

GENDER MAINSTREAMING IN UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

Mainstreaming gender into peacekeeping activities demands the full incorporation of the priorities of both women and men in all processes for sustaining peace. This process should begin during the initial stages of ceasefire negotiations and the establishment of mandates for peacekeeping operations, and carry through to post-conflict situations. It also requires ongoing review and analysis of the policies and interventions of peacekeeping missions to ensure that the principle of equality between men and women in the host population is fully integrated into all functional areas of the missions' work.

Since the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) has strengthened institutional mechanisms for gender mainstreaming in all aspects of peacekeeping. Some positive interventions include:

- The establishment of gender units in all multidimensional peacekeeping operations and the appointment of a Gender Adviser at Headquarters;
- The systematic inclusion of gender concerns in all new peacekeeping mandates;
- The development of a wide range of policy and operational tools and resources to facilitate gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping missions, including a Gender Resource Package, a departmental Gender Policy Statement and operational guidelines for gender mainstreaming in specific functional areas of peacekeeping;
- The development of gender awareness training materials for use in pre-deployment and induction training for military and civilian police personnel;
- The expansion of partnerships with other UN entities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and Member States to advance gender mainstreaming efforts.

Gender mainstreaming refers to “the process of assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making women’s as well as men’s concerns and experiences an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so that women and men benefit equally and inequality is not perpetuated. The ultimate goal is to achieve gender equality.”

Agreed conclusions 1997/2 of the
Economic and Social Council
18 September 1997
A/52/3

“Gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping operations is necessary if our interventions are to be relevant, effective and responsive to women, men, girls and boys in the host countries we serve.”



Jean-Marie Guéhenno,
Under-Secretary-General
for Peacekeeping Operations

Gender Policy Statement
March 2005

“Mainstreaming gender perspectives into peacekeeping policies and activities goes beyond awareness-raising and special activities targeted at women. Gender mainstreaming must ensure that the contributions, needs and priorities of all stakeholders — women and men, boys and girls — are taken into account in the planning and implementation of peacekeeping operations, and that they can all influence, participate and benefit equally.”²

Kofi Annan
Secretary-General

Report of the Secretary-General on
gender mainstreaming in
peacekeeping activities
13 February 2003
A/57/731

¹ Report of the Secretary-General on gender mainstreaming in peacekeeping activities, February 2003, A/57/731.

² Attention is drawn to the publication entitled *Gender Mainstreaming: An Overview*, dated January 2002, prepared by the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women.