



## Interactive Roundtable

### 5) Women and Armed Conflict

Tuesday, 4 November 2014, 16:30 - 18:00

Palais des Nations Geneva, Room IX

#### Introduction:

20 years after it was established at Beijing that 'world peace and the promotion of human rights are important factors for the advancement of women', we still face a world full of conflict, grave human rights violations and a male-dominated, militaristic narrative of peace and security. Through the lens of women's participation, military expenditures and refugee women, this session focuses on the progress, or lack thereof, made so far on this Beijing area of action. It further outlines concrete steps forward on finally fulfilling the promises made and making Women's Power to Stop War a reality.

Convener & Moderator	<b>Krishna Ahooja Patel</b> , UN Rep., WILPF
Speakers	<b>Madeleine Rees</b> , Secretary General, WILPF <b>Mia Gandenberger</b> , Expert on Military Expenditures <b>Kateryna Levchenko</b> , Director of La Strada, Ukraine (tbc)
Title of video	<i>Abigal – Women, Peace and War</i>
Recommendations, Q&A	From the floor
Rapporteur	<b>Kathrin Perez</b> , Lawyer
Interpretation	Provided from and into English and French



## Short Bios: Women and Armed Conflict

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**Convener & Moderator: Krishna Ahojja-Patel** is a life-long lawyer, a women's rights activist, journalist and unionist. She has a 25-year-long career with the United Nations and other international organizations. Her work has focused on feminist journalism, women's rights advocacy, security and the gender dimensions of conflict and post-conflict settings. She has fought for Security Council Resolution 1325, ensuring it could be implemented in every country in the world, and has challenged the scourge of racism throughout her career, most notably at the signing of the Durban Declaration of 2001. She served as the international president of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. While being President of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), Ms. Ahojapatel brought decades of experience to take forward the many WILPF agendas for peace education, women's rights, disarmament, and strengthening the UN.

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**Speaker: Madeleine Rees** started her career as a British lawyer, specializing in discrimination law and gender advocacy. She is currently Secretary-General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF). After working at British and European Courts, she worked for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights as Head of the Women's Rights and Gender Unit in Bosnia. There, she fought for accountability in UN peacekeeping operations and bringing perpetrators of sexual violence and abuse to justice. Since then, her advocacy work has spearheaded the Women's Power to Stop War movement, focusing on women's participation in active peace negotiations, combating impunity for sexual and gender based violence, the implementation of international law, especially of women's human rights law, as well as challenging patriarchy, armament and militarism in favor of a more holistic approach to peace.

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**Speaker: Mia Gandenberger** has been working for disarmament since she was student in secondary school and was active in different youth groups working on peace and disarmament issues much earlier. She is a co-founder of NPT-TV a project of the International Law Campaign, which aimed to bring reports on nuclear disarmament diplomacy to a larger audience. Mia was a visiting Disarmament Fellow with the Los Alamos Study Group, a US grass roots organization working nuclear disarmament, environmental protection, social justice, and economic sustainability. In 2011 she joined WILPF and since 2013 is an Associate with Reaching Critical Will, WILPFs disarmament programme. Here she continues her work on nuclear disarmament, but also focuses on other relevant issues, such as military spending or lethal autonomous weapon systems. Mia has a BA in Politics and Public Administration from the University of Konstanz, Germany.

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**Speaker: Kateryna Levchenko**, Director of La Strada Ukraine, has extensive professional experience in combating and preventing human trafficking and the assistance to trafficked persons. In the international field of anti-trafficking, she is a well known advocate for the human rights approach and a highly respected speaker at numerous international conferences and meetings on the issues of human trafficking, women's rights and children's rights. Ms Levchenko was a member of the Ukrainian Parliament from 2006 to 2007 and in 2008-2010 she was advisor on human rights and gender issues to the Minister of Interior. In addition to her work at La Strada Ukraine, she has been involved in the work of numerous other government and non-government organisations, such as the office of the Ukrainian Ombudsman, ECPAT, Soros Foundation and others.

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**Rapporteur: Kathrin Perez** started her legal career in Austria, receiving a Masters degree in law at the University in Graz. During her studies she focused on Public International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Human Rights Law as well as on Gender Studies. While she did an exchange year at the Law School at the University of Oklahoma, she studied Comparative Law, International Public Law and International Trade Law. In her master's thesis she analyzed the situation of women during armed conflict situations, especially regarding sexual violence, detention and judicial guarantees. After her studies she could gain different work experiences in governmental institutions like the Ministry of Justice as well as the Environmental Ministry. She decided then to change the sector, working for different NGOs in Vienna like the Volkshilfe, where she worked as legal counselor for asylum seekers and migrants as well as Zara – Civil Courage and Anti-Racism Work, providing legal counseling for victims and witnesses of racism. Currently, Kathrin Perez lives in Geneva, working for the Women's Power to Stop War Movement of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

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