Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation
WHINSEC

Invited Speakers (Left to Right)
Brigadier General (Dr.) Clara Galvis – Ministry of Defense, Republic of Colombia
Dr. Michelle Hernandez de Fraley – Director, Puerto Rico Police
Dr. Bina Patel – Ombudsman, National Ground Intelligence Center
Crystina Wyler – Executive Director and Owner, The Artful Communicator
Ana Talamoni – Director, Gender Affairs, CAECOPAZ, Argentina
COL (Dr.) Claudia Veras – Director, Faculty and Staff Development Division, WHINSEC
The National Action Plan on Women Peace, and Security is a policy mandate created by the U.S. Government in support of women’s protection and participation in conflict-affected areas. The plan, signed by President Barack Obama in December 2011, contains commitments by the Department of State, Defense, Justice, Treasury, and Homeland Security; the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative.

The whole-of-government approach to the NAP is targeted at meeting the following national objectives:

- **National Integration and Institutionalization**: Through interagency coordination, policy development, enhanced professional training and education, and evaluation, the United States Government will institutionalize a gender-responsive approach to its diplomatic, development, and defense-related work in conflict-affected environments.

- **Participation in Peace Processes and Decision-making**: The United States Government will improve the prospects for inclusive, just, and sustainable peace by promoting and strengthening women’s rights and effective leadership and substantive participation in peace processes, conflict prevention, peacebuilding, transitional processes, and decision-making institutions in conflict-affected environments.

- **Protection from Violence**: The United States Government will strengthen its efforts to prevent – and protect women and children from – harm, exploitation, discrimination, and abuse, including sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking in persons, and to hold perpetrators accountable in conflict-affected environments.

- **Conflict Prevention**: The United States Government will promote women’s roles in conflict prevention, improve conflict early-warning and response systems through the integration of gender perspectives, and invest in women and girls’ health, education, and economic opportunity to create conditions for stable societies and lasting peace.

- **Access to Relief and Recovery**: The United States Government will respond to the distinct needs of women and children in conflict-affected disasters and crises, including by providing safe, equitable access to humanitarian assistance.

On March 30, 2017 a symposium was convened at the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC) to address the role of women in peace and security. The event was hosted by the faculty of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy and the WHINSEC Command Action Group who invited delegations from the United States, Colombia, Argentina, and Puerto Rico.
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This event was made possible by the people of the United States, Colombia, Argentina, and Puerto Rico through the U.S. Northern Command, the Colombian Ministry of National Defense, the Argentine Joint Staff, the Puerto Rico Police, and the Army of the Government of the Dominican Republic.

We are forever grateful for the support from General Lori J. Robinson, Commander, U.S. Northern Command who was instrumental in the execution of the event; our lead Board of Visitor advisor and Chair of the WHINSEC Board of Visitors, Dr. Johanna Mendelson-Forman and our collaborators in Colombia, CPT Matthew Pinkney (Action Officer, Office of Security Cooperation, Bogota), the WHINSEC Protocol staff for coordinating the logistics for all panelists, CPT Adriana Karmann (WHINSEC Action Officer) for her diligent work and attention to detail in ensuring a flawless execution of the event, and the staff of the J45 Directorate of the USNORTHCOM for their valuable support in this initiative.

To the panelists who graciously volunteered their time and shared their knowledge and personal experiences on each of the subjects covered providing an alternate optic on the issue of gender equity and the contribution women make towards conflict resolution, peacemaking, and national security. We are forever in your debt for helping us with this unprecedented effort.

This report was written by LTC Fernando Montoya, Chief of the WHINSEC Command Action Group (CAG) and lead planner, with the support from Dr. Antonio Raimondo, Director of the WHINSEC Center for Human Rights and Democracy who served as lead facilitator for the event.
COMMANDANT’S NOTE

The empowerment of women and the inclusion of women in protection and participation issues have been referenced in previous U.S. policy mandates. The U.S. National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security is historic because it is the first legal framework that recognizes women as a main contributors to conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts in countries affected by war.

WHINSEC is committed to meeting the objectives of the Women, Peace, and Security component of the National Action Plan and has made significant contributions to the national and global Women, Peace, and Security effort. In FY 2016 alone, over 100 women (or 6% of our student population) enrolled in our courses and received training in human rights, democracy, and ethics.

In each of the programs that we run, our female students received training on the institutionalization and integration of policies that addressed equity in partner engagements and the recognition of women as peers in security, defense, and decision-making.

This year’s Women, Peace, and Security Symposium offered an in-depth analysis of women’s role in contemporary peace accords and peace processes, decision-making, and conflict transformation and management which provided a unique perspective on humanitarian assistance and the role of women as problem-solvers and peacemakers.

Our operational environment is complex and characterized by a number of actors who represent a challenge to our Nation and our way of life. To this end, WHINSEC is committed to increasing awareness and integration of gender-sensitive issues in our course curriculums and by facilitating a platform for interlocution where these issues can be freely explored and discussed. We will continue to advance the objectives outlined in the NAP and promote women participation in all aspects of our operations with fairness, impartiality, and equity.

Keith W. Anthony
Colonel, Special Forces
Commandant
THE UNITED NATIONS NATIONAL ACTION PLANS

On 31 October 2000 the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted resolution 1325 on Women Peace and Security to reaffirm the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflict, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response, and post-conflict reconstruction. Resolution 1325 (hereinafter the Resolution) acknowledges the changing nature of warfare where civilians are increasingly targeted and women continue to be excluded in decision-making processes. The Resolution also recognizes the pivotal role and impact of war on women and calls actors to increase and recognize women participation and incorporation into all aspects of UN peace and security efforts.

Women and men experience war differently and these differences offer women a stage for interlocution and the reproduction of unique perspectives vital in the analysis of conflict as well as providing strategies towards peacebuilding that are inclusive, transparent, and sustainable. For this purpose, the Resolution stresses the importance of integrating a gender perspective that will assist decision and policy-makers in the formulation, planning, and application of programs and agreements aimed at establishing the foundations for sustainable peace.

The Resolution has changed paradigms and the way we think about peace and security stressing the importance of women in peace-making and encouraging all actors to involve them in a way that is not exclusive to times of war or conflict.

To date there are 58 countries that have adopted a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSC Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

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The symposium on Women, Peace, and Security was held on March 30, 2017 on the campus of the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation. Convened under the auspices of the U.S. Northern Command (USNORTHCOM), the symposium addressed the dilemma of women as decision makers and peacemakers in areas of conflict and war. The event was hosted by the faculty of the Center for Human Rights and Democracy and the Command Action Group who invited delegations from the Colombian Ministry of Defense, the Argentine Joint Training Center for Peace Operations (CAECOPAZ), the National Ground Intelligence Center, the Armed Forces of the Dominican Republic, and the Non-Government Organization Art Transforms Conflict, a US-based NGO specializing in conflict mitigation training in Jordan and Lebanon.

The meeting consisted of an overview of the National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security provided by Dr. Antonio Raimondo, Director of the WHINSEC Center for Human Rights and Democracy, as well as an introduction of the six panelists that explored specific aspects of the role of women in peace and security. For the symposium we limited the scope of discussions to the general topic of the role of women in peace and security. In support of the general subject, the following themes were developed to address some of the singularities of contemporary challenges within the broader scope of WPS:

- The Role of Women in the Colombian Peace Process
- Women’s Role in Resolving Civil Rights Challenges in High Crime Areas
- Psychology of Female Violence
- Female Role in Conflict Analysis, Mitigation, and Transformation within Displaced Communities
Empowering Women in Peace Operations: Challenges and Actions
Gender Issues for Decision-Makers

The participants invited to this event were selected by one of three criteria:

1. Experts and/or research fellows with established reputations in recognized WPS areas such as decision-making, management, gender issues, and conflict resolution practice;
2. Established amicus association or affiliations (e.g., contributing course professors, lecturers);
3. Alumni in positions of prominence in gender issues or in the fields of governance, management, or conflict analysis and resolution.

There were six panelists selected to present, with each bringing different viewpoints on the regional and global role of women in peace and conflict.

- Brigadier General (Dr.) Clara Galvis, Ministry of National Defense, Republic of Colombia. BG Clara Galvis is a medical doctor by trade and currently director of the Military Hospital in Bogota. A graduate of the Colombian Military Academy, BG (Dr.) Galvis is second woman to attain the rank of Brigadier General in the Colombian Army. In her presentation titled Women in Peace Accords, BG (Dr.) Galvis provided an overview of Colombia’s legal framework and the policies surrounding the role of women in Colombia’s armed conflict and the current peace process. BG (Dr.) Galvis explained Colombia’s strategy in peace negotiations and the inclusion of women in the peace talks in Havana. In preparation for the post-conflict, BG (Dr.) Galvis further explained how women have set up communities where combatants laid aside their arms, and engaged in public dialog helping to integrate people displaced by war into communities that welcomed them.

- Dr. Michelle Hernandez Fraley, Superintendent, Puerto Rico Police was our second symposium panelist and presenter. Dr. Hernandez is a retired Army Colonel and the first woman from Puerto Rico to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point. Dr. Hernandez de Fraley presentation emphasized women’s role in resolving civil rights challenges in high crime areas using Puerto Rico as the main case study. In this presentation, she explained the impact that women have in breaking the traditional norms and positions in law enforcement to combat crime. When asked, Dr. Hernandez de Fraley stated that she found herself through her position to be a role model for women who are in desperate need for mentorship in law enforcement. The impact of her functions will make set the conditions for a greater role of women in the Puerto Rico police force.
Dr. Bina Patel is assigned to the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC) where she serves as the Organization’s Ombudsman. Dr. Patel is the first female to hold a Doctorate degree in the Ombudsman profession within the Department of Defense. Her presentation focused on the psychology of women in violence, specifically focusing on the utility and empowerment of the female role as weapon of war. Dr. Patel’s presentation incorporated the role of Islamic women in vulnerable environments and war torn societies but in particular the empowerment of women who entered into gender (female) martyrdom. The presentation provided an alternate perspective of women empowerment in support of religious terrorism. In this presentation, Dr. Patel provided research findings on:

- The role of women in traditional Islam vs. radical roles of Islam
- Gender inequality: studying the role of women in the Islamic culture, its norms and traditions, and the impact it has on women at the individual level.
- Allegiance: the Achilles’ heel. Through this concept, the discussion explored women’s ability to commit without defection to their mission (the mission of the terrorist organization) to find personal liberty and freedom from the oppressive culture.

Ms. Crystina Wyler facilitated a discussion about her experience in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria. Ms. Wyler’s presentation emphasized the role of art and drama to help women and children in Syria and Lebanon cope with violence and to transform narratives of oppression into narratives of opportunities and hope. Ms. Wyler’s non-profit organization, Art through Conflict Transformation provides humanitarian assistance, teaching and training women to utilize emotional intelligence to help themselves heal from conflict and war. Ms. Wyler’s presentation and findings on the impact of drama and arts presents quantitative results on the impact of war at the individual levels.

Ms. Ana Talamoni, Chief for Gender Issues at the Training at the Joint Training Center for Peace Operations (Centro Argentino de Entrenamiento Conjunto para Operaciones de Paz - CAECOPAZ). Ms. Talamoni is responsible for training civilian and military personnel both, at the national and international level, to perform roles in Peacekeeping Operations and to provide them with the skills necessary to allow them to carry out their duties in accordance with UN gender equity standards. Ms. Talamoni presented the United Nations approach to gender issues and their resolution to help
train the trainers in the Western Hemisphere. The CAECOPAZ mission provides humanitarian assistance to expunge gender suppression in all societies.

- COL (Dr.) Claudia Veras, Director of the WHINSEC Faculty and Staff Development Division. Dr. Veras provided empirical and normative impressions of the gender issues she has studied as director of the WHINSEC Faculty and Staff Development Division. The presentation was impacting as it illustrated that women, specifically those who are creating the path for other women to rise in positions of authority and power, should not forget their personal and gender-unique attributes and values. Her presentation also provided an overview of how women should not only help others with their high ranking positions, but never to compromise their personal values, to fit into a male dominated environment.

Since the inception of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace, and Security, the Department of Defense has formulated policies to better address and align the role of women as agents of peace and conflict prevention and resolution. The WHINSEC WPS program continues the DOD plan and ensures that WPS isn’t just about women’s issue but a fundamental pillar for the integration of women into problem solving and our national defense strategy.
FINAL THOUGHTS

Women prove instrumental in building bridges and leading the way in re-shaping societies following conflict making a difference around the globe; they are powerful actors for peace and security and when they participate in peace processes or in other formal decision-making events, they play an important role in problem solving, reconciliation, and socio-economic development. Women are also significant stakeholders who have the potential to influence and achieve change in post-conflict situations; from peace talks to negotiations and reintegration, women are in the forefront setting conditions and building peace.

WHINSEC remains committed to increasing awareness and the integration of gender-sensitive issues into our programs of instructions and will continue to advance the objectives outlined in the NAP to promote women participation in all aspects of our operations. Our hope is that this symposium is just the beginning of a regional conversation about the contribution of women to peace and security to ensure equity, equality, and fairness.