

Module 2: Mandated Tasks of United Nations Peacekeeping Operations

Lesson 2.4



Women, Peace and Security



Relevance

Peacekeeping personnel:

- Protect and promote women's human rights
- Protect women and girls from sexual violence
- Role model for gender equality



Learning Outcomes

Learners will:

- Explain different impact of conflict on women and girls, men and boys
- Explain how women are victims of conflict and key partners for peace
- Explain “gender equality”, “gender mainstreaming” and importance
- List actions to take to protect women and support gender equality



Lesson Overview

1. Definitions
2. Importance of Attention to Women, Peace & Security (WPS)
3. Legal Framework
4. UN Partners Leading in WPS
5. DPKO-DFS Policy on Gender Equality
6. Gender Equality in UN Peacekeeping
7. Roles & Responsibilities
8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do



Learning Activity

2.4.1

Differences between Women and Men –
Sex or Gender?

Instructions:

- Define “sex” and “gender”
- Give examples of gender stereotypes
- Discuss how gender results in inequalities
- Should treatment be the same or different?

Time: 5 minutes

- Group work: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



1. Definitions

The **sex** of a person is:

- Biologically defined
- Usually determined by birth
- Universal

The **gender** of a person:

- Is socially constructed
- Differs and varies across cultures and time
- Results in different roles, responsibilities, opportunities, needs and constraints for women, men, girls and boys



1. Definitions

Gender equality:

For women, girls, men, boys

- Equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities
- Consideration of interests, needs, priorities





1. Definitions

Gender perspective:

- Looks at the impact of gender on people's opportunities, social roles, interactions

Gender mainstreaming:

- Process of assessing implications of planned action for women and men
- Ultimate goal is gender equality

Gender balance:

- Equal representation of women and men at all levels of employment
- Ultimate goal is gender equality

Empowerment of women:

- Women gaining power and control in their lives



Learning Activity

2.4.2

Impact of Conflict on Women and Girls

Instructions:

- Consider the testimonies of civilians
- List examples of how women and girls, men and boys experience conflict differently
- Discuss the role of gender stereotypes

Time: 5 minutes

- Group work: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 2 minutes



2. Importance of Attention to Women, Peace and Security

Impact of Conflict on Women & Girls

- Experienced differently
- More vulnerable, heightened risk of violence due to social inequalities
- Sexual violence and exploitation – rape, sexual slavery, enforced prostitution, trafficking





Key Partners in Peace

- Women and girls not just victims in conflict
- Actors in conflict and peace
- Critical role in peace and security – sources of authority, information, change





Achieving Gender Equality

- Important goal in itself – an issue of human rights and social justice





Learning Activity

2.4.3

Film: *Women in Peacekeeping*

Instructions:

- How are women key partners of peace?
- Using the film, explain “inclusiveness”, “non-discrimination” and “gender balance”

Time: 15 minutes

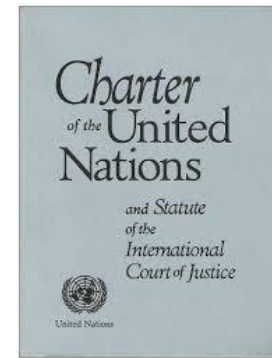
- Film: 8:03 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes

<https://youtu.be/vAuFQj9xBYc>



3. Legal Framework

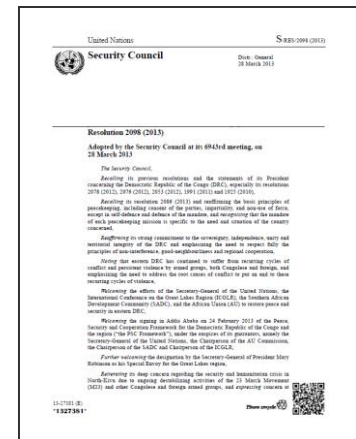
- International Law
- Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW, 1979)
- Agreed Conclusions of ECOSOC Coordination Segment on Gender Mainstreaming (1997)
- Beijing Platform for Action (1995)
- Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action (2000)





3. Legal Framework

- Security Council resolutions on **Women, Peace and Security (WPS) – 1325 (2000)**





4. UN Partners Leading in Women, Peace and Security



United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women



5. DPKO-DFS Policy on Gender Equality

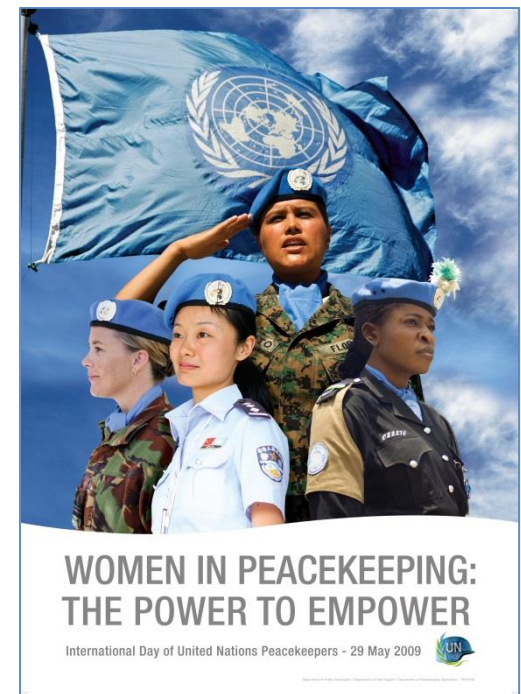
- Principles for gender equality:
 - Inclusiveness
 - Non-discrimination
 - Gender balance
 - Efficiency
- Mainstream a gender perspective in all plans, policies, activities, analysis, reports





6. Gender Equality in UN Peacekeeping

- Increase number of women
- Address inequality in policy and practice
- Advise on women-specific impacts of mission actions
- Work with national partners to address women's and girls' needs, rights
- Work directly with women and girls – voices heard, capacities tapped into





7. Roles & Responsibilities

Gender Adviser

- Advise mission leadership and components
- Mainstream gender perspectives
- Capacity building of national and local partners
- Coordination with UN partners
- Develop and oversee the delivery of training on gender mainstreaming and SGBV
- Coordination with Women Protection Advisers

Goal

Protection
Empowerment



Related Roles

- Gender Focal Points
- Women Protection Advisers
- Women Focal Points



Gender Advisers vs. Women Protection Advisers

WPS Agenda	
PILLAR 1 “Gender Equality” Gender Advisers	PILLAR 2 “Conflict Related Sexual Violence” Women Protection Advisers



Other Units

Women Protection Adviser

Political Affairs

Civil Affairs

Human Rights

Child Protection

DDR

Humanitarian Affairs

Security Officers

Military

UNPOL



8. What Individual Peacekeeping Personnel Can Do

- Promote equality
- Observe carefully
- Investigate properly
- Report accurately





Gender Mainstreaming

Instructions:

- Consider the scenarios
- You must eliminate the discrimination and inequality experienced by women and girls
- How would you integrate their concerns and experiences in the work carried out?

Time: 10 minutes

- Brainstorming: 3 minutes
- Discussion: 5-7 minutes



Summary of Key Messages

- Conflict has a different impact on women and girls, men and boys
- Women and girls – not just victims, active in conflict and peace, key partners for peacekeeping and peacebuilding
- “Gender equality” – equal rights, responsibilities, opportunities
- Take action – be gender sensitive, promote equality, coordinate, intervene



Questions



Learning Activity

Learning Evaluation