

PEACE & SECURITY - THIS IS OUR BUSINESS!

young experts from the South Caucasus



EDITORIAL

This is the 5th issue of our e-journal which will continue presenting the articles from best peace essay winners from the conference on War, Peace and Women's Participation which took place on 19 October 2014. As mentioned in the foregoing issue # 4, the Conference was preceded by the essay competitions with the commitment that all winners would be able to publish their speeches presented in the form of the press articles. 12 essays were received and 6 were selected as the best essays, two of them have been published already and now remaining 4 will be presented to your attention.

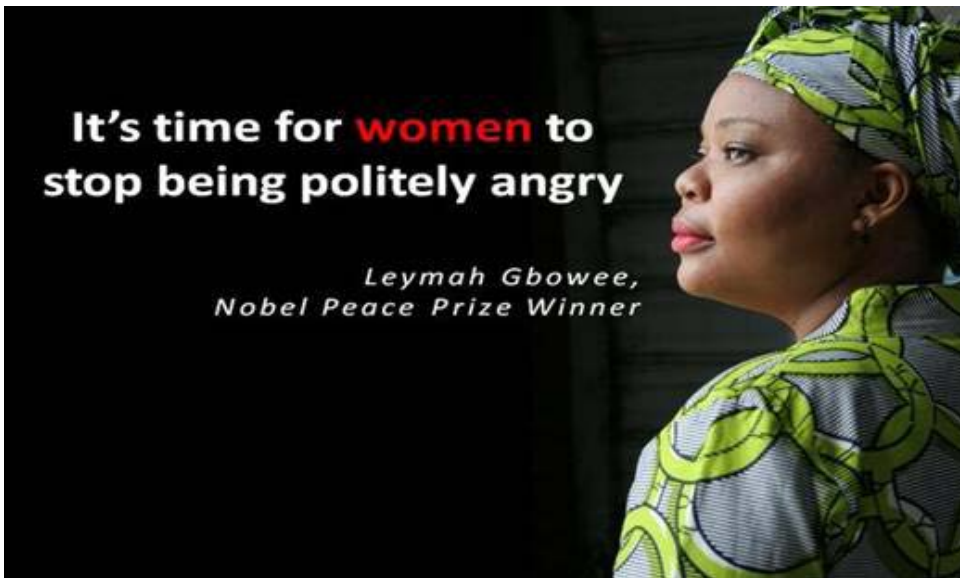
Nina Ananiashvili, member of our organisation went to the film discussion dedicated to the global 16 days of activism "From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World" on November 25. On this date Women's Fund in Georgia organised a film screening and discussion of "Pray the Devil Back to Hell". Nina will talk about this film which is so touchy and peace loving.

The last passage from my research document for UN-Women: "Strategy for engagement and joint actions on confidence building and P2P diplomacy that involve women" will be also presented. It is the part of the recommendations for confidence building and P2P initiatives that may help more understanding between conflicting parties, restoring trust and rapprochement and build peace and stability in the conflict torn society of Georgia.

We as usual welcome your comments and contributions. Please contact us at: info_yweps@yahoo.com or ninolag@gmail.com. We also have our own blog-post <http://youngwomenexperts.blogspot.com/> and Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/yweps?ref_type=bookmark. Please visit them.

Best regards,

NINO LAGVILAVA,
Project Manager



WOMEN = PEACE

A FILM REVIEW

By Nina ANANIASHVILI
YWEPS member

There was this global 16 days of activism «From Peace in the Home to Peace in the World» on November 25. On this date Women's Fund in Georgia organised a film screening of «Pray the Devil Back to Hell». The screening was held within the scopes of the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence campaign and the 2014 theme was «Let's Challenge Militarism and End Gender-Based Violence»!

I went to see the film and got overwhelmed by impressions - very hard to watch, very emotional, very strong personalities - such a beautiful documentary. The discussion was so live, so active, sometimes very painful but more giving a hope that we would never have the world with this kind of stories, we would only have the world full of love, peace and prosperity.

«Pray the devil back to hell» is a multi-prize winner documentary of 2008 about women fighting for peace. Movie tells the story in first-person style where Leymah Gbowee – Nobel Prize winner in Peace – and other Liberian women recall the horrible memories of war. Life was a real hell for citizens of Liberia during 1989-2003 because of the Civil War, starting between Charles Taylor and governmental forces, where the victims of fighting and pressure were women and children involved unwillingly and as a result 200, 000 people were killed; raping and shooting was a daily life-style of Liberians.

Gbowee, a single mother remembers that once she had a dream where God told her to gather women in church and pray for peace and that is what happened when ladies of different age, status and even religion were united weekly in the church looking for solution for peaceful life.

Women's Peace Movement was founded and the demonstrations and marching for peace began. Women from many places with their donations joined the movement. They were wearing white T-shirts and holding the boards with peace quotes. Finally they made Charles

Taylor come out for peace-talking with them and the meeting was held in Economic Community of Western African States, in Ghana. Members of Women's Peace Movement sent to the dialogue to Taylor stood still to find decision against war situation in their country and the result came out soon, when Taylor was convinced to crime against humanity.

After the Taylor's governing United Nation brought its troops for peace-keeping but it failed, until all these women, gone through the war of 14 years showed how to treat the soldier to disarm them. And the soldiers in need of rehabilitation were drugged children murdering their parents, friends and each-other later most of them being scarred in physical and mental way for rest of their lives.

Overall, movie is a chronicle about war in Liberia, which raises the issue of gender and shows the power of feminism in a country where women had opposite role. The unity of daughters, mothers, sisters or grandmothers made an unimaginable revolution from war to peace.

After two years from Taylor's conviction Liberia became the first African country electing a woman as a president and giving an example to others that men started the war which was interrupted by the peace reached by women.



ARTICLES from PEACE ESSAY CONTEST



Women's Experience in War and Peace-building

Manana TSIKLARI
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ARMED CONFLICTS are usually concomitant to international reality. It is natural that peace and security is important equally both for men and women and they both suffer from war and unstable environment; however conflict situations and wars affect women sometimes even worse and harshly and causing strong causality and interconnectivity between women's rights and roles and war and peace-building issues. This interconnectivity will be reviewed in this article.

Fundamental change to protect women's rights was achieved at the United Nations Security Council meeting on 31 October 2000, when the Resolution № 1325 was adopted on Women, Peace and Security which emphasized an important role of women in peace negotiations and decision-making process and the need for women's involvement in humanitarian and human rights missions in post –conflict recovery and assistance. The resolution highlights the role of women in peace and their activism at all levels. It should be noted here that since 1992 women represented less than 3 per cent of mediators and only 8 percent participated in key peace negotiations. These figures have not increased noticeably after the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325; however the number of women's leadership of the UN representative missions increased considerable. What regards the violation of women's rights during the war and after it, women represent those vulnerable groups who are most affected by violence; they are harassed, sexually abused, raped;

victims of trafficking, forced migration or other types of abuse and violence, which is the breach of Geneva Conventions. Although during the wars and conflicts no one cares about international laws and this type of illegal acts are freely committed against humanity. Exactly these grave factors determine engendering peace process, i.e. need to increase women's role in peace building and reconciliation and their participation at various levels. Many argue that women have a special ability and talent to deal with peace negotiations, lead dialogue, act effectively in post-conflict recovery situation and in humanitarian process. They are more likely to actively involve in the collective movements and are in the front lines of organizing humanitarian aid. Women tend to have higher level of compassion and sensitivity and non-verbal decoding ability; it helps them behave more adequately during and after the conflict situation.

Given the context I would like to point out that due to the traditional beliefs and stereotypical approaches to gender roles, in peacebuilding sphere men's opinions are considered weighty than women's, and often this opinion is backed up with the argument that men initiate, launch and manage conflicts and hence also can resolve conflicts. In this view it is interesting to cite H. Morgenthau "6 Principle of Political Realism"; the main point of which is that international politics is essentially a man's world. Diplomacy, war, military service is largely male's field. I agree with the opinion



» of Morgenthau critics - Ms. Anna Tikner, who argues that a variety of issues in international relations has dramatically masculine nature because of negative stereotypes about women. However recent increased interest of women to participate in peace movement may lead us to think that women are not indifferent to the issues of war and peace.

Women as peace actors increase the scope of peace agreements, which are enshrined by important public priorities and requirements so much necessary for sustainable and equitable peace. For example, in 1998 after 30 years of conflict resolution attempt between Northern Ireland and England during of which over 3 600 people were killed, 40000 injured and 20, 000 became political prisoners, women negotiators created a Northern Ireland's Coalition and reached an agreement called the Good Friday Agreement of 1998

which envisaged involvement of youth and victims of violence in the process of reconciliation; speeding-up liberation of political prisoners, support to the reintegration process and ensuring integral educational system and improved living conditions

It is clear that nowadays women's rights are often violated including in the field of peace and security. The integration of women in peace processes and considering gender issues on peace agenda promotes democratic governance and long-term stability. I think conflict prevention and peace-building as well as its maintenance will be possible when women become equal partners along with men in all aspects of peace building and conflict prevention, when their experiences will be taken into account and their interests and capabilities used for the benefit of peace.



To be Strong Means to be a Woman

Ani SPARSIASHVILI

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NO ONE knows when the enmity and hatred appeared on earth but we all know that this has the origin of evil which is an absolute nonsense and absurdity. War as the result of evil is caused from nihilism and lack of love. When different tribes appeared on earth they started fighting for lands, for property, etc. If we recall the story from the Bible, Cain killed Abel because of jealousy - brother betrayed his brother because the evil penetrated him - and exactly this is the day when misfortune started for mankind – all wars and conflicts start like this.

War and Peace issue has always been, it is and will be a topical issue. I love John Lennon's words, - "If someone thinks that love and peace is old-fashioned clichés which should stay in sixties, it's his or her problem as love and peace is eternal concepts". Also here I

would love to bring the words of Ilia Chavchavadze, Georgian public figure who says: "What enmity destroys, love rebuilds". I think the role of women rests in this kind of love that rebuilds and reconstructs what has been destroyed and she prevents evil and enmity because it's her nature to do so.

It is always questioned in our societies what role women have in building peace and stability. Epochs change and attitudes towards women also change and now even men can admit that women are as good as men at diplomatic negotiations; they are sensitive and with their character they bring positive decisions and influence on society; especially when one has an ambition to be a democratic country – the estimation of women's role in society increases considerably.

I have personally witnessed the 2008 Russia-Geor-

gia war, and I remember how active women were during the conflict and especially in the post-conflict rehabilitation process. They were active in the past too.

If we look back into the history of the world, we can see that women have been extremely influential and peace agents in war times. In the 12th century Georgia for e.g. Queen Tamar lead remarkably the country's foreign and domestic policy, and in wars she lead barefooted its army to the victory. From history we can also recall the influential women such as Margaret Thatcher, Indira Gandhi and mother Theresa.

"To be strong means to be a woman, if you have to prove it to the people, then you are not strong" - these words belong to Margaret Thatcher, a woman called iron lady and a women that has changed the world. Another woman, Indira Gandhi became the symbol of India, but her political success coasted her life. "In my life every day given to me will be dedicated to my people. Even when I die, I am sure that every drop of my blood will be used for the future and better life of India and this will make it stronger" - she wrote this letter a few days before her murder. Mother Teresa also sacrificed her life to peace. She was an icon of peace. She said - "If today we have no peace, it means people do

not remember that they belong to each other."

In the 21st century, when modern society is trying to be more diplomatic, it still can not fully avoid the disasters such as wars and bloody conflicts, moreover, there are lots of so-called cold wars lead, and women are definitely big roleplayer in resolving these issues. Unfortunately, conflicts have become an integral part of our life; it is caused by globalization which has its advantages and disadvantages; for small and weak states it brings rather negative effects, I would say. Afghanistan's civil war is still going on which started in 1978 and so far this problem is not resolved. The Syrian civil war started in 2011 and has victim of 35 000 civilians. Georgia also has its unresolved conflicts. None of these conflicts see many women in peace talks which is not good for many reasons as the role of women in peace building process is necessary tool to develop and implement peace building plans and strategies. I hope with women's active participation these conflicts can become smaller and powerless; peace can replace the armed confrontation; life can replace death that is brought by evil which is an absolute nonsense and absurdity.



Different Role of Women in War and Peace in the European and Middle East Societies in the Context of Contemporary Conflicts

Anna ICHKITIDZE

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WAR as a militaristic venue that damages and destroys not only the physical and the perceived environment followed by a devastating human, moral and economic losses, but also damages social and civic attitudes and axiological system that is followed by destruction of human and humane values, which in turn quite naturally makes unlikely any kind of equality-inequality dichotomy be it equality before the law, equality vise-a-vise the opportunities, equality in terms of public wealth distribution or equality in terms of gender. The latter for some reason and very unfortunately loses any kind of legal or practical sense and simply becomes a more physical force during the

military actions. This more happens in those countries or political systems where women are not directly involved in military actions and which turns women even more susceptible and victimized than men, as none of the societies at the end of wars or conflicts are legally so perfect that their institutions function properly at normative level to maintain gender balance in various spheres, which is one of the preconditions for achieving public peace and development of societies.

Despite the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted in 2000 which regulates and protects women's rights during wars and in post-conflict situation to establish post-war order and construction,



» none of the provisions of the resolution are taken into consideration in especially politically unstable regions. Despite the universal mechanisms for the implementation and establishment of peace and security, they are formed by proven and shared axiological systems in different societies. The simple and obvious example of it is the conflicts in Middle East and continental Europe.

The first is quite broad, complex and protracted; the conflicts are more flared by religious extremism which bears ethno-territorial and ethno-religious nature and represents an extreme sexism. The second type of conflicts purely started and ended based on the territorial and political influence and power distribution. For the comparative analysis the recently emerged Russian-Ukrainian conflict can be used that shows perfectly the role of women and a cardinal difference of women's involvement when looking at the war-peace dichotomy and the role of women which is dramatically different from the regional, ethno-sub-cultural, religious and political point of view.

The review of these two conflicts may show what prevents women from participation and what kind of conditions or warranty she needs so that she is a person in this process not "indirect additive to the dominant part" and why she is the victim in most cases and why she has little (or no) role in decision-making and the formulation of peace or war agenda.

If we look at the conflicts' statistics of the Middle East Region, Israel is the only country that has always been victorious and is one of the exemplary in the Region and probably the leader in terms of gender equality (Israel which maintains gender balance even in the

military sphere). As for the Region's volatile countries, women there have little role especially in decision-making and resolving conflicts. This Region except Israel is recognized as "men's world" and is known of very hot and terrible conflicts, while the regions and the countries where gender balance is maintained even the mere local conflicts are resolved in a civilized manner (Scottish referendum for example).

If we look at those European countries with conflicts on their territory, they are advanced in terms of women's rights and if not at practical level, at least at normative level they hold quite high positions in terms of gender equality. There is no restriction of women's participation based on traditional, religious or unhealthy gender considerations. If we recall EuroMaidan processes and social activism, it is easy to see that women's activism is equal to men's physically as well as in social networks and the media. Women were shaping and at the same time, they were protecting the political choice made by united society; they had a woman politician whose political imprisonment was the reason to start street protest and as a whole the entire process of the conflict (starting from Maidan revolution to the South –East Ukraine fighting and ceasefire) did not see any gender misbalance. This can be an example of how conflicts are lead or resolved when women are involved in it and how they are protracted or unsettled when women stay at the backyard. Thus there is the great correlation between women's participation and non-participation as women are the major factors for conflict settlement and peacebuilding if involved fully and professionally.



Women's Participation in War and Peace

Anano KALICHAVA

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Over certain period of universal progress, human's psychological development was followed by establishment of its own circles, places, settlements and ownership which lead to the discontent between the groups

of people. The most complicated and difficult relation between humans is war, because it concerns everything and it does not have limits; this is "totalitarian fight without rules", where the winner and the loser is a



» human being. Men fight these wars but in modern times the question is often asked whether women participate in these conflicts or not and whether they have the share in conflict settlement and prevention.

It's well known that armed conflicts are characterized by human losses and casualties. According to the UN statistics, in modern military conflicts 90 % of wounded and killed are civilians, and majority of them are women and children. Unfortunately, due to the traditional stereotypical views on men's and women's gender roles, the main attention in peace building process is given to the men's opinion and this argument is backed by the idea that usually it is a man who causes, starts, and negotiates conflicts and it's his business to end it as well. When bringing this argument it's interesting to cite Mr. Morgenthau's words about "6 principles of political realism", when he says that international politics is the world of men, and diplomacy, war and military services are also men's business.

Gender equality approaches restricted the traditional view and gave way to new thinking, which means engendering peace processes, that is to increase women's role in elaborating peace plans, participation in negotiation, dialogue, implementation

and maintenance of peace. The main reason for this is that women and children are the most affected segment of devastating wars and armed conflicts, they are main victims of wars, women think about food, take care of their children and elderly, due to wars they become the most impoverished, become the most unprotected part of the population and are victims of violence.

Today on the 21st century we have to take steps which should have been done long time ago. Women can and should ensure their voices are heard and their experience and knowledge are used equally for peacebuilding and recovery and establishing security in the world. Women and young girls should have access to education, economic opportunities and health care. I reckon, that integration of gender parameters in peace processes and increasing women's involvement in peace building process may improve democratic governance and stability for the long term.

Finally, I would like to say, that in politics and not only in politics, the most important things are human abilities, minds, character which are equally given to men and women, therefore they should both equally contribute to peace and democratic process.



Recommendations from “Peace-building, confidence building and P2P diplomacy and Women, Peace and Security Agenda”

(Continued from the previous issue # 4)

By Nino LAGVILAVA, Georgia

**Excerpt from the “Strategy for engagement and joint actions on
confidence building and P2P diplomacy that involve women”;
UN Women, 2013**

(The publication was prepared within the frame
of EU-UN Women Project - “Innovative Action for Gender Equality in Georgia” (IAGE))

- Creation of a **new informal framework for dialogue and negotiations** (in addition to the existing Geneva and IPRM formats), mediated by the international community, where civil society representatives will be present from all conflicting parties (Georgian, Abkhazian, South Ossetian and Russian) is recommended by many women's NGOs. The mechanism is seen as an additional and effective conflict resolution mechanism with a strong voice and ownership of local civil society representatives;
- The **importance of women's role** in P2P and confidence building efforts has been underlined as one of the main factors for achieving effective peace results as women are considered to be the most efficient peacemaking actors and peace beneficiaries and the integration of gender issues in conflict management and peace building processes at all levels is the key to the effectiveness and the accountability of the ongoing peace processes;
- **Women's organizations** working on Track II diplomacy are keen to actively participate in the elaboration and implementation process of all state documents on peace-building, including NAP for UNSCR 1325, so this **resource** should be utilized effectively by the government as the organizations come with a long history of active engagement in P2P and confidence building initiatives, they have extensive capacities, knowledge and experience;
- Forward-thinking security and peace experts, professional international and local organizations, grassroots peace movement members, including women professionals should be activated as much as possible as **outstanding professional competencies** are required to lead peace processes;
- **The Georgian Government's peace-building direction**, where all attention is given to peaceful means of conflict resolution should continue and be backed by the international community, including development actors as this is the only way to achieve positive peace and long-term development for the country including its break-away regions. It is also advised that the Georgian Government continues using neutral communiqué and clears its policy documents from political implications and prejudices and focuses more on soft, proactive, and cooperative actions (Based on the interview analysis, it is assumed, that more neutral document with more people-centered implications and less political connotations with strongly defined peace-building methodology including CBMs and public diplomacy could make the rapprochement environment more promising and conducive)
- **A coherent donor aid and peace development policy** (systematic, strategic, and holistic) is required for attaining best peace results which should be developed in partnership with the Georgian Government and civil society. It is advised that all policies and plans be gender mainstreamed and women's needs and their role are taken into consideration at all levels and in all sectors, including peace-building;
- A contextual and comprehensive **conflict analysis** from a gender perspectives should be conducted regularly in order to evaluate whether the understanding of the conflict is still valid, as conflicts are fluid and continually changing and conflict analysis commands a better grasp of the situation for evaluation and better peace planning for problem resolutions;



» Peace-building, confidence building and P2P diplomacy and Women, Peace and Security Agenda



- Confidence building programmes should be structured around **common security challenges** such as environmental issues (e.g. sea and still water pollution, land degradation, deforestation and plant diseases) or societal security challenges (e.g. minority issues, migration, depopulation, women's rights/domestic violence and children's rights);
- A clear and **convincing definition of peace** is required to be agreed with active participation of women. This calls for a reconciling of the competing needs and concerns of all parties involved;
- The assessment of the available **peace building capacity**, such as human resources, institutional capacities, peace infrastructure, as well as gaps, is necessary to ensure effective national peace planning and implementation. This also entails mobilising civilian expertise on peace-building and establishing a roster of peace and security experts including women experts
- It is recommended to enhance methodologies for formal and informal **peace education** that will foster a culture of dialogue and peaceful handling of conflicts through institutionalisation of such curricula in educational systems so that students at high schools, colleges and universities can major in peace, conflict resolution and security studies;
- **International documents, resolutions and conventions**, as well as strategies and plans, need to be applied for all parties involved so that international standards and values, such as freedom, justice, democracy, equal participation and engagement, peace, security and sustainable development help attain the end goals (UNSCR 1325 and its follow up resolutions on Women, Peace and Security and NAPs for the implementation of these resolutions are excellent tools to move toward these goals);
- On a rather general note, based on the above-mentioned, the development of a **coherent peace plan/multi-levelled, multi-sectoral strategy** is advised that will take into consideration all aspects discussed above (such as conflict analysis, peace-building capacities, win-win approach, agreed terms and rhetoric, application of CBMs or P2P diplomacy or multi-track diplomacy) and will focus on synergy between peace-building efforts in diverse domains, at different system levels and layers of the conflict;
- When working on the peace process in general, and on peace strategy and programmes implementation in particular, risk mitigation measures are vital to avoid intensification of the conflict or creating harmful situations for participants, so the **"Do No Harm"** approach should be incorporated into all activities throughout the application;
- **The win-win approach** to problem-solving will significantly contribute to confidence building and conflict resolution. The idea that all parties may satisfy their interests with a mutually beneficial resolution of existing problems, for example creating a mutually beneficial sense of interdependence between all the parties involved is a credible mechanism for peace outcomes;
- **"Democracies do not fight wars with one another"** – **peace is achievable only through democracy:** efforts aimed at establishing democratic systems in Georgia proper as well as in the breakaway regions will lay the basis for societal transformation conducive to peace objectives and outcomes.

PHOTO GALLERY

Powerful Photos of Women who Changed History Forever



*A Muslim woman covers the yellow star of her Jewish neighbour
with her veil to protect her from prosecution.
Sarajevo, former Yugoslavia. [1941]*





18 year old French Résistance fighter, Simone Segouin, during the liberation of Paris. [19 August 1944]



106-year old Armenian woman protecting her home with an AK-47. [1990]



A Swedish woman hitting a neo-Nazi protester with her handbag. The woman was reportedly a concentration camp survivor. [1985]



A woman drinking tea in the aftermath of a German bombing raid during the London Blitz. [1940]



Parisian mothers shield their children from German sniper fire. [1944]



A Red Cross nurse takes down the last words of a British soldier. [c. 1917]

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