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## Concept note

# Webinar on women and girls with disabilities in peacebuilding

**Topic: 20 years with UNSCR 1325 and two years with UNSCR 2475 – What difference have it made for women and girls with disabilities?**

**Date and time:** 21 September, at 15-17 CET / 9-11 am EDT

**Place:** Zoom meeting: Zoom

meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86140824633?pwd=RUQvRVlwOEIhZTNRUHRtUXRrcWQrUT09>

### Abstract

MyRight and UN Women invite participants to reflect on the intersection between disability rights, gender and inclusive peace and political processes.

Women and girls with disabilities have traditionally been excluded from the peace and security agenda through the various United Nations (UN) resolutions and related policy documents and implementation frameworks, such as National Action Plans (NAPs). In the few cases where these frameworks include references to persons with disabilities, the focus is on protection, rehabilitation, and victimisation, rather than on the participation of women with disabilities in conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction or peacebuilding.<sup>1</sup>

Beginning in 2000, a framework for protecting and including women and girls in humanitarian assistance, conflict resolution and peacebuilding was codified in a series of U.N. Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on women, peace and security (WPS). The first of these resolutions to explicitly mention women with disabilities was UNSCR 1894 (2009), emphasizing the participation of women in all phases of the peace process. UNSCR 1894 stresses that conflict has a particularly negative impact on persons who may have specific vulnerabilities, including persons with disabilities. The subsequent UNSCR 1960 (2010) and UNSCR 2106 (2013) recognise the specific needs of persons with disabilities in prevention as well as services provided to victims of sexual violence.<sup>2</sup> However, none of the WPS resolutions include specific references to the meaningful participation of women and girls

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<sup>1</sup> See [Addressing exclusion through intersectionality in rule of law, peace, and security context | Digital library: Publications | UN Women – Headquarters](#)

<sup>2</sup> See [7th-US-CSWG-Policy-Brief-April-7-2017-v4.pdf \(wiisglobal.org\)](#)

with disabilities in conflict resolution and peacebuilding activities.<sup>3</sup> Rather, UNSCR 2475 (2019) on the Protection of Persons with Disabilities in Armed Conflict, is the first framework to recognise the critical contributions of persons with disabilities and their representative organisations to conflict prevention, resolution, reconciliation, reconstruction, peacebuilding and addressing the root causes of conflict. The resolution was adopted after extensive engagement from civil society and disability rights groups, such as, the International Disability Alliance, but also from various UN agencies under the leadership of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and UN Member States.

Rhetorically, the importance of applying an intersectional lens in analysing and responding to complex conflict and crises is increasingly recognised by different stakeholders. However, recent research conducted by, for example UN Women, highlighted an important gap between policy and practice. Planning documents often lack a distinct intersectional approach and programmes and projects rarely include targeted actions to address the specific rights, needs and interests of women and girls with disabilities.<sup>4</sup> Similar conclusions are presented in MyRight’s study ‘Peace for all – Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Peacebuilding’<sup>5</sup>. Nevertheless, MyRight’s study also presents a few case examples of practical and creative ways to engage women with disabilities in peacebuilding activities.



Round table discussion on article 24 of Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Sarajevo

## Objective

Participants in the webinar will hear a few examples from practitioners that support women and girls with disabilities to meaningfully participate in WPS-related initiatives and activities. It strives to provide space for an active dialogue on how to find common ground on different

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<sup>3</sup> See Ortoleva (2012): Who’s missing? Women with disabilities in U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 National Action Plans, *ILSA Journal of International & Comparative Law*, Vol. 18:2.

<sup>4</sup> See [brief-addressing-exclusion-through-intersectionality-in-rule-of-law-peace-security-en.pdf \(unwomen.org\)](#)

<sup>5</sup> See [Peace for all - International Report.pdf \(myright.se\)](#).

methods, priorities and operational approaches, that can help strengthen the role of women and girls with disabilities in peacebuilding. The webinar also provides an opportunity to identify steps to promote active operational collaboration, shared learning and innovation across the fields of disability rights, gender and peacebuilding. Particular focus will be placed on hearing the experiences and perspectives directly from women with disabilities. It will also include individuals working to advance and implement the above-mentioned policy processes. Building on the examples and recommendations shared by practitioners, the organisers will identify action points for different stakeholder groups to advance operational collaboration after the webinar.

## **Speakers**

In the webinar you will hear from a combination of policy makers, academia and civil society organisations, including directly from women with disabilities who are leading peace and security initiatives in the field. Please see the attached programme and presentation of speakers for further details.

## **About the organisers**

### **MyRight**

[MyRight](#) – *Empowers people with disabilities* is the Swedish disability movement's organisation for international development cooperation. It works to ensure that persons with disabilities around the world gain greater access to their rights.

MyRight has received project funding from the Folke Bernadotte Academy since 2019 with focus on inclusion of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding (for further details, see: [Peace for all - International Report.pdf \(myright.se\)](#)). It currently implements the third project period focusing on "Building capacity for inclusion of persons with disabilities in peacebuilding". The project includes a series of seminars and workshops, including this webinar on women and girls with disabilities in peacebuilding.

### **UN Women**

UN Women is the [United Nations](#) entity dedicated to gender equality and the empowerment of women. A global champion for women and girls, UN Women was established to accelerate progress on meeting their needs worldwide.

UN Women supports UN Member States as they set global standards for achieving gender equality, and works with governments and civil society to design laws, policies, programmes and services needed to ensure that the standards are effectively implemented and truly benefit women and girls worldwide. It works globally to make the vision of the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) a reality for women and girls and stands behind women's equal participation in all aspects of life, focusing on four strategic priorities:

- Women [lead, participate in and benefit equally](#) from governance systems
- Women have [income security, decent work and economic autonomy](#)
- All women and girls live a life free [from all forms of violence](#)

- Women and girls contribute to and have greater influence in [building sustainable peace and resilience](#), and benefit equally from the prevention of natural disasters and conflicts and [humanitarian action](#)

UN Women coordinates and promotes the UN system's work in advancing disability inclusive COVID-19 response along with promoting its work on intersectionality, and in all deliberations linked to the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Principle of the 2030 Agenda. The entity works to position gender equality as fundamental to the Sustainable Development Goals, and [a more disability inclusive world with a focus on women and girls with disabilities](#).