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Sustaining Peace: examining the intersection between Women, Peace and Security, human rights and humanitarian action

Side event during the 40th session of the Human Rights Council

**Sunday, 24 February 2019, Geneva IMPACT HUB
10h00 to 13h00**

Background and Rationale

The Sustaining Peace agenda as elaborated in the General Assembly ([A/RES/70/262](#)) and Security Council ([S/RES/ 2282](#)) resolutions, is a comprehensive, coordinated and coherent approach to peacebuilding and conflict prevention. It is both a goal and a process to forge a common vision of a global community that takes into account the needs of all segments of the population. The Sustaining Peace agenda highlights the importance of local leadership and national ownership to effectively sustain peace. It underscores the critical role of women's rights organization, youth groups and other civil society actors; the private sector, and regional organizations in sustaining peace.

Recognizing that fully implementing the concept of Sustaining Peace requires the strengthening of the nexus between peace and security; human rights; and humanitarian action, the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, the Ethical Business Building the Future, and the National Alliance of Women's Organizations are organizing a parallel event during the 40th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva. The event will examine the ways in which the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda intersects with human rights and humanitarian action, and how these

intersections can be strengthened in order to build sustainable peace.

The event will build on a research conducted by GNWP with support from UN Women, which focused on local civil society, especially women, perspectives on Sustaining Peace. Through a multi-lingual survey, focus group discussions and key informant interviews, the research has reached over 1,500 persons from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Colombia, Cote d'Ivoire, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Georgia, Germany, India, Iraq, Kenya, France, Lebanon, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, the Philippines, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Sweden, Syria, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, United States, and Ukraine.

The event will use the research findings to bring the voices of local populations into policy discussions and provide space for young women and men to exchange ideas about what "Sustaining Peace" means in practice, with practitioners, policy-makers and business people,

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Objective

The objectives of the parallel event are:

1. To highlight and discuss the intersections between WPS, human rights, and humanitarian actions, and the ways in which they can be strengthened and better utilized.
2. To share the key findings of the research on civil society perceptions of Sustaining Peace research, thereby amplifying the voices of the civil society, especially local women's organizations and young women working on peacebuilding and conflict prevention in conflict and post-conflict countries, as well as in countries that have not recently experienced conflict, and making sure they are part of the global policy discussions about Sustaining Peace;
3. To formulate concrete recommendations on the concrete and necessary actions on the ground needed to sustain peace in conflict, post-conflict and non-conflict settings;

Date and venue

The event will take place on:

Sunday, March 24th
from 10h00 to 13h00
at the Impact Hub, Rue Fendt 1, 1201 Geneva
*(location behind the Cornavin Railway Station – easy train
and bus access with Bus lines 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 19, 20, 26,
61, F, G+, and Tram 14,15, 18).*

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Format, speakers and audience

The event will consist of two parts. Each part will consist of a panel discussion, during which young women and men will provide their perspectives on the Sustaining Peace. Each panel will also include a peacebuilding, human rights or humanitarian practitioner, who will respond to the points raised by the young women and men by sharing their experiences of working to sustain peace.

The panel discussion will be co-hosted by *ebbf* (Ethical Business Building the Future) and preceded by a short presentation of the research findings by GNWP.

The Global Network of Women Peacebuilders is a global coalition of over 100 women's organizations, mostly from conflict-affecting countries, working to amplify women's voices in order to build a more sustainable peace.

ebbf is a Baha'i inspired global learning community of individuals exploring how ethical business can build the future. A more prosperous, just and sustainable future.

NAWO's Young Women's Alliance encourages and enables young women, and men, interested in equality, to play an active part in UN processes. The YWA has a developing WPS network, some of whom will provide a young person's perspective at the event.