

The United States

CONTEXT:

The United States' engagement with the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda is a complex interplay of government and civil society efforts. On the government side, the U.S. faces a global security environment marked by instability and conflict, addressing these challenges with a proactive approach to integrating women's needs and perspectives in foreign policy and assistance efforts. In 2011, the U.S. government instituted its National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325, and in 2019 established the *Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security*, which aims to empower women in decision-making processes related to international peace, security, and prosperity. This strategy follows the Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017, positioning the U.S. as a global leader in promoting the WPS agenda through policy, diplomacy, and partnerships. The Department of State's guiding principles for implementing the WPS agenda prioritize engagement with countries experiencing or at risk of conflict, violence, or systemic abuses against women and girls. The implementation is linked with all gender equity and equality efforts across the Department.¹

On the civil society front, the U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace, and Security (U.S. CSWG), a non-partisan network of over 60 organizations, plays a pivotal role. Established in 2010, this coalition supports the effective implementation of the WPS Act and the broader WPS agenda. The U.S. CSWG advises on issues related to WPS, providing consultation and recommendations for the development and execution of implementation plans and interagency coordination at all levels of U.S. policy and government action.² Beyond U.S. CSWG, other civil society actors also play a prominent role in shaping the U.S. WPS agenda.

The U.S.'s stance on the WPS agenda reflects a commitment to integrating gender perspectives into peace and security efforts, marked by a collaborative approach between government and civil society. This partnership is crucial for addressing the complex challenges of the global security environment and ensuring that women's voices and needs are central to peacebuilding and conflict resolution strategies.

¹ [Department of State. \(n.d.\) "Women, Peace, and Security"](#)

² [United State Institute of Peace. \(n.d.\) "Advancing Women, Peace and Security"](#)

IN SUPPORT OF:

As American delegates enter negotiations, there are items that they would like to discuss and are willing to push to include in the Regional Action Plan:

1. Promote universal rights of women based on international standards of gender equality. All countries should adopt the same standards on women's rights. The U.S. believes this will lead to a fair and just world.
2. Framing of international discussions so human rights laws are used to pressure bad actor countries to stop misbehaving. The U.S. sees this as a path to the improvement in human rights globally.
3. Use the WPS agenda to promote the meaningful contributions of women in the defense and security sectors in the Northeast Asia region.³ The U.S. sees this as the best way to protect the international order in the region.
4. Call for all member states to repeal excessive government sponsorship requirements and all other disproportionate restrictions on NGO registration that stifle an active civil society. The U.S. sees this as a protection of individual freedom.
5. Increase women's participation and leadership in scientific and technological fields, such as regional exchanges between women in the STEM fields

OPPOSED TO:

There are also items which the U.S. does **not** want to include in the Regional Action Plan, but may be willing to compromise on if an adequate trade off is met. *Remember that you don't have to offer these right away in a negotiation.* These include:

1. Offering sanctions relief to North Korea. The U.S. sees this as rewarding bad behavior.
2. Acknowledge sexual violence committed by U.S. soldiers stationed in Okinawa, Japan. This may threaten the U.S. strategic security position in Okinawa.
3. Including abortion access as part of international efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence⁴. This doesn't align with the administration's domestic policy.
4. Promoting initiatives that weaken relations between South Korea and Japan. The U.S. sees a trilateral partnership with these countries as important to its interests.
5. Encouraging initiatives that allow North Korea to build too much diplomatic connection with South Korea or Japan. The U.S. sees this as undermining alliances in the region.

³ [United States Forces Korea. \(n.d.\). "Women, Peace, and Security".](#)

⁴ [Ní Aoláin, Fionnuala. \(2019\). "Gutting the Substance of a Security Council Resolution on Sexual Violence". Just Security](#)