

October 8, 2015

H.E. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon

H.E. Ambassador Mr. Román Oyarzun, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations

Re: Impact and Recommendations around the change of date of the 15th anniversary Security Council Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security

Dear Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and Dear Ambassador Oyarzun,

The 15th anniversary of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 has created global momentum towards greater commitment and practical actions for effective implementation. For over eight months, civil society have invested time, expertise, and our limited financial resources, in order to leverage action around the Security Council Open Debate and High-level Review of UNSCR 1325—originally scheduled October 22, 2015.

On September 9th we were informed that Spain had changed the date of the Debate to October 13th giving just one month's notice of the change. This was clearly putting the schedule of the Prime Minister of Spain and the Secretary-General over that of civil society voices from around the world who are key to implementation and action. There is also no consideration of Member States who have been requested to send their Ministers to the High-level Review.

This change is just the latest illustration of the ongoing challenges to women's participation and meaningful civil society engagement in policy discussion and decision-making: because of the change, civil society delegations are being cut, opportunities for mobilization shrunk, and space for leveraging this critical time for action diminished. Political commitments and action by Member States have also been reduced, given that the change in debate has cut the number of senior Ministers who will be able to attend.

The lack of consultation around this change sends a clear message that the experience, expertise and commitment of women from all over the world are considered to be less important than those of the high level officials whose schedules were prioritized over all else. This is a particular irony given a main message of the global review is the importance of civil society inclusion and UNSCR 2122 (2013)'s recognition of the importance of interactions of civil society with Security Council members.

UNSCR 1325 was drafted by civil society women from around the world and created in partnership with UN entities and Member States. It is imperative that this collaboration continues with serious political commitment. We therefore request that:

- you support and expedite visas for civil society participants,

- you provide compensation to those who have lost funds, and
- continue support in convening dialogue between UN, Member States, and civil society some of whom will now be compelled to extend their stay in New York for a longer period of time this October.

Regardless of the challenges, we will continue with our work to realize and extend the full potential of UNSCR 1325. We will also continue to engage constructively with the Security Council, Member States, and UN system towards the full and effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. We look forward to working with you toward transformative, just and sustainable peace, feminist development and gender justice.

- 1325 Action Group, Nepal
- 1325 Policy Group, Sweden
- Afghan Women's Network
- Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury, Former Under Secretary-General and High Representative of the United Nations
- Asia Justice and Rights (AJAR), Tebet, Jakarta, Indonesia
- Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)
- Betty Reardon, International Institute on Peace Education
- Center for Peace Education, Philippines
- Centre for Studies on Justice and Resolution 1325 (CJR1325), DRC
- CEIPAZ, Spain
- Coalition for Action on 1325, Uganda
- COFERD/BANDUNDU, DRC
- Colin Archer, Secretary General, International Peace Bureau, Switzerland
- Cora Weiss, UN Representative, International Peace Bureau, USA
- Colectivo de Pensamiento de Acción, Colombia
- Consortium of Women's Organisations, South Sudan
- Corporación de Investigación y Acción Social y Económica (CIASE), Colombia
- Dea Dia, Serbia
- Euphemia Akos Dzathor, AWANICH, Ghana
- Eve Organization for Women Development, South Sudan
- FemLINKPACIFIC
- FOKUS-Forum for Women and Development, Norway
- Fontaine-ISOKO, Burundi
- Foundation United Women Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- [Global Justice Center, USA](#)
- Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict - Pacific Network
- Impunity Watch, Guatemala
- Insan Foundation Trust, Pakistan
- Institute for International Women's Rights at The University of Winnipeg Global College – Canada
- International Civil society Action Network
- Iraqi Alamal Association, Iraq

- Iraqi Women Network, Iraq
- Isis Women's International Cross Cultural Exchange, Uganda
- Japan Women's Watch
- Kitgum Women Peace Initiative (KIWEPI), Uganda
- La Coalicion1325, Colombia
- La Red Nacional de Mujeres, Colombia
- Mavic Cabrera-Balleza, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP)
- Media Advocacy Group (MAG), Nepal
- National Organization of Women, Sierra Leone
- Peace is Loud, USA
- Rita Manchanda , South Asia Forum for Human Rights (SAFHR)
- Rwanda Women's Network (RWN)
- SAFECO, DRC
- Saathi, Nepal
- Sancharika Samuha, Nepal
- Sharon Bhagwan Rolls, Chair of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
- S.L.J.M. Filippini, Cordaid
- Society for Appraisal & Women Empowerment in Rural Areas (SAWERA), Pakistan
- SOFEPADI, DRC
- South Sudan Women General Association (SSWGA), South Sudan
- Supporting People and Rebuilding Communities (SPaRC) from Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh
- Synergie des Femmes pour les Victimes de Violences Sexuelles (SFVS), DRC
- Tears of Women, Kenya
- The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN Indonesia)
- Teso Women Peace Activists (TEWPA), Uganda
- The Voice of Libyan Women, Libya
- United Methodist Women, Global Justice office, USA
- United Women Banja Luka, Bosnia and Herzegovina
- Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, USA
- Wi'am, Palestinian Conflict & Transformation Center, Bethlehem – Palestine
- [WO=MEN, the Netherlands](#)
- Women's Global Network for Reproductive Rights
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, DRC
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Spain
- Women Peacemakers Program, Netherlands
- Women in Peacebuilding Network WIPNET of WANEP, Nigeria
- Women Peace Initiatives-Uganda (WOPI-U), Uganda
- Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – International
- World YWCA

