

29th IFUW CONFERENCE
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The Advocacy Role of CIRs

Presentation on UN Security Council Resolution 1325

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1. What is UN Security Council Resolution 1325?
2. IFUW and CFUW policies on 1325
3. General process of advocacy in CFUW and the CIR's responsibilities in promoting CFUW and IFUW policies
4. How has 1325 been used in CFUW and continues to be used?
5. How do we incorporate 1325 with other policies (inter-connection and effect in other areas)?
6. Adapting 1325 to your own circumstances

WHAT IS THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325?

Security Council Resolution 1325 was passed unanimously on 31 October 2000. (S/RES/1325) is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, on women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

Major Areas of the Resolution:

- Protection of rights of women and girls in conflict and post conflict zones
- Participation of women in Peace processes
- Gender training for Peace Keepers
- Participation of women in peace building
- Importance of gender mainstreaming at the UN
- Increasing representation of women in decision-making (in government in general, and with regard to peace processes and conflict prevention)

IFUW AND CFUW POLICIES REGARDING UN RESOLUTION 1325

Women: Essential to Peace CFUW 2003

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) urge the Government of Canada:

1. To continue to support Canada's implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Women, Peace and Security;
2. To provide sufficient funding to further its work and facilitate regular meetings and consultations towards fully implementing UN Resolution 1325 in Canada, encouraging and assisting implementation in other countries;
3. To provide opportunities in the conflict resolution processes to incorporate women's voices and representation with a view to:
 - a. Preventing armed conflicts
 - b. Facilitating an early end to conflicts
 - c. Assisting humanitarian operations and reconstruction processes
 - d. Protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, particularly rape and other forms of sexual abuse
 - e. Working towards ensuring that at least 50 percent of the participants in the processes are women.

RESOLVED, That CFUW urge the Government of Canada to provide regular reports to the Canadian public on the number of women's groups consulted and represented in official delegations and committees in the government's work on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Women: Essential to Peace IFUW 2004

The 28th IFUW Conference resolves that:

1. National Federations and Associations (NFAs) urge their respective governments to support the implementation of United Nations Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000) and Resolution 1366 on the Role of the Security Council in the prevention of Armed Conflicts, Paragraph 17 (2001);
2. NFAs advocate with their respective governments to provide opportunities in the conflict resolutions processes to incorporate women's voices and representation with a view to:
 - a. preventing conflict;
 - b. facilitating an early end to conflict;
 - c. assisting humanitarian operations and reconstruction processes;
 - d. protecting women and girls from gender-based violence, and

- e. working towards ensuring at least 50 percent of participants in such processes are women; and,
3. IFUW urge the UN Secretary General to provide regular reports on the progress made towards full implementation of Resolution 1325 and Resolution 1366, paragraph 17 that members urge their respective governments to ensure that they follow the implementation strategies recommended by the Secretary General.

Also in 1995 was an IFUW Resolution **Women's Participation in the Peacemaking Process**

That NFAs should promote the participation of women in the peacemaking process and conflict resolution by:

- 1) monitoring the application of domestic legislation in cases of domestic violence and provocation, in particular any differences in the treatment of men and women by the judicial system and making representation to their governments if necessary.
- 2) encouraging and supporting women to specialise in the professional areas of conflict resolution and the politics of peacemaking;
- 3) urging governments to ensure that, especially in countries where hitherto women have been without a political voice because of particular interpretations of religion which have become customary practice, they include women in diplomatic and multilateral missions concerned with peacemaking, conflict resolution, disarmament and in international tribunals and organisations as part of a regular career pattern.

CFUW'S PROCESS IN ADVOCACY

CFUW is a grass roots organization, where the resolutions come from the Clubs and are passed at the CFUW Annual General Meetings to become policy of CFUW, and if appropriate, to be submitted to IFUW as resolutions to become IFUW policy. As such, CFUW has submitted 4 resolutions regarding potential IFUW policy at this Conference.

Once passed, a clear action plan is to be followed by actions:

CFUW National:

- publishes the annual CFUW Brief to Government – CIR, as the Director of and Coordinator for International Relations, assists in this Brief
- CFUW requests and attends meetings with Government Ministers on CFUW and IFUW policies, and takes part in Government Hearings when provided the opportunity – the CIR could be involved in a Hearing if requested.
- CIR communicates with the CFUW Advocacy Directors to formulate further actions
- CIR also assists in writing letters to the Prime Minister and Ministers related to the policy (letters are always under the CFUW President's name)
- CIR attends Regional or Provincial Councils if invited and when financially possible to speak about IFUW work, policies and actions
- CIR assists Clubs in their advocacy when requested
- CIR provides workshops at the CFUW Annual General Meetings to direct actions
- CIR participates in NGO coalitions and/or partnerships on relevant international issues – CFUW has been part of UN Resolution 1325 working groups, consisting of various NGOs and professionals as a means to help educate the public and decide on appropriate public actions
- CFUW works in government organized coalitions and participates in consultations such as the annual Peacebuilding and Human Security Consultations

CIR also:

- represents CFUW at the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York (CFUW has consultative status with ECOSOC) and takes responsibility for communication with other UN agencies such as UNIFEM and UNICEF
- is responsible for international issues for CFUW
- participates in international networks regarding international issues
- attends and participates in conferences, events, and lectures related to peace and other international concerns
- Chairs a CFUW International Relations Committee with representation from CFUW regions across Canada with the purpose of formulating CFUW actions regarding international issues
- Regularly writes about international issues and provides actions in *CFUW Women in Action* and the *CFUW Communicator*. Occasionally, special flyers for CFUW mailings are prepared if other communications are required.
- Shares messages from IFUW regarding the UN and international issues

Provincially or regionally:

- CFUW Provincial or Regional Councils also advocate on CFUW and IFUW policy at their provincial levels of government and assist CFUW nationally in organizing Club actions
- Work with NGOs when appropriate in their areas to participate in actions related to CFUW and IFUW policies

Clubs:

- Advocate as directed by CFUW by writing letters to the federal Members of Parliament in their ridings, and by arranging at least one visit annually with their Members of Parliament
- Submit resolutions to CFUW to have considered for policies
- Educate the Club members as to the issues
- Hold public events to participate in community discussions to raise awareness
- Partner with community groups for community action when appropriate