

UN SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325 ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

Civil society priorities for the 5th Swiss National Action Plan



KOFF

Die Schweizer Plattform für Friedensförderung
La plateforme suisse de promotion de la paix
La piattaforma svizzera per la promozione della pace
The Swiss platform for peacebuilding

FRIEDA

The Feminist
Peace Organisation



PeaceWomen Across the Globe
FRIEDENSFRAUEN WELTWERT
شبكة من النساء لكل مناسبات
Femmes de Paix Autour du Monde
Женщины мира за мир на земле
Mulheres de Paz em el Mundo
Mulheres pela Paz ao redor do Mundo
DONNE DI PACE NEL MONDO
ピースワーマン—国境を越え平和をつくる女たち

Imprint

Alliance for Women, Peace, and Security

Frieda – the Feminist Peace Organisation (formerly cfd), info@frieda.org

PeaceWomen Across the Globe, info@1000peacewomen.org

swisspeace/KOFF, info@swisspeace.ch

Images: Aaiun Nin; writer and mixed media artist. Aaiun Nin participated in the public hearings, which were part of this project.

Layout: Sanjally Jobarteh, swisspeace/KOFF

Print: Boss Bern AG

English translation: Caroline Morrissey

Bern, April 2024

TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of abbreviations	1
Summary	2
SETTING THE SCENE	4
1. Goals and principles: understanding of security and peace	5
2. The 1325 National Action Plan as a link in the WPS architecture	7
3. Feminist networking	7
4. Overarching issues and the WPS structure	8
5. Civil society consultations in the framework of the WPS Alliance	8
THEMATIC PRIORITIES AND MEASURES	10
I. PREVENTION OF CRISES, ARMED CONFLICT AND UNSAFE SOCIETIES	11
1. Multiple crises	12
2. Gender roles, stereotypes and conflict prevention	14
3. Demilitarisation	15
4. Early warning	16
II. PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE	17
1. Non-discriminatory protection from gender-based violence	18
2. Protection from technology-facilitated gender-based violence	19
III. PARTICIPATION	21
1. Socio-economic conditions	22
2. Conditions relevant to security	23
3. Legal and structural conditions	25
IV. RELIEF AND RECOVERY	26
IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THE 5TH SWISS NAP 1325	28
Measures for Switzerland's 5th NAP 1325 - Civil society priorities	31
Annex	37
List of sources	38

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AI	Artificial intelligence
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women
GPS	Global Positioning System
Istanbul Convention	The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence Against Women and Domestic Violence
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, inter-gender, asexual and more
NAP 1325	National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security
SLAPP	Strategic lawsuit against public participation
TPNW	Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons
WPS	Women, Peace and Security

SUMMARY

This report contains the recommendations for the 5th Swiss National Action Plan 1325 from civil society's perspective. The recommendations aim to prevent gender-based violence against women, girls and queer people, improve their participation in decision-making processes, take their needs and experiences into account in all contexts and ensure gender equality for a safer and more peaceful Switzerland and world.

The most important aspects include moving away from traditional state-centred security concepts towards people-centred, feminist security principles and consistent demilitarisation. The civil society consulted is in favour of a comprehensive understanding of peace and security that incorporates international instruments such as CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention and the 2030 Agenda.

In concrete terms, taking up the challenges of the WPS agenda means that Switzerland needs to discuss what it really means to make a clear commitment to the WPS agenda. It is implausible to advocate for the WPS agenda in foreign policy but not take the appropriate steps in domestic policy. Security policy issues, such as migration policy, must also be viewed from a WPS perspective – both in terms of foreign and domestic policy. And it is clear that the WPS agenda will remain a distant dream without consistent work on gender equality.

"Women, peace and security is about preventing war, not about making war safer for women."

Participant at the Asia-Pacific regional civil society consultation for the Global Study (UN Women 2015) _____

SETTING THE SCENE

1. Goals and principles: understanding of security and peace

These civil society recommendations for the development of the 5th National Action Plan 1325 (NAP 1325) have been driven by the vision of ending gender-based violence against women¹, girls and queer people, enabling their effective participation in peace processes and political decision-making, prioritising their needs, experiences and agency in all contexts, and thus creating a safer and more peaceful Switzerland and world through gender equality.

The perspectives presented here are based on an understanding of security that is centred on the needs of people. This questions a purely nation-centred concept of security that is based on patriarchal power relations. Instead, human security states that security cannot be guaranteed solely by protecting the state and its territories and resources, but that the rights of vulnerable people, as well as the sustainable use of natural resources, must take centre stage worldwide. Human-centered feminist security concepts, such as the concept of "genuine security" propagated by the International Women's Network against Militarism² – which guides us in this report – focuses on social, political and economic power relations, which are responsible for the majority of the causes of human insecurity³. The concept of "genuine security" also takes into account the fact that some people are more vulnerable than others, as it analyses the intersections of sexism, racism, nationalism, militarism, capitalism and imperialism⁴.

Only when everyone can experience genuine security will we come closer to the ideal state of peace that we are striving for. The concept of peace therefore also involves more than the absence of armed conflict and direct violence. In a positive and feminist understanding, peace also requires the absence of structural violence, which is reproduced through social, political and economic structures, as well as cultural violence, i.e. the aspects of a society that legitimise direct and structural violence. A feminist security and peace policy strives for justice for all people, regardless of their gender, racialisation, sexual orientation, social status, political or religious beliefs, through equal access to education, justice, politics and resources.

More than twenty years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, we are experiencing a relapse – from approaches to human security to the remilitarisation of peace and security policy. From a civil society perspective, it is more necessary than ever to anchor and effectively implement a comprehensive, non-militaristic understanding of security and peace in the Swiss NAP 1325 and in Swiss security and peace policy.

1 The category woman is socially constructed, but with real economic and political consequences. By women we mean people who identify wholly or partially as female, who are always or sometimes perceived as such by others and/or who grow up or have grown up as a girl/woman. Our definition includes trans, inter and cis women. Furthermore, the social category of woman does not represent a homogeneous group, but is intertwined with other categories such as race, religion, sexuality, (non-)disability, age or class and thus represents different positionings that can change in different contexts, such as armed conflicts.

2 International Women's Network Against Militarism (2015): Vision and Mission, <http://iwnam.org/> (accessed on: 18.03.2024).

3 Kirk, Gwyn (2008): Building Genuine Security. The International Women's Network Against Militarism, *Feminist Africa* (10), https://feministafrica.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/fa_10_profile.pdf (accessed on: 28.03.2024), pp 123-127; Meyer, Katrin (2020): We care about feminist notions of genuine security. A Conversation with Margo Okazawa-Rey. By Katrin Meyer, *FZG – Freiburger Zeitschrift für Geschlechter Studien* (26), <https://www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/fgs/article/view/36250> (accessed on: 28.03.2024), pp. 87-96.

4 Meyer, Katrin (2020).

The challenges for the next generation of National Action Plans on UN Resolution 1325 Women, Peace and Security are manifold:

- Including intersectional perspectives
- Strengthening de-colonial and anti-racist approaches
- Exploring alternative definitions of security and peace
- Strengthening domestic components
- Exploring the links between multiple crises and gender

This means that Switzerland needs to discuss what it means to make a clear commitment to the WPS agenda. It is not credible to stand up for it in foreign policy but not take the corresponding steps in domestic policy. Security policy issues, such as migration policy, must also be viewed from a WPS perspective – both in terms of foreign and domestic policy. The WPS agenda will remain a distant dream without consistent work on gender equality.

Accordingly, in addition to implementing the specific measures mentioned in the following text, Switzerland must take clear positions on foreign and domestic policy and consistently advocate for the following fundamental issues:

1. A comprehensive understanding of security based on human and gender-just security and the strengthening of corresponding narratives;
2. Global nuclear disarmament and demilitarisation and consistent action with regard to a ban on arms exports;
3. The worldwide unconditional ratification, consistent implementation and financing of instruments for gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the 2030 Agenda;
4. Gender just, safe and regular migration routes in the context of climate change and armed conflict, enabling both temporary and permanent migration;
5. Gender just, comprehensive international cooperation that takes into account the effective needs of women, girls and marginalised groups.

2. The 1325 National Action Plan as a link in the WPS architecture

From civil society's perspective, there are three areas, in particular, in which the NAP 1325 should act as a link:

1. Multiple conflicts and crises require the **integration and alignment of various international instruments and frameworks** that shape the WPS agenda and aim to address a gender-responsive transformation of conflicts. These include, in particular, the CEDAW and the Istanbul Convention. Swiss civil society has already done important groundwork in this regard, for example on the integration of CEDAW, the Istanbul Convention and the 2030 Agenda⁵. Synergies with the UN's New Agenda for Peace⁶ must be established and collaboration between the respective decision-makers must be set as a goal.
2. The NAP 1325 should also be seen as a **link between foreign and domestic policy** and should ideally be coherent in terms of ambition, strategy implementation and values, both "externally" and "internally", in order to promote the WPS agenda. In addition, the NAP 1325 can pursue a cross-sectoral approach that cuts across policy areas such as climate, development and security policy as well as domestic policy. This was already laid out in the 4th NAP 1325 and has been welcomed by civil society. In the 5th NAP 1325, national standards on cooperation between authorities should be implemented in a coherent manner.
3. The NAP 1325 also provides space for trans-disciplinary work and combines **policies to promote an inclusive national peace strategy**. This includes the inclusion of civil society representatives and people affected by conflict in decision-making processes to ensure sustainability, relevance and innovation in peace strategies. From a civil society perspective, it is particularly important to strengthen informal mediation processes. A national peace strategy is not the sole responsibility of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), but requires increased cooperation between the departments.

3. Feminist networking

Peace work in general requires solid alliances and networks that provide the necessary access to decision-makers and processes. For women and queer people, such networks are indispensable. They not only enable thematic exchange and joint learning opportunities for feminist issues, but are also solidarity networks that make complex and tiring peace work possible in the first place. These networks offer peace activists a certain degree of security, points of contact and the possibility of collective protective measures. As a result, feminist networks and civil society movements contribute significantly to the development and implementation of all pillars of the WPS agenda and should be promoted and funded accordingly.

5 Frieda – the feminist peace organisation (formerly cfd); Women for Peace; PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2016): Women, Peace, and Security – reloaded. Civil Society Alternative Report on the National Action Plan 1325 as viewed from the Gender Perspective, https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Report_Women_Peace_Security_reloaded_EN_online.pdf (accessed on: 28.03.2024), pp. 9-17.

6 United Nations (2023): A New Agenda for Peace, <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf> (accessed on: 28.03.2024).

The WPS agenda and its global issues also increasingly require transnational dialogue and debate to guarantee its further development and prevent a loss of legitimacy. These dialogues are also made possible by women's networks. It is therefore essential that feminist networks are explicitly anchored and strengthened in the 5th NAP.

4. Overarching issues and the WPS structure

In view of increasingly complex crises, digitalisation and other cross-cutting issues, but also increasingly visible perspectives such as queerness⁷ or masculinities, the question arises whether the pillar structure and the central category of "women" of the WPS agenda continue to make sense. It is important to maintain a balance between the high recognition value of the structure of the WPS agenda, which has been used by theorists, politicians and practitioners worldwide for over 20 years, and at the same time to integrate current topics and discourses. There are many fields that overlap and are interrelated, and it is not always easy to clearly assign them to the pillars, especially in programme work.

In this report, the term Women, Peace and Security agenda is used (with the acronym WPS). The focus is extended beyond women, emphasizing the importance of taking gender into account in general. The concept of a "Gender, Peace and Security Agenda" aims to recognise and address the diverse impacts of gender roles and identities on peace and security, including the experiences of men, women and queer people in conflict situations.

In the future, it would be useful to use both terms, women and gender, synonymously or in combination in a context-specific manner to acknowledge both the specific needs of women and the broader gender aspects, including the hierarchies among masculinities, in the area of peace and security.

5. Civil society consultations in the framework of the WPS Alliance

This report was produced as part of the accompanying civil society project "Alliance for WPS: Channelling Civil Society's Voices into the WPS Agenda", which is being implemented by Frieda – the feminist peace organisation, PeaceWomen Across the Globe and swisspeace/KOFF. In autumn 2023, inputs on the priorities of the future NAP 1325 were discussed in two hearings. All content in this report relates to these two events, which were attended by people with links to around 20 organisations and universities. In addition, we subsequently received statements, priorities and recommendations from two further organisations. All organisations are listed in the appendix.

7 See, for example, the inclusion of queer perspectives in the WPS agenda: Hagen, Jamie J. (2024): How do we queer the Women, Peace and Security agenda?, <https://www.jamiejhagen.com/queering-peace-and-security> (accessed on: 28.03.2024).

THEMATIC PRIORITIES AND MEASURES

This chapter is based on the classic WPS structure, even though the consultations had an open character. The global challenges in particular can be assigned to all pillars but have a thematic focus in the area of prevention. Following the thematic priorities, the measures required from a civil society perspective are listed. The latter can be found again at the end of the report as an overview.

I. PREVENTION OF CRISES, ARMED CONFLICT AND UNSAFE SOCIETIES



In the WPS agenda, the "prevention" pillar refers in the broadest sense to the prevention of crises, armed conflicts and unsafe societies⁸. In recent years, however, many states have reinterpreted the concept in a narrower sense⁹. In this pillar, they primarily integrate measures to prevent conflict-related sexualised violence (often in the limited sense of criminal justice) or – as in the current Swiss NAP 1325 – rely on the requirement of Resolution 2242 to include women in the prevention of violent extremism¹⁰. This is an expression of an overly narrow conceptualisation of crises and goes hand in hand with the aforementioned (re)militarisation of security policy. Interpreting the WPS "prevention" pillar in the NAPs in such an understanding of security makes it impossible to mitigate and prevent current and future security policy risks such as the arms race, the climate catastrophe, pandemics and the associated migration pressure^{11, 12}.

A fundamental prerequisite for the Swiss NAP 1325 to remain a relevant and forward-looking security policy instrument is its expansion with preventive measures for crises, conflicts and unsafe societies and credible structural solutions. The global study on the implementation of UN Resolution 1325 "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace" also calls for a strong focus on the prevention of conflicts and risks of human insecurity¹³. This requires addressing the causes of conflict such as attacks on human dignity and militarised norms of masculinity that legitimise violence and structural inequality in a more targeted manner. In order to protect human security in the long term, corresponding measures should be guided by the core principles of feminist peace policy – defusing and preventing multiple crises and long-term demilitarisation.

1. Multiple crises

Discussions about crises and how to deal with them are not neutral but are closely linked to the social balance of power¹⁴. The prevailing discourse hardly mentions the fact that current crises are taking place in the context of a restructuring of capitalism under neoliberal and imperial auspices that has been on-going for four decades¹⁵. The fact that the depletion of natural resources is leading to growing authoritarianism and conflicts is largely ignored¹⁶. For the prevention of crises, armed conflicts

8 Hamilton, Caitlin; Naam, Nyibeny; Shepherd, Laura J. (2020): Twenty Years of Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans: Analysis and Lessons Learned, Sydney, The University of Sydney, https://www.wpsnaps.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Twenty-Years-of-Women-Peace-and-Security-National-Action-Plans_Report_Final_Web.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p. 4.

9 Hamilton; Naam; Shepherd (2020), p. 4.

10 Basu, Soumita; Confortini, Catia C. (2016): Weakest "p" in the 1325 Pod? Realizing conflict prevention through Security Council resolution 1325, *International Studies Perspectives*, 18(1), p. 52.; Basu, Soumita; Shepherd, Laura J. (2017): Prevention in pieces: representing conflict in the Women, Peace and Security agenda, *Global Affairs*, 3(4-5), pp. 441-442.; Coomaraswamy, Radhika (2015): Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace. Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, New York, UN Women, https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org/peacebuilding/files/documents/globalstudy-wps_en_web.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p 205.

11 The WPS agenda integrates these security risks, which contribute significantly to conflict-prone societies and disproportionately affect women and other marginalised groups, in the follow-up Resolution 2242 (Hamilton; Naam; Shepherd (2020), p. 12).

12 Bernarding, Nina (2020): Ohne Feminismus kein Frieden. Die EU braucht eine Feministische Außenpolitik, wenn sie Frieden fördern will, Berlin, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2021-05/FNS_5_Ohne%20Feminismus%20kein%20Frieden_V2.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p. 1.; Hamilton; Naam; Shepherd (2020), p. 12.

13 Coomaraswamy, Radhika (2015).

14 Brand, Ulrich (2009): Die Multiple Krise. Dynamik und Zusammenhang der Krisendimensionen, Anforderungen an politische Institutionen und Chancen progressiver Politik, Berlin, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/multiple_krisen_u_brand_1.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p. 2.

15 Brand (2009), p. 4.

16 Brand (2009), p. 4.

and unsafe societies, crisis management strategies that locate the common cause of the various crises in the fossil-capitalist mode of production and way of life must therefore carry particular weight¹⁷.

The current armed conflicts, whether in Ukraine, Palestine/Israel, or Sudan, are taking place against the backdrop of, and in mutual interaction between, the earlier COVID-19 pandemic and the current climate catastrophe. War-related inflation, pandemics and climate-induced security risks such as droughts are exacerbating social inequalities and food insecurity and forcing people to flee their homes. In 2022, more people than ever before were displaced by armed conflict, persecution, violence, human rights violations and climate-induced unrest¹⁸. This already bleak situation is exacerbated by the persistence of post-colonial structures in global financial and economic policy. Currently, states of the Global South and their populations are particularly suffering. The dangerous conglomerate of these individual risks forms an excellent breeding ground for increasingly complex and difficult-to-solve problems¹⁹. As social and political tensions increase, particularly in highly militarised regions, the risk of open violence and further armed conflict increases, which in turn have negative impacts on social equality and the climate.

The climate catastrophe has a disproportionate impact on women. In the aftermath of climate-related disasters, women and girls may have to travel longer distances to access water and find alternative sources of food. This increased mobility often exposes them to various forms of violence, including sexualised violence and theft²⁰. Women who experience additional forms of marginalisation due to factors such as racialisation, socio-economic status and other factors are at even greater risk.

In addition, the interdependencies between climate change and armed conflict are multicausal and characterised by complex interactions. One example can be seen in the Lake Chad region, which has significantly been affected by climate change. The shrinking of Lake Chad has increased competition for dwindling resources, particularly water and arable land, and has led to conflict between farmers, herders and fishing communities. These resource conflicts often overlap with existing ethnic, religious and political tensions, further fuelling violence and instability in the region. In addition, the Chad Basin is also affected by the Boko Haram insurgency, which further exacerbates the crisis in the region. Given that climate change and armed conflict have gendered impacts, their interplay requires even greater awareness of the exponential gendered impacts. Gender has so far received too little attention in the nexus between climate and conflict, despite the mutually reinforcing effects on women and children²¹.

17 Brand (2009), p. 4.

18 UNHCR (2023): Global Forced Displacement, <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends> (accessed on: 15.03.2024).

19 Dinkel, Serafina; Schirwon, Dana; Stamm, Leonie (2022): Feministische Aussenpolitik kann Deutschlands erste Nationale Sicherheitsstrategie prägen, <https://dgap.org/de/forschung/publikationen/feministische-aussenpolitik-kann-deutschlands-erste-nationale> (accessed on: 15.03.2024).

20 Ensor, Elena; Ortiz, Marisa O. (2023): The WPS Index and the Gender-Climate-Security Nexus. <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/resource/the-wps-index-and-the-gender-climate-security-nexus/> (accessed on: 20.2.2024).

21 In the report on conflict-related sexual violence, UN Secretary-General António Guterres recommends due consideration of the impact of climate-related security risks as factors that can exacerbate conflicts, including conflict-related sexual violence. (Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2023): Conflict-related sexual violence. Report of the United Nation's Secretary-General, S/2023/413, New York, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SG-REPORT-2023SPREAD-1.pdf> (accessed on: 16.03.2024).)

Measures in relation to multiple crises

- Technical and financial support for research on the impact of multiple crises on intersectionally discriminated persons and women, involving the affected persons;
 - Technical and financial support for collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data and gender statistics on climate change, migration and armed conflict;
 - Inclusion of women and people affected by the climate/conflict nexus in the development of conflict-preventive and peace-promoting climate protection measures;
 - Gender-responsive financing of conflict prevention, climate protection and measures aimed at their interaction.
-

2. Gender roles, stereotypes and conflict prevention

In conflict prevention, particular attention must be paid to gender stereotypes and stereotypical role models. These are a breeding ground for violence and can promote violent conflict. One study reached the conclusion that support for violent extremism is most likely due to factors such as militarised norms of masculinity that legitimise violence and misogynistic attitudes towards women, as opposed to education levels, religion and other factors²². Comprehensive prevention of violent conflict and violence therefore means eliminating discriminatory role models of masculinities and femininities and cultivating non-violent conflict resolution. Men must not only be involved in the promotion of gender equality, but also in the transformation of ideas of masculinity and femininity. A symmetrical power relationship between the genders also takes particular account of people with diverse sexual orientations and queer gender identities. Special emphasis needs to be placed on intersectionality and the prevention of multiple discriminations.

In connection with the rise of ultra-conservative, far-right extremist ideologies, a backlash against women's and LGBTIQ+ rights can also be observed whether through the reinforcement of traditional gender roles, in the restriction of sexual and reproductive health and rights or in the lack of financial resources for prevention of and protection against violence. For violence prevention, a holistic sex education is important. This is based on human rights, is non-discriminatory and promotes skills to experience sexuality positively, autonomously, and respectfully towards all involved.

²² Theunert, Markus (2024): Der Faktor M: Männlichkeit und Radikalisierung – Wissensgrundlagen für die Praxis, https://www.maenner.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Leitfaden_FaktorM.pdf (accessed on: 20.2.2024).

Measures in connection with role models

- Technical and financial support for initiatives to promote diverse understandings of femininities and masculinities and their links to structural violence and conflict;
 - Financial and political support for initiatives to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights at multilateral, bilateral and national levels;
 - Technical, financial and political support for holistic sex education to prevent gender-based violence and violent conflict;
 - International positioning against a backlash against women's and LGBTIQ+ rights and influencing the ratification of corresponding international instruments.
-

3. Demilitarisation

Modern armed conflicts, which are often characterised by asymmetrical power relations between the parties to the conflict, are increasingly affecting civilians²³. Contrary to the provisions of international humanitarian law, they are inadequately protected and/or deliberately targeted. While around 10% of casualties in the First World War were civilians, this rose to 65% in the Second World War and to around 80%²⁴ in the armed conflicts of the 21st century. In the context of Israel/Palestine, these developments have recently been illustrated in the most shocking way: on 7 October 2023, armed militias from Hamas and Islamic Jihad killed 1,200 Israelis and people of other nationalities, according to the Israeli government. Since then, the Israeli army has killed over 34,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, according to the Gaza Health Authority²⁵. In addition to the killing of civilians, there are various indications of other violations of international humanitarian law on the American, Asian and African continents as well as in Europe²⁶. In 2022, at least 49 state and non-state actors in armed conflicts perpetrated sexualised violence²⁷. In the shadow of the great suffering caused by the current armed conflicts and the associated violations of international humanitarian law, defence companies are experiencing a boom in orders for war material, weapons and ammunition. Sipri, the Swedish peace research institute, also reports that the nuclear powers, particularly China, increased investments in their nuclear arsenals for the third year in a row in 2022²⁸.

23 Bergsdorf, Wolfgang (2011): Zum fundamentalen Wandel bewaffneter Konflikte. Neue Kriege zu Beginn des einundzwanzigsten Jahrhunderts, Die politische Meinung, 497, Berlin, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, p. 62

24 Bergsdorf (2011), p 62

25 This number excludes people buried under the rubble.

26 Amnesty International (2023): Amnesty International report 2022/23. Länderbericht Kolumbien, <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/ueber-amnesty/publikationen/amnesty-report/jahre/2022/laenderbericht-kolumbien#Voelkerrecht> (accessed on: 16.03.2024); Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2023).

27 Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2023), p 4.

28 UN Secretary-General António Guterres has warned of a new nuclear arms race that casts a shadow of "annihilation" over the world. "Nuclear sabres are being rattled again. This is madness," said Guterres at the end of the General Debate of the General Assembly in New York in September 2023. Meanwhile, North Korea warned that the Korean peninsula was on the "brink of nuclear war". (UNRIC (2023): UN Secretary-General Guterres sees dangerous nuclear arms race. <https://unric.org/de/un-generalsekretaer-guterres-sieht-gefaehrliches-ato-mares-wetruesten/> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).)

Swiss companies are also heavily involved in the global arms race. In 2023, the Swiss defence industry exported war material worth around CHF 697 million²⁹ with the approval of the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs³⁰. Exports of war material to conflict zones and countries that seriously violate human rights are generally prohibited in Switzerland. Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia, a warring state in Yemen, has also been criticised for systematic human rights violations against its own civilian population, especially women. The country was once again one of the five largest main arms buyers last year²¹. Even though Switzerland prides itself on having one of the strictest laws regarding the export of war material, Swiss war material is used in armed conflicts, as numerous examples show³². In addition, there are current endeavours to further relax the War Material Act (Kriegsmaterialgesetz).

At the same time, private gun ownership in Switzerland continues to rise. While the number of applications to acquire firearms is steadily increasing, there is currently hardly any knowledge about who the gun owners in Switzerland are and for what reasons they acquire firearms. National statistics on how many firearms are actually in circulation are also lacking. The non-governmental organisation Small Arms Survey estimated that there were around 2.3 million weapons in circulation in Switzerland in 2017³³. With around 28 privately owned weapons per 100 inhabitants, Switzerland is in 16th place in the international rankings, making it one of the most heavily armed countries in the world³⁴. Switzerland, which has a generally low crime rate, is often cited as a role model, for example by the USA. This does not address the fact that women are more at risk of becoming victims of gun violence. For example, a study published in spring 2023 shows that in an international comparison, firearms are frequently used in Switzerland in connection with family homicides and femicide. Between 2011 and 2020³⁵, the latter were most frequently committed using a firearm in Switzerland³⁶.

29 Certain military goods and so-called dual-use goods are not included in these statistics.

30 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (2024): Dossier: Export of war material in year 2023, Bern, Swiss Confederation, <https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/86459.pdf> (accessed on: 16 March 2024), p. 5.

31 State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO (2024), p. 5.

32 SWI swissinfo.ch (2022) Ukraine war is a windfall for Swiss arms industry <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/ukraine-war-a-windfall-for-swiss-arms-industry/47581582> (accessed on: 16.03.2024)

33 Small Arms Survey (2018): Global Firearms Holding, <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/database/global-fire-arms-holdings> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

34 Karp, Aaron (2018): Estimating global civilian-held firearms number, Geneva, Small arms survey, <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-BP-Civilian-Firearms-Numbers.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p 4.

35 Current figures are pending.

36 The Federal Council (2021): Homicides against women in the domestic environment: causes and measures. Report of the Federal Council in fulfilment of postulate 19.3618 Maya Graf of 14 June 2019, Bern, Swiss Confederation, <https://www.news.admin.ch/news/message/attachments/69537.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024), p. 5.

Measures in the area of demilitarisation

- Ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW);
 - Prevention of relaxation of the War Material Act (Kriegsmaterialgesetz) in favour of exports to countries involved in armed conflict and/or that systematically violate human rights;
 - Reduction of military spending in favour of spending on health, social affairs, education and combating and preventing gender-based violence, queerphobia and racism;
 - Creation of a national weapons register and a national statistic on femicide;
 - Technical, financial and political promotion of artificial intelligence (AI) for peace work and conflict prevention, while simultaneously strengthening controls to prevent the use of AI to support conflict;
 - Creation of a war profits tax for Swiss defence companies and companies that manufacture dual-use goods.
-

4. Early warning

Evidence-based studies show that states with more gender equality have fewer violent inter- and intrastate conflicts³⁷. At the same time, the safety of women is a reliable indicator of the peacefulness of a state³⁸. A higher prevalence of violence against women is therefore a reliable indicator of growing political tensions and armed conflict³⁹.

Measures in the area of early warning

- Development of gender- and context-specific early warning indicators for growing tensions, such as increasing restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights, increasing gender-based violence, impunity for gender-based offences;
 - Inclusion of women's experiences in the development of early warning mechanisms for conflict prevention.
-

37 UN Women (2015): Preventing Conflict: The Origins of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. <https://wps.unwomen.org/preventing/> (accessed on: 20.02.2024).

38 UN Women (2015).

39 Allen, Louise; Chirillo, Gina (2021): Gender-Sensitive Indicators in Early Warning of Violence and Conflict: A Global Framework, https://cepps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ifes_gender-sensitive_indicators_for_early_warning_of_violence_and_conflict_a_global_framework_may_2021.pdf (accessed on: 13.03.2024).

II. PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE



Gender-based violence is a consequence of gender inequality and unequal power relations that manifest themselves in social norms, structures and attitudes. These include gender stereotypes, discriminatory laws and the social acceptance of violence against women, girls and queer people. From a civil society perspective, the peacefulness of a state is linked to the security of women and other marginalised population groups. Gender-based violence is also a domestic security issue, in particular because this violence is exacerbated by increasing digitalisation, militarisation, the proliferation of small arms and displacement. The current 4th NAP provides for specific measures in “refugee and migration contexts”. From a civil society perspective, Switzerland, too, corresponds to such a “refugee and migration context”.

1. Non-discriminatory protection from gender-based violence

As the alternative report by civil society on the implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Switzerland notes, not all people affected by violence receive protection and support in Switzerland⁴⁰. People who suffer multiple discriminations are more greatly affected by gender-based violence and receive less protection. In order to meet their needs, protection must be non-discriminatory, especially for refugee and/or racialised women, children, queer people, women with disabilities, women with addictions and other vulnerable groups in Switzerland. Gender perspectives in asylum and migration contexts must be consistently taken into account.

⁴⁰ Istanbul Convention Network (2021): Implementation of the Istanbul Convention in Switzerland. Alternative report by civil society, Bern, Istanbul Convention Network, https://istanbulkonvention.ch/assets/images/elements/Alternativbericht_Netzwerk_Istanbul_Konvention_Schweiz.pdf (accessed on: 12.02.2024).

Measures in the area of protection from gender-based violence

- Systematic application of Switzerland's Dublin sovereignty clause when examining the situation of individuals with gender-specific reasons for fleeing;
 - Improved access to medical⁴¹, psychosocial and legal support⁴² for victims of gender-based violence, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation and legal status, especially for people who have experienced gender-based violence while fleeing or in their country of origin;
 - Initiate and support amendments to laws in order to achieve better protection against gender-based violence, especially for people who have experienced multiple discriminations:
 - Adaptation of the Victim Assistance Act (Opferhilfegesetz) so that crimes committed abroad are recognised and victims are entitled to victim assistance;
 - Low-threshold and consistent recognition of violence in marriage in accordance with the Foreign Nationals and Integration Act (FNIA) (Art. 50 AIG) as a reason for extending a residence permit after a separation;
 - Development of guidelines regarding the design of shelters to meet the needs of trans and intersex people and women with disabilities;
 - International positioning against impunity for all forms of gender-based violence against all genders;
 - Promotion of training and further education for security, police, judicial and asylum authorities on gender-based violence with a focus on multiple discriminations and trauma-sensitive treatment of those affected.
-

2. Protection from technology-facilitated gender-based violence

Technology-facilitated gender-based violence⁴³ poses a significant threat to the safety and wellbeing of women, girls and queer people, both online and offline. According to estimates, in the EU one in ten women over the age of 15 has already experienced some form of cyber violence⁴⁴. Switzerland also experiences exponential growth⁴⁵. Therefore, domestic policy measures are necessary. Technology-facilitated gender-based violence does not exist in a vacuum, it must be recognised as a form of gender-specific violence and taken seriously. Misogyny is openly acted out and normalised in digital space and has repercussions in "real" space. Hate against women online is used specifically to discredit or silence them. In this respect, violence is not only shifting to a digital space, but is also intensifying, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Violence in digital spaces can exacerbate physical and psychological forms of violence – including sexualised harassment and exploitation, stalking, intimate

41 These include safe abortions and emergency contraception.

42 This includes legal service, witness protection, legal counselling and psychosocial support during trials.

43 The term "technology-facilitated gender-based violence" was chosen here to illustrate that the binary division into "digital" and "real" spaces or experiences of violence online or offline is misleading. Rather, they work together. More attention must be paid to their interfaces.

44 European Institute for Gender Equality (2017): Cyber Violence against Women and Girls, https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cyber_violence_against_women_and_girls.pdf (accessed on: 12.02.2024).

45 Istanbul Convention Network (2021).

partner violence and human trafficking – through the use of digital tools such as mobile phones, GPS and tracking devices. This also includes, in some cases, targeted and AI-supported campaigns against politicians, human rights and peace activists.

Traffickers often use technology to profile, recruit, control and exploit their victims⁴⁶. It is therefore essential to recognise how technology-facilitated violence has both psychological consequences and leads to physical violence⁴⁷.

Women who face multiple forms of discrimination, such as women with disabilities, racialised women, migrants and queer people, are disproportionately affected by technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Women in public life – politicians, peacebuilders, human rights defenders, activists and journalists – are also increasingly affected⁴⁸.

Measures in the area of technology-facilitated gender-based violence

- Technical, financial and political support for educational initiatives to raise awareness of digital (particularly technology-facilitated) gender-based violence (in schools, the public, through the media);
 - Involvement of affected persons and women's organisations in the development of regulations, prevention and protection measures in the area of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, taking into account multiple discriminations;
 - Prevent the impunity of perpetrators of digital gender-based violence and collect and analyse relevant gender-disaggregated data;
 - Establish competences within the Federal Office for Cyber Security to develop gender-sensitive indicators and prevention strategies, in particular standards of accountability for platforms and the technology sector;
 - Education and training of law enforcement agencies regarding digital, especially technology-facilitated, gender-based violence.
-

⁴⁶ UN Women (2024): FAQs: Trolling, Stalking, Doxing and other Forms of Violence against Women in the Digital Age, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs/tech-facilitated-gender-based-violence> (accessed on: 10.02.2024).

⁴⁷ UN Women (2024).

⁴⁸ Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018): Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/issue-briefs/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe> (accessed on: 14.03.2024).

III. PARTICIPATION



The current 4th Swiss NAP 1325 sees participation as an overarching basic principle. For example, women should be able to become more involved in peace negotiations during armed conflicts or in security policy services such as the police or army. In addition, Swiss women should be encouraged in their mediation activities. In this context, peace is primarily understood as the absence of armed conflict. From a civil society perspective, however, the participation of women and other marginalised people, as well as feminist networks in the area of demilitarisation, must be strengthened first and foremost, thus defusing multiple crises and offering protection from gender-based violence. Socio-economic, legal and structural conditions must be met and protection from all forms of violence must be guaranteed so that these population groups at home and abroad can help shape human-centred peace policy socially and politically.

1. Socio-economic conditions

Worldwide unpaid or underpaid care work, both within and outside the household, is predominantly carried out by women and provides a safety net for all members of society, as well as the emotional and social foundation for societal cohesion. This work contributes significantly to the protection of human dignity and is therefore irreplaceable peace work. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly demonstrated that this care work also helps people to survive crises. Accordingly, sufficient investment in the care economy is essential to meet the security needs of the civilian population. From a neoliberal perspective, however, this is not profitable, as care work is time-consuming and difficult to rationalise. Neoliberal capitalism is therefore dependent on the persistence of patriarchal gender stereotypes – and women performing unpaid care work⁴⁹. If care work tasks are outsourced, they are often performed by people living in precarious situations, such as those without a regular residence permit and migrants. Despite their great importance, many care workers work invisibly and under socially and economically insecure conditions. The overburdening of women due to the unequal distribution of care work and the difficult conditions under which it is carried out means that they have fewer resources to participate in formal social and political peacebuilding processes⁵⁰. On the one hand, care work is peace work and helps to overcome crises; on the other hand, the care economy and care workers themselves are in a permanent crisis⁵¹.

Sufficient economic resources must be made available for gender-just peacebuilding to enable the participation of women, as well as feminist organisations and women's rights organisations. Measures such as structural adjustment programmes or decreasing funds for international cooperation force countries in the Global South in particular to pursue austerity policies that create more gender-specific inequalities and fuel conflicts.

49 In Switzerland alone, women perform unpaid care work worth CHF 248 billion every year. This amount exceeds the total expenditure of the Federal government, the cantons and the communes. Madörin, Mascha (2023): CHF 248 billion – Commentary by Mascha Madörin, <https://feministische-fakultaet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/248-Mrd.-1.6.-MM.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024.)

50 Frieda - the feminist peace organisation (formerly cfd); PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2022): Centering Care in Women, Peace and Security. Civil society's voice in Switzerland's implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan 1325, <https://www.swisspeace.ch/assets/publications/Policy-Briefs/2022/PB-2-2022-Centring-Care-in-Women-Peace-and-Security-.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

51 Frieda - the feminist peace organisation (formerly cfd); Women for Peace; PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2016); Frieda - the feminist peace organisation (formerly cfd); PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2022).

Measures in the area of socio-economic conditions for participation

- Technical, financial and political support for research on care work in the public and private sectors, particularly from a gender-specific perspective;
 - Reduction of unpaid care work and creation of incentives for a better distribution of care work throughout society;
 - Expansion of state investments and subsidies in the area of paid and underpaid care work to improve working conditions, which also positively affect the protection of care recipients;
 - Technical, financial and political support for research into the connection between the care economy and the political exclusion of people without legal residence, migrants and other marginalised groups;
 - Inclusion of representatives of the care economy – such as care workers, child carers, single mothers or domestic workers – in formal security policy forums and advisory processes, e.g. in national task forces for dealing with crises and pandemics;
 - Inclusion of care workers in the development and budgeting of peacebuilding strategies and international cooperation;
 - Definition of a minimum percentage of reconstruction aid for the care economy;
 - Low-threshold core and organisational development funding and political support for feminist organisations, networks and women's rights organisations;
 - Technical, financial and political support for the gender-sensitive design and implementation of negotiation and mediation processes with the involvement of the people affected.
-

2. Conditions relevant to security

Women, girls and queer people are systematically silenced by (digital) sexist hate speech and violence, resulting in their withdrawal from social debates⁵². If they are politically active, they are attacked even more frequently. According to a study by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 47% of female politicians surveyed in Europe received death threats or threats of (sexualised) violence in their position as parliamentarians⁵³. The global gender backlash exacerbates this problem. Peace work is becoming increasingly dangerous, especially in the Global South. Human rights defenders and environmental activists are intimidated, persecuted, arrested, abused and killed⁵⁴.

52 Giardina, Laura (2023): Taking sexist hate speech seriously as a human rights issue, <https://www.eaf-berlin.de/was-uns-bewegt/blog/blogbeitrag/sexistische-hassrede-als-menschenrechtsthema-ernst-nehmen> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

53 Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018).

54 Shocking cases that received relatively high media attention compared to others were the murder of Honduran women's rights and environmental activist Berta Cáceres in 2016 and the murder of human rights activist and president of the Women's Committee of the Rio de Janeiro City Parliament Marielle Franco in 2018. (Amnesty International (2019): Challenging Power, Fighting Discrimination. A call to action to recognise and protect women human rights defenders, London, <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/themen/menschenrechtsverteidiger/dok/2019/starke-frauen-fordern-maechtige-heraus/bericht-challenging-power-fighting-discrimination-a-call-to-action-to-recognise-and-protect-women-human-rights-defenders.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).)

In addition, the shrinking civic space for peace work coincides with an emerging and worrying global trend towards more restrictions, repression and violence against people who exercise their right to protest. Safe participation must also be guaranteed in the context of the privatisation of security, as many multinational corporations, among others, hire private security companies. Private security companies use systematic violence, including sexualised violence, against communities or individuals. In light of this, special attention must be paid to the protection of human rights defenders, including with the help of AI. When protecting online spaces for participation of marginalised actors, the dilemma of combating hate speech and discrimination on social media on the one hand and protecting freedom of expression and opportunities for mobilisation and networking on the other should also be considered. Automated decision-making systems often "overblock" content of a feminist and/or educational purpose about violence and sexuality because it is reported as a violation of guidelines for various reasons⁵⁵.

Measures in the area of security-related conditions for participation

- Technical, financial and political support for secure, anonymous digital spaces that enable depersonalised participation;
 - Technical, financial and political support for initiatives and projects that aim to protect human rights defenders and environmental activists;
 - Elaboration of basic principles and transparent guidelines with regard to state cooperation with private companies, especially on issues relating to the monitoring of human rights defenders;
 - Elaboration of guidelines to regulate content moderation systems on private platforms in order to avoid "overblocking" of feminist content;
 - Improvement of the enforcement of policies and regulations for private security actors, as well as binding human rights and environmental standards for multinational companies based in Switzerland;
 - Initiation of a gender-responsive adaptation of the Montreux Document from the WPS perspective;
 - Restriction of data exchange between the Federal Intelligence Service and other Federal authorities.
-

⁵⁵ Antonakis, Anna (2024): Feminist Participation and Content Moderation Regimes: Tackling Systematic Exclusions Online In: Meyer, Katrin; Pfenninger Tuchschnid, Stephanie ; Skliarova, Yunna (ed): Revisioning Democracy and Women's Suffrage: Critical Feminist Interventions, Zürich, Seismo Press

3. Legal and structural conditions

One in four people living in Switzerland does not have the right to political participation and therefore has no right to vote in elections and referenda. This runs counter to the basic tenets of democracy. The non-discriminatory political and social participation of all population groups is a prerequisite for peaceful and secure societies. The current Swiss NAP 1325 points out that promoting political processes in which all population groups can participate is an effective means of preventing violent conflict. Among other things, strategic lawsuits against public participation (SLAPP) are used to restrict political and social participation as well as involvement in peacebuilding. The use of SLAPPs is increasing exponentially both in Switzerland and worldwide. In highly militarised discourses, feminist and peace policy voices that campaign for a ceasefire and a political solution to a conflict, in the context of Israel/Palestine for example, are accused of slander and even criminalised. Established humanitarian and human rights organisations are also delegitimised and/or have their funding withdrawn – both abroad and in Switzerland.

Measures in the area of legal and structural conditions for participation

- Facilitation of political and social participation of foreign nationals by facilitating simplified naturalisation;
 - Creation of spaces for effective participation, including outside of institutionalised state structures, especially for marginalised communities, women, young people and migrants;
 - Technical and financial support for the collection and analysis of data on strategic legal actions against public participation as well as financial and political support for awareness-raising initiatives and affected organisations;
 - Political support for feminist and peacebuilding organisations by creating forums, where they can exchange experience and their realities are heard. These experiences are then incorporated into decision-making;
 - Careful examination of allegations against human rights organisations accused of violating codes of conduct. The organisations concerned must be involved and their right to be heard guaranteed.
-

IV. RELIEF AND RECOVERY



The fourth pillar of the WPS agenda includes gender-responsive recovery for the realisation of sustainable peace. In addition to armed conflicts and instability, pandemics, natural disasters and multiple crises require feminist recovery. As global crises are mutually reinforcing, their interlinkage must be taken into account. A holistic, peacebuilding recovery – as part of the WPS agenda – must analyse existing gender relations and aim for fundamental societal transformation. It is also essential to develop sustainable prevention mechanisms and incorporate them into the recovery process in order to prevent future crises. For example, it is important to understand the dynamics of care in crises and how this relates to feminist relief and recovery.

Developing feminist recovery plans is a helpful tool, not only for reconstruction after an armed conflict, but also as a response to the multiple crises that we as a society will increasingly have to manage. Such plans must be drawn up before these crises occur. Recovery efforts should be based on analyses that are comprehensive and sensitive to discrimination. They should involve civil society and particularly vulnerable groups. During the COVID-19 pandemic, for example, some national and local governments, including Hawaii and Canada, developed feminist economic recovery plans. In these plans, the challenges of reconstruction after the COVID pandemic are used as the starting point for a fundamental societal transformation.

Measures in the area of recovery

- Technical and financial support for research and groundwork for feminist recovery after armed conflicts, pandemics, natural disasters and in the context of multiple crises, with the involvement of the people affected;
 - Development and support of feminist recovery plans after armed conflicts, pandemics, natural disasters and in the context of multiple crises, in particular with the involvement of the people affected;
 - Financial and political support for reconciliation and reconstruction projects with an explicit gender perspective, particularly as solutions to multiple crises.
-

IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF THE 5TH SWISS NAP 1325

Many countries have adopted National Action Plans. However, action plans are only as effective as their implementation and the results they produce. In order to strengthen the effectiveness of NAPs, cooperation between all stakeholders must be intensified, as provided for in some countries' NAPs⁵⁶. It is essential to provide sufficient funding in all phases and at all levels in order to achieve the objectives of the 5th Swiss NAP 1325.

The stakeholders are very diverse in terms of their mandates, funding and resources. From civil society's perspective, it is imperative to jointly advance the implementation of the NAP 1325 both within civil society and in dialogue with academia, politics and the public administration, thereby effectively improving the prevention of crises, the protection against violence, participation as well as relief and recovery. Civil society should be involved in the implementation of measures.

The alliance also proposes institutionalising and deepening cooperation. Public administration and civil society should meet on a regular basis to exchange ideas and steer the implementation. The topics of the 5th Swiss NAP 1325 should be made accessible to broader circles of civil society, the public administration, politics and science and enable a reflection on what has been achieved and what is still missing. Finally, those affected should assess the impact of the 5th NAP 1325. In addition to quantitative indicators, concepts such as Outcome Harvesting should also be used.

The agenda must be both broadened and focussed to achieve the best possible results for the affected people so that it does not remain an instrument that only a few people know about and can use.

⁵⁶ See for example Republic of South Africa (2020): National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security – 2020 to 2025 South Africa. Priority area 1. 2: Ensure meaningful participation of women in peace processes, structures and institutions, https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/sa_national_action_plan_women_peace_security_2020-2025.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024), pp. 67-69.

"Nothing about us without us."

Representatives of civil society at the WPS Focal Point Meeting in Geneva in May 2022. The quote was originally used by Disabled Peoples Organisations to demand full participation and equal opportunities. _____

Measures for Switzerland's 5th NAP 1325 - Civil society priorities

Switzerland's national and international positioning in favour of:

1. A comprehensive understanding of security based on human and gender-just security and the strengthening of corresponding narratives;
2. Global nuclear disarmament and demilitarisation and consistent action with regard to a ban on arms exports;
3. The worldwide unconditional ratification, consistent implementation and financing of instruments for gender equality, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) and the 2030 Agenda;
4. Gender just, safe and regular migration routes in the context of climate change and armed conflict, enabling both temporary and permanent migration;
5. Gender just, comprehensive international cooperation that takes into account the effective needs of women, girls and marginalised groups.

PILLAR 1 - PREVENTION OF CRISES, ARMED CONFLICT AND UNSAFE SOCIETIES

Technical and financial support for research on the impact of multiple crises on intersectionally discriminated persons and women, involving the affected persons;

Technical and financial support for collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data and gender statistics on climate change, migration and armed conflict;

Inclusion of women and people affected by the climate/conflict nexus in the development of conflict-preventive and peace-promoting climate protection measures;

Gender-responsive financing of conflict prevention, climate protection and measures aimed at their interaction.

Technical and financial support for initiatives to promote diverse understandings of femininities and masculinities and their links to structural violence and conflict;

Financial and political support for initiatives to strengthen sexual and reproductive health and rights at multilateral, bilateral and national levels;

Technical, financial and political support for holistic sex education to prevent gender-based violence and violent conflict;

International positioning against a backlash against women's and LGBTIQ+ rights and influencing the ratification of corresponding international instruments.

Ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW);

Prevention of relaxation of the War Material Act (Kriegsmaterialgesetz) in favour of exports to countries involved in armed conflict and/or that systematically violate human rights;

Reduction of military spending in favour of spending on health, social affairs, education and combating and preventing gender-based violence, queerphobia and racism;

Creation of a national weapons register and a national statistic on femicide;

Technical, financial and political promotion of artificial intelligence (AI) for peace work and conflict prevention, while simultaneously strengthening controls to prevent the use of AI to support conflict;

Creation of a war profits tax for Swiss defence companies and companies that manufacture dual-use goods.

Development of gender- and context-specific early warning indicators for growing tensions, such as increasing restrictions on sexual and reproductive rights, increasing gender-based violence, impunity for gender-based offences;

Inclusion of women's experiences in the development of early warning mechanisms for conflict prevention.

PILLAR 2 – PROTECTION FROM GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

Systematic application of Switzerland's Dublin sovereignty clause when examining the situation of individuals with gender-specific reasons for fleeing;

Improved access to medical, psychosocial and legal support for victims of gender-based violence, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation and legal status, especially for people who have experienced gender-based violence while fleeing or in their country of origin;

Initiate and support amendments to laws in order to achieve better protection against gender-based violence, especially for people who have experienced multiple discriminations:

- Adaptation of the Victim Assistance Act (Opferhilfegesetz) so that crimes committed abroad are recognised and victims are entitled to victim assistance;
- Low-threshold and consistent recognition of violence in marriage in accordance with the Foreign Nationals and Integration Act (FNIA) (Art. 50 AIG) as a reason for extending a residence permit after a separation;

Development of guidelines regarding the design of shelters to meet the needs of trans and intersex people and women with disabilities;

International positioning against impunity for all forms of gender-based violence against all genders;

Promotion of training and further education for security, police, judicial and asylum authorities on gender-based violence with a focus on multiple discriminations and trauma-sensitive treatment of those affected.

Technical, financial and political support for educational initiatives to raise awareness of digital (particularly technology-facilitated) gender-based violence (in schools, the public, through the media);

Involvement of affected persons and women's organisations in the development of regulations, prevention and protection measures in the area of technology-facilitated gender-based violence, taking into account multiple discriminations;

Prevent the impunity of perpetrators of digital gender-based violence and collect and analyse relevant gender-disaggregated data;

Establish competences within the Federal Office for Cyber Security to develop gender-sensitive indicators and prevention strategies, in particular standards of accountability for platforms and the technology sector;

Education and training of law enforcement agencies regarding digital, especially technology-facilitated, gender-based violence.

PILLAR 3 – PARTICIPATION

Technical, financial and political support for research on care work in the public and private sectors, particularly from a gender-specific perspective;

Reduction of unpaid care work and creation of incentives for a better distribution of care work throughout society;

Expansion of state investments and subsidies in the area of paid and underpaid care work to improve working conditions, which also positively affect the protection of care recipients;

Technical, financial and political support for research into the connection between the care economy and the political exclusion of people without legal residence, migrants and other marginalised groups;

Inclusion of representatives of the care economy – such as care workers, child carers, single mothers or domestic workers – in formal security policy forums and advisory processes, e.g. in national task forces for dealing with crises and pandemics;

Inclusion of care workers in the development and budgeting of peacebuilding strategies and international cooperation;

Definition of a minimum percentage of reconstruction aid for the care economy;

Low-threshold core and organisational development funding and political support for feminist organisations, networks and women's rights organisations;

Technical, financial and political support for the gender-sensitive design and implementation of negotiation and mediation processes with the involvement of the people affected.

Technical, financial and political support for secure, anonymous digital spaces that enable depersonalised participation;

Technical, financial and political support for initiatives and projects that aim to protect human rights defenders and environmental activists;

Elaboration of basic principles and transparent guidelines with regard to state cooperation with private companies, especially on issues relating to the monitoring of human rights defenders;

Elaboration of guidelines to regulate content moderation systems on private platforms in order to avoid “overblocking” of feminist content;

Improvement of the enforcement of policies and regulations for private security actors, as well as binding human rights and environmental standards for multinational companies based in Switzerland;

Initiation of a gender-responsive adaptation of the Montreux Document from the WPS perspective;

Restriction of data exchange between the Federal Intelligence Service and other Federal authorities.

Facilitation of political and social participation of foreign nationals by facilitating simplified naturalisation;

Creation of spaces for effective participation, including outside of institutionalised state structures, especially for marginalised communities, women, young people and migrants;

Technical and financial support for the collection and analysis of data on strategic legal actions against public participation as well as financial and political support for awareness-raising initiatives and affected organisations;

Political support for feminist and peacebuilding organisations by creating forums, where they can exchange experience and their realities are heard. These experiences are then incorporated into decision-making;

Careful examination of allegations against human rights organisations accused of violating codes of conduct. The organisations concerned must be involved and their right to be heard guaranteed.

PILLAR 4 – RELIEF AND RECOVERY

Technical and financial support for research and groundwork for feminist recovery after armed conflicts, pandemics, natural disasters and in the context of multiple crises, with the involvement of the people affected;

Development and support of feminist recovery plans after armed conflicts, pandemics, natural disasters and in the context of multiple crises, in particular with the involvement of the people affected;

Financial and political support for reconciliation and reconstruction projects with an explicit gender perspective, particularly as solutions to multiple crises.

Annex: Civil society hearings of 19.9.2023 and 14.11.2023, Progr Bern

Organised by "Alliance for Women, Peace, and Security"
Frieda - the feminist peace organisation
PeaceWomen Across the Globe
Swisspeace/KOFF

People with links to the following organisations and universities took part:

Afghanistan Women's Voice
Basel Peace Office
Brava
Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF)
Frauen für den Frieden
foraus
Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP)
Geneva Graduate Institute
HEKS
InterAction
Peace Brigades International Switzerland (PBI)
Stiftung gegen Gewalt an Frauen und Kindern
Solidar Suisse
SwissGerman PEN centre
University of Basel
University of Bern
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Switzerland (WILPF)
Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW)

Private individuals without institutional ties also took part in the hearings. In addition, we subsequently received statements, priorities and recommendations from Sexual Health Switzerland and the Group for a Switzerland without an Army (GSoA).

List of sources

Allen, Louise; Chirillo, Gina (2021): Gender-Sensitive Indicators in Early Warning of Violence and Conflict: A Global Framework https://cepps.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/ifes_gender-sensitive_indicators_for_early_warning_of_violence_and_conflict_a_global_framework_may_2021.pdf (accessed on: 13.03.2024).

Amnesty International (2019): Challenging Power, Fighting Discrimination. A call to action to recognise and protect women human rights defenders, London, <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/themen/menschenrechtsverteidiger/dok/2019/starke-frauen-fordern-maechtige-heraus/bericht-challenging-power-fighting-discrimination-a-call-to-action-to-recognise-and-protect-women-human-rights-defenders.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Amnesty International (2023): Amnesty International Report 2022/23. Länderbericht Kolumbien, <https://www.amnesty.ch/de/ueber-amnesty/publikationen/amnesty-report/jahre/2022/laenderbericht-kolumbien#Voelkerrecht> (accessed on: 16.03.2024).

Antonakis, Anna (2024): Feminist Participation and Content Moderation Regimes: Tackling Systematic Exclusions Online In: Meyer, Katrin; Pfenninger Tuchs Schmid, Stephanie; Skliarova, Yunna (ed): Revisioning Democracy and Women's Suffrage: Critical Feminist Interventions, Zürich, Seismo Press.

Basu, Soumita; Confortini, Catia C. (2016): Weakest “p” in the 1325 Pod? Realizing conflict prevention through Security Council resolution 1325, International Studies Perspectives, 18(1), S. 43-63.

Basu, Soumita; Shepherd, Laura J. (2017): Prevention in pieces: representing conflict in the Women, Peace and Security agenda, Global Affairs, 3(4-5), S. 441-453.

Bergsdorf, Wolfgang (2011): Zum fundamentalen Wandel bewaffneter Konflikte. Neue Kriege zu Beginn des einundzwanzigsten Jahrhunderts, Die politische Meinung, 497, Berlin, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung.

Bernarding, Nina (2020): Ohne Feminismus kein Frieden. Die EU braucht eine Feministische Außenpolitik, wenn sie Frieden fördern will, Berlin, Heinrich Böll Stiftung, https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/2021-05/FNS_5_Ohne%20Feminismus%20kein%20Frieden_V2.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Brand, Ulrich (2009): Die Multiple Krise. Dynamik und Zusammenhang der Krisendimensionen, Anforderungen an politische Institutionen und Chancen progressiver Politik, Berlin, Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung, https://www.boell.de/sites/default/files/multiple_krisen_u_brand_1.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Coomaraswamy, Radhika (2015): Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace. Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, New York, UN Women, https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/globalstudywps_en_web.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Der Bundesrat (2021): Tötungsdelikte an Frauen im häuslichen Umfeld: Ursachen und Massnahmen. Bericht des Bundesrates in Erfüllung des Postulates 19.3618 Graf Maya vom 14. Juni 2019, Bern, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, <https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/69537.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Dinkel, Serafina; Schirwon, Dana; Stamm, Leonie (2022): Feministische Aussenpolitik kann Deutschlands erste Nationale Sicherheitsstrategie prägen, <https://dgap.org/de/forschung/publikationen/feministische-aussenpolitik-kann-deutschlands-erste-nationale> (accessed on: 15.03.2024).

Ensor, Elena; Ortiz, Marisa O. (2023): The WPS Index and the Gender-Climate-Security Nexus, <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/resource/the-wps-index-and-the-gender-climate-security-nexus/> (accessed on: 20.02.2024).

European Institute for Gender Equality (2017): Cyber Violence against Women and Girls, https://eige.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/cyber_violence_against_women_and_girls.pdf (accessed on: 12.02.2024).

Frieda - the feminist peace organisation (formerly cfd); Frauen für den Frieden; PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2016): Women, Peace, Security - reloaded. Civil Society Alternative Report on the National Action Plan 1325 from the Gender Perspective, https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/Report_Women_Peace_Security_reloaded_EN_online.pdf (accessed on: 28.03.2024).

Frieda - die feministische Friedensorganisation (ehemals cfd); PeaceWomen Across the Globe; swisspeace/KOFF (2022): Centering Care in Women, Peace and Security. Civil society's voice in Switzerland's implementation of the Fourth National Action Plan 1325, https://koff.swisspeace.ch/fileadmin/user_upload/PB-2-2022-Centring-Care-in-Women-Peace-and-Security-_2_.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Giardina, Laura (2023): Sexistische Hassrede als Menschenrechtsthema Ernst nehmen, <https://www.eaf-berlin.de/was-uns-bewegt/blog/blogbeitrag/sexistische-hassrede-als-menschenrechtsthema-ernst-nehmen> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Hagen, Jamie J. (2024): How do we queer the Women, Peace and Security agenda?, <https://www.jamiejhagen.com/queering-peace-and-security> (accessed on: 28.03.2024).

Hamilton, Caitlin; Naam, Nyibeny; Shepherd, Laura J. (2020): Twenty Years of Women, Peace and Security National Action Plans: Analysis and Lessons Learned, Sydney, The University of Sydney, https://www.wpsnaps.org/app/uploads/2020/03/Twenty-Years-of-Women-Peace-and-Security-National-Action-Plans_Report_Final_Web.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

International Women's Network Against Militarism (2015): Home, <http://iwnam.org/> (accessed on: 18.03.2024).

Inter-Parliamentary Union (2018): Sexism, harassment and violence against women in parliaments in Europe, <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/issue-briefs/2018-10/sexism-harassment-and-violence-against-women-in-parliaments-in-europe> (accessed on: 14.03.2024).

Karp, Aaron (2018): Estimating global civilian-held firearms number, Genf, Small arms survey, <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-BP-Civilian-Firearms-Numbers.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Kirk, Gwyn (2008): Building Genuine Security. The International Women's Network Against Militarism, Feminist Africa (10), https://feministafrica.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/fa_10_profile.pdf, (accessed on: 28.03.2024), S. 123-131.

Madörin, Mascha (2023): 248 Milliarden Franken – Kommentar Mascha Madörin, <https://feministische-fakultaet.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/248-Mrd.-1.6.-MM.pdf> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Meyer, Katrin (2020): We care about feminist notions of genuine security. A Conversation with Margo Okazawa-Rey. By Katrin Meyer, FZG – Freiburger Zeitschrift für GeschlechterStudien (26), <https://www.budrich-journals.de/index.php/fgs/article/view/36250> (accessed on: 28.03.2024), S. 87-96.

Netzwerk Istanbul Konvention (2021): Umsetzung der Istanbul Konvention in der Schweiz. Alternativbericht der Zivilgesellschaft, Bern, Netzwerk Istanbul Konvention, https://istanbulkonvention.ch/assets/images/elements/Alternativbericht_Netzwerk_Istanbul_Konvention_Schweiz.pdf (accessed on: 12.02.2024).

Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict (2023): Conflict-related sexual violence. Report of the united nations secretary-general, S/2023/413, New York, United Nations, <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/SG-REPORT-2023SPREAD-1.pdf> (accessed on: 16.03.2024).

Republic of South Africa (2020): National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security – 2020 to 2025 South Africa, https://www.dirco.gov.za/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/sa_national_action_plan_women_peace_security_2020-2025.pdf (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Small Arms Survey (2018): Global Firearms Holding, <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/database/global-firearms-holdings> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).

Staatssekretariat für Wirtschaft SECO (2024): Dossier: Ausfuhr von Kriegsmaterial im Jahr 2023, Bern, Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft, <https://www.news.admin.ch/newsd/message/attachments/86459.pdf> (accessed on: 16.3.2024).

SWI swissinfo.ch (2022): Ukraine war is a windfall for Swiss arms industry, <https://www.swissinfo.ch/eng/business/ukraine-war-a-windfall-for-swiss-arms-industry/47581582> (accessed on: 16.03.2024).

Theunert, Markus (2024): Der Faktor M: Männlichkeit und Radikalisierung – Wissensgrundlagen für die Praxis, https://www.maenner.ch/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/Leitfaden_FaktorM.pdf (accessed on: 20.2.2024).

UN Women (2015): Preventing Conflict: The Origins of the Women's, Peace and Security Agenda, <https://wps.unwomen.org/preventing/> (accessed on: 20.2.2024).

UN Women (2024): FAQs: Trolling, Stalking, Doxing and other Forms of Violence against Women in the Digital Age, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/ending-violence-against-women/faqs/tech-facilitated-gender-based-violence> (accessed on: 10.02.2024).

UNHCR (2023): Global Forced Displacement, <https://www.unhcr.org/global-trends> (accessed on: 15.03.2024).

United Nations (2023): A New Agenda for Peace, <https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/our-common-agenda-policy-brief-new-agenda-for-peace-en.pdf> (accessed on: 28.03.2024).

UNRIC (2023): UN-Generalsekretär Guterres sieht gefährliches atomares Wettrüsten, <https://unric.org/de/un-generalsekretaer-guterres-sieht-gefaehrliches-atomares-wettruesten/> (accessed on: 02.04.2024).