



Disarmament and Gender

SECURING
OUR COMMON
FUTURE

“Strengthening the role of women and diversity of voices in disarmament will advance our collective goals in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.”

Izumi Nakamitsu,
United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

The **women, peace and security (WPS)** agenda, built on Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and nine subsequent resolutions, is connected to disarmament and arms control across all **four pillars** of WPS: **prevention, protection, participation** and **relief and recovery**.

The **Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament** prioritizes the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament. It also calls for Member States to incorporate gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control.



On average, women delegates **account** for only one third of diplomats accredited to arms control and disarmament conferences on average, and even fewer lead their delegations.

There is wide **recognition** that the **equal, full and effective participation of women and men is vital** to the maintenance of international peace and security. Yet, women remain significantly **underrepresented** in multilateral disarmament forums and decision-making. On average, women delegates accounted for only **one third** of diplomats accredited to arms control and disarmament conferences on average, and even fewer lead their delegations. Young women activists have long been at the front line of successful peace campaigns, their support for the **Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)** being one recent example. Increasing the share of women and girls in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields is particularly critical to **address the consequences of new technologies** in the **context of disarmament, non-proliferation** and **arms control**.

Analysing Gender in Armed Conflict



Armed conflict and weapons of all types affect women and men **differently**. Women are more likely to be **victims** of armed violence than **perpetrators** of it. Gender also interacts with age, disability, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, social class and other factors. If we consider the gendered aspects of armed violence, we can more fully address the key root causes of armed violence and its various impacts on girls, boys, women and men.

Gender and Small Arms and Light Weapons

The issue of small arms is a highly gendered topic. While small arms are used overwhelmingly by and against young men, a comprehensive response must also recognize the different ways that women and girls are often gravely affected by small-arms violence, particularly in their own homes. The illicit transfer, misuse and accumulation of small arms and light weapons can have a disproportionate effect on women and girls.





Gender-Based Violence and Arms Control

Gender-based violence (GBV) refers to violence directed at an individual based on their gender. It is an abuse of power encouraged through harmful norms rooted in gender inequality. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) includes a legally binding provision requiring States parties to consider gender-based violence as an essential criterion in their export assessments of conventional weapons and ammunition.

The future of disarmament: Women and Girls in Science and Technology



Digital technologies and relentless efforts to apply developments in science and technology to weapons are enhancing existing security risks and creating new ones. Our data-driven societies use many

tools, such as machine-learning models, that hold inherent gender biases. In this rapidly evolving domain, acting now to ensure diversity and inclusion is critical to eliminating these biases from the technologies shaping our future.



Gender and Weapons of Mass Destruction

Consequences from the use of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction also differ between genders. These include biological and social differences. For survivors of nuclear explosions and tests, as well as the use of other weapons of mass destruction like chemical agents, gender roles shape distinct experiences of social stigma that can dissuade people from seeking medical assistance and reporting cases.



Sustainable Development Goal 5

Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Gender equality is not only a fundamental human right, but a necessary foundation for a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable world.

What can we do as a global community?

Empower women and ensure their equal, full and effective participation in disarmament and arms control decision-making processes, leading to more inclusive, effective and sustainable policy outcomes.

Educate and engage others on the gender dimensions of weapons and military actions.

Analyse the role of small-arms control in eliminating all forms of gender-based violence—including trafficking, sexual exploitation, and other types of abuse—from both public and private spheres.

