



Agenda Civil Society Dialogue Network

Policy Meeting **Masculinity and Violence: How Do Gender Identities Relate to Violent Conflict?**

**Thursday 22 January 2015
Hotel Martin's Brussels EU, Boulevard Charlemagne 80, 1000 Brussels**

Background: The link between gender and conflict, which has gained increased international attention over the past two decades culminating in the adoption of UNSCR 1325 in 2000, is now widely recognized in policy documents and research on peace and conflict. The peacebuilding community underlines that understanding gender and the connections between gender identities and violent conflict is key to designing effective peacebuilding strategies and programmes.

Yet, in practice, gender has often been used as synonymous for “women” and this has resulted in adding a useful focus on women but often ignoring the fact that men and boys also have gendered identities. Socially constructed gender norms often associate masculinity with power, domination and violence while femininity is more likely to be associated with dependency, weakness and the need for protection. A growing body of evidence shows that these notions of masculinity and femininity play a role in driving conflict by:

- rendering the use of violence acceptable
- encouraging men to turn to violent behaviours to resolve conflicts
- making them more susceptible to forced recruitment by armed groups
- putting pressure on them to conform to acceptable masculine ideals

As the EU and other organisations focus their efforts on breaking cycles of violence and preventing violent conflicts around the world, they could play a key role in recognizing, exploring and tackling the link between gender identities and violence, including in the framework of their support for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and following resolutions.

Objectives: Against this background, EPLO and the EU are planning a Civil Society Dialogue Network policy meeting to discuss how gender identities relate to violent conflicts and how tackling these issues can contribute to peacebuilding.

08:30 – 09:00	Registration and coffee
09:00 – 10:45	<p>Session I: Gender identities and violent conflict</p> <p>This session will explore the relationship between gender identities and conflict and the link between masculinity and violence. It will also discuss what evidence is available linking masculinities / femininities with conflict dynamics and what further analysis is required.</p> <p><i>Welcome, Giulia Pasquinelli, EPLO</i></p> <p>Kick-off presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Hannah Wright, Gender Peace and Security Adviser, Saferworld</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Fidelma Ashe, Senior Lecturer, University of Ulster</i> <p>Comments by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sari Kouvo, Gender and Human Rights Adviser, EEAS</i> <p><i>Moderator: Nicolas Rougy, EPLO Steering Committee Member and Interpeace Senior EU Engagement Officer</i></p> <p>Presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion with participants</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What is the relationship between gender identities and violent conflict? 2. How can notions of masculinity contribute to driving conflict? 3. What evidence underpins these correlations?
10:45 – 11:15	Coffee break
11:15 – 12:45	<p>Session II: Implications for peacebuilding work – opportunities and challenges</p> <p>If violence is one expression of masculinity, how should peacebuilding practitioners respond? This session will look at the risks of overlooking the relationship between masculinity and violence by international actors. It will then focus on how peacebuilding practitioners are tackling masculinity as a driver of conflict, including by transforming attitudes about what are acceptable gender identities, addressing male vulnerabilities and training male peace activists.</p> <p>Kick off presentations by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Ruth Simpson, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Coordinator, International Alert</i> - <i>Merle Gosewinkel, Senior Program Officer, Women Peacemakers Program</i> - <i>Eldridge Adolfo, Conflict and Mediation Adviser, EEAS</i> <p><i>Moderator: Antonia Potter Prentice, Senior Manager Gender and Inclusion, CMI</i></p> <p>Presentations will be followed by a moderated discussion with participants</p> <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. What role do international actors play in reinforcing / breaking the link between masculinity and violence? 2. How are these considerations integrated in practice into peacebuilding work? 3. What can be entry points for the EU to integrate these considerations in its responses to conflict?
12:45 – 14:00	Lunch

Civil Society Dialogue Network

The Civil Society Dialogue Network (CSDN) is a mechanism for dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers on issues related to peace and conflict. It is co-financed by the European Union (Instrument for Stability). It is managed by EPLO, a civil society network, in co-operation with the European Commission (EC) and the European External Action Service (EEAS). The second phase of the CSDN will last from 2014 to 2016. For more information, please visit the [EPLO website](#).