



Gender Equality Committee

## **Women's participation in governance with a focus on peace talks and post-conflict governance**

### **Introduction**

It's 2016 already and the number of women at the decision-making procedures is pretty much the same as it was after signing resolution 1325 (2000), which made woman's participation in peacekeeping, peacemaking and peacebuilding part of the remit of the UNSC. Moreover, some people would opt for the fact, that there are fewer female representatives than there were before the resolution was signed, and the sheer example of that was El Salvador in the year 1990, where there was a female at every post-agreement negotiating table.

### **Statistics**

Following thoroughly the fact and figures of a study conducted in 2008, Philippines were an example of the various efforts of maintaining female representatives with about 35% during the year 2011 in Oslo, however the other examples just move volatily between 3% and 14% with the exception of Kenya in 2008 hovering around 25%. Furthermore, women are still not satisfied in the current percentage of representatives, and they are trying their best to present their ideas during peace negotiations even though they are met with opposition. Although they do present quite solid resolutions and demands that are not that hard to fulfill, and play a crucial role in the political process of a country. Examples like the call for an end to the armed conflict in Sierra Leone, admitted in Addis Ababa on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January in 1999, or the roundtable on building women's leadership in the reconstruction of Afghanistan on the 10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> December 2001.

### **Institutions and committees**

Some people might argue that enforcing woman's roles on governmental institutes, or trying to push women into peace negotiations just in order to boost up the percentage of female representatives might leave us with the same percentage we started with. That's why it would be quite beneficial and advantageous to actually create small institutes or committees that may or may not already exist, through which women will be able to express their opinions, demands and deep concerns. And these organizations can echo women's opinions to the international community which will indirectly put it in a position where it will be either obliged to present the idea or actually consider executing it. These institutes can be lower organs of committees, however with a part as crucial and as compelling as the original ones.

Furthermore, we can notice the rise of female activists that are fighting for the sole acknowledgement and increase of female representatives by creating and funding their own organizations that have the sole purpose of gathering and broadcasting female opinions to places where they are lacked. Organizations like the International Alliance of Women (IAW) or the International Council for Women (ICW) are perfect examples of the already mentioned types of organizations, considering the fact that they function as sub-councils and are acknowledged on an international level, therefore widely affecting the public spectrum.

It is quite imperative that the international community considers increasing the female percentage at peace negotiations; especially in the countries of the Middle East. These sorts of negotiations can not only affect the outcome of the situation in the region but also the outcome of women's' future in that particular area.

**Sources and links:**

- <http://womenalliance.org/>
- [https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hlavn%C3%AD\\_strana](https://cs.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hlavn%C3%AD_strana)
- <http://www.un.org/>
- <http://www.icw-cif.com/>
- <http://www.britannica.com/>