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Norwegian Ministry
of Foreign Affairs



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE FOR SECURITY LEADERSHIP
Promoting Substantive In-Person Rights, Peace & Prosperity

ICAN International
Civil Society
Action
Network
For women's rights, peace and security

Women-Led Solutions to Peace

Friday 11 January 2019, 09:00 – 13:00

Nobel Peace Center, Brynjulf Bulls Plass 1, 0250 Oslo, Norway

Objective of the event

On the occasion of the launch of Norway's 2019-2022 National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (WPS), the Government of Norway, the UN Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) will host a side event showcasing the contributions made by women peacebuilders – including members of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) – to the WPS agenda.

The Government of Norway, UNDP and ICAN have been working collaboratively to support locally rooted, women-led work in a number of areas, including the prevention and countering of violent extremism (P/CVE), peacemaking and mediation. The side event will focus on key solutions, experiences, and lessons identified by women peacebuilders and women-led organisations in their work to promote the objectives of the WPS agenda. It will also highlight opportunities for international actors to better support their work.

The event will consist of two plenary sessions. The sessions will present recent research, current perspectives, and evidence gained by women directly involved in implementing innovative solutions for P/CVE work, supporting reintegration and rehabilitation from violent extremism, and playing leadership roles in peace processes, inclusive mediation processes, and ceasefire negotiations.

The first plenary session will launch the new UNDP-ICAN report *Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration*, which applies a gender lens in order to reveal the complexities of disengagement, rehabilitation and reintegration work. The report draws on a vast base of experience and evidence gained by women-led organisations and highlights the need for holistic return, reintegration and rehabilitation interventions that can function on all levels and involve multiple sectors and stakeholders.

The second plenary session will focus on current peace processes – notably in Afghanistan, Syria and Yemen – paying particular attention to the successes and challenges associated with ensuring inclusivity and gender responsiveness. In particular, the session will focus on ceasefire negotiations and gendered aspects of these processes, including enabling women's participation with a view to giving agreements greater durability.

Panelists will reflect on their lived experience and propose solutions for ending the scourge of violent extremism and building sustainable, positive peace. Discussions will also focus on good practices in

partnerships between the UN, international civil society, and CSOs. The session will explore how international actors can scale up their support for these efforts, in political, technical and financial terms, while considering opportunities for placing stronger emphasis on protecting the peacemakers.

Expected outcomes

- 1) Launch of the UNDP/ICAN *Invisible Women* report, and discussions to highlight the policy and programming gaps that urgently need to be closed and identify existing good practices pertaining to women and girls associated with violent extremist movements, which can inform ongoing CT and P/CVE processes;
- 2) Launch of the latest ICAN *Better Peace Initiative (BPI) tools on gendered ceasefires*, and showcasing of the efforts of WASL members and practical approaches to inclusive and gender-responsive mediation;
- 3) Identification of practical opportunities for governments and international actors to better support and safeguard the existing work of women peacebuilders and women-led CSOs;
- 4) Sharing of best practices and lessons learned on P/CVE and inclusive mediation (including ceasefire negotiations) from actors in a variety of fields, with a particular emphasis on lessons learned by civil society actors.

Background

In 2014, with the support of the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the International Civil Society Action Forum (ICAN) spearheaded the formation of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL), providing a platform for locally rooted women-led organisations playing an active role on the frontlines in the areas of peace, mediation and P/CVE to connect globally. The Alliance now spans over 38 countries and some 100 organisations. From Iraq, Lebanon and Nigeria to Pakistan and the Philippines, WASL members are pioneering P/CVE programmes with women and young people in their communities, and undertaking local mediation and peace efforts.

UNDP is working in partnership with WASL members on research, events and programming, with the aim of connecting local women's organisations to international practitioners, government actors and academics, scaling up grassroots initiatives by providing technical and financial support, and ensuring that the international community learns from locally rooted experiences, solutions and lessons. In its programming and research, UNDP gives priority to gender-sensitive approaches to PVE and peacemaking that promote a better understanding of the roles women play in relation to violent extremism and conflict, and engage women and women's organisations as decision-makers in addressing these issues.

Drawing on the experiences of WASL members, ICAN and UNDP have collaborated to address the complex challenge of women and girls associated with violent extremist movements returning to their communities, and identify practical ways forward for policymaking and programming in the area of rehabilitation and reintegration.

WASL partners in Yemen, Afghanistan and Syria are among the most seasoned practitioners in the realm of peacemaking – with experience from both international and local processes. ICAN's Innovative Peace

Fund (IPF) has emerged as a model of effective grantmaking to enable the ongoing practices of women who have access and are trusted in the most violence-affected communities.

The work of WASL members and their peers is by no means risk-free. With rising autocracy and shrinking space for civil society, women peacemakers are facing new threats and challenges. Like their colleagues in the human rights and environmental sectors, they are being targeted by state and non-state actors alike. However, women peacemakers are particularly vulnerable, by virtue of the fact that they seek to find middle ground and bridge the divisions between armed adversaries and communities. The global commitment to increase the number of women mediators is generating much-needed momentum, but the safety concerns of women mediators and peacemakers cannot be ignored.

Agenda

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| 08:30 – 09:00 | Arrival Coffee/ tea, fruit and baked goods |
| 09:00 – 09:15 | Welcome Ms. Liv Tørres, Nobel Peace Center Ms. Marita Sørheim-Rensvik, Norwegian Special Envoy for Women, Peace and Security Ms. Merete Brattested, Dir. Gen. Dept. for UN and Humanitarian Affairs, Norway MFA Ms. Sarah Lister, UNDP-OGC |
| 09:15 – 10:45 | Women Preventing Violent Extremism: Implementing a Gendered Approach to Disengagement, Reintegration and Rehabilitation Launch of UNDP-ICAN Report <i>Invisible Women: Gendered Dimensions of Return, Rehabilitation, and Reintegration</i> Speakers: Ms. Hamsatu Allamin, Allamin Foundation for Peace and Development, Nigeria Ms. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, ICAN Ms. Nika Saeedi, UNDP Moderator: Ms. Melinda Holmes, ICAN |
| 10:45 – 11:30 | Light lunch |
| 11:30 – 13:00 | Women in Mediation: From War to Peace through Cross-Sectoral Collaboration and Inclusive Peacemaking Speakers: Ms. Abir Haj Ibrahim, Mobaderoon Network, Syria Ms. Muna Luqman, Food4Humanity, Yemen Ms. Wazhma Frogh, Women & Peace Studies Organisation, Afghanistan (by Skype) Moderator: Ms. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, ICAN |
| 13:00 – 14:00 | Coffee/tea, baked goods |