



Concept Note

WPL DEMOCRACY, PEACE AND SECURITY SUMMIT - ARMENIA

19-20 October, 2023, in Yerevan, Armenia

Inclusive and participatory models for government as well as conflict resolution, with the human rights based approach at the heart, may serve as a key in overcoming crises. They also are paving the way for building just societies and sustainable peace. Equality between women and men stands as an essential cross cutting issue across all sectors and domains of political participation, civic activism and conflict resolution.

Growing global insecurity, wars that currently ravage countries on several continents and humanitarian emergencies make it imperative to join efforts and look for inclusive solutions. Data by the UN agencies demonstrates that women negotiators are more likely to achieve more sustainable peace agreements.

Despite commitments taken by states with the adoption in 2000 of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) and subsequent frameworks anchored in the WPS agenda, women



continue to be excluded from conflict prevention, peace negotiations and decision making during conflict. Armed conflicts and humanitarian emergencies disproportionately impact women and girls. What's worse: recent data indicates that it will take generations to close the gap between women and men in peace building and security sectors. Women remain strikingly absent in questions on geopolitics.

This reality makes it imperative to amplify the voices of women leaders. In this spirit, Armenia and Women Political Leaders (WPL), is co-hosting the WPL Democracy, Peace and Security Summit in the Armenian capital city of Yerevan.

Women Political Leaders (WPL)

Now celebrating its 10th Anniversary, WPL has emerged as a global force, committed to increasing both the number and the influence of women in political leadership positions.

WPL provides women leaders with a platform to contribute to global discourse, always from their perspective as women political leaders.

WPL has co-hosted leaders during the UN General Assembly, G20 Summit, APEC Leaders Meeting, Davos Week, Munich Security Conference, and OECD Forum.

Convening women who have reached the highest heights of politics, WPL has presented 32 national leaders (Presidents and Prime Ministers) with the WPL Trailblazer Award, and hosted more than 2,000 Parliamentarians.

WPL Summit

The WPL Summit is the largest worldwide gathering of women politicians, including some of the most powerful leaders on the planet. It convenes and gives a platform to leaders whose influence inspires women to enter and rise in politics.

The WPL Summit has been co-hosted by parliamentary bodies in many regions of the world, in Africa (Rwanda, the African Union Commission in Ethiopia), the Americas (Mexico), the Middle East (Jordan), Asia-Pacific (Japan), and Europe (Iceland, Lithuania, Belgium, and the European Parliament).



WPL Democracy, Peace and Security Summit – Armenia

Armenia's considerable progress in building sustainable democracy and consistent efforts towards human-rights based and inclusive solutions in the region make it a natural setting to convene leaders from around the world on the issue of building peace and democracy.

The two days of keynote speeches and panel discussions will centre around women's full, equal and meaningful participation in decision-making and conflict resolution.

Democracy Ensuring Security

The opening panel will explore the link between democratic governance, consolidated human rights institutions, and equality between women and men, as a prerequisite for sustainable development and peaceful resolution of external disputes. Far too often, hate speech and demonisation of peoples, minority populations and other groups serve to replace other discourse and tighten authoritarian grips. This panel will look at the correlations between human rights protection at home and policies towards peaceful and just outcomes of conflicts.

Victims and Exploiters

This panel will examine the impact of armed hostilities on women and girls. Though international humanitarian law has established a large body of compulsory legal norms for the protection of civilians in armed conflict, various forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, continue to be instrumentalised by perpetrators as methods of war, genocides and other crimes against humanity. In conflict zones and fragile humanitarian settings, women and girls also fall victim to abduction, enslavement and other grave violations and abuses.

Can We Talk During War?

The Summit will also feature a panel dedicated to the role of women in peace talks, specifically exploring the possibilities for women-led initiatives during wars and hostilities. At the most trying times, women peacemakers can play a unique role in overcoming national and political divides and searching for ways to start the most difficult conversations across battlefields. The panel will also touch upon



issues of harassment and marginalisation of women peacebuilders and ways to empower them globally.

Women Preventing Armed Conflicts

The final panel discussion will look at the mission of women leaders from conflict-affected communities as potential game-changers who would step up and start dialogue before a situation is aggravated by violence and destruction. The conversation will build around inclusive approaches where all voices, views and grievances are recognised, and no one is left behind.

Building the future in a cradle of civilisation

In addition to Armenia's aspirations, its long and rich history also makes it an inspiring setting to address issues of democracy, peace and security.

- What:** WPL Democracy, Peace and Security Summit – Armenia
When: 19–20 October, 2023
Who: Women political leaders, women leaders in security and peace
Where: Karen Demirchyan Sports and Concerts Complex, Yerevan