

THE SECURITY COUNCIL'S "WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY" AGENDA IN PRACTICE

This panel was convened at 3:00 p.m., Thursday, April 5, 2018, by its moderator, Christine Chinkin of the London School of Economics, who introduced the panelists: Sanam Anderlini of the International Civil Society Action Network; Elizabeth Cafferty of UN Women; Jacqueline O'Neill of Inclusive Security; and May Sabe Phyu of Gender Equality Network.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS BY CHRISTINE CHINKIN*

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Welcome—you are a very select audience—to this roundtable. And I have just been quibbling. How can you have a roundtable in a room this size? But, anyway, it is still called a roundtable on the Security Council, Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in Practice. I was going to say to start with, I do not know how many people in the room for whom the words “women, peace, and security” make sense or is a sort of language that you are actually used to. Certainly, when I talk to many international lawyers who are not in the room, they look at me blankly and say, “What? What is that?”

Just a couple of words first about what is Women, Peace, and Security, and if all of you in here know, I apologize for that. Essentially, it is the Security Council agenda that stems from a whole series, now eight in number, of resolutions that started back in the year 2000 with Resolution 1325. The purpose of this sequence of resolutions is to urge the inclusion of women's experiences of armed conflict into international law, national law, and policymaking. And what we have very frequently referred to these days are the so-called four pillars of Women, Peace, and Security: women's participation in conflict prevention, conflict management, conflict resolution, in field operations, and in all other aspects of engagement in situations of armed conflict and its aftermath; prevention—prevention is both prevention of sexual violence, but also, and far more radically, prevention of conflict itself; protection against sexual violence in armed conflict; and relief and recovery, particularly in post-conflict situations—so-called post-conflict.

It is a full agenda. It is in some ways, a very technical agenda, but it has got a great deal of detail in it. But I think it can be really encompassed by saying it is an agenda for the promotion and protection of women's human rights, women's empowerment, and women's leadership. But of course, since it formally, at least, stems from the Security Council resolutions, it is often referred to as a top-down agenda, and this is what is going to be the focus of this panel. Resolution 1325, in the year 2000, was very much a product of civil society. It was lobbied for, it was urged, and it was celebrated, I think at that point. Maybe you disagree, Sanam, but I think we did celebrate it.

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