

SPEECH: Side Event on “Women's contribution to the Global Peace in Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women and Peace and Security.”

Wednesday, 27 June, Palais, Room 2, 13h-14h

Ms. Sirkka-Liisa Anttila: Vice Chair of the Delegation of Finland to the Parliamentary Assembly of Council of Europe.

Women are peacemakers by heart

I am very glad to be requested to give an opening statement in this Side Event organized by the Delegation of Finland to the PACE and the Conference of International Non-Governmental Organisations. I am very honoured to be here and pleased to see such distinguished and influential speakers in the audience.

The topic ***Womens contribution to Global peace*** in the context of implementing the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is highly important and very close to my heart, as I believe women are peacemakers by heart.

I also believe we cannot achieve sustainable solutions in peacebuilding if women are being excluded from decision-making. Women are too frequently treated as passive victims instead of active peacebuilders.

For peace to be lasting it must be inclusive. We need to fully understand that women are part of the solution because women's contribution to peacebuilding is not only beneficial to women, but to all humanity.

Referring to the report (by the Finnish rapporteur and colleague Ms. Kiuru) *Associating women in the prevention and the solution of unsolved conflicts in Europe*, that was adopted by the Assembly in 2010, the Council of Europe should continue to promote gender mainstreaming in its working methods. The Assembly should also invite the Committee of Ministers to ensure the balanced participation of women and men in its subordinate bodies, which deal with frozen conflicts, current conflicts and post-conflict situations.

It is said, that conflict has no gender. Yet conflict does not affect women and men in the same way or in the same proportions. Civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict. By applying gender perspective to peacebuilding, we can make it an instrument for crisis management.

In Finland we have an open network, that follows up the implementation of the Finnish National Action Plan 1325 by the government. The networks also gathers

information about gender perspective research on peacebuilding, organizes training for members and sends representatives to international seminars.

We also need to keep in mind, that threats against security are not only military; they are also connected to poverty, environmental chaos, oppression and the denial of rights. Especially in developing countries where conflicts are deeply historically rooted and violence against women goes beyond the physical. It can mean limiting women's access to public life and participation in opportunities that would empower them and the whole society with sustainable peace-solving-solutions. This is also, why we need a wider perspective on peacebuilding.

This event is focusing mainly on Cyprus and Syria with the objective to present to politicians the Cypriot and Syrian Women's contribution to peace. Whether it is your recommendations and demands or wishes and priorities, they will all be heard here today.

As a conclusion of this event, we hope that The Council of Europe member States will commit to promote the implementation and monitoring of the UN SC Res 1325 on Women Security and Peace.

Thank You.