**Cross-learning on gender integration in peacebuilding and conflict resolution for Finnish peace organisations and the Finnish MFA**

**The role of men and masculinities in agenda 1325**

In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 affirmed the right of women and girls affected by conflict to participate in decision making related to peace and security as well as the obligation of states and international actors to protect them, provide relief and prevent violence. Since then, there has been global awareness that gender is important in understanding conflict and working for peace, with growing efforts to implement this.

Strengthening the role of women in peacebuilding and reducing the impact of violence and conflict on the lives of women and girls requires a nuanced and comprehensive understanding of gender norms, gender identities, and gendered experiences of both conflict and peacebuilding. Since women are often missing in formal settings, a focus on “gender” often is used to mean “women and girls”. However, the “other side of gender”, that is the experiences of men and boys, is not as well understood. Despite the fact that discussion on conflict and peacebuilding are traditionally if implicitly revolved around men, men’s own gendered identity as men and how this affects conflict and peace are seldom discussed in peacebuilding policy, practice and research globally.

There have been two explicit references to men in resolutions on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda since 2000. For the first 13 years of the agenda resolutions included men by default without naming them directly, referring to gender broadly and many particular instances of violence presumably caused by men. The explicits mention ‘the enlistment of men and boys in the effort to combat all forms of violence against women’ (2013) and ‘the important engagement by men and boys as partners in promoting women’s participation in the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, peacebuilding and post-conflict situations’ (2015)[[1]](#footnote-2).

This workshop aims to look at the role of men and masculinities in agenda 1325. The expert contributions and concrete case examples illustrate how these have been approached in different country contexts of conflict and peacebuilding. The event also enables exchange and joint reflection on how Finland’s next NAP on UNSCR 1325 could step up efforts in this regard.

Some open questions to discuss in the workshop are:

*How are men and boys involved in women, peace and security agenda planning and implementation?*

*Why is understanding the gender identity of men and boys in conflict and peacebuilding contexts important?*

*What kind of approaches have been used to mandate or engage men to take action for peace and gender equality?*

*What can be learned from past efforts? What gaps or blind spots can be detected?*

**Agenda for the 3rd workshop on 18 May 2021**

**13:45 – 14:00 Joining the virtual space and technical check up**

**14:00 – 14:15 Opening, outline of the cross-learning workshop(s) and short participant introductions**

**14:15 – 14:30 Outline of the topic introduced by Henri Myrttinen, Lead Associate at Gender Associations**

**14:30 – 15:00 Sharing experiences: The role of men and masculinities in Women, Peace and Security Agenda**

Case studies (7-10 min. each)

* + - The Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers: Importance of religious leaders /actors in advancing women’s rights and gender equality through an interview with a Buddhist religious leader Venerable Napan (Thailand) (FCA hosts the secretariat of the Network)
		- Peace mediators as gatekeepers: Lessons learnt from capacity-building of mediation envoys (CMI)
		- Gender roles operating in conflict. Experiences in Myanmar after coup d’état, interview with Tay Tay, gender consultant and Advisory Board Member of Women’s League of Burma (Felm)

***Short break before the second part of the session***

**15:15 – 15:45 Breakout discussion focusing on lessons learned**

A facilitated discussion in breakout groups. Groups can reflect the presentation and case studies as well as go deeper into the lessons learned, challenges and opportunities.

**15:45 – 16:15 Discussion and sharing on plenary**

The breakout groups will give a brief recap of their discussion in plenary, followed by discussion

**16:15 – 16:30 Final words**

List of invitees

MFA, CMI, FCA, FELM, CMC, 1325 network

1. Duriesmith, David (2017). Engaging men and boys in the Women, Peace and Security agenda: Beyond the ‘good men’ industry. LSE. Naujoks Jana, Myat Khnadar Ko (2018). Behind the masks. Masculinities, gender, peace and security in Myanmar. International Alert. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)