

# Women, Peace and Security at 25

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Anniversary Conference of UNSCR 1325  
Oslo 5-6 May 2025

## Monday 5 May

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08:00 **Registration and arrival**

09:00 **Welcome**  
Ayesha Wolasmal, Conference host

09:05 **Opening speech**  
Espen Barth Eide, the Norwegian Minister of Foreign Affairs

09:15 **Akerselva Women's Choir**

09:25 **Keynote speech**  
Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, CEO, International Civil Society Action Network

09:40 **Roundtable:**  
**25 years of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

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The 25th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 arrives amid global challenges that significantly impact the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Implementing this agenda has never been more crucial, but we must first comprehend its context, obstacles, and emerging threats before charting our path forward. This opening session brings together voices from local and international civil society organizations alongside Norwegian authorities—all with profound knowledge and deep expertise in WPS—to lay the foundation for the discussions that will follow in the subsequent sessions.

**Moderator:** Torunn L. Tryggestad, Deputy Director, PRIO  
Amrita Kapur, Secretary General, WILPF International  
Ayak Chol Deng Alak, Peace & Security specialist (South Sudan)  
Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, International Civil Society Action Network  
Signe Gilen, Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security, NMFA (Norway)

10:40 **Break**

11:00

## **A Life Without Fear: Prevention of Violence, Protection of Women's Rights and the Fight for Accountability and Justice**

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Recognizing the overdue need to place the prevention of SGBV and the protection of women and girls' rights at the forefront of development, humanitarian and peace efforts and fund them accordingly, this session aims to highlight the successful leadership women and girls demonstrate in implementing effective and innovative strategies to fight for the equal enjoyment of fundamental rights. Additionally, it seeks to emphasize the importance of working to dismantle the root causes of SGBV, to foster a comprehensive protection framework that prioritizes survivor-centered response, to advocate for a consensus in understanding CRSV as a weapon of war and to prioritize comprehensive rehabilitation, stronger accountability and access to justice for women and girls survivors of SGBV.

**Moderator:** Nora Sveaass, Professor Emeritus Psychology, UiO  
Anastasiia Pliushchova, Martin Club (Ukraine)  
Bahar Ali, EMMA Organization (Kurdistan/Iraq)  
Bezawit Nigussie, Ethiopian Psychologists Association (Ethiopia)  
Esther Gabari, Norwegian Church Aid (Nigeria)  
Rahila Suleiman, Ekklesiyar Yan'uwa a Nigeria (Nigeria)

12:30

## **Lunch**

13:30

## **A Seat at the Table: Women and Diverse Communities in Peacebuilding**

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This session addresses the multifaceted challenges and opportunities stemming from ensuring the meaningful participation of women in political and peace processes and the critical relevance that continuous work actively challenging gender inequality and advocating for women's rights has in order to pave the way forward to wider participation of women in policy development and peacebuilding at all levels. Furthermore, by highlighting the importance of intersectional analysis in WPS work, this session addresses the complexities of adequate representation of diverse women, including youth, those from LGBTIQ+ communities, women with disabilities and other discriminated groups of women. This session will emphasize the evolution of diversity and inclusivity in Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) initiatives over the past 25 years.

**Moderator:** Sylvi Bratten, Executive Director, FOKUS  
Day Myar, Karenni National Women's Organization (Myanmar)  
Laura Beltrán, Colombia Diversa (Colombia)  
Marta Chumalo, WUC Women's Perspectives (Ukraine)  
Nargis Nehan, Founder of FARAGEER (Afghanistan)  
Somaia Musa, AWAFY Sudanese Organization (Sudan)

15:00

## **Break**

15:20

## **Engaging with Impact: Women mediators making a difference**

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This session aims to draw from real-life experiences and practical examples to highlight the significant role of women in peace mediations, including contributions of women of faith and faith-based organizations. By sharing stories from the field and discussing hands-on approaches, this session seeks to empower women in peace mediations and contribute to the creation of more inclusive and effective peace processes. The insights and strategies discussed will serve as valuable resources for future initiatives aimed at promoting gender equality in peacebuilding.

**Moderator:** Maria Clara Osula, Norwegian Church Aid (Kenya)  
Jeannette Uwizeye, Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great Lakes and Horn of Africa (Rwanda)  
Rachel Gasser, Berghof Foundation (Germany)  
Rouba Mhaissen, Sawa for Development and Aid (Syria)  
Shirine Jurdi, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (Lebanon)

***There will also be contributions from Palestine.***

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# Tuesday 6 May

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08:30 **Arrival and mingling**

09:00 **Resisting Repression:  
Women-Led Organizations in Conflict and Closing Civic Space**

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The role of civil society, particularly Women's Rights and Women-Led Organizations (WRO and WLOs), in contributing to prevention of conflict or in building peace, is important but often unrecognized, as they are frequently excluded from formal conflict resolution processes, political dialogue, and post-conflict peacebuilding systems, including the mechanisms and institutions responsible for the implementation of peace accords and post-conflict planning processes. In contexts of conflict and post-conflict situations, WLOs and WROs are often subject to specific security threats.

The shift in donor focus from civil society support to emergency aid threatens the survival of feminist movements that have made significant progress over the past decades. WLOs and WROs face acute funding shortages, as international aid is predominantly channeled to large INGOs, leaving grassroots organizations under-resourced despite their frontline role. Without sustained support, there is a real risk that civil society actors will disappear from the scene, reversing years of hard-fought progress in women's rights and grassroots mobilization.

**Moderator:** Jenny Lorentzen, Senior Research Fellow, Norwegian Institute of International Affairs  
Claudine Tsongo, Dynamique des Femmes Juristes (DR Congo)  
Egna Rachel Isaias Idumo, Doctoral Researcher, CMI (Norway/Mozambique)  
Khouloud Alkhatib, Executive Director, LOUDER (Lebanon)  
Lisa Sivertsen, Department for Human development Norad (Norway)

10:30 **Break**

10:50 **The Future of R-1325:  
Rethinking Women, Peace, and Security in a Changing  
Geopolitical Landscape**

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In a world increasingly shaped by conflict, geopolitical tensions, and shifting power dynamics, the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda stands at a crossroads. Rooted in UN Security Council Resolution 1325, this framework has been instrumental in recognizing women's roles in peacebuilding, conflict prevention, and post-conflict recovery. However, as we navigate an era of rising authoritarianism, militarization, and the regression of gender equality, we must critically examine the future of the WPS agenda. Can countries like Norway continue to champion and implement this agenda effectively? How can we reinvigorate the WPS agenda in the face of these global challenges? What new alliances, strategies, or policy shifts are needed to ensure its continued impact? How can the WPS agenda evolve to not only empower women but also challenge the entrenched masculine norms that fuel conflict and exclusion? At this event, we will explore these questions and discuss concrete steps to strengthen and adapt the WPS framework for the future.

**Moderator:** Torunn Wimpelmann, Research Director, Chr. Michelsen Institute  
Kelly Fisher, Advisor, Reform - Resource Centre for Men (Canada/Norway)  
Eivind Vad Petersson, State Secretary NMFA (Norway)  
Hayat Mirshad, director of Fe-Male (Lebanon)  
Soumita Basu, Associate Professor South Asian University, New Delhi (India)

12:20 **Presentation of the conference Statement**

12:35 **Lunch and goodbye**

## Organizing committee

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Norwegian People's Aid



PRIO Centre on  
Gender, Peace  
and Security



**WILPF**  
WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL  
LEAGUE FOR PEACE & FREEDOM

## More information



## Contributing partners

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KARAMA

Kurdish Women Rights

Mental Health and Human Rights Info

Norwegian Afghanistan Committee

Norwegian Human Rights Foundation

Norwegian Refugee Council

Plan International Norway

Save the Children

Reform

Sex og politikk

Stefanus Alliance Norway

Strømme Foundation

The Norwegian Council for Africa

Women4NonViolence

### And research centers:

CMI - Chr. Michelsen Institute

NOREF - Norwegian Centre for Conflict Resolution

NUPI - Norwegian Institute of International Affairs

UiO - The University of Oslo

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