

Women, Peace, and Security Act

Prepared by the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (CSWG)

The **Women, Peace, and Security Act** (WPS Act) has been re-introduced in the Senate to promote women's meaningful inclusion and participation in mediation and negotiation processes in order to prevent, mitigate, or resolve violent conflict. This bill will enable Congress to exercise oversight over full implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security that was enacted by executive order in December 2011.

What is the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security?

The U.S. NAP on Women, Peace, and Security represents a government-wide effort to institutionalize, amplify, and coordinate initiatives aimed at strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding and conflict prevention processes; protecting women and girls from gender-based violence; and ensuring women and girls have equitable access to humanitarian assistance before, during, and after crises and disasters as guided by [UN SCR 1325](#).

What would the WPS Act of 2013 do?

If enacted, the WPS Act of 2013 would:

- Require the Secretary of State to work with counterparts at the Department of Defense and USAID to provide Congress with an annual report on how U.S. taxpayer dollars are being spent to actively recruit and retain women in leadership roles and promote women's inclusion and participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and peacebuilding processes;
- Encourage the U.S. to identify and assist women mediators and negotiators by eliminating barriers to their equal and secure participation in peace processes as well as to support partner governments that demonstrate a commitment to recruiting and retaining women in leadership roles;
- Institute comprehensive training modules on the protection, rights, and specific needs of women in conflict; and on the prevention of violence against women and girls for all relevant diplomatic, defense, and development personnel; and
- Require the head of each relevant agency of the U.S. Government to identify common indicators to evaluate the impact of U.S. foreign assistance on women's meaningful inclusion and participation and revise approaches to ensure improved outcomes.

Why is the WPS Act a necessity?

The U.S. is currently advocating for an end to active conflicts in places like Syria and Afghanistan. In recent history, peace agreements have fallen apart at a startling rate, returning societies to war before they've wholly recovered from strife. Research and experience are increasingly pointing to one major explanation: the failure to include a broad range of stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Robust implementation of the U.S. NAP is a means to ensuring sustainable peace and lasting stability in the aftermath of violent conflict, and preventing violent conflict in unstable areas or those prone to natural disasters. Passing the WPS Act will capacitate Congress to hold the Administration accountable for implementation of the policy and coordinate the funding that has already been employed to resource it.

Women, Peace, and Security Act Supporting Organizations

- 4Girls Global Leadership
- Amnesty International USA
- Andi Leadership Institute for Young Women (ALI)
- CARE USA
- Creative Associates International
- Equality Now
- Futures Without Violence
- Foreign Policy Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security
- Global Gender Program, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
- Inclusive Security
- Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE)
- Institute for Multi-Track Diplomacy
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
- International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Peace X Peace
- Promundo
- Protect the People
- Refugees International
- Stockholm International Peace Research Institute North America (SIPRI North America)
- Strategy for Humanity
- United Nations Association of the National Capital Area
- United Nations Association of the East Bay
- United Nations Association of Northern California
- United Nations Association of the USA
- U.S. Baha'i Office of Public Affairs
- U.S. National Committee of UN Women
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- WomenEnabled, Inc.
- Women for Women International
- Women in International Security (WIIS)
- Women Legislators' Lobby
- Women, Peace & Security Resources
- Women Thrive Worldwide
- Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
- Women's Democracy Network
- Women's Refugee Commission