

FORWARD GLOBAL WOMEN
66 9th Street East Suite 2605
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101 USA

September 23, 2013

Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary General

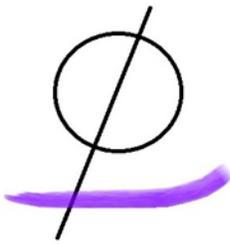
United Nations, New York NY 10017

Dear Mr. Secretary General,

We applaud the work of the UN Security Council in adopting Resolution 1325 on women and peace and security on 31 October 2000. The resolution reaffirms the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction and stresses the importance of their equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security. Resolution 1325 urges all actors to increase the participation of women and incorporate gender perspectives in all United Nations peace and security efforts. It also calls on all parties to conflict to take special measures to protect women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse, in situations of armed conflict.

It has been thirteen years since UNSC 1325 was accepted by the international body and even though it has been adopted by many states including Israel, Palestine, Jordan, Morocco and the USA, women from these countries have not been aggressively involved in peace processes or negotiations in the spirit underlying 1325. In addition, only the USA in this group is among the over forty countries that have created a National Action Plan. We believe that the exclusion of women from negotiations affects the women in all nations. No peace agreement can be successful without the inclusion of women. We are equal citizens; we are over 50% of the population; we participate in the labor market, and in local and national politics. We have opinions and perspectives that deserve to be represented. In conflict zones, women are more than incidental to the struggle but centrally engaged and affected and therefore must be at the table. This was the case in negotiating the peace accords in Northern Ireland and in South Africa where women were included and made sure that the unique needs of women were addressed. Women must be present and visible participants.

From August 18-August 23, 2013, Forward Global Women, a USA- founded non-governmental organization with the goal "to foster the development of nonviolent peacemakers by providing women leaders and activists with the opportunity to study peacemaking and co-existence and to put nonviolence into practice for the sake of the well being of all," came together in St Paul, Minnesota. This was the second convening of women from the Middle East-North Africa region. The first convening took place in July 2011 with women from Jordan, Israel and the United States. The second convening was a five-day seminar led by Professor Monica and Mary McWilliams, trainers, activists and



FORWARD GLOBAL WOMEN
66 9th Street East Suite 2605
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55101 USA

peacemakers from Northern Ireland. The focus of our peacemaking training was negotiations, conflict resolution and the implementation of UN Security Resolution 1325. Participants came from Israel, Jordan, Morocco, Palestine, and the United States.

It is all of our responsibility and obligation to see that UN Security Resolution is implemented and enforced. We will be working to see that our respective countries do so. We urge that the UN actively and aggressively see that 1325 is actively implemented in all our countries.

We would appreciate acknowledgement and response to this letter.

Signed,

Sandra L. Pappas, State Senator,

President, Minnesota State Senate, USA; President, Forward Global Women

Israel

Janan Farraj Falah, Ph.D, Head, Gender Studies, Haifa College; Founder, Acco Women Association

Rina Bar-Tal, Former Chair and member of the board, Israel Women's Network,
Former Deputy Mayor, City of R'anana

Orit Zuretz, CEO of E.S.D. Initiative; former Member, Israel Parliament

Jordan

Kholoud Barakat, teacher

Thuraya Hatter, writer & women's rights activist

Rula Quawas, Ph.D. Professor, University of Jordan

Morocco

Loubna Amhair, Member of Parliament, Morocco

Palestine

Cairo Ali Arafat, Child and Gender Ombudsman, Palestine Independent Commission for Human Rights

Najwa Faisal Sandouka-Yaghi, Project Manager, MIFTAH

Lily Feidy, Ph.D. CEO, MIFTAH

United States of America

Karen A Feste, Ph.D, Professor, Corbel School of International Studies,

Director, Conflict Resolution Program

Ellen J Kennedy, Ph.D, Founder and Executive Director, World Without Genocide

Mary Jo McGuire, Commissioner, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners