

The Global Freedom Group is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to amplifying the voices of women & girls in public decision-making processes. The organization aims to inspire women & girls worldwide to assume leadership roles across various public spheres. In addition to its advocacy efforts, the Global Freedom Group offers educational & mentoring programs, such as the Global Freedom Exchange. This initiative provides dynamic opportunities for emerging & established women leaders who are actively engaged in combating human trafficking. The Global Freedom Group strives to bridge the gap between women, girls, & policymakers, working towards enhanced human security & social justice.

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## **Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women**

### **Addendum to General Recommendation No. 30 (2013) on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post conflict situations in relation to the Women Peace and Security agenda<sup>1</sup>**

#### **Women as leaders in WPS**

1. Institute data collection on the hiring, promotion opportunities and departure of women from all backgrounds and conduct analysis to determine barriers to women accessing decision-making positions and opportunities for advancement. Tracking women's participation in public decision-making spaces is the first step before barriers can be identified and processes can be instituted to create pathways for women to fully participate in Defense, Academia, Government and Civil Society.

#### **Women refugees and humanitarian assistance**

2. Increase and incorporate the participation of women in Defense and Government to create more opportunities for women to lead discussions and fully participate in real-world humanitarian planning, exercise preparation and planning to integrate and synthesize relevant perspective through a gender lens to strategic operations and planning. The result can be measured by the increased reach and direct support for women, children and families.

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<sup>1</sup> This Addendum is derived from the CEDAW WPS Task Force Co-Chair Rangita de Silva de Alwis' Background Paper, *CEDAW Committee Marks the 25th Anniversary of WPS: Evolving Norms & New Directions*.



**Persons reported missing in armed conflict**

3. Identify key positions that women from various religious, cultural and ethnic backgrounds should participate will create broader inroads into peacebuilding and access to information for accountability and rapid response to persons reported missing in armed conflict.

**Food insecurity and starvation as warfare tactics**

4. The deliberate and denial of access to food and water disproportionately affects pregnant women, their unborn babies and newborns. Food security maintains the focus on reducing maternal deaths, ensuring safe pregnancies, and improving reproductive health, working to provide care, train health workers, and strengthen systems. leaving pregnant women without safe delivery, leading to high rates of complications, malnutrition, and stress.

**Mass forcible transfers**

5. Gender-related inequalities are often amplified in situations of forced displacement. Forcible transfer of families and communities have the effect of rupturing families and long-held kinship networks, magnifying new risks for women and girls. Refugees and displaced persons are civilians and thus are protected by all provisions of humanitarian law protecting civilian persons in time of war. That women shall not be separated from children, more specifically infants and toddlers and family units will remain in tact in transition and or holding.

**Outer space**

6. **Improved Operational Effectiveness and Resilience:** Integrating gender perspectives in all operations allows NATO to assess gender-based differences and use all available talent, which improves overall mission success and resilience.

7. **Enhanced Intelligence and Planning:** Female service members can often engage with local communities in conflict zones in ways male counterparts cannot, which improves intelligence gathering. This principle extends to all domains, where diverse perspectives (including in space operations planning) lead to better risk assessment and a more nuanced understanding of the operational environment.

8. **Better Decision-Making:** Research shows that greater participation of women in peace and security negotiations and decision-making leads to more collaborative, effective, and longer-lasting outcomes. Applying this to the space domain is crucial for future security and arms control dialogues.

9. **Upholding Values and Inclusivity:** Promoting gender equality in the armed forces is a core component of NATO's values, aligning with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The Alliance is committed to creating inclusive environments where all individuals can participate meaningfully.

10. **Reflecting Society:** As noted by Admiral Rob Bauer, Chair of the NATO Military Committee, ensuring gender balance is not about being "woke" but about using all available talent, courage, and resilience from society to strengthen capabilities.