

Have you heard about UN Security Council Resolution 1325?

Not many girls and young women have but maybe they should!

A Security Council Resolution is a commitment made by the United Nations and member states to take action on specific issues. Resolution 1325, passed on October 31, 2000, is the first UN Resolution that specifically highlights the impact of war and conflict on women and girls, and the importance of women's involvement in peacebuilding processes.

In particular, Resolution 1325 calls for:

1. protection of women and girls and respect for their rights;
2. participation of women in peace processes;
3. gender training for all involved in peacekeeping operations; and
4. gender mainstreaming in the reporting and implementation systems of the United Nations relating to conflict, peace and security.

"So what difference does this make?" you ask.

Well, the UN member states are now expected to work towards the implementation of this Resolution. Women's organizations and peace groups around the world can now hold governments accountable for the commitments they made in Resolution 1325.

This is happening in different ways in different places. First of all, 1325 has been translated into different languages to make sure that women and girls can actually understand what it says.

Women's organizations around the world are using 1325 as a framework for raising people's awareness about women, peace and security (through talks and presentations, for example). They are also using it to lobby their governments, and to make recommendations to different organizations.

When 1325 is implemented, the Security Council should consider women and girls' experiences in war in every decision it makes. The UN should meet with women and girls on all their field missions. Women and girls would and need to be key partners in the formulating of important peace negotiations that affect their lives and future.

"So, how can I use it?"

1325 can be seen as a platform from which individuals, non-government organizations, governments and international institutions can advocate for the inclusion of women in all aspects of conflict, peace and security. Here in Canada we can ask our politicians about what they can and will do in relation to 1325 and we can monitor how well the Canadian government is doing in fulfilling its commitments. We can also use 1325 as a framework for different activities, such as workshops, seminars and talks.

But, does it work for girls and young women too ?

There is some special work on 1325 to be done by girls and young women. Up to now, although it does mention girls, implementation of the Resolution has focused more on older women. Also it has tended to be older women who have been the most active in using 1325 as a tool for their organizing, advocacy and awareness raising activities. Working together, girls and young women also have the opportunity to take some ownership of this Resolution, to look at what it means for you and your peers.

- You can start by learning more about how conflict impacts on the lives of girls and young women (by attending workshops, seminars, reading and researching, for example);
- You can ask individuals and organizations who work on issues of gender, peace and security what they are doing with girls and young women;
- You can collaborate with other organizations which are interested in girls and young women (eg: Women's Y, the Girl Scouts) to focus on peace and security;
- You can try to build networks with girls and young women, and their organizations in conflict areas.

"So where can I learn more ?" you now ask !

Well, to begin with, you can visit the following web-sites:

1325 Peacewomen E-News

<http://www.peacewomen.org/news/1325News/1325ENewsindex.html>

UNIFEM's Portal on Women Peace and Security

<http://www.womenwarpeace.org/>

Women, War and Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peacebuilding

<http://www.unifem.undp.org/resources/assessment/index.html>

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325: Recommendations for Implementation

<http://www.peacewomen.org/un/UN1325/CombinedRecommendations.html>

To read the full Security Council Resolution 1325 document

http://www.un.org/events/res_1325e.pdf

To find out more about the impact of conflict on girls, visit the following:

UNICEF: <http://unicef.org>

FAWE: <http://fawe.org>

And of course, stay in contact with the CPCC (www.peacebuild.ca) and let us know what you are doing !

**COMITÉ COORDONNATEUR CANADIEN POUR LA CONSOLIDATION DE LA PAIX
CANADIAN PEACEBUILDING COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

1, rue Nicholas Street, #1216, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7B7, Canada

Tél: (613) 241-3446 Fax/Télé: (613) 241-4846

Email/Courriel: cpcc@web.ca