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UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet Addresses Security Council

Ms. Michelle Bachelet, Executive Director of UN Women, addressed the UN Security Council during the Open Debate on Women and Peace and Security on 26 October 2010. She commended the Council for its willingness to accelerate progress on historic resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. “The Security Council is better equipped than ever before to ensure that women engage in peace talks and to build a stronger protection environment for women,” said Ms. Bachelet. [Read more.](#)



Global Open Day on Women, Peace and Security

In observance of the [10th anniversary](#) of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security, UN Open Days for Women and Peace were held in 27 post-conflict countries from June to September 2010. The UN initiative, the first of its kind, was designed to enable direct dialogue between women’s peacebuilding organizations, women community leaders, and senior UN leadership at the country level. At the Global Open Day on 21 October at UN Headquarters, women peace advocates presented the report [Women Count for Peace: The 2010 Open Days on Women, Peace and Security](#), which showcases the recommendations that emerged from country-specific Open Days. [Read more.](#)

Women Matter for Building Peace: Petition on UNSCR 1325

During the Global Open Day on 21 October, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was also presented with a petition to Say NO to sexual violence against women in conflict. As of the time of the presentation, a total of **22,219** individuals around the world had added their names to it. The petition asks Member States to support three steps to implement UN Security Council resolution 1325: (1) Prosecute those who command and/or commit sexual violence and exclude them from armies and police forces after conflict; (2) Ensure that women participate in peace negotiations and all post-conflict decision-making institutions; and (3) Increase the number of women in troops, police forces and civilians within international peacekeeping efforts. [Read more.](#)



Gender Justice: Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals

Despite progress on many of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), large numbers of women and girls are being left behind. Coinciding with the [High-Level UN Summit on the MDGs](#) in September, an excerpt was released from the forthcoming UNIFEM (part of UN Women) flagship publication, [Progress of the World's Women 2010/2011: Women's Access to Justice](#). The brief, *Gender Justice: Key to Achieving the Millennium Development Goals*, spotlights how many women and girls, particularly in rural areas, continue to live in exclusion and poverty. The brief outlines four areas where urgent action is needed to accelerate progress on the MDGs and achieve gender justice: expanding women-friendly public services; guaranteeing land and jobs for women; increasing women's voice in decision-making; and ending violence against women and girls. [Read more.](#)



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UNIFEM around the World

UN Trust Fund Announces Additional US\$10 Million in Grants

[The UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women](#), managed by UNIFEM (part of UN Women), announced on 6 October US\$10 million in grants to 13 initiatives in 18 countries. The grants complete the UN Trust Fund's 14th grant-making cycle of 2009, delivering a total of US\$20.5 million for 26 projects in 33 countries and territories. Belarus, the Marshall Islands and Sri Lanka are first time grant recipients of the UN Trust Fund. With these grants, the UN Trust Fund will have supported 317 programmes in 124 countries and territories with over US\$60 million to date. However, for the current grant cycle alone, the Fund was able to meet less than 3 percent of the demand. [Read more.](#)

New Awards for Public Sector Efforts to Provide Gender-Responsive Service Delivery

The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and UNIFEM (part of UN Women) signed a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a new category of the United Nations Public Service Awards, which will recognize public sector institutional efforts in providing gender-responsive service delivery. [Read more.](#)

Global Virtual Knowledge Centre – New Features

The [Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls](#) is a one-stop shop with evidence-based guidance, case studies and tools for programmers, policymakers and advocates working to eliminate violence against women globally. Launched in March 2010, the website now features the Safe Cities programming module in [French](#) and [Spanish](#) and the module on Men and Boys in [French](#) and [Spanish](#). The [Legislation](#) module (forthcoming in French, Spanish) highlights leading expert recommendations for how to draft, implement, advocate for and monitor laws. The Centre offers more than 700 practical tools in 50+ languages, with forthcoming modules on Primary Prevention, the Education Sector, and Campaigns, among others. [Visit the website.](#)



AFRICA

Liberia: First Women's Radio Station Opened

The President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, presided over the launch of the Liberia Women Democracy Radio in Monrovia in August – the country's first radio station that is dedicated to raising the voices of women and increasing women's access to information. The radio station also seeks to provide practical training and exposure to female journalists. UNIFEM (part of UN Women) serves as the executing agency for the project. [Read more.](#)



Tanzania: Supporting Women's Participation as Candidates and Voters

In the run-up to Tanzania's general elections on 31 October, UNIFEM (part of UN Women) works to support the political participation of women, including through trainings for women candidates and raising the awareness of women voters in rural areas. [Read more.](#)

AMERICAS & THE CARIBBEAN

Mexico: Young Women's Forum at the World Youth Conference

UNIFEM organized a Young Women's Forum during the Global Interactive Forum at the [5th World Youth Conference](#) taking place in Leon, Mexico in August. The objective of the forum was to create a space for discussing the potential of young women as agents of change in accelerating their human rights and empowerment, so that they can better contribute to the development of their societies. Through extensive social media outreach the discussions during the forum reached a worldwide audience. A number of musicians lent their support to the UN Secretary-General's [UNiTE to End Violence against Women](#) campaign at a [concert](#) that concluded the forum. [Read more.](#) [View photos.](#)



Mexico: High-Level Meeting on Prioritizing the Rights of Women Migrant Workers

A high-level meeting co-hosted by the Government of Mexico and UNIFEM (part of UN Women) in Mexico City in September focused on the urgent need to guarantee the rights of women migrant workers, in light of the sharp increase in women's migration worldwide. The consultative meeting, held in the lead-up to the [4th Meeting of the Global Forum on Migration and Development](#) in November, was attended by government officials and civil society organizations from over twenty countries. [Read more.](#)

ASIA & THE PACIFIC

Pakistan: Responding to the Humanitarian Emergency

UNIFEM (part of UN Women) works to ensure that gender concerns are fully integrated into relief and recovery operations in Pakistan. Following the floods that have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people, UNIFEM prepared a [Rapid Gender Needs Assessment report](#) that chronologically maps gender-related concerns from the onset of floods to current relief camps, identifying gaps in information and flagging issues



for upcoming stages of early recovery. UNIFEM participates in the [UN system-wide flash appeal](#) issued in September for US\$2 billion to provide immediate relief to people affected by the natural disaster. Within the framework of international humanitarian response in Pakistan, UNIFEM leads the Gender Task Force with UNFPA to coordinate the integration of gender issues across the work of all clusters. [Read more.](#)

EUROPE & THE CIS

UNIFEM National Committee Members Visit Programme Partners

Following the annual meeting of UNIFEM (part of UN Women) National Committees in Vienna, Austria in September, participants had the opportunity to visit UNIFEM programme staff and implementing partners in Kosovo (under UN Security Council resolution 1244) and Bosnia and Herzegovina. [Read more.](#)

Georgia: Women Connecting for Peace

As part of a UNIFEM (part of UN Women) programme on equality, peace and development in Georgia, internally displaced and conflict-affected women have worked to highlight the principles of UN Security Council resolution 1325, including through starting a blog, [Women Connecting for Peace](#), in order to generate discussion, share experiences and promote women's participation in peacebuilding. [Read more.](#)

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Recent Speeches & Statements

- [Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment](#) (Speech by Inés Alberdi, 13.10.10)
- [Introductory Statement – 65th Session of the General Assembly, Third Committee, 11 October 2010](#) (Speech by Michelle Bachelet, 11.10.10)
- [World's Women at the Centre of Achieving the MDGs](#) (Speech by Inés Alberdi, 20.09.10)
- [Innovative Solutions for Advancing Young Women's Empowerment](#) (Speech by Inés Alberdi, 24.08.10)

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Recent Publications

[Women Count for Peace: The 2010 Open Days on Women, Peace and Security](#) (2010). This report provides an account of an extraordinary set of 25 meetings held in the summer of 2010 between women peace activists and senior United Nations leaders in conflict-affected countries. It details women's perspectives on resolving conflict and building peace more effectively, identifies issues of common concern across different contexts — as well as areas of divergence — and makes proposals for improving international, regional and national efforts to protect women and promote peace.



[Pakistan Floods 2010 – Rapid Gender Needs Assessment of Flood-Affected Communities](#) (2010). Following the floods in the Summer of 2010 that have affected the lives and livelihoods of millions of people in Pakistan, UNIFEM prepared this Rapid Gender Needs Assessment report that chronologically maps gender-related concerns from the onset of floods to current relief camps, identifying gaps in information and flagging issues for upcoming stages of early recovery.



[Thematic Paper on MDG3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women](#) (2010). This paper identifies promising or successful experiences in country efforts to move towards achieving Millennium Development Goal no. 3 — Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women — and summarizes key lessons and future measures conducive to accelerating progress. The focus of the paper is on the national and local level; on country-led (rather than UN) efforts; and on a range of immediate and underlying factors that appear to be important or essential in enabling progress under differing conditions and country circumstances.



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Featured UNIFEM Videos

Gender and the Millennium Development Goals Video Series

In collaboration with UNTV, UNIFEM produced a series of five videos highlighting select MDGs from a gender perspective. Countries highlighted include Cambodia, Liberia, Botswana, Colombia and Haiti. Watch series: [English](#) | [Spanish](#) | [French](#) | [Russian](#)



Violence against Women and Girls in Haiti: The Enemy Within

Narrated by internationally renowned TV journalist Daljit Dhaliwal, this 21st Century short documentary goes deep into Haiti's makeshift camps to expose acts of violence and sexual assaults women and girls have encountered since the country's devastating earthquake in January left 1.5 million homeless. [Watch video.](#)



Liberia: Tackling the Legacy of Violence against Women

A testament to the power of women in achieving peace and security, this video, produced by 21st Century and UNIFEM, looks at how Liberia's women are proactively addressing the issue on various fronts — such as through the court system, police force and political arena — since their country emerged from war. [Watch video.](#)



Make Women Count for Peace – Interactive Video Series

To mark the 10th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325, activists from more than 20 conflict-affected countries participated in Global Open Days worldwide, calling for women's participation in peacebuilding and an end to sexual violence in conflict. This series represents just some of the many voices in the call to make women count for peace. [Watch interactive video.](#)



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Job Vacancies

- [Country Programme Manager](#)
Location: Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea
Post Level: P-5
Application Deadline: 1 November 2010
- [Administrative Associate](#)
Location: Madrid, Spain
Post Level: GS-6
Application Deadline: 2 November 2010
- [Chauffeur de l'unité de gestion du programme](#)
Location: Rabat, Morocco
Post Level: SB-1
Application Deadline: 3 November 2010
- [Evaluation Specialist](#)
Location: New York, United States
Post Level: P-4
Application Deadline: 4 November 2010
- [Consultant: Database Project Manager](#)
Location: New York, United States of America
Post Level: International Consultant
Application Deadline: 5 November 2010

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About UNIFEM Currents

UNIFEM Currents is the electronic news bulletin of the [United Nations Development Fund for Women](#) (UNIFEM). It provides up-to-date information briefs on UNIFEM initiatives, successes, events, projects and activities worldwide. It is published several times per year and delivered by e-mail. [Click here to subscribe to UNIFEM Currents.](#)

UNIFEM (part of [UN Women](#)) is the women's fund at the United Nations. It provides financial and technical assistance to innovative programmes and strategies to foster women's empowerment and gender equality. Placing the advancement of women's human rights at the centre of all of its efforts, UNIFEM focuses its activities on reducing feminized poverty; ending violence against women; reversing the spread of HIV/AIDS among women and girls; and achieving gender equality in democratic governance in times of peace as well as war. For more information, visit www.unifem.org.

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