



SPECIAL MEETING ON DISARMAMENT AND WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

**WOMEN, PEACE AND
SECURITY ADVISORY
GROUP**

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2. Opening session

Opening Remarks

Sébastien Carrière (Non-Proliferation, Disarmament and Space Issues, IGN, Global Affairs Canada)

In his opening remarks Sébastien Carrière noted that disarmament diplomacy can be slow moving and often a conservative space. Canada has played a leadership role in bringing gender issues to the forefront of agenda. Examples of Canadian initiatives include:

- Canada is a champion of Action Item 36 of the United Nations Secretary-General's Implementation Plan for the Agenda for Disarmament on the full and equal participation of women in decision-making processes.
- Canada co-chairs, along with Ireland, Namibia, the Philippines, and the Director of the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the Geneva-based International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group which advocates for gender equality across the range of Geneva-based disarmament organizations, treaties and conventions
- In the UN First Committee on Disarmament and International Security, Canada has worked to include systematic gender analysis and to improve gender considerations/language. And there has been progress. Of all resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN First Committee in 2019 28% contain new or enhanced gender language.
- Canada has also promoted gender equality issues in the Weapons Threat Reduction Program.
- Canada has supported the World Institute for Nuclear Security, which assists women's career progression.

Panel discussion

Ambassador Jacqueline O'Neill | Ambassador for Women, Peace and Security moderated the discussion. She noted that the 2020 United Nations Secretary-General's report on WPS found that only 30% of WPS National Action Plans (NAPs) include disarmament. The Ambassador also noted the CNAP does not include disarmament issues. In introducing the discussion, she asked: what does a feminist approach to disarmament look like?

Ray Acheson | Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) outlined that a gender perspective is important, but also having a feminist approach is very valuable. Acheson noted key insights regarding gender norms in the militarized world. Acheson believes that without gender analysis, we forget the dominant sense of

masculinity (binaries/patriarchal system). The normative understandings of these concepts around strength and power need to be challenged. WILPF PeaceWomen's program did a recent analysis on 20 years of WPS. Militarism continues to be a persistent issue for WPS, however, de-militarization is absent from many WPS implementation discussions. Her recommendations included:

- Feminist governments should support the Treaty for the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- Do not invest in militarism (including purchasing new fighter jets or selling weapons to governments with poor human rights records).
- Do not use the COVID-19 pandemic to justify jobs in armaments.
- Prohibit autonomous weapons systems.

Acheson noted that Canada does promote advanced language around women and gender in different spaces, for example the UNGA First Committee. This is positive. However, a consistent approach is required across all policies.

Acheson stated that a feminist policy isn't feminist just because it addresses gender issues and women. She believes it is feminist if it advances peace and the marginalized.

Resources: *Reports on feminist perspectives on autonomous weapon systems, and resources on gender, feminist perspectives, and disarmament.*

Renata Hessmann Dalaqua | United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) discussed the benefits of gender analysis in disarmament. It puts people at the centre of the discussion and leads to more effective implementation of WPS. For example, a gendered lens increases the likelihood of appropriate access to healthcare and aid after armed attacks. It allows for people to attend to and support all survivors. "Humanitarian disarmament" can be considered a building block for feminist disarmament. Key points in her remarks included:

- Feminist Foreign Policy is important and can be complemented by feminist domestic policies.
- Youth and gender expertise is lacking in disarmament advocacy.
- Women are invisible in many data sets, as is the LGBTQ+ community. It is important to support and fund mechanisms that collect gender-disaggregated data.
- Try to go beyond what is traditionally considered security and include gender-based violence in your analysis.

- Women diplomats are under-represented in disarmament discussions. Strategies are required to facilitate women's leadership. Currently only 20% of delegations are led by women.
- Disarmament experts have difficulty connecting with the WPS agenda and it is perceived as only being relevant in conflict situations.

Resources: *"Still behind the curve: gender balance in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament"* and *"Connecting the Dots: Arms Control, Disarmament and the WPS Agenda"*

Natalia Morales Campillo | Colombian Campaign to Ban Landmines (CCBL)

discussed how de-mining supports rights of people and a lack of feminist approach limits the guarantee of those rights. In Colombia, it is important that intersectional discrimination be abolished within humanitarian de-mining. Although a peace agreement was negotiated in 2016, only one armed group signed on. Other armed groups are still using landmines/arms. Humanitarian de-mining is one of the only parts of the treaty actually implemented.

Women have been principal actors in the fight for peace. A gender perspective highlights intersectional considerations and impacts, and taught us that disarmament can advance feminist policies and prevent Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as well as peace and security. It ensures stronger equality and protections for Indigenous communities. Also including people from LGBTQ+ community and women in decision-making can transform social realities. COVID-19 opened a space to sensitize de-mining teams to community work and the prevention of GBV. Some recommendations/actions to take:

- A lot of what Canada has been doing has been good and this should be continued.
- On the topic of feminism and women's participation: the creation of a Fellows program is great as it gives space for women to be involved, and gain knowledge in fora on disarmament.
- Support initiatives and projects that seek to promote gender approaches with intersectionality and transformative ways.
- Work to promote collaboration with other countries that work on gender and disarmament.
- Continue to promote transformative initiatives that promote gender equality and counter GBV.
- Recognize women as subjects of multiple intersectionalities for example; Indigenous, LGBTQ+, racialized, trans* women.
- Statistics are important but action is needed.

3. Discussion Groups

Following the panel discussion, participants broke into groups to discuss the WPS dimensions of specific disarmament issues and areas of work.

Group 1: Conventional weapons, mines and explosive weapons, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

The group discussed the links between pillars of the WPS agenda and conventional weapons. There tends to be a lack of communication between disarmament and WPS practitioners resulting in these links not being seen or understood. Representatives from civil society noted that one takeaway from the WPS agenda is the importance of increased participation by grassroots organizations. This includes increased participation of victims of armed violence and organizations in the disarmament field. These voices could positively shape the dialogue and help better understand the differentiated impact of conventional weapons on women and girls.

Civil society representatives noted several issues and concerns:

- The low levels of participation by women in disarmament discussions (especially women affected by the use of convention weapons in conflict).
- High global rates of forced displacement also include high rates of GBV.
- There could be greater coherence between the promotion of women's rights and victim assistance work. More could be done to increase the deployment of women in mine action, for example, and clearing remnants of war should be included as necessary components of peace operations.
- Some noted a concern regarding Canada's military expenditures (including warships and fighter jets) and argued that this was inconsistent with WPS goals.
- The environmental impact of military weapons and equipment should also be addressed, as militaries are one of the major contributor to global emissions and climate change.

The group also considered gendered impacts of weapons that have a widespread impact (explosive weapons in populated areas or EWIPA). In some environments such as hospitals or schools the majority of the people present are mostly women and children present.

Government representatives noted that they are increasingly seeing WPS issues included in policies and programming. Each initiative must undergo GBA+. Prior to roll out, there must be a strong gender component. In funding applications, GAC is specifically asking for the inclusion of gender outcomes.

The Fifth Conference of State Parties for the ATT (CSP5) in 2019 led by the Latvian Presidency focused on the particular theme of GBV and how it intersects with ATT. As a part of the ATT implementation, exports have to be assessed against new criteria on GBV and violence against women and children before they are authorized. Canada has adopted this into its export control system; the denial of an application requires a legal

decision by Global Affairs Canada. There are conversations starting on the links between WPS and ATT and they have only increased recently.

One conclusion: There is the opportunity for CSOs and the government to collaborate on the implementation of the UN Agenda for Disarmament. The dialogue from the meetings and exchanges between CSOs and government representatives needs to be continued.

Group 2: Conventional Weapons: Lethal Autonomous Weapons Systems

The group discussed the importance of including a feminist lens/analysis of autonomous weapons systems at all stages (development, use, impact, etc.). The group explored the questions of who is affected and how. This included both operators and victims of autonomous weapons.

Civil society representatives expressed concerns over the gendered impacts of lethal autonomous weapons at all stages. It is known that there are gendered impacts with all types of weapons. For example, they can contribute to GBV and ‘militarized masculinity.’ Advancing a treaty banning autonomous weapons would support both feminist foreign policy and human security agendas.

The Canadian government is looking for avenues to advance the issue at international forums. Government representative noted the Minister’s mandate letter included “Advance international efforts to ban the development and use of fully autonomous weapons systems.” They are working on building an internal agreed understanding of the term autonomous weapons, as there is currently no international consensus. There is collaboration between GAC and DND to establish what should be developed, what should never be used, and what to ban internationally. They noted that the government has the responsibility to take a position that does not jeopardize national security.

CSO representatives noted the importance of maintaining human “control” – instead of robots or automated machinery – over the use of force and the importance of bringing a feminist lens to this topic. CSOs argued that a government that followed a feminist model would push for a non-violence and advocate for prohibition of autonomous weapons.

The group also asked: what does a feminist lens add to the analysis of what it means to maintain human control? This is from the creation of the weapons to the users of the system. Who are the researchers in the first place? Who is testing it? Who is it being tested upon? The goal is to apply a feminist lens from the get-go in a life-cycle approach. This would mean applying a gender analysis at all stages of the process from research to testing to usage and consequences. The question is who is impacted and how.

Resource: Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy (2020). *Smash the Patriarchy: The Feminist Case Against Killer Robots.*

Group 3: Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR)

This group considered the gender dimensions of DDR initiatives. These programs aim to disarm fighting forces and reintegrate their members into society. The group noted how armed groups have been more effective in mobilizing and engaging women than DDR initiatives. They noted the need for the whole system to be turned upside down. The roles of men and women as combatants and noncombatants needs to be considered. Greater emphasis on peace education is needed.

Civil society representatives noted the importance of participation and including a gender component in every DDR initiative. They also noted the importance of looking at the humanitarian side of armed conflicts and the importance of legal structures to address the violence and provide care and justice for victims.

Civil society representatives also noted the gender roles that apply in disarmament. There is a tendency for women to be excluded from peace negotiations and DDR programming due to the fact that the majority of women are non-combatants.

Government representatives noted the involvement of women and girls as combatants. For example, 49% of child soldiers are girls. Terrorist groups are recruiting and integrating women into their systems. It was pointed out that armed groups have been better at integrating women and understanding gender appeals than many alternative initiatives.

The group discussed how a feminist perspective could challenge the status quo. Some argued that there is a need to transform structures, including creating more institutions that focus on building peace. Issues related to WPS should be assigned to departments that have both the budget and the staff to effectively work on these issues. The inclusion of education in the transformation process is important and could show youth that peace can be the way to solve issues in a world.

Not all DDR initiatives have failed to look at gender issues. In some processes, women combatants and non-combatants have had given leadership roles. Yet, it was also pointed out that in some initiatives, women are disappointed by the reintegration process that perpetuates traditional gender norms. For example, offering women training in hair styling or sewing.

There was a brief discussion of WPS dimensions in counterterrorism approaches. Despite the diverse roles played by women, there is often a preconception that women are victims or simply passive actors. CSO representatives noted that one weakness of some DDR initiatives is their failure to reach women in remote spaces. Terrorist and armed groups are putting in the effort to reach these spaces. Having community-based solutions and both formal and informal education are important. For example, in the work on DDR in Haiti has been seen as a man's issue. There is a risk that existing gender norms are being reinforced through how programs are structured and the options they offer to women and men. Nontraditional options for women should be included.

The group asked what areas and/or key elements in a feminist foreign policy have potential in this area of work? What are some concrete actions that Canada could take? From a GAC standpoint, in the context of humanitarian development, peace nexus and silos, they are looking into how to address problems and not blindly apply tools already at the government's disposal. How can support be given to revolutionary women? How can women be put at the core of the structures?

Civil society representatives noted there is a need to challenge the basic assumptions around armed conflict. Some argued for more investments in a peace architecture, including peace education. This could play an important role in rethinking DDR initiatives.

Group 4: Nuclear Weapons, Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW)

This session explored the WPS dimensions in this area of work and how Canada and other countries have advanced the WPS agenda in the area of nuclear weapons and nuclear disarmament. It also addressed how Canada's feminist foreign policy could address this area of work.

The session started with an explanation of how the TPNW is a feminist treaty, acknowledging the gendered impacts of nuclear weapons on women's bodies, women's participation in negotiations, and the way in which it was negotiated in the first place (taking survivor's perspectives despite nuclear-armed states' opposition). The TPNW is a landmark agreement that raised immense awareness about the issue of nuclear weapons. It was pointed out that nuclear weapons are a tool of coercive, patriarchal power and that mainstream discussions have a tendency of using strategic language and techniques that minimize their impact. It was also noted that nuclear weapons undermine the WPS agenda and disarmament initiatives. Some participants affirmed that NATO members are taking a backseat to this groundbreaking treaty while countries around the world sign. They argued that this does not make much sense and that nuclear weapons do not make us safer.

The question was asked: what can Canada, a more 'progressive' NATO member, do to ratify the TPNW or take meaningful steps towards disarmament. There was discussion on why a feminist government would join the TPNW. Some group members argued that because of the patriarchal nature of nuclear weapons, in their usage and policies (deterrence) used to justify billions of dollars of expenditure, it is incompatible with a feminist foreign policy. International cooperation, multilateralism, intersectionality are all at odds with the use and justification of nuclear weapons. Some CSO representatives noted that they believed that Canada could both sign onto the Nuclear Ban Treaty and remain in NATO.

Resources: *De Jonge Oudraat, Chantal, Kayla McGill, and Zi Xue (2020). The WIIS Gender Scorecard: Think Tanks and Journals – Spotlight on the Nuclear Security Community. Women in International Security Policy Brief.*

Group 5: Chemical and biological disarmament, non-proliferation

Biological and chemical weapons was the primary focus of this group. It was noted that there are large knowledge gaps and differing biological and social impacts based on gender. The pandemic demonstrated disproportionate impacts on women with an increased burden in care sectors. Some group members noted that military preparedness alone is not enough to deal with threats such as this.

This session started with a government representative highlighting the strides that have been made: first, at least three 'women in chemistry symposiums' have been held by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW); second, there is gender parity at the management level at the OPCW; and finally, the weapons threat reduction program includes gender considerations. That being said, the session highlighted that women are still under-represented in the 'science, technology, engineering, math' (STEM) fields. Although there is gender parity at the management level of the OPCW, it does not exist at the working level.

The question was raised about gender equality occurred more in the nuclear policy arena, rather than in the chemical and biological weapons field. UNIDIR has published a study that looked at this exact issue. The study shows that there is not much data available for biological weapons, as the cohorts of testing from wartime are very limited. Furthermore, the study identified that the OPCW's two Fact-Finding Mission reports did not include many interviews with women, though most reported victims were indeed women. UNIDIR has published a fact sheet on the gender dimensions of chemical weapons.

Participants also discussed concrete actions Canada would take to address chemical and biological weapons with the context of a feminist foreign policy. Participants noted that more sex-disaggregated data is required and many more women in STEM are needed. Others added that data was required to specifically ascertain the effect of these weapons on reproductive health. It was also noted that the effect of chemical and biological weapons vary based on sex and age and there is not enough information about this, or what kind of gender roles in society might lead to high exposure. For example, during the Ebola pandemic, in many places burial practices were women's work. This meant they were exposed to high levels of harmful biological materials. A final concrete action would be to work on scientific capacity-building where women play a larger role, as biological and chemical weapons are dual-use.

Group 6: Programming links between disarmament initiatives and WPS

For this session, the goal was to identify the key issues linking the WPS agenda and disarmament. Participants pointed out that the WPS agenda is commonly perceived as applying only to women in conflict. They noted that there is a need to carve out paths for engagement by people who are not traditionally a part of disarmament talks that can be accomplished through Canada's feminist foreign policy. The session highlighted that though the issue of disarmament is often perceived as technical and without space for

gender discussions, this is not the case and there are many different elements of disarmament that relate to gender equality. Participants agreed that military, political, and legal systems are patriarchal and that having more viewpoints at the table means that conflicts might not have to escalate because a more holistic perspective is being considered and evaluated. There was also agreement that there were strong 'gatekeeper' mechanisms in place that excluded many people from participating in disarmament discussions.

In order to have more diverse viewpoints at the table, the group explored how people must be given both the opportunities to join these discussion and the tools to participate meaningfully. To that end, participants recognized that there is often opposition to setting quotas (within delegations, etc.), but also noted that quotas can be effective; they help get a diverse array of people to the table.

The group raised additional questions, such as how Canada can ensure that diverse people are actively participating and being heard in disarmament discussions, how the WPS agenda interacts with soft and hard power tools, and how to adopt a bottom-up approach to ensure that Canada's feminist foreign policy works for people affected by it.

4. Closing session

Participants shared highlights from their group discussions. There was a general consensus that the time had been short. For many, there was interest in continuing the dialogue. CSO representatives stressed the importance of a coherent Canadian approach to disarmament issues in general, as well as stronger attention to WPS goals and insights across disarmament discussion.

To end the session, the three CNAP champions provided closing remarks. Gwyn Kutz, Director General for the Peace and Stabilization Operations Program is the GAC champion. Chief Superintendent Levy is the champion for the Royal Canadian Mounted Policy (RCMP). Josée Robidoux, Chief of Staff and Director Gender Equality and Intersectional Analysis, is the champion for the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF).

Panelists noted:

- The GBA+ agenda is relevant in the topic of disarmament. WPS issues need to be part of planning at all levels.
- Outsider perspectives can challenge the status quo and can be useful in revising tools. We need to address the issue of 'gatekeepers' and ensure that the right people are around the table when disarmament issues are being discussed.
- Systems need to be flipped on their heads and Ministries of Peace vs Ministries of War need to be considered.
- There are lessons that can be taken from armed groups and violence extremists. We need to consider the way they integrate and utilize women.
- Education, including peace education, is key.

- Weapons have a huge impact on populations. We also have to consider the impacts on those who deploy these weapons (including psychological impacts).
- Involvement of people at the grassroots is important. Community approaches are essential.
- There needs to be more women in policing, particularly in high level positions.

5. Final Comment

The organizers of the meeting are grateful to our panelists and speakers, as well as those who lead small group discussions. We also appreciate all the participants who entered into these discussions with a shared commitment to learn and advance these discussions. We thank our note-takers for capturing the important discussions.

ANNEX – Annotated Bibliography of WPS/Disarmament Resources

This literature review was prepared by Somed Shahadu, a doctoral student at the University of Ottawa. The WPSN-C is very grateful for his work and contribution.

Disarmament (including DDR)

Denov, R. (2016). Girl soldiers and the complexities of demobilization and reintegration. In Handbook on Gender and War (pp. 550–571). Edward Elgar Publishing (29 July 2016). <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781849808927.00040>

This is a book chapter which has information about girl soldiers and their gendered experiences, with a particular emphasis on the post-conflict periods of demobilization and reintegration. It analyses terminologies and definitions used to represent children involved in armed conflicts in a global context as well as a historical overview of the problem. Some specific issues former girl soldiers face in the post-conflict period, especially in the context of post-war demobilization and reintegration have been discussed in detail with a reflection on the experiences of nine former girl soldiers from Colombia, and eight former girl soldiers from Sierra Leone. These participants, interviewed in 2010 and 2011 by Denov, were part of a larger study to explore the long-term reintegration of former girl soldiers. The importance of taking a gendered approach in the study of war and child soldiery is also discussed, as well as a gendered approach to facilitates an understanding of girls' experiences that go beyond the traditional dichotomies of 'victim versus perpetrator of violence'. The author contends that girls' options, roles, power relations, both during conflict and following demobilization, are deeply embedded within broader gendered power structures and identities.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

Durriesmith, H. (2019). The masculine logic of DDR and SSR in the Rwanda Defence Force. Security Dialogue, 50(4), 361–379 (.June 24, 2019) <https://doi.org/10.1177/0967010619850346>

This article engages critical studies on men and masculinities as well as feminist work on peacebuilding to examine the Rwandan government's disarmament, demobilization and reintegration/security sector reform (DDR/SSR) program that culminated in the consolidation of armed groups into a new, professionalized Rwanda Defence Force. The author argues that the ideals of militarized masculinities underpinned Rwanda's locally owned DDR/SSR program despite the explicit inclusion of gender perspectives in the policy. The article concludes

by challenging the assumption that including a gender perspective in DDR/SSR programs will automatically lead to a more gender-equitable distribution of power within a new national defence force or will facilitate the demilitarization of the post-rupture society, pointing out that Rwanda's DDR/SSR program is governed by an oppressive masculine. Not much attention is being paid to the issue of how gendered relations of power play out through gender-sensitive DDR and SSR initiatives that seek to integrate women and transform hyper-masculine militarized masculinities.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

Engaging Women in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: INSIGHTS FOR COLOMBIA (March 31, 2015): [https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Policy Recommendations Colombia DDR.pdf](https://www.inclusivesecurity.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Policy_Recommendations_Colombia_DDR.pdf)

This paper contains recommendations on how to design an inclusive program for the reintegration of former FARC combatants in Colombia, a country which has incorporated gender perspectives and women's inclusion to varying degrees in DDR processes for multiple armed groups. Starting in 2003, the government implemented a reintegration policy based on more expansive second-generation DDR processes, which focus on both combatants and the larger communities affected by armed violence. Yet, as is common around the world, significantly fewer eligible females than males participate in these programs. The paper concludes that lessons and insights from the Colombian context have potential to maximize chances for a successful transition.

OPEN ACCESS ONLINE

Theidon, K. (2009). *Reconstructing Masculinities: The Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Former Combatants in Colombia* (February 2009). *Human Rights Quarterly*, 31(1), 1–34. <https://doi.org/10.1353/hrq.0.0053>

This paper is a literature review on the gender dimensions of DDR processes, exploring its many different topics such as discussions of the definition of combatants, the political economy of DDR processes, group identity, cultural contexts, and masculinity. It focuses on the period since the turn of the millennium. It explores the different thematic approaches of the literature, reflecting on the view of gender underlying the discourse within each category and on the practical consequences of this for female and male ex-combatants. The literature on armed conflict and gender has a tendency to victimize women and to dehumanize men, thereby neglecting women as important actors and referring to men mainly as perpetrators of violence and architects of atrocities. The article follows the recent trend in the DDR literature by including discussions on a broader themes such as the definition of combatants, female empowerment,

the political economy of DDR processes (including education), gender and group identity, DDR and masculinity, and child soldiers and gender.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

Myrttinen, Henri. 2020. Connecting the Dots: Arms Control, Disarmament and the Women Peace and Security Agenda. Geneva, Switzerland: United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (21/10/2020). <https://doi.org/10.37559/GEN/20/01>

This report proposes a gender-responsive arms control and disarmament measures that is consistent with the four pillars of WPS, namely, participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery. It advocates the need to extend the reach and impact of the WPS agenda, and further collaboration between different parts of the multilateral system, most especially in the fields of disarmament, peace and security, gender equality, development, and human rights. The report also interrogates the normative and practical overlaps and connections of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda with the field of arms control and disarmament, with the conclusion that, 'connecting the dots' between these policy areas can bring benefits for both fields: the WPS pillars can structure gender-responsive arms control measures which, in its turn, can operationalize the WPS agenda.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

Ollek, M. O. (2008). Forgotten females: Women and girls in post-conflict disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programs (Order No. MR48347). Available from GenderWatch; ProQuest Dissertations & Theses Global. (304380597). (August 2007) Retrieved from <https://search-proquest-com.proxy.bib.uottawa.ca/docview/304380597?accountid=14701>

This 142-page document is a 2007 masters' thesis by Maya Oza Ollek at McGill University, Montreal. It examines issues such as the influence of DDR frameworks in peace agreements, eligibility requirements, institutional responsibility for DDR programs, the implementation process of DDR programs, most notably the continuing failure of DDR programs to include female ex-combatants. It finds that gender-aware peace agreements contribute to the development of gender-sensitive DDR programs. The thesis argues that the limited participation of women and girls in DDR programs must be understood through a two-pronged approach that considers both the institutional responsibility for DDR and from the perspective of participants themselves, including commanders and female combatants associated with armed groups.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

UNDP. How to Guide: Gender-Responsive Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (Sep 25, 2018)

https://www.europe.undp.org/content/geneva/en/home/library/democratic_governance/How-to-Guide-Gender-Responsive-DDR.html

This document provides a practical guidance for DDR practitioners to better address key gender issues to increase the effectiveness and sustainability of DDR programs. It outlines step-by-step instructions on how to practically translate gender considerations into DDR programming. Its design complements the gender-specific guidance included in the United Nations Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS). The document's authors aim to increase the ability of DDR practitioners' to be able to take into consideration the different needs and capacities of female and male ex-combatants, supporters of armed forces and groups and their dependents. This guide, together with UNDP's 8 Point Agenda on strengthening gender responsiveness in conflict prevention and recovery and the UNDP/BCPR's Gender and DDR Strategy, constitutes a coordinated approach to supporting the implementation of international mandates relating to gender equality in a crisis prevention and recovery setting.

OPEN ACCESS

UNIDIR Gender Perspectives in Arms Control and Disarmament: Views from Africa (undated) <https://www.unidir.org/publication/gender-perspectives-arms-control-and-disarmament-views-africa>

This paper evaluates the multi-dimensional roles women can play in international security: as victims, perpetrators, members of the armed forces, combatants, peace activists, agents of security, policymakers, arms controllers, etc. The connection between gender and weapons use have been explored in detail, with a spotlight on the importance of dismantling socially constructed gender norms, identities and inequalities in SALW control. There has also been a thorough exploration of the possibility of sex- and gender-specific effects of chemical and biological weapons. The authors therefore propose a gender-responsive approach to assistance in order to help States and their populations to recover and adapt more rapidly from chemical or biological incidents.

OPEN ACCESS

UNIDIR Gender & Disarmament Resource Pack (January 2020)

<https://www.unidir.org/publication/gender-disarmament-resource-pack>

This document is a four-part Gender and Disarmament Resource Pack developed by the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group. It contains information on the relevance of gender perspectives to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as practical ideas that can support diplomats to apply gender lens to their work. The first part enumerates key concepts and popular approaches for integrating gender perspectives into arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament. The second part sheds light on the various ways through which gender perspectives have been integrated into relevant arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament agreements and United Nations General Assembly resolutions. Part three proposes practical guidance on how to make multilateral meetings more inclusive and gender-responsive, while part four presents a list of statements, working papers and studies addressing gender perspectives in arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament.

OPEN ACCESS

UNODA. Gender Perspectives on DISARMAMENT, DEMOBILIZATION AND REINTEGRATION (DDR) – (March 2001): <https://unoda-web.s3-accelerate.amazonaws.com/wp-content/uploads/assets/HomePage/gender/docs/note4.pdf>

Activities designed to facilitate disbanding military fighters and easing their transition back into society commonly involve disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR). These three issues constitute the topmost priorities after the cease of hostilities, as they are important and most crucial steps to help former combatants reintegrate and settle into peacetime occupations. This paper explores the effectiveness of specific DDR activities such as the turning in of weapons and weapons caches, the physical relocation of ex-combatants, distribution of benefits packages for ex-combatants, training and other programs that are geared towards assisting the reintegration of combatants into their communities.

OPEN ACCESS ONLINE

General Section

Åhäll, L. (2016). On the imagination of “Woman” as killer in war. In Handbook on Gender and War (pp. 47–65). Edward Elgar Publishing (29 July 2016). <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781849808927.00010>

This article explores the increased visibility of women’s agency in warfare through the imagination of ‘Woman’ as killer in war. This framing builds on the tendency by feminist academics and activists to emphasize women’s agency in

peacebuilding and resistance to war, violence and militarization. The paper frames and *analyses gender as a discursive power relation and as a way of thinking about how bodies matter, rather than a fixed binary identity. While the concept of agency is commonly understood as a capacity to act, this paper contextualizes how subjects are positioned within discursive structures such as sentences, images, or scenes.* The difference here is the fact that an individual can have multiple subject positions, while several physical individuals can constitute a single subject. The author argue that women's bodies are culturally imagined verbally, visually, and emotionally, in the context of war and violence.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

AUTONOMOUS WEAPONS AND GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (October 2020)

<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/aws-and-gbv.pdf>

This paper explains how gender-based violence (GBV) relates to the militarized masculinities and mission of the patriarchy. It connects the linkages between the possession and use of weapons and the commission of acts of GBV by unpacking the relationship between these weapons and the broader culture of impunity inherent in gendered violence. "Recognising the inherent ability of autonomous weapon systems to facilitate GBV is important to understanding both the technical potential of these weapons as well as their potential to exacerbate the broader culture of sexual violence and the impunity afforded to perpetrators of such violence. As they expand the possibilities of increasingly remote warfare and policing, autonomous weapons also threaten to reinforce the culture of militarized masculinities and the associated subordination of women and LGBTQ+ people, as well as people who have been racialized, those with disabilities, people of certain religions, etc. Preventing this is crucial to creating the possibility of a less violent, more equitable future." Pg.15

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The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict. Edited by Fionnuala Ní Aoláin, Naomi Cahn, Dina Francesca Haynes, and Nahla Valji.(December 2017)

<https://www.oxfordhandbooks.com/view/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199300983.001.0001/oxfordhb-9780199300983>

This paper is an introductory chapter of The Oxford Handbook of Gender and Conflict. It examines critiques of feminist theory, as well as the roles of equality and agency in feminist studies on women and war, the tensions between Western feminism and feminism outside of the West, and the impact of a constructivist analytical lens on feminist scholarship. It depicts how specific violent conflicts influenced feminist thinking in the 1990s and the early 2000s,

tracing a genealogy from genocide in Rwanda and the war in the Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to 9/11 and the War on Terror.

ONLINE LIBRARY SUBSCRIPTION MAY BE REQUIRED

Smashing the Patriarchy: The Feminist Case Against Killer Robots (August 2020)
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57cd7cd9d482e9784e4ccc34/t/5f356f1e5eb59d07e78fb329/1597337376556/Smashing+the+Patriarchy+The+Feminist+Case+Against+Killer+Robots.pdf>

This three-part report employs feminist lens to highlight some of the issues regarding killer robots. The first part examines militarization and masculinity including how ideas about masculinity influence a militarized approach to national security. The second part of the report touches on gender-based violence and the question of accountability focusing on how the framing of ‘combatant’ and ‘civilian’ are blurred within a patriarchal and racist context. The paper highlights the ability for killer robots to commit sexualized violence. Most notably, the report recommends among others, to ban killer robots or at least develop legal mechanisms to prioritize a gender and race lens across all areas of national security analysis, both within research and within policy development.

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Technology is making gestures precise and brutal, and with them men (October 2020). <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/aws-and-patriarchy.pdf>

This paper explores the concepts of patriarchy and of militarized masculinities have been exhaustively discussed to illustrate how they are both relevant for an analysis of autonomous weapon systems. It situates the development of autonomous weapon systems in the broader context of the control of human lives globally through the rise of the digital and physical “panopticon”—a system of surveillance, control, incarceration, and execution that asserts the dominance of the political and economic elite over the rest of the world. The author explains how the operation of weapons programmed to target and kill based on pre-programmed algorithms against people who are racialized, gendered, and otherwise categorized, will result in the violation of human rights and dignity. Overall, the paper argues the importance of confronting autonomous weapons not just as material technologies that need to be prohibited, but as manifestations of the broader policies and structures of violence that perpetuate an increasing abstraction of violence and devaluation of human life.

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The WIIS Gender Scorecard: Think Tanks and Journals Spotlight on the Nuclear Security Community (September 8, 2020) <https://www.wiisglobal.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/19th-WIIS-Policy-Brief-9-10-20-v12.pdf>

This document is a scorecard designed by the Women in International Security (WIIS) as part of an effort to measure the gender disparities in the US foreign policy and security communities. It surveys 22 US foreign policy and international security think tanks to test their sensitivity to contemporary gender issues in the nuclear security community. The survey finds among others that the percentage of women leading think tanks has declined, from 32 percent in 2018 to 19 percent in 2020. Also, there are 162 nuclear experts working in the specialized arms control and nuclear security think tanks and programs and only 49 (30 percent) are women.

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