



**SHADOW RESOLUTION
ON WOMEN, PEACE
AND SECURITY:
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC
RIGHTS, LEADERSHIP
AND PARTICIPATION**

INTRODUCTION

The groundbreaking Resolution 1325, adopted by the UN Security Council in 2000, has contributed to major efforts in terms of women's participation in peace processes. New resolutions have been added to complement and strengthen the Women, Peace and Security agenda, (WPS). These different resolutions have emphasised various parts of the agenda's four main pillars: protection, prevention, participation, and relief and recovery. However, none of the resolutions has adequately addressed the most important factors for ensuring that women are protected, can participate and can contribute to conflict prevention, relief and recovery – namely women's economic empowerment and women's economic rights.

As long as women do not have equal economic rights, including housing, land and property rights, and equal access to financial services and access to the labour market, women will not be free to make decisions about their own lives. They are more likely to be subjected to gender-based violence and exploitation, and they will not be able to assume leadership roles to contribute to community-building and peacebuilding efforts. The full implementation of the WPS agenda is systematically hindered by budget limitations. At the same time, women are excluded from economic decision-making. With this shadow resolution, we aim to highlight the need to strengthen women's economic empowerment, in order to build peaceful and secure societies, and to encourage the UNSC to make women's economic rights an integral part of the WPS agenda going forward.

Many of the human rights that women are denied are economic rights. These include the right to inherit, the right to own land and property, the right to register a company, the right to register a bank account or apply for credit on the same terms as a man. Globally, women have only 75% of the legal economic rights of men, and in some parts of the world as low as 50%.²

In countries with weak institutions, in conflict and in post-conflict contexts, women's economic exclusion is often greater, and the vulnerability of women without financial means is also higher. In these contexts, gender-based violence against women increases and in many conflict and post-conflict areas there is a higher prevalence of rape and other forms of sexual violence. The combination of high levels of violence in a society and women's low economic independence further increases women's and girls' vulnerability to exploitation, gender-based violence, economic violence, sextortion¹ and trafficking.

In recent years, economic violence has been recognised as a form of gender-based violence, which further obstructs women's chances of achieving economic independence. Economic violence includes the threat of denying access to economic resources, restricting the access directly, property damage, and not complying with economic responsibilities such as alimony. In the context of peace and security, economic violence against women inhibits their possibility to access economic resources that allow them to freely make decisions affecting their lives and participate in peace processes, political decisions and in processes of transitional justice.³

¹ The International Association of Women Judges defines 'sextortion' as a concept where vulnerability and power collide, and when those in power and authority sometimes abuse their power in exchange for a personal sexual benefit. <http://www.iawj.org/programs/corruption-and-sextortion/>

² Women Business and the Law World Bank, 2020. P. 7

³ Sharp, Dustin N.(ed), (2014) Justice and Economic Violence in Transition, Springer, New York

Women who are economically empowered are more likely to engage in peacebuilding, and women who are granted access to economic resources and become independent are also recognised in society. All of this contributes to achieving women's full participation in peacebuilding protection,⁴ contribution to conflict prevention, and recovery and relief. Women's rights organisations, who lead the work for gender equality and women's rights, receive only a fraction of the international development aid, further restricted by anti-terrorist measures and lack of safe financial routes.

The Covid-19 pandemic reminds us that it is not always war and conflict that are our biggest security threats. The pandemic and the measures to fight the pandemic have torn societies apart, and have led to a global spike in gender-based violence, to massive increases in unemployment, poverty and hunger. Undemocratic forces have also been able to move their positions forward as a result thereof. Women are particularly affected by the crisis both in terms of the increase in gender-based violence and the economic downturn, as women have less secure access to financial assets, they are less unionised than men and they have less access to social security systems.

The consequences of the pandemic have shown that economic security, access to the formal labour markets, union rights, unemployment insurances and social protection are critical to build secure people, societies and countries. We need to build more resilient societies to ensure human security and sustaining peace.

At the same time, the world is also facing a major climate crisis, characterised by a shortage of resources, and an increase in pandemics and natural disasters. We need a holistic approach to sustainable peace and sustainable economies in order to face the security challenges in the coming decades. This will not be achieved without the active participation and the protection of half the world's population.

In order for the Women, Peace and Security agenda to achieve its full capacity and promise, **we propose a UN Security Council Resolution on Women's Economic Rights, Leadership and Participation.**

⁴ The Kvinna till Kvinna Foundation, (2020) A Right not a Gift – Women building feminist peace, https://kvinna tillkvinna.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/Kvinna till Kvinna_A-Right-Not-A-Gift_digital.pdf

Shadow Resolution

on Women's Economic rights, Leadership and Participation

The Security Council,

Reaffirming its commitment to the continuing and full implementation of Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013), 2242 (2015), and 2467 (2019) on Women, Peace and Security, and its commitment to women's participation and protection and promotion of human rights,

Recalling the conventions of the International Labour Organisation (ILO), No. 100 (1951), No. 111 (1958), No. 183 (2000), No. 189 (2011), and its commitments to healthy and secure environments for women and girls in the world of work, highlights, in particular, convention No. 190, (2019) that emphasises that gender-based violence, harassment and domestic violence disproportionately affects women and girls and can affect their employment, productivity, health and safety,

Recalling the commitments of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and *reaffirming* the obligations of State Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, in particular the platform's dedication to ensure women's equal access to economic resources, including land, credit, science and technology, as means to further the advancement and empowerment of women and girls,

Noting the commitments of the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (the Istanbul Convention) and *reaffirming* the state parties' obligation to the convention's actions against gender-based violence, *urging* states that have not yet done so to consider ratifying and implementing it,

Further noting that the Istanbul Convention includes economic violence in its definition of gender-based violence, *recalling* the general obligation to aim at the empowerment and economic independence of women survivors of violence,

Further recognising that the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (the Maputo Protocol) includes economic harm in its definition of violence against women, *recalling* the general obligation to aim at the empowerment and economic independence of women,

Affirming the primary role of Member States to implement fully the relevant provisions of Security Council resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, and the important complementary role of United Nations entities and regional organisations,

Emphasising that the role that economic power plays in enabling and disabling women's participation politically, and in peace and security processes, is both immense and fundamental,

Emphasising the economic precondition for women's meaningful political participation, and *recalling* that without economic power, the first priority is survival, for themselves, their families and their communities,

Underscoring the need to view obstacles as interdependent – e.g. the relationship between women's lack of access to education, information, sexual and reproductive health and rights, and housing, land and property rights, the prevalence of corruption including sextortion, and how these combine to make women more vulnerable to gender-based violence, which then further excludes women from participating in the public sphere,

Recognising that invisible economic violence against women in conflict, such as exclusion from the labour market, exacerbates women's poverty, marginalises women from the public sphere, and excludes them from influencing economic policy,

Recognising that poverty is a form of structural economic violence that is a barrier to women's equal access to and control over, resources, knowledge, and opportunities, which are bases for women to protect their rights,

Emphasising that the lack of economic rights for women and girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts increases their vulnerability to sexual exploitation, abuse and trafficking,

Expressing deep concern that corruption as part of economic violence in relief and recovery efforts as well as in reconstruction, exacerbate women's economic vulnerabilities and exclusion,

Emphasising that gender-blind economic recovery processes increase women's poverty through unequal access to land, property and relevant infrastructure, including economic reforms initiated by international financial institutions,

Deeply concerned that the non-inclusion of women in economic recovery processes risks undermining the preconditions necessary for women's access to economic opportunities in post-conflict societies,

Emphasising that it further hinders women's economic leadership and ability to articulate women-led visions about financial resourcing and management,

Recognising that economic recovery requires women's access to land, property and infrastructure. Economic recovery processes do not only affect the economy and women's poverty, but are also important opportunities for addressing militarisation and recruitment to armies and armed insurgencies, as they can offer peaceful income resourcing alternatives,

Noting that women waiving their housing, land and property rights to male family members is an expectation in many contexts. Women's lack of access to their housing, land and property rights also intersects with financial, security, and corruption constraints,

Noting that women's housing, land and property rights can have a direct impact on local democracy-building in conflict contexts when forced displacement is used to create demographic changes in a way that disrupts the local power balance to serve actors involved in the conflict. This often has an impact on women's ability to participate in local politics,

Recognising the need for holistic sustainable economies as a precondition for sustaining peace, particularly in relation to the fast development of climate change, deterioration of biological diversity, shortage of resources, pandemics etc.,

Alarmed by the lack of safe financial routes for women's rights organisations, particularly in relation to shrinking civic space due to counterterrorism financial restrictions, violent extremism, and economic sanctions. This is further exacerbated in contexts of de facto rule, where women's rights organisations and activists are caught between unrecognised authorities and the inability to make full use of the international policy frameworks unrecognised by their de facto authorities,

Recognising that counterterrorism financial measures have adverse effects on international financial transactions and hinder human rights defenders' organisation at large. This restrains possibilities for civil society organisations, and in particular women's rights organisations often relying on foreign funding to transfer and receive funds,

Further recalling the need to strengthen data and statistics on women's economic empowerment in all contexts mentioned, and strengthening coordination on data collection and reporting,

- 1) *Urges* Member States to ensure that women are meaningfully included in economic decision-making processes at community, national and regional levels, as well as in economic reforms and post-conflict recovery plans initiated by international financial institutions,
- 2) *Calls upon* donors in partnerships with governments to ensure the meaningful inclusion of women and a gender-sensitive approach in the design of infrastructure reconstruction,
- 3) *Emphasises* that women should be supported to both organise in, and to organise trade unions and syndicates, stresses the importance of creating an additional space of organising around women's economic rights, particularly in relation to women's shrinking economic space,
- 4) *Urges* Member States to ensure that women's housing, land and property rights are explicit in the Women, Peace and Security national action plans. Women's lack of these rights should be recognised as a form of structural discrimination and economic violence further heightened in conflict contexts and hindering women's protection and participation in peacebuilding,
- 5) *Calls upon* Member States to abolish the legal discrimination hindering women's equal rights to housing, land, and property. *Further emphasises* the need to strengthen women's competence around their housing, land and property rights, and how this intersects with their economic and human rights,
- 6) *Encourages* leaders at the national and local level, including community, religious and traditional leaders, as appropriate and where they exist, to work towards a change in norms regarding women's housing, land, and property rights by supporting and working in partnership with women's rights organisations,

- 7) *Calls upon* all actors to promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat all forms of corruption (administrative, financial, political) which hinders women's equal participation, deprives women's access to economic security, deprives women their rights to housing, land and property rights, and exposes them to sextortion,
- 8) *Calls upon* all institutions supporting women's economic activities to offer targeted support to women agricultural engineers and farmers as a strategic entry point for normative and economic transformation, recognising the centrality of agricultural activities in rural areas, which are often most affected by conflict,
- 9) *Urges* Member States and international financial institutions (IFIs) to include a gender perspective in their analysis, *emphasising* the responsibility of all Member States to demand and incentivise statistics on women across all sectors,
- 10) *Calls for* women's economic empowerment efforts to not only include short-term trainings and short-term project funding, but *further recommends* that efforts must be directed towards long-term programmes to contribute to normative changes in society that can create long-term transformation,
- 11) *Calls upon* Member States to increase and prioritise implementation and policies on gender, women's rights, and support of civil society within international financial institutions. *Further recommends* IFIs to engage meaningfully and regularly with local civil society organisations, including women's rights organisations, in processes of designing and implementing programmes, loans and policies,
- 12) *Urges* Member States and IFIs to support the continuous and unrestricted financing of women's rights organisations in conflict-affected areas. *Calls upon* Member States to develop safe financial routes, particularly in contexts affected by economic sanctions,
- 13) *Calls upon* Member States to support women's peaceful income resourcing in conflict-affected contexts, as an alternative to militarised livelihoods.



FOR ALL WOMEN'S RIGHTS
IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD

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