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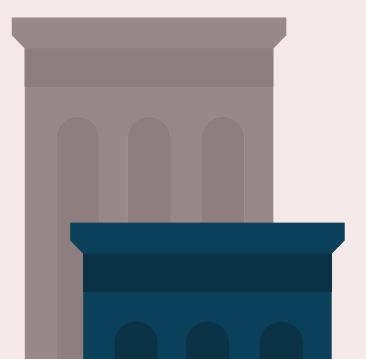**a partnership to promote women's leadership for peace**

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: PILLARS FOR PEACE

SUMMARY REPORT

LEAP4Peace Consortium

Women, Peace and Security:
Pillars for Peace

Since the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in 2000, the importance of women's participation in peacebuilding has been both recognized and widely defended. However, in practice, over the past 20 years women and women's rights and women-led civil society organizations have not been included in high-level decision-making forums and their participation has not been meaningfully supported by international and national actors.

This briefing follows a report of the same title and draws on the wide range of experiences of women in Burundi, Colombia, and Myanmar working on peacebuilding and meaningful participation in peace processes and democracy. It outlines the varied roles of women politicians, women activists, women's rights organisations and women-led civil society organisations in peacebuilding and in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security. The briefing highlights the key successes, challenges and recommendations for the global community to ensure that women can be represented and contribute to local, national and international peace efforts.

Since writing the original report, the political contexts within the focus countries have evolved and updates on their situations are also presented here.

UPDATE ON MYANMAR

Despite years of exclusion of women in peace process, with active and persistent advocacy of women human rights defenders and women's organizations and networks, many women and girls have now become more aware of the need to participate in peace process and political life. As evidenced during the political crisis in Myanmar in the "Spring Revolution", which was the largest popular movement in Myanmar's history, as a result of a military coup on 1 February 2021, women and girls have shown up in full force, taking to the streets and marching on the frontlines in the protests despite the violent response by the military junta. This reflects the nation's gendered identity, where women are not just fighting for their right to a democratic nation, but their place in peace process and political life. Such bravery and determination of women in Myanmar is an indication that women, if given a chance, can play a meaningful role in political leadership and peace building.
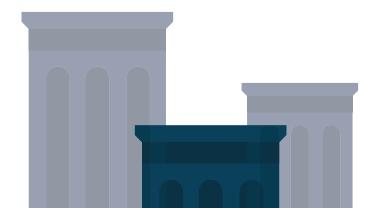
UPDATE ON BURUNDI

The May 2020 legislative elections represented for many a new beginning for the Burundian political environment. Although held in the absence of international observers, the 2020 elections were considered by international partners as "sufficiently peaceful" and the election of President Evariste Ndayishimiye, candidate of the National Council for the Defence of Democracy (CNDD-FDD), was welcomed by international partners and his public speeches focusing on his vision of a new Burundi, are considered a good step towards turning the corner from violence and instability.

At the international and regional level, the resumption of a constructive dialogue with the international community, in particular the European Union, has put an end to five years of political and economic isolation and has allowed a new openness to traditional, technical and financial partners.

UPDATE ON COLOMBIA

The change of government opens a window of opportunity for women's organisations and international cooperation to carry out lobbying and advocacy strategies regarding the creation and implementation of the NAP of Resolution 1325 in Colombia, which to date continues to show no progress.

One of the proposals of this new government is the creation of the Ministry of Equality and the Ministry of Total Peace. These two new spaces are a valuable opportunity to influence the strengthening of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Colombia and the mainstreaming of the gender and women's rights approach, with an intersectional, differential, territorial and ethnic perspective.

Women, Peace and Security: Pillars for Peace

LONG-TERM OBJECTIVES

MEANINGFUL REPRESENTATION IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES FOR PEACEBUILDING

A SUPPORTIVE POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS & POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN PEACEBUILDING

BARRIERS

PERSISTENT PATRIARCHAL & EXCLUSIONARY POWER STRUCTURES THAT REPRODUCE SOCIAL NORMS & PERPETUATE GENDER INEQUALITY

INADEQUATE & EXCLUSIONARY LEGAL & POLICY FRAMEWORKS IN POST-CONFLICT SETTINGS

IGNORANCE & LACK OF WILLINGNESS TO REMOVE BARRIERS FOR WOMEN WITH REGARD TO POLITICAL PARTICIPATION & DECISION-MAKING PROCESSES

DIMINISHING SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY TO ADVOCATE FOR GENDER EQUALITY

TRAINING OF WOMEN LEADERS

SUPPORT FOR WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION LED TO WOMEN RUNNING FOR & BEING ELECTED
📍 BURUNDI

CONFLICT MANAGEMENT SKILLS TRAINING LED TO CONFLICT RESOLUTION IN COMMUNITIES
📍 BURUNDI

UNSCR 1325

TRAINING POLITICAL PARTIES:

LED TO ELECTORAL REFORMS ON GENDER PARITY
📍 HONDURAS

LED TO NEW EQUALITY ROUTES FOR WOMEN
📍 COLOMBIA

NETWORK BUILDING

NETWORKS LED TO WOMEN SETTING UP SAVINGS & CREDIT ASSOCIATIONS
📍 BURUNDI

NETWORKS ALLOWED WIDE SPREAD COMMUNICATION OF THEIR MESSAGES
📍 UGANDA

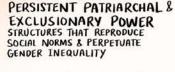CROSS-PARTY PARLIAMENTARY FORUMS IMPROVED DIALOGUE & MAKES SPACE TO ENGAGE WITH WROS
📍 GUATEMALA 📍 HONDURAS 📍 MYANMAR

CIVIL SOCIETY NETWORKS:

SUPPORTS ELECTORAL REFORMS

HELPS MOBILISATION

FOSTERS SOLIDARITY

COMMUNITY AND CITIZENS

SKILLS TRAINING CHALLENGED GENDER NORMS
📍 BURUNDI & 📍 HONDURAS

USING MEDIA TO HIGHLIGHT HIDDEN STORIES & THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT ON WOMEN
📍 EL SALVADOR

NETWORKS CREATED SAFE SPACES TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE & MOBILISE
📍 BURUNDI 📍 COLOMBIA

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RECOMMENDATIONS

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS

INTEGRATE GENDER IN NATIONAL BUDGET - IMPLEMENTATION & COMPLIANCE WITH UNSCR 1325

TO SET A MINIMUM QUOTA FOR WOMEN IN DECISION-MAKING ROLES

IMPLEMENT PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

FOR ELECTORAL INSTITUTIONS TO TAKE ON THE RESPONSIBILITY & ROLE AS GUARANTORS OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN POLITICS

UNDERTAKE GENDER-INCLUSION AUDITS TO ASSESS INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN IN THE PEACE PROCESSES

CIVIL SOCIETY AND WOMEN'S RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS

BUILD A NETWORK THAT SERVES AS AN INTERLOCUTOR ON WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION ISSUES

CONDUCT TRAINING COURSES ON GENDER & WOMEN EMPOWERMENT, FOCUSING ON WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY ISSUES

ADDRESS GENDER STEREOTYPES, NORMS & ASSUMPTIONS WITHIN COMMUNITIES TO CHANGE ATTITUDES TOWARDS WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

ADVOCATE THE INCLUSION OF WOMEN ACROSS ALL LEVELS

POLITICAL PARTIES & INSTITUTIONS

STRENGTHEN WOMEN'S CAUCUSES

PROMOTE MORE INCLUSIVE ELECTORAL REFORMS FOR WOMEN

PROMOTE PROGRAMMES THAT REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN POLITICS

INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY

ACTIVELY PROMOTE INCLUSION OF WOMEN IN PEACE PROCESSES

ENSURE GENDER-POWER ANALYSES ARE CONSISTENTLY INCLUDED IN PEACE PROCESSES

SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT & IMPLEMENTATION OF WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

ENGAGE IN GLOBAL WPS NETWORKS - TO COMBINE EFFORTS & RESOURCES TO SHARE KNOWLEDGE & BEST PRACTICES

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Acknowledgement