

Strategic Learning Exchange:

Religion, Gender and Youth Inclusion in Peace and Security

Dates / Time: Monday – Tuesday, 30-31 October 2017 / 9:00 – 17:00

Location: UN Women, 220 E 42nd St, New York, NY 10017, USA

RSVP: Monday, 16 October 2017

The United Nations Inter-agency Task Force on Religion and Development¹ (stewarded by UNWomen and UNFPA for this purpose), the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers are collaboratively organizing a series of Strategic Learning Exchanges (SLEs) focused on religion, inclusive development, peace and security in 2017. The SLEs are designed to enable experiential and knowledge-based sharing on how and why religion matters to multilateralism, and considers the methods, tools, challenges and opportunities of engaging with religious actors. They are designed to collectively review and consider various means of outreach, including with faith actors, and joint implementation of the SDGs and key UN



Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) like 1325 and 2250. Each SLE intentionally brings forth the gender dimension of SDG 5. As an interlinked series, the first SLE: Engaging with Faith-Based and Faith Inspired Communities for Sustainable Development was collaboratively hosted in New York in June 2017. Based on the first SLE outcomes coupled with direct requests and international consultations, **we are pleased to host—in consultation with multiple partners—the second SLE: Religion, Gender and Youth Inclusion in Peace and Security to be hosted by UN Women on 30-31 October 2017.**

Following the UN Security Council (UNSC) Open Debate on Women, Peace and Security, **this second SLE will build on the WPS Open Debate coupled with on-going SDG 16, UNSCR 1325, UNSCR 2250 and international consultation outcomes.** The purpose of the SLE is to continue to deepen our analysis based on trends and trajectories while collaboratively advancing innovations around the religion, gender and youth inclusion in peace and security nexus. Utilizing a peer-to-peer exchange methodology, SLE participants will:

- Explore the current *State of the Art*, trends, trajectories—deriving opportunities for enhancement and challenges for transformation—with a focus on religion, gender and youth inclusion as related to the SDGs, UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250;
- Contribute to more effective UN and FBO internal and external rights based policies with a focus on the nexus between religion, gender and youth inclusion in peace and security;
- Contribute to the innovation of rights based UN, peace and security agencies' collaborative partnerships with religions institutions and FBOs to advance better pragmatic approaches that more effectively engage religious actors in ensuring gender and youth inclusion in peace and security processes;
- Contribute to a specialized resource base from which practitioners may learn, collaboratively contribute to address vital knowledge and skills gaps, highlight evidence based case studies, etc., to further contribute to refined inclusion policies and processes;
- Deepen the network of UN, governmental, regional, FBOs, religious and traditional institutions and experts for continued knowledge and skills sharing coupled with collaborative future actions.



¹The UN Task Force on Religion and Development, established in 2007, works to ensure a broad-based and deliberate engagement of religious NGOs – or faith-based organizations (FBOs) – as a critical part of the civil society representation.

Participants will include:

- UN, regional and government officials/staff highly vested in outreach with FBOs, religious institutions and academia engaged in peace and security processes.
- FBO and religious institutions officials/staff engaged or eager to engage with UN, regional and governmental agencies/departments.
- Gender and youth focused organizations working to advance inclusion in peace and security in collaboration with religious actors, SDG 16, UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250.
- Academic institutions focused on religion, gender and youth inclusion in peace and security.

Please send RSVP's by Monday, 16 October, to the UN Interagency Task Force Focal Points:

Martine Miller (martine.miller@peacemakersnetwork.org)

and

Cassandra Lawrence (clawrence@alamanacentre.org)

Please Note: Five international participants will be funded by the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers based on expertise and need. All other participants will be self-funded.

Photography Attribution: Ms. Stephanie Van Pelt's (Asia Coordinator) photography coverage of the Network for Religious and Traditional Peacemakers' inclusive peace support in South and Southeast Asia 2017.