



# WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

THE 2010 OPEN DAYS ON  
WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY





Cover: Escorted by peacekeepers, Sudanese women IDPs collect firewood. UN Photo/Albert Gonzalez Farran 2010

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# WOMEN COUNT FOR PEACE

## THE 2010 OPEN DAYS ON WOMEN, PEACE and SECURITY



UNITED NATIONS



# 1 Foreword from the Secretary-General of the United Nations

This report provides an account of an extraordinary set of 25 meetings between women peace activists and senior United Nations leaders in conflict-affected countries in the summer of 2010. It details women's perspectives on resolving conflict and building peace more effectively, identifies issues of common concern across different contexts – as well as areas of divergence – and makes proposals for improving international, regional and national efforts to protect women and promote peace.

The 'Open Days on Women, Peace and Security' were intended to ensure that women's own voices and leadership guide the work of the United Nations in peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding. There could be no better way to prepare for the tenth anniversary of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.

Since the passage of resolution 1325 (2000), protection measures have been developed by uniformed United Nations peacekeepers to better protect women from violence. The United Nations is also developing tools to improve the implementation of 1325 through, for instance, a comprehensive set of indicators presented to the Security Council in April 2010. The architecture for women, peace and security has been further enhanced by the appointment of ten women as Special Representatives, four as Deputy Special Representatives, two as Special Envoys and the creation of the new United Nations entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women).

Nonetheless, as the Open Day meetings showed, serious challenges remain. Sexual violence is an all too common tactic of war and often continues unabated after the guns fall silent. Women also continue to face obstacles to engagement in peace negotiations. These challenges require our strongest commitment in implementing resolution 1325 (2000) in the coming years. Advancing the women, peace and security agenda will not only enhance the legitimacy of the United Nations on the ground; it is critical to maintaining international peace and security.

In short, women count for peace. This report, which records views, concerns and priorities, shows that women are standing up to be counted as an essential part of the peacebuilding equation. I commend it to the widest global audience.



*Ban Ki-moon*  
Ban Ki-moon  
Secretary-General of the United Nations



## 2 Acknowledgements

The United Nations entities sponsoring this report express the deepest gratitude to the women who participated in the ‘Open Days on Women, Peace and Security’, in conflict-affected countries around the world. This project could not have been done without their openness, commitment, and willingness to bring their concerns on peace and security to the attention of United Nations leadership.

These meetings were a collaborative effort organized by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM, now part of UN Women) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP).

Special thanks are due to the UN offices and peacekeeping and political missions. Their leadership and hands-on support were integral to making each Open Day a success.

- **Afghanistan**
- **Bosnia and Herzegovina**
- **Burundi**
- **Côte d’Ivoire**
- **Croatia**
- **Democratic Republic of Congo**
- **Guinea-Bissau**
- **Haiti**
- **Iraq**
- **Kenya**
- **Lebanon**
- **Liberia**
- **Nepal**
- **Pakistan**
- **Senegal/West Africa**
- **Serbia**
- **Sierra Leone**
- **Somalia**
- **Sri Lanka**
- **Sudan**
- **Tajikistan/Central Asia**
- **Timor-Leste**
- **Open Days were also held in the following areas:**
  - 1. Kosovo\***
  - 2. Morocco/Western Sahara**
  - 3. occupied Palestinian territories**

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\* - All references to Kosovo in this report shall be understood to be in the context of UN Security Council resolution 1244 (1999)

# 3 Executive Summary

*Women from civil society and senior UN leaders in conflict-affected countries participated in 25 dialogues on conflict resolution and peacebuilding in June, July and August 2010. These 'Open Days on Women, Peace and Security' signal the UN's commitment to engaging women in building peace and security in this tenth anniversary year of the landmark United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). These meetings enabled women to share priorities and concerns, and have provided a model for regular dialogue between women of civil society and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General (SRSGs), Executive Representatives of the Secretary-General (ERSGs) and Resident Coordinators (RCs), as a core peacebuilding practice.*

## PURPOSE

At the heart of landmark resolution 1325 (2000) are commitments to enable women's contributions to all stages of peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The 2010 UN-

organized Open Days in conflict-affected areas were designed to enable direct dialogue between women's peacebuilding organizations and women community leaders, and senior UN representation at the country level. The purpose was to seek women's views on means of improving implementation of resolution 1325 (2000). These open and inclusive forums for women peacebuilders and activists also provided the opportunity to deepen local ownership of the resolution. Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions 1820 (2008), 1888

“ These Open Days can be just a ceremony and nothing happens tomorrow... or they can become a stepping stone in a direction of bringing change. ”

Staffan de Mistura, SRSG Afghanistan

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