



**PERMANENT MISSION  
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN  
TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
NEW YORK**

---

NEW YORK, 20 OCTOBER 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

SECURITY COUNCIL - OPEN DEBATE ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY: **STRENGTHENING WOMEN'S  
RESILIENCE AND LEADERSHIP AS PATH TO PEACE IN REGIONS PLAGUED BY ARMED GROUPS**

**STATEMENT BY MYRIAM OEHRI, CHARGÉE D'AFFAIRES A.I.**

DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. President,

We gather at a time of enormous turmoil and tension around the globe. Military expenditure has increased, which often comes at the cost of social spending. Funding for women's organizations has decreased as has women's participation in peace negotiations. And the UN peacekeeping missions are not on track to reach gender parity by 2028 at all levels. These trends clearly are going in the wrong direction, against the goals set in the Security Council Resolutions on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. And they are deeply harmful, given the vast evidence that gender equality offers an effective path to conflict prevention and sustainable peace: Women's full, equal and meaningful participation in peacekeeping and peace operations has resulted in improved mandate delivery. Their inclusion in peace talks has proven indispensable for forging lasting peace agreements. And their contributions as mediators, journalists and human rights defenders have been crucial for political change.

We are particularly concerned about the increased violence against women human rights defenders when standing up for peace, democracy and the rule of law, from Belarus to Afghanistan. The killing of Mahsa Amini in Iran – a symbol of many thousands who have peacefully protested for their rights and freedoms – must be condemned in the strongest terms. We must speak with a unified voice in support of the respect of human rights and show solidarity with and protect those who have taken to the streets to protest the systematic oppression of

women's rights since.

We also ask the Security Council to pass a product to send a strong message to end the violence against the civilian population in Myanmar, including killings and arbitrary detention of women activists, and to call on Member States to prevent the flow of arms into Myanmar, taking up the call from the General Assembly in its resolution last year. We furthermore expect the Security Council to include the Women, Peace and Security Agenda across its work, including in its country specific files. And we call upon all Member States to fully implement this Agenda to contribute to gender equality – a key component not only for women's resilience but also for sustainable peace.

Mr. President,

We are concerned about the increase of conflict-related sexual violence documented in 2021. Reports of sexual enslavement by members of armed groups are particularly horrifying. While sexual and gender-based violence disproportionately affects women and girls, men and boys are specifically targeted in contexts such as detention settings and child recruitment. It is often used as a weapon of war and to attack civilian populations, as also documented by the All Survivors Project in Afghanistan and Syria, among other situations.

We are particularly concerned about the risk of sexual exploitation and trafficking of women and children fleeing from Ukraine as a result of the Russian aggression, who make up the vast majority of the largest refugee movement in Europe since World War II. An effective response to human trafficking must also include private and financial sector actors, as also called for in Security Council Resolution 2331. The "Finance against Slavery and Trafficking" (or FAST) initiative initiated by Liechtenstein more than three years ago has undertaken activities in the areas of prevention and financial inclusion. In this context, FAST has collaborated with Eastern European Financial Intelligence Units (FIUs) to promote the European financial inclusion measures. And as a result of a joint financial inclusion initiative with FAST, the three largest banks in Liechtenstein are providing refugees from Ukraine with fee-free bank accounts. This is but one example to demonstrate the impact the financial sector can have in preventing and responding to trafficking and slavery, and in empowering women who are the majority of the 50 million victims worldwide.

Mr. President,

Accountability remains key to addressing conflict-related sexual violence, and a matter of prevention. International criminal justice mechanisms have significantly advanced our efforts to fight impunity, including groundbreaking verdicts by the ICC on sexual and gender-based violence. The pioneering role of the Rome Statute with its gender-sensitive approach can serve as a source of inspiration for national and regional courts as well as other accountability mechanisms. We applaud, in particular, the IIM's strong gender perspective and commend the recent launch of its gender strategy. It contributes to a more holistic and comprehensive understanding of the patterns of persecution and helps strengthen accountability for the crimes committed in Syria by all parties.

I thank you.