

Investing in women's leadership: Women's Participation in Recovery and Reconstruction Efforts

Panel discussion on the occasion of the 68th session of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

21 March 2024 | 3:00 PM to 4:15 PM (New York Time)

Convened in a hybrid format

In-person location: Conference Room 6, UN HQ

Livestreamed on UN Web TV

RSVP: tinyurl.com/4zyb84e8

Organized by the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), Permanent Missions of Austria, the Republic of Korea and Sierra Leone to the UN, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and UN Women

Background

Women and young women peacebuilders, women's organizations and other women leaders are at the forefront of conflict prevention, response, and recovery and relief efforts in their communities. Their experiences encompass not only the immediate effects of conflict but also the enduring challenges of rebuilding their lives and communities. Women-led initiatives in peacebuilding and sustaining peace strengthen communities and build social, political and economic resilience to conflict and violence. They are an essential part of an inclusive, sustainable and gender-responsive recovery from conflict and other crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic.

In conflict-affected and post-conflict countries, women's economic and political participation is a critical element of recovery and reconstruction. Despite this reality, women's contributions are largely unrecognized and under-supported. Women's participation, including in economic recovery and governance, is especially overlooked as there is a lack of substantive data highlighting the significance of their contributions. This gap is especially concerning amid decreasing global financing for women's peacebuilding work. The continued inattention to women's efforts undervalues the diverse array of women's current impacts on and potential contributions to sustaining peace and preventing conflict.

To respond to this reality, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), with the support of UN Women, and in collaboration with Dr. Jacqui True, conducted a research study on "women's participation in economic recovery post-conflict and reconstruction in conflict-affected and post-

conflict countries.” The study draws on four case studies from Colombia, Iraq, Myanmar and Nigeria to demonstrate the contributions of women peacebuilders around the world and produce concrete evidence of the economic and social value of their efforts. Additionally, throughout 2023, GNWP and UN Women, hosted consultations with women peacebuilders from Ukraine on their visions for post-conflict reconstruction and recovery for the country. The consultation aimed to identify the priorities of women peacebuilders and gather their insights and recommendations, with the ultimate objective of promoting the meaningful participation of local-women-led civil society in decision-making, policy and implementation related to Ukraine’s post-conflict reconstruction and recovery.

It is against this backdrop that GNWP, the Permanent Missions of Austria, the Republic of Korea and Sierra Leone to the UN, the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) and UN Women will host a panel discussion on the margin of the UN Commission on the Status of Women’s 68th session (CSW68) in light of this year’s review theme on social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

The specific objectives of the event are:

1. To present the key findings of the research study on women’s participation in post-conflict economic recovery and reconstruction and share experiences of women’s initiatives from different geographic regions;
2. To discuss existing and promising practices for better recognizing, measuring and documenting women’s contributions; and
3. To reflect on action-oriented recommendations that bolster women’s role in economic and post-conflict recovery and promote their active engagement in decision-making spaces.

Format, speakers, and audience:

The event will be convened in a hybrid format, held in the form of a moderated panel discussion. It will feature women peacebuilders, policymakers and representatives of International Financial Institutions (IFI). The target audience for this event includes policymakers, practitioners and representatives of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations with mandates on peacebuilding, conflict prevention and sustaining peace, as well as IFIs. The event will be held in English with simultaneous interpretation in International Sign Language (ISL). Interpretation in other languages may be provided depending on the speakers’ list.

A provisional agenda will follow.