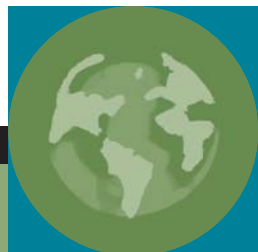




INCLUSIVE SECURITY,  
SUSTAINABLE PEACE:  
*A Toolkit for  
Advocacy and Action*





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Conflict escalates long before the first guns are fired and does not end with the signing of peace agreements. To avoid the outbreak or resurgence of violence, it is necessary to strengthen the governance, security, justice and socioeconomic capacities of a state so that social and political conflicts can be resolved non-violently. This is a complex task in any society and particularly daunting in situations where violence and oppression have been the norm. While the international community can provide assistance and valuable resources, the local population, which has no “exit strategy,” has the greatest commitment to building a sustainable peace. It is therefore essential to draw on the assets, experiences and dedication at the local level and among all sectors of society.

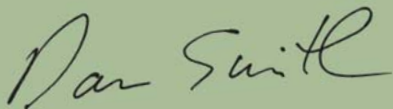
An inclusive approach to security means that peace processes must include women who, although they are key actors, are often overlooked and underestimated. In most conflict situations, women constitute more than 50 percent of the adult population and are actively engaged in peacebuilding while addressing the basic survival needs of their families and communities. Their contributions at local, national and international levels are critical to sustainable peace. Yet historically women have been portrayed as passive victims with little regard given to their actual and potential roles in promoting peace and fostering security. In October 2000, for the first time in its history, the United Nations Security Council acknowledged that women have a key role in promoting sustainable peace by unanimously adopting Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. It calls on all actors to ensure women’s participation in peace processes from the prevention of conflict to negotiations to post war reconstruction. Similar resolutions have been passed by other multilateral organisations, including the G-8, the European Union, the Organization of American States and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

International Alert’s *Gender and Peacebuilding Programme* and Hunt Alternatives Fund’s *Women Waging Peace* have been at the forefront of this advocacy agenda. It is with great pleasure that we collaborated to produce this resource, which draws on years of programmatic work and research by both organisations.

The development of this Toolkit would not have been possible without our partnerships and associations with women activists, scholars and officials in conflict areas around the world. Quite simply, we know what we know because they have taught us. We hope that this will become an additional tool with which they can pursue their goals.

To our friends and partners around the world—this resource is dedicated to you. We hope that it honours your work effectively.

In pursuit of inclusive and sustainable peace,



Dan Smith, Secretary General  
International Alert



Swanee Hunt, Chair  
Women Waging Peace

November 2004

## Who We Are

### INTERNATIONAL ALERT

International Alert (IA) works to build a just and lasting peace in areas of violent conflict. This international non-governmental organisation (NGO) based in London was established in 1985 by a group of human rights advocates that included Martin Ennals, former Secretary General of Amnesty International, in response to the rise in conflict within countries and the subsequent abuse of individual and collective human rights in conflict situations. There remains today a pressing need for the inclusion of both men and women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. IA's *Gender and Peacebuilding Programme* works to ensure that gender perspectives and practical realities inform the implementation of gender-aware international, regional and national peace, security and development policies in order to protect human rights and promote sustainable peace through gender equality for men and women. Visit [www.womenbuildingpeace.org](http://www.womenbuildingpeace.org) or [www.international-alert.org](http://www.international-alert.org) for more information.

### WOMEN WAGING PEACE

Women Waging Peace (Waging), an operating programme of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of women in formal and informal peace processes around the world. More than 250 women peacebuilders in the Waging network—all demonstrated leaders with varied backgrounds, perspectives and skills—bring a vast array of expertise to the peacemaking process. They have met with over 3,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts. Waging's Policy Commission is researching and documenting women's activities in conflict prevention, negotiation and post-conflict reconstruction; these studies provide models to encourage policymakers to include women and gender perspectives in their program designs and budgets. Visit [www.womenwagingpeace.net](http://www.womenwagingpeace.net) for more information.

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The agencies above welcome and encourage the utilisation and dissemination of the material included in this Toolkit.

Picture credits from left to right: Nyaradzai Gumbonzvanda, Regional Program Director, United Nations Development Fund for Women, East and Horn of Africa, Urgent Action Consultation on United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, Uganda, 2002, PHOTO: IA. Women discussing priorities for peace and security in South Asia, PHOTO: IA. Natella Akaba from Abkhazia (South Caucasus) in Bucaramanga, Colombia, 2004, PHOTO: GUILLERMO SUAREZ SEBASTIAN. Nicola Johnston at an IA consultation on the Toolkit, Colombo, Sri Lanka, PHOTO: IA.

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