

Draft Program

Women in Conflict and Emergencies: Lessons Learned and the Way Forward

Hosted by United Nations University - CRIS

8 March 2019, 10.30 – 16:00, UNU-CRIS, Potterierei 72, 8000 Bruges, Belgium

This event will bring together key actors from United Nations agencies and international non-governmental organisations, committed to deliver protection to women in conflict situations, as well as representatives of the academic community and of EU institutions. The workshop aims to provide a platform through which key stakeholders can share views and concerns regarding various risks women face in emergencies and discuss innovative and creative solutions and policies to address them.

Thematic background

Gender still matters crucially, in ‘normal times’ as well as in the context of conflict situations and emergencies (UNISDR, 2003). Though both women and men are part of the same society, it does not mean they possess equal rights and opportunities. Conflict and emergencies also affect men, but the consequences can be gender-specific.

Disasters and conflicts are likely to intensify pre-existing gender inequality, making women especially vulnerable. For example, there is a disproportionate death toll among women, children, and youth during disasters. Notable examples of this phenomenon are the 2004 Tsunami in India, in which three times more females died than males (Guha-Sapir et al. 2004) and the 1991 cyclone in Bangladesh, in which 90 percent of the casualties were women (IFRC, 2010).

As a result of emergencies and conflict situations, women also tend to be more vulnerable to physical and sexual violence.

Objectives

The aim of the event is to raise awareness of women’s challenges in conflict situations and emergencies and to offer a platform to discuss best practices from the field, benefiting from both academic and practical insights.

The key objectives of the workshop are:

- to call attention to the risks women face during and in the aftermath of conflict situations and emergencies;
- to highlight the roles and responsibilities women can play in post-conflict and post-emergency situations;
- to benefit from both academic and practical insights on the role of women in conflict situations and emergencies;
- to discuss concrete steps, gaps and recommendations on key challenges;
- to discuss innovative and impactful good practices.

Target audience

The workshop brings together academics and practitioners to discuss various aspects related to the workshop themes. It is of interest to academics, practitioners, students and representatives of civil society interested in the role of women in conflict situations and in emergencies.

4. Draft Program

10:30 – 11:00	Registration, welcome coffee
11:00 – 11:10	Welcome and Introduction to the Workshop Prof. Madeleine O. Hosli Director, <i>UNU-CRIS</i>
11:10 – 12:00	The Role of Women in Peace Operations Dr. Vanessa Newby Assistant Professor, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, <i>Leiden University</i>
12:00 – 12:50	Women and Domestic Violence: Challenges and Potential Remedies Dr. Adriana Banozic Inclusive Policy Lab Expert, <i>Agency for Science Technology and Research, Social and Cognitive Computing Department</i> , Singapore
12:50 – 14:00	Lunch
14:00 – 15:45	Panel Discussion on Women in Conflict Situations and in Emergencies (individual presentations followed by Q&A) Her Future, Her Choice: Challenges Faced by Refugee Women in Lebanon Dr. Louma Albik, Miss Mariana Batista and Miss Maria Rosales <i>Soutien Belge Overseas</i> , Brussels Women and Disasters Olga Petrova Research Intern, <i>UNU-CRIS</i>
15:45 – 16:00	Concluding remarks