

Women, Peace and Security policy scan ahead of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325

Maria Vlahakis 31 July 2020

Query: Please carry out a policy environment scan on the women, peace and security agenda ahead of the 20th anniversary of 1325, highlighting good practices, challenges and gaps in the implementation of UNSCR 1325. In particular, please consider the impact of external factors, such as COVID-19, as they relate to the women, peace and security policy agenda, including the impact on access to technology and online violence and abuse against women.

Enquirer: Victoria Spencer, DFID

Contents

- 1. Overview
- 2. Financing women, peace and security
- 3. Accountability
- 4. Violence against women and girls
- 5. Women's meaningful participation
- 6. Women's economic rights
- 7. Gender digital divide
- 8. References

Annex 1: Methodology and study limitations

1. Overview

2020 is a significant year for accelerating progress towards the full implementation of international commitments on the women, peace and security agenda. Key milestones include:

- The 20th anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325;
- The 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which identified the effects of armed conflict on women as one of 12 critical areas of concern;
- 5 years on since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

However, whilst there has been progress on implementing UNSCR 1325, and subsequent resolutions, since its adoption, there remain significant gaps and challenges in fully implementing UNSCR 1325 and therefore also the SDGs. An independent assessment carried out in 2019 found that of the 30 gender-specific recommendations made in the three reviews that took place in 2015 only two have been fully implemented (UN Security Council, 2019). The COVID-19 pandemic presents a further threat to the women, peace and security agenda and to global, peace and security. In addition, climate change risks further fuelling global insecurity and crises (UN Security Council, 2019; UNEP et al, 2020).

This research report sets out the findings of a policy scan on women, peace and security and highlights areas of good practice, challenges and gaps. It focuses on six key areas where greater attention is needed to fully implement UNSCR 1325: financing, accountability, violence against women and girls (VAWG), women's meaningful participation, women's economic rights and the gender digital divide. It includes a list of references and details of the methodology used.

2. Financing women, peace and security

Perhaps the biggest challenge to the women, peace and security agenda over the last 20 years has been inadequate levels of financing. On the 15th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2015, a UN commissioned review of implementation made it clear that financing for women, peace and security was 'abysmally low' and that there was insufficient funding for women's rights organisations (WROs) who are key to sustainable peace:

"The persistent failure to adequately finance the women, peace and security agenda must be addressed. The failure to allocate sufficient resources and funds has been perhaps the most serious and unrelenting obstacle to implementation of women, peace and security commitments over the past 15 years." (Coomaraswamy, 2015)

Despite this warning, levels of funding for women, peace and security have not increased over the last 5 years. OECD data shows that in 2016-17 only 4.9% of all aid to fragile states and economies targeted gender equality as the principal objective and less than 0.2% went to women's organisations and institutions (UN Security Council, 2019). The UN Secretary-General recently highlighted the significant funding gap that still exists on the women, peace and security agenda:

"An analysis of the financing trends since 2015 indicates that, aside from a few promising developments and much welcomed singular initiatives by individual funds and donors, there is still a massive gap to close. If the gap remains unaddressed, I am afraid that the backslides in progress made will continue, alongside a push-back against gender equality. In the lead up to October 2020, I call upon all actors to back their political commitments by demonstrated and scaled-up investment in efforts to realize gender equality and the women and peace and security agenda. Not only is this essential on its own, but it will also catalyse progress across other global commitments, including those outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UN Security Council, 2019)

This warning was made before the global social upheaval and economic crisis caused by COVID-19, which is now putting the gains made on gender equality over the last two decades at risk. Without urgent action to address the funding gap on the women, peace and security agenda, particularly in relation to the need for greater levels of dedicated funding for women, peace and security, it remains difficult to see how UNSCR 1325 can be fully implemented.

At the UK level, it is difficult to monitor and track the UK's funding progress on women, peace and security, including how funding is helping achieve the UK's policy objectives as set out in the UK's National Action Plan 2018-2022. This is in large part because there is no systematic tracking or reporting of aid spend on women, peace and security across all departments. UK civil society has called for a dedicated women, peace and security fund and to track and publish all spend in fragile and conflict affected states (FCAS) using the Gender Equality Marker (GAPS, 2020).

Good practice examples - financing

- The Netherlands, Spain and Sweden have committed over 20% of their aid on dedicated funding for gender equality. Sweden integrates women, peace and security into all new strategies for development cooperation, including in Iraq and South Sudan.
- The New Equality Fund, led by Canada, aims to activate a minimum of \$1 billion over the next 15 years.
- In Myanmar, the Joint Peace Fund, funded by the European Union and some of its States
 members, is allocating at least 15% of funds to women and peace and security projects
 implemented by civil society organisations.

Source: UN Security Council (2019)

3. Accountability

Accountability of governments and the international community for implementing UNSCR 1325 is essential to upholding women's rights. Making leadership accountable for the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, particularly through improved data and gender analysis, was one of six priority actions identified by the UN in the run up to the 20th anniversary. Progress has been made in the last decade, for example indicators have been developed to track 1325 implementation, the UN has developed a strategic results framework on women, peace and security and there have been a number of important data initiatives (Salmela and Chien, 2019). However, challenges and gaps still remain, particularly in relation to routine transparent gender analysis and data disaggregation. These have been further exposed by COVID-19.

Gender analysis in conflict is critical to understanding and addressing the gendered drivers of conflict, how gender inequality shapes conflict and which actors can promote peace, as well as those that work against it. The arguments for this are well-established and have been highlighted consistently by civil society, the UN and other actors. In the UK, GAPS has recommended that the UK Government carry out gender-conflict analysis in all conflict affected contexts to inform policy, programmes and country operations and that all staff are trained in how to do this (GAPS, 2020a). In doing so it is important to engage a range of different stakeholders in carrying out gender-conflict analysis, including WROs. The UN and human rights organisations have called for gender analysis to be a critical part of national COVID-19 preparedness, response and recovery planning (UNSG, 2020; Womankind, 2020). However, there has been insufficient attention to gender (CARE, 2020) and engagement of women and WROs in COVID-19 response and recovery planning (UN Women, 2020b). This is concerning because it means these plans are not addressing the specific needs and situations of women and girls in all their diversity, nor recognising their role in response and recovery planning.

Disaggregated data is important on a number of fronts, from ensuring that programmes can reach diverse women and girls who are most in need, to holding governments and the international community to account in line with their women, peace and security commitments and human rights law, and for greater transparency. In 2015, a global study commissioned by the UN warned that data collected for gender equality programmes is rarely disaggregated by sex and age (Coomaraswamy, 2015). In his latest annual report the Secretary-General highlighted that the UN itself must strengthen its data collection efforts, and that there is still an need for improved and targeted data collection across Member States (UN Security Council, 2019). COVID-19 has heightened the need for better data disaggregation.

National Action Plans are a critical way in which governments can set out their commitments on the WPS agenda, including how they will work with other stakeholders. However, only 41% of Member States have adopted National Action Plans on women and peace and security and just 22% of all plans included a budget for implementation, at the time of adoption (UN Security Council, 2019).

Good practice examples of accountability mechanisms

- Jordan's National Action Plan has pooled funding mechanisms attached, and the fourth National Action Plans of Norway, Switzerland and the UK include the mainstreaming of actions across sectoral budgets.
 - Source: UN Security Council (2019)
- In 2019, UN Women created a <u>Dashboard on WPS</u> to improve understanding of the impact of conflict on women through better use of data. The dashboard highlights commitments by the UN and Member States to the women, peace and security agenda.

Source: UN Women

¹ https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/women-peace-security

4. Violence Against Women and Girls

VAWG affects women and girls at times of peace and at times of conflict and humanitarian crises. However, VAWG is exacerbated at times of crisis and conflict as pre-existing norms are reinforced (Fraser, 2020; What Works, 2020), and undermines the success and sustainability of peace processes (Paffenholz et al, 2016). Economic uncertainty, civil unrest and disasters, including pandemics, are linked to risk factors for increased VAWG (Peterman et al, 2020). Therefore, addressing VAWG is a critical part of the women, peace and security agenda and in building peaceful societies.

Rates of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women and girls are extremely high during and after conflict, and IPV is more prevalent than non-partner sexual violence in conflict settings (What Works, 2020). Whilst attention continues on conflict-related violence, including sexual violence committed by armed actors which is heightened in FCAS in the context of COVID-19 (Clugston et al, 2020), it is crucial that a more holistic approach is taken to VAWG in FCAS which includes greater attention to pre-existing forms of VAWG, including IPV.

In line with warnings about past crises, multiple countries have reported an increase in VAWG in the context of COVID-19 with a surge in demand for helplines and emergency shelters. There have been alarming increases in levels of domestic violence, but there is also evidence of an increase in other forms of violence, including child marriage, female genital mutilation, sexual exploitation and abuse, state sanctioned violence against women, violence against healthcare workers and online violence and abuse against women and children (UN Women, 2020a; Fraser, 2020a). At the same time, VAWG services are becoming increasingly stretched, including interrupted access to sexual, reproductive and health (SRH) services for VAWG survivors, such as the clinical management of rape and psycho-social support, as well as SRH services more broadly (Amnesty et al, 2020; Oketch, 2020; Womankind, 2020).

Child marriage remains a significant challenge in FCAS: 9 out of the 10 countries with the highest rates of child marriage are considered fragile contexts (Women's Refugee Commission, 2016). Previous crises, including Ebola and the cholera response in Syria and Yemen, have increased the risks of child marriage as formal and informal support structures are threatened (Peterman et al, 2020). Following the COVID-19 outbreak the UNFPA (2020) warned that an additional total 13 million child marriages are likely to take place than otherwise would have occurred between 2020 and 2030 due to schools shutting, prevention programmes being paused, and increasing levels of poverty.

Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) and peacebuilders are increasingly coming under attack offline and online, with women killed, arrested, threatened, abducted, intimidated and discredited. This presents an ongoing and increasing challenge to the women, peace and security agenda. WHRDs working to protect the environment, LBTQI+ rights and indigenous lands are at particular risk (Front Line Defenders, 2019). The Special Rapporteur on HRDs and the UN Secretary-General have recently highlighted their concern, including increased levels of political violence (UN Security Council, 2019). The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights has previously highlighted the role of states in targeting WHRDs online (Bachelet, 2018). As well as WHRDs, COVID-19 has also increased the risk of online violence and abuse against women and girls more broadly, and the risk of political violence, including state sanctioned violence (see section 5)

Crisis and conflict particularly increase the risk of violence for women who experience multiple and intersecting discriminations, including refugee or displaced women, women with disabilities, LBTQI+ women and adolescent girls. The lack of a gendered response to COVID-19 is heightening the risk of violence for these women even further (Haegeman and Vlahakis, 2020).

5. Women's meaningful participation in peace processes, the implementation of peace agreements and related decision-making

UNSCR 1325 sets out that women's participation is key to conflict prevention and resolution **efforts**, and it is well established that women play a critical role in sustainable peace. Women's participation in peace processes improves the quality and durability of peace agreements and when women are signatories of peace agreements they are more likely to be implemented. However, women are still hugely under-represented across all spheres of the women, peace and security agenda:

- Between 1992-2018 women accounted for only 3% of mediators, 13% of negotiators, and 4% of signatories in all major peace processes.²
- Of 1,500 peace and political agreements adopted between 2000-2016, only 25 agreements included the roles of women's engagement in implementation.³

Women are at the frontline of the COVID-19 response. They make up the majority of health and care workers worldwide and are taking on additional caring responsibilities when family members become sick and/or taking on additional childcare and domestic responsibilities. They are also increasing efforts to support women at risk of VAWG through the provision of VAWG services and also in advocating for stronger gender analysis in their government's immediate public health response and recovery plans. However, despite all this, women and WROs are insufficiently engaged in COVID-19 response and recovery planning (UN Women, 2020b, Womankind, 2020). This reflects an ongoing failure to meaningfully engage women in decision-making, which increases the threats to peace and security.

Good practice examples of women's meaningful participation and leadership in FCAS

- In 2019 GAPS, Women for Women International, Amnesty International UK, Saferworld and Womankind Worldwide developed an advocacy tool called 'Beyond Consultations' to promote more meaningful engagement of women in FCAS. The tool is designed to support governments, the international community and other actors to improve their consultation practice in relation to the engagement of women and move towards more meaningful dialogue with women and women's organisations. It responds directly to concerns raised by women in FCAS that consultations were tokenistic, extractive and disempowering.
 Source: https://beyondconsultations.org/
- Local women and women's organisations were first responders in the aftermath of the Nepal earthquake in 2015. The Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC), along with other grassroots women's organisations, provided immediate emergency relief (food, hygiene products, medical supplies) to women and girls affected by the crisis and provided life-saving VAWG services, for example by setting up emergency hotlines.
 - Source: Open Democracy (2015) https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/confronting-earthquake-with-love-mission-sneha/
- In the context of COVID-19 many veterans of the women's peace movement are using their skills and networks in communities to raise awareness about COVID-19 and how communities can keep themselves safe and working to prevent and address the rise in VAW.
 This includes Cerue Garlo in Liberia and Mossarat Qadeem in Pakistan.
 - Source: Anderlini (2020) https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2020/05/15/women-peace-and-security-in-the-time-of-corona/

³ PA-X (2017). Peace Agreements Database and Access Tool (https://www.peaceagreements.org). Taken from the Beyond Consultations tool at https://beyondconsultations.org/

² See UN Women Facts and Figures: Peace and Security: https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures

Women continue to be severely under-represented at all levels of political life. Currently only 24.3% of all national parliamentarians are women, 11 women are serving as Head of State and 12 are serving as Head of Government. There are 27 countries where women make up less than 10% of parliamentarians in single or lower houses. Only 20.7% of government ministers are women. Women's representation at local level is often the first way in which women can get involved in politics: a median of 26% women are involved in elected local deliberative bodies although data is not available in all countries.⁴

Violence affects women's participation in public and political life, including in peace processes. As set out in section 4 on VAWG, the UN has raised concerns about the increased levels of political violence against women. Recent data shows that political violence targeting women is increasing and takes many different forms, including sexual violence, abduction/forced disappearances, mob violence, attempted assassinations of female politicians and state sanctioned violence (Kishi et al, 2019). This new data confirmed high levels of political violence during war, for example in Syria and Somalia, and increased use of excessive force against demonstrations featuring women, particularly in Southeast Asia. This political violence is carried out by state and non-state actors, including armed groups, terrorist organisations and political militias, particularly in Africa, who often act on behalf of political elites. There is evidence that the situation is worsening in the context of COVID-19. For example, the UN and human rights activists have highlighted the abduction, torture and sexual assault of female opposition politicians in Zimbabwe who have also been charged with COVID-19 related offences (UN Human Rights, 2020).

Women in politics around the world, including in FCAS, have long highlighted that the political arena is a hostile environment. For example, the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (2018) highlighted gender-based violence against women during the 2018 elections, through the deliberate targeting of women voters, candidates and election officials. This included hate speech, inflammatory language and 'cyber bullying.' Women's rights activists have made a direct correlation between this, women's participation in the 2018 elections and the drop in the number of women returned to the National Assembly.⁵ Concerns are being raised about the continuation of political violence and abuse towards women in the context of COVID-19, particularly as gender considerations are not routinely being taken into account during the pandemic (see for example in Kenya: Gathigah, M, 2020).

6. Women's economic rights

"Economic self-determination gives peoples the ability to take control over their natural resources and use those resources for their own ends or collective use. Furthermore, women's economic agency is fundamental to mitigating the often cyclical nature of poverty, denial of education, safety, and security" (Association for Women's Rights in Development)⁶

The barriers to women's economic rights remain a challenge to the women, peace and security agenda and full implementation of UNSCR 1325. Around the world women are excluded from economic power and decision-making and their contribution to the economy, often in the form of unpaid work and in the informal sector, remains invisible and undervalued (Womankind, 2019). World Bank data (2019) shows that nearly 40% of economies limit women's property rights and nearly 30% of economies restrict women's freedom of movement. The situation is exacerbated in FCAS and worse still in countries with protracted crises, where women's economic insecurity and dependence on men further marginalises and excludes them, and increases their risk of violence.

⁴ Data taken from UN Women's Facts and Figures: Leadership and political participation: https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/leadership-and-political-participation/facts-and-figures

⁵ Information provided by Womankind Worldwide taken from a project with the Women in Politics Support Unit in Zimbabwe, which examines intra party sexual harassment and the impact on the 2018 elections.

⁶ Taken from AWID's vision for economic justice in a feminist world https://www.awid.org/our-vision-economic-justice-feminist-world

Decent work: Women have less access than men to productive resources such as land, property, livestock and paid work. Women in paid employment have lower wages and often work in poor working conditions with low job security. They are over-represented in the informal sector where they have few protections against dismissal and limited or no paid sick leave or access to social protection. In South Asia over 80% of women work in the informal sector, 74% of women in sub-saharan African and 54% in Latin America and the Caribbean. In FCAS the situation is often worse, with only 4 out of 10 women in paid work, compared with 7 out of 10 men, and the employment gap is higher. Women are exposed to violence, harassment and abuse at work, in both the formal and informal sector. Many countries' national COVID-19 response plans have neglected large parts of the population, particularly women and girls who work in the informal sector who derive their livelihoods from daily earnings (see for example: SIHA Network, 2020).

Unpaid care work and domestic work: Globally, women do three times as much unpaid care and domestic work as men (UNSG, 2020) and this can be much higher in FCAS. For example, women are 11 times more likely to do unpaid care work in Mali (OECD, 2020). This unjust division of labour significantly limits women's ability to earn an income and realise their human rights, and despite its substantial socio-economic contribution remains invisible and unaccounted for in economic decision-making (Womankind, 2019; Bretton Woods Project, 2018). The COVID-19 crisis has further increased the unequal burden of care work on women and girls, including adolescent girls (UNSG, 2020).

COVID-19 is increasing economic insecurity, disproportionately impacting on women and girls, and increasing the risk of child marriage, forced transactional sex and forced abortions (Clugston et al, 2020). It is also likely to cause a global recession and lead to cuts in aid budgets and austerity measures. It has been proven that austerity measures have a disproportionate impact on women and girls, particularly in relation to cuts in public spending and public employment (GADN, 2018). The pre-existence of barriers to women's economic rights, worsened in the context of COVID-19, will make it harder to achieve UNSCR 1325 without sufficient focus on women's economic recovery as part of COVID-19 recovery planning.

Good practice example of feminist COVID-19 economic recovery plan

In June 2020 Maui County Council in Hawai'i passed a feminist COVID-19 economic recovery plan which includes special emergency funds for marginalised groups, including undocumented immigrant women, free, publicly-funded child care for all essential workers, domestic workers, women with disabilities and sex-trafficking survivors, a universal basic income, waived co-payments for COVID-19 tests and treatment, including for incarcerated women, and a minimum wage set to the needs of single mothers.

Source: (Wildhood, 2020) <u>https://mobilisationlab.org/stories/hawaii-has-a-feminist-economic-recovery-plan-for-covid-19/</u>

7. Gender digital divide

Addressing the gender digital divide is important in increasing women's participation in conflict resolution, peace processes and violence prevention and response. Online technologies can empower and embolden women, including women human rights defenders and peacekeepers, to mobilise and express themselves freely, however women's rights online are often curtailed by those who wish to silence, discredit and prevent them from participating in political processes (Womankind, 2018). As the world shifts from face to face interactions to online platforms in the context of COVID-19, internet and digital rights and freedoms are now more important than ever before. However, there is growing evidence that women's rights are being rolled back online.

Women and girls have unequal access to and use of the internet and other ICTs. Globally, women are 17% less likely to use the internet than men and whilst the gap is small in developed countries it is large in developing countries, particularly least developed countries, and has been growing in the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, and Africa (ITU, 2019). Women's likelihood of using the internet is often coupled with mobile phone ownership, which is likely to be correlated with income levels. Women across low- and middle-income countries are 8% less likely than men to own a mobile phone, which translates into 165 million fewer women than men owning a mobile. Women are also 20% less likely to use the internet on a mobile than men (GSMA, 2020).

Before COVID-19, the digital gender divide was already contributing to women's exclusion, for example, with cash transfer programmes not reaching women without access to mobiles. The gender digital divide can also make it more difficult for women to engage in distance learning, for women entrepreneurs to move their business online and for women employees to engage in remote work (CWEEE, 2020). There were early warning that COVID-19, like other crises, would exacerbate existing inequalities including the gender digital divide as technology would be essential to help women survivors of violence access the vital support they needed (Mlambo-Ngcuka and Albrectsen, 2020). Many women's organisations providing VAWG services have adapted their operations to provide remote support during the pandemic, including providing free hotline numbers, SMS services, and apps allowing women to report abuse without raising suspicion from their abuser whom they are locked down with. However, VAWG service providers have had to find other ways to reach women who do not have access to a phone or the internet (see good practice example below).

Good practice example - remote case management support in the context of COVID-19

In 2020 the GBV Area of Responsibility Helpdesk developed guidance on the modalities of adapting case management support, particularly for remote working, in the context of COVID-19.

This guidance sets out that not all survivors will have phones and, even if they do, it may not be safe for them to use them. GBV service providers are encouraged to develop alternative alert systems. It highlights that a number of strategies are emerging on setting up low tech systems, with many drawn from local women's organisations, including leaving rocks, coloured cloths, leaving a window half open outside homes, using code words. This however needs to be combined with the continuation of services for the survivor to access, so care needs to be taken to ensure they are in place.

The guidance also highlights the need to develop chains of support and security to avoid causing further harm to survivors, and signposts to a number of resources on GBV remote support.

Source: Yaker and Erskine (2020) http://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1882/guidance-on-gbv-case-management-in-the-face-of-covid-19-outbreak-final-draft.pdf

The COVID pandemic has also increased the risks of online violence, abuse and harassment against women and children, as people spend more time online. A rapid review of the evidence found increased risks of online sexual exploitation and abuse, violence during online events and teaching, cyberstalking and non-consensual sharing/distribution of intimate images and videos (Fraser, 2020b). Domestic abuse can take place offline and online, and experts are warning of the online nature of the rise in domestic abuse during COVID-19, as well as the 'offline' violence (Bondy, 2020). UN Women (2020c) have warned of the dangers of online or 'ICT facilitated violence' in the context of COVID-19 as people turn to the internet for work, school and social activities. They have highlighted the rise in online violence and abuse against women and girls, the impact this is having on them as well as some promising practices and strategies. There needs to be greater attention to addressing online forms of VAWG in the context of COVID-19 to ensure women's and girls' safety and security.

8. References

AfDec Coalition (2020) Position Paper in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic, African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms Coalition

https://www.apc.org/sites/default/files/AfDecPositionPaperCOVID19 EN.pdf

Amnesty International, Women's Link Worldwide, IPPF Africa Region (2020) *Guidelines for African States to Protect the Rights of Women and Girls During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, Amnesty International https://www.amnesty.org/download/Documents/AFR0122852020ENGLISH.PDF

Anderlini, S (2019) 'Women, peace and security in the time of corona,' COVID-19 LSE Blogs, 15 May 2020 https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/covid19/2020/05/15/women-peace-and-security-in-the-time-of-corona/

Bachelet, M (2018) UN High Commissioner for Human Rights says women are being silenced https://www.thenational.ae/world/the-americas/un-high-commissioner-for-human-rights-says-women-are-being-silenced-1.774871

Bhagwan-Rolls, S (2011) Pacific Regional Perspectives on Women and the Media: Making the Connection with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) and Section J of the Beijing Platform for Action, The University of Chicago Press Journals https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.1086/657491?read-now=18seq=1#page-scan-tab-contents

Bondy, H (2020) 'Domestic Abuse During COVID-19 Includes Financial and Online abuse,' *genderIT.org*, 17 July 2010 https://www.genderit.org/feminist-talk/domestic-abuse-during-covid-19-includes-financial-and-online-abuse

CARE (2020) COVID-19 Could Condemn Women To Decades of Poverty: Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Women's and Girls' Economic Justice and Rights, London: Care International UK https://www.care-international.org/files/files/CARE Implications of COVID-19 on WEE 300420.pdf

CIVICUS (2018) 'CIVICUS condemns another break-in at the office of HRAPF', 15 February 2018 https://www.civicus.org/index.php/media-resources/media-releases/3076-uganda-civicus-condemns-another-break-in-at-the-office-of-hrapf

Clugston, N, Spearing, M and Fraser E (2020) *Understanding the likely impacts of COVID-19 on sexual violence in armed conflict and post-conflict settings*, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report 302. London: VAWG Helpdesk

Coalition for Women's Economic Empowerment and Equality (CWEEE) (2020) COVID-19 and Women's Economic Empowerment https://reliefweb.int/sites/reliefweb.int/files/resources/cweee covid and wee brief final.pdf

Coomaraswamy, R (2015) Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) https://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/en/GlobalStudy EN Web.pdf

Fraser, E (2020a) *Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Violence against Women and Girls*, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report No. 284. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk. http://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1881/vawg-helpdesk-284-covid-19-and-vawg.pdf

Fraser, E (2020b) *Update – Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on VAWG*, VAWG Helpdesk Report 291. London: Violence against Women and Girls Helpdesk

Front Line Defenders (2020) *Frontline Defenders Global Analysis 2019*, Dublin, Ireland: Front Line Defenders https://www.frontlinedefenders.org/sites/default/files/global analysis 2019 web.pdf

Gathigah, M (2020) Has COVID-19 pushed women in politics off Kenya's agenda?, *Inter Press Service* 31 July 2020 http://www.ipsnews.net/2020/07/has-covid-19-pushed-women-in-politics-off-kenyas-agenda/

Gender and Development Network (GADN) (2018) Submission to the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights on the links and the impact of economic reforms and austerity measures on women's human rights, GADN: London

 $\underline{\text{https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Development/IEDebt/WomenAusterity/GenderDevelopmen}}. \\ \text{Network.pdf}$

Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) Network (2019) The 10 Steps: Turning Women, Peace and Security Commitments to Implementation, GAPS: London https://gaps-uk.org/wps-10-steps-2020/

GAPS (2020a) Assessing UK Government Action on Women, Peace and Security in 2019, London, UK: Gender Action for Peace and Security Network. https://gaps-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/GAPS-Shadow-Report-2019.pdf

GAPS (2020b) Call to Action: Now and the Future COVID-19 and Gender Equality, Global Peace and Security, GAPS: London https://gaps-uk.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Call-to-Action-Now-and-the-Future-COVID-19-and-WPS-1.pdf

Global Witness (2018) At What Cost: Irresponsible business and the murder of land and environmental defenders in 2017, London, UK: Global Witness https://www.globalwitness.org/en/campaigns/environmental-activists/at-what-cost/

GSMA (2020) Connected Women The Mobile Gender Gap Report 2020, GSM Association: London https://www.gsma.com/mobilefordevelopment/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GSMA-The-Mobile-Gender-Gap-Report-2020.pdf

ITU (2019) *Measuring digital development Facts and figures 2019*, International Telecommunication Union: Geneva https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Documents/facts/FactsFigures2019.pdf

Kishi R, Pavlik M and Natfess H (2019) *Terribly and terrifyingly normal political violence targeting women*, ACLED https://www.acleddata.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/ACLED Report Political Violence Targeting Women 5.2019.pdf

Miller, K and Jones, R (2019) *Toward A Feminist Funding Ecosystem*https://www.awid.org/sites/default/files/atoms/files/awid funding ecosystem 2019 final eng.pdf, The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

Mlambo-Ngcuka, P and Albrectsen, A-B 'We cannot allow COVID-19 to reinforce the digital gender divide,' *Devex*, 4 May 2020 https://www.devex.com/news/opinion-we-cannot-allow-covid-19-to-reinforce-the-digital-gender-divide-97118

OECD (2018) Bridging the Digital Gender Divide: Include, Upskills, Innovate, OECD Publishing: Paris http://www.oecd.org/internet/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide.pdf

OECD (2020) Social Institutions and Gender Index (SIGI) Mali factsheet, OECD https://www.genderindex.org/wp-content/uploads/files/datasheets/2019/ML.pdf

Oketch, S (2020) 'Effects of COVID-19 on SRHR among young people in Africa,' *The Duke Centre for Global Reproductive Health*, 26 April 2020.

http://dukecenterforglobalreproductivehealth.org/2020/04/26/effects-of-covid-19-on-sexual-reproductive-health-and-rights-srhr-among-young-people-in-africa/

Paffenholz T, Ross N, Dixon S, Schluchter A-L and True J (2016) *Making Women Count - Not Just Counting Women: Assessing Women's Inclusion and Influence on Peace Negotiations*, Geneva: Inclusive Peace and Transition Initiative (The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies) and UN Women https://www.inclusivepeace.org/sites/default/files/IPTI-UN-Women-Report-Making-Women-Count-60-Pages.pdf

Peterman A, Potts A, O'Donnell M, Thompson K, Shah N, Oertelt-Prigione S, van Gelder N (2020) *Pandemics and Violence Against Women and Children*, The Gender and COVID-19 Working Group Centre for Global Development: Washington https://www.cgdev.org/sites/default/files/pandemics-and-vawg-april2.pdf

Rajbhandari, R and Susskind Y (2015) 'Nepal's earthquake: grassroots women as first responders,' 14 May 2015, openDemocracy https://www.opendemocracy.net/en/5050/confronting-earthquake-with-love-mission-sneha/

Salmela, K and Chien, C-L (2019) 'Where do we stand on the Women, Peace and Security agenda?,' UN Women, 29 October 2019 https://data.unwomen.org/features/where-do-we-stand-women-peace-and-security-agenda

SIHA Network (2020) 'Coronavirus dos and don'ts are blind to urban poor women's realities,' https://sihanet.org/coronavirus-dos-and-donts-are-blind-to-urban-poor-womens-realities/

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2020) Gender, Climate & Security: Sustaining inclusive peace on the frontlines of climate change, New York: United Nations. https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/06/gender-climate-and-security#view

UNFPA (2020) Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Family Planning and Ending Gender-based Violence, Female Genital Mutilation and Child Marriage, Interim Technical Note. https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/resource-pdf/COVID-19 impact brief for UNFPA 24 April 2020 1.pdf

UN Human Rights and the African Union (2020) Seven Possible Actions- Women's Rights and COVID-19, Guidance Note, Switzerland: The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN Human Rights). https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/7ActionsFinal.pdf

UN Human Rights (2020) 'Zimbabwe: UN experts demand an immediate end to abductions and torture,' 10 June 2020 https://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=25944&LangID=E

UN Human Rights Council (2020) Report of the Special Rapporteur on Disease pandemics and the freedom of opinion and expression. 23 April 2020, 44th session, https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/49

UNICEF (2018) *Emergency Responses to Public Health Outbreaks*, GBViE Helpdesk: London http://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1617/health-responses-and-gbv-short-query-v2.pdf

UN Secretary-General (2020) *Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women*, New York: United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women); United Nations Secretariat https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/report/policy-brief-the-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-en-1.pdf

UN Security Council (2019) Report of the Secretary-General on women and peace and security (S/2019/800) https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s 2019 800.pdf

UN Women (2020a) *COVID-19* and *Ending Violence against Women and Girls*, New York: UN Women https://www.unwomen.org/- /media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/issue-brief-covid-19-and-ending-

UN Women (2020b) Voices of Women's Organisations on COVID-19: April 2020 Sub-regional Consultations, UN Women Series. https://eca.unwomen.org/en/digital-

library/publications/2020/04/voices-of-womens-organizations-on-covid-19

violence-against-women-and-girls-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5006

UN Women (2020c) Online and ICT facilitated violence against women and girls during COVID-19 https://www.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2020/04/brief-online-and-ict-facilitated-violence-against-women-and-girls-during-covid-19

Vlahakis, M and Bishop, K (2020) The importance of funding for gender equality during and after COVID-19, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report No. 324. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk

What Works to Prevent Violence global programme (2020) What works to prevent violence against women and girls in conflict and humanitarian crisis: Synthesis Brief https://www.whatworks.co.za/resources/evidence-reviews/item/662-what-works-to-prevent-violence-against-women-and-girls-in-conflict-and-humanitarian-crisis-synthesis-brief

Wildhood, M (2020) 'Hawai'i has a feminist economic recovery plan for COVID-19 thanks to these organisers,' *MobLab*, 30 June 2020 https://mobilisationlab.org/stories/hawaii-has-a-feminist-economic-recovery-plan-for-covid-19/

Womankind Worldwide (2018) *Breaking the Silence: Ending online violence and abuse against women's rights activists*, London: Womankind Worldwide https://www.womankind.org.uk/docs/default-source/default-document-library/breaking-the-silence-policy-briefing.pdf?sfvrsn=0

Women's Refugee Commission (2016) A Girl No More: The Changing Norms of Child Marriage in Conflict, New York https://www.womensrefugeecommission.org/research-resources/girl-no-more/

World Bank (2019) *Women, business and the law 2019: a decade of reform*, The World Bank: Washington https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/31327/WBL2019.pdf

Yaker, R and Erskine, D (2020), GBV Case Management and the COVID-19 Pandemic, GBV AoR Helpdesk http://www.sddirect.org.uk/media/1882/guidance-on-gbv-case-management-in-the-face-of-covid-19-outbreak-final-draft.pdf

Zimbabwe Gender Commission (2018) 'Zimbabwe Gender Commission Preliminary Election Monitoring report on the 2018 Harmonised Elections,' http://kubatana.net/, 17 August 2018 http://kubatana.net/2018/08/17/zimbabwe-gender-commission-preliminary-election-monitoring-report-2018-harmonised-elections/

Annex 1: Methodology and study limitations

This 4 day research query has been conducted as systematically as possible within the research time. The methodology is described below.

Search strategy: Studies were identified through searches using Google. Due to the rapid and recent nature of the evidence related to COVID-19, evidence was also identified on Twitter and other social media. Key search terms included: women, peace and security, UNSCR 1325, resolutions, funding, financing, accountability, peace, violence, abuse, sexual exploitation, Ebola, cholera, fragile and conflict-affected states, state fragility, women's participation, women's leadership, women's economic rights, land rights, property rights, gender digital divide, access to technology, internet gender gap.

Criteria for inclusion: To be eligible for inclusion, evidence had to fulfil the following criteria:

- Focus: Good practice, challenges and gaps in relation to implementing UNSCR 1325
- Time period: January 2000 July 2020
- Language: English
- Publication status: publicly available in all cases published online
- Geographical focus: Global, with a focus on FCAS

Limitations include:

- In the timeframes available it was not possible to include the impact of climate change and the challenges this presents to the women, peace and security agenda. However, a few references have been included for further reading.
- It was also not possible within the timeframe to focus specifically on women and girls who are
 at increased risk of violence, including women with disabilities, LBTQI+ women, refugee women
 and displaced women. Further evidence is needed on the impacts of COVID-19 in relation to
 their experiences of violence and the impact on women, peace and security.

About Helpdesk reports: The VAWG Helpdesk is funded by the UK Department for International Development, contracted through the Inclusive Societies Deparatment. This Helpdesk report is based on 4 days of desk-based research and is designed to provide a brief overview of the key issues and expert thinking on VAWG issues.

VAWG Helpdesk services are provided by a consortium of leading organisations and individual experts on VAWG, including Social Development Direct, International Rescue Committee, ActionAid, Womankind, and the Institute of Development Studies (IDS). Expert advice may be sought from this Group, as well as from the wider academic and practitioner community, and those able to provide input within the short time-frame are acknowledged. Any views or opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of DFID, the VAWG Helpdesk or any of the contributing organisations/experts.

For any further request or enquiry, contact enquiries@vawghelpdesk.org.

Suggested citation:

Vlahakis, M (2020) Women, Peace and Security policy scan ahead of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, VAWG Helpdesk Research Report No. 325. London, UK: VAWG Helpdesk.