

## Where We Stand Statement

### Women Peacekeepers

#### Where Things Stand...

“In 1993, women made up 1% of deployed uniformed personnel. In 2019, out of approximately 100,000 peacekeepers, women constituted 4.4% of military personnel and 11.1% of police personnel in UN Peacekeeping missions. While the UN encourages and advocates for the deployment of women to uniformed functions, the responsibility for deployment of women in the police and military lies with Member States.

The involvement of women in peacekeeping duties has a positive impact in communities especially following conflict of any form:

- Their presence empowers other women especially in the host community;
- They are able to address and understand any or some of the specific needs of female ex-combatants during the process of demobilising and reintegration into civilian life;
- Women in the community are more likely to approach a female peacekeeper and/or respond to her approach;
- They can interact with women in societies where women are prohibited from speaking to men.

The UN Charter gives the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Council can establish a UN peace operation.

UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council. Their tasks differ from situation to situation, depending on the nature of the conflict and the specific challenges it presents.

The UN Security Council mandates also reflect a number of cross-cutting, thematic tasks that are regularly assigned to UN peace operations on the basis of the following landmark Security Council resolutions:

- [Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security;
- [Security Council resolution 1612 \(2005\)](#) on children and armed conflict;
- [Security Council resolution 1674 \(2006\)](#) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

#### ...And Where Things Need to Go

##### Fundamental Action

**The United Nations has called on Member States to take action to increase the numbers of women in their peacekeeping forces.**

“Achieving Gender Parity depends on the continued collective efforts of the United Nations and Member States. In line with the Action for Peacekeeping Declaration of Shared Commitments calling for uniformed women’s participation in peacekeeping, progress can be supported by Member States to ensure that:

- Information on deployment opportunities reaches decision-makers and women officers in national services.
- More women are recruited and trained in national services to be available to deploy to peace operations, as well as helping national services perform better at home.

- All nominations and deployments to UN peace operations meet or exceed the uniformed gender parity targets.”

### **Additional Action**

Against a background of historical wrong-doing within some peace keeping forces, it will be important that all peacekeepers, irrespective of gender, are monitored and held to account for their actions. This is especially important for the establishment of trust within local communities particularly amongst women and girls.

The establishment of gender mainstreamed programmes across all peacekeeping forces will help in ensuring an appropriate response in post conflict arenas.

### **Where Soroptimist International Stands**

Soroptimist International supports the UN in promoting the inclusion of women into the peacekeeping forces of Member States.

Soroptimist International believes that the inclusion of women as peacekeepers will help to reduce conflict and confrontation in local settings as well as providing a greater sense of security to women and children as they rebuild their lives.

Women peacekeepers are able to promote and protect the human rights of women and children in communities so that a sustainable gender equal community can be regenerated following any form of conflict.

Soroptimist International will advocate for inclusion of women in peacekeeping forces and will lobby Member States to increase the numbers of women recruited to all peacekeeping forces whether police, military, or civilian.

**Soroptimist International supports the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through its Federations, Unions, Regions, Clubs, by working on the ground with partner organisations and UN agencies to Educate, Empower and Enable women and girls everywhere.**