



PRIO

## Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict

PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update

Issue 2 2014

The PRIO Gender Peace and Security Update is an electronic newsletter launched by PRIO's Gender Research Group in response to growing interest among the public for information about women, peace and security issues. The newsletter will keep readers informed of the latest developments both internationally and in Norway in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) on Women, Peace and Security and subsequent resolutions.



UK Foreign Secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. Photo: Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The [Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#) took place in London on 10–13 June, co-chaired by UK Foreign Secretary William Hague and Angelina Jolie, Special Envoy for the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The summit was an effort to join forces internationally to combat the culture of impunity, take practical steps, support survivors, and change attitudes towards the issue. The summit was the biggest global meeting ever convened on the issue, with the participation of 900 experts, government representatives, NGOs, survivors, faith leaders, and international organisations from more than 100 countries.

on this issue since the British Government launched the [Prevention of Sexual Violence Initiative \(PSVI\)](#) in 2012, followed by a [Declaration of Commitment to Ending Sexual Violence in Conflict](#). The Declaration, which was adopted at the 68th UN General Assembly in 2013, has so far been endorsed by more than 150 countries.

### PRIO Research Informs Debate

At PRIO, researchers have been working on issues of sexual violence in conflict for some time already, teaming up with international experts to perform groundbreaking research and convene large conferences.

Hague and Jolie have worked together

No less than seven [PRIO Policy Briefs](#)

have been published on the issue since 2010. The [Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict \(SVAC\) project](#), funded by the Research Council of Norway and led by Ragnhild Nordås at PRIO, has recently released a dataset which tracks reports of seven forms of sexual violence.

Inger Skjelsbæk, author of the monograph *The Political Psychology of War Rape: Studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina* is an international expert on war rape who has recently included [the study of perpetrators](#) in her work.

Skjelsbæk was also part of the steering committee when The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), the Human Rights Center at the University of California, Berkeley, the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute North America (SIPRI North America) organized The Missing Peace Symposium in Washington, DC, in February 2013. The symposium convened a group of expert scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and military and civil society actors to examine the issue of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings, identify gaps in knowledge and reporting, and explore how to increase the effectiveness of current responses to such violence. A Young Scholars Network was also established at the symposium, and in May 2013 these up-and-coming researchers in the field met anew in Washington to formulate an [open letter](#) to William Hague and Angelina Jolie based on research and policy challenges identified in their research.

In conjunction with the London summit, PRIO researchers have worked to inform debate on the issue in several ways:

- PRIO Senior Researcher Ragnhild Nordås, together with Dara Kay Cohen (Harvard Kennedy School) and Elisabeth Wood (Yale University) published a post in the Washington Post's Monkey Cage blog titled [Four things everyone should](#)

[know about wartime sexual violence](#) (9 June)

- PRIO Senior Researcher and Deputy Director Inger Skjelsbæk published an [op-ed on NRK Ytring](#) about ending rape in war on (11 June, [English version](#) also available).
- PRIO Researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad participated in a panel debate at the Oslo stage of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, hosted by the British Embassy in Oslo and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (11 June).
- PRIO Researchers have provided research based input to Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende and his staff prior to the summit.
- Supporting and nurturing a network of young scholars working on sexual violence in conflict since February 2013, including the formulation of an [open letter](#) addressed to William Hague and Angelina Jolie.



**UK Ambassador Jane Owen and Foreign Minister Børge Brende. Photo: British Embassy Oslo.**

### Event in Oslo

During the course of the Global Summit taking place in London, local events were organized around the world as part of the summit. PRIO Researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad participated in a panel debate in Oslo on 11 June, hosted by the British Embassy in Oslo and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Opening remarks were made by the British Ambassador to Norway, Jane Owen, and the Norwegian Foreign Minister Børge Brende. Apart from Tryggestad, panellists included Bente Angell-Hansen (Secretary General, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Vibeke Risa (Head of Thematic Unit, Field Operations Department, Norwegian Refugee Council), Gro Lindstad (Director, FOKUS – Forum for Women and Development), and Anthony Smith (Director International Relations, UK Department for International Development).

### Criticism: not taking the research into account?

In a recent [blog post](#), Amelia Hoover Green, Assistant Professor at Drexel University, argues that the summit systematically failed to take current research findings into account.

Hoover Green was one of the few researchers invited to the event in London this June. She argues that the summit consistently refused to take into account the complexity of the issue of sexual violence in conflict. Instead, a view that all sexual violence during conflict is used as a “weapon of war” in service of a strategic goal was the guiding sentiment. This, she argues based on her own and her colleagues’ research findings, is a huge simplification and factual mistake. In her blog entry, Hoover Green highlights that these research findings suggest policy solutions radically different from those discussed at the summit. She specifically highlights the internal institutions and practices of military groups as targets for prevention policies, rather than

solely focusing on the punishment of perpetrators.

The summit was also criticized for [lacking inclusion of and interaction with civil society](#) in the discussions, and for the fact that [countries with bad track records](#) in addressing violence against women have been praised for their participation, putting the credibility of the campaign at risk.

#### Further reading:

- [Four things everyone should know about wartime sexual violence](#)
- [The British are Impatient to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- [Ignoring the evidence at the End Sexual Violence in Conflict summit](#)
- [Hopes and fears: Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#)
- [Special Report on Wartime Sexual Violence](#)
- [UK summit on sexualized violence: 'A time warp in the wrong direction'](#)
- [The Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict Dataset](#)
- [Sexual violence in armed conflict: Introducing the SVAC dataset, 1989–2009](#) ■

## Norway develops new 1325 strategy

The Norwegian government has recently initiated the process of developing a new strategy for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, taking up the baton from the previous government's [plan for 2011–2013](#). Many civil society actors in Norway have been awaiting news on how the new government will proceed with its implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

The Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) is coordinating the work on the new strategy. On 2 June the MFA invited interested civil society

organizations and representatives from research institutions to an open meeting with Foreign Minister Børge Brende. The minister outlined how the work on the strategy will proceed, and the five pillars around which it will be formed:

1. Peace mediation/peace processes
2. International operations
3. Peacebuilding
4. Humanitarian assistance
5. Sexual violence in conflict

Brende emphasised that the government would like to develop a strategy that maintains the normative work at the policy level, while at the same time strengthening efforts at implementation on the ground and in specific countries. The current government wants to pay particular attention to how to improve the integration of women and women's concerns in peace efforts and conflict management initiatives in both local and regional conflicts. Civil society representatives and researchers were invited to this meeting for an open dialogue and to contribute comments and inputs to the strategy process.

#### New MFA coordinator on 1325

Bjørg Skotnes has been appointed the new coordinator for Women, Peace and Security in the Norwegian MFA, succeeding Mariann Murvoll. Skotnes has a background from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad). High on her current agenda is the coordination of the work on the above-mentioned 1325 strategy. ■

## Women at the peace table: Seminar with Carol Cohn

[Why is it so hard to get women to the peace table? And why is that not even the right question?](#) This was the title of

a seminar organized by the Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF) on 11 April with Carol Cohn, Director of the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, and professor at the University of Massachusetts.

Peace processes have gained increasing attention and criticism for excluding women, youth, civil society and various other grassroots actors, leaders and perspectives. Many transnational civil society actors and advocates for women's and human rights have lobbied, with limited degrees of success, for women's inclusion at the peace table. Even a seat at the peace table does not guarantee that women's concerns will be put on the agenda, however, or that they are integrated into peace agreements, or even implemented or funded following such agreements.

In the seminar, Cohn discussed the complex gendered institutional and political realities in which peace processes are themselves grounded and situated. According to Cohn, peace processes are gendered processes, and a particularly gendered context is the peace table itself.

Women entering into peace processes enter a highly masculinized process which is characterized by a range of assumptions. Questions about what is necessary, or important, are not examined, but taken for granted. For example, it is assumed that the most important parties are the militarized ones, i.e. those with arms. This, in turn, determines which issues are given priority and what is considered secondary.

Cohn argues that in the effort of getting women to the peace table, we may lose sight of other important questions. Not all women are alike, and not all women want to represent women. If we really want to figure out what meaningful participation entails, she says, we need to develop a feminist economic and political agenda where women are em-

powered with knowledge of how to apply gender analysis to issues usually not considered gender issues, but which are critical for women being fully engaged in society.

**Carol Cohn** is the director of the Consortium on Gender, Security and Human Rights, a professor at the University of Massachusetts Boston, and a leader in the scholarly community addressing issues of gender in global politics generally, armed conflict and security. Her most recent book, *Women and Wars*, came out last year. She has also published on U.S. national security elites, the relevance of gender for the elimination of weapons of mass destruction, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and gender mainstreaming in UN security policy. ■

## Nordic Forum – New Actions on Women’s Rights

On 12–15 June the large women’s rights conference Nordic Forum – New Actions on Women’s Rights took place in Malmö, Sweden. During the course of the conference days around 10 000 people – of which the vast majority was women – attended the various conference activities.

An outcome document from the conference has been published, building on the Beijing Platform of Action (1995) and its 12 thematic pillars, adding new topics such as climate change, new technologies and the media. The outcome document contains 63 demands for what the Nordic governments must do to strengthen women’s rights and gender equality at the national, regional and global levels. This also includes demands in relation to Women, Peace and Security.

PRIO researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad participated in two panel debates under

the umbrella heading ‘Peace and Security’ on Friday 13 June. The first debate was part of the official Nordic Programme and focused on the progress of implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Nordic countries. A particular emphasis was put on the role and responsibilities of government institutions in taking this agenda forward. In addition to Tryggestad, the panellists were Tarja Cronberg (the Greens of Finland and member of EU parliament) and Ingridbjörg Sólrún Gísladóttir (Regional Director, UN Women and former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Iceland). The panel was chaired by Thóra Arnórsdóttir (Iceland).

The second panel debate formed part of the open programme and attracted a large and engaged audience. The panel was organized by a Nordic 1325 Network comprising Operation 1325 (Sweden), Forum Norway 1325, 1325 Network Finland, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF, Denmark), The Icelandic Coordination Group on 1325 and 1325 Policy Group.

The topic of this debate was the contributions made by the Nordic countries in relation to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, and the role of civil society organizations in promoting the implementation of national action plans. The panellists concluded that the Nordic countries need to step up their actions and unite for new and more decisive action on Women, Peace and Security.

On Sunday 15 June the workshop ‘A United North for UNSCR 1325’ took place, moderated by Madeleine Rees, Secretary General of WILPF. A joint statement from this workshop, addressed to the governments in the Nordic countries, can be found [here](#). It contains eight recommendations focusing both on what each Nordic country can do individually and as a group of concerned countries. ■



PRIO Researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad (left) at Nordic Forum panel debate. Photo: Vilhelm Stokstad.

---

## International News

The **UN Security Council** held an [open debate on conflict-related sexual violence](#) on 25 April.

**Hiroute Guebre Sellassie** of Ethiopia was appointed UN Special Envoy for the Sahel on 1 May 2014. She is the second woman to be appointed UN Special Envoy.

**Major General Kristin Lund** of Norway was appointed the next military commander of the UN peace keeping force in Cyprus (UNFICYP) on 12 May. Major General Lund is the first female force commander of a UN peacekeeping operation.

The **African Union** launched a five-year [Gender, Peace and Security Programme \(2015–2020\)](#) on 2 June. The programme is designed to serve as a framework for the development of effective strategies and mechanisms for women's increased participation in the promotion of peace and security. It also aims to enhance protection of women in conflict and post-conflict situations in Africa.

The **Global Summit** to End Sexual Violence in Conflict took place in London on 10-13 June (see separate story).

The **United Kingdom** has launched a [new National Action Plan \(NAP\)](#) on WPS for the period 2014–2017.

**Denmark** has launched a [new National Action Plan \(NAP\)](#) on WPS for the period 2014–2019.

The **Negotiating a Better Peace Symposium**, organized by the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) and partners took place in Warrenton, Virginia, on 22–25 June. ■

## News from Norway

The **Norwegian Peacebuilding Resource Centre (NOREF)** organized the seminar “Why is it so hard to get women to the peace table? And why is that not even the right question?” with Carol Cohn on 11 April (see separate story).

The **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** organized an open meeting with civil society to discuss the work on a new strategy for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (see separate story).

The **Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs** has appointed Bjørg Skotnes new coordinator for Women, Peace and Security, taking over from Mariann Murvoll.

The **British Embassy Oslo** and the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the Oslo stage of the Global Summit to End Sexual violence in Conflict on 12 June (see separate story).

The **Centre for Gender Research** at the University of Oslo hosted a seminar on [Gender Paradoxes of the Arab Spring](#) on 19 May. ■

---

## News from PRIO

The **third High-Level Seminar** on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes took place in Helsinki on 13–15 May 2014. The seminar was organized by the Crisis Management Initiative (CMI) in cooperation with the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and PRIO.

**OSCE and PRIO** organized an expert

workshop on the OSCE study on National Action Plans and other national strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on 4 April in Vienna.

### Helga Hernes

- Participated in and moderated several panels in the expert workshop on the OSCE study on National Action Plans and other national strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. 4 April, Vienna.

### Inger Skjelsbæk

- Gave a public lecture on “Transformations of Identity: The Political Psychology of War Rape in Bosnia” at Trinity College Dublin. A podcast of the lecture is available from [this website](#). 12 May, Dublin.
- Gave the introductory speech and participated in a conversation with Slavenka Drakulić, the 2014 “Bjørnson lecturer”, at the 2014 Norwegian Festival of Literature. The event can be watched [online](#). 22 May, Lillehammer.
- Published an op-ed on NRK Ytring on 11 June in connection with the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict titled [Tung mobilisering mot voldtekt i krig](#) (English version available on the PRIO blog: [The British are Impatient to End Sexual Violence in Conflict](#))

### Torunn L. Tryggestad

- Participated in a meeting with a delegation from the newly established Mediation Support Unit within the South African Ministry of Foreign Affairs, discussing the issue of women's participation in mediation efforts. 25 April, PRIO, Oslo.
- Gave a presentation on the normative framework of Women, Peace and Security at the High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes. 14 May, Hel-

- sinki, Finland.
- Attended the civil society open meeting on the new strategy on Women, Peace and Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2 June, Oslo.
- Participated in a panel debate at the Oslo stage of the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict. 11 June, Oslo.
- Participated in two panel discussions on Women, Peace and Security at the women's conference Nordic Forum. 13 June, Malmö, Sweden.
- Gave a lecture on 'Gender in Peace Research' for the students at the PRIO Summer School. 24 June, PRIO, Oslo.

#### Ragnhild Nordås

- Published a blog post on the Washington Post's 'Monkey Cage Blog' on 9 June in connection with the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, titled [Four Things Everyone Should Know About Wartime Sexual Violence](#) (co-authored with Dara Kay Cohen and Elisabeth Wood).

#### Christin Ormhaug

- Participated in the expert workshop on the OSCE study on National Action Plans and other national strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. 4 April, Vienna.
- Presented preliminary findings from the OSCE study on National Action Plans and other national strategies for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 at the first meeting of the UNSCR 1325 and NATO Project on Gender Mainstreaming: Indicators for the Implementation

of UNSCR 1325. 26-27 May, Belgrade.

#### Jenny K. Lorentzen

- Supported the organization of the High-Level Seminar on Gender and Inclusive Mediation Processes. 14 May, Helsinki, Finland.
- Attended the civil society open meeting on the new strategy on Women, Peace and Security at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. 2 June, Oslo. ■

## Recent PRIO Publications

**Cohen, Dara Kay & Ragnhild Nordås (2014)** *Sexual violence in armed conflict: Introducing the SVAC dataset, 1989–2009*. *Journal of Peace Research* 51(3): 418-428. ■

## Other Recent Publications

**Egnell, Robert (Ed.) (2014)** *Gender Perspectives in Military Peace Organisations and Operations*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

**Escola de Cultura de Pau (2014)** *Gender and Peace*. No. 1, April 2014.

**O'Rourke, Catherine (2013)** *Gender Politics in Transitional Justice*. Oxon: Routledge.

**Pirjo Jukarainen & Eeva Puumala (2014)** *The Nordic Implementation of UNSCR 1325: A Comparative Evaluation*. The 1325 Network Finland, 2014 & Acaide Oy. ■

## Coming Events

**The Gender, Peace and Security Research Network**, coordinated by PRIO Researcher Torunn L. Tryggestad, will hold its 2014 summer meeting on 27 August at PRIO.

**International Conference** on "Gender, Empowerment and Conflict in South Asia", Kolkata, India, 7–8 November 2014. The conference is jointly organized by the Mahanirban Calcutta Research Group (MCRG) and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).

**Conference and PhD course** "A multitude of encounters with Asia – gender perspectives", Reykjavik, Iceland 13–17 October 2014. The conference is co-organized by the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (NIAS), Centre for Women's and Gender Research (RIKK) at the University of Iceland, and EDDA – Center of Excellence at the University of Iceland. ■



Editors: Torunn L. Tryggestad & Jenny K. Lorentzen

Hausmanns gate 7  
PO Box 9229 Grønland  
NO-0134 Oslo Norway  
Tel +47 22 54 77 00  
[www.prio.org/gender](http://www.prio.org/gender)

The PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Update is published by the PRIO Gender Research Group with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway. If you wish to find out more about our current research projects, please visit our website [www.prio.org/gender](http://www.prio.org/gender). If you have any comments or inquiries regarding the newsletter, please contact the editors: [jenlor@prio.org](mailto:jenlor@prio.org)