

# **Women, Everyday Peacebuilders**

## **PBC/UN Women Special Event**

3 September 2014, 10am-1pm

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 1

### **Introduction**

Over the past 14 years, the international community has demonstrated its commitment to supporting women's roles in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and to strengthening gender-responsive peacebuilding. From 2000 to 2013, the Security Council adopted a series of seven resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, effectively recognizing that women's protection and participation are directly linked to peace and security issues. Other landmark achievements include the Peacebuilding Commission's declaration on women's economic empowerment for peacebuilding (2013) and the adoption of CEDAW General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations. National and regional action plans on SCR1325 have also been developed in over 40 countries.

In 2010, the Secretary-General defined a Seven-Point Action Plan on Gender-Responsive Peacebuilding, identifying seven concrete commitments (on mediation, post-conflict planning, financing, civilian capacity, post-conflict governance, rule of law and economic recovery) to ensure that peacebuilding is founded on inclusive participation of women, on a comprehensive gender analysis of conflict and post-conflict dynamics and is responsive to women's priorities.

However, in spite of the many positive steps that have been taken to implement these frameworks, progress has remained uneven, with women largely absent at peace negotiation tables, haphazard integration of their needs and priorities in post-conflict programming and insufficient funding commitments. The vision has unfortunately not fully translated into concrete changes on the ground.

At the local level, however, and often with little or no recognition and support, women continue to mend daily the precarious fabric of peace relentlessly. Women's local peacebuilding initiatives, while acknowledged in theory by the international community, tend to go unrecognized while official, high-level peace negotiation and mediation processes take center stage. Yet, as highlighted by the Secretary-General in his 2010 report on *Women's Participation in Peacebuilding* (A/65/354), women are crucial partners in shoring up the three pillars of lasting peace: economic recovery, social cohesion and political legitimacy.

It is well documented that women devote a greater proportion of their income than men to expenditures that benefit families. The new roles that women often assume during conflict – as combatants, economic actors providing for their families or activists engaged in community reconciliation – must be recognized and supported in the post-conflict period to reaffirm women's full entitlement to all civic, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Too often, women's daily peacebuilding stories remain untold. This PBC/UN Women event intends to offer a platform to women, the unsung heroes of peacebuilding, to share their everyday peacebuilding stories.

### **Purpose**

The Event, organized by the Peacebuilding Commission, under the chairmanship of H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota of Brazil, and UN Women, will offer a forum for a few outstanding women leaders to share their peacebuilding experiences and recommendations for the international community.

Organized as a follow-up to the Peacebuilding Commission High-Level Event on Women's Economic Empowerment for Peacebuilding of September 2013, this Event will continue engaging PBC members on the importance of women's participation and gender equality for peacebuilding. It will be the opportunity for PBC members to reflect on women's peacebuilding efforts in their own national context, while providing opportunities to identify entry points for the Peacebuilding Commission to prioritize women's empowerment in its daily work.

This special event will contribute to commemorating the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and of the Cairo Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. It will also provide an important contribution for the preparations of the 2015 High-level Review of Security Council Resolution 1325, during which progress and challenges in the implementation of the resolution will be discussed by the Security Council.

The event will be webcast on UN TV to ensure these inspirational stories are shared with women and civil society groups around the world.

### **Outcome**

A joint PBSO/UN Women publication entitled "Women, Everyday Peacebuilders", including life stories of the panellists and other exceptional women leaders who have contributed to peacebuilding in their countries.

### **Location**

UN Headquarters, Conference Room 1, Conference Building

## **Programme**

- 10:05am – 10:20am**      **Opening Session**  
Welcome remarks by H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission  
Welcome remarks by Ms. Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women (by video message)
- 10:20am – 10:35am**      **Keynote Address**  
Keynote address by Ms. Leymah Gbowee, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, Liberia
- 10:35am – 11:20am**      **Panel discussion**  
Moderator: Ms. Judy-Cheng Hopkins, former ASG for Peacebuilding Support  
Panellists:  
Ms. Alice Nderitu, Center for Humanitarian Dialogue, Kenya  
Ms. Wazhma Frogh “Zulfiqar”, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Institute for Women, Peace & Security, Afghanistan (*via video-conference*)  
Ms. Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Executive Director of Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), Colombia
- 11:20am – 12:45pm**      **Interventions from the floor**
- 12:45pm – 1:00pm**      **Closing Session**  
Closing remarks by John Hendra, Deputy Executive Director of UN Women  
Closing remarks by H.E. Antonio de Aguiar Patriota, Chair of the Peacebuilding Commission

## **Biography of key note speaker and panellists**

### **Leymah Gbowee**

Leymah Gbowee, Liberian peace and women's rights activist, organized Christian and Muslim women during the war in Liberia, founding Liberian Mass Action for Peace and launching protests. Her efforts to end the war, along with her collaborator Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, helped usher in a period of peace and enabled a free election in 2005 that Sirleaf won. Leymah Gbowee, along with Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and Tawakkul Karman, were awarded the 2011 Nobel Peace Prize *"for their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women's rights to full participation in peace-building work."*

### **Alice Nderitu**

Following the eruption of post-election violence in Kenya in 2007 and 2008, Alice Nderitu joined the newly created National Cohesion and Integration Commission, to mediate ethnic and race-related conflict. UNDP in Kenya and the National Committee on Peace Building and Conflict Management honored Ms. Nderitu for her role in maintaining a peaceful process during the August 2010 constitutional referendum. Sharing best practices of her conflict prevention efforts, the commissioner worked with South Sudanese prior to the critical January 2011 referendum on independence. Ms. Nderitu is currently senior advisor at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, an independent mediation organization.

### **Wazhma Frogh "Zulfiqar"**

Wazhma Frogh "Zulfiqar" is Co-Founder and Executive Director of the Institute for Women, Peace and Security (RIWPS-Afghanistan) and a women's rights activists who has led rights campaigns throughout the country. Ms. Frogh brings over 15 years of struggle and dedication to empowerment of Afghan women in Afghanistan.

### **Rosa Emilia Salamanca**

Ms. Rosa Emilia Salamanca's work is dedicated to strengthen the participation of women and civil society in decision-making processes in Colombia. She has worked with indigenous communities, feminists and a number of women's organizations. Ms. Salamanca is Executive Director of *Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica* (CIASE) in Colombia, a member of the Women, Peace and Security Collective for Reflection and Action, which calls for a transformation towards a more peaceful Colombian society. Rosa Emilia also participates in Coalición 1325, which advocates for a Colombian National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, and is a member of the National Network of Women.