Security Forces
3. The principles of communication and handling by the concerned staff regarding complaints of domestic violence
4. Principles of handling and investigation of crimes of trafficking in persons and crimes of sexual abuse
5. ISF Code of Conduct
6. Law on the Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence

In conclusion, different strategies can be used to develop the role of the security sector in addressing gender-based violence. The following can be recommended:

In terms of approaches, it is necessary to:

- Work on consolidating the rule of law, including: Preparing an efficient and independent legal framework to enforce democratic oversight and civil protection to the sector, improving the performance of the penal system, strengthening the capabilities of the judiciary, in addition to establishing an independent judicial system;
- Work on reducing armaments as much as possible and laying the foundations for peace, which includes: preparing programs to limit the spread of small and light weapons and their misuse, disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of combatants, and strengthening actions in the regions in which the security forces operate;
- Make sure that the security sector reform is established based on a participatory and consultative process involving representatives of CSOs, as well as women's and men's organizations;
- Ensure the representation of women and men in the working teams in charge of the processes of defining, formulating, implementing, monitoring and evaluating security sector reform policies;
- Conduct a gender impact assessment on the proposed Security Sector Reform (SSR) policy, and undertake an M&E of the impacts of this policy on men, women, girls and boys;
- Involve gender experts such as representatives of the Ministry of Women's Affairs or national women's mechanisms and male and female parliamentarians, in addition to bringing in expertise and experts from civil society organizations when developing a reform policy of the security sector;
- Encourage cooperation with relevant organizations and institutions with a view to improving services provided to women and girls who are smuggled across the border.

In terms of tactics, it is important, inter alia, to:

- Update and develop tools for investigating crimes of sexual violence. In this regard, we recall that in 2013 a global protocol was adopted aiming to document sexual violence in conflict and conduct related investigations to increase effective criminal justice prosecutions, in order to enhance deterrence and achieve justice in all cases¹⁰³. The main purpose of this protocol is to promote accountability for sexual violence crimes under the international law. This can be achieved by establishing and defining the basic principles for documenting sexual violence as a crime under international law, provided that these principles are derived from the best practices in this field. The protocol is not binding on states. Instead, it can be used as a support tool for efforts undertaken by professionals working in the field of human rights and national and international justice to document sexual violence as a crime under international law effectively and protectively
- – considering it a war crime, and a crime against humanity or to include it as an act of genocide;
- Establish a body or a committee that ensures the inclusion of gender as an integral part of all aspects of security sector policies;
- Find mechanisms to deal effectively with crimes of sexual violence and appoint investigators to investigate crimes of sexual violence;
- Develop codes of conduct that take into account gender issues and disseminate institutional values that require diversity and consideration of gender issues;
- Finance the establishment of women's police units and sections and encourage them to cooperate with women's organizations;
- Prepare an analysis from a gender perspective on the government's budget spending on the public sector to ensure fair and equitable distribution of resources;
- Prepare a code of conduct for members of the armed forces, which prohibits unambiguously or unequivocally gender-based violence, and the punishment is imposed on those who practice it. Initiatives are prepared for women, men and children to deal with the needs that are unique to each of them.
- Finance the establishment of women police units and sections.

In terms of capacity building, it is important to:

- Provide or encourage the development of mandatory multicultural and gender-sensitive training modules for police personnel and criminal justice officials, practitioners, and professionals involved in the criminal justice system, addressing the inadmissibility of violence against women, its impact and consequences, and encouraging an adequate response to the issue of violence against women;
- Ensure adequate training, sensitivity and education of police, criminal justice personnel and practitioners and professionals involved in the criminal justice system, in relation to all relevant human rights instruments;
- Encourage human rights and feminist organizations to set, for practitioners involved in the criminal justice system, enforceable standards for practice and conduct that promote women's access to justice and equality;
- Train all prison staff on the Women, Peace and Security agenda;
- Include the promotion of gender issues in the procedures for training security personnel, provided that this is part of the training curriculum that is supposed to apply to these forces;
- Include gender-related issues in training procedures for members of the judiciary, including lawyers, judges and administrators;

103. https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/376603/low_res_PSVI_Protocol_FULL-ara.pdf

- Enhance the professionalism of the security forces, including: preparation of programs aimed at training soldiers, police and other personnel on democratic accountability, gender issues, human rights, international humanitarian law and particularly sensitive issues, in addition to technical skills training, encouraging the community to participate in police work, and modernizing police and army equipment.

In Lebanon:

The General Directorate of the Internal Security Forces established the “Human Rights Section” in the General Inspectorate, also the General Directorate of General Security established a Human Rights Division, while the Lebanese Ministry of Defense created in 2009, the Directorate of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights to carry out multiple tasks, the most important of these is monitoring the incorporation of the agreements signed or ratified by the Lebanese State regarding IHL within the military laws and regulations, dissemination of IHL within the army and offering advice to the military units for its implementation.

In 2013, the ISF General Directorate launched an awareness raising campaign in cooperation with CSOs, with the aim of strengthening the role of the ISF General Directorate in preventing domestic violence, and adopting the concept of “community policing”. The Directorate translated its commitment into training sessions for its officers and members.

The Directorate issued a service memorandum on May 20, 2013 stating “the rules of treatment and investigation relating to complaints of domestic violence,” and thus setting standards for the intervention of ISF officers upon receiving complaints or encountering women who are victims of domestic violence. On September 25, 2017, the General Directorate issued General Memorandum No. 339/204, on the topic “Principles of treatment and investigation of abuse and investigation of trafficking in persons and sexual abuse offenses and providing support to their victims”.

Third: UNSCR 1325 and the media

The title of this section of the second axis is “UNSCR 1325 and the media”. It analyzes the reasons for talking about the role of the media in women issues, especially in conflict contexts, and addresses the role of social media in this aspect, and then reviews ways and mechanisms for the integration of decision making approaches into the media sector.

1. Background on UNSCR 1325 and the media.

Twenty years ago, the member states of the United Nations recognized the role of the media in transforming gender stereotypes that affect how we think and act. The field of women and the media constituted one of the 12 critical points of the Beijing Program of Action¹⁰⁴. Years before that, the United Nations Human Rights Committee established a subcommittee on “Freedom of Information and the press” in 1947, to submit a report to the Human Rights Committee on the rights and obligations that should include freedom of information. This came in line with the orientation of the international human rights system, which recognizes the role of the media and emphasizes on freedom of opinion and expression. According to Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights “Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.”

According to the Beijing Platform for Action, it should:

- Increase the participation and access of women to expression and decision-making in and through the new information and communication technologies (ICTs);
- Promote a balanced and non-stereotyped portrayal of women in the media.

Today, due to the fact that there is a change and a revolutionary growth in all aspects of life, especially in the world of communications and information, the role of the media in protecting human rights or contributing to their violation cannot be ignored. The media is one of the pillars of industrial societies. That is why there is a need to involve the media, not only as a constituency that has some influence, but because it is one of the means of the main power. The role of the media is no longer limited to presenting the facts as if they were just news, but also analyzing the facts and commenting on them, and thus building people's opinions about it. Today, the media sets countries' social, political and economic and even cultural agenda. With the advent of satellite channels, the impact became more acute and profound. Through a continuous flow of news around the clock, the people can no longer remain neutral and unaffected by what the channels are offering.

Moreover, the role of the media in fragile and conflict-affected societies has changed tremendously during recent years, due to the changing nature of conflict technology and the media, and the use of these tools to promote change in fragile and conflict prone countries¹⁰⁵.

Many reasons push us to reflect about the role of the media towards women's issues in the context of conflict. What is important is that the media can improve management, make public administrations more transparent and accountable, and empower citizens to become active stakeholders who understand policies and use information to practice their human rights. All of these things are necessary to prevent conflict if the goal is to move from polarization to positive relationships. In such cases, the media can be an effective tool for building these relationships through changing behaviors and attitudes. The influence of the media on behavior is complex and likely to affect attitudes and opinions that shape behavior rather than directly influence people's attitudes.

104. www.beijing20.unwomen.org

105. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/dev4peace/role-media-conflict-prevention>

The first of these considerations is the issues that the media should know about, the most important of which is the situation of women in the context of conflicts, i.e. the exacerbation of violations of women's rights in terms of security and physical safety, and particularly:

- Rape, harassment and sexual exploitation occurring on a massive and dangerous scale in wars.
- Pressure, violence and psychological abuse
- The additional social and economic burdens imposed on the shoulders of women at times when they find themselves alone in providing for their families and caring for the elderly and sick. Under such conditions, even providing food and shelter is not always possible¹⁰⁶. The media should know about these issues, which will undoubtedly reflect on its role and work approaches.
- In 1994, before the genocide in Rwanda, the government-owned Radio and Television Libre des Mille Collines broadcast messages inciting for genocide and encouraging the "Hutus" to rape Tutsi women, killing them or leaving some of them alive and raping them to have them carry children of Hutus. In the massacre that swept the country, almost all the female survivors of genocide, were victims of, or severely affected by, rape or other forms of sexual violence. It is estimated that at least 250,000 women were raped.
- During the war in Bosnia and Herzegovina, journalists rallied around rape victims, sometimes asking for interviews only with those who were gang-raped. The way CNN covered Bosnia and Herzegovina prompted the former Secretary-General of the United Nations, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, to describe this network as "the sixteenth member of the Security Council". The media, led by The New York Times and CNN, has had an amazing impact on politics in the United States. The reason why the West finally made the delayed intervention was closely due to media coverage. Rwanda not getting the same kind of attention was largely related to weak – or non-existing – media coverage¹⁰⁷.

In the same vein, when messages and campaigns inciting violence spread over the radio, on TV screens and on internet, call for violence against women becomes part of the propaganda of war. So, an estimate of the interaction between the media and conflict could facilitate the understanding of the media's roles in conflict prevention, in addressing hate speech and in disseminating the culture of peace, openness and dialogue. Freedom of information and access to information are essential tools that can help in promoting peace and upholding human rights. An active, independent and accurate media is of critical importance in a democratic and equitable society, which is necessary especially in the context of conflict to support efforts to achieve lasting peace and end impunity¹⁰⁸. Beyond this, conflict, at its most basic level, is an "extreme form of communication, media can thus play a vital role in allowing for the peace process to evolve, by enabling the expression of essential conflicts in a certain society and a non-violent discussion of it. This requires creating an appropriate media space through which this can happen¹⁰⁹. This prompted human rights advocates to reconsider whether there was a need to set limits to such discourse.

In this context, Article 3 of the Genocide Convention states that direct and public incitement to commit genocide is a crime punishable by international law, as stipulated in Article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights of 1976: "any advocacy for war is prohibited by law."

In 1978 the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) issued a Declaration of Fundamental Principles on the contribution of the media to the promotion of peace and international understanding in support of human rights and the fight against racism, apartheid and incitement to war. But unfortunately, the media is often considered a fertile ground for spreading this discourse, which is negatively reflected on the situation of migrants and refugees,

106. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/dev4peace/role-media-conflict-prevention>

107. <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/3F71081FF391653DC1256C69003170E9-unicef-WomenWarPeace.pdf>

108. 99s-role-protecting-human-rights-spotlighted-un-backed-radio-series%80%https://unama.unmissions.org/media%E2

109. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/dev4peace/role-media-conflict-prevention>

whose numbers have doubled in recent years as a result of conflicts and wars, especially in the Middle East, the spread of fanaticism and incitement discourse and the use of some “extreme right-wing” trends for political purposes, especially in Europe and America. The terms used in the media when dealing with refugee issues and the tendency to portray them in a criminal manner, affected the way citizens and governments handled those cases¹¹⁰.

In this regard, the media plays a role in reducing hate speech, especially prevalent sexual hate speech against women. Sexual hate speech is a form of violence against women and girls that exacerbates gender inequalities.

The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) used Article 3 of the Genocide Convention to sentence George Ruggiu, a Belgian citizen, in two consecutive rulings, to 12 year imprisonment for broadcasting hate messages through a Government radio station¹¹¹.



The role of the media is essential in spreading awareness of protectionist laws and the services provided by governmental and non-governmental actors and institutions for victims of various human rights violations. As a fourth power, the media has the ability to contribute to orienting society's thought to specific issues, and helping to identify the needs and priorities of public opinion. However, most of the media outlets marginalize and exclude the women's voices and often tend to establish a negative stereotype and traditional notions about the capacities of women and shed the light on the fact that women are victims instead of revealing their ability to contribute effectively and innovatively to bring about positive change. Civil society can offer the press wider and faster access to sources of information, interviews and communications that might otherwise be difficult to access. If there is a two-way exchange, the relationship will be more sustainable and balanced¹¹².

In the Kurdistan Region of Northern Iraq, a law to protect women from domestic violence was passed a few years ago. The Committee that contributed to the preparation of the law consists of a group of doctors and social workers, and the Women Empowerment Organization (WEO). Years after the law was passed, women do not seem keen on complaining about violence before the courts. WEO referred the matter to Radio Nawa, which has the largest audience for news and entertainment. They asked if the station would like to support with a talk show on a possible law for the protection of women from domestic violence. The program aired on the weekend when the audience is usually high. On the next working day, the Organization was surprised to receive supportive phone calls from women's organizations, and many women victims of abuse were encouraged to seek legal help.

It is not about playing an awareness raising role solely. The media do play a major role in changing the nature of approach and interaction with women during wars and conflicts. It is to be noted that among the most prominent issues in the context of conflicts, refugees and migrants issues are the most pressing; the vast majority of ref-

110. http://accronline.com/article_detail.aspx?id=29055

111. <https://niemanreports.org/articles/women-war-and-the-media>

112. Arabic-1325-Media-Toolkit.pdf/05/http://maplebanon.org/new/wp-content/uploads/2018

ugees and migrants suffer most of the times from persecution, racism, indifference or harmful targeting. Unfortunately, although the issue of refugees and migrants is one of the most sensitive and important humanitarian issues, it seems to be the most neglected by the media, depending on a policy based on ignoring and avoiding to put the issues concerning these groups in the spotlight, or by failing to disseminate the culture of acknowledgment of the other, and raising awareness on the rights of refugees and the necessity to treat them humanely, and sometimes by direct or indirect incitement against them.

The media plays a central role in monitoring, control, accountability and advocacy for the respect of human rights by ruling regimes. The media has an influential power to convey meaningful messages to those who have the ability to put an end to violations, and influence those who have the power to take decisions to push them to change reality.

In March 2016, the Lebanese media was full of news of the revelation of the largest network of trafficking in women in Lebanon. This network was known as the "Chez Maurice" case. Some 75 Iraqi and Syrian women were forcibly detained inside a hotel in Jounieh, Lebanon. They were forced, under pressure and threats, to provide sexual services to those seeking such services for more than 5 years. Survivors' testimonies of sexual exploitation and torture prompted the media to pay excessive attention to the issue, but for the sake of sensationalism and information scoop. One of the most prominent methods used by the media was the description of the torture women were subjected to: forced sex practices 10 times a day, and forcing them to insert cotton into their vaginas so that they could have sex during menstruation and forcing them to undertake 200 abortions in 4 years¹¹³.

The sensational coverage sparked a wide debate around many issues, including:

- Human trafficking and prostitution.
- The complicity of state agencies.
- Sexual violence against refugee women.

Public opinion positions varied concerning media coverage:

- Some supported the media's approach to dealing with the issue, making it a public opinion issue and creating sympathy with the victims.
- Some considered that the media did wrong in depicting the issue as a "scandal."
- Some accused the media of promoting state agencies in an attempt to clear them.

Besides disregard and incitement, "stereotyping" cannot be overlooked. A large number of media outlets deal with refugee women from the perspective of victims of childhood marriage or providers of sexual services in return for money. In much of the media coverage, the woman refugee seems like a means of marginal fun that is to be traded. It is a very negative stereotype that the media is focusing on. There are other coverage instances sympathizing with the woman refugee in a completely different way from the negative stereotype, but this type of coverage is still little and limited¹¹⁴. Hence, it is necessary to change the continuous display of negative and degrading images of women in the print, electronic, and audio-visual media. The print and electronic media in most countries do not provide a balanced picture of the diversity of women's lives and their contributions to society in a changing world. In addition to this, violent, degrading or pornographic media products also negatively affect women and their involvement in society. Programs that promote women's conventional roles can be equally restrictive. The worldwide trend towards consumption has created an atmosphere where commercial advertisements often commodity women, targeting girls and women of all ages in an inappropriate way¹¹⁵.

113. <https://www.legal-agenda.com/article.php?id=4762>

114. "The media coverage of refugee issues in Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt and Morocco", Skills foundation and media monitoring unit (Lebanon and Jordan), the Research and documentation unit (Egypt and Morocco) and the Arab Network for human rights information".<https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20A.pdf>

115. Jordan), the Research and documentation unit (Egypt and Morocco) and the Arab Network for human rights information" <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/BDPfA%20A.pdf>

Women refugees have been widely excluded from the media scene, even if their news appeared timidly in the print media specifically, according to "Negative" study by ABAAD in 2016. The focus of attention was on refugee women, especially Syrian women, against the backdrop of exposing a number of human trafficking networks. The refugee woman was shown as a weak and impotent victim. This was fixed as a constant state in all pictures attached to the published material. The role of refugee women was revealed as a mere role of care giver to their families and their children, which the public system seeks to promote in the Lebanese society. As for TV stations they have dealt with all the files through generalization, along with shortcomings in the legal perspective, as the TV coverage of refugee women lacked serious follow-up of cases of early marriage and other issues, including alternative roles such as women's productive work.

There remains an urgent need for the Lebanese media to reach a human rights approach that would contribute to the implementation of the provisions of the CEDAW, such as:

- The right of Lebanese women to grant their nationality to their children and husband.
- Their political representation through the adoption of a quota for women.
- Prohibition of child marriage.
- Criminalization of harassment, and other issues.

Campaigns, media discourse, and pressure on social media sites should be accompanied by a legislative workshop to amend laws and legislation, in addition to changing the system of social and cultural norms by raising societal awareness.

It is essential for the media to play their role based on human rights approaches, since human rights are the ethical benchmark for good journalism. Many observers note that although there is more coverage of human rights in the media nowadays compared to what it was in the past, it is not always good because a large number of journalists fail to understand human rights and the responsibilities of governments to promote and enforce them. When journalists cover human rights issues, they present them as crimes or political news rather than as human rights issues. Journalists ignore international human rights standards which weakens the role of "watchdog" played by the media, because journalists cannot render their governments and other powerful institutions accountable on these issues. In the same context, journalists present information without context or analysis. As a result, human rights violations appear as individual cases, new incidents or emergencies even though they constitute a continuous interconnected cycle of similar violations¹¹⁶.

Beyond conflict, the lack of respect for human rights approaches leads to the perpetuation of a biased negative stereotyped image of women in the media and the inability to make fundamental changes that break social norms and traditions, while what is required is the constitution of a public opinion which is a supporter and advocate of women's rights. It is unethical and unprofessional to exclude women from media material related to politics and economics, and include them only in the fields of entertainment, art and culture. Woman in the media is still that sexy seductive model whose charms are used to weaken the man, who is obsessed with shopping and wasting her time with gossip, still less qualified than man, and subordinate to him in decision-making and economy, passive, reactive, and moody.

In conclusion, and through the various media interventions in the context of conflicts, it becomes clear that these interventions intersect with all the elements of UNSCR 1325, particularly with the axes of prevention and protection.

When undertaking this role, there are many principles and ethical norms that need to be kept in mind when covering gender-based violence cases in particular and women's issues in general.

First of all, right to privacy must be respected. In cases of gender-based violence, respecting and guaranteeing privacy are important because it is directly related to ensuring the safety and security of survivors. Hence, journalistic ethics necessitate from the

116. <http://www.speakupspeakout.internews.org/?q=ar/section-2-ar/wsyl-llm-wlshf-whqwq-lnsn>

journalist to abstain not only from mentioning the survivor's name, but also all the details that could indicate her identity, her place of residence or her family, especially when the request for protection and privacy comes from the survivor herself. So working on not harming the survivor means first to protect privacy and second to ensure the preservation of psychological health of survivors. In this context, it is important for us to urge the journalist to follow a survivor-centered approach during coverage through placing the survivor's interest and the principles related to her safety, her right to knowledge, and her privacy at the top of his/her priorities.

Another principle is do no harm. It is essential for the journalist to prioritize the necessity of not causing harm or damage to women survivors of violence whose stories are being covered.

In addition, the importance of the principles of accuracy, independence and impartiality cannot be overlooked. One of the journalist's primary jobs is to transmit facts, not guesses or estimates. Therefore, it is necessary to verify any information included in any report on the ongoing GBV, by relying on different sources (a government source, a civil society organization concerned with the issue, legal information, facts transmitted from the survivor and those around her) and accurate language far from euphemism or ambiguity and clear to the public (explanation of technical and complex terminology when needed), even if the journalist has limited time to prepare coverage. Here, we also emphasize the importance of avoiding discrimination on the basis of sex or adopting prejudices that may contribute to the interpretation of the case and do harm to the survivor, such as mentioning details related to the survivor's clothing, or details related to her emotional and private life.

Finally, when covering issues of GBV, one should look at the necessity to be fair with the survivor and the sources, and this can be done initially by informing them about all the details of the journalistic coverage and the possible consequences. It is preferable to rely on "prior consent" as one of the guarantees that can spare the survivor and the other sources all possible harm¹¹⁷.



117. Training manual on the methods of sensitive coverage of issues of women and girls GBV survivors, FEMALE and ABAAD, 2018.

2. UNSCR 1325 and social media

Talking about the role of the media in relation to women in the context of conflicts cannot be limited to conventional media, but also includes social media. The societal and political transformations that are sweeping the Arab region have contributed to enabling large segments of the population of the region. Many stereotypes have been shattered. Arab youth, "Internet users" and women are the main drivers of regional change. Arab women in particular are becoming more involved in political and civil actions and have played an important role in the rapid and historical changes that swept the region. Debate over the role of social media in these shifts reached policy-making circles at the regional and global levels.

In 2011, the use of social media continued to grow exponentially across the Arab world, along with major shifts in usage trends. Social media moved from a simple social networking and entertainment tool, to become embedded in every aspect of the daily life of millions of Arabs, influencing the way they interact, socially or politically.

By the end of 2011, Arab users' usage of social media evolved to include civic and political engagement, entrepreneurial efforts, and social change. With a large number of Arab users living in multiple countries, governments are also beginning to realize the potential of social media to develop more transparent and participatory models of governance. While the creative and socially useful uses of social media are numerous, new concerns were found about issues of security, privacy, freedom of expression, and disruptive uses of social media.

The biggest change that social media has brought about has been the accessibility of information. More communication means have been unlocked. But the users' uptake on any given platform increases the challenge for any individual to receive unfiltered information. Most people access the information that their friends share or the primary accounts and resources they choose to follow. Social media enable us to hear stories that may not have been heard. The failure of the Arab media too often to cover conflicts has pushed the public to resort to social media sites to satisfy their curiosity and craving for news, and here lies another problem, i.e. the risk of falling in the trap of fake news spread on those websites¹¹⁸.

Social media have become another battleground in the information war that accompanies any conflict, but the biggest difference is the speed of deployment and in some cases, the ability to see what is going on, in inaccessible sites. While these digital media platforms have opened up some hard-to-reach information environments, in other cases, they have actually exacerbated the problem by hiding the reality of the situation on the ground. Social media are more prone to misinformation; it is the speed of information that makes fact checking and verification difficult. Social media has largely disrupted TV news, allowing us as remote observers to watch more conflicts than ever. But we also need to question the evidence of what we are seeing more than ever. When it comes to news in the age of social media, the most important thing is to provide the audience with resources, context, background and information¹¹⁹.

Young Colombian engineer Oscar Morales used the Facebook platform to rally people across Colombia and the world, against the violent tactics of the guerrilla group known as FARC in 2008. This was just the beginning of the wide spread use of social networks to mobilize people for protesting against violence.

Increasingly, social media is viewed as an important tool for empowering women in the

118. 8A%D8%B2-%83%D9%https://raseef22.net/article/182723-%D8%AA%D8%B1%D985%84%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%88%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%D984%D8%B5%D8%B1%D8%A7%89-%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%D8%B9%D9%D8%B9%D8%A7

119. <https://www.diplomaticourier.com/posts/social-medias-impact-war>

Arab region. Social media is allowing women to take on a new form of leadership that focuses on leveraging connections and networks. Moreover, Arab women were not only active online, but they were also documented as online activists. They participated in, organized and even led the protests, as the images of women in Tunisia, Egypt, Syria, Yemen, Lebanon, Sudan and Libya who took to the streets and demanded change cannot be forgotten.

Social media have given women a new and instant way to connect with their agendas, whether via Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, or Instagram and other communication and interaction platforms. It provided ready-made communities for women who previously felt they were marginalized and powerless, which helps them find a space to make their voices heard. The power of social media is that they can now enable women to evoke topics and trends that belong to them and that people really want.

However, it should be noted that women are underrepresented in the media in general. At the present time, social media are encouraging people to create more space for gender equality, allowing women from a wide range of backgrounds and countries, with or without traditional authority, to have their voices heard and express their opinion. In countries where there are huge gender discrepancies in the traditional media, women were more present on the Internet¹²⁰. The traditional mainstream media used to dictate its agenda on women for a long time but they have now lost their dominance and the picture has changed¹²¹.

Over the past decade, new information and communication technologies have had a profound impact on the lives of people in the Kurdistan Region, in northern Iraq. They play a role in shaping the relationship and interaction between people. The effect of electronic media was twofold on women:

- The first effect: They created a new space that enabled her to access the outside world and participate in a new mode of interaction. She broke the silence about GBV, including "honor" crimes. She could move beyond her geographic location and participate in online discussions. Networks of solidarity with women have been created, and there was participation in national petitions and international campaigns.
- The second effect: The digital media contributed to the circulation of rumors and increased the desire to spread "shame" rumors. Most of the women who suffered from this type of violence are well-known personalities, public figures, and they have high credibility and social standing. In societies where reputation and public credibility are the essence of the perceived status of women and their families, it is inevitable that these women and their families were put under social pressure, which can lead to self-isolation, suicide, or eventually even murder, by male members of their families, in search of "cleansing the shame"¹²².

Women in the region have used social media to launch various initiatives related to their rights with the aim to create change within their communities and states, we mention as examples: the "Women2Drive" campaign in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the HarassMap initiative in Egypt¹²³.



120. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/how-social-media-has-resaped-feminism>

121. [how-social-media-has-empowered-women-to-rewrite-the-rule/04/https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018](https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018)

122. <http://www.meri-k.org/publication/media-women-and-honour-cyber-violence-against-women-in-iraqi-kurdistan/?lang=ar>

123. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/230709416_The_Role_of_Social_Media_in_Arab_Women's_Empowerment

- In light of the fierce attack on every woman who dares to disclose any kind of sexual harassment or violence she is exposed to, and in the absence of laws criminalizing such attacks, including cyber-harassment, this page was made as a safe space to open up for all women who face these abuses, as sexual harassment and violence cannot be limited to one geographic area. Therefore, we considered that this page may be a space for solidarity amongst women, for participation, monitoring and unification of victims and survivors.
- https://www.facebook.com/pg/MeTooArabia/about/?ref=page_internal
- **Refugees not female captives:** On the 1st of September 2012, independent Syrian youth of both sexes launched the cry of “Refugees not captives” for the sake of a humanitarian and national issue. It is not possible to remain silent about the new slavery disguised with loose titles, not the least is the social protection of girls or even marriage according to the Sharia, at a time when Syrian society is subjected to the most severe forms of killing, displacement and deprivation.
- In October 2017, Alyssa Milano asked women on Twitter to write “#MeToo” whether they had been harassed or victims of sexual assault before. Within days, tens of thousands of women responded.
- Stella Creasy from the Labor Party and her colleagues in Parliament launched the #PayMeToo hashtag campaign to denounce the gender discrepancies in wages reported by companies across the country. Using social media as a starting point, they joined forces to encourage women to hold their employers accountable and demand action.
- #SideProfileSelfie- Journalist, Radhika Sanjani tweeted a photo of her “big nose” and started the #SideProfileSelfie challenge to help people overcome insecurity and break unrealistic standards of beauty¹²⁴.

Media can play a crucial role in allowing the peace process to develop by enabling expression and non-violent discussion of fundamental conflicts. The roles that the media can play in conflict prevention include: building bridges, providing information, an early warning system, they can also be a catalyst for peace¹²⁵ in addition to their role in combating extremism. Violent extremists have used social media platforms effectively to advance their goals, through participation, propaganda, conversion to extremism or recruitment. In the same way, media channels can be used to counter narratives of violent extremists and draft messages on gender equality, good governance and conflict prevention. An example is “Sawa Shabab”, a weekly radio series in South Sudan, which broadcasts based on a curriculum on peace designed and produced with local partners. Sawa Shabab observes the daily life of different young people from South Sudan who are facing unique challenges while learning how to become peace-builders in their local communities. The curriculum on which the series is based includes a focus on fighting stereotypes, respecting diversity and promoting gender equality. After listening to the programme, the young female participants indicated that “being educated” is an important quality for young women. Awareness of gender equality among male participants has increased significantly.

Finally, we should be aware of the risky situation facing the use of social media. Human rights defenders use more and more in their work, computers and Internet. Access to technology remains an issue around the world, storing and exchanging information by electronic means has become more common among human rights organizations, but governments play their role in developing the ability to tamper, monitor and sabotage electronic data. Monitoring, control, insecurity of the stored or exchanged data as well as their sabotage have increased. This has become a major problem for human rights defenders in some countries¹²⁶.

124. [how-social-media-has-empowered-women-to-rewrite-the-rules/04/https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018](https://wearesocial.com/blog/2018/how-social-media-has-empowered-women-to-rewrite-the-rules/04/)

125. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/dev4peace/role-media-conflict-prevention>

126. <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/ar/programme/digital-protection>



Recently, we have seen many cases of arrest and harassment among activists by government and security agencies, because they expressed their opinion freely through "Facebook" and various social networks. It has become clear that security and intelligence agencies are controlling all that is being written and published. They even solicit information, account statements and internal correspondence, from the administrations of the social networks themselves. The latter in turn (according to them) fulfill the majority of these requests. This is on the security-political level, but on the commercial and economic level, it is important to realize that websites and social media platforms that are part of our daily life collect all the information that they can collect about us, then they sell it to commercial and advertising companies. In light of this violation of our privacy as users, attempts to define user rights and raise the level of security and privacy on the Internet were made¹²⁷.

Most online abuse occurs on social media. Although men are also subject to online harassment, women are twice as likely as men to be exposed to such acts. According to one study, more than half of women of 18-29 age group, are harassed through sexual images of them. And while 70% of women think that online harassment is a big problem, many of them do not know how to prevent it. Women are often targeted simply because they are women and aggressions are often sexual or misogynistic, focusing on the woman's body and sexual violence¹²⁸.

3. Integration of UNSCR 1325 into the media work.

Many countries need to develop their legislation in order to be in line with international treaties related to human rights so that they constitute a support for their dissemination and promotion. However, these rights will not become realistic without widespread media attention to programs and follow-ups, in particular, without developing the skills of journalists to work on human rights issues more effectively.

The media can promote human rights of marginalized groups by promoting relevant international treaties, fact-finding about the role of governments and following up on violations, not only by informing about them, but also with ongoing programs and follow-ups¹²⁹. Consequently, it is possible to talk about the integration of UNSCR 1325 into the media work at many levels.

127. https://docs.euromedwomen.foundation/files/ermwf-documents/8195_4.246.theempoweringinternet-safetyforwomen.pdf

128. [/online-harassment-2017/11/07/http://www.pewinternet.org/2017](https://online-harassment-2017/11/07/http://www.pewinternet.org/2017)

129. <http://tfpb.org/?p=158>

At the role level it is necessary to do the following:

- The media has developed a clear implementation mapping of gender approaches and women's issues, the most prominent features of which are: rejecting Violence against women (VAW), not compromising their dignity, humiliating them, excluding them and marginalizing them, shedding light on their achievements and their role in democratic transition, transitional justice, election integrity, political representation, and legislation, before, during and after wars and conflict. Giving the woman the chance to express herself, and avoiding speaking on her behalf¹³⁰.
- Playing a role in early warning systems, so that women in conflict areas can access and obtain the necessary support quickly.
- Using the media to teach conflict resolution skills.
- Playing an essential role in the context of transitional justice, where wounds are deep and need a lot of time to heal.
- Contributing to building peace, encouraging people to vote and getting women to participate as candidates, as voters and as election observers.
- Ensuring the protection of media workers in times of conflict considering that journalism can be a dangerous profession in many parts of the world, HR defenders and NGOs must prevent and treat professional traumas and abuses related to their work¹³¹.
- Carrying out oversight and accountability at various levels, and playing a prominent role in the follow-up of governments and their implementation of laws and national and international standards and regulations such as UN Resolution 1325.

At the approach level, work can be done through the following:

- Return when possible to international and national principles on women's human rights and gender and national equality issues (Security Council Resolution 1325, CEDAW, Beijing Platform for Action, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, United Nations directives, national constitutions and laws, and national action plans, etc.)
- Use inclusive language and pronouns that refer to neutral concepts that cover both men and women (eg: 'people, i.e. both men and women') whenever possible, avoid terms that exclude one gender.
- More efforts should be made to increase women's participation in communication technologies and media networks to increase the number of women in the media, including in the decision-making process. It is also necessary to develop women's capabilities with practical guides and create media monitoring groups to reduce discrimination and support their representation in the media in leadership and exemplary roles.
- The media must realize the correct reality of the situation of women within societies, devote a culture of gender equality, respect their human dignity and develop a media culture that adopts human rights principles and rejects all forms of discrimination or exclusion; with the aim to raise the image of women in various media and communication means, and to promote and involve women journalists in developing media strategies.
- It is time for the media to decide not to reduce the woman to a social being from a biological and sexual perspective, and to define the difference in a more precise way between the dualities of man/woman and male/female. Emphasizing the being of a woman who enjoys human characteristics just like a man and has the same citizenship rights, with equal obligations.
- Following the principles of confidentiality, non-discrimination, and non-disclosure of identity and the source of information. This is especially important when covering

130. Professional-Journalist-Guide-Arbc.pdf/03/https://www.sfcg.org/wp-content/uploads/2016

131. hps://www.newtactics.org/conversation/engaging-media-human-rightstt

cases of violations of the rights of girls and women during conflict, including conflict-related sexual violence and when dealing with survivors and witnesses.

- When reporting on human rights violations, the main objective for journalists should be to give the facts but not in a way that arouses people's feelings and emotions, but rather, in proper language without adding insults to the investigation and by refraining from giving burning data and pictures. The depth of the problem should be considered and solutions provided¹³².
- Focusing on the use of human rights documents and the rights of refugees by integrating the human rights system in all press templates. Establishing the link between the situation of refugees and their right in international conventions during media coverage.
- Whereas interactions between human rights activists and the media are ideally a sincerely motivated equality operation, but this is not always the case. Human rights defenders who wish to collaborate with the media more effectively and obtain media support, should realize what the broader scope media structures available are and interact with them accordingly. Human rights defenders need to be creative in designing campaigns that engage the media and ensure positive audience reception.
- Fighting stereotypes requires the media to undertake constant reviews to avoid lapses and to evaluate material to match the extent of commitment to the principles of the profession. We can only do so if we act in accordance with human rights approaches.
- Careful selection of what to publish and how to publish it, gender bias, follow up on updates on civil society activities.
- Applying a gender perspective, as women's experiences during and after conflict are rarely disclosed.
- The journalist must challenge himself and discover new stories. When writing the report, you should avoid falling into the trap of sensationalism and abuse, and avoid focusing excessively on writing about cases of sexual violence.
- Requesting advice, support and tools from civil society organizations, many of which produce monitoring reports, which can be used as a source of information.

At the tactics level, various tactics can be adopted, including:

- Supporting modern technical services that facilitate the access of the refugees and migrants' voice to the media, and benefit from the popular media experiences.
- Giving refugees enough space to speak by themselves and for themselves.
- Resorting to experienced and qualified journalists to cover refugee issues, and training them on the basis of honest and impartial coverage.
- Giving journalists who specialize in covering refugee issues adequate chances and the necessary support to carry out investigative inquiries that relate to refugees, their problems and their daily lives.
- Establishing partnerships with human rights and women's organizations. The relationship between journalists and human rights activists should be mutual and uphold the highest ethical standards. Activists must demonstrate their credibility as a valuable resource for journalists by developing clear and sincere goals.
- One of the tools that can be adopted is to teach women how to use the media to tell their stories and document human rights violations through the media too.

At the capacity building level, it is necessary to work on the following:

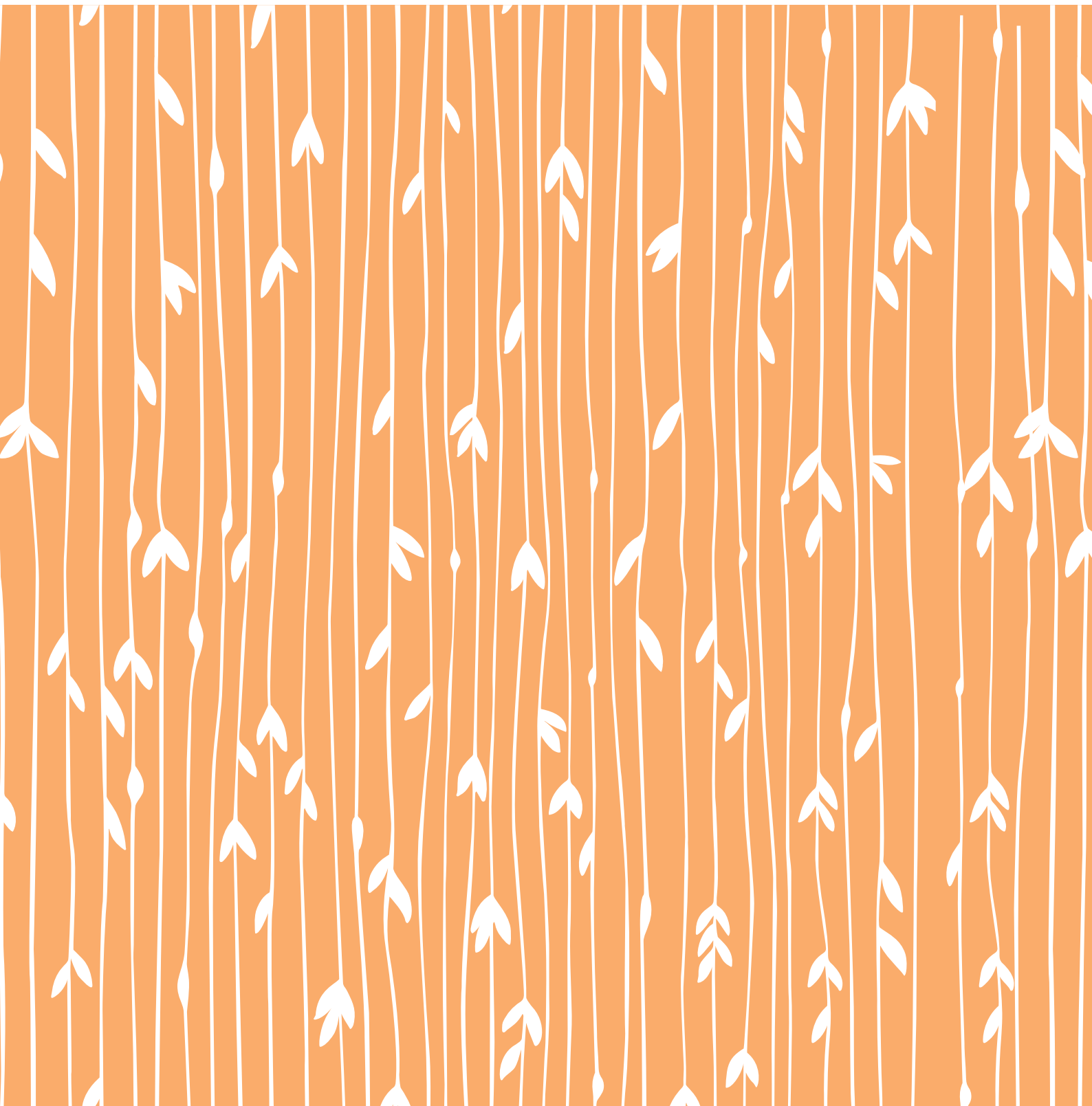
Devising more "structural" ways to encourage media coverage of human rights issues,

132. <http://www.presscouncil.nic.in/OldWebsite/speechpdf/The%20Role%20of%20Media%20in%20Protection%20of%2011Human%20Rights%20Visakhapatnam.pdf>

such as education on human rights in both basic and higher education systems. Encouraging student activity, journalist unions, and support from organizations concerned with working with the media, can generate further communication and cooperation between human rights activists and the news media. NGOs can “educate” on the media through press kits, and conduct research and credible data, training workshops for journalists covering human rights, and search for experienced journalists with backgrounds in human rights field.

Providing media professionals with the necessary knowledge about local and international laws and decisions, such as Security Council Resolution 1325, so that they can refer to it when writing articles on women's rights.

Undergoing training courses on how to cover refugee issues (television, e-press, paper press) and how to integrate human rights and refugee rights in stories and news.



EXERCISES

Some exercises have been developed in relation to the goal and objectives of this guide, and are attached to it. They would enable the trainer to convey the ideas and bring them closer to reality for both women and men. They are just examples that can be used in the training sessions that use the knowledge content that has been developed.



- The knowledge framework for the suggested exercises is included in the training manual, but it is important to use other sources according to the context of the exercise within the training program as a whole, as well as in connection with the training needs of the trainee group.
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercises through direct examples related to the context.
- The questions included in the exercises provided are examples for reference only. It would be important to develop them in connection with the general training context.
- Each exercise has a specific topic and its own goal. But it is necessary to be flexible enough to know the most important issues that need to be focused on, according to the general training context in terms of its purpose, expected outcomes, the training program, the category of trainees, and the time available.
- The time suggested in the exercises is a hypothetical time for achieving the goal of the “exercise” as stated. However, it is up to the facilitator to adjust the time according to the context of the training as a whole.

EXERCISES OF PART I

Exercises topic

**Women and children in situations of war and armed conflict
and facing terrorism and extremism**

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to identify the situation of women and girls in conflict situations
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the work of the groups, the problematic issue of women and girls in conflict situations is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of women and girls enjoying human rights without any discrimination
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
- Focus on gender-based violations
- Insist on the participants to give examples from the lived reality

The group is asked to answer the following question:

The question (for example, a refugee woman) could be as follows:

- In your opinion, what is the impact of wars and conflicts on women and girls in refugee status, will it be different from its impact on men and boys?
- What are the manifestations of this impact / give specific examples and determine whether they were before the conflict, during the conflict, in the stages of conflict resolution, or in post-conflict and reconstruction phases.

We can identify several categories to discuss their situation, for example: Women and girls in displacement – women and children with disabilities – women farmers – women who are employed or out of work – immigrant women – rural women and girls - the women heads of their families - the women, combatants' wives and their families... Each group can discuss the situation of a specific category of women and children.

Tools and material needed: pens and flip chart paper

Required time: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The participants are divided into working groups of 5 to 8, and we ask them within the group to discuss the situation of women. We can choose for each group a specific category of women (refugee women, displaced women, rural women, farmer women, working woman, student girl).
- Guide the group in order for the discussion to revolve within the groups, the role, the impact, the different impacts in the different locations, in the pre-, during and post-conflict period.
- Write down the results on flipchart sheets to discuss with the rest of the group.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problematic issue of human rights violations affecting women and girls in context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to the situation of women and girls in armed conflict.
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, whether local or direct, if the country has been or is going through a conflict, or in a context close to the group participating in the training.
- The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to tackle the issue of violence and gender-based discrimination in context of conflicts. According to the context of the training, its purpose, the expected outcomes, the training program, the trainee category, the training time, we can talk about all of these titles and ask the participants to discuss them, or just pick one of them.
- It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content of this exercise according to the trainee group concerned. It is true that the goal is to discuss "the problem of the impact of wars and conflicts

on the rights of women and children", but it is necessary to give examples that are relevant to the trainee group and its areas of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media).

The second exercise:

- objective of the exercise: to define gender-based violence that threatens Palestinian refugee women in Lebanon
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group, the problematic issue that deals with the situation of women and girls in conflict situations is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of women and girls enjoying human rights without any discrimination
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
- Focus on gender-based violations of Palestinian women and girls in Lebanon
- Insist with the participants on giving examples from the real life of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon

Tools and material required: Ana Ahlam (I am Dreaming) movie (produced by ABAAD and UNRWA, 13 min.)

Required time: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- After the film is shown, it is discussed with the group
- The discussion should focus on identifying the types and forms of gender-based violence that threaten women Palestinian refugees in Lebanon in general
- The discussion should include the situation that threatens women Palestinian refugees from Syria who are currently residing in Lebanon, before, during and after the conflict in Syria
- Record the results on the flipchart
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to the situation of women and girls in armed conflict situations
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, whether direct local to the camps in Lebanon that have experienced or are experiencing conflict, or in a context close to the group participating in the training

The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to tackle the problem of gender-based violence and discrimination in context of conflicts. According to the context of the training, its purpose, the expected outcomes, the training program, the trainee category, the training time, all of these titles can be discussed and the participants will be asked to discuss them or pick just one of them.



It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content for this exercise according to the trainee group concerned. It is true that the goal is to discuss "the problem of the impact of wars and conflicts on the rights of women and girls", but it is necessary to give examples relevant to the trainee group and its areas of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media).

The third exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to determine the gender-based violence that threatens Syrian refugee women in Lebanon
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the work of the groups, the problematic issue that deals with the situation of women and girls in conflict situations is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of women and girls enjoying human rights without any discrimination
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
- Focus on gender-based violations against Syrian women and girls in Lebanon
- Insist with the participants on giving examples from the real life of women Syrian refugees in Lebanon

- Tools and material required:

- Maha's story (a booklet produced by ABAAD in partnership with the International Medical Corps within the framework of a special program for providing support to Syrian women refugees in Lebanon)

- Time Required: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The participants are divided into working groups of 5 to 8. The booklet is distributed to the groups. They discuss it and identify the types and forms of GBV that threaten Syrian refugee women in Lebanon
- The discussion should focus on identifying the types and forms of GBV that threaten refugee women Syrian refugees in Lebanon, before, during and after the conflict in Syria
- Write down the results on the flipchart to discuss with the rest of the group
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in the context of conflicts, where violence and discrimination against them are growing. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to the situation of women and girls in armed conflict situations
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, whether direct local to the refugee camps in Lebanon, or those residing outside the camps, and to determine the impact and influence of the favorable host environment for refugees in Lebanon, or in a context close to the group participating in the training.
- The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to tackle the problem of violence and gender-based discrimination in context of conflicts. According to the context of the training, its purpose, the expected outcomes, the training program, the trainee category, the training time, all of these titles can be discussed and the participants will be asked to discuss them, or just pick one of them.
- It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content of this exercise according to the trainee group concerned. It is true that the goal is to discuss "the problematic issue of the impact of wars and conflicts on the rights of women and girls", but it is necessary to give examples relevant to the trainee group and its areas of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media)

Fourth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to determine the gender-based violence that threatens Syrian refugee women in Lebanon
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the work of the groups, the problematic that deals with the situation of women and girls in conflict situations is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of women and girls enjoying human rights without any discrimination
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
- Focus on gender-based violations against Syrian women and girls in Lebanon
- Insist with the participants on giving examples from the reality life of women Syrian refugees in Lebanon

- Tools and material required:

The film "Voices... defying alienation" (Produced by ABAAD)

- Time Required: 45 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The film is shown and discussed within the group, and the results are recorded on the flipchart papers.
- The discussion should focus on identifying the types and forms of gender-based violence that threaten women Syrian refugees in Lebanon in general, and the discussion should include the situation that threatens women PRS who currently reside in Lebanon, before, during and after the conflict in Syria.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in the context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to the situation of women and girls in armed conflict situations
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, whether direct local in Syria in areas that have experienced or are undergoing conflict or in Lebanon in the local host community, or in a context close to the group participating in the training
- The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to discuss the problem of violence and gender-based discrimination in pre-, during and post-conflict contexts. According to the context of the training, its purpose, the expected outcomes, the training program, the trainee category, the time of the training, all of these titles can be discussed and the participants will be asked to discuss them, or just pick one of them.

- It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content for this exercise according to the trainee group concerned. It is true that the goal is to discuss "the problematic issue of the impact of wars and conflicts on the rights of women and girls", but it is necessary to give examples relevant to the trainee group and its areas of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media).

Fifth exercise:

- o Objective of the exercise: Discuss and analyze the problematic issue of sexual violence in the context of conflict: causes, factors and coping mechanisms
- o Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the problematic issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

The Statute of the International Criminal Court¹³³ provides that Rape, sexual slavery, forced pregnancy, enforced sterilization, or any other form of sexual violence of comparable gravity constitute a grave breach of the Geneva Conventions and are war crimes, whether committed in the context of an international or non-international armed conflict¹³⁴.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- What are the reasons why women are exposed to these forms of sexual violence in the context of conflict? And what are the factors contributing to the emergence of these crimes?
- Why is sexual violence used as a tool of war?
- Are the measures usually taken to protect women from sexual violence in the context of conflict sufficient?
- What are the measures required of countries to address these crimes?
- What is the importance of having recourse mechanisms at the international level?

- o Tools and material required:

Flip chart, colored pencils

- o Time Required: 90 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problematic issue of sexual violence affecting women and girls in context of conflicts. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It would be useful that the exercise enhances the knowledge of the group on international response mechanisms to sexual violence.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the protection component of UNSCR 1325, Resolutions Subsequent to UNSCR 1325 and related to sexual violence, the IHL system.
- The aim is to discuss "the problematic issue of sexual violence in the context of conflict", but it is necessary to give examples that are relevant to the trainee group concerned and its fields of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media)
- It is important to inform the facilitator in advance of the national mechanisms related to the elimination of sexual violence.

133. Article 8.2.b and Article 8.2.e of the Statute of the ICC.

134. <https://www.icrc.org/ar/doc/resources/documents/misc/5kjfeg.htm>

Sixth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to analyze the problematic issue of child marriage in refugee contexts: causes, factors and effects.
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the problematic issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

According to the figures for the assessment carried out by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees under the title "Vulnerability Assessment of Syrian refugees in Lebanon 2017 », the following appeared:

- 22% of refugee girls were married between the ages of 15 to 19,
- 18% of them were married to men 10 years or older than them.

In terms of geographic distribution, the rates of child marriages were as follows:

- South-Lebanon Governorate: from 15 to 19 years old, 37%
- Akkar Governorate 27%
- North-Lebanon Governorate 27%
- Bekaa Governorate 16%¹³⁵

These coincide with the findings of a study entitled "Attempting to Understand Child Marriage among Syrian Refugees in Lebanon", which showed that about 95% of those who wrote stories about child marriage considered it inadmissible, and viewed it in a negative way. They are also aware of its adverse effects on girls now and in the future, and yet they commit it¹³⁶.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- What are the reasons and factors that exacerbate the issue of child marriage in refugee contexts?
- What are the factors related to the pre-asylum stages?
- What are the effects and results?
- How can refugee girls be protected from child marriage? What working strategies can be suggested?

○ Tools and material required:

Flip chart, colored pencils

○ Time Required: 90 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problematic issue of child marriage in the context of asylum, in connection with the Guide on UNSCR 1325, therefore, it should be dealt with within this context, i.e, moving away from the analysis of the problem outside the context of "conflicts".
- It is important to focus on the factors specific to the issue of child marriage that are related to the pre-refugee context and thus related to it.
- This exercise can be replaced by a case study, depending on the context of the training.

135. Exploitation of adolescent girls for the purpose of entertainment and forced labor: stories happening silently in Al Araysyeh camp. Saada Alwa, <http://legal.agenda.com/article.php?id=4776>

136. Published by ABAAD lately (July 2018)

EXERCISES OF PART I

Exercises topic

Relationship of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions with human rights concepts, standards and mechanisms

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: controlling the relationship between UNSCR 1325 and the Beijing Platform for Action
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, participants shall work on the peace dimension of the Beijing Platform for Action.

Working groups can work on the strategic objectives under Dimension E: Women and Armed Conflict.

- Strategic Objective E1- Increase the participation of women in conflict resolution at decision-making levels and protect women living in situations of armed and other conflicts or under foreign occupation
- Strategic Objective E 2 - Reduce excessive military expenditures and control the availability of armaments
- Strategic objective E.3. Promote non-violent forms of conflict resolution and reduce the incidence of human rights abuse in conflict situations
- Strategic objective E.4. Promote women's contribution to fostering a culture of peace
- Strategic objective E.5. Provide protection, assistance and training to refugee women, other displaced women in need of international protection and internally displaced women
- Strategic objective E.6. Provide assistance to the women of the colonies and non-self-governing territories

The group is asked to analyze these objectives, identify the most prominent measures and strategies required in accordance with them, and thus indicate the extent of their matching with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

◦ Tools and material required:

Flipchart, colored pencils, copies of Dimension E of the Beijing Platform for Action
https://www.un.org/ar/events/women/iwd/2010/pdf/beijing_declaration.pdf

◦ Time Required: 90 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the relationship between UNSCR 1325 and the international women's rights system, which includes the Beijing Platform for Action, so it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It would be useful to present before the exercise a general overview of the Beijing Platform for Action and the Twelve Dimensions.
- Depending on the number of participants and the time of the exercise, it is possible to work on the six strategic objectives of the dimension "E" Women and Armed Conflict.

Second exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: Analyze the problematic issue of women's access to justice in a conflict context
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the problematic issue is discussed. A preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

Acts of conflict-related violence are perpetrated everywhere, at home, in places of detention, refugee camps, battlefields and more. Violence can happen at any time and it can have multiple perpetrators. Regardless of the nature or duration of the dispute or the parties involved in it, women are being deliberately and increasingly targeted and subjected to various forms of violence ranging from murder, torture, mutilation, sexual violence, forced marriage, forced prostitution, causing forced pregnancy, forced abortion and sterilization¹³⁷.

However, despite all the services provided, the idea of women disclosing the violence committed against them and asking for their access to justice remains weak. In times of conflict, women are subject to strict social violence based on power relations and control over them just because they are women, within a strained social system that is reflected on people with its rigid values and culture, and is controlled by a value system that subordinates the lives of women to rules and fixed factors that are based on sharing of roles, with resulting unbalanced power relations. This system prevents women from asking for support and protection.

The group is then asked to analyze the reasons for this. What are the factors that hinder women in conflict contexts from seeking justice?

- Tools and material required:
Template board, colored pencils.

- Time Required: 90 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- This proposed exercise is part of the context of analysis of the problematic issue related to refugee women's access to justice in Lebanon. The discussion of the legislative framework is only one of the factors to be raised. Therefore, it is necessary to make sure that the session or the exercise are not turned into a mere review of legislative frameworks.
- It would be useful to guide the group towards the frame of the factors that hinder women at the individual, social and institutional levels. This helps undertake an in-depth analysis of the issue and read it from various aspects.
- It is essential that the facilitator be informed in advance and updated of any national strategies or measures relevant to the access of refugee women to justice.
- It is necessary to link the exercise to the relevant diverse knowledge framework: General Recommendation No. 30 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against women, which is the protection component of UNSCR 1325, and subsequent relevant resolutions of UNSCR 1325.
- Adapting this exercise to be able to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) would be very useful. It remains useful to use it with organizations and the media in order to sensitize them about refugee women's issues, while it is useful in promoting awareness of the context of refugee women amongst members of the security sector due to their direct role in the enforcement of justice.

Third exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: controlling the relationship between UNSCR 1325 and the 2030 Development Agenda
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, it is possible to work on the targets of SDGs 5 and 10 of Agenda 2030 with the aim of analyzing the overlap between these targets and the participation and protection components of UNSCR 1325 through the identification and then analysis of the relevant targets.

The targets of SDG 5 of the Development Agenda are:

- End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere.
- Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation.
- Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation.
- Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.
- Ensure full and effective participation of women and equal opportunities for leadership on an equal basis with men at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.
- Ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health services and reproductive rights, as agreed in accordance with The Program of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.
- Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.
- Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women.
- Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels.

The targets of SDG 16 of the Sustainable development agenda are:

- Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
- End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children
- Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all
- By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime
- Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms
- Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels
- Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels
- Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
- By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration
- Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements
- Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime
- Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

- Tools and material required:

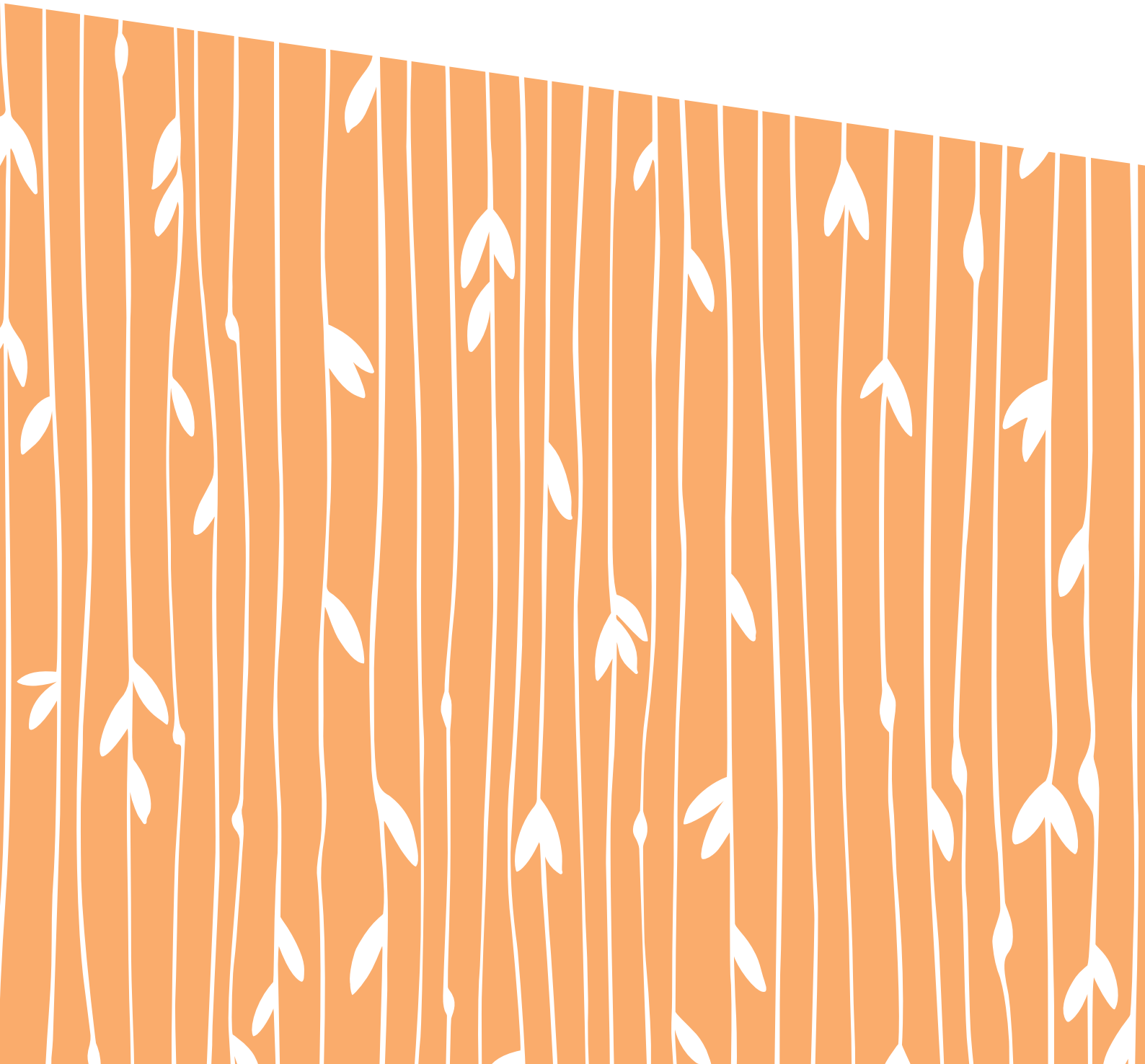
Copies of SDGs 5 and 10 of Agenda 2030, flip chart, colored pencils.

- Time Required: 90 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- This proposed exercise aims to control the relationship and the overlap between UNSCR 1325 and Agenda 2030, so we should not get carried away in talking about the agenda but content ourselves with an introduction about it and the reasons for its adoption.
- It is true that the goals most relevant to the title are SDGs 5 and 10, but it is necessary to refer to the interrelationship of the goals and the importance of dealing with them within a holistic approach, especially with regard to women.
- It is necessary for the facilitator to be informed in advance and updated of any national strategies, plans or measures related to Agenda 2030.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) is useful. It remains useful to use it for the purpose of enhancing the knowledge framework for the media and security sectors, while it should be used beyond the cognitive framework when targeting organizations because they are directly concerned with the agenda through their diverse interventions.

Here, the exercise can be adapted according to the category, by modifying the questions and the time proposed for the exercise.



Fourth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: Introduction to the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan in Lebanon
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the topic shall be discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

The Lebanese Action Plan has five strategic priorities under the four pillars of Resolution 1325:

- The first strategic priority: participation in decision-making at all levels
- Strategic Priority Two: Conflict Prevention
- The third strategic priority: Preventing and protecting women and girls from gender-based violence
- Fourth Strategic Priority: Relief and Recovery
- Fifth Strategic Priority: Legal Framework

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- What are the main axes and components of each of these five priorities?
- What are the opportunities for translating these priorities?
- What are the challenges that will hinder their implementation?
- How do you see your roles in view of each of these priorities?

To view the plan, visit the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)'s website: [NCLW-NAP-1325-AR-report-Combined.pdf/12/https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/2019](https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/2019/NCLW-NAP-1325-AR-report-Combined.pdf)

- Tools and material required:

Copies of the five strategic priorities for Lebanon's National Plan for UNSCR 1325, flip chart, colored pencils

- Time Required: 120 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The objective of this proposed exercise is to identify the national plan for Lebanon for UNSCR 1325, and not to analyze and evaluate it.
- It is necessary to link the talk about the plan with national strategies and plans related to gender equality, women empowerment and violence against women.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) is useful. However, it is possible to work on some of the strategic priorities, or on all of them, depending on the context and objectives of the training. It is also possible to work on some questions related to the exercise only.



Fifth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: Analyze the National Plan for Lebanon in line with UNSCR 1325
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the work of the groups, the topic shall be discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

The Lebanese government has adopted the first Action Plan for Lebanon on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, which provides for a comprehensive national framework for long term stability and security of Lebanon, which poses a real cornerstone for achieving the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goals. The Action Plan provides for a number of tools and resources that aim at moving forward towards a systematic involvement of women in the talks about peace and security and promotes women's presence in leadership positions.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- How harmonious is in your opinion the National Plan for Lebanon with all the dimensions and areas of focus of UNSCR 1325?
- What are the principles or the spirit that are required for the implementation of the plan?

To view the plan, visit the National Commission for Lebanese Women (NCLW)'s website: [AR-report-Combined.pdf-1325 -NCLW-NAP/12 /2019 /https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads](https://nclw.gov.lb/wp-content/uploads/AR-report-Combined.pdf-1325-NCLW-NAP/12/2019)

- Tools and material required: National Plan for UNSCR 1325, flip chart, colored pencils
- Time Required: 120 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The objective of this proposed exercise is to analyze the National Plan for Lebanon for UNSCR 1325, so it is important to introduce its different areas of focus, components and objectives prior to implementing this exercise.
- It is necessary to link the talk about the Plan with national strategies and plans related to gender equality, women empowerment and violence against women.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) is useful. However, it is useful to use it with organizations as they are directly concerned with the Plan through their diverse interventions and partnerships with government agencies.

EXERCISES OF PART I

Exercises topic

Areas of focus of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: Raise awareness about the legal rights of Syrian women refugees in Lebanon
- Execution of the exercise:
 - Within the work of the groups, the problematic issue that deals with women and girls in conflict situations shall be discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:
 - Explain the importance of access for women and girls to human rights without any discrimination
 - Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
 - Focus on the importance of preventing and protecting women and girls, especially women refugees in Lebanon, from violence and gender discrimination.
 - Push the participants to give examples from the reality of refugee women in Lebanon
- Tools and material required:

The movies: "Khobz Haf" (Plain bread), "This is not my uncle" or "He thinks he is strong" (produced by ABAAD in partnership with the International Medical Corps)
- Time Required: 45 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- After the film is shown, it is discussed with the group as well as how to guarantee protection, including legal protection, of Syrian women refugees in Lebanon.
- It is discussed and the types and forms of gender-based violence against which Syrian refugee women in Lebanon must be protected shall be determined. The results are noted down on flipchart papers.
- The discussion should focus on the importance of legal protection for Syrian refugees in Lebanon in general.
- It must be clarified that the Lebanese laws in force apply to all people residing in Lebanon.
- The discussion should include the situation that threatens women Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) who are currently residing Lebanon, before, during and after the conflict in Syria.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in the context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the areas of focus of UNSCR 1325, especially the axis of prevention and protection. It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, both direct local and in Syria, in areas that have experienced or are undergoing conflict, or in Lebanon in the host community, or in a context close to the group participating in the training.
- The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to tackle the issue of gender based violence and discrimination in pre-, during and post-conflict contexts. According to the context, purpose and expected outcomes of the training, the training program, the trainee target group, and the timing of the training, we can talk about all of these titles and ask the participants to discuss them, or just one of them.
- It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content of this exercise according to the trainee group, and giving examples that are relevant to the trainee group and their fields of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media).

Second exercise:

Case study: The pain of asylum for 'Umm Qais'

Over the past nine years, more than two million refugees have arrived in Lebanon to escape the war in Syria, the majority of whom are women and children whose life was changed by the conflict in all respects.

Umm Qais is a Syrian woman, mother of three daughters, aged between 12 and 16, and two sons of 17 and 10 years of age. She comes from a Syrian village in the countryside of Homs, she sought refuge in Lebanon with her five children after the death of her husband, who was the sole breadwinner of the family. He was killed by indiscriminate bombing of their village, and they resided in the northern Bekaa region in Lebanon.

Upon their arrival in Lebanon, the first challenge was to find a new home in order to protect the children and secure a safe and secure place in a new and unfamiliar environment. At first, Umm Qais stayed with her children in a tent in the central Bekaa region in a camp known as the "widows' camp", and the tent barely accommodated the mattresses spread on the ground. Umm Qais and her children suffered much in winter and under the snow. Her children fell sick, and the sum provided by UNHCR was not sufficient to buy food. Here her journey began in search of work for her and her eldest son who had left school to support her and her children. Umm Qais started working in one of the houses.

and the income she received was very little. Her son found a job in a supermarket so she has some better income now. She started thinking about moving to a new place; after a long search, she was able to rent a small apartment in a residential building, with one bedroom, a kitchen, and a bathroom, for a 100 thousand Lebanese pounds per month rent.

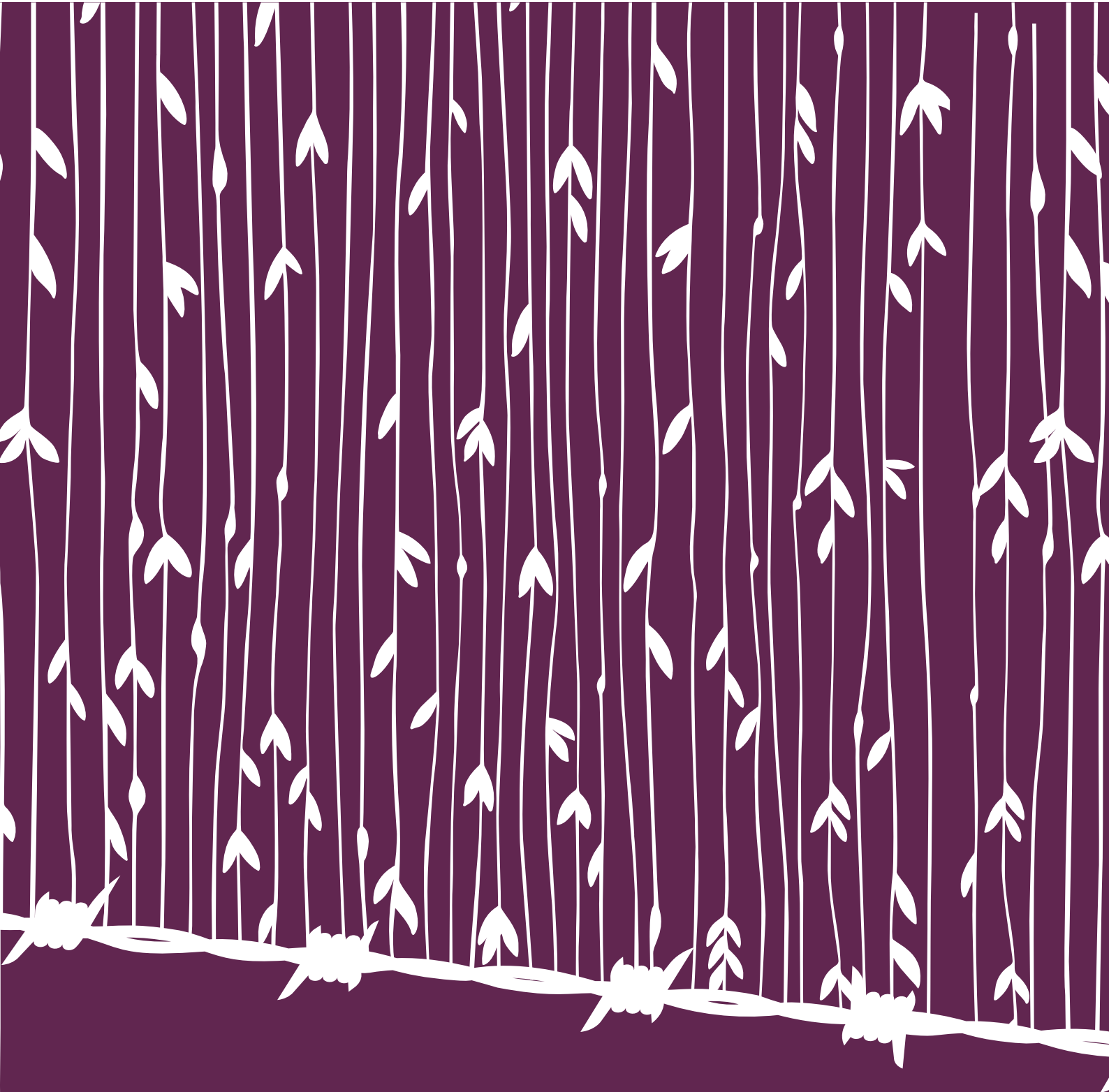
But her work stopped in the winter and she suddenly was no longer able to pay the rent for the room, and the owner of the room was suggesting that her daughter go to help his wife with the housework, and the rent was accumulating, so he asked her to marry him to her eldest daughter in exchange for exemption from payment, and so she married her eldest daughter in exchange for housing.

After a while, an 18-year-old neighbor's son sexually harassed her middle daughter. Umm Qais fell into a state of permanent fear for herself and for her daughters. But, fearing retaliation, she did not go to the police to complain. Following that incident, a family from the neighborhood asked for marrying her middle daughter to her eldest son, and her youngest daughter to their youngest son. So she thought that she would get rid of the expenses of the two daughters who would be living nearby too. So the marriage took place, but the girls were victims of domestic violence and their mother were trying to calm them down so that the two daughters do not divorce at the same time.

Because Umm Qais worked for long hours without rest, she began to feel dizzy, and had a headache and a backache. But she did not go to hospital for treatment, as she does not have any identification papers and therefore did not know whether she had access to treatment, in addition to her fear of deportation due to her illegal status.

Hala continues her miserable life. She and her eldest son work and always strive to secure education for her youngest son because she felt frustrated as none of her children was not able to complete his education. She was so afraid to go back to her village after the war without her daughters.

Having read and analyzed the case, please determine how Umm Qais and her family can be protected against human rights violations.



Third exercise:

Case study: Child marriage is a violation of childhood rights

Over the past nine years, more than two million refugees have arrived in Lebanon to escape the war in Syria, the majority of whom are women and children whose life was changed by the conflict in all respects.

This is how Souad arrived with her mother, father, young brothers and little sister to the Akkar region. 12-year-old Souad could not complete her education because the distance between school and the family's place of residence was long and they were afraid she would be exposed to sexual assault. The family met a Syrian young man who worked with her brother in agriculture; he was the son of a rich family in Syria, but he ran away because he participated in the demonstrations. He fell for the girl Souad and proposed to marry her, and the marriage constituted an opportunity for the parents to protect their daughter from the risk of sexual harassment.

Souad got married when she was 12 and a half years old, but her marriage contract was not registered in Lebanon; the husband sent the marriage contract to his family to register it there, as the cost is cheaper in Syria. Several months later, the husband went to Syria to check on his family and soon Souad realized she was pregnant and sent to tell her husband, who was happy with the news. But, her husband died after several weeks in the bombing and Souad had to start a long journey of suffering.

At the age of 14, Souad gave birth to a daughter while she was a widow. She contacted her husband's family and told them that she had given birth to a girl and asked them what they wanted to name her, and asked them to register her and get her an ID card. She also asked them to help her with her child expenses. The parents' response came like a shock: If you had given birth to a boy, we would have registered your marriage contract and brought an identity card for the child and raised him. But you gave birth to a girl and we do not want her. We tore up your marriage contract and we have no responsibility for her nor for you.

Her parents are in hardship; her father and brothers can barely secure their daily livelihood, and they complain every day about the expenses of the baby. They say "She is the daughter of another family, and we are spending on her." One evening, her father told her that they could no longer raise her daughter and suggested that she could sell her for a sum of money that would help them with the expenses of the house. Souad went crazy and refused. She would not leave her daughter a single moment, because she was afraid they would sell her. She went to look for a job, but she was young and she would get tired quickly and be exposed to harassment and sexual abuse, so she quit the job.

Then a solution to her problem appeared; a man in his seventies wanted to marry her and "preserve her honor", and he was ready to register the girl in his name. Souad, a 16-year-old daughter and a mother of a two-year-old girl, had no choice but to accept the offer and marry a man older than her grandfather.

Having read and analyzed the case, please determine how Souad and her daughter could be protected against human rights violations.

Fourth exercise:

Case Study

- Objective of the exercise: to raise awareness about the protection of Palestinian women refugees in Lebanon
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the problematic issue of the situation of Palestinian women refugees in Lebanon is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of women and girls' enjoyment of human rights without any discrimination
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy human rights
- Focus on the importance of preventing and protecting women and girls, especially women refugees in Lebanon, from violence and gender discrimination.
- Push the participants to give examples from the reality of refugee women in Lebanon

- Tools and material required:

A story from the streets, produced by ABAAD in partnership with UNRWA

First story: My name is Layla, I am 17 years old

The second story: In the beginning, we were very happy

The third story: My name is Maha, I am 49 years old

- Time Required: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- Within the working groups, the issue is discussed and the types and forms of gender-based violence against which refugee women in Lebanon should be protected are all identified. The results are noted down on flipchart sheets.
- Or within the working groups, the issue is discussed and how the refugee women in Lebanon and especially Palestinian women refugees could be protected is identified. The results are noted down on flipchart papers.
- The discussion should focus on the importance of legal protection for Palestinian women refugees in Lebanon in general.
- It must be clarified that the Lebanese laws in force apply to all residents of Lebanon.
- The discussion should include the situation that threatens Palestinian women refugees from Syria who are currently residing in Lebanon, in pre-, during and post-conflict period.
- It must be clarified that the Lebanese laws in force apply to all people residing in Lebanon.
- The discussion should include the situation that threatens women Palestinian Refugees from Syria (PRS) who are currently residing Lebanon, before, during and after the conflict in Syria.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in the context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is important to reinforce the exercise with knowledge from a variety of sources, including: the component related to women and girls in situations of armed conflict and the areas of focus of UNSCR 1325, especially the axis of prevention, protection participation, relief, and reconstruction.
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the local direct context in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon, and in the host community, or in a context close to the group participating in the training.
- The exercise discusses more than one sub-title in order to tackle the issue of gender

- based violence and discrimination in pre-, during and post-conflict contexts. According to the context, purpose and expected outcomes of the training, the training program, the trainee target group, and the timing of the training, we can talk about all of these titles and ask the participants to discuss them, or just one of them.
- It is important to be flexible enough in the context of presenting the framework of the knowledge content of this exercise according to the trainee group, and giving examples that are relevant to the trainee group and its fields of work and intervention (NGOs, security forces, media).

Fifth exercise:

Case Study: Relief and Gender

o The objectives of this exercise:

1. Highlighting the stereotypical image of women in societies, which deprives women from their status and role, in such a patriarchal society.
2. Showcasing the difficulties and challenges that women face in their daily lives and the lack of gender equality.
3. Shedding light on gender-based violence and exploitation of women in such circumstances.
4. Noting that women are less likely to benefit from relief than men.
5. Highlighting how girls and women are deprived of their basic needs that enable them to lead a decent life.
6. Raising society's awareness on the need for equality between women and men in the simplest and most important aspects of their roles in society and in laws as well as equal pay.
7. Combating all types of GBV, and searching for solutions to limit its spread.
8. Combating the spread of violence against women and girls arising from social movements and armed conflicts.

o Execution of the exercise:

The case study handout is distributed with the questions for discussion, then the groups present the results of their answers and a general discussion takes place within the group. A discussion of multiple possible scenarios can then be opened, such as what would have happened:

1. If Fatima had an official refugee card.
2. If Fatima had been welcomed in one of the camps instead of having to marry someone.
3. If Fatima had been able to save the money she was getting from her work.

Case Study

Fatima is a young Syrian woman from the area of Hama, who aspired at the beginning of her life to become a teacher to serve her community. But soon she became a victim of poverty and gender-based violence, as she was forced to get married at the age of fifteen to a local trader because of the hardship her parents were suffering from. When the situation worsened at the beginning of the conflict, Fatima lost her home and her husband, and she was forced to move with her two daughters to the Western Bekaa Valley in Lebanon. Fatima was unable to leave with the rest of her neighbors because she did not have the identification documents needed to cross with her two daughters. So she had to travel on foot for long distances in the arid mountains at night, and had to stop walking during the day to escape the security controls, the armed groups, and the military operations. Her journey from her village north of Hama to Lebanon was full of risks, and she was raped twice, once by a young fugitive, and the second time to pay her way through to an armed group. She had to walk four nights before she could get on an overcrowded van transporting migrants from the high mountains of Lebanon, illegally, to the camp areas.

Fatima found herself at the gates of the camps trying to find a place for her two daughters, but she could not pay in advance and did not find anyone who could accept her. She was the subject of multiple attempts to trade her and her two daughters in exchange for their housing, until she found, by chance, another person from Hama whom she accepted to marry against shelter for her and her two children. Fatima wished that she had stayed in her house and died there, rather than suffering the consequences of such displacement. But she did not think of herself, she wanted a better life for her two daughters, Lara and Sarah, and she would bear all those sacrifices to secure them a better life.

In the camp, Fatima shares a tent with her husband, his first wife and his four children. There is nothing she could spread on the floor to escape from cold and wet, there is not enough water and food for everyone. One day, the family gets some meals, another day food is barely enough for small kids. But at least, she could get back some calm in her life in the camp. And soon problems started again and her husband's second wife became more aggressive and her husband lost his job. Her daughter Lara would scream every time her mother was beaten. This made her depressed, and she sat all day in a corner of the tent without any sound. Her husband forced her to do a hard and exhausting work in one of the neighboring farms for 5,000 liras a day. And she had to give all the money to her husband daily upon her return. One day, Fatima came back to find her daughter Lara in the corner holding her hand, which seemed broken. Fatima insisted to take her daughter to the clinic, which refused to accept her without insurance or cash. Fatima had to borrow some money to save her daughter's hand, but it was only enough for stopping the deterioration of her hand's state. Her psychological and social state worsened after she was forced to divide her income into two parts one for her husband and one to pay off her debt. Fatima turned to an organization for help, but in return the association gave her a little food aid and some brochures.

Once the situation in Hama had stabilized, Fatima found herself very confused. Should she return to Syria? And if she returned, would her deceased husband's family take her daughters from her? But at the same time, she was no longer safe in Lebanon, as life in the camp was getting unbearable and the camp was at risk of destruction, burning and drowning day after day.

Discussion questions within the working groups:

1. If Fatima was a man, would her situation be different?
2. If Fatima was able to seek refuge in Lebanon through official channels, would her situation be different?
3. Fatima was exploited nine times in this exercise because she is a woman, did you recognize this?
4. How can relief protect Fatima from exploitation?
5. What are the conditions required for Fatima to return to Syria and ensure a decent life there?

Answers to the questions asked:

1. If Fatima was a man, she could control her decision to marry or not, and her journey from Syria to Lebanon would have been easier, she would not be raped, it would not be difficult for her to enroll in the camp, and her life as an IDP would be more honorable than a life fraught with difficulties that she experienced, not because she is a victim of war and poverty, but rather because she is a woman, and this is Gender-based violence.
2. Crossing towards the official channels would ease Fatima's life, so she would not

have to travel long distances on foot in the arid mountains, she would not be exposed to rape and would have a card identifying her and with which she would enter the camps and get assistance.

3. The exploitation to which Fatima was subjected:
 - Early marriage, which was a decision taken by her family without taking her opinion into consideration;
 - She is a victim of war; she lost her home and her husband;
 - She was raped twice: once by a fugitive young man, and the second time by an armed group to get the permission to pass;
 - She was not accepted into the camps without paying an amount of money;
 - Someone from her village married her in exchange for shelter for her and her two children;
 - Her husband forced her to work and collect money for him.
 - Being a woman was taken advantage of by her employer who gave her long working hours and very little pay;
 - When her daughter broke her hand, there was no access to treatment for her, so Fatima had to borrow a sum of money to save her daughter's hand;
 - When she sought humanitarian assistance, the association gave her with some food aid and some brochures.
4. Relief must protect Fatima from exploitation by providing protection for her and her child. First, secure a place for her where she can live, in addition to providing food and hospitalization for her and her children, and making sure that she benefits from this aid, providing her with job opportunities with a wage equal to that of a man;
5. After all the circumstances that Fatima went through, she wants to get protection and feel safe first from being subjected to violence, and second she wants to ensure that her children will be staying with her and that her husband's family will not take her children from her. And because she lost her home, she wants a shelter for her and her children, so that she can live a decent life.

Sixth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to raise awareness about the protection of girls from child marriage
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group, the issue of the risks of child marriage and how refugee girls can be protected is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of girls' access to human rights without any discrimination;
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of children to enjoy human rights;
- Explain that child forced marriage is a violation of childhood and human rights;
- Push the participants to give examples from the reality of refugee women in Lebanon.

- Required tools and material

The film "Marriage is not a game" (produced by ABAAD in partnership with UNICEF)

- Time Required: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- After the film is shown, it is discussed with the group.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of child marriage in the context of asylum, in connection with the special guide on UNSCR 1325, therefore, should be dealt with within this context i.e. moving away from analyzing the problem outside the context of "conflicts".
- The debate should focus on considering child marriage a violation of human rights and the rights of childhood in Lebanon.
- The discussion should include the situation that threatens the refugee girls who currently reside in Lebanon in pre-, during and post-conflict periods.
- The discussion should include how to protect refugee women from forced marriage.
- It is important to focus on the factors specific to the issue of child marriage that are related to the pre-refugee context and thus related to it and the link of child marriage to the economic, social and security context surrounding child marriage victims.
- This proposed exercise comes in the context of deepening knowledge of the problem of human rights violations affecting women and girls in the context of conflicts where violence and discrimination against them are on the rise. Therefore, it should be dealt with within this context and not beyond.
- It is necessary to adapt and localize the exercise through examples related to the context, whether direct local, for girls in Lebanon especially refugee women, or in a context close to the group participating in the training.
- After the discussion, we must be able to determine how refugee girls can be protected from child marriage. What are the action strategies that can be suggested?
- This exercise can be replaced by a case study, depending on the context of the training.

EXERCISES OF PART I I

Exercises topic

UNSCR 1325 and civil society

!

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to enable participants to set an awareness session while incorporating UNSCR 1325 into its agenda.
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the main areas of outreach that the organization/one of the organizations and institutions are doing are discussed, as well as how an awareness session is planned in advance. After a lengthy discussion, it will be determined how the UNSCR 1325 approach can be incorporated in the awareness session and the additions to the plan and content of the awareness session once linked to the axes of UNSCR 1325.

This prepared for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance of integrating the approach of UNSCR 1325 into the work of the organizations, especially in the field of awareness raising.
- Explain the importance of focusing on inclusion so that awareness-raising includes all women and girls according to their needs, especially refugee women and those who do not have access to resources, justice and the enjoyment of human rights.
- Focus on gender-based violations against the most vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon.

○ Tools and material required:

Flip chart with pens per group.

○ Time Required: 60 minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- Divide the participants into working groups of 5 to 8.
- Each group identifies the areas of awareness they are taking care of.
- A specific topic or issue is identified for awareness raising, specifying the category of rights holders to whom we will address awareness session.
- The plan of the awareness session is defined as well as areas for incorporation of UNSCR 1325; the optimal content of the awareness session is discussed and defined.
- The outline should include: the importance of the topic - the objective - the scientific content - the exercise or evidence to be presented.
- Write the results on the flipchart for discussion with the rest of the group.

Second exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to enable participants to integrate UNSCR 1325 into their action plans
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the main areas of intervention are discussed within the action plan of an organization, program or project being implemented by one of the organizations and institutions, and how the 1325 approach can be incorporated into this intervention and then areas of intervention related to the axes of UNSCR 1325 are determined.

Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:


- Explain the importance of integrating the 1325 approach into the work of organizations.
- Explain the importance of focusing on inclusion so that services include all women and girls, especially those who do not have the ability to access to resources, justice and the enjoyment of human rights.
- Focus on gender-based violations against the most vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon.

- Tools and material required:

Flip chart with pens for each group, a project proposal or business plan can be distributed for evaluation and building on.

Required time: 60 min, 90 min or 120 min, depending on the time available in the training session

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The participants are divided into working groups, each group between 5 and 8. The proposal for a project or work plan is distributed to the groups. The groups can be left free to choose a project or action plan to be implemented in their institution.
 - It is discussed and areas of intervention are identified to integrate UNSCR 1325 within this project. All proposals are discussed and optimum intervention is selected and determined.
 - When determining the optimal intervention, it should be based on an analysis of the organization's internal environment through an analysis of strengths and weaknesses, as well as an analysis of the general external context, including its opportunities and threats.
 - Write down the results on the flipchart to discuss them with the rest of the group.
- 

Third exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to enable participants to plan an advocacy campaign in the field of activation and implementation of UNSCR 1325
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the main ideas of the advocacy campaign on one of the problems related to the axes of UNSCR 1325 are discussed.

Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

- Explain the importance for the campaign to include all women and girls in Lebanon without any discrimination and to be based on human rights values and principles.
- Explain the importance of focusing on situations that limit the ability of women and girls to enjoy and access human rights resources and to justice.
- Focus on gender-based violations against the most vulnerable women and girls in Lebanon.

- Tools and material required:

Flip chart with pens for each group, cards, papers and colored pens with adhesives, and work can be based on a printout: Planning advocacy campaigns for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, which are attached at the end of the guide.

- Required time: 120 min, 180 min or 240 min, depending on the time available in the training session

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The participants are divided into working groups of 5 to 8. The publication is distributed to the groups.
- Write down the results on flipchart sheets and paste them on the wall sequentially to be discussed with the rest of the group.
- The issue of advocacy is identified and discussed after a problem is identified and analyzed using the problem tree method as follows:
 1. The trunk: the problem raised
 2. The branches: symbolize the ramifications of the problem
 3. The roots: the causes of the problem are formed at various levels
 4. The boxes: they are the phenomena, effects and results caused by this problem and its ramifications
 5. Do research and analysis about the problem raised
- Determine the goal and objectives of the campaign
- Identify the stakeholders and the targets of the campaign and analyze their situation
- Define campaign policies or strategies
- Define the campaign slogan and messages
- Develop a plan to implement the campaign
- Develop a plan to monitor and evaluate the campaign

EXERCISES OF PART I I

Exercises topic

UNSCR 1325 and the security sector

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to control the importance of the security sector's work within the umbrella of UNSCR 1325 in Lebanon.
- Execution of the exercise:

Within the group work, the topic is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

One of the strategic objectives included in the National Plan for UNSCR 1325 in Lebanon is to improve prevention and protection mechanisms in the security, legal and health sectors in order to meet the needs of women. Among the means to achieve this, according to the plan:

- Develop unified definitions of types of VAW for the benefit of the Internal Security Forces (ISF), courts and hospitals in accordance with agreed international standards and service centers to improve and analyze all data.
- Establish a coordination system for health services, the judiciary, the police and social services, to improve the protection of girls and women.
- Establish a unit for women (within the ISF) and train workers to receive complaints and make referrals through the hotline.
- Develop comprehensive national curricula on law enforcement, judiciary, social affairs, and health framework for effective handling of GBV.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- How important is the text of the National Plan on UNSCR 1325 in Lebanon for this goal?
- What are the chances for achieving it?
- What are the obstacles and challenges that will limit the capabilities of the security sector in contributing to the improvement of prevention and protection mechanisms?
- What are the procedures and guidelines that the security sector is required to adhere to in order to carry out this mission?

- Tools and material needed: flipchart, pens

- Time: ninety minutes.

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The objective of this exercise is to analyze the situation of the security sector in Lebanon in relation to UNSCR 1325, based on what was stated in the National Plan for Lebanon. But it can be a good starting point regardless of the plan, and it could be useful to implement it with different security groups (military institution, public security), each in its position and field of work.
- It is necessary for the facilitator to know and read in advance the actions and measures taken by the security sector.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) is useful. However, it can only be used in the proposed form with the security sector. It can be used in other contexts and courses if the training group is composed of individuals from organizations or the media sector.

The second exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to control the role of the security forces in combating domestic violence in Lebanon in accordance with Law No. 293
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the topic is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

It tackled the Law on the Protection of Women and Other Family Members from Domestic Violence in its articles 4 to 11. Law 293 has made many changes in terms of domestic violence in Lebanon, especially concerning the capabilities and reaction of the security services to domestic violence issues.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- What was the importance of the adoption of Law No. 293 for the role of the security sector in Lebanon in addressing domestic violence?
 - What are the gaps that still exist? What are the factors that contribute to the persistence of these challenges and gaps?
 - Are there any special obstacles that affect the role of the security sector in protecting refugee women from domestic violence?
 - How can they be overcome and what is required for giving a greater role to the judicial police in addressing domestic violence in Lebanon?
 - What are the procedures and guiding principles that the security sector must adhere to in order to carry out the task of responding to domestic violence?
- Tools and material required: copy of Law 293, screen, flip chart, pens
 - Time: ninety minutes.

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The objective of this exercise is to identify the role of the security sector in Lebanon in protecting against domestic violence based on the Law No. 293 but it is necessary to focus on the context related to women refugees and conflict situations.
- It is necessary for the facilitator to familiarize with the international and national legal framework relevant to protection from domestic violence.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the three groups suggested in this guide (organizations, security sector, media) is useful. However, it can only be used in the proposed form with the security sector. It can be used in other contexts and courses if the training group is composed of individuals from organizations or the media sector.

EXERCISES OF PART I I

Exercises topic

UNSCR 1325 and the media

First exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to analyze approaches to media work according to human rights approaches
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the general discussion, the problematic issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

In one of the social programs, which was shown on one of the media channels in Lebanon, a report entitled "She turned into a sex machine at the age of ten"

The group is asked to analyze the report and approaches to analyzing, presenting and addressing the issue from a human rights perspective, and answer the following questions:

- What are the most prominent issues included in the report that contradict human rights approaches?
- What is the impact of this approach on the "rights holders" and the "issue"?
- Through the analysis of the report, what are the needs that should be worked on to enhance approaches to media work in accordance with a human rights-based approach?

- Tools and material required:

Screen, flip chart, colored pencils.

- Time: Sixty minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The objective of this exercise is simply to identify the approaches to how the media handle girls' issues.
- The facilitator must have a good understanding of what is meant by human rights based approach.
- The facilitator needs to be familiar with different examples to support the exercise.
- This report can be presented at the beginning of training offered to media groups on media issues according to human rights approaches, because it is not directly related to UNSCR 1325 but is useful for introducing the topic.
- Adapting this exercise to work with the media sector would be useful.

Second exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: to identify the role of the media in revealing women's political participation during uprisings
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the problematic issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

In 2019, a popular movement appeared from Sudan to Iraq to Lebanon.

Sudan's "Kandakas" broke the image of Sudanese women and carried the banner of the revolution that ended with the victory of the people.

Women of Najaf and the rest of the Iraqi cities gave a different image of Mesopotamia.

In a similar context, the anti-government demonstrations that swept Lebanon were characterized by an active and intensive presence of women who constituted the driving force of the movement. They were in the front lines and provided men with support and strength. The role of women in this revolution was not only a symbolic one, it rather constituted a radical turning point. A revealing and memorable picture taken on the first night of protests, of a clash between the guards of one of the ministers and the demonstrators, show a woman named Malak Alawyah kicking one of the guards, who was threatening her with his gun, under his belly.

In the three countries, women became real icons.

The group is asked to answer the following questions:

- How did the media contribute to highlighting the role of women in the revolution?
- What is the impact of this on the position of women in the three countries where women are still subjected to discrimination and excluded from participation in public life.

- Tools and material required:

Screen, flip chart, colored pencils.

- Time: Sixty minutes.

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- These are simple examples, so other examples that are more relevant to the context of the training on women's participation in the uprisings can also be used.
- It is important not to undertake in the exercise a discussion of the issue of women's political participation in the context of the uprisings, but rather the role of the media as to these issues.
- It is necessary for the discussion and presentation to address two interrelated issues: How did the media deal with the issue of participation of women in the popular uprisings? What was the effect of that?



Third exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: The role of the media in approaching issues of sexual violence in conflict context
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise with the following considerations:

Reem Ali, a Syrian doctor, says: "I participated in a summit on the phenomenon of sexual violence in conflict areas especially in Syria. During my field work, I observed many cases of sexual violence against Syrian women, including cases of forced marriage in which minors as young as 12 or 14 are forced to marry older men or foreigners only because their social and material conditions are difficult. I have heard very bitter experiences told by Syrian women who are victims of this systematic violence. What makes the situation even more complicated is the society's lack of awareness of the seriousness of violence and sexual assault during conflict. I always call to organize local events and activities to raise social awareness about this type of violation and shed more light on it so that they do not remain unknown and to push victims to speak up. Documenting cases of sexual violence is one of the most challenging aspects of our work. Sometimes documentation seems almost impossible, moreover, survivors of sexual violence crimes are unable to talk about what they were exposed to it because of the social stigma and fear of the opinion of their relatives."

Through this short story, the group is asked to:

- Analyze the role that the media played in your opinion in disclosing violations against Syrian women and in changing attitudes towards them, and the values and images of them.
- How did the media deal with the issue of sexual violence against refugee women? What were the strengths? The weaknesses and the gaps? their causes?

- Tools and material required:

Screen, flip chart, colored pencils.

- Time: Sixty minutes.

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The preamble included in this exercise is just a simple example, so it is possible to use other examples that are more related to the context of the training on sexual violence against refugee women through UN reports, or reports by national or local institutions. Also a written or visual report of a particular issue can be used and analyzed.
- It is important not to undertake in the exercise a discussion of the issue of sexual violence against refugee women, but rather the role of the media as to these issues.
- It is necessary for the discussion and presentation to address two interrelated issues: How did the media deal with the issue of sexual violence against refugee women? What was the effect of that?

Fourth exercise:

- Objective of the exercise: Analyze the media's approaches in Lebanon to the Chez Maurice case
- Execution of this exercise:

Within the group work, the issue is discussed. Preparation is made for the exercise of the following data:

About 87 women were trafficked into Lebanon in 2016, 94% of them are Syrians, according to a field study that concluded that trafficking in women in Lebanon increased by about 500% between 2015 and 2016. The number of women who fell victim to trafficking in Lebanon increased from 19 women in 2015 to 87 in 2016, i.e. an increase of 500%. This is the most prominent conclusion reached by a study on "Prostitution and trafficking in women in the eastern suburbs of Beirut", which was prepared last year by the Euro-Mediterranean Women's Foundation in cooperation with the Lebanese Women's Rights Committee, and was published last April. The study pointed out that about 94% of the victims are Syrian women (82 victims), indicating that the flow of displaced Syrians and the concentration of the majority of them in Beirut played a prominent role in exacerbating this phenomenon. The study mentioned a new type of trafficking in women; it is the so called "fake marriage". Traffickers marry Syrian girls who are no more than 15 in order to force them to work in prostitution or as beggars.

The group is asked to analyze the approaches of the media in Lebanon to the Chez Maurice case.

- Tools and material required:
Screen, flip chart, colored pencils
- Time: one hundred and twenty minutes

Tips to facilitate this exercise:

- The preamble in this exercise is just a simple example, so other examples that are more relevant to the context can be used for training.
- It is important not to undertake in the exercise a discussion of the Chez Maurice case which shook Lebanon, but rather the role of the media as to this issue.
- It is necessary for the discussion and presentation to address two interrelated issues: How did the media deal with the Chez Maurice case? What was the effect of that on the issue and on the victims?



APPENDIX

Support material for the exercises and the training

The price of war paid by women

We are still here: Women on the frontlines of the Syrian conflict

In a report released today, Human Rights Watch said that women in Syria have been subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention, physical harm, harassment, and torture during the Syrian conflict, by the regular forces and their militias, as well as by opposition armed groups. The United Nations Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW Committee) will conduct a review of the situation of Syrian women on the 4th of July 2014 in Geneva.

The 47-page report, "We Are Still Here: Women on the Frontlines of the Syrian Conflict," follows the fates of 17 Syrian women who are now refugees in Turkey. Through the written description and the images, the report documents the impact of the Syrian conflict on women in particular. Women observed by the report have been subjected to violations at the hands of the regular forces and those loyal to it, as well as at the hands of opposition armed groups, such as Liwa al-Islam, and extremist groups such as The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL). Women activists and aid workers said they were threatened, arrested and detained arbitrarily and also tortured by government forces or armed opposition forces. All six former women detainees were also exposed to physical abuse or torture in detention, and one woman was sexually assaulted many times. Other women said they were victims of discriminatory restrictions on their dress and movement. Many women have been hurt or have lost family members in indiscriminate attacks on civilians by the governmental forces.

"Women are not exempt from the brutality of conflict," said Elisel Gertholtz, Women's Rights Director at Human Rights Watch. However, it is not just a passive victim. Women are taking on increasing responsibilities - whether by choice or because of circumstances. But they should not pay the price in the form of intimidation, detention and abuse, or even torture."

The UN Commission's Review is an opportunity to highlight the plight of women in Syria - especially that the Syrian government and many non-State actors are committing violations against women and girls in a climate of total impunity, according to Human Rights Watch. The Commission should urge the Syrian government to cease all arbitrary arrests and detentions and all forms of violence against women, investigate those violations, and hold those responsible accountable. And the Commission should during its review assess the State party's compliance with its obligations under CEDAW and recommend actions to be taken to improve the situation of women and girls.

The United Nations Security Council, the Syrian government, and other parties should, according to Human Rights Watch be concerned with ensuring full and serious representation and participation of women in all future peace talks or negotiations, as well as all the subsequent policy making and peace building.

The report is based on interviews with 27 refugees and with representatives of 7 service providers in Gaziantep and Kilis, Turkey, in March and April 2014. Several women told Human Rights Watch that regular forces or non-State armed groups harassed, threatened or detained them because of their peaceful activism, including planning and participation in peaceful demonstrations, and humanitarian aid given to Syrians in need. Other women described their experiences when they had to provide for their families after their male relatives had been arrested by government forces, or injured or killed in indiscriminate attacks against civilian areas by armed groups.

Maysa, 30, was providing medical assistance to civilians and working for a pro-opposition satellite channel, before being arrested by some government security forces in Damascus in April 2013. Security forces beat her at night with a green thick hose: "They slapped me in the face, dragged me by the hair, hit me on my feet, on my back, and everywhere." The women who were observed by the report were referred to by first name only, or by a pseudonym, depending on the particular security situation of each of them.

Non-state armed groups have also harassed and detained women reviewed in the report, imposing discriminatory policies against women and girls, including restrictions on dress and freedom of movement. Kant Berevan, 24 years old, is a Syrian Kurd, providing medical assistance to people living in the besieged Yarmouk camp in Damascus when she was detained by the non-state armed group Liwa al-Islam. Berevan was released after 10 days, but when she tried to reopen her rudimentary pharmacy in the camp, ISIS threatened her because she was wearing a headscarf without an abaya. She said, "They told me, 'If we see you like this' again, we will kill you. If we see you in this area, we will hang you."

Others told Human Rights Watch that they were injured or lost relatives in indiscriminate attacks on civilian areas. Many of them became the main breadwinners for their families as a result of the conflict. Four of Amal's five children were killed in bombing with barrel bombs on Aleppo in July 2013. Shortly after this, her husband suffered a stroke, which left him partially paralyzed with a speech disability. So Amal, 44, has to take care of him. In March, the family left for Turkey to seek medical treatment and rehabilitation for the husband. There they slept in an open park and depended on food aid to survive.

Since the start of the Syrian uprising in March 2011, Human Rights Watch has conducted investigative missions in Syria, Turkey, Lebanon, Jordan, and Iraqi Kurdistan to document human rights violations by all parties to the conflict, including operations of arbitrary arrest and detention, torture, discriminatory restrictions against women and girls, summary executions, unlawful demolitions of residential quarters, use of chemical and incendiary weapons.

In accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and CEDAW, which was ratified by the Syrian government in 2003, all parties to the conflict must take measures to protect women and girls from violence during conflict, including sexual violence and violence based on, but not limited to, gender. UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW also obligate state parties to hold officials accountable for such violations and provide medical, psychological and socio-economic support to women, and guarantee the participation of women at all levels in peace negotiations and peace initiatives.

Elisel Gertholtz said: "The women of Syria have faced heavy losses, yet they persevere as activists, care givers and humanitarian actors. The international community should hold the Syrian government and armed groups accountable for the violations perpetrated against women and girls. Donor governments must help meet their immediate needs and press for women's effective participation in determining the future of Syria."

Planning advocacy campaigns for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions

These campaigns can be prepared for by asking the following questions:

What do we want? (Objectives)

The efforts of any advocacy campaign must begin with setting goals. But it is important to distinguish between the goals we want to achieve through an advocacy campaign. In other words, there are long-term and short-term goals. The objectives related to the content must also be defined (example: make a policy change related to UNSCR 1325, develop an Action Plan, amend a law, or pass a specific law related to UNSCR 1325). The objectives of the operations must be defined (example: build a network or an alliance of organizations or individuals who are active for UNSCR 1325). These objectives should be set out from the start in a way that enables the execution of planned activities, the mobilization of individuals, and the achievement of continuity.

To whom? (Targeted groups, key actors, power holders)

Which people and which institutions do we want to influence, change, or mobilize to take a particular decision or action? Do we want to pressure the National Commission for Lebanese Women to speed up the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Plan? Or do we want to pressure with the National Commission on ministries to have them incorporate UNSCR 1325 into their policies or within the general budget, or on Parlia-

ment to pass new laws related to Women, Peace and Security? This, of course, includes those who have the official authority to allocate resources in the form of goods and services (such as legislators). This also includes those who have the power to influence those with official authority (such as public figures and notable physical entities, whether supportive to or opponent of the cause being advocated). Also key actions to approach them, influence them and push them to move towards supporting the cause in question should be determined.

What do they need to hear? (Message/messages)?

Reaching out to the actors and the targeted people or institutions requires the formulation of a set of disguised messages. The message should start with the facts rooted in the case/claim that is subject of the advocacy and according to the target person and what he/she wishes to hear so that he/she can be attracted to the issue. In most cases, advocacy messages include direct address and emphasize: what is right, and the self-interest of the target audience. In order to be able to produce good messages, we must have ample reports/information related to the content of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions, collected, prepared and reflective of the reality of the country and the reality of women in it in the field of security and peace, especially that the level of available knowledge as to UNSCR 1325 is expected to be weak among the actors and the targeted persons or institutions.

Who can deliver these messages? Who can make them hear what they want to hear? (Messengers)

Reaching out to the actors and the targeted people or institutions requires the formulation of a set of disguised messages. The message should start with the facts rooted in the case/claim that is subject of the advocacy and according to the target person and what he/she wishes to hear so that he/she can be attracted to the issue. In most cases, advocacy messages include direct address and emphasize: what is right, and the self-interest of the target audience. It is necessary to ascertain the capabilities, capacities and knowledge of the people who deliver messages of UNSCR 1325 and all issues related to Women, Peace and Security.

How can we get them to listen? (Message delivery)

There is pressure or direct face-to-face communication and other means. The key to success is to monitor these means and use them efficiently, and that they are suitable for the areas of focus of UNSCR 1325 and its complementary resolutions.

What do we have? (Resources)

There is pressure or direct face-to-face communication and other means. The key to success is to monitor these means and use them efficiently.

What needs to be developed? (Gaps)

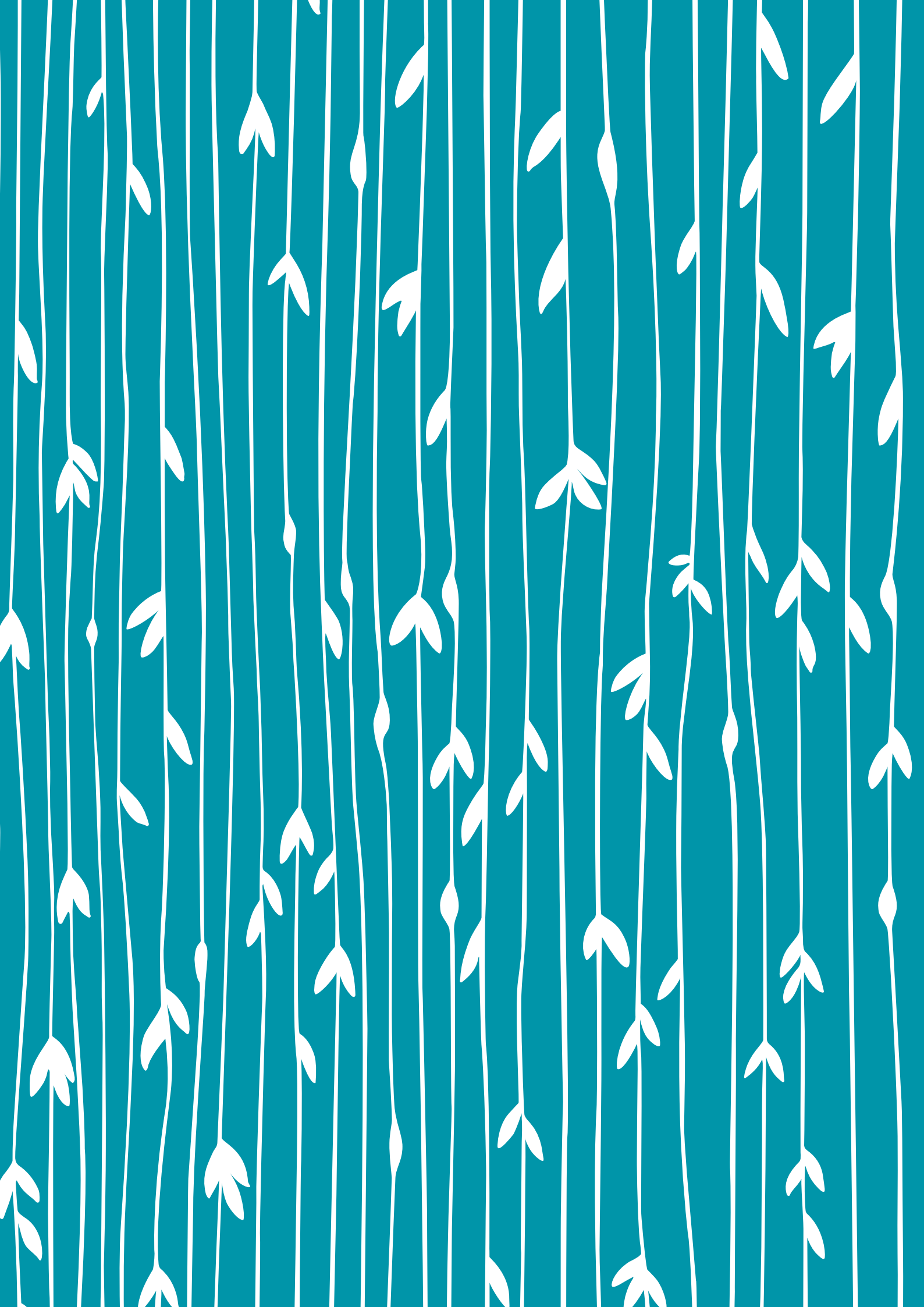
After the resources available for the advocacy campaign are counted, the resources we need to organize this campaign and are not available to us are to be determined. Of course, this means looking for alliances to be built and capabilities we need, such as awareness raising, media and research, which are considered crucial to any advocacy effort.

How do we start? (Step One / Planning)

What is the first step we can take that will have an impact in moving our advocacy strategy forward? What are some potential short-term goals or activities to start with and get the support of the right people together and give a boost, even if symbolically? This would help make progress on the ground, in preparation for the next steps.

How can you say that the advocacy campaign is working? (Evaluation)

Are we heading in the right direction? The strategy needs to be evaluated and all previous questions revised (Are we addressing the target audience? Do we communicate with them? Is the medium used to deliver the message sound? Corrections must be made mid-way and the elements of the strategy that do not work upon trial must be moved away.









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