

Conflicting Women's Rights

Human Rights Framework to Women's Role in Post Conflict Countries

KIOS Seminar 2009



KIOS Seminar Publications 2009

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**Conflicting Women’s Rights -
Human Rights Framework to
Women’s Role in Post Conflict Countries**

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Foreword

Conflicting Women's Rights - Human Rights Framework to Women's Role in Post-Conflict Countries

If we want issues of human rights violations and impunity to remain on the agenda of international diplomacy, civil society needs to highlight these issues continuously. This was the main conclusion from the facilitators and participants in the seminar organized by KIOS on 10-11 November 2009 in Helsinki. Approximately hundred professionals took part in the two-day seminar to discuss promotion of women's rights in post-conflict countries.

The theme of the seminar was very timely since 2009 marks the 30th anniversary of Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Next year will be the 10th anniversary of the UN Security Council's resolution 1325, which addresses the impact of war on women and women's contributions to conflict resolution. This publication includes the presentations held by the facilitators representing various disciplines and regions in the world.

KIOS was proud to host our project partners from Afghanistan, DRC, Kenya, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Uganda as key speakers in the seminar. KIOS works to promote human rights in developing countries by granting funding to human rights projects in developing countries. Financial support is provided to local civil society organisations that work for the promotion and protection of human rights in their own countries and regions. Our aim is to especially support the promotion of the human rights of the most disadvantaged groups of the societies. Our project partners represented in the seminar brought with them the voice and views of those disadvantaged groups, and especially those of women living in difficult post conflict situations.

Elisa Mikkola
Executive Director
The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights

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Welcoming Remarks

***Mr. Esa Ylikoski, Chairperson of the Executive Board,
The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS***

Ladies and Gentleman,
Seminar participants and facilitators,

I have the honour to welcome you all to the annual seminar organized by The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS.

Some of audience might not be familiar with the Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS and the work we do hence I would like to use this opportunity to tell about our foundation briefly.

KIOS is an independent, non-political, non-religious and non-governmental foundation. We work to promote human rights in developing countries, as human rights are defined in the treaties and other instruments of the United Nations, and in regional human rights instruments.

Our work is to grant funding to human rights projects. Financial support is provided to local civil society organisations that work for the promotion and protection of human rights in their own countries and regions. Our aim is to especially support the promotion of the human rights of the most disadvantaged groups of the societies, which is in line with Finland's Development Policy Programme.



In Finland, we aim at increasing the knowledge of Finnish civil society on the human rights situation in developing countries. The annual seminars are one way of implementing this aim.

KIOS was established in September 1998 by eleven Finnish NGOs working with human rights and development issues. The former Minister for Development, Mr. Pekka Haavisto, had remarkable role in the birth of KIOS and its sister foundations. He started discussions with the Finnish human rights organisations and between the Ministry and the organisations in order to create direct funding mechanism for supporting human rights movement in the developing countries. The discussions culminated in the birth of KIOS and two sister foundations: Abilis Foundation, which supports human right projects for people with disabilities and Siemenpuu Foundation, which supports environmental projects in developing countries.

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This seminar is third (3rd) seminar organized by KIOS. In 2007 KIOS organized a seminar and workshop on human rights based approach to development. Last year we had a KIOS 10th Anniversary seminar on promotion of democratic rights at the grassroots level. This years' seminar focuses on the experiences and practices of promoting women's rights in post-conflict countries.

On 18 December 1979, thirty years ago, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly. The optional protocol to CEDAW was adopted ten years ago on 6 October 1999. However, the discrimination against women is part of the everyday life here in Finland, as well as in every other country of the world. Violence against women is one of the severest forms of the discrimination.

The subject of the seminar could not be more current. The UN Security Council has adopted by now four resolutions on women, peace and security, the first one being resolution 1325, adopted in 2000. The content of Resolution 1325 was complemented and expanded by the passage of Resolution 1820 in 2008 and subsequently Resolutions 1888 and 1889 in 2009.

During these two days we will hear interesting presentations. Key facilitators of the seminar include experts in women's rights representing NGOs in developing countries as well as key Finnish institutions.

I wish you all an interesting seminar and fruitful discussions!

Opening Speech

**Mr. Jorma Julin, Director General at the Department for Development Policy
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

We are grateful that KIOS has brought together different actors and that attention is given to women's rights and role in post conflict situations. This is a very timely issue. 30 years from the adoption of the CEDAW (Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), 15 years from the Beijing Platform for Action and 10 years from the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

Inequality is the word usually found behind a conflict. Inequality is linked to instability and fragility.

The Finnish Development Policy states that promoting social equality and women's rights is of vital importance for well-being and stronger democracy in developing countries. In conflict and post conflict situations attention to equality is actually a matter of an urgency. There are still those who say that we must address the emergency first and when time allows we can look at gender equality. But the fact is that everytime we address an emergency we also address gender equality. Gender equality is not a luxury. It is a basic principle in any society and a prerequisite for stability.

Finnish development policy is founded on the respect for and promotion of human rights. We believe, that de-

mocracy and other preconditions for development can be strengthened by pursuing an active human rights policy. It is not democracy if it is meant for one part of the nation only. Human rights are universal and they need to be available to all members of a society.

Many of Finland's long term partner countries in development cooperation are recent post-conflict countries such as Nepal, Ethiopia, Mozambique. Some of the partner countries are considered to be in fragile situations such as Kenya. In addition Finland collaborates with countries that are in state of a conflict or recovering from a crisis. Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Sudan and the Palestinian Territories belong to this group of partner countries.

Promotion of the rights and the status of women and girls, and promotion of gender and social equality is a cross cutting issue in the development cooperation. Its implementation is supported throughout all activities under the Finnish development policy. Finland also stresses the importance of gender equality in its humanitarian aid. At the policy dialogue, we systematically promote gender equality and human rights in international contexts such as the United Nations or the European Union activities as well as in our bilateral discussions with partner countries.

Finland considers development cooperation to be an efficient way to facilitate partner countries' possibilities to prevent conflicts and to support conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction. This is also recognised in the new policy document on "Development and Security in Finland's Development Cooperation" to be published in the near future. The new document will serve as a guideline for Finland's cooperation in this field.

The role of the civil society is of critical importance in promoting both human rights as well as gender equality in development cooperation. We appreciate the work of KIOS in the area of strengthening of democratic processes and structures for development from the grass-root level. The essential prerequisite for this is to raise awareness of human rights and democracy and to facilitate the work of human rights defenders. Ministry for Foreign Affairs has supported the work of KIOS in this important area. Finnish development policy is founded on the respect for human rights. We see a strong link between security, development and human rights - all these are essential elements in the wider security concept that is promoted by Finland.

As mentioned, next year will be the 10th anniversary of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

(thirteen twentyfive) on Women, Peace and Security. Finland adopted a national action plan on the implementation of the resolution 1325. It was prepared as a result of the collaboration between several ministries, civil society organisations and the academia. Finland is also serious in implementing the plan. The monitoring group meets regularly and reviews the progress.

The civil society is represented and active also in the monitoring group. Finland has now started a twinning exercise on 1325 with Kenya, aiming at making the actions of both countries stronger and more efficient in taking issues related to women, peace and security into account. One of the most important lessons learned from the preparation of the national action plan we wish to share with our twinning partner is the preparation process itself and our good experiences in creating a collaboration network consisting of wide array of actors.

Finland supported the new resolution 1888 that was approved by the Security Council this September during the US Government leadership. The main focus of this resolution is to prevent sexual violence in conflicts and to stop the impunity that now prevails. These have already been focus areas in our national action plan.



Civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict, including as refugees and internally displaced persons, and increasingly are targeted by combatants and armed elements, and recognizing the consequent impact this has on durable peace and reconciliation.

I am proud that Finland has been among the first supporters of the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflicts, also known as Stop Rape Now. This year Finland has provided 1 million euros to facilitate the work of different United Nations Agencies to prevent sexual violence in conflict or post conflict areas including Eastern Congo, Darfur and Liberia.

Though we consider the protection of women and girls to be of utmost importance in conflicts, we want to pay special attention to women's participation in planning, decision making and implementation of activities in conflict and post-conflict situations. Women form half of the population, in many areas more than a half. It is essential that women's views are being heard and that women's wisdom and knowledge is captured together with that of men when working towards a more stable and sustainable society after a conflict. I see it also as a matter of responsibility and commitment: women and men, girls and boys need to be committed to the decisions made as without the commitment from all parts of the population it is not possible to achieve peace and stability.

One critical entry point is a peace process. When a peace process commences during a conflict, it is important that women participate in the negotiations and that their views are being heard. However, we all know this rarely, if ever, happens in today's peace negotiations. Women's participation in peace and post conflict processes is one of the priority areas in our national action plan on 1325. Finland is supporting for example the activities coordinated by Femmes Africa Solidarite, a West Africa originating NGO that works with the African Union. We are committed to supporting women's access to decision making in conflict and post conflict situations also in the future.

Women's leadership in peace and security was the main focus of the International Colloquium on Women Leadership, Peace and Security held in Monrovia, Liberia in March this year. The meeting gathered together close to 2000 women leaders from all parts of the world. The event was chaired by President Tarja Halonen of Finland and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the first and only female president in Africa. The Colloquium produced for example a call for action on implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325, with very concrete proposals to better protect women and girls and to ensure their rights and possibilities for participation. It also facilitated the creation of a network of women leaders that are committed to promoting gender equality globally, and especially in conflict settings.

We believe in work that improves possibilities to take gender considerations into account and promote women's and girls' position and rights. Finland has decided to sup-



port the establishment of a gender expert in the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Beirut, to facilitate the promotion of women's rights in the Middle East and the Gulf. We also participate in the Gender and Governance Programme in Kenya, which is an activity of the civil society and the government, coordinated by UNIFEM that aims at improving women's possibilities to participate in decision making at the national and local level in Kenya. We believe that structures that facilitate better equality will also serve to prevent conflicts.

It comes as no surprise that the development cooperation work carried out by the Finnish civil society pays a lot of attention to women's and girls' rights and roles. The Ministry finds the work of the civil society in this field extremely important and much needed and complementary to activities carried out by governments and international actors. The civil society is able to reach such actors that are not easily accessible to a governmental actor. The work the civil society organisations are doing is much needed. In conflict and post conflict countries civil society is often

aware what the real situation is, and can provide information when no one else can. The civil society can encourage governments to work for peace and to respect human rights, including women's human rights.

I look forward to the outcome of the coming two days of this seminar. I also look forward to continued good collaboration with the civil society in promoting gender equality, human rights and in addressing conflict and post conflict situations. I wish you successful and interesting discussions.

Julin joined the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in 1971. He has served the Finnish missions in Bonn and Teheran, and the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD in Paris. As for his diplomatic career, he has served as Ambassador in Seoul and Tokyo and headed the Permanent Delegation of Finland to the OECD. At the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, he has served i.a. the Department for External Economic Relations as its Director General.



SESSION 1: WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ROLES IN POST-CONFLICT ASIA

***Chaired by: Mr. Jani A. Seikkula, Member of KIOS Executive Board,
Finnish Refugee Council***



Women's Rights and Religious Extremism in Afghanistan: Searching for Local Solutions

**Ms. Horia Mosadiq, Human Rights Activist
Afghanistan**

During different stages of the conflict in Afghanistan, violations against women were used as a weapon and women were targeted by different armed groups. Women were kidnapped, forced into marriages and raped. Women also suffered due to destruction of livelihoods, increased poverty and as they were forced to leave their homeland. Women in Afghanistan continue to bear the burden of the war. Women today continue to experience a lack of physical protection, not only by society but also at the family level.

Afghanistan is still facing an internal armed conflict and is ruled by a fragile government. Regardless to periodic peace and changes of regimes in the past years but consistent feature of Afghan life is that women live with a high risk of violence and discrimination at the society and home.

There are indeed considerable and substantive measures at state level to improve the position of women in Afghanistan are welcomed:

Participation of 14% female representatives in Emergency Loya Jirga from 1500 people.

In January 2004 Afghanistan's new Constitution was approved by more than 500 representatives and around 17% were women.

The new Constitution re-affirms that women and men are entitled to equal rights and guarantees the age of marriage of girls at 16 years.

The new Afghan Constitution states that 25% of the parliament members should be women. This means that out of 249 seats 75 seats are reserved for women¹.

Afghanistan is a state party to a number of major human rights treaties, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC)².

After the collapsed of Taliban regime for the first time more than six million children got back to school which between 30- 35% of them are girls compare to the Taliban time where less than a million children were attending school with almost no girls.

A significant constraints to such initiatives remains, however, in the form of the failure to provide physical security for Afghan people particularly women there. The climate

for enabling women and men to speak out freely is inhospitable. Private armed groups under the leadership of powerful regional leaders continue to exert de facto control and engage in factional clashes.

The US government and the international community promised Afghan women that they will uphold the rights of Afghan women. Afghan women believe that the international community has not put enough pressure on the Afghan government to meet the international human rights standards and obligations to protect and maintain women rights.

The lack of political will at the high Afghan government and judiciary level to protect the rights of Afghan women have an impact on the security and work of the women particularly Women Human Rights Defenders (WHRDs) who are trying to combat harmful traditions and challenge the judicial decisions on the cases of violence against women.

The international community particularly United Nations failed to hold Afghan government accountable for its performances towards promotion and protection of women's right as stated in the Afghanistan constitution and other international conventions such as CEDAW³ and 1325 UN resolution which Afghanistan is a member party to that.

The Afghan government is a member party to CEDAW convention since 2003 as well as 1325 UNSC resolution, both of which emphasize protection of women from violence as well as during the armed conflict. Whereas for the past eight years the Afghan government proved its failure in protecting women of all kind of violence including domestic and gender based violence within the system, judiciary and society. This failure lead to more gender based violence at the society level as many of the perpetrators are escaping judicial prosecution and enjoying the culture of impunity.

International laws place a duty on the Afghan government to refrain from committing violations of human rights and to protect women from violence committed not only by agents of the state but also by private individuals and groups. Under international human rights standards, states are accountable if they torture, arbitrarily detain, violate the right to life or discriminate in their laws, policies and practices. They must also exercise due diligence to secure women's rights including right to equality, life, liberty and security, and freedom from discrimination, torture and cruel and inhuman and degrading treatment.

Human Rights and Women's rights situation in the areas under the control of the Taliban



Women are disproportionately affected by violence during and after conflicts. In Afghanistan the Taliban regime have formally collapsed in late 2001 but still the ongoing conflict with the Taliban, factional violence, growing anti government attacks and targeted violence towards national and international aid workers is contributing to an ongoing state of conflict.

During the Taliban regime women and girls were not allowed to walk on the streets without having a male escort (Mahram) and were denied of their rights going to school and

work and were obliged to observe certain dress code.

In April 2009 Sitara Achekzai a women rights activists and the secretary of the Kandahar provincial council was assassinated at her door step in Kandahar city. Taliban claimed the responsibility for murder of Sitara. While in September 2008

Malalay Kakar a senior female police officer was also assassinated on her way to the office by Taliban in Kandahar. Both Sitara Achekzai and Malalay Kakar were the prominent women working in a high level of the provincial government in Kandahar city South of Afghanistan where is believed to be the stronghold of the Taliban.

Working on girls education in the areas that are under the control or influence of Taliban insurgents could risk⁴ the work and life of not only the service providers and teachers also the female students who are trying to learn something.

From the 9,222 total schools in Afghanistan more than 6% of the schools were destroyed by the end of year 2007 in violent attacks by the anti government elements which the majority of them were girls schools⁵.

In the areas where insurgents Taliban are fighting girls are denied from going to school and the schools are either destroyed or shut by the Taliban insurgents and the female students and teachers were attacked.

In Nov 2008 six school girls were attacked by acid⁶ in Kandahar city stronghold of the Taliban while in June 2007 in a shooting on girls students in Logar province Southeast Kabul at least half a dozen girls students were killed and injured while they were going home from school.

Recommendations

The Afghan government should criminalize violence against women and to ensure that the perpetrators do not benefit from any legal measures exempting them from criminal prosecution or conviction.



The Afghan government should provide support to the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and Ministry of Women's Affairs to establish an effective and responsive mechanism to investigate the crimes against women in Afghanistan.

The international community, especially the donor community, should take an active role in supporting Afghan women in both at the government and at society level, and put pressure on the Afghan government to recognize that violence against women is a crime within the civil and family law of Afghanistan.

The international community should take more active part in helping the Afghan government to decrease the power of local commanders and their armed men who are ruling most parts of the country and undermine the rule of the law. Until this happens, women's freedoms will never be secured.

The donor and international community should provide funding and support for the protection of the women human rights defenders in Afghanistan by establishing a response unit to the WHRDs at risk.

The United Nations should set a mechanism by which to monitor the Afghan government performances against its international commitments and obligations for safeguarding women as such CEDAW, IRC, United Nations Resolution 1325, Rome Statue and ICC.

The United Nations and international donor community should hold Afghan government accountable for the promises made under the national documents as such Afghan National Development Strategy (ANDS), Afghani-

stan Compact, JCEMB and other promises that were made during London and Paris conferences particularly for safeguarding and protecting women rights and human rights.

1) *Article 33 paragraph 6 of the Afghanistan Constitution states: In the election law measures should be adopted for so the election system shall provide general and just representation for all the people of the country, and at least two female delegate should be elected from each province.*

2) *Afghanistan has ratified ICCPR (24 April 1983), CRC (27 April 1994), CAT (26 June 1987), Geneva Convention (1956), and the Rome Statute (2003).*

3) *Article 14 of CEDAW states about the protection of women.*

4) *Acid attack on school girls in Kandahar province Nov 2008*

5) *Ministry of Education Planning Department Data on the number and type of schools in Afghanistan 2007*

6) *Taliban spokesman denied the involvement of Taliban in acid attack against school girls in Kandahar city in Southern Afghanistan.*

Horia Mosadiq is an activist and journalist with over 15 years of experience in development, diplomatic, national and international media and human rights organisations in Afghanistan and South Asia. She has specialised in transitional justice in Afghanistan and gender issues in Afghanistan and South Asia. Currently Mosadiq works as a researcher and Afghanistan specialist for the Secretariat of Amnesty International in London. She received the National Human Rights Defenders Award in Afghanistan in 2007.

Women's Rights and Religious Extremism in Pakistan: How to Integrate Women's Rights in Conflict Resolution at the Grassroots Level

**Ms. Tanveer Jahan, Director
Democratic Commission for Human Development**

Pakistan has been termed as the epicenter of international religious terrorism and extremism for the past few years now. Almost every day, we read and hear news of suicide attacks, Bomb blasts and beheadings that show how religious extremists have taken Pakistan, a country of 170 million, a hapless hostage to their world-view, detrimental at home and hostile to the world at large. However, religious extremism has is not new to Pakistan. In fact, religious extremism has been an integral part of the collective scenario in Pakistan since its inception nearly six decades ago.

In 1979, when the United States, Saudi Arabia, joined hands with Pakistan in a bid to wage resistance in the name of Islam against occupation forces of the Soviet Union, religious extremism in Pakistan assumed new dimensions because its militant facade began to enjoy the state patronage. On the sides of the great game super power game, Pakistan developed its own strategy to prop up its long-term strategic interests in the region. Simply stated, the doctrine called for a nexus of the religious extremists and the Pakistan army. Thus emerged the state policy that envisaged low-intensity warfare in the neighboring countries through a nexus of religious elements and the state army.

It was at this point that the religious elements seriously began to consider a take-over of the state, forcibly if needed, and impose their socio-political order. They already had the examples of Iran, Saudi Arabia, Sudan and closer at

home Afghanistan in the West which in fact was the handiwork of Pakistani state.

It was at this point that an International element got introduced into the extremist religious equation in Pakistan. And it happened well before Al Qaeda came to Afghanistan in the last years of the 20th century. In fact, international Jihadists had found a convenient confluence point in Pakistan as early as 1980. Under the garb of Afghan Jihad against Soviet forces, they would flock to Pakistan where they could organize military training of their recruits. They could organize drug trafficking with the world's most fertile drug-growing fields under their control. They could orchestrate the financial management of their outfits. They could build and test their command and control structures with near impunity.

Pakistan was a nuclear capable but weak state with a poor economy, dilapidated state infra-structure, persistent political instability and vulnerable state writ and importantly following religious terrorism as the state policy. The army, the most powerful political broker in Pakistan, was orchestrating low-intensity warfare through a well-coordinated network of secret agencies and an archipelago of terrorist organizations, dubbed as freedom fighters. The public opinion was heavily indoctrinated. The political leadership was emasculated and media, hankering after juicy propaganda, was heavily skewed in favor of terrorists and their

patrons. An entrenched terrorist network existed at home with strong politico-religious support structures available including a burgeoning network of seminaries across the country.

A proxy war between Saudi Arabia and Iran, in the form of Sectarian conflict, had killed thousands in Pakistan since early 1980's. Weapons were easily available and north-western tribal belt, infested with the remnants of Afghan Jihad, had an inaccessible terrain, craggy mountains, a porous frontier, a deeply orthodox populace and virtually no military presence.

After American and NATO forces, invaded Afghanistan in October 2001, Taliban and Al-Qaeda, had to retreat without offering substantial resistance. Pakistan ostensibly was an ally in the war against terrorism but the decision-makers in Pakistan had other plans. They reckoned that Taliban were crucial to the long-term protection of their interests in Afghanistan. America and other allied forces were bound to leave sooner or later. The only point was to protect Taliban judiciously and ensure that allied forces were embroiled in a war of attrition. However, the Pakistani's strategists made a colossal mistake of calculation.

International Islamist militants were not entirely affable to the dictates of the Pakistani state. In fact, their agenda was global terrorism. With international forces ensconced in Afghanistan, Pakistan offered a more valuable and pliant option. They entrenched themselves in the tribal parts of Pakistan and struck valuable alliances with the religious extremists of all colures in Pakistan.

In the deeply patriarchal and orthodox milieu of Pakistan, women never were supposed to enjoy their full human rights and freedoms. With each passing decades, number of discriminatory laws against women have increased. The social space for women has narrowed. The primitive customary practices have not only continued, some have even made a return with the lapse of the writ of the state. A curious mixture of obsolete cultural traditions and less-than definitive religious injunctions has turned Pakistan into a suffocating dungeon for women.

Honor-killing (usually for seeking a marriage of one's choice) has been the norm, hardly stirring a social scandal.

The incidence of domestic violence is high, cross-cutting all social and economic classes.

Forced marriages in Pakistan are so common that the echoes can even be heard among the Pakistani Diaspora in European countries. Gender segregation is the norm though its forms may vary with the change of social class and the neighborhood. Due to unreasonable restriction on movement and interaction, the women can not conduct their businesses outside cosmopolitan cities. It is easier for a woman to open a boutique (obviously a privilege of the elite) than to run a vegetable kiosk.

Pakistani laws make no distinction between rape and adultery. With adultery being punishable under the law, the crime of rape invariably becomes difficult to prosecute.

The harassment of women in their work place or in public places is so common that special police contingents are appointed as guards on festivals when women are expected to go out and shop. Prudish morality and societal taboos ensure that the contraceptives are hard to get outside big cities in a country with one of the highest population growth rates in the world.

Only a robust political response could have stemmed it but the political discourse in Pakistan has been pawned to the powerful national military since the days of the Cold War. And the military believes that the clergy is her best ally in the protection of army's preferred national agenda. Thus the clergy held virtual veto over all things social, especially those pertaining to women, even before the advent of the religious extremists from across the border in Afghanistan.

To the already unfavorable conditions for women in Pakistan, Taliban and their extremist allies brought their mixture of exclusion, proscription and intimidation for women.

Initially, the religious extremists showed their relatively softer face, preaching through their illegal Fm radio and invoking the name of Islam and its supposed blessings. Women, illiterate and cloistered, were enamored and even donated their jewelry to the Mujahideen.



Once the extremists had a firm hold in the territory, they banned women's movement. They were disallowed to move around without the male members of their families. Shopkeepers were disallowed to sell to the women customers. Hundreds of girl schools were blown up or burnt. Through an edict, all girls in the Swat valley were banned from attending school and parents were threatened with dire consequence in case of disobedience. Only a special type of veil was allowed.

The traditional veil of the region was declared Un-Islamic. All women working as school teachers, nurses, social workers and office workers were banned from going to work. Dozens of women were shot dead on the charges of "immoral activities" and their bodies were hanged for public display. Music shops were bombed out in dozens. Toys were forbidden in the Taliban Afghanistan to ward off the possibility that some toys might carry musical tones. Playing with a football was considered a heinous crime.

All those suspected of spying for the government were beheaded. People were publicly flogged for "crimes" such as not saying their prayers. Several women were beaten, disgraced and humiliated in public when found guilty of violating the Taliban code of veil. In a particularly harsh case, a young girl was publicly flogged. When the video of the crime became public, the Taliban supporters in political parties and media vowed that the video was faked.

Through the systematic elimination of the political, social and religious leadership of the areas falling under their rule, the Taliban had already liquidated the social and political discourse. The local administration had virtually ceased to exist and some of the highest official of the region, the Divisional Commissioner of Malakand being one, were openly supporting the Taliban.

Democracy in Pakistan is dominated by feudal and urban traders, both known for their orthodox views concerning women. Only army could have stemmed the rot but the army was reluctant to move in till the second quarter of 2009. In the absence of the state protection, the people had no choice but to acquiesce to the will of the religious extremists.

Religious extremism pits the perceived divine against the all that belongs to the human relations, production, cultural manifestations, intellect and recreation. Their world view is masochistic, devoid of human compassion or a will to improve the lot of the fellow human beings. Their concept of holy war results in a mind-set that is intrinsically militaristic and perceives peace only as an interval before the next bout of war.

All laws, rules, policies and activities are subject top the needs of the war.

The religious extremists do not believe in pluralistic co-existence or engagement with others. Instead, they actively propagate isolation and alienation, isolation of their subject people from the world at large and an in-built eternal alienation for all people and things different from their preferred way of life.

In this quest for perpetual alienation and a forced regimentation of the collective and individual life, the only effective tool is intimidation and intimidation works more effectively with the vulnerable. Thus women are the natural victim of the religious extremist.

The war in the north-West border dividing Pakistan and Afghanistan is not yet over. In fact, it is the beginning of a long and bloody conflict. The Pakistan army has just concluded a rather successful operation in the Eastern part of the tribal belt.

However, the mentioned operation was conducted in the settled parts of the country where the strength of the Religious militants was only a fraction when compared with tribal areas believed to be the strongholds of the religious militants. Above all, it is difficult to say that the state of Pakistan has actually abandoned its strategic narrative that valued religious militant as a tool of its state policy.

Thus a much longer and more elaborate war looms ahead, the outcome of which is difficult to predict at this point in time. However, a successful campaign against religious extremism will definitely require a multi-dimensional approach.

The religious militancy can not be uprooted merely through military means because religious militancy usurped the writ of state in Pakistan largely through non-military avenues. They crept in through discriminatory or fuzzy legislation, societal sanction to their murky world-view and the lack of political will to combat their onslaught against weaker sections of society, especially women.

Recommendations

In order to integrate women's rights in the conflict against religious extremism, a comprehensive strategy is required including the following:

To come to terms with what happened in the conflict areas and more importantly why it happened, is essential for any effort to restore normalcy to life in these areas, particularly for its still vulnerable female population. It is important that women and even children talk of their fears and experiences and how in their opinion a repeat of their traumas can be avoided, and perhaps also the horrors are remembered That the sacrifices' did not go in vain.

It essentially has to re-invent the civil society and restore the people's confidence in government and the government institutions.

FM radio stations played a major role in the popularity of the Mulla Fazlullah, its importance and usefulness cannot be denied and can play a major role restoring normalcy in life and help for the hundreds of thousands of the illiterate women of conflict areas. Programs on women's rights and about access to the government facilities and even justice

Organizing small village groups consisting of local volunteers (male and female), who are chosen for education and/or prior experience and trainings, who will go through a basic human rights/ political education and other specialized trainings, who will go into the community. A mechanism of their continuous education should be in place like informed through a Web-Site, FM radio programmes, literature, papers, pamphlets, books etc.....

Encouraging professional women, e.g. doctors, health and education workers and lawyers to return to their professions..... Many involve help with infrastructure...

Setting up of a village based or community based human rights groups that support vulnerable women and or a means to disseminating information and making appropriate intervention.

Also work as the eyes and ears for human rights violations that can be addressed through the volunteer lawyers and human rights activists

Tanveer Jahan is a very experienced and well-known human rights activist and researcher. Her specialty is women's rights and human rights education, on which she has also published several handbooks. Jahan has been actively involved in campaigns for democracy, abolition of honour killings and against Islamisation of laws in the country. Jahan is a member in several national and regional human rights organisations and has worked as a coordinator of the women's rights programme in the organisation Human Rights Commission since 1995.



SESSION 2:

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ROLES IN POST-CONFLICT AFRICA

*Chaired by: Ms. Niina Pitkänen, Member of KIOS Executive Board,
Service Centre for Development Cooperation KEPA*



Remains of Armed Conflict: Domestic Violence and Social Structures in Western Uganda

**Mr. Obed Kabanda, Executive Director
Action for Community Development - Uganda**

Over the past decade, recognition of the scope and significance of domestic violence globally has increased. Domestic violence has been defined as “the range of sexually, psychologically and physically coercive acts used against adult and adolescent women by current or former male intimate partners”. Violence against Women (VAW) is found at every level in society and cuts across culture, class, education, income and age. Violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of equality and development for women. Women are subjected to violence such as physical, emotional, economic abuse, marital rape, sexual assault, rape and incest in the private sphere. Then there is violence outside of the home (public sphere) rape, sexual assault, prostitution, sexual harassment and etc.

Background to armed conflict

The Western/Rwenzori region has been an ideal haven for rebel groups due to its mountainous terrain and strategic location close to the DRC. The Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) rebels waged an armed conflict against the government of the National Resistance Movement (NRM) through Kasese on 13th November 1996 a war that has been referred to as “a rebellion without cause”. The ADF exploited the problems in the region as ethnic differences, unemployment resulting in further poverty, destruction of vital infrastructure and food shortages. More than half a decade of ADF conflict in Western Uganda-Rwenzori re-

gion had a devastating impact on the lives of thousands of civilians. Like so many of today’s ‘dirty wars,’ gender-related crimes were pervasive. Threats of attacks, rape and abduction led to hundred thousands of Internally Displaced People (IDPS) fleeing to camps and a humanitarian crisis. The ADF rebellion was brought under control by the NRM from 2000, but the repercussions continue to affect the region.

Abductions

There were abductions for both girls and women to act as sex objects and forced wives for the rebel militia. Men and young boys were abducted to act as young soldiers and provide work force for the rebel militia. Most of the men and women returnees report torture, humiliation, hard labour, open live cuts of fellow organs and killings which has resulted into unhealed psychosocial trauma that pre-occupies their mind in their current relationships resulting into violent practices in households.

What happened? Armed conflict & destroyed Family systems!

Traditional family systems in western Uganda where men were seen as the defenders of wife and children were partly eroded due to the armed conflict resulting into men turning more violent than ever. Men who survived the

war abductions and returned home in western Uganda are without employment and have turned to be angry all the time in life due to difficult livelihoods. Therefore instead of rebuilding their family lives, many of them have habitually taken out their frustrations on their families, especially their wives through beating, repression, and marital rape thus increasing violence more and more in families.

Weakened Social Fabric

With the breakdown of the social fabric and traditional family roles, a vacuum has been left in western Uganda. The armed conflict worsened the situation that women and girls' vulnerability during the conflict became even more severe. Many were forced to flee their homes and become refugees or IDPs with many challenges ranging from lack of basic needs. This forced them into emergent commercialized sexual relationships with soldiers who would provide food and money in exchange of sex and forced divorce of their previous husbands-something that has continued to haunt men who remained married with their women after the conflict and thus continued violence occurrences

Odious Rape

Rape and defilement for young girls was one of the abhorrent practices in the armed conflict in the region. Rape was partly used by the rebel militia as a tool for "conflict cleansing", including the forced impregnation of abducted girls in the bush. Rape was also used to humiliate and demoralize families and community members. During the armed conflict, some men were forced to watch the rape of their wives or daughters as away for humiliating them and such men had to divorce their wives and others who managed to escape and remained married have found it hard to cope with the experience often affecting their sexual life that translates into sexual violence;

Increased Poverty

Broken cycle of agricultural production after the conflict have left many families in situations of food insecurity and poverty given that most of the population entirely depended on peasantry farming for survival; poverty being a seri-

ous contributing factor to domestic violence have left an increase in occurrences of the same in many homes. Social acceptance of violence as a common practice as a result of the violent experiences people went through during the armed conflict continues to make DV an acceptable act in the communities and men's role in income earning has been seen to deteriorate putting many women to task involving in petty businesses that are even less paying;

Diminished Reproductive Rights

Many young raped and impregnated girls in abduction and pregnant women who were IDPs have sustained obstetric fistulae (RVF/VVF) as a result of the poor health care system characterized with weak emergency obstetric care that evidently existed during the armed conflict; This condition has left many women divorced on addition to such a disability in life- of uncontrolled continuous leaking of urine or faeces and or both through the vagina robbing them of their dignity. Many women with this condition report bearing no more children as men hate having sex with them.

Street Children

We continue to see increase in street children on many streets of growing towns in the region in the last 9- years after conflict. This is due to the many fatherless children as a result of the unwanted pregnancies among the raped girls and women and those who were pushed in early marriages during the armed conflict. The cycle of violence (sexual and physical) continues among such young girls and boys on streets in the region as they struggle for survival.

HIV & AIDS Scourge

In many households where a wife or husband was abducted during the armed conflict extra marital relationships became the practice for those spouses who remained behind in homes; The silence of the partners and other abusers about their extra-marital activities before and after the re-union from abduction coupled with the silence of the women surrounding their violation has kept the cycle of

both violence and HIV escalating in western Uganda with high prevalence rate of 8.3% against the national stagnant rate of 6.4%. And in families where HIV has shown up, it is the woman who is blamed and a shamed for being infected and blamed for infecting the husband, even though she may only have ever had sex with her intimate partner alone. This has continued to raise the burden of violence against women. Above all is the violence arising from HIV discordance among some couples that increases the odious practice of violence.

Existing Social Support Structures

The police, local council courts, the FBOs, the Community Women Council Committees at different levels, the health sector, the legal and justice system that is comprised of the magisterial courts are some structures preordained to shore up DV prevention, response and or act to offer redress for related cases. We have seen in some areas in

the region these structures beginning to work together for change! There is still insignificant progress achieved so far among such structures in the region to rally round women and men who experience domestic violence save for the triumphant but sparse impact of ACODEV-U DV prevention program so far in only two districts of the 9 districts in the region as a pilot supported by KIOS.

Challenges

There is still lack of a strong family law coupled with acts of corruption, silence about DV by some structures, weak legal system, challenges with the rule of law and some instances of an impartial judiciary, hardly make it possible to redress domestic violence in Western Uganda; Men's involvement and commitment is still low save for a few like us. There is need to arouse the structures to dole out their purpose as has happened in the two districts ACODEV-U has been operating in so far.

Emerging Issues

- Whose responsibility is it to stop abuses against women and girls during and after conflict? Are relevant stakeholders (Gov'ts, CSOs, FBOs, International community etc) often accountable during armed conflicts in Africa?
- Who takes on the burden of the "fatherless" children intuitively made out of the unwanted pregnancies among the raped women during the armed conflict in Africa?
- Whose responsibility is it to stop abuses against women and girls during and after conflict? Are relevant stakeholders (Gov'ts, CSOs, FBOs, International community etc) often accountable during armed conflicts in Africa?
- Who takes on the burden of the "fatherless" children intuitively made out of the unwanted pregnancies among the raped women during the armed conflict in Africa?
- How realistic on ground are the international instruments and laws in the protection of women and girls during armed conflict?
- How prudent is the women's place in decision-making in Africa as placed under the UN Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security when men still continue to dominate decision-making processes and yet women are the ones severely hit by the crisis?
- How and who is responsible for restoring the dignity of women who uncontrollably leak urine or feces and



or both through their vagina as a result of rape in armed conflict in Africa? Fistulae (RVF/VVF) repeats the cycle of violence faced by the women!

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- How and who is responsible for restoring the dignity of women who uncontrollably leak urine or feces and or both through their vagina as a result of rape in armed conflict in Africa? Fistulae (RVF/VVF) repeats the cycle of violence faced by the women!
- Can we succeed with the demise of DV and Economic deprivation of women and men as a result of armed conflict without ending the conflict itself in Africa?
- Is it not almost worthless addressing and funding domestic violence programs without considering the intersection of the same with HIV and AIDS in Africa where armed conflict has ruined communities?

Recommendations

- If the vast networks of established organizations, governmental departments and all other interested stakeholders like development partners, do not seriously take up the issue of domestic violence and its relationship to armed conflict, the struggle for the wellbeing and safety of women and girls and thus communities in Africa and every where around the world may be lost.
- NGO'S and CBO'S continue to carry a large portion of the burden of service delivery without proper funding. There is need for specific, timely and long-term funding to support the good work wherever it is taking place in Africa, leave alone the decreasing global funding trends
- There is great power in using the intersection of domestic violence and armed conflict in an intersectoral manner. By engaging the two issues in this manner it is possible to:
- Employ a new concept and organizing principle to create powerful, multi-disciplinary Intersect Coalitions for social mobilization across countries worldwide.
- Engage in obliging action to advance common goals

and face issues of common concern among those working on domestic violence , conflict resolution , human rights, armed conflict prevention and related fields.

- Promote innovative approaches to education, law(national and international), and public policy.
- Marshal a formidable, visible force to create significant change in the social environment in which domestic Violence currently thrives so that social justice, gender parity and a life of quality and safety replace the current specter of violence and armed conflict in Africa.

Obed Kabanda is an expert on human rights issues related to domestic violence and work against HIV/AIDS who has worked in several NGOs in Uganda. He established an NGO "Kasese District Youth Focus on AIDS" to promote the rights of the youth with HIV/AIDS and he is an active member in several Ugandan NGOs on women's rights and HIV/AIDS.

Beyond Ending Impunity: Sexual Violence in Eastern DRC

**Mr. Descartes Mponge Malasi, Executive Director
Actions des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda**

We already noted that the people of South-Kivu in particular and the eastern DRC in general believe that rape is a very old social phenomenon. But in recent times rape has increased substantially in scale and several types of rape that did not exist in the past exist today. Rape was once directed only at adult women. The norm was that rapists, armed with a machete, would attack their victims in the fields where women worked. Today infant girls as young as 5 years old or younger are victims of sexual violence.



Sexual violence is an everyday reality in the DRC and affects many individuals in the eastern part of the DRC.

Several reports published since 2003 by local and international humanitarian organizations state that cases of sexual violence in eastern DRC are on the increase despite the existence of national legislation on rape since July 2006. There are more than 12,300 cases reported in South Kivu alone 2008 and survivors of rape often suffer trauma and deep suffering.

The rate of prosecutions for these crimes in the South Kivu province remains low approximately 45 cases. That is to say there is still glaring impunity for these crimes.

Experience shows that many victims of sexual violence, even those who have received medical, social, psychological or economic assistance, are merely less traumatized when their perpetrators are made accountable for their acts through the Courts. Addressing impunity alone does not solve the many effects of rape on its victims and their families.

The question that arises is what actions are to be taken by various stakeholders to end this scourge in eastern DRC?

Before answering, it is useful to recall first the causes and consequences of sexual violence and the obstacles to the eradication of this scourge from the point of view of the

local population. Their perceptions were collected during participatory action research on sexual violence carried out in 2009 in South Kivu by a consortium of three civil society organizations (ACADHOSHA, APDIK and RFDP)¹, with support from Global Rights.

The research had the following objectives:

- To gather perceptions of communities on the causes and consequences of sexual violence in South-Kivu province in order to formulate recommendations for civil society organizations, the judiciary, and the security services in order to put in place better measures that meet the needs of victims and communities most affected by rape;
- To gather proposals and solutions from communities aimed at suppressing or preventing sexual violence in South-Kivu Province;
- To gather statistics on the degree of knowledge about the law on sexual violence and its impact on bringing an end to crimes of sexual violence;
- To educate community stakeholders and officials on the new laws addressing sexual violence in the DRC.

Experiences and causes of sexual violence in Eastern DRC

The research participants stated two major causes for the current scourge: war, corruption and impunity, tradition and poverty. Before the wars of liberation, sexual violence remained below the levels they have reached today.

The presence of armed forces and groups, especially those of foreign origin,² has been identified as the cause of this crime. Statistics continue to rise despite the existence of the law on sexual violence and the fact that it has been well received by average Congolese men and women.

Corruption in the judicial services especially at the pre-jurisdiction stage (called “Officier de Police Judiciaire” in the DRC) and impunity were identified by research participants as other important causes of the dramatic rise in sexual violence in South Kivu in particular and the east of the DRC in general.

Participants also cited customary practices that are predisposed to encourage sexual violence. Participants cited the example of names that are given to girls that predispose them to early marriage.³ Another example cited was that of teachers that give extra points to female students who agree to have sexual relations with them. Some participants also cited the prayer room as a cause for many cases of sexual violence as well as for divorce and family instability.

In relationship to victims of sexual violence, it became clear from the research that family members try to sympathize with the victim, despite the fact limited means. However, the victim usually feels socially inferior and often members of their community adopt a range of attitudes and behaviors. Some show solidarity with the victim and others make fun of her and even heckle her in public.

As for the law, finally, it should be noted that of the 348 individuals who participating in the research in the Mwenza territory, 71 people or 20.40% have already heard about the law on sexual violence. On the other hand, 277 or 79.59% of the participants have not heard of the law.

In the territory of Shabunda by contrast, of the 349 individuals interviewed, only 64 persons or 18.33% had already heard about the law. On the other hand, it emerged that 285 people or 81.66% of the research participants had not yet heard of the law on sexual violence.

In sum, of the total 1857 persons who participated in the research in South Kivu, only 391 persons or 21.1% had heard of the law on sexual violence and 1466 people or 78.9% were totally unaware of the law on sexual violence.

Obstacles to the eradication of sexual violence in Eastern DRC

This research had the advantage of providing a space for participants to express their views on obstacles to the eradication or the reduction of sexual violence in South-Kivu. Although sexual violence is a well-known phenomenon and is one experienced in communities we interviewed, they said that their headmen lack respect and consideration for the victim. This means that many victims go into hiding and unfortunately develop serious diseases like

AIDS/STI that could be addressed if they received support in their communities.

The situation of victims of sexual violence in eastern DRC in general and in rural areas in particular is still worrying to the point that access to medical care is poor. Spouses are equally traumatized and this leads them to divorce their wives who have been victims of sexual violence. This trauma also affects whole communities. Families are unwilling to accept that a family member marries a girl or woman who has been a victim of sexual violence.

Victims of sexual violence face many difficulties. First off, there is ignorance of the law, followed by stigmatization and finally the absence or a weak, competent judicial infrastructure.

It should also be noted that research participants deplored the fact that regular meetings and support for victims to deal with their trauma were missing. These are so important because victims of sexual violence usually blame themselves for being raped especially when they contract an unwanted pregnancy. Participants especially stressed the non-application of the law, deploring at the same time the corruption within the courts and impunity. The needs of victims are not adequately addressed and there is urgent need to address this.

For this law to be implemented, the research participants considered that the withdrawal of armed forces and groups was a prerequisite, followed by the need to disseminate the law on sexual violence and then to launch a campaign against corruption in the judiciary and the impunity of perpetrators.

Solutions for effectively fight against sexual violence

It is true that several solutions aimed at ending the phenomenon of sexual violence have been proposed by the communities involved in the research that can be implemented at several levels and by different actors on the ground. Some solutions need to addressed implemented by state authorities (here we include the fight against impunity and corruption, the repatriation of the FDLR and the Interahamwe, the restructuring of the army, reforming

judicial institutions, the police and military, etc...). Others concern communities and families that should endeavor to adopt a positive attitude towards the victims and not reject them. Families and communities should be encouraged to report cases of corruption and fight against impunity. Victims should overcome their despair and start seeing themselves as valuable members of society and of their community. They should not be too worried. The most important activity is to inform communities about the law on sexual violence in local languages and not only French as has been done by many players so far.

References

- 1) Action des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda, Action Paysanne pour le Développement Intégré au Kivu et Réseau des Femmes pour la Défense des Droits et la Paix.
- 2) The Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda or the Interahamwe for example.
- 3) The literal translation of the name "Mitamba" means in the Lega culture a girl that will provide wealth, her brother's dowry.

Descartes Mponge Malasi has specialised in the human rights situation and the issue of sexual violence in South Kivu. He has over 10 years of experience in the field as an activist and researcher. Apart from his position in ACADHOSHA, he has conducted research on the legal system of his country e.g. for the Human Rights Center of the University of California Berkeley.

Human Rights Based Conflict Resolution in Kenya: Role of Women's Rights Groups

**Ms. Joy Mmaabu, Executive Director
Amani Communities Africa, Kenya**

Kenya is situated in Eastern Africa, bordering Ethiopia, Sudan and Somalia to the North, Uganda to the East and Tanzania to the South. It is a young democracy, have obtained independence from Britain in 1964. Kenya has had two presidents who operated in an atmosphere of dictatorship with high handed repression of citizen's rights and freedoms. Intense pressure from international and local levels paved way to a multiparty democracy in 2002. The third president though still enjoying enormous executive powers, has been tamed largely by the transitional times that have seen the establishment of a coalition government.

Kenya is what I would refer to as a dysfunctional democracy. It is a fragile nation – state in which nationalism is crumbling under ethnic supremacy. Ethnized politics supersede national interests and goals with citizen's loyalty typically being to “tribal kings “. Each of the six major tribes enters into tribal alliances to secure “it's time to eat the national cake”. This has greatly hampered nationalism and development.

Reports by human rights watchdogs paint a dim picture in relation to the state of human rights protection and promotion. They are widespread violations of human rights in the social, economical, cultural and political health spheres.

The state is the main culprit, and has been rightly accused of absolute disregard, impunity, of its role in protecting its citizens.

In relation to peace, Kenya is currently in a post violent conflict status. We experienced massive politically instigated violence following the disputed 2007 presidential polls. We are undertaking post conflict peace building, reconstruction and rehabilitation processes. This includes transitional justice mechanisms through the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission that is seeking to address historical injustice to pave way for sustainable peace with justice.

Others reforms are being undertaken to improve governance and public service delivery in the judicial, legislature, electoral and constitutional spheres as well.

Status of Women

Like in most countries of the world, 52% of the Kenyan population are women. The women face enormous structural, economic, political and cultural violence. They are largely absent in key public leadership and decision making processes.

Kenya is a signatory to key international human rights and peace Conventions and Resolutions including CEDAW

and UNSR 1325 and 1820. However, there has been no political will to domestic these instruments into national laws.

Women face grave human rights violations daily in peace time, which are obviously exacerbated by violent conflict. The most rampant violations relate to their sexual and reproductive health and rights. Rape, sexual assault, unwanted pregnancies, forced marriages, abductions are but a few of the rampant violations.

Gender based violence is similarly prevalent as is domestic violence. Property rights, including to ownership through acquisition, gifts and inheritance are constantly violated. The violations are grounded on patriarchy with its attendant subordination of the women and reinforced by culture, State and religion.

Women's Rights Groups

Though typically subdued by men in both public and private space, Kenyan women are waking up to pursue social change vigorously.

At the economic level, women are constantly grouping themselves into formidable 'self- help groups' for participation in savings and credit schemes. At cultural front, they are leading campaigns against oppressive cultural practices like female genital mutilation, early and forced marriages and polygamy.

At social front, they are campaigning against gender based violence and exclusion.

At political front, they are grouping to influence policy and programs in their favour. They are calling for domestication of international human rights instruments to facilitate gender equality and women's empowerment. They are claiming space in leadership and decision making. They are campaigning for affirmative action and other strategies to increase their numbers in public space.

The women are waking up to the reality and language of human rights and becoming increasingly aware of their specific and peculiar needs, priorities and constraints. They know the strength in numbers and are therefore forming

themselves in strong formidable organizations at local national and regional levels.

Approaches by Women's Rights Groups - Linking Human Rights to Conflict Resolution

Conflict resolution and human rights protection are interdependent and inextricable disciplines. Although the approaches, emphasis and concerns may appear divergent, the goals are largely similar and shared; stable societies as prerequisites to sustainable development. Women suffer gross and unique human rights violations both during peace as well as during violent times. Yet, women are conversely a considerable resource in the protection of human rights as well as in conflict resolution.

Women are concerned about the rights of the strong as well as those of the vulnerable. They care that their husbands and children are safe. Women care that they retain the family institution, and in Africa they go to every mile to protect this institution. Due to this reality, women are naturally averse to using confrontation and force to demand their human rights.

Positive methods of conflict resolution like dialogue, negotiation, mediation and conciliation are therefore very important to them. We at ACA have been immensely instrumental in the mushrooming of women's rights groups traversing Kenya and demanding the protection and promotion of their human rights using non violent approaches. The key mandate of these groups is the creating of awareness from national to grassroots levels, through seminars and trainings in human rights education in the context of positive activism for protection using nonviolent methodologies.

The other involvement of the groups is in intensive lobbying and advocacy efforts to influence passing of laws that protect and promote women's rights. They are defending the rights of the weak and vulnerable like the widows and those living with HIV/AIDS. They are building economic independence and power through claiming their right to property ownership and right to credit from banks.

The groups are also addressing social cultural impediments that hinder them from full enjoyment of their rights. They

are embracing ICT as a strategy for participation and empowerment in the current transitional justice dispensation in Kenya.

The women's groups are positioning and strengthening themselves to increase their presence in public leadership and decision making. They have suffered historical injustices that must also be addressed, including systematic exclusion, denial of space for participation, limited economic participation, discrimination and abuse.

Women are demanding inclusion in peace building processes. They are absent from peace negotiating tables and their needs and concerns remain unaddressed. There are many internally displaced persons in camps and many who have not had the opportunity to pursue formal education. Women are therefore pursuing nonviolent conflict resolution approaches to influence law and policy for enhanced protection and promotion of their human rights.

Conclusion

The international community is heavily involved and instrumental in furthering the work of peace building, conflict resolution and human rights protection in Kenya.

There is also an increasing appreciation of the link between the two seemingly contradicting disciplines of human rights and conflict resolution. They are actually complementally in the search for sustainable development.

What in my opinion is not sufficiently appreciated is the central role of women's rights groups in creating a culture of peace through protection of human rights. There is also undue concentration on regional and national initiatives, at the expense of grassroots activism. Yet, it is at the grassroots that most human rights violations occur, as well consequences of violent conflict. Multi level engagements that take down international human rights and conflict resolution discourses to the grassroots for practical application are a necessity.



Closing Words: Reflections on Trends on Violence against Women

**Mr. Samwel Mohochi, Executive Director
The Independent Medico-Legal Unit**

“In February 2005 a Minister for Justice and constitutional affairs in Kenya publicly complained that international pressure for reform is “like raping a woman who was already too willing” The said Minister is Harvard trained with a human rights tag on his CV.

This paper attempts to identify types of, current trends and reactions of violence against women while identifying strategies so far adopted to mitigate the situation.

I have controversially started by quoting our then minister of justice a statement that clearly illustrated the depth of the societal problem in Kenya which is not only highly ethicised but patriarchal in character further compounding this issue.

Picture this:

- 1) 49% of Kenyan women experience violence in their lifetime while one out of every four has experienced violence in the last 12 months.
- 2) 83% of women and girls reported one or more episodes of physical abuse in childhood; 46% reported one or more episodes of sexual abuse in childhood
- 3) Over 60% of the women and children did not report the event to anyone. Only 12% who had been physically or sexually abused reported to someone in authority like chief or the police.

- 4) 25% of 12-24 years old lost their virginity by force.
- 5) In Kenya Sexual violence is silent and preying because it is “underreported”, “under-investigated” and..... “Insufficiently addressed”.
- 6) 75% of victims were raped at home in front of their spouses and children during the post election violence.
- 7) 32% of rape committed during the post election violence was done by police and security agencies .

This statistical list goes on and the rational around is that firstly Kenya is a society at a crossroad and that while embracing western type liberal democracy we remain highly ethnic, patriarchal, dictatorial which further fuels the evil violence against women. This trend was glaringly manifest during the post election violence.

The following are some of the broad types of Violence on women.

Domestic Violence

This is deep rooted in African culture and custom with a common notion that a woman should be subservient to the man and in certain communities women were equated to property or children this made the subject to regular discipline that included battery.

Domestic violence not only encompasses physical battery but also includes sexual violence at home a subject that includes marital rape. It can be aptly argued that to a certain extent there is domestic violence against women who serve as house-helpers and servants who are most at times underpaid overworked while in certain instances physical violence has been made on them.

This trend seems to have continued in modern day Kenya while subsistence on stereotypes and negative cultural values and practices continues to catalyse various forms of violence on women.

One example of deep rooted stereotyping on women's right is aptly captured in a parliamentary debate in Kenya in may 2006 where ; Hon. Paddy Ahenda's contribution to the debate "I am one of those people who have looked at the bill, chapter by chapter [...] You know as much as I do that these creatures (women) are somehow shy. They are not as open as men are he claimed," [...] Section 23(1) says: "Any person who undertakes any unlawful, unsolicited and

unwelcome sexual advances or requests for sexual favors is guilty of the offence of sexual harassment." That Section prohibits any male person to marry because before you marry, you must make advances. [...] you know as much as I do, that an African lady says 'no' when she means 'yes'. 3 4 [...] If the bill is adopted the way it is, it will prevent men from courting women and this will be a serious impediment to the young who would want to marry" .

It is note worthy that the only serious attempt at dealing with domestic violence was at this time in 2006 when a private member motion and bill was introduced eventually becoming law "the Sexual offences Act 2006" it only sought to address sexual offences by creating over sixteen new criminal offences, enhancing criminal penalties attendant there to.

The legislation was with its shortcomings as while seeking to heavily penalize acts of sexual violence the Act created section 38 which prescribes similar penalty on a complainant who makes false allegations of sexual violence to many



this would dissuade many complainants from comfortably participating in the criminal justice process.

I should point out that other efforts including legislating on the domestic violence have stalled to date since 2002.

Gender Based Violence in the Political Competition and Aftermath

Kenya has historically had periods where violence against women escalate owing to extraneous on goings in 1952 a state of emergency was proclaimed and during this period women bore the heaviest brunt of violence in Nairobi, Central province and Rift Valley, the colonial forces and home guards were reputed in committing acts of rape on defenseless women who had been left by husband eth fleeing from arrests and incarceration or those that directly participated in the struggle for independence.

After independence we have had series of elections and of major significance is the multiparty electoral period from 1992, 1997, 2002 and lately 2007 all of which have marked political violence committed on the populace either to displace potential voters or to deter electorate from active participation.

The last electoral period in Kenya, women candidates were physically attacked, the levels of violence during campaigns deterred women from openly exercising their democratic rights. Some communities' women were forced by their husbands on who to eventually vote for.

Subsequent to the election an orgy of violence erupted and in the course of dealing with anarchy state security agents committed acts of gang rape infecting victims with HIV/AIDS while in other instances committing gang rape on victims that were suffering from HIV/AIDS.



Over 29% of the victims of rape who testified claimed to have been raped by security agencies while the rest were victims of criminal gangs, militia, neighbors etc

In this regard civil society organization were not only involved in offering rehabilitation and documentation of the violations on the victims but were instrumental in preparing witnesses in the crucial Commission investigating the post Election Violence and the resultant Recommendations which inter alia' included;

- a) Publicizing the availability of Gender Violence recovery Centers.
- b) Institutionalizing GVRC's in all public hospitals.
- c) Setting up Gender Units/Desks in police stations where sexual violence cases can be made.
- d) Training on the police on how to handle such cases.
- e) Severely punishing police for mishandling victims while reporting such complaints.
- f) Establishment of the office of Rapporteur on sexual Violence.

It should however be noted that over one year later these recommendations are yet to be fully implemented in fact the perpetrators remain free.

An attempt to inquire on these cases jointly by the police and NGOS collapsed midway with NGOS withdrawing from the process as the police was using the same to sanitise their bad track record while harboring no desire to offer reprieve to the victims.

Violence Against Women in the Context of Policing and Law Enforcement

In the past ten years Kenya has witnessed escalation of crime both in the urban and rural areas and this has resulted in policing measures geared at containing the runaway crime levels, this has been with total disregard of the constitutional order, rule of law and human rights.

I will focus on two operations by the Kenya security forces one in the capital city of Nairobi "Operation Kosovo" in June 2006 and another one on the western part of Kenya in Mount Elgon District "operation Okoa Maisha" March – August 2008.

In June 2006 the police mounted a security operation in Mathare Kosovo informal settlement area where 22 persons were killed in a span of 24 hours; there were allegations of massive rape being committed on women. My organization did intervene on 40 cases of which 24 related to women, all of them exhibited physical soft tissue injuries after being forced to walk on their knees, being bated by batons being whipped and or being forced to lie under the scorching sun. Of the women assisted two alleged to have been raped and their cases were thus transferred to an organization more specialised in the area.

From March 2009 the police and the Kenya Army started a joint operation to deal with the pseudo criminal gang Saabot Land Defence Force SLDF in the course of this operation a large number of women and girls were subjected to rape by state officials, torture was used as a standard tool to subjugate the community including women and children. As at the moment there are women who conceived and delivered children from rape, there women infected with HIV/AIDS by the security forces.

Finally to briefly summaries the responses especially to the two incidents, Human rights organization not only offered medical and legal redress but we equally petitioned the parliamentary committee on the administration of justice and the one on defense and foreign relations, the two committees did investigate and arrive at a similar finding with recommendation for criminal sanction against the perpetrators.

We equally did engage in international advocacy by triggering a chain reaction to the ongoing violations through various networks. We equally did engage the treaty monitoring bodies like the committee against Torture who came up with concluding observation specifically addressing this issue with the government being obliged to act on these allegations and report back within ne year (this November).

It is note worthy that securing justice is a long frustrating exercises where impunity subsists like in Kenya but resilience is the key with actors not giving up too soon.

Thank you

Samwel Mukira Mohochi is a lawyer and expert on the rights of torture victims and human rights defenders' work. Apart from his work for IMLU, he's a coordinator for Kenya National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders and Kenya focal person in the East and Horn of Africa Human rights Defenders Project (EAHARDP). Mohochi is a member in several national and international human rights organisations such as the International Commission of Jurists and the Coalition for the International Criminal Court.

SESSION 3: CEDAW & UNSC RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

***Chaired by: Ms. Inka Leisma, Member of KIOS Executive Board
UN Association of Finland***



30 Years of CEDAW - the Finnish Perspective

**Ms. Miia Rainne, First Secretary, Unit for Human Rights Policy
Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will be speaking here today on behalf of the Head of Unit for Human Rights Policy, Ms. Sofie From-Emmesberger. She, unfortunately, could not come today as she is attending a hearing in the Parliament.

The year 2009 marks a milestone in global commitments to the human rights of women. We are celebrating the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women, CEDAW. Furthermore, we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Optional Protocol of CEDAW.

As the CEDAW – the Women’s Bill of Rights - is becoming 30 years old, we can say that the Convention has gathered experience, it is full of energy and it has a lot to give, but at the same time the Convention has still great challenges to tackle. The text of the Convention has not been changed since 1979 when the Convention was concluded. CEDAW is a pioneering human rights instrument as it has the concept of nondiscrimination at its core.

The Convention includes regulations, for instance, on nationality, education, employment, health and economic rights of women. The Convention is very target-oriented and it requires the contracting states to determinedly improve women’s rights in various areas of life.

The General Recommendations given by the CEDAW Committee have kept the Convention up to date and the national reports by contracting states have enhanced the discussion. CEDAW has been supported through 186 ratifications, which is a clear indication of the joint commitment of states to the elimination of discrimination against women.

There are, however, a number of countries that have made reservations to the Convention. Finland is actively monitoring the reservations made to international human rights conventions. We are against any reservations that are deemed to be in conflict with the object and purpose of the conventions. Finland has repeatedly notified the UN Secretary-General of its opposition to reservations to CEDAW.

Women’s human rights were further strengthened when CEDAW Optional Protocol was adopted in 1999. Finland was among the first states to ratify the Optional Protocol the following year. Also new challenges, like women’s role in climate change, can be addressed in the spirit of CEDAW. In this respect, Finland has launched a Gender and Climate Change Initiative. The purpose of the initiative is to enhance the participation of women in national and international decision-making processes on matters affecting climate change.

When promoting the rights of women, Finland emphasises the participation of women in the power structures of society. It is the CEDAW that provides the basis for realising equality between women and men through ensuring women's equal access to political and public life.

There are many highly visible benchmarks of progress around the world since the adoption of CEDAW: women as heads of governments, as elected officials in parliaments; women as judges and successful business entrepreneurs and more girls at all levels of education.

However, we should be satisfied with these achievements. We need to further strengthen the education system and to guarantee sexual and reproductive health rights, if we want women and girls to be able to make decisions on themselves and the society at large.

CEDAW is the only international human rights treaty which affirms the reproductive rights of women and addresses culture and tradition as influential forces shaping gender roles and family relations. Sexual and reproductive health rights are a priority in Finland's Human Rights Policy.

Ladies and gentlemen,

What has CEDAW done for us? The Government Report to Parliament on the Human Rights Policy of Finland published in September incorporates a presentation of the national and international human rights policy into one document. The intention is to emphasise the indivisible and interactive nature of human rights.

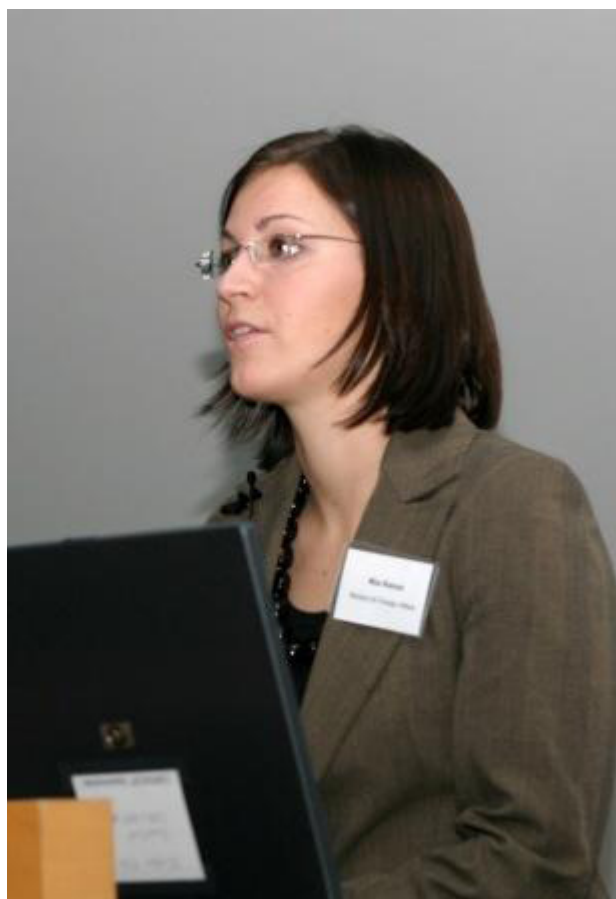
As the world is becoming more interdependent, the national and international implementation of human rights are to an increasing extent interlinked. Action at national level provides a basis for a credible international human rights policy. Human rights debates at international fora are an incentive to develop national human rights policy and standards.

This has also been the case with CEDAW. The contracting states of CEDAW have to include the principle of equality between men and women in their legal system, abolish all

discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate ones prohibiting discrimination against women.

The Finnish Act on Equality between Women and Men is inspired by CEDAW.

Finland's first report to the CEDAW Committee was given in 1988 and the latest one this year. The dialogue between the Committee and the contracting states has helped us to observe the topical international discussion about equality issues. The discussion on Finland's first report brought up violence against women as a topic we had not taken into account. We didn't have research or statistics of violence against women. The discussions made us realise the importance of raising the issue nationally and to act in order to prevent violence against women.



The CEDAW Committee has also given recommendations to apply temporary measures promoting women's rights. For instance, the gender quota system was recommended by the Committee and quotas were accepted as part of the Finnish Equality Act in 1995. The quotas have been important especially in the decision-making bodies at the municipal level. In 1989 the Committee recommended the states to gather gender specified statistical information. When reporting to the CEDAW Committee, Finland now gives this information gathered by Statistics Finland as annexes to the report.

The main themes of Finnish gender equality promotion are gender mainstreaming, equality in working life, equal pay, equality in training, women and decision-making, the reconciliation of work and family life, preventing violence against women, and men and equality. Equality between men and women is enshrined in the Finnish Constitution. The legislation on equality is monitored inter alia by the Ombudsman for Equality and the Equality Board. The Ombudsman and the Board are independent.

Finland has for a long been active in promoting women's human rights and CEDAW. Ms. Helvi Sipilä, the first-ever female Assistant-Secretary-General of the United Nations, was known as a promoter of women's rights. She organized the first World Conference on Women in 1975 and had a great influence on the United Nations' decision to celebrate the Decade for Women and to establish the Development Fund for Women, UNIFEM in 1976. Since the adoption of CEDAW, two Finnish members have served in the CEDAW Committee. The other, Professor Niklas Bruun, is currently sitting in the Committee and will be speaking after me. The other, Ms. Pirkko Mäkinen is presently working as Ombudsman for Equality.

Finland continues to be active in the UN human rights bodies. Our aim is to mainstream human rights in all spheres of activities of the UN. This includes a wide spectrum of initiatives in order to eliminate discrimination against women. For example, Nordic countries run every second year a UN resolution on CEDAW. This year it was Finland's turn. It was a particular pleasure for us in light of the anniversaries of CEDAW and its Optional Protocol. Just a few weeks ago we were able to conclude negotiations on the CEDAW resolution.

We achieved further progress in support of the Convention and the Committee. The resolution was adopted by consensus and with wide support from all over the world.

Next, I would like to say a few words on women and development.

"If development doesn't work for women, it doesn't work". These wise words were expressed by Dr. Lucille Mair, gender specialist and Assistant Secretary-General of the UN. We believe in this too and thus we promote the human rights of women in our development policy. Strengthening women's and girls' rights is one of the cross-cutting issues in Finland's Development Policy Programme. This means that women's rights are taken into account in all development cooperation work.

Women's human rights can be addressed through specific projects and funding. One example, as Director-General Julin mentioned here yesterday, is the Gender and Governance –project in Kenya. Moreover, Finland has been working together with Liberia to enhance and promote women's leadership and empowerment. Finland also gives funding to a number of NGOs both in Finland and in the developing countries.

Finland brings up women's rights in bilateral dialogues with other countries and systematically raises the issue of women's rights internationally. We are active in formulating the EU's gender and development cooperation plan. We call for all the UN organisations to take women's and girls' rights into account. And, in addition, we support the implementation of World Bank's gender action plan.

Promoting women's rights requires, of course, financial resources. Finland is one of the founders of international UNIFEM and has funded UNIFEM from the start. Furthermore, our support to UNFPA is significant. Finland also funds the UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflicts –project and a twinning-project with Kenya to promote the Security Council's resolution 1325.

Moreover, Finland is funding a new gender expert post in OHCHR's Middle East office in Beirut to promote women's human rights in the area.

CEDAW's call for equal rights and opportunities between men and women remains as relevant today as it was 30 years ago. We are committed to advancing women's human rights also in the future. Finland emphasises cooperation with partners in promoting the human rights of women, for in cooperation we will get the best results.

Thank you.

Miia Rainne is the First Secretary of the Unit for Human Rights Policy at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland.

Application of Temporary Special Measures in Post Conflict Situations

**Mr. Niklas Bruun, Member of CEDAW Committee, Professor of Private Law
University of Helsinki**

Temporary special measures under CEDAW, Article 4

1. Adoption by States Parties of temporary special measures aimed at accelerating de facto equality between men and women shall not be considered discrimination as defined in the present Convention, but shall in no way entail as a consequence the maintenance of unequal or separate standards; these measures shall be discontinued when the objectives of equality of opportunity and treatment have been achieved.

2. Adoption by States Parties of special measures, including those measures contained in the present Convention, aimed at protecting maternity shall not be considered discriminatory

CEDAW general recommendation No. 5 (1988)

The Committee recommends "that State parties make more use of temporary special measures such as positive action, preferential treatment or quota systems to advance women's integration into education, the economy, politics and employment".

CEDAW: Article 7 (political and public life)

States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and

public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (a) To vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

CEDAW General recommendation No. 23: Political and public life (1997)

Temporary special measures

15. While removal of de jure barriers is necessary, it is not sufficient. Failure to achieve full and equal participation of women can be unintentional and the result of outmoded practices and procedures which inadvertently promote men. Under article 4, the Convention encourages the use of temporary special measures in order to give full effect to articles 7 and 8. Where countries have developed effective temporary strategies in an attempt to achieve equality of participation, a wide range of measures has been implemented, including recruiting, financially assisting and

training women candidates, amending electoral procedures, developing campaigns directed at equal participation setting numerical goals and quotas and targeting

CEDAW General recommendation No. 23: Political and public life (1997) (2)

Women for appointment to public positions such as the judiciary or other professional groups that play an essential part in the everyday life of all societies. The formal removal of barriers and the introduction of temporary special measures to encourage the equal participation of both men and women in the public life of their societies are essential prerequisites to true equality in political life. In order, however, to overcome centuries of male domination of the public sphere, women also require the encouragement and support of all sectors of society to achieve full and effective participation, encouragement which must be led by States parties to the Convention, as well as by political parties and public officials. States parties have an obligation to ensure that temporary special measures are clearly designed to support the principle of equality and therefore comply with constitutional principles which guarantee equality to all citizens.

Recommendation 23 – important elements

- The right to vote and be elected
- The right to participate in formulation of government policy
- The right to hold public office and to perform all public functions
- The right to participate in non-governmental and public and political organizations

Recommendation No. 25 (2004) on Article 4, para 1 State parties' obligations under CEDAW (p 7):

- 1) To ensure no direct or indirect discrimination of women
- 2) To improve de facto position of women through concrete and effective policies and programmes
- 3) To address prevailing gender relations and the persistence of gender based stereotypes

Recommendation No 25 – detailed provisions on scope and content

Recommendation To include provisions on TSM in national constitution and appropriate legislation Specific national action plans needed

CEDAW and resolutions 1325 and 1820
– common agenda

1. Demand women's participation in decision-making at all levels
2. Rejection of violence against women
3. Equality of women and men under the law; protection of women and girls through the rule of law
4. Demand security forces and systems to protect women and girls from gender based violence
5. Recognition of that distinct experiences and burdens of women and girls come from systemic discrimination
6. Ensure that women's experiences, needs and perspectives are incorporated into the political, legal and social decisions that determine the achievement of just and lasting peace

The CEDAW Committee's Mandate is broadened by 1325 and 1820

The CEDAW Committee's mandate is broadened by United Nations Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 (SCR 1325 AND SCR 1820)

As a human rights treaty body, the CEDAW Committee is legally bound by SCR 1325 and SCR 1820 which mandate gender equality measures during all stages of conflict resolution and transition including cease-fires, peace-keeping, constitutional committees and transitional justice measures.

The Committee recommends that the State party put in place an action plan for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), taking into account paragraph 1 of article 4, and articles 7 and 8 of the Convention.



Serbia, 38 th. session (2007)

28. The Committee urges the State party to strengthen and implement measures to increase the representation of women in appointed bodies and in government structures through, inter alia, effective application of temporary special measures, in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of the Convention and the Committee's general recommendation 25, in order to realize women's right to equal participation in all areas of public life and, in particular, at high levels of decision-making. The Committee recommends that the State party fully utilize general recommendation 23.

It also recommends that the State party increase its efforts in offering or supporting capacity-building programmes for current and future women leaders and carry out awareness raising campaigns regarding the importance of women's equal participation in political and public decision making.

The Committee recommends that the State party put in place an action plan for the full implementation of Secu-

rity Council resolution 1325 (2000), taking into account paragraph 1 of article 4, and articles 7 and 8 of the Convention.

CEDAW statements on Temporary Special Measures and post-conflict situations

Democratic Republic of the Congo (2006):

- further update national programme for advancement of Congolese women, to redefine priorities and adjust them to the post-conflict period, and to address explicitly needs of large number of women victimized by the conflict
- monitor effectiveness and impact of policies and programmes for gender equality so as to ensure their long-term sustainability
- seek international assistance to strengthen capacity to collect sex-disaggregated data in all areas of CEDAW and to include such information in next report

Lebanon (2008):

- ensure that the promotion and protection of women's

human rights and gender equality is a central goal of all aspects of the transition process and raise the legislature's awareness of that important goal

- devote serious attention to the specific needs of women in the post-conflict period and ensure women's equal participation in decision-making, in conformity with Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security
- put in place an action plan for the full implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), taking into account paragraph 1 of article 4, and articles 7 and 8 of the Convention

Rwanda 2009:

- further strengthen efforts to increase participation of women in decision-making posts, in particular at the local level, and in senior managerial positions in the private sector, including through the use of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of CEDAW and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25.
- further strengthen efforts to increase participation of women in decision-making posts, in particular at the local level, and in senior managerial positions in the private sector, including through the use of temporary special measures in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of CEDAW and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25.
- continue to use quotas, in particular for strengthening women's representation in leadership roles in academia and in decision-making posts in economic life
- use other temporary special measures to enhance de facto equality of women with men in all areas covered by CEDAW in accordance with article 4, paragraph 1, of CEDAW and the Committee's general recommendation No. 25

Uganda (CEDAW 2002)

- include women in national reconciliation and peace-building initiatives
- include women from all ethnic groups affected by armed conflict in peace negotiations
- include in peace negotiations measures of accountability, redress and rehabilitation for women and girls who have been victims of violence, including enslavement, in those conflicts

Colombia (2007)

- ensure that all rural development policies and programmes integrate a gender perspective and explicitly address structural nature and various dimensions of poverty faced by women
- strengthen efforts to implement comprehensive nationwide health and educational programmes, including programmes in areas of functional literacy, enterprise development, skills training and microfinance, as a means of poverty alleviation
- ensure that the situation of rural women is taken into account in efforts to eliminate women's vulnerability to violence, including as a result of armed conflict

Summing up

CEDAW systematically refers to the possibility of using temporary special measures as a means to deal with post-conflict problems. CEDAW includes often references to Resolutions 1325 and 1820 in its conclusions. The conclusions concerning temporary special measures are of a general character – the State Party is encouraged to use them in accordance with the general recommendation No. 25 in indicated areas, but it is left for the State Party to decide how

Professor Niklas Bruun was appointed member of the UN Committee monitoring the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 2008. He has wide-range experience on international law, labour law and in equality issues. He was Chairman of the Equality Board in 1999-2008, Chairperson of the Committee for a revision of the Gender Equality Act in 2000-2002 and he is Member of the ILO Committee on Freedom of Association.

Role of Civil Society in the Finnish 1325 Action Plan – from Drafting to Implementation

***Ms. Pia Puu Oksanen, Vice Chairman, 1325 Network of Finland, Women's rights expert
Amnesty International Finnish section***

Finland is often presented as an example for the rest of the world when it comes to achievements of gender equality and women's political leadership: 60 % of our government's ministers are women.

Nevertheless it is still possible – even here in Finland – to hold a seminar about war and peace where all the official key-speakers are men. This was the case last week when a high level seminar was held in Helsinki. The only woman who spoke in front of the audience was the one welcoming the seminar participants.

The headline of the seminar was the Road to Peace and Stability in Afghanistan: Denmark's and Finland's contribution. I have no doubt that there are women in Finland, Denmark and Afghanistan who would have had something to say about the road to peace and stability, and also about how gender equality plays a crucial role in achieving sustainable peace.

I have to emphasize that the latter is the most important thing, regardless of whether the speaker is a woman or a man: women's and girl's position in a society has to be carefully analyzed from human rights perspective, and their participation in peace negotiations has to be ensured, whenever the main topic is how to reach sustainable peace.

But now I started my presentation with an expression of frustration. I will now continue with a very different kind of experience, which I hope the participants of this seminar will find motivating and inspiring. This is a story of inclusion.

In my presentation I'm going to tell you about the role of the Finnish 1325 NGO network in drafting the Finnish 1325 national action plan. In the end of my presentation I'll comment a little bit the difficulties of implementation of that same action plan.

Nowadays resolution 1325 doesn't stand alone: there are three more Security Council resolutions that I could introduce to you here: 1820, 1888 and 1889. However in my presentation I will not analyze the relation of these four different resolutions. Instead I'm going to concentrate on what has been the impact of the resolution 1325 here in Finland and what kind of role the civil society played in creation of that impact.

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 "Women, Peace and Security" was given in 2000. The Security Council also recommended Member States to draft National Action Plans to improve the implementation of the Resolution.

The first ones to do this were Great Britain and a few Scandinavian countries. In Norway and in Sweden there had been an active network of civil society organizations putting pressure on the governments to draft the NAPs.

In Finland as early as 2001 Marjaana Jauhola, an independent researcher, and Hilikka Pietilä, former Secretary General of the UN Association of Finland, had been pondering about how to raise public knowledge on the Resolution and how to enhance its aims. Jauhola wrote in 2002 a book called “Bridge Builders – Women Preventing Conflicts”, published by the Finnish organization KATU the Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network. Minister Elisabeth Rehn was, at the same time, active on the international level: she and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, the president-to-be of Liberia, wrote for UNIFEM a report “Women, War and Peace”, about the impact of armed conflict on women and women’s roles as peace builders. The report gained attention and raised discussions in Finland, as well as internationally.

A wider discussion concerning the implementation of the Resolution started among civil society organizations a few years later.

In the autumn of 2006 representatives of Amnesty International’s Finnish Section, the UN Association of Finland and UNIFEM Finland, as well as some experts and independent researchers, came together to discuss the matter, and thus the Finnish 1325 NGO Network was born.

In that meeting, it was decided that the main goals of the network were to be 1) to lobby the government of Finland on implementing Resolution 1325 more effectively, and 2) to lobby for high quality gender training to be included in crisis management training. At the second meeting of the network Päivi Mattila, researcher and vice chair of UNIFEM Finland, was selected as the chair and Eeva Koskinen, the acting executive of UNIFEM Finland was selected as the vice chair.

Later on the UN Association of Finland, The Finnish League for Human Rights and KATU the Civil Society Conflict Prevention Network joined the Finnish 1325 NGO Network, along with the Crisis Management Initiative CMI. After the summer 2007, the Family Federation

and two women’s organizations, the Coalition of Finnish Women’s Associations and the National Council of Women of Finland, joined the network. I have to make a remark here that we have also men as members in the network. Anyway: One of the latest to join the Finnish 1325 NGO Network was the Feminist Association Unioni.

It soon became clear that the most important objective of the network was to advance the formulation of a National Action Plan for Finland. Surprisingly, the Finnish Minister for Foreign Affairs stated that since Finland is already fully implementing the 1325 in all the respective fields, there is no need for a national action plan.

The Finnish 1325 NGO Network now started pondering how to convince the decision makers in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the necessity of the NAP, and how to integrate other ministries into the preparation of it.

Among the ideas and principles of the NGO network at the beginning of the process were

1. Wide range expertise of the network – both academic and field experience was to be utilized.
2. Activities in the 1325 action plan must be sufficiently financed and resourced.
3. Mandates of peace building, keeping and monitoring operations must specifically include full implementation of 1325.
4. There must be a time span for the first 1325 action plan and it has to be evaluated and assessed.
5. Role of the NGO’s in the monitoring of the implementation must be recognized and financed.

At the same time, the topic was being discussed in other contexts, for instance Amnesty International Finnish Section and the Council for Gender Equality had named the writing of a Finnish 1325-NAP as one of their goals for the new government platform after the parliamentary elections of 2007.

In 2007 the Finnish 1325 NGO Network wrote a press release on International Women’s Day, urging Finland to create a National Action Plan on women, peace and security. A decision to discuss the matter with the heads of relevant ministries was made. Representatives of the Finnish 1325 NGO Network met the key persons in the Ministry of



Foreign Affairs. In that meeting they found out the preparations to start writing the Finnish NAP were under way. The Finnish 1325 NGO Network representatives met also the heads of Ministries of Justice, Interior, Defence, and Social Affairs and Health. All ministries expressed, in principle, their support for the matter.

After intensive lobbying we – the Finnish 1325 NGO Network - received a letter from Minister of Foreign Affairs stating that the Ministry aims to start the writing of the NAP soon. However we cannot take all the credit of making this happen, as also Ms. Elisabeth Rehn and the President of the Republic Tarja Halonen influenced this outcome on their behalf.

In our meetings in the autumn of 2007 and in the beginning of 2008, the Finnish 1325 NGO Network listed the primary goals for the 1325 NAP from the perspective of NGO's and researchers. The training of people who are sent by Finland to perform crisis management work was chosen as an especially important topic, as well

as allocating money for research on 1325 related themes and making use of this type of research. Supporting women's organizations in conflict areas was seen particularly important as well. Appointing the ministries responsible for various actions was considered by the network especially crucial, as well as stipulating the budget necessary for the implementation of the plan.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs steered the high level 1325 group, which was to prepare the action plan. This group included representatives from all the previously mentioned ministries, the office of the President of the Republic, and two members of the Finnish 1325 NGO Network plus two academics.

The Finnish NAP was meant to be completed and launched within one year. Various drafts were made, and the Finnish 1325 NGO Network had an opportunity to comment on them.

The Finnish Action Plan was launched on the 19th of September 2008 at the Helsinki City Hall. the Finnish 1325 NGO Network Chairperson Päivi Mattila presented the network's outlook on the new NAP.

Now the long waited action plan has been in force for just little over a year.

The three main focus areas of the Finnish action plan are
I Conflict Prevention, Peace Negotiations and Peacebuilding
II Crisis Management – both Civilian and Military operations
III Strengthening, Protecting and Safeguarding the Human Rights of Women and Girls

The national Action Plan covers the years from 2008 through 2011.

Are we - the Finnish 1325 NGO Network - satisfied with the text of the NAP? Yes and no.

From the final plan many suggestions made by the network had been dropped out, but the mentioned key objectives, as well as many other aims suggested by the network, were included. I guess it is safe to say, that throughout the drafting process the Finnish 1325 NGO Network was successful in advocacy.

In the last part of my presentation I'll share my opinion of the lessons learned.

Was this process worth participating from the NGO point of view? Yes. The process was transparent, the the Finnish 1325 NGO Network and experts were heard. It has truly been an empowering process: to unite with other NGO's and researchers and achieve a common goal together.

Even more praise: I honestly think that Finland has proceeded in the drafting process in the spirit of Resolution 1325 by including women's organizations and human rights organisations along with other civil society members to the process.

To clarify this view I'd like to make a comparison to actual peace building process.

If peace building processes are ruled and formed by militaristic logic the society is in danger of being militarized. This is because it is not easy to back from hierarchies - that were created by the military - to participative, democratic way of management. If the logic used is from the beginning the one used by the civil society this will strengthen the civil society and the democratic processes. This is why I do think that the process of creating the Finnish National action plan was a success: the process followed the civilian logic, not the militaristic one. And if this civilian logic is non-patriarchal it gives room for different kind of women - and men - to participate in full.

However, the most difficult task is ahead: the implementation.

It is stated in the action plan that a follow-up group will be appointed to coordinate and monitor the implementation. The Finnish 1325 NGO Network is represented in the follow up group - as well as the research community.

The follow up has and hasn't been an uplifting experience yet. There are aspects that are without any doubt positive. Ministry of Foreign Affairs has very promising plans of starting twinning partnership between Finland and Kenya. Finland has expressed the need for a special UN 1325 Rapporteur. These and many other processes are positive and promising.

However, when drafting the Finnish NAP 1325 the NGOs requested that each governmental sector also sets concrete targets and indicators for the coming three years. This didn't happen, which is a deficiency.

Another obstacle for implementing 1325 arises from the mandates of international peace operations. All the mandates of the operations where Finland is, or will be part of, should include a strong 1325 component. Without that, the resolution will be easily neglected and ignored.

I'm really eager to hear what the next speaker Krister Falstedt has to say about the implementation of 1325 and 1820 in Afghanistan. As it is hard to understand that 9 years after 1325 it is still possible to ignore the resolution in an international mission.

According to a report made by the land forces of Finnish army this seems to be a real danger. What I'm saying is that we surely could use some assistance here, as it seems that gender issues are still easily overlooked when it comes to international peace operations.

Another crucial issue is the financing of the 1325. It is stated in the NAP that during the period the action plan is in force, the Ministries and other parties listed in the plan shall carry out their areas of responsibility and arrange the financing required for the implementation work. This promise is clearly not redeemed at present.

Finally, the Finnish 1325 NGO Network celebrates the fact, that we have a 1325 action plan in Finland. It is definitely a great tool in defending and strengthening women's and girl's rights. But to really make it work we need genuine will, energy and resources to implement these plans. In addition, we need a strong women's network and civil society to watch and follow up the implementation and shout loud when necessary.

I'll finish my representation by quoting our president Tarja Halonen. She held a speech about 1325 and climate change in New York just a month ago, and said, among many other things: 'There is strength in cooperation. Together we can turn a huge challenge into an opportunity.'

And that is exactly what we are going to do. Thank You.

Pia Puu Oksanen works currently as expert in women's rights for Amnesty International's Finnish section. She is also Vice Chairman of the 1325 Network of Finland.

Implementing Resolutions 1325 and 1820: Case Afghanistan

**Mr. Krister Fahlstedt, Captain, Gender Field Adviser
Swedish Armed Forces**

DISPOSITION

- Background
- Gender in ISAF
- Measures at PRT
- Staff work
- Building relations
- Coaching Soldiers
- Mentoring Afghans
- Direct project support
- Future challenges
- Questions and discussion

UNSCR 1325 and 1820: WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- INCREASING OPERATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS
- STRENGTHENING WOMEN’S HUMAN RIGHTS

UNSCR 1325 and 1820: THE AFGHAN SITUATION

THE CONSTITUTION

(1) Any kind of discrimination and privilege between the citizens of Afghanistan are prohibited.



(2) The citizens of Afghanistan – whether man or woman – have equal rights and duties before the law.

THE REALITY – some examples:

- The average length of life for women is 44 years (men: 44)
- The illiteracy rate among women is estimated to 89% (men: 68%)
- Only 38% of the women have registered to vote in the elections
- 60-80% of the girls/women are forced into marriages, most before the age of 16
- ”The violence against women is widely believed to have reached epidemic proportions”

WHICH IS THE MILITARY ROLE?

- Protect, Monitor and Report
- Act as an interface between local population and the authorities

FUTURE CHALLENGES

- Increased number of female Peace keepers – as well as women within the Afghan Security Forces
- Employment of Afghan women, starting with interpreters
- Active integration of MEDCAP actions in to the operations
- Further recognition of female key leaders in the society
- Working with attitudes among male soldiers – and chasing away ”brain ghosts”!

Krister Fahlstedt has experience in implementation of UNSCR 1325 and gender perspective into Swedish operations at strategic and practical level. He has recently served as Gender Field Adviser in Afghanistan and as Gender Focal Point in Sudan.

WORKSHOP SESSION

Violence against Women: Trends and Reactions

***Chaired by: Ms. Maija Jäppinen, Member of KIOS Executive Board
Amnesty International Finnish Section***



Talking about Money: The Resources and the Work against Violence against Women

**Ms. Tanja Auvinen, General Secretary
NYTKIS - The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations**

In recent years the discussion of violence against women seems to have improved. United Nations, women's movement and researchers among others have influenced policy work and attitudes.

Most states acknowledge that violence against women is a human rights issue and that they have obligations to act

against it. At least this is the impression one receives from the international meetings and various state manifestos.

But discussion and statements are not enough. We also need concrete actions and that costs money. You get a long way by conducting surveys, drafting action plans and "coordinating" (the mysterious word for doing things as cheap as possible), but at the end of the day it is a question about money. It is possible to account financial investments by summing up working hours or projects that the NGO sector is carrying out. But that is not a decent way to fulfill the state responsibility.

Preventing violence against women and treating the victims acquires earmarked money from the state budget. Acting against violence is about creating structures, recruiting enough people, making sure that services are available, training and campaigning.

Last week I attended a ECE Beijing +15 regional meeting in Geneva. Once again I noticed how little we are talking about money when we are dealing with women's rights and gender equality. The meeting in Geneva was a preparatory session for the Committee on the Status of Women conference in March 2010.



The theme in New York will be the review process of the UN Beijing Plan for Action. Practically it means that the UN member states report on their progress in achieving gender equality and the challenges ahead. Member states had already listed the main achievements, but only 7 states out of 48 had also implicated the resources allocated for the implementation: Azerbaijan, Ireland, Italy, Monaco, Portugal, Sweden and UK. Of course the allocated funds were not always grant, or even adequate, but at least indicating them shows understanding that not even women rights are free of charge.

Otherwise money was mentioned frequently: the financial crisis had hit hard some of the member states and everybody emphasized how important it is to hold on – even these times - to the principle of gender equality. The delegates of the meeting were persons mainly from the foreign, social and labour ministries. I do wish that ministers of finance had been present. It would have been an important message for them to hear. Gender equality is too often something that has no price label in the eyes of finance people.

Not many politicians have the nerve to say that acting against violence against women is not important. What is the problem then? As long as there is no adequate earmarked state funding for preventing violence against women and treating the victims, states are not fulfilling their obligations. Commitment is not free of charge.

One of the most important questions advocates should ask the state is: how much does it cost for you? Judging by the answers violence against women is not a priority. Some people say that it is not appropriate to talk about money. I say it is necessary, because sometimes it is the only language the stake holders understand.

Tanja Auvinen works as General Secretary in one of the largest women's organisations in Finland, NYTKIS The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations.

Trends of Violence Against Women in Russia

Ms. Natalia Khodyreva, Director

Institute of Non-Discriminative Gender Interrelation / Crisis Centre for Women Russia

We would like to look over the problem of gender violence within political, social and economic situation in Russia.

1/The number of violent personal crimes in Russia, including murders, is at the high rate.

Russia takes one of the first places in Europe on the level of violent personal crimes, murders and rapes. Correspondingly, there is a plenty of so-called cases of domestic crime, where violence is caused by a man to a woman, with them being acquainted.

2/Great number of such crimes, including murders, remains undisclosed.

If a murderer or rapist has money and status he is likely to get less severe sentence or even avoid it at all. With such a background, gender violence – the violence of a husband against his wife – is considered insignificant by the police.

The interest of police towards violent crimes is defined by the level of physical harm caused to the abused. As militationers usually say – they would come when there are two corpses. Physical injuries of minimal and moderate severity get in the list of cases of private prosecution under the investigation of city executives.

The peculiarity of the gender violence is that it lasts for years and forms low level of life for women and their children.

One of our clients suffered from raping had spent 2 months persuading the investigator to start the proceedings. But investigators do not want to work and spend their time on such cases!

3/ Russian Federation hasn't yet accomplished its obligations (due diligence) on passing Federal law on counteraction of domestic violence according CEDAW.

Since 1995 we haven't returned to the discussion of it. Recent suggestions on women and children protection from two deputies were rejected by the State Duma. There is no group of interests in the State Duma that will lobby the law against violence in families. Though, it is obviously that the State Duma has no interest in any civil problems. But it does protect interests of state corporations (domestic automobile business, for example). The law against right-hand automobiles was taken immediately.

At the same time, there was a tendency of protecting children from sexual maniacs. We are having severe repressive laws against the so-called pedophiles, including castration and death penalty. This is the only point of demonstrating concern for children from the State Duma deputies, with

total ignorance of the fact that poor condition of children in Russia being the consequence of social, economic and rights inequality of women in Russia.

From the other hand, there is an evident question – if the law is adopted, who will implement it and in what way?

4/ The level of corruption in Russia is extremely high.

Great number of millioners are being sentenced and discharged. And in the situation of personnel shortage the militia is fulfilled with half criminal employees. And if earlier the raping of an abused woman in militia station has been something extraordinary – now the frequency of such cases in criminal news is growing.

Generally, citizens are afraid of militia, with only 12% saying that they trust this institution. It is well known that there are tortures, violence and even murders in the proceeding of interrogation. The very apply to militia for defense from criminals is the hardest deal for the traumatized women.

5/ When analyzing the infringements of law-enforcement structures expressed in an inactivity or direct law violation, it is necessary to be aware of existing problems with the implementation of any law. The rights of those who have suffered from any crime aren't defended and it is really difficult to obtain any fair compensations (remember the case of hostages of Nord-Ost terrorist act). In the State Criminal Code there is an absence of the very word "victim of a crime", with the state security being implemented in exclusive cases.

In a case of raping or gender violence women rarely decide to go through the whole process of investigation. It is because the process was and actually remains extremely traumatizing – there is no understanding towards peculiar vulnerability and dependence of victims from their abusers, along with the absence of defense of witnesses and abused women before the sentence.

From the other side, what do we want from the law-enforcement structure being in severe system crisis?

6/ On public opinion and educational programs.

The priority of human rights is still undefined in Russian Federation. There is a great promotion of the idea that state interests are more significant than any individual ones, and family interests should also be above the interests of its members. Russian Orthodox Church being actively supported by the government has entered the educational system with the intention to teach children the morality in schools. "If your husband punishes you in the name of love than it is for your own goodness" – such recommendations from priests could be seen on the orthodox forums in Internet. Great indignation could be observed if there is an intervention in a family in order to solve family conflicts. And it is completely unacceptable if children will make complaints on their parents or women – on their husbands-breadwinners.

7/ During last years there was a noticeable exclusion of independent crisis centers from social security sphere, with the majority of public crisis centers having been closed. The national association of crisis centers has also stopped its activity. Those who remain are on poor financing.

We have already received the suggestion to turn into an orthodox organization and to start receiving financial help from the state. Our project aimed to help raped women was estimated by the expert council formed of heads of religious confessions. During 2 years we haven't received a ruble from Public Committee (structure aimed to give grants to NGOs).



Along with that, the state has created a number of social security structures aimed to help families and children, including women in crisis situations. What values it can bring to women? What is the work that is carried out for them?

We can observe some primary information of their activity. Many workers (females, as a rule) have a high level of gender stereotypes and prejudices. They do not actually use the approach of human rights. State structures only work with women who have registration documents and references of applying to militia. According to Nochleghka statistics, there are 43 thousands homeless women in St.-Petersburg who have no help.

8/ Women trafficking that had decreased by the years 2006-2007 began to increase again. In conditions of the Crisis there is a massive involvement of women into local prostitution. Female students and young mothers receive the offer to work as a prostitute when applying for a job. "Why working as an administrator in a hotel, if you can escort men in restaurants or in their business trips for 40 thousands?"



9/ Currently, the Russian Federation runs the project of democracy imitation. Lots of social security programs are formally implemented, with new structures being established. But they cannot actually work efficiently for the sake of those who are in need. There is no secret that part of the budget is laundered.

10/ I would say that the situation has gone worse if comparing to mid 90-es. Thus, state approach to the gender violence has started to prevail in Russia. It is characterized with the following features:

1. Absence of minding the interconnections between gender equality and gender violence (We even have two separate public committees upon these issues in St.Petersburg).
2. The procedures of prevention, defense and punishment of rapists in cases of gender violence remain inadequate;
3. Expulsion of public structures;
4. Absence of coordinated training on these issues for militia and judges;
5. Nothing is done against sex business. Moreover, there are some initiatives on prostitution legalization, which has already turned into a massive phenomenon.

Summarizing, it is possible to say that the problem of gender violence in Russia is a consequence of common disrespect towards human rights. The peculiarity of women rights situation is in their vulnerability owing to gender

inequality, low level of protection in cases of crime, weakening of civil community and restoration of patriarchal values and sexism.

Our organization criticizes and will consistently continue to criticize the authorities of RF in the sphere of women rights.

For example, we are preparing documents for the shadow report on the Fifth Recurrent Report of Russian Federation on "On approving methods and progress for observance of Hu-

man rights, assumed in international pact on economic, social and cultural rights".

Secondly, we want to show the flaws in practice of law enforcement in RF aimed to protect women from the gender violence. Now, we are preparing documents for the cases

on gender violence for the reference in European Court for Human Rights. We have already sent the documents on precedential case on 4-time discharge of a woman from scientific institute which was accompanied with sexual harassment.

From the other side, we are extremely cautious about the idea of the level our state can be reformed with it having come to power by undemocratic means, violating human rights throughout its whole history, killing the best women - human rights defenders.

CONFLICTING WOMEN'S RIGHTS - Human Rights Framework to Women's Role in Post Conflict Countries

Tuesday 10 November 2009 - Allergiatalon kongressikeskus, Paciuksenkatu 19

- 8:15 Registration and Coffee
9:00 Welcoming Remarks
Mr. Esa Ylikoski, Chairperson of KIOS Executive Board, Finnish Peace Committee
Ms. Elisa Mikkola, Executive Director, The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS
9:15 Opening Speech
Mr. Jorma Julin, Director General at the Department for Development Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ROLES IN POST-CONFLICT ASIA

Chaired by Mr. Jani A. Seikkula, Member of KIOS Executive Board, Finnish Refugee Council

- 9:30 Women's Rights and Religious Extremism in Afghanistan: Searching for Local Solutions
Ms. Horia Mosadiq, Human Rights Activist from Afghanistan
Women's Rights and Religious Extremism in Pakistan: How to Integrate Women's Rights in Conflict Resolution at the Grassroots Level
Ms. Tanveer Jahan, Director, Democratic Commission for Human Development, Pakistan
11:00 Break
11:15 Minority Women's Rights and Peace Building in Sri Lanka
Ms. Sherine Xavier, Executive Director, Home for Human Rights, Sri Lanka
12:00 Lunch

WOMEN'S RIGHTS AND ROLES IN POST-CONFLICT AFRICA

Chaired by Ms. Niina Pitkänen, Member of KIOS Executive Board, Service Centre for Development Cooperation KEPA

- 13:00 Remains of Armed Conflict: Domestic Violence and Social Structures in Western Uganda
Mr. Obed Kabanda, Executive Director, Action for Community Development, Uganda
Beyond Ending Impunity: Sexual Violence in Eastern DRC
Mr. Descartes Mponge Malasi, Executive Director, Actions des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda, DRC
14:30 Break
14:45 Human Rights Based Conflict Resolution in Kenya: Role of Women's Rights Groups
Ms. Joy Mmaabu, Executive Director, Amani Communities Africa, Kenya
15:30 Closing Words: Reflections on trends on violence against women
Mr. Samwel Mohochi, Executive Director, The Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Kenya
16:00 Cocktails

- 8:15 Registration and Coffee
9:00 Opening of the Day
Ms. Elisa Mikkola, Executive Director, The Finnish NGO Foundation for Human Rights KIOS

CEDAW & UNSC RESOLUTIONS ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

chaired by Ms. Inka Leisma, Member of KIOS Executive Board, UN Association of Finland

- 9:05 30 Years of CEDAW - the Finnish Perspective
Ms. Miia Rainne, First Secretary, Unit for Human Rights Policy, Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland
Application of Temporary Special Measures in Post Conflict Situations
Mr. Niklas Bruun, Member of CEDAW Committee, Professor of Private Law, University of Helsinki
10:15 Break
10:30 Role of Civil Society in the Finnish 1325 Action Plan – from Drafting to Implementation
Ms. Pia Puu Oksanen, Vice Chairman, 1325 Network of Finland
Implementing Resolutions 1325 and 1820: Case Afghanistan
Mr. Krister Fahlstedt, Captain, Gender Field Adviser, Swedish Armed Forces, Afghanistan
12:00 Lunch

13:00 WORKSHOP SESSIONS

Violence against Women: Trends and Reactions
Chaired by Ms. Maija Jäppinen, Member of KIOS Executive Board, Amnesty International Finnish Section

Panelists:

Ms. Tanja Auvinen, General Secretary, NYTKIS - The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations
Mr. Obed Kabanda, Executive Director, Action for Community Development Uganda
Ms. Natalia Khodyreva, Director, Institute of Non-Discriminative Gender Interrelation / Crisis Centre for Women, Russia
Mr. Samwel Mohochi, Executive Director, The Independent Medico-Legal Unit, Kenya
Mr. Descartes Mponge Malasi, Executive Director, Actions des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda, DRC
Ms. Sherine Xavier, Executive Director, Home for Human Rights, Sri Lanka
Women Activism and UN Security Council

Resolution 1325: Grassroots Approaches
Chaired by Ms. Rosa Puhakainen-Mattila, UN Association of Finland

Panelists:

Mr. Niklas Bruun, Member of CEDAW Committee, Professor of Private Law, University of Helsinki
Mr. Krister Fahlstedt, Captain, Gender Field Adviser, Swedish Armed Forces, Afghanistan
Ms. Tanveer Jahan, Executive Director, Democratic Commission for Human Development, Pakistan
Ms. Joy Mmaabu, Executive Director, Amani Communities Africa, Kenya
Ms. Horia Mosadiq, Human Rights Activist from Afghanistan
Ms. Pia Puu Oksanen, Vice Chairman, 1325 Network Finland

- 15:00 Coffee and Closing Words

Participants

- Alajarva Eija, Finn Church Aid
- Aromaa Eekku, Committee of 100 in Finland
- Auvinen Tanja, The Coalition of Finnish Women's Associations
- Beloff Anna-Maija
- Bruun Niklas, University of Helsinki
- Casali Elena, University of Turku
- Cheshmeh Alaei Mehrdad, Embassy of the Islamic Republic of Iran
- Enlund Sara, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Unit for Security Policy and Crisis Management
- Fahlstedt Krister, Swedish Armed Forces
- Grekula Katja, Finnish League for Human Rights
- Guarneri Danila, University of Turku
- Hakalisto Hanna, Suomen UNICEF
- Hamara Jenni, Finnish Refugee Council
- Hormio Sade, Pro Fair Trade Finland
- Huovila Anna, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Unit for Sectoral policy
- Hyppönen Salla, HUMAK
- Hyttinen Elsi, Tulva
- Härmälä Inga, University of Helsinki
- Iglesias Pablo, University of Helsinki
- Ilppola Katja, KIOS
- Immonen Karita, Pohjoisen ja Etelän kuntien yhteistyöohjelma, Suomen Kuntaliitto
- Imponen Toini
- Isotalo Riina, University of Helsinki
- Izquierdo Fernando, KIOS
- Jahan Tanveer, Democratic Commission for Human Development
- Julin Jorma, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Juntunen Sanna, KIOS
- Juvonen Anu, Save the Children Finland
- Jäppinen Maija, Amnesty International Finnish Section
- Järvinen Taina, Amnesty International, Finnish Section
- Kabanda Obed, Action for Community Development
- Kanninen Topi, PAX
- Kauppinen Marja
- Ketokoski Anja-Riitta, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Khodyreva Natalia, Institute of Non-Discriminative gender Interrelation / Crisis Centre for Women
- Kirjonen Tuuli, Save the Children Finland
- Kirkas Tiina, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Kitaigorodski Marina, Abilis Foundation
- Kiviranta Varpu
- Koistinen Mari, FIDIDA
- Korkalainen Tanja, Finn Church Aid
- Kukkamaa Tiina, Political Parties of Finland for Democracy
- Kukkonen Minna, Crisis Management Initiative
- Kumpulainen Leena, Finnish Refugee Council
- Laihi Karita, The Finnish Evangelical Lutheran Mission
- Lamminkoski Helka, The Finnish NGDO Platform to the EU, Kehys
- Lehtinen Johannes, University of Tampere
- Leisma Inka, UN Association of Finland
- Lipponen Kirsi, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Unit for Public International Law
- Londo Hanna, City of Espoo
- Malila Marika
- Martini Ermina
- Mbaabu Joy, Amani Communities Africa
- Mero Mari, Reilun matkailun yhdistys ry
- Mikkola Elisa, KIOS
- Mohochi Samwel, The Independent Medico-Legal Unit
- Moore Annica
- Mosadiq Horia, Foundation of Solidarity for Justice
- Mponge Malasi, Descartes Actions des Chrétiens Activistes des Droits de l'Homme à Shabunda
- Munive Alexander, Plan Finland
- Mäkelä Linda, Laurea
- Mölsä Mulki
- Naskinen Sari, KIOS
- Obeng Godfred
- Oksanen Pia Puu, 1325 Network of Finland
- Olkkonen Soini
- Olkkonen Kaija
- Osama Mohammed
- Paakkanen Katariina, University of Helsinki
- Paikkala Terhi, KIOS
- Paupitz Johanna, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Department for Africa and the Middle East

- Penttinen Anu, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Pesonen Helena, Diaconia University of Applied Sciences
- Petersen Sandra, The Norwegian Human Rights Fund
- Pitkänen Ville-Veikko, Crisis Management Centre
- Pitkänen Niina, Service Center for Development Cooperation
- Puhakainen-Mattila Rosa, UN Association of Finland
- Pulli Heini, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Pursiainen Anna, Impact Consulting
- Pörsti Anna, KIOS
- Quarshie Tuula, The Center for Torture Survivors in Finland
- Rainne Miia, Ministry for Foreign Affairs
- Rajala Kaisu-Leena, KIOS
- Rautionmaa Heidi, Religions for Peace European Women of Faith Network
- Rojas Juanita, University of Jyväskylä
- Rytönen Aaro, Finn Church Aid
- Seikkula Jani A., Finnish Refugee Council
- Sjöblom Ylva
- Suhonen Johanna, 1325 network of Finland
- Taskinen Mari, The Erik Castrén Institute of International Law and Human Rights
- Vainio Kristiina, KIOS
- Valta Juha
- Vilmi Arto, Abilis Foundation
- Virtanen Pirjo, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Department for Africa and the Middle East
- Viteli-Hietanen Mervi
- Xavier Sherine, Home for Human Rights
- Ylikoski Esa, Finnish Peace Committee

