



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE

**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

**STATEMENT ATTRIBUTABLE TO H.E. AMBASSADOR CHRISTIAN WENAWESER**

PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. President,

The twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 is an important moment for the Council. It marks the beginning of an agenda which both has had enormous impact on the ground and is the source of ongoing frustration. But before anything else, we should salute the work of civil society in the creation and implementation of the WPS agenda – it is their voices that should be heard today. We are inspired by the brave female protesters in Belarus who are exemplary agents for peaceful change. While we see progress towards full, equal and meaningful participation, women’s participation for instance in formal peace-making processes remains limited. Many peace agreements do not include provisions that give a sufficient voice to women and adequately address their security and peacebuilding needs. We also encourage the Security Council to more consistently invite female expert briefers.

As a contribution to further strengthen the participation pillar of the WPS agenda, Liechtenstein has commissioned a research project from the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security on the impact of women’s participation in state armed forces on respect for international humanitarian law.

Mr. President,

To allow women to be agents of change and to contribute to a more peaceful, sustainable and prosperous world, we need to create an environment that is enabling and inclusive, free of discrimination, unfair social norms and attitudes. Mainstreaming the WPS agenda within the entire UN system is of the essence to this end as well as the creation of synergies with the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including SDG 5. We deeply regret attempts to weaken internationally agreed human rights standards and to roll back the goals in the WPS agenda by members of the Security Council itself. This regress is particularly worrisome in times of the COVID-19 pandemic which has disproportionately challenged women and girls. The pandemic has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and has been cause for shadow pandemics for women and girls in particular, pushing women out of the workforce, depriving girls and young women of their right to education, and compounding the crisis of domestic violence.

Mr. President,

Reports of the Special Representatives of Sexual Violence in Conflict and Children and Armed Conflict document rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence of comparable gravity perpetrated against women, men, girls or boys in a large number of conflict situations, many of which are on the Council's agenda.<sup>1</sup> Harmful gender stereotypes and abusive power dynamics are the root cause of sexual and gender-based violence which affect women and girls disproportionately – but the same stereotypes also impair men and boys and often result in underreporting, as also documented by the Liechtenstein-based human rights organization All Survivors Project.<sup>2</sup> Security Council Resolution 2467 and its comprehensive survivor-centred approach is an important step forward for the WPS agenda. In times of quarantines, lockdowns and other restrictions on movement caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly important to ensure that survivors of conflict-related sexual violence have access to reporting mechanisms and necessary services. In addition to ensuring implementation of resolution 2467,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/sexualviolenceinconflict/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/report/conflict-related-sexual-violence-report-of-the-united-nations-secretary-general/2019-SG-Report.pdf>;  
[https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/75/203&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/75/203&Lang=E&Area=UNDOC)

<sup>2</sup> <https://allurvivorsproject.org/report/checklist-on-preventing-and-addressing-conflict-related-sexual-violence-against-men-and-boys/>

we call on the Council to include conflict-related sexual violence as a designation criterion in targeted sanctions regimes.

Mr. President,

We firmly believe that there can be no peace without justice – and no justice without peace. And there can be no justice without justice for all women. Structural inequalities, discrimination and poverty all too often hinder women's access to justice, including transitional justice processes. We thank Belgium for its leadership in the Council on this topic and hope that the Council will agree on an outcome with a strong gender dimension. Achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies, as envisioned in SDG 16, requires increased access for women to justice from the local to the national levels, developing gender-responsive legal and judicial systems and promoting greater participation of women in the justice sector, including in the post-conflict period through transitional justice mechanisms and reparations processes. We applaud UN Women and civil society organizations such as Justice Rapid Response for their important work in this regard.

I thank you.