



# FACTSHEET: WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA REGION

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## INTRODUCTION

This factsheet seeks to give an overview of the status of women in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)<sup>1</sup> following the uprisings that swept the region in 2011. It also discusses the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and the extent of progress towards its goals, more than 15 years after the adoption of this landmark resolution on Women, Peace and Security.

While Women, Peace and Security in the MENA region is a broad topic, this factsheet focuses on two main themes: (1) violence against women and girls in conflict and (2) women's political participation and leadership.

The factsheet first highlights the different manifestations of gender-based threats and risks that women face, including increased sexual violence, forced and early marriage, and rape in the context of conflict. The second section looks at the limited number of women in decision making and peace processes.

## CONTEXT

The MENA region has experienced continuing violence and instability since the outbreak of the various uprisings in the Arab world in late 2010. The uprisings sparked in Tunisia spread out in Egypt, Algeria and Morocco. The conflict in Syria which began in 2011 is ongoing; it was followed by the outbreak of conflict in Libya, Yemen and Iraq, where violence also continues today.

According to the UNHCR, in 2015 the number of refugees resulting from the Syrian crisis was the biggest worldwide, with around 7.6 million Syrians displaced internally and another 3.8 million Syrians seeking refuge in other countries. Iraq's crisis has generated around 2.6 million refugees to date; in Libya it has resulted in around 309,000 refugees.<sup>2</sup> Yemen's ongoing conflict led to the internal displacement of around 2.3 million individuals, and this number has been gradually increasing.<sup>3</sup>



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Women and children make up 75 percent of Syrian refugees.<sup>4</sup> Research has shown that increased political instability and armed violence increases the vulnerability of women, who, in times of conflict and displacement, are disproportionately impacted by the disruption of livelihoods, access to resources, essential services and the coping mechanisms of more stable times, and are more likely than men to become subject to sexual and gender-based violence.<sup>5</sup>

MENA is also a passage region for people seeking refuge in Europe by sea, resulting in an increase in smuggling and trafficking under extremely harsh travel conditions.<sup>6</sup>

As poverty, inequality and the struggle for control of power and resources in the region – and globally – grows,<sup>7</sup> there has been a dramatic rise of extremist and fundamentalist groups whose modus operandi is to spread instability, fear and violence. Today, this is heightened by the consequences of conflicts in Syria and Iraq. The goals of such groups are to take over territories and control economies, and to target minorities and the most vulnerable people by killing in the name of religion. The most recent and alarming human right violations have been carried out by the rising group ‘Daesh’, also known as ISIS or ISIL, the three terminologies refer to the same group.<sup>8</sup> This group, which uses violence, including sexual violence against women – as tactic to generate fear<sup>9</sup> has forced around eight million people to ‘assimilate, flee, or face death’.<sup>10</sup>

## UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted the first resolution specifically on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325). The resolution recognizes and addresses the changing nature of conflict, whereby civilians are increasingly targeted and women are excluded from conflict management and conflict prevention processes.

UNSCR 1325 calls for the active participation of women in achieving peace and security through conflict resolution, conflict prevention and post-conflict management.<sup>11</sup>

The core pillars of the resolution are prevention, protection and participation. It also notes the importance of women in the preservation of international peace and security, and calls for their involvement on an equal basis with men in dealing with peace and security issues.<sup>12</sup>

UNSCR 1325 also calls for the UN Secretary General to provide all member states with training guidelines and materials on the protection, rights and particular needs of women. Member States are required to incorporate and implement these elements in their peacekeeping and peace-building measures. Furthermore, it calls on states to increase their funding for financial, technical and logistical support for gender-sensitive training efforts within UN peacekeeping operations.<sup>13</sup>

In 2005, the Security Council called upon member states to implement UNSCR 1325 by creating a National

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1 MENA countries in this factsheet include: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Occupied Palestinian Territories, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen

2 <http://www.unhcr.org/558193896.html>

3 <http://www.unocha.org/yemen>

4 <http://data.unhcr.org/syrianrefugees/syria.php>

5 [http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div\\_editor/Download.asp?table\\_name=ecw\\_other&field\\_name=id&fileID=397](http://www.escwa.un.org/divisions/div_editor/Download.asp?table_name=ecw_other&field_name=id&fileID=397)

<http://www.gsdrc.org/topic-guides/gender/gender-in-fragile-and-conflict-affected-environments/>

6 <http://www.unhcr.org/5461e5f6b.html>

7 [http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en\\_0.pdf](http://www.oxfamamerica.org/static/media/files/bp210-economy-one-percent-tax-havens-180116-en_0.pdf)

8 DAESH: Al-Dawla al-Islamiya al-Iraq al-Sham (Arabic for Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant) ISIL: Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant or ISIS: Islamic State of Iraq and Syria. <http://www.theweek.co.uk/isis/62422/islamic-state-daesh-or-isis-the-dilemma-of-naming-the-militants>

9 <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB187-Conflict-and-Extremist-Related-Sexual-Violence.pdf>

10 <http://www.un.org/apps/news/story.asp?NewsID=51542#.Vi4dh9rLiw>

11 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/osagi/wps/>

12 [http://www.usip.org/gender\\_peacebuilding/about\\_UNSCR\\_1325](http://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325)

13 <http://www.un.org/en/events/womensday/2001/background.shtml>

Action Plan that will identify resources and responsibilities as well as increase their commitment to action.<sup>14</sup>

Despite the rising instability and conflicts in MENA, currently only two states in the region have developed National Action Plans to implement UNSCR 1325 – namely Iraq<sup>15</sup> and Occupied Palestinian Territories, which launched action plans in 2014.<sup>16</sup>

The 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 and the global review of its implementation led to the adoption of UNSCR 2242 in October 2015, which emphasizes the need to implement and commit to the pillars of UNSCR 1325. This new resolution calls for an increase in women’s representation at all levels of decision making and state-building, being national, regional as well as international. It also stresses the need to budget for gender advisers in all UN missions. UNSCR 2242 responds to the rising extremism in the MENA region; it emphasizes the importance of women’s participation in countering terrorism<sup>17</sup> by recognizing the impacts of counter-terrorism strategies on women’s human rights as well as the role of women’s rights organizations in developing strategies to counter terrorism and violent extremism.

## I. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN CONFLICT

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is the most widespread human rights violation in the world.<sup>18</sup> VAWG takes various forms, including physical abuse, sexual assault, psychological abuse as well as economic abuse; women can be subjected to one form of violence or many forms simultaneously.<sup>19</sup>

VAWG occurs in conflict and non-conflict situations. The high incidences and impacts of VAWG in peacetime are heightened in instability, crisis and conflict settings.<sup>20</sup> WHO 2013 statistics indicate that at least 35 percent of women worldwide have been victims of violence at the hands of a partner or non-partner during their lifetime; given underreporting, it is likely that the actual figure is higher.<sup>21</sup> Intimate partner violence is the most common form of VAWG, and home is often the most dangerous place for women.

It is estimated that 37 percent of women in the East Mediterranean/MENA region experience intimate partner violence.<sup>22</sup>

With the rise of conflict and insecurity in the MENA region since 2010, an increase of VAWG has been recorded.<sup>23</sup> Research has shown a systemic correlation between the rise in sexual violence in conflict and the prevalence of gender-based violence as well as women’s exclusion from politics.<sup>24</sup>

In 2008, the UN Security Council recognized conflict-related sexual violence as a threat to international peace and security. There are multiple causes of conflict-related sexual violence, which vary between legal, economic and social contexts. Studies have shown a correlation between gender inequality and conflict, whereby states with big gender gaps are more prone to conflict.<sup>25</sup> It is important to note that there is a trend of armed groups using sexual violence as a tactic of terror. It has been reported that sexual violence is not incidental, but rather is closely related to the aims and ideology of extremists: spreading fear, increasing revenue through selling girls and women, and increasing religious conversions through forced marriages.<sup>26</sup>

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14 [http://www.usip.org/gender\\_peacebuilding/about\\_UNSCR\\_1325](http://www.usip.org/gender_peacebuilding/about_UNSCR_1325)

15 [http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&id=1617:government-of-iraq-launches-its-national-action-plan-on-un-security-council-resolution-1325-2014-2018&Itemid=605&lang=en](http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&id=1617:government-of-iraq-launches-its-national-action-plan-on-un-security-council-resolution-1325-2014-2018&Itemid=605&lang=en)

16 UNSCR 1325 in Palestine: Strengthening or Disciplining Women’s Peace Activism? <http://www.e-ir.info/2012/12/28/unscr-1325-in-palestine-strengthening-or-disciplining-womens-peace-activism/>

17 <http://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/N1531109.pdf>

18 <http://www.unfpa.org/gender-based-violence>

19 [http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/pressmaterials/unite\\_the\\_situation\\_en.pdf](http://www.un.org/en/women/endviolence/pdf/pressmaterials/unite_the_situation_en.pdf)

20 [https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/271932/VAWG-humanitarian-emergencies.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/271932/VAWG-humanitarian-emergencies.pdf)

21 [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf)

22 [http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625\\_eng.pdf](http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/85239/1/9789241564625_eng.pdf)

23 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203)

24 Ibid.

25 <http://www.usip.org/sites/default/files/PB187-Conflict-and-Extremist-Related-Sexual-Violence.pdf>

26 [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_2015\\_203.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_2015_203.pdf)

It is also crucial to stress the difficulty of obtaining valid data on sexual violence in conflict. The various reasons for this include fear, insecurity and lack of 'normal' security and justice protection and reporting mechanisms which lead to mass underreporting,<sup>27</sup> lack of adequate services for women and girls, and challenges in data collection.<sup>28</sup> As stated in the 2015 Global Study,<sup>29</sup> the overall data available show gaps in numbers and statistics that highlight needs on the ground.

This factsheet discusses the following types of VAWG: gender-based violence, early and forced marriage, slavery and trafficking, as well as threats against women human rights defenders in the MENA region.

## Key facts on VAWG in the MENA region

- A study on women Syrian refugees in Lebanon<sup>30</sup> found that overcrowding and lack of facilities contributed to gender-based violence in refugee communities.
- In Jordan, 28 percent of the women refugee community have reported that they left Syria fearing violence, including sexual and gender-based violence. Almost all of them claimed increased violence from their partners on arrival in Jordan.<sup>31</sup>
- There has been a systematic rise in sexual violence against girls and women in Iraq, especially among the Christian minority and Yezidis aged between 8 and 35. Women are sold at different prices according to their age.<sup>32</sup>
- A pattern of sexual violence, slavery, abduction and trafficking of women carried out by ISIL has been recorded in Iraq.<sup>33</sup>
- Of 105 girls and women who survived abduction by ISIL in Iraq, on medical examination 66.6 percent showed signs of having been raped.<sup>34</sup>
- From 2014 there has been an alarming increase in reports of sexual violence such as rape, slavery and forced marriage<sup>35</sup> in Syria, Yemen and Iraq as well as other countries in conflict.
- A 2013 joint HarassMap/UN survey revealed that 99.3 percent of women in Egypt have been harassed.<sup>36</sup> The NGOs Nazra for Feminist Studies and Operation Anti Sexual Harassment reported that 85 cases of sexual assault and rape took place during the protests in Tahrir Square in July 2013.<sup>37</sup>
- In Yemen, between 2010 and 2011, 32 percent of girls were married before the age of 18. Occupied Palestinian Territories had the second highest rate of early marriage at 19 percent, followed by Iraq and Egypt, where around 17 percent of girls were married before the age of 18.<sup>38</sup> Early marriage often occurs as a consequence of financial instability and harsh living conditions; it can also be a strategy to hide the fact that a young girl has been raped or abused.<sup>39</sup>
- A study on child marriage by UNICEF claims that in Jordan, the proportion of registered child marriages among the Syrian refugee community rose from 12 percent in 2011 (roughly the same as the figure in pre-conflict Syria) to 18 percent in 2012, and to as high as 25 percent by 2013.<sup>40</sup> In Lebanon, 23 percent

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27 <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/genderstatmanual/Print.aspx?Page=Violence-against-women-surveys>

28 <http://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/countries/syrian-arab-republic/>

29 <http://wps.unwomen.org/-/media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>

30 Dimensions of gender-based violence against Syrian refugees in Lebanon  
<http://www.fmreview.org/en/detention/anani.pdf>

31 <http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2013/7/report-web%20pdf.pdf>

32 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203)

33 Ibid.

34 <https://www.hrw.org/news/2015/04/14/iraq-isis-escapees-describe-systematic-rape>

35 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203)

36 [http://harassmap.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/287\\_Summaryreport\\_eng\\_low-1.pdf](http://harassmap.org/en/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/287_Summaryreport_eng_low-1.pdf)

37 [https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/egypt\\_sexual\\_violence\\_uk-webfinal.pdf](https://www.fidh.org/IMG/pdf/egypt_sexual_violence_uk-webfinal.pdf)

38 <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MarryingTooYoung.pdf>

39 [http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E\\_ESCWA\\_ECW\\_15\\_WG-2\\_REPORT\\_E.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_ECW_15_WG-2_REPORT_E.pdf)

40 UNICEF: A Study on Early Marriages in Jordan 2014

[http://www.unicef.org/jordan/UNICEFJordan\\_EarlyMarriageStudy2014-E\\_COPY\\_.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/jordan/UNICEFJordan_EarlyMarriageStudy2014-E_COPY_.pdf)

of women refugees from Syria were married before the age of 18.<sup>41</sup>

- Since the outbreak of conflict in Yemen, Syria and Libya, research has shown a correlation between the rise of extremist armed groups and the increase in forced marriages.<sup>42</sup>
- **If the current rate of forced marriage continues worldwide, around 140 million girls will enter into forced marriages by 2020; 50 million of them will be under 15 years old.**<sup>43</sup>

## Threats against women human rights defenders

Despite the adoption of Resolution 53/144 in 1999 by the UN General Assembly on the protection of human rights defenders,<sup>44</sup> and the adoption in 2013 of the first ever resolution focusing on the protection of women human rights defenders (Resolution 68/181),<sup>45</sup> both women and men human rights defenders still face many risks. It is important to note that women human rights defenders face specific types of challenges and threats because of their sex.<sup>46</sup> These can be physical, moral, emotional and judicial; **they include killing and assassinations, abductions, death threats, severe beatings and torture, arbitrary arrests, harassment and unfair trials.**<sup>47</sup>

- In 2012, 51 urgent appeals by Front Line Defenders (the International Foundation for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders) were made for human rights defenders in 14 countries in the MENA region, including Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Western Sahara and Yemen.<sup>48</sup>
- Women human rights defenders in Iraq face multiple risks and threats of killings and attacks. In Bahrain, Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Tunisia they face threats at the judicial level, such as arrests and travel restrictions.<sup>49</sup>
- **In the region, especially in Tunisia, Bahrain, Algeria and Morocco, a trend has been recorded of the use of physical abuse against women human rights defenders and women working on gender issues.** The physical abuses are not carried out in a formal setting but inflicted through random attacks and beatings.<sup>50</sup>
- In Libya, the assassination of prominent women human rights defenders and activists such as Salwa Bugaighis and Intissar al-Hassaeri<sup>51</sup> highlights the extent of impunity, which further discriminates against and violates women's rights.
- In Iraq, between 2003 and 2013, 28 female journalists were assassinated.<sup>52</sup>
- In Yemen, human rights defender Majda Al-Haddad received threats by phone and on social media, which forced her to flee her country.<sup>53</sup>

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41 <http://www.sciences-po.usj.edu.lb/pdf/News%20Brief%20Too%20Young%20To%20Wed.pdf>

42 [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/2015/203)

43 [http://www.unicef.org/media/media\\_68114.html](http://www.unicef.org/media/media_68114.html)

44 [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/53/144](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/53/144)

45 [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/181](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/181)

46 <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Women/WRGS/Pages/HRDefenders.aspx>

47 <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FactSheet29en.pdf>

48 [https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/files/frontline\\_annual\\_report2013\\_0\\_2.pdf](https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/files/frontline_annual_report2013_0_2.pdf)

49 <http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G10/178/70/PDF/G1017870.pdf?OpenElement>

50 Ibid.

51 <https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/node/28150>

52 <http://www.refworld.org/docid/55b610224.html>

53 <http://www.gc4hr.org/report/view/36>

## II. WOMEN'S POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

Women's leadership and participation in decision making is one of the fundamental building blocks for lasting peace and conflict prevention. Yet despite the fact that UNSCR 1325 stresses the importance of women's participation in decision making, women's political participation remains low at national, regional and global levels.

MENA is ranked the lowest of all regions by the Social Watch Gender Equity Index, which measures the gap between men and women in terms of education as well as at the economic and political levels.<sup>54</sup> The region is also ranked as having one of the lowest regional averages regarding women in Parliaments.<sup>55</sup>

### Women's participation in Parliaments in the MENA<sup>56</sup> region

- Globally, only 22.5 percent of women are members of Parliaments.
- In the MENA region, women make up only 19 percent of all Parliament members.
- Algeria, Tunisia and Iraq exceed the global average of women in Parliaments, with women's representation at 32 percent, 31 percent and 25 percent respectively.
- Lebanon, Syria, Morocco, Libya, Oman, Bahrain, Iran and Kuwait all fall below the regional and global averages, ranging between 1.5 percent and 18 percent representation; there are no women in the Parliaments of Yemen and Qatar.

### Women's participation in ministries in the MENA region

- There are a limited number of women ministers in the region; the country with the highest percentage of women ministers is Algeria, with 20 percent, followed by Morocco (15.8 percent), Egypt (11.8 percent), Jordan (11.1 percent), Tunisia (10.5 percent) and Yemen (9.7 percent). In Lebanon, Iraq, Oman, Qatar and Syria, the proportion of women ministers ranges from 4–6 percent. None of Saudi Arabia's 32 ministers are women.<sup>57</sup>
- **Women are usually given 'soft' ministries**, i.e. those that are perceived to be less strategically important. The top five ministries held by women around the world are: Social Affairs, Environment, Women's Affairs, Family, and Education.<sup>58</sup>

### Women's participation in judicial systems

- Women's participation and inclusion in decision making and the judicial system is also a prerequisite to ensuring women's fair access to justice.
- Globally in 2015, 34 percent of justice ministries were headed by women.
- **The percentage of women judges remains very low in MENA countries:** in Lebanon it is 20 percent, Occupied Palestinian Territories 4 percent, Yemen 2 percent, and Bahrain 0 percent.<sup>59</sup>
- Only three countries have reached 20 percent or more women judges: Tunisia (28 percent), Algeria (23 percent) and Morocco (20 percent).<sup>60</sup>

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54 [http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E\\_ESCWA\\_ECW\\_15\\_TP-3\\_E.pdf](http://www.escwa.un.org/information/publications/edit/upload/E_ESCWA_ECW_15_TP-3_E.pdf)

55 [http://ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15\\_en.pdf](http://ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15_en.pdf)

56 <http://www.ipu.org/wmn-e/arc/world010915.htm>

57 [http://ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15\\_en.pdf](http://ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15_en.pdf)

58 Ibid.

59 Ibid.

60 [http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15\\_en.pdf](http://www.ipu.org/pdf/publications/wmnmap15_en.pdf)

## Women's participation in peace talks

- There has been very little increase in women's participation in peace talks since the adoption of UNSCR 1325.<sup>61</sup>
- UN Women conducted a study on 31 global peace processes<sup>62</sup> from 1992–2011; it indicated that women constitute less than 4 percent of signatories of peace agreements, less than 10 percent of peace negotiators, and less than 4 percent of witnesses.
- Women have never been selected as heads of peace mediation teams in peace talks sponsored by the UN.<sup>63</sup>
- The Iraq and Yemen agreements in 2010 and 2011 did not include any women in mediation, signatures or witnessing.<sup>64</sup>
- The 2013–2014 National Dialogue Conference (NDC) in Yemen guaranteed almost 30 percent women's representation;<sup>65</sup> women also comprised 19 percent of the preparatory committee.<sup>66</sup> At the NDC, women occupied 152 out of the total 565 seats.<sup>67</sup>

## Women in peacekeeping missions

It is crucial to have women in peacekeeping missions in order to broaden skill sets, **ensure that women's needs and demands are taken into account, and promote women role models in countries torn by conflict and war.** Recruiting women ensures that women's rights and needs are pushed for<sup>68</sup> and helps with gaining trust in communities, particularly among women.<sup>69</sup>

The UN Peacekeeping Forces have four operations in the Middle East and one in Western Sahara:

1. United Nations Disengagement Observer Force (UNDOF)<sup>70</sup>
2. United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)<sup>71</sup>
3. United Nations Truce Supervision Organization (UNTSO)<sup>72</sup>
4. United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)<sup>73</sup>
5. United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO)<sup>74</sup>

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61 <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2012/10/wpsourcebook-03a-womenpeacenegotiations-en.pdf>

62 Ibid.

63 <http://www.unwomen.org/~media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2012/10/wpsourcebook-03a-womenpeacenegotiations-en.pdf>

64 <http://peacemaker.un.org/yemen-transition-mechanism2011>

65 <http://www.c-r.org/accord/legitimacy-and-peace-processes/yemen-national-dialogue-conference-managing-peaceful-change>

66 <http://wps.unwomen.org/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>

67 Oxfam Confidential Lobby Briefing: Our Country, Our Peace: Including Women in Yemen's Peace Process November 2015

68 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/women/womeninpk.shtml>

69 <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security>

70 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/undof/>

71 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/unifil/>

72 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/untso/>

73 [http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com\\_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=943&Itemid=637&lang=en](http://www.uniraq.org/index.php?option=com_k2&view=item&layout=item&id=943&Itemid=637&lang=en)

74 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/missions/minurso/>

## Middle East peacekeepers sex-disaggregated statistics 2011–2015

Year	2011 <sup>75</sup>		2012 <sup>76</sup>		2013 <sup>77</sup>		2014 <sup>78</sup>		2015 <sup>79</sup>	
Gender	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Mission										
UNAMI	274	17	376	16	260	13	262	12	230	13
UNDOF	997	42	1,004	32	1,134	32	1,224	47	772	26
UNIFIL	11,463	593	10,906	454	10,200	355	9,811	415	10,056	427
UNTSO	135	10	142	5	149	5	154	3	138	8
MINURSO	229	8	228	9	217	15	205	8	216	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13,098</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>12,656</b>	<b>516</b>	<b>11,960</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>11,656</b>	<b>485</b>	<b>11,412</b>	<b>491</b>

- Globally, the average proportion of women in all peacekeeping missions is just 4 percent. The average for the five UN missions in the MENA region, including Western Sahara, is also 4 percent. It is worth noting that from 2011 to 2015 this low average remained the same.
- One gender adviser has been appointed to the Middle East operation, in the UNIFIL peacekeeping mission. One gender focal point has been appointed to the Middle East, in the UNTSO peacekeeping mission.<sup>80</sup>
- With the exception of MINURSO, the number of female peacekeepers in all peacekeeping operations in the Middle East and Western Sahara decreased from 2011 to 2015.

## CONCLUSION

**More than 20** years after the Beijing Platform for Action in 1995, little progress has been made towards the goal of increasing women’s participation in decision making by 30 percent.<sup>81</sup> Despite its commitment to have gender parity in high level decision-making, the UN is not walking the talk. In 2015, men represented 92 percent of the highest level of UN staff. Only two women out of 24 undersecretaries-general were appointed. Currently only five UN peacekeeping missions are headed by women.<sup>82</sup> The new Sustainable Development Goals re-commit the global community to increasing women’s leadership at national levels and, for the first time, include a new target for women’s participation in local level decision-making.<sup>83</sup>

**More than 15** years after the birth of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, its implementation is still hindered by underfunding and by the marginalization of women – at a time when it is more important than ever to enlist women’s talents in the cause of combating extremism and promoting peace.

Donor countries invest billions of dollars in military security to counter violent extremism, but fail to allocate adequate resources to implement UNSC 1325. This lack of political will to generate funding deprives the world of a very effective response to radicalization.

**In 2015**, yet another resolution was adopted (UNSC 2242) to renew commitment for implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.<sup>84</sup>

There is an urgent need for the international community to shift their model of working with women’s rights organisations over time to help bridge the crisis and long-term development gap through simultaneous

75 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/gender/2011gender/aug11.pdf>

76 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/resources/statistics/gender.shtml>

77 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/gender/2013gender/aug13.pdf>

78 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/gender/2014gender/aug14.pdf>

79 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/contributors/gender/2015gender/aug15.pdf>

80 <http://www.un.org/en/peacekeeping/issues/women/wherewework.shtml>

81 [http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa\\_e\\_final\\_web.pdf](http://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf)

82 <http://peaceoperationsreview.org/commentary/the-lost-agenda-gender-parity-in-senior-un-appointments/>

83 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/?menu=1300>

84 <http://www.un.org/press/en/2015/sc12076.doc.htm>

(and not sequential) work on women's participation and leadership in resilience programming,<sup>85</sup> conflict prevention, peace building and protection programming. "When done well, gender-sensitive conflict analysis and early warning systems have the potential to contribute to more effective prevention."<sup>86</sup> Programme and policy work must set mechanisms to ensure women's participation in emergency, peace-building and protection interventions within the frame of longer-term ambitions. This will ensure women are also participating equally and meaningfully in the political arena and in the efforts towards nation and state building.

**We recommend the full implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and welcome the adoption of the new addition, UNSCR 2242, that was co-sponsored by 71 member states. This is a positive step towards greater participation of women in decision making processes, as well as the recognition of the vital role played by civil society and women's rights organizations in conflict prevention and management. Strong and sustained political will coupled with adequate funding are key prerequisites for effective implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.**

For more details, please see the Oxfam policy brief: *Women, Peace and Security: Keeping the Promise* (<http://oxf.am/ZWhA>).

### UN commitments to Women, Peace and Security

- **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979):** <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx>
- **The Beijing Platform for Action (1995):** <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/platform/>
- **General Assembly Resolution 53/144 on Right and Responsibility of Individuals, Groups and Organs of Society to Promote and Protect Universally Recognized Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (1999):** [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/53/144](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/53/144)
- **UNSCR 1325 (2000):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325\(2000\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1325(2000))
- **UNSCR 1820 (2008):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1820\(2008\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1820(2008))
- **UNSCR 1888 (2009):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1888\(2009\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1888(2009))
- **UNSCR1889 (2009):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1889\(2009\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1889(2009))
- **UNSCR1960 (2010):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1960\(2010\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/1960(2010))
- **UNSCR 2106 (2013):** [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2106.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2106.pdf)
- **UNSCR 2122 (2013):** [http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s\\_res\\_2122.pdf](http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2122.pdf)
- **General Assembly Resolution 68/181 on Women Human Rights Defenders (2013):** [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/181](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/68/181)
- **UNSCR 2242 (2015):** [http://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2242\(2015\)](http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=S/RES/2242(2015))

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85 <http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/pdf/10.1080/13552074.2015.1096620>

86 Gender and Conflict Early Warning Briefing Paper, Saferworld, May 2014