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ICRtoP

INTERNATIONAL COALITION FOR THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

FRIEDRICH  
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NEW YORK OFFICE

## Sustainable Infrastructure for Gender Equality: Putting Prevention Up Front

Research and women's lived experiences show that gender equality is linked to inclusive human security and that when women and girls are empowered and have access to the services they need, states are more peaceful and communities are safer.

The prevalence of armed conflicts and intensifying natural disasters are destroying social infrastructure, resulting in the displacement of communities and leaving women and children, especially girls, to survive without basic services, such as safe housing, sanitation and healthcare. The loss of access to information and communication systems, services and the lack of protection with dignity worsen women's position in society and leave them more vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence. It also limits their empowerment potential, and stifles their ability to contribute to the resolution and further prevention of violent conflict and atrocities, as well as the rebuilding of sustainably peaceful communities. Moreover, the particular needs and roles of diverse young women and girls are rarely addressed in these situations what makes them particularly vulnerable, especially if they are coming from marginalized communities.

Integrating a conflict prevention and human security approach to the development agenda, including national budget and security sector governance processes (by tackling root causes of conflict through enhanced early warning and early response measures), can ensure that social infrastructure responds to the goals of sustainable development, equality and peace by contributing to the transformation of structures to bring about peaceful and inclusive communities.

Along with the theme for International Women's Day 2019, the priority theme for CSW63 presents an opportunity to highlight ways in which the peace, development and humanitarian nexus can work together *to remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality, encourage investment in gender-responsive social systems, and build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls*. In recent years, the international community has begun shifting its focus by recognising the importance of holistic approaches to peace through the primacy of prevention and inclusive processes. This has also manifested itself in new trends around CSW to further include vital actors and partners working in the peace and security sphere in discussions and strategic events on the mutually reinforcing agendas working towards women's empowerment in society.

Thus, during the first week of the CSW63 (11-15 March), the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung New York and the International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP) and the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), working in partnership within the Prevention Up Front (PuF) Alliance, will co-host a side event aiming to explore the priority theme of CSW63 through a conflict prevention lens. The interactive panel will feature gender experts from around the world and will set out to promote a gender inclusive human security approach, including security sector governance, showcase the applicability of an early warning – early response mechanism, and communicate the peace, development and humanitarian nexus using innovative peacebuilding practices. The event will build on the outcomes of CSW62 and on the agreed language of the Beijing Platform for Action, particularly Section E on Women in Armed Conflict.



Objectives of the side event:

- To highlight the peace, development and humanitarian nexus in order to remove barriers and accelerate progress for gender equality, encourage investment in gender-responsive social systems, and build services and infrastructure that meet the needs of women and girls;
- To provide recommendations on gender inclusive conflict and atrocity prevention measures and how these measures affect the security of women in conflict, post-conflict and disaster settings;
- To provide a series of recommendations that can be linked to CSW63 outcomes and to upcoming intergovernmental processes, namely: the 2019 HLPF and the 2020 Beijing+25 review and UNSCR 1325+20.

***About the organisers:***

**The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)** is a global member-led network of civil society organisations (CSOs) that actively works on conflict prevention and peacebuilding. The network consists of fifteen regional networks of local organisations with their own priorities, character and agenda. GPPAC seeks a world where violence and armed conflicts are prevented and resolved by peaceful means based on justice, gender equity, sustainable development and human security for all. GPPAC is a global network that links civil society with relevant local, national, regional and international actors and institutions to collectively contribute to a fundamental change in dealing with violence and armed conflicts: a shift from reaction to prevention. As a global network of peacebuilders GPPAC is committed to gender equality and progressing a feminist/women's rights agenda. Online at <https://www.gppac.net>.

**The Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES)**, established in 1925, is the oldest political foundation in Germany. Its formation, mission, and social democratic tradition is informed by the political legacy of its namesake, Friedrich Ebert, the first democratically elected German president. FES focuses on the core ideas and values of social democracy—freedom, justice, and solidarity. This connects us to social democracy and free trade unions. As a nonprofit institution, we organise our work autonomously and independently. The FES office in New York serves as a liaison between the FES field offices and partners in developing countries and the United Nations system, including the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. Our mission is to strengthen the voices of trade unionists, progressives, and the Global South within these international institutions. The FES contributes to debates on sustainable economic and social development, on peace and security issues, and on reforming the global governance architecture with a well-functioning and well-funded United Nations at its center. Online at <https://www.fesny.org/>.

**The International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP)** convenes and collaborates with civil society, Member States, and regional and sub-regional organisations to strengthen normative consensus for the Responsibility to Protect (RtoP) and further the understanding of the norm; push for strengthened capacities to prevent and halt genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and ethnic cleansing; and mobilise non-governmental organisations to push for action to save lives in RtoP country-specific situations. Online at <https://www.responsibilitytoprotect.org/>.

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