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INTRODUCTION

When you invest in women, you invest in peace.

Earlier this year, U.S. Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015 (S.224). Building awareness about the WPS Act is critical to building significant Congressional support for the bill, education of the public, and building a broader movement around women, peace, and security.

When women are present as peace builders, politicians, and activists, they are often in the strongest position to bring about peace in their communities. When women are included in conflict negotiations, issues such as healthcare, education, and food security are part of the solution.

Research and experience increasingly confirm that peace agreements succeed only when they include a broad range of stakeholders, especially women, in the process. In-depth knowledge of local community needs enables women to bridge political, economic, social, and cultural divides to build coalitions and negotiate peace.

The following pages contain tools which can help guide your online and offline actions and activities. They include social media, traditional media, reaching out directly to Members of Congress, setting up petitions, and ideas for educating your community. Please utilize any of the messaging to be part of this effort!
WHAT IS THE WOMEN, PEACE, & SECURITY ACT?

WHAT IS THE BACKGROUND OF THE WPS ACT?

In 2000, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325) was enacted by the United Nations Security Council, to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls, and promote female leadership in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building.

SCR 1325 requires UN Member States to develop National Action Plans (NAP’s) that provide for women’s participation in peace and conflict decision-making, the protection of women and girls, and gender training.

In December 2011 President Obama issued an Executive Order outlining the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (U.S. NAP) which contains commitments from the Department of State, Department of Defense, USAID, and other relevant federal agencies.

The Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Act is legislation that was introduced in the 113th and now in the 114th Congress that would codify and ensure robust implementation of and give congressional oversight to current U.S. policy, contained in the U.S. NAP on Women, Peace, and Security.

WHY IS THE WPS ACT NECESSARY?

Because when we include women we get better results. At the most basic level women’s inclusion matters because their participation is a matter of equality and equity. Durable peace is the ultimate objective and research shows that women’s approaches and contributions have created more robust and resilient peace outcomes.¹

HOW DOES THIS LEGISLATION ADVANCE NATIONAL SECURITY INTERESTS?

Women have a role to play in preventing a new generation of extremism. They are not outsiders with external agendas; they are trusted individuals whose aim is to build strong and vital communities in which their families thrive. The community-based approach that women often bring to the table can help address issues that feed extremism – poverty, alienation, and inequality.

WPS ACT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What are the costs?

The legislation does not authorize any new funding. Rather, it gives Congressional oversight to resources that have already been allocated in accordance with Executive Order 13595 – Instituting a National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. We cannot afford not to do this; conflict prevention is a more cost effective measure than war. Globally, $56 billion spent over four years on a combination of peace measures creates savings and benefits of $606 billion. This translates into a savings of $11 for every $1 spent on prevention, a savings of $5 for $1 spent on intervention, and a savings of $3 spent on every $1 of reconstruction.²

2. Is WPS a “western” concept that the U.S. is trying to impose on other countries?

Building peace is not a Western concept. Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) is an international and national policy agenda that is the result of a global network of women – especially those who had been affected by conflict - who worked at local, national and international levels to call for peace and security for women. In 2000, a global group of nongovernment organizations (NGOs) launched a worldwide appeal for the UN Security Council to formally recognize women’s rights, to promote their participation in all peace and security processes and to protect them in times of conflict, which resulted in the Security Council’s passage of Security Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It is the very women in conflict-affected countries who are calling for change within their own countries. For example, driven by the efforts of local women’s groups, Iraq and Afghanistan now have National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security.

3. What is the benefit of including a gender lens in policies & programs?

Including gender perspectives means considering the way that men and women, boys and girls are affected – sometimes the same, sometimes differently – by conflict, peace building efforts, defense and development programs, and budgeting. It also means taking into account their varying needs in the design of policies and programs as well as identifying the ways in which gender relations and power inequalities fuel insecurity. This understanding of gender leads to better policies and outcomes.

4. If the WPS Act were enacted it would

• Require the Secretary of State to work with the Pentagon and USAID to provide Congress with an annual report on women, peace, and security that includes an overview of how U.S. taxpayer dollars are being spent to promote women’s inclusion and participation as directed by the U.S. NAP;

• Institute comprehensive training programs on the value of women’s participation in such areas as conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building for all relevant diplomatic, defense, and development personnel;

• Encourage the United States to assist women mediators and negotiators by eliminating barriers to their equal and secure participation in peace processes and to support partner governments that demonstrate a commitment to recruiting and retaining women in leadership roles;

• Require the head of each relevant agency of the Federal Government to identify common indicators to evaluate the impact of United States foreign assistance on women’s meaningful inclusion and participation and revise approaches to ensure improved outcomes.

HOSAI BAYANI
PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBER, Afghanistan

“When you increase the level of knowledge of women and their family, the security all over the country, the economy […], then this can bring changes to Afghan women’s lives.” Hosai was first elected as a Provincial Council Member in Parwan in 2009. She won reelection in 2014, and serves as one of three women on the 15-member council. Across Afghanistan’s 34 provinces, women hold 20 percent of all provincial council seats, a powerful opportunity to represent the people of their province and provide guidance and support for local governance and development. Hosai has worked on a project to build paved roads, dig a well for drinking water, and to improve the water canal system in the city. Reluctant to take their issues to law enforcement, many women have reached out to her for help. Their problems often involve domestic violence and husbands’ drug addiction. In her first four years in office, Hosai helped over 200 women access local shelters. (Photo Credit: Rada Akbar)

MARCELINA MOSES SIMANGI
POLICEWOMAN, South Sudan

“Sexual violence is one of the worst things that can happen to you as a woman. As police officers we have the responsibility to act against these offences.” Marcelina joined the police force in Juba in the mid-1980s at a time when the male-dominated police force was not interested in issues of gender-based violence (GBV). Marcelina was transferred to Yambio, where she was determined to hold the police force accountable for handling cases of gender-based violence. At first, her colleagues resisted her efforts and ignored these complicated cases, but that resistance slowly became admiration. Marcelina’s efforts inspired other women to join the police force, which led to a more equal balance in the force, making it more likely women will find safety and justice when they report gender-based violence. Marcelina is now head of Yambio Special Protection Unit, specializing in cases of GBV and guarding the rights of women and children. (Photo Credit: 1325/Dutch NAP Partnership Publication)

JASMINKA BEGIĆ
MAYOR OF DOBOJ-JUG, Bosnia and Herzegovina

“If a woman is the pillar of a family then why shouldn’t she be a pillar of a society?” During the Bosnian War Jasminka had to leave her home and take her two young children to safer territories. Now she is back and is well aware of what was lost and what needs to happen to rebuild her community. As mayor she hopes to bring people together and create trust through joint projects. She is committed to solving regional issues such as construction of a joint waste water collector, modernization of local roads and public lighting, which will help establish economic stability in the region. As a woman left to rebuild her life, Jasminka was cognizant of the struggles that women face. Today, she is helping to create projects for the economic empowerment of women while still aware that her approach must be holistic and inclusive of every member of the community. This inclusive approach is why the citizens of her small community trust her. (Photo Credit: Women for Women International)
SERAPHINE BARANYYIBIKIYE
ELECTED LOCAL LEADER, Burundi

“Change must take into account the needs of all.” Séraphine Baranyibikiye represents 1157 households and more than 5500 people in her capacity as elected local leader, known in Burundi as a “chef de colline.” Though politics in Burundi are traditionally seen as a male domain, she managed to mobilize four women to run in the last election, who were all elected. In the June 2015 elections, Séraphine focused on working with all political parties to make sure as many women as possible were registered to vote, and advocate for more women to run for elected positions. Séraphine hopes that her approach – transparency and promoting women’s leadership through partnerships with men and women – will help empower women to be leaders and lead to better conflict prevention and mediation, as well as more economic development in Burundi. (Photo Credit: 1325/Dutch NAP Partnership Publication)

BETTY BIGOMBE
MEMBER OF THE UGANDAN PARLIAMENT

“I believe that to have sustainable peace you have to talk to your enemy, so that you can address underlying causes of the conflict. So I went there and listened and listened, to see if I could get both sides to be part of the peace process. But I cannot tell someone, “End the war,” when I don’t know what’s in your heart. So I said, “Tell me everything,” and I became a very good listener.” Betty Bigombe has been at the forefront of Ugandan peace efforts since she joined the government in 1986, during a period of rebel fighting in the northern districts. When she was appointed Minister of State for Pacification in 1988, Betty began working to establish stability in the region. In 1993, Betty travelled into the bush with a small team and initiated contact with Joseph Kony, leader of the Lord’s Resistance Army (LRA). She urged him to participate in talks with the government, overcoming one of the greatest hurdles of the peace process and setting the stage for negotiations. These face-to-face negotiations between the LRA leaders and the Ugandan government came to be known as the “Bigombe talks,” and garnered international attention. The amnesty law that resulted from her efforts brought 10,000 rebels, previously hiding in the bush, to the negotiation tables. In 2005, she served as the chief mediator on the second round of peace talks with the LRA, and is now the Senior Director for Fragility, Conflict, and Violence at the World Bank. (Photo Credit: Institute for Inclusive Security)

WOMEN OF SREBRENICA
SURVIVORS OF THE MASSACRE

“We are all mothers.” In July of 1995, Serb forces slaughtered 8,000 unarmed Muslim men and boys in the town of Srebrenica. Twenty years later, the women of that region have responded with calls for justice and reconciliation. This commitment to peace took root at the onset of the pain and suffering. When US Ambassador Swanee Hunt helped organize a Srebrenica commemoration of 4,000 survivors in 1996, only one year after the massacre, US military commanders insisted that the mothers of the perpetrators be invited as well. The Muslim women accepted this demand without hesitation. The response of one widow captured a key element in navigating through a peace process: “We are all mothers.” Today the voices and values of Bosnian and Serbian women are added to the discourse around war and peace. (Photo Credit: Serbian Massacre 1995 Blog post)

For more information on these women and their work:

Hosai Bayani - http://tinyurl.com/pcf8h6u
Marcelina Moses Simangi (pg. 12) - http://tinyurl.com/ogp9nyf
Jasminka Begić - http://tinyurl.com/nj47f3a
Seraphine Baranyyibikiye (pg. 20) - http://tinyurl.com/ogp9nyf
Betty Bigombe - http://tinyurl.com/patdvp
Women of Srebrenica - http://tinyurl.com/q4hol8d
Building awareness about the WPS Act is critical to building significant Congressional support for the bill, education of the public, and building a broader movement around women, peace, and security. The following pages contain tools which can help guide your online and offline actions and activities. They include social media, traditional media, reaching out directly to Members of Congress, setting up petitions, and ideas for educating your community. Please utilize any of the messaging to be part of this effort.

Below is a list of online action links from organizations in the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace and Security that you can click to TAKE ACTION.

Take Action Links:


Women’s Action for a New Direction - [http://tinyurl.com/ovh6pce](http://tinyurl.com/ovh6pce)

Women for Women International - [http://www.womenforwomen.org/wps](http://www.womenforwomen.org/wps)

Download the sharable social media graphic - [http://bit.ly/1K70bgh](http://bit.ly/1K70bgh)
Social Media

Sample Facebook Posts from Individuals & Organizations

FACEBOOK POSTS

Do your Senators and Representative support the Women, Peace and Security Act? Join [me / us] in showing your support by sending your representatives a message on their Facebook page, urging them to support women and girls across the world! [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC] [ATTACH LINK TO ONLINE ACTION]

Do you feel passionately about strengthening the role of women in peace talks and preventing gender-based violence? If so, support the Women, Peace, and Security Act by asking your Members of Congress to cosponsor the Act. It’s time to take action. [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC] [ATTACH LINK TO ONLINE ACTION]

Women are critical to resolving and preventing conflicts effectively. Their involvement helps to create greater long term stability by bringing increased attention to important social and environmental needs, and protecting women and girls from gender-based violence. Encourage your Members of Congress to cosponsor and support the Women, Peace and Security Act today! [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC] [ATTACH LINK TO ONLINE ACTION]

Sample Tweets from Individuals & Organizations

TWEETS

The UN has never had a woman as chief mediator. Let’s give women a voice in peace talks. Support #WPSAct today! [link to online action]

<8% of spending in post-conflict countries is budgeted to empower women or promote gender equality. Let’s change this! [link to online action]

Female voters are 4x as likely as men to be targeted for intimidation in elections in fragile countries. Ask Congress to pass #WPSAct today!

Pls RT! Tell Congress to act now and support #WPSAct [link to online action] #womenpeacesecurity

<10% of negotiators in peace agreements are women. Help us change this. Urge Congress to pass #WPSAct! [link to online action]

Give women a greater say in peace talks and protection from gender-based violence. Support #WPSAct today! [link to online action]

Give women full and EQUAL participation in efforts to create peace. Urge Congress to pass #WPSAct [link to online action]

More women involved in peace talks=greater emphasis on combating sexual violence. Urge Congress to pass #WPSAct! [link to online action]
Social Media

Nearly all members of Congress have Twitter and Facebook accounts and actively use them to communicate with their constituents. Be sure to include Twitter handles for your members of Congress as a way to engage them directly.

Sample Facebook Posts to Members of Congress

FACEBOOK POSTS

Women and girls bear the brunt of many of the harmful consequences of armed conflict. The Women Peace and Security Act would institute comprehensive training modules on the protection, rights, and specific needs of women in conflict. Cosponsor and support the Women, Peace and Security Act (S.224) today! [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC]

The time is now to help women reach the peace table and have a voice in ending conflict and promoting reconciliation. Please be a leader in this movement and cosponsor the Women, Peace and Security Act (S.224). [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC]

Less than 10% of negotiators in peace agreements are women. It’s time to change this imbalanced representation and recognize the benefits of involving women in conflict prevention. Cosponsor and support the Women, Peace, and Security Act today! [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC]

Let’s make inequality a thing of the past and give women a full voice in preventing and resolving violent conflicts. Please support the Women, Peace, and Security Act. [ATTACH WPS GRAPHIC]

Sample Tweets to Members of Congress

TWEETS

Let’s strengthen the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention! Give women access to the peace table by supporting #WPSAct! [Attach WPS Graphic]

In 2013 over 1/2 of all peace agreements signed referenced women, peace and security. @[INSERT SENATOR/REP] support #WPSAct today! [Attach WPS Graphic]

@ [INSERT SENATOR/REP] I support women’s access to the peace table. Do you? Support #WPSAct today! [Attach WPS Graphic]

@ [INSERT SENATOR/REP] DYK <8% of spending in post-conflict countries is budgeted to empower women? #WSPAct will change this! [Attach WPS Graphic]

Find Twitter handles for members of Congress: http://tinyurl.com/nkt7lqj
Sample Thank you Tweets

Thank you, [@SENATOR/REP] for giving women a seat at the peace table.
#Womenpeacesecurity #WPSAct

[@SENATOR/REP] Thank you for your commitment to strengthening women’s role in the peace process. #WPSAct.

[@SENATOR/REP] Thank you for standing up for women and girls worldwide with your support of #WPSAct.

Thanks @[INSERT SENATOR/REP] for your leadership and hard work to promote peace and include women’s voices. #WPSAct

Sample Graphics & Other Social Media Tools

UN Women Infographic
Social Media

Sample Graphics & Other Social Media Tools

Powerful Video – Can embed on facebook or tweet out

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d_fnmSe9X1M

Or Embed link: <iframe width="560" height="315" src="https://www.youtube.com/embed/d_fnmSe9X1M" frameborder="0"

WPS ACT Infographic

It's Time to Reset the Peace Table – International Peace Institute

WOMEN'S VOICES ARE MISSING FROM THE NEGOTIATION TABLE.

It's time to give women a voice in peace talks. Let's pass the #WPSact!

Download graphic here: http://bit.ly/1K70bgh
Dear (First Name),

On January 21, 2015 Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015 to ensure promotion of women’s meaningful inclusion and participation in mediation and negotiation processes in order to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

Please urge your Senators to co-sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015. Email Your Senators Now! [Insert online action link]

“Around the world, women are disproportionately affected by violence and armed conflict. It is critical they are full and active partners in peace negotiations…Furthermore, evidence clearly shows that the inclusion of women in peace talks, conflict prevention, and conflict mediation increases the likelihood that these measures succeed.” -Senator Boxer

The U.S. is currently advocating for an end to ongoing violence in many places around the globe including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Nigeria. Women are often the parties most able to bridge political, economic, social and cultural divides to build coalitions and promote peace and reconciliation, and to address the root causes that lead to insecurity. Yet they are most often excluded from the table. Inclusive peace and security processes are the only path to sustainable peace.

By enacting the Women, Peace, and Security Act (WPS Act), we can ensure that women’s voices are heard. The WPS Act would codify, ensure robust implementation of, and give congressional oversight to the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security. The NAP is a government-wide effort to strengthen the role of women in peace-building and conflict prevention processes; protect women and girls from gender-based violence; and ensure women and girls have equitable access to humanitarian assistance during crises and disasters.

Now more than ever it is critical that we bring to the table the voices of those who can help us find pathways to actual sustainable peace.

Please urge your Senators to co-sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015. Email Your Senators Now! [Link to online action – see sample in this tool kit]

Learn more about the WPS Act of 2015. [Link to fact sheet/info: http://tinyurl.com/otexg6g]

In Peace,
[Your Organization’s Name]
RE: Please Co-Sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act

Dear [Recipient’s Title and Name]:

I am writing to ask you to co-sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015 (S. 224).

We know that women and girls are disproportionately affected by crisis and armed conflict. The U.S. is currently advocating for an end to ongoing violence in many places around the globe including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Nigeria. Women are often the parties most able to bridge political, economic, social and cultural divides to build coalitions and promote peace and reconciliation, and to address the root causes that lead to insecurity. Yet they are most often excluded from the table. Inclusive peace and security processes are the only path to sustainable peace.

By enacting the Women, Peace, and Security Act (WPS Act), we can ensure that women’s voices are heard. The WPS Act would codify, ensure robust implementation of and give congressional oversight to the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security. The NAP is a government-wide effort to strengthen the role of women in peace building and conflict prevention processes; protect women and girls from gender-based violence; and ensure women and girls have equitable access to humanitarian assistance during crises and disasters.

In these times of multiple crises and with violent extremism on the rise globally, now more than ever it is critical that we bring to the table the voices of those who can help us find pathways to sustainable peace.

I urge you to Co-Sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015 to ensure women’s voices are included in matters of peace and security.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[State and District]
Please use the below sample scripts to call your Senators and your Representative and ask them to cosponsor the WPS Act today!

**Bill Number:**  S. 224

You can reach the Capitol Switchboard at 202.224.3121

Telephone calls are usually taken by a staff member. Ask to speak with the aide who handles women's issues or foreign affairs issues.

After identifying yourself as a constituent, tell the staffer that you would like to leave a brief message.

“Please tell Senator/Representative ____________ that I support the Women, Peace, and Security Act.”

Ask for the position of your Member of Congress on the bill. If they are a co-sponsor, thank them for their support and urge them to help pass the WPS Act in 2015.

If they are not a cosponsor, you can say:

“Please urge Senator/ Representative ____________ to cosponsor the bill and help pass the WPS Act in 2015.”

You can add: “I support the bill because:”

- Research and experience shows that peace agreements fall apart at a startling rate due to the failure to include a broad range of stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes.

- Women provide critical perspectives that address the root causes of conflict and help us build more real and sustainable peace. The cost of war is too high. When we invest in women we invest in peace.

- The WPS Act will provide Congressional oversight and will give lawmakers the tools they need to ensure that our taxpayer dollars are being invested wisely.

*You should always request a written response to your telephone call.*
On January 21, 2015 Senators Barbara Boxer (D-CA), Mark Kirk (R-IL), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) introduced the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015 to ensure promotion of women's meaningful inclusion and participation in mediation and negotiation processes in order to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict.

“Around the world, women are disproportionately affected by violence and armed conflict. It is critical they are full and active partners in peace negotiations,” Senator Boxer said. “Furthermore, evidence clearly shows that the inclusion of women in peace talks, conflict prevention, and conflict mediation increases the likelihood that these measures succeed.”

The U.S. is currently advocating for an end to ongoing violence in many places around the globe including Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan, South Sudan and Nigeria. Women are often the parties most able to bridge political, economic, social and cultural divides to build coalitions and promote peace and reconciliation, and to address the root causes that lead to insecurity. Yet they are most often excluded from the table. Inclusive peace and security processes are the only path to sustainable peace.

By enacting the Women, Peace, and Security Act (WPS Act), we can ensure that women’s voices are heard. The WPS Act would codify, ensure robust implementation of and give congressional oversight to the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security, which is a government-wide effort to strengthen the role of women in peace-building and conflict prevention processes; protect women and girls from gender-based violence; and ensure women and girls have equitable access to humanitarian assistance during crises and disasters.

Now more than ever it is critical that we bring to the table the voices of those who can help us find pathways to actual sustainable peace.

Please urge your Senator to co-sponsor the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2015. Sign this petition now! [LINK TO PETITION]

Another sample from 2014 can be found here and adapted:

It is a time for people around the world to recognize women's achievements, reflect on progress made, to call for change, and to celebrate acts of courage and determination by women who have played an extraordinary role in the history of their countries and communities. [Use appropriate date/occasion as hook]

Throughout history, we have seen the effectiveness of women in resolving conflicts and affecting lasting change. Women leaders – like [insert names of local women leaders] – are changing the face of peace and resolving conflict in the world at large, and it could not come at a better time. From Rwanda and Burundi to Pakistan and Afghanistan, women are raising their voices, working to end conflict and speaking up for peace and the betterment of their families and communities.

Women in the U.S. and around the world have been at the forefront of peace building – advocating for diplomacy rather than war, reaching across political, ethnic, and religious divides to bring communities together, and addressing the root social causes that lead to insecurity and conflict. We know that women play a crucial role in creating and implementing sustainable solutions to conflict. [Insert local example of when women get involved, how they are able resolve a conflict, promote anti-violence or anti trafficking initiatives, etc.]

Yet, women are most often excluded from the table. Inclusive peace and security processes are the only path to sustainable peace.

We know that “security” is not just about tanks and troops. True security only comes with human security – with equality, bodily integrity, safety, and access to economic opportunity, clean drinking water, food, healthcare, and shelter. Women’s leadership is associated with lower poverty, higher economic growth, better nutrition and education of children, and other outcomes vital to the success of communities. [Insert example of how security can be defined as more than troop deployments, weapons, etc.]

With continuing violence in many places around the globe including Iraq and Syria, Nigeria, and South Sudan, the rise in violent extremism, and concerns over the rights of women in Afghanistan as the U.S. withdraws its troops, now more than ever it is critical that we bring to the table the voices of those who can help us find pathways to actual sustainable peace. [Insert ways in which these conflicts affect local communities]

This year, in recognition of International Women's Day, join with me to urge our Members of Congress to pursue inclusive diplomacy over war and pass the Women, Peace, and Security Act, recently introduced in the Senate, which would ensure women's full and meaningful participation in all of our diplomatic, development, and defense efforts at home and abroad. Let us make sure that women's voices are heard on the most important issue of all – peace.

Name

Town, State and affiliation
To the Editor:

From Rwanda, Bosnia, and South Sudan to the recent kidnapping of hundreds of school girls by armed militants in northeastern the systemic violence against civilians -- gender-based violence; forced displacement; and abduction for sexual slavery and forced fighting -- that characterizes modern day warfare must be met with a strong and strategic response. I ask [your Member of Congress here] to pass a legislation that would pave the way for sustainable peace and lasting stability in the aftermath of violence and would ensure the inclusion of key stakeholders in the peace process, women!

The Women, Peace, and Security “WPS” Act introduced in the U.S. Congress seeks to address the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and girls and promotes female leadership in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace building through implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (U.S. NAP).

Name

Town, State and affiliation
Thank You

Thank you for taking action for Women, Peace, and Security!

The U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (CSWG) is a network of experts, NGOs, and academics with years of experience working on issues involving women, war, and peace. Inspired by and building upon the international Women, Peace, and Security agenda, the CSWG informs, promotes, facilitates, and monitors the meaningful implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security. The Center for Gender and Peace building at the U.S. Institute of Peace serves as a non-partisan, third party convener for CSWG.

CSWG members are committed to ensuring the meaningful participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in all peace and security processes. We cannot make progress without you. Thank you for promoting the rights of women in conflict and peace building and for your efforts to push for strong Congressional support and passage of the Women, Peace, and Security Act. Every action you take makes a difference.

Please feel free to contact the CSWG Legislative Committee with any questions:

- **Sharon Zimmerman, Women’s Action for New Directions** szimmerman@wand.org
- **Leila Milani, Futures Without Violence:** LMilani@futureswithoutviolence.org
- **Amber Khan, Women for Women International:** amber.khan@womenforwomen.org

Helpful Links and Resources

- **Women’s Action for a New direction:** [http://www.wand.org](http://www.wand.org)
- **Women for Women International:** [http://www.womenforwomen.org](http://www.womenforwomen.org)
- **WPS Act text and summary:** [https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s224](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/114/s224)

PHOTOS: UN Women
Women, Peace, and Security Act

Supporting Organizations*

4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)
Amnesty International USA
Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women (ALI)
CARE USA
Creative Associates International
Equality Now
Foreign Policy Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
Futures Without Violence
Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security
Global Gender Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
Inclusive Security
Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy
Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE)
International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)
National Democratic Institute (NDI)
Peace X Peace
Promundo
Protect the People
Refugees International
Strategy for Humanity
United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
United Nations Association of the USA
U.S. National Committee of UN Women
Vital Voices Global Partnership
Women Enabled, Inc.
Women for Women International
Women in International Security (WIIS)
Women Legislators’ Lobby
Women, Peace & Security Resources
Women Thrive Worldwide
Women’s Action for New Directions (WAND)
Women’s Democracy Network
Women’s Refugee Commission

*Many of these supporting organizations are members of the U.S. Civil Society Working Group (CSWG).