

PUBLIC POLICY FROM ANOTHER ORGANIZATION

This requires no amendments. It will be a simple vote at the AGM, July 2010.

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS 1820, 1882, 1888 AND 1889 ON PEACE AND SECURITY FOR WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Proposed by CFUW International Relations Committee

RESOLVED, That the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW) support United Nations Security Council Resolutions:

- UNSCR 1820 (2008) Women and peace and security
- UNSCR 1882 (2009) Children and armed conflict
- UNSCR 1888 (2009) Women and peace and security, and
- UNSCR 1889 (2009) Women and peace and security.

BACKGROUND

CFUW has been a strong advocate for UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security. CFUW needs up-to-date policy on UNSCRs that have been adopted recently by the UN to strengthen UNSCR 1325. These Resolutions reaffirm Conventions and their Optional Protocols that apply to women and children.

UNSCR 1325

On October 31, 2000, the United Nations Security Council unanimously adopted UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security, a resolution that calls for the involvement of women in post conflict processes.

CFUW adopted policy in 2004 to support advocacy on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. CFUW's advocacy on UNSCR 1325 has raised awareness of this UN Resolution amongst members of the House Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs and other members of Canada's Parliament. Many Parliamentarians now regard CFUW as a leading voice on women, peace and security.

Canada has yet to develop an UN-requested national action plan on the implementation of UNSCR 1325.

So significant is the issue that, because of CFUW's advocacy, peace and security for women and children will be a topic for discussion at special hearings at a House of Commons Standing Committee. CFUW will be called to appear as the key witness, and has been asked to nominate other witnesses. This is the first time that CFUW will have this high recognition, stature and leadership on a matter before a House Standing Committee. Additionally, a whole

inter-parliamentary group on the Prevention of Genocide and Crimes Against Humanity has been formed as a result of CFUW advocacy.

It is important for CFUW to be able to testify using up-to-date information on the issue of peace and security for women and children. There are four recent UN Resolutions that were adopted by the Security Council to strengthen UNSCR 1325. They need to be included in CFUW advocacy on this issue:

- UNSCR 1820 regarding the elimination of all forms of sexual violence against women and girls as a weapon of war
- UNSCR 1882 regarding the responsibility of National Governments in developing time-bound action plans for protection and relief to all children affected by armed conflict
- UNSCR 1888 regarding commitments of nations to implement measures to prevent sexual violence against women and children and to provide annual reports on the progress of their implementation.
- UNSCR 1889 regarding renewed measures to improve women's empowerment, their participation in peace processes and their key role in rebuilding war-torn societies

UNSCR 1820

The United Nations adopted UNSCR 1820 on June 19th, 2008.

UNSCR 1820 calls for the elimination of all forms of violence against women and girls as a weapon of war, including by ending impunity and by ensuring the protection of civilians, particularly women and girls, during and after armed conflict, in accordance with the obligations that States have undertaken under international humanitarian law and international human rights law.

It is important that CFUW urge the Government of Canada to implement UNSCR 1820 without delay within all national departments concerned and with demonstrated commitment of senior leadership, and to promote the issue of the elimination of sexual violence as a weapon of war with its international partners, including by

- Ending impunity
- Adopting concrete measures of protection and prevention to end sexual violence
- Reasserting the importance of women's participation in ending sexual violence in conflict including their role in peace talks
- Working to develop a strong, time-bound action plan, and
- Developing a rigorous performance measurement framework with specific targets and indicators.

UNSCR 1882

The United Nations adopted UNSCR 1882 on August 4, 2009.

UNSCR 1882 deals with children and armed conflict. It stresses the primary role of National Governments in providing protection, relief and rehabilitation to all children affected by armed conflict and calls on States to end impunity and to prosecute the perpetrators of egregious crimes against children.

UNSCR 1882 calls on Governments to comply with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocol, and with the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. CFUW has policy on these Conventions and Protocols.

The Resolution condemns all acts of violence against children by Parties to armed conflict including recruitment, rape, maiming, killing, the use of children as human shields, the use of landmines and cluster munitions, attacks against schools or hospitals, and denial of access to humanitarian aid. Further it encourages Member States to develop and implement time-bound action plans relating to the protection of children in armed conflict.

UNSCR 1882 calls for the mainstreaming of child protection in peacekeeping missions, and for the provision of timely, sustained and adequate resources and funding for effective welfare programs for all children affected by armed conflict.

UNSCR 1888

The United Nations adopted UNSCR 1888 on September 30, 2009.

UNSCR 1888 deals with specific commitments to the prevention of sexual violence in conflict through the maintenance of peace and security for women and girls.

UNSCR 1888 reaffirms its commitments to UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security; to UNSCR 1820 on the elimination of violence against women and girls as a weapon of war; and to UNSCR 1882 on the protection of all children in areas of armed conflict. CFUW has supporting policy for UNSCR 1325.

UNSCR 1888 reaffirms its commitment to the Beijing Platform for Action and reaffirms the obligations of States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and its Optional Protocol, and to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and its Optional Protocols. CFUW has supporting policy for all of these documents.

Supporting UNSCR 1888 would allow CFUW to urge the Government of Canada to join with and encourage the international community to send a simple and unequivocal message: violence against women and children will not be tolerated and must be stopped by supporting:

- The immediate appointment of a Special Representative to provide leadership, strengthen existing UN coordination mechanisms, and advocate on ending sexual violence against women, working with governments, military, judicial representatives and parties to armed conflict

- The creation of a team of experts comprising specialists on the rule of law, civilian and military judicial systems, mediation, criminal investigation, security sector reform, witness protection, fair trial standards and public outreach
- The appointment of women's protection advisers in all peacekeeping and peace building missions in which Canada is involved
- Increased representation of women in mediation and decision-making processes for conflict resolution and peace building, and
- The provision of an annual report on the progress made on implementing UNSCR 1820, 1888 and 1325

UNSCR 1889

The United Nations adopted UNSCR 1889 on October 5, 2009.

UNSCR 1889 reaffirms UNSCRs 1325, 1820, 1882 and 1888. It calls for

- Women's involvement and perspectives in the development and implementation of post-conflict strategies
- Gender mainstreaming in all peace building and recovery processes
- The participation of women in post-conflict economic and political decision-making
- Funding and program activities for women's empowerment in post-conflict situations
- The input of civil society, including women's organizations, in the planning, oversight and tracking of funding and program activities for women in the post-conflict phase

UNSCR 1889 urges Member States in post-conflict situations to provide for the needs of women and girls: greater physical security; better socio-economic conditions; equal access to education; income generating activities, access to basic services, particularly health services including sexual and reproductive health, reproductive rights and mental health; gender-responsive law enforcement; access to justice and enhanced public decision-making at all levels.

UNSCR 1889 makes special mention of treatment of refugees and internally displaced persons, especially women and girls, calling for humanitarian care, respect, and protection from violence including sexual violence.

References:

Canadian Federation of University Women, *Women: Essential to Peace*, 2003. Policy Book Online www.cfuw.org

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 (2008), *Women and Peace and Security* <http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm> (Click on the year 2008 and then scroll down to UNSCR 1820)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N08/391/44/PDF/N0839144.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1882 (2009), *Children and Armed Conflict* <http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm> (Click on the year 2009 and then scroll down to UNSCR 1882)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/442/14/PDF/N0944214.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1888 (2009) *Women and Peace and Security* <http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm> (Click on the year 2009 and then scroll down to UNSCR 1888)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/534/46/PDF/N0953446.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1889 (2009) *Women and Peace and Security* <http://www.un.org/documents/scres.htm> (Click on the year 2009 and then scroll down to UNSCR 1888)
<http://daccess-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N09/542/55/PDF/N0954255.pdf?OpenElement>