



Liechtenstein's Commitment to *Women, Peace and Security*



«Men have always been in charge of making war, and in charge of making peace. Their record is not impressive. Women must get their seat at the negotiation table, where they belong, and where they are needed.»

Dr. Aurelia Frick, Foreign Minister
of the Principality of Liechtenstein

Women were involved in the peace process in South Sudan, which was supported by the NGO Concordis International.

Liechtenstein's foreign policy has been committed to the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security Agenda for several years. The focus lies on **ensuring the equal participation of women in conflict prevention as well as in peace and mediation processes**. Liechtenstein furthermore supports **efforts to end sexual violence in armed conflicts and the strengthening of criminal accountability**.

Women in Armed Conflicts

Millions of women are direct or indirect victims of violence and armed conflicts. However, they are rarely involved in peace negotiations or recovery processes. As a result, the rights and needs of a large part of the population are neglected, which impedes finding sustainable solutions for peace and security. **Liechtenstein is convinced that women must be actively involved in conflict prevention as well as in peace and mediation processes.**

UN Security Council Agenda on *Women, Peace and Security*

In 2000 the UN Security Council addressed the impact of armed conflict on women for the first time by adopting Resolution 1325. It thereby recognised the underestimated and unused potential of women in conflict prevention. **The *Women, Peace and Security* Agenda is aimed at implementing Resolution 1325 and its follow-up resolutions.**

Liechtenstein in the UN Commission on the Status of Women

The UN Commission on the Status of Women is the most important UN body in the area of furthering women's rights and gender equality. In annual meetings in spring, the commission decides on measures to promote the political, economic and social rights of women all over the world. **After having been a member of the Executive Board of UN Women, Liechtenstein serves as a member of the Commission from 2015 to 2019.**

Facts and figures

- Women represent less than ten per cent of participants in peace negotiations.
- Fewer than three per cent of signatories to peace agreements are women.
- Between 1990 and 2010, only 18 out of 300 peace agreements have addressed sexual violence.
- Female voters are four times as likely as men to be targeted for intimidation in elections in fragile and transitional states.



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Women march for equal access to education, training, science and technology at the International Women's Day in North Darfur, Sudan.

Political Support

Liechtenstein has brought its know-how concerning the Agenda on Women, Peace and Security into the negotiations for the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It campaigned in particular for the strengthening of women's leadership in conflict prevention in the post-2015 development agenda. **In addition, Liechtenstein works to raise awareness of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and on supporting its implementation together with other states and non-governmental organisations (NGOs).** For this purpose, lectures and round tables are organised in Liechtenstein and New York, and information material is prepared. In this area, Liechtenstein cooperate closely with two partner organisations:

The NGO **Working Group on Women, Peace and Security** is a coalition of NGOs, connecting local and national women's rights organisations in conflict areas with political decision-makers at UN Headquarters in New York.

PeaceWomen is dedicated to promoting and monitoring the Agenda on Women, Peace and Security. Together with Liechtenstein and Switzerland, PeaceWomen has published a manual and a smartphone application providing information on the agenda and its implementation.

Inclusion of Women in Conflict Resolution

Most current conflicts are fought by state as well as non-state actors. International organisations such as the UN only have limited access to non-state groups and thus quickly reach their limits when trying to resolve these conflicts. It is therefore important to develop alternatives when establishing and conducting dialogue for facilitating peace negotiations between state and non-state actors.

Liechtenstein supports initiatives promoting the participation of women in peace processes and the implementation of the Agenda for Women, Peace and Security. **Liechtenstein's NGO partners in this area are Concordis International, headquartered in London, and the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD Centre) based in Geneva.**

Strengthening International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights

Liechtenstein supports the NGO Geneva Call, which seeks dialogue with parties in armed conflicts, promoting the adherence to International Humanitarian Law. Geneva Call encourages signing statements of commitment with respect to internationally agreed norms, thereby preventing acts of sexual violence and making sure that perpetrators of such crimes will be held accountable.

The intergovernmental organisation **Justice Rapid Response (JRR)** trains experts from different backgrounds to investigate war crimes, crimes against humanity and severe human rights violations. **Liechtenstein supports JRR's work in the area of sexual and gender-based violence.**



© Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue
Participants at a regional dialogue roundtable in Nepal discuss the role of women in peace processes.

Support for Victims of Sexual Violence

In conflicts, sexual violence is often used as a weapon. Most victims are female. **Liechtenstein supports shelters for female victims in the Democratic Republic of Congo and in Mali. Both are operated by the Congolese NGO SOS Femmes en Danger (SOSFED).**

Women seeking refuge are provided with accommodation, food, medical treatment and vocational training. SOSFED also supports the victims' return to their families and the reintegration into their communities.