



**Open Statement to the United Nations Security Council
on behalf of Women Peacebuilders
Marking 25 Years of the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda**

On October 6, 2025, the U.N. Security Council holds its annual open debate on Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

25 years ago, we women, who live the wars the Security Council debates, appeared before the Council, urging action, and sharing our solutions to prevent and mitigate the violence and complex wars we faced.

They adopted Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, and Security.

But those words on paper have not been realized. 25 years on, we face an arms race, shrinking civic space, climate crises, more wars, occupation, and genocide.

Today, we are not issuing a new statement. Instead, we are honoring our community of women peacebuilders—who appeared before the Security Council throughout these 25 years, speaking for the millions they represent—by echoing their messages...¹

STATEMENT

Over 25 years, we shared our realities:

The war came to my doorstep, the day my son was missing in action from the battlefield. I contacted other women, as mothers, who wanted to stop the war.

I led a group to the Tamil Tigers territory. We met the youth and were able to understand their side of the story.

With the women across the divide, we were able to build much-needed trust.

Our call was right to life for all.

But the official process that started—based on our work—excluded us.ⁱⁱ

Time and again when it comes to high level negotiations, women's voices and experiences are marginalized.ⁱⁱⁱ

25 years after resolution 1325, women's participation should be a default, not an afterthought.

Unmet commitments are just words and do nothing to bring peace.^{iv}

What are you waiting for?^v

We shared the pain:

My dream of a great future was cut short. I was determined to be the first person in my village to go to university. But the Lord's Resistance Army abducted me with more than a hundred other girls.

I was an innocent young girl, repeatedly raped by an LRA commander.

I got a chance to escape and was lucky to go to university. But many of the girls were not able to because they have babies born of their abuse.

I have told my own story, but the stories you have not heard are thousands-fold. I'm here to remind you of the children who are hoping for you to act.^{vi}

What are you waiting for?

Sexual violence is a weapon to torture and terrorize—most victims will not receive services, protection, acknowledgement, or justice.^{vii}

Unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

We said:

In the absence of government, we are at the forefront of providing aid and services in places unreachable by international organizations.^{viii}

In areas hardest hit by violent extremism, where no one would dare stand up to the Taliban, out of necessity, I had a dialogue with their leaders.^{ix}

Without protection and with scant resources, we continue to work to bring peace. We sensitize young people to dissociate themselves from the armed groups.^x

We speak for unarmed civilians, bring tolerance, forgiveness, and practical solutions that are the basic tenets of reconciliation.^{xi}

We can go places, say things, engage and build trust in ways that are not possible for other actors.

We are not essentializing women.

But speaking about the women, who have the vision, courage *and* skill to engage in such deeply dangerous work.^{xii}

Those who, out of the horrific ordeals we have suffered and witnessed, have transformed into peacebuilders.^{xiii}

Yet, we remain vastly underrepresented in efforts to prevent conflict and violent extremism.^{xiv}

Unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

We warned you:

Lasting peace can be achieved only when women sit at the negotiation table together with men.^{xv}

The Taliban view women, who speak out, as the enemy, because they expose the depth and breadth of the Taliban's abuse of the Afghan people.^{xvi}

If we leave it only to men, we get Israeli generals and Palestinians who will not be defeated, there is no room to negotiate.^{xvii}

Our demands for inclusion are pragmatic.

Why should wielding weapons and threatening violence be the only ticket to peace talks?

If you are serious about achieving peace, then as governments and the UN, respect and draw on peace actors.

We do not live in the realm of fantasy. Our wars are complex and multifaceted. Our peace processes must be rooted in *that* reality.^{xviii}

But unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

We explained to you:

Women's exclusion is not about culture; it is about power.

All issues are women's issues.^{xix}

Peace is not simply ending war, but addressing collectively the root causes of conflict and demilitarizing our societies.^{xx}

When we speak of peace in everyday life, for women and men, it means accepting differences, being treated well by the police, employment, health, women walking alone free from danger of being raped, participating in the country's decision-making without feeling threatened, children playing and studying without fear of being recruited, without fear of losing a loved one.^{xxi}

But unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

The open circle you sit in symbolizes a clear path away from war, breaking the cycle of violence.^{xxii}

In the presence of the enormous power you represent, with the terrible awareness of how dangerous that power can be. We ask that you fulfill *your* responsibility as set out in the United Nations Charter.^{xxiii}

The task of sustaining world peace will be easier in partnership with “we the people of the United Nations”.

1325 is unique.

What other resolutions are supported by people from Sri Lanka to Colombia, Liberia to Aceh?^{xxiv}

But unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

We tell you again:

You need us because, even when we are women whose very existence contradicts each other, we will talk—we will not shoot.

We are willing to sit together on the same side of the table and look at our complex history, not getting up until—in respect and reciprocity—we get up together and fulfill our joint destiny.^{xxv}

Are you willing to work with us? ^{xxvi}

Unmet commitments are just words.

What are you waiting for?

What are you waiting for?

The International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) thanks these women for their powerful words before the Council, which we borrowed and remixed to create this statement:

Maha Abu-Dayeh Shammās, Grace Akallo, Hamsatu Allamin, Visaka Dharmadasa, Bineta Diop, Wazhma Frogh, Terry Greenblatt, Abir Haj Ibrahim, Rita Lopidia, Julienne Lusenge, Amina Megheirbi, Charo Mina-Rojas, Yanar Mohammed, Zahra Nader, Eugenia Piza-Lopez, Mossarat Qadeem, and Rosa Emilia Salamanca.

The following individuals and organizations proudly endorse this statement (add your name here):

Organizations

- *Abductees' Mothers Association*
- *Afghan Women Network International (AWNl)*
- *Association of War Affected Women (AWAW)*
- *Advocacy for Women in Peace and Security Africa (AWAPSA)*
- *Center for Civil Society and Democracy (CCSD)*
- *Coalition for Action on 1325 (COACT)*
- *Coast Education Centre (COEC)*
- *Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica*
- *DemoS*
- *Empatiku Foundation*
- *FARAGEER (Women Led Global Forum for Afghanistan)*
- *Justice, Human Rights, and Gender Civil Association*
- *International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)*
- *Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI)*
- *Legal Action Worldwide*

- *PAIMAN Alumni Trust*
- *Pathways for Women's Empowerment and Development / Integrated Agricultural Training Center (PaWED-IATC)*
- *Philippine Center for Islam and Democracy*
- *Reach Out Cameroon*
- *Regional Coalition for Women Human Rights Defenders in South West Asia and North Africa (WHRDMENA)*
- *Tunisian League of Human Rights*
- *Urgent Action Fund for Feminist Activism*
- *Union de l'action Féminine (UAF)*
- *Wi'am - The Palestinian Conflict Transformation Center*
- *WO=MEN*
- *Women for Justice Foundation (WJF)*
- *Women Living Under Muslim Laws (WLUML)*
- *Women for Peace and Participation*
- *Women Relief Aid*
- *Women and Children Research and Advocacy Network (WCRAN)*
- *Women Education and Development Organization of Liberia (WEDOL)*
- *Women Human Rights Defenders International Coalition (WHRDIC)*
- *Women's Advocacy Committee (WAC)*
- *Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL)*
- *Women's Center for Guidance and Legal Awareness (WCGLA)*
- *Women's Initiative for Gender Justice*
- *Women's International Peace Centre*
- *Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC)*

Individuals

- *Kawther Alkholy*
- *Antelak Almutawakel*
- *Khedija Arfaoui*
- *Sarah Arumugam*
- *Hafida Benchehida*
- *Charlotte Bunch*
- *Visaka Dharmadasa*
- *Rodolfo Domínguez*
- *Omam Esther*
- *Cerue Konah Garlo*
- *Qhramaana Kakar*
- *Ashima Kaul*
- *Mary Akrami*
- *Mira Kusumarini*
- *Muna Luqman*
- *Bernedette Muthien*
- *Ahlem Nasraoui*
- *Neelam Raina*
- *Amina Rasul*
- *Cynthia Rothschild*
- *Mariyam Shakeela*
- *Nicoline Wazeh*

ⁱ The International Civil Society Network is grateful for the powerful voices of the following women who appeared before the Security Council. Sanam Naraghi Anderlini, Melinda Holmes, and Isabela Karibjanian have rephrased and remixed their words to create this statement. This statement including an updated list of endorsements and related content can be found at: <https://icanpeacework.org/2025/10/open-statement-to-the-unsc-from-women-peacebuilders/>.

ⁱⁱ Visaka Dharmadasa, Sri Lanka, 2010

ⁱⁱⁱ Eugenia Piza-Lopez, Costa Rica, 2000

^{iv} Rita Lopidia, South Sudan, 2016

^v Bineta Diop, Senegal, 2012

^{vi} Grace Akallo, Uganda, 2009

^{vii} Amina Megheirbi, Libya, 2012

^{viii} Yanar Mohammed, Iraq, 2015

^{ix} Mossarat Qadeem, Pakistan, 2009

^x Julienne Lusenge, Democratic Republic of the Congo, 2015

^{xi} Asha Hagi Elmi Amin, Somalia, 2009

^{xii} Mossarat Qadeem, Pakistan, 2009

^{xiii} Hamsatu Allamin, Nigeria, 2015

^{xiv} Yanar Mohammed, Iraq, 2015

^{xv} Wazhma Frogh, Afghanistan, 2017

^{xvi} Zahra Nader, Afghanistan, 2022

^{xvii} Maha Abu-Dayeh Shammass, Palestine, 2002

^{xviii} Mossarat Qadeem, Pakistan, 2009

^{xix} Visaka Dharmadasa, Sri Lanka, 2010

^{xx} Charo Mina-Rojas, Colombia, 2017

^{xxi} Rosa Emilia Salamanca, Colombia, 2019

^{xxii} Abir Haj Ibrahim, Syria, 2024

^{xxiii} Terry Greenblatt, Israel, 2002

^{xxiv} Visaka Dharmadasa, Sri Lanka, 2010

^{xxv} Terry Greenblatt, Israel, 2002

^{xxvi} Visaka Dharmadasa, Sri Lanka, 2010