

Committee: Security Council

Delegation : Greece

Topic(a): Marking the 25th Anniversary of United Nations Security

Council Resolution 1325 (2000)



From being treated simply as victims of war, to facing unacceptable wages and limited opportunities, women have suffered from the effects of gender inequality for hundreds, if not thousands, of years. Resolution 1325 repositioned them as active members and leaders in peace and security decision-making, minimising this imbalance¹. 2025 marks the 25th anniversary of this monumental resolution, offering an opportunity to reflect and improve upon the decisions made in 2000. The 4 pillars of WPS — protection, participation, prevention, and relief and recovery — are fundamental for long-lasting peace and security. This framework has successfully managed to justify, support, and enforce women's leadership globally. However, re-evaluating the aims and commitments put forth by the resolution would take us one step closer to achieving full equality for women internationally.

The first efforts to apply gender mainstreaming in Greece were made in the 2000s, when the General Secretariat for Gender Equality actively participated in the planning process for the 2000–2006 third Community Support Framework. This was Greece's development programme, which was financed by the EU's Cohesion Fund, and was followed by the National Strategic Reference Framework and the National Programme for Substantive Gender Equality. In 2017, a National Action Plan for Gender Equality was introduced, with limited success. Although Greece ranks 24th in the EU on the Gender Equality Index, which is 12.2 points below the score for the EU as a whole, we have seen extensive improvements over the years². For instance, by 2020, Greece's overall score had increased by 4.6 points, which has been one of the biggest increases among the Member States.

¹ S.C. Res. 1325 (Oct. 31, 2000).

² European Institute for Gender Equality. (n.d.). *Legislative and Policy Backgrounds: Greece*. Retrieved from https://eige.europa.eu/gender-mainstreaming/toolkits/gear/legislative-policy-backgrounds/greece?language_content_entity=en

Greece's NAP consists of adding a 5th fundamental pillar – Promotion – which prioritizes advancing the WPS Agenda internationally. This allows more gender integration into Greece's defense and foreign policies which emphasise the importance of protecting women and girls in conflict settings³.

Moreover, the Greek NAP WPS is based on a "whole-of-government" approach that involves cooperation and coordination among various ministries and institutions, and has been working on the pillars for a long time. During the covid-19 lockdown, for example, Greece's Women, Peace and Security (WPS) infrastructure provided emergency housing and medical aid to struggling women and children⁴. Similarly, the GSFPGE, through a network of helplines, counselling centers, and safe shelters, has ensured the protection of female victims of violence and their children⁴.

As outlined by Ambassador Angelatou, “Our vision is to create an inclusive workplace that not only protects all employees but also attracts new talent eager to serve our country. Our workforce is already largely gender-inclusive, with women making up 50% of all employees and 37% of the Foreign Service.”³ Greece has acted upon this vision with laws such as 1414/1984, which prohibited women's discrimination in the workforce by applying EU regulations on areas like job orientation, training, pay, compensation, working conditions and career development².

Lastly, the Greek government has put great emphasis on the Promotion pillar, increasing the number of women in UN peacekeeping and security roles. However, due to a lack of proper sanitation facilities and necessary equipment, this goal has been delayed³. Even so, we have set up measures to guarantee the advocacy of gender equality. For instance, Law 4589/2019 has made it a requirement for Greek universities to set up Gender Equality Committees (GECs), which focus on promoting equality, fighting sexism, and resolving cases of gender-based violence and discrimination². Since 2021, most universities and some research centres have actively adopted these GECs.

³ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). (2024). *MFA Equality Action Plan 2024-2027*. Retrieved from https://www.mfa.gr/media/2024/11/MFA-Equality-Action-Plan-2024-2027_%CE%95%CE%9D.pdf

⁴ UN Women. (2021). *Inputs for the review theme of the sixty-fifth session of the Commission on the Status of Women*. Retrieved from <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/65/MS%20Inputs%20Review%20Theme/Greece.pdf>

Greece's national approach builds on major international agreements, like CEDAW which provides the legal framework for gender equality policies like the HEI Gender Equality Committees (GECs), the Istanbul Convention, which establishes anti violence and support strategies, and UNSCR 1325⁵, which informs its National Action Plan for WPS and the use of women in peacekeeping operations. Diplomatically, Greece uses the EU and NATO WPS frameworks to build coalitions in support of our proposals⁶. We use this position to support standardized gender-responsive ways of doing things in UN missions, and to deal with the limitations of women deployments.

The Hellenic Republic believes that adding a fifth pillar to the Resolution would benefit not only Greece but the entire world. This pillar would press nations to increase awareness through a Gender Promotion Protocol (GPP). Through the GPP, Member States would be under the obligation to increase female representation in public positions, allowing them to free the world from the sexist ideas of the past. The promotion of gender equality is crucial for international peace and development, and must be considered at a greater extent³.

In conclusion, Greece intends to keep building coalitions and increase support on this issue. We also encourage more young female leaders to stand up for themselves and help minimize the terrible situations women are faced with. Additionally, it is essential to include actions to increase women's participation in police and military roles, building upon existing efforts and frameworks related to gender equality within the Greek context. Women make up the fabric of our world, and we are prepared to fight for their equality.

Topic (b): Addressing the Disproportionate Effect of Armed Conflicts on Children

The effect of armed conflicts on children is inexplicable from experiencing such traumas from the conflict to then being ripped out of their homes and moved across the world for safety reasons and lastly having to build a new life in a foreign country. Later on this trauma follows them and these children experience massive struggles in school. However to make matters

⁵ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, G.A. Res. 34/180 (Dec. 18, 1979); Council of Europe

Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence, opened for signature May 11, 2011, C.T.S. No. 210; S.C. Res. 1325 (Oct. 31, 2000).

⁶ Security Women. (n.d.). Greece. Retrieved from <https://www.securitywomen.org/unsr-1325-and-national-action-plans-nap/greece>

worse these children are targetted strategically to create terror and control leaving deep phycological wounds and are often exposed to rape, sexual slavery, and exploitation ⁷. 47.2 million children have been displaced by conflict and violence ⁸. This is why Greece prioritizes holding accountable those who commit violations against children in armed conflict by focusing on both prevention and solutions. Addressing this topic should be a main focus worldwide for the protection and rights of children. Greece has made the CAAC agenda a security council priority. We are committed to promoting and implementing its goals ⁷. Recruiting and using children in the armed forces or armed groups is a grave violation of children's rights and international humanitarian law (IHL) ⁹. Greece has made major progress in social protection measures for Greek children, acknowledging low-income and vulnerable families with the use of the European Pillar of Social Rights ¹⁰. However, a long term strategic approach needs to be put in place to combat armed conflict on children.

Greece proposes that the best way to address this topic is by preventing these wars before they even happen ⁷. Children get put in the middle of these conflicts which hurt the children much more than imaginable not only physically but also mentally which is unacceptable and needs to be taken care of . As a result, we think that a global fund must be put in place to pay for specialized long term mental health care and to spread awareness of the trauma of child victims globally. Greece wants to do this with the help of the strong relations it has built with the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Italy, Cyprus, and the rest of the European Union and NATO.

We must also address how important it is to respect IHL, mainly regarding prohibiting attacks in schools and hospitals. There is no context where children should be robbed of their education. Attacks in schools make it nearly impossible to continue learning .In fact more than 52 million children are estimated to be out of school due to the wars ⁸. Hence, any attempt on attacking schools and hospitals should have immediate consequences.

⁷ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). (n.d.). *Children in armed conflicts: Caught in the middle*. Retrieved from <https://greeceforunsc.mfa.gr/children-in-armed-conflicts-caught-in-the-middle/>

⁸ United Nations. (2024, December 3). *Global crises fuel mass displacement of children*. Retrieved from <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/12/1158561>

⁹ Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict. (n.d.). *Six Grave Violations*. Retrieved from <https://childrenandarmedconflict.un.org/six-grave-violations/>

¹⁰ Hellenic Republic Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (EKKA). (n.d.). *National Action Plan - Child Guarantee*. Retrieved from https://ekka.org.gr/images/SYNTONISMOY-ORGANOSIS/%CE%94%CE%97%CE%9C%CE%9F%CE%A3%CE%99%CE%A9%CE%9D_%CE%A3%CE%A7%CE%95%CE%A3%CE%95%CE%A9%CE%9D/National_Action_Plan-Child_Guarantee_in_English.pdf

Greece has been assisting countries in conflict zones such as Ukraine and Gaza. On August 11 we took 40 children from Odessa, Ukraine to participate in a hospitality program at the summer camp of the Municipality of Athens in Agios Andreas, Attica¹¹. We have also been offering to take care of children in Gaza as a part of an organized international humanitarian mission among several organizations like the European Union, the world health organization ,the Egyptian authorities, and Greek ministries¹¹. Ten severely injured children and their caregivers were rescued from Gaza and taken to Athens where our pediatric facilities welcomed them with specialized medical staff to treat their serious injuries such as fractures, burns, and amputations¹¹.

In the Geneva Convention we mentioned "Pursuant to article 3, paragraph 2 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflicts, Greece declares that the minimum age at which voluntary recruitment in the Greek armed forces is permitted by national law, is 18 years." ¹². This clearly shows how important this topic is for us and we believe that no kid or anyone should ever have to suffer such tragedies. "No military targets, no matter how valuable they are, can justify the death of thousands of children, the forced displacement of over a million Palestinians" ⁷ this was previously stated by our Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis in his speech at the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly which yet again proves how significant this is for us and no goal can justify the death of these children.

Greece has opened their arms and taken in millions of refugees from conflict zones. In September 2020 there was an estimate of around 44,500 refugee and migrant children in Greece among them 2,010 are unaccompanied¹³. The only way that we can ensure that these children are safe is to create more hospitality programs and refugee housing. It is also crucial to activate family tracing and reunification programs for the protection of children and their

¹¹ Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). (n.d.). *Children Protection in Conflict Zones: Greece co-hosts high-level event UNGA79*. Retrieved from <https://greeceforunsc.mfa.gr/children-protection-in-conflict-zones-greece-cohosts-high-level-event-unga79>

¹² Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict, art. 3, § 2, done Dec. 31, 2007 (Declaration of Greece). Retrieved from https://treaties.un.org/Pages/ViewDetails.aspx?src=TREATY&mtdsg_no=IV-11-b&chapter=4&clang=en

¹³ UNICEF. (2017). *Refugee and migrant children in Greece: Data analysis August 2017*. Retrieved from https://www.unicef.org/eca/sites/unicef.org.eca/files/eca-dataproduct-Refugee_and_migrant_children_in_Greece_data_analysis_August_2017.pdf

mental health as separating them from their families have horrible traumatic impacts on children.

The Hellenic republic strongly believes that this topic needs to be addressed urgently and consequences need to be arranged for anyone who commits any grave violation. It is key to create more programs for children to feel safe and reunite with their families and treat those who have already suffered with caution and specialists . With the recognition of IHL ,the help of global funds and our allies we can reduce the horrific effect of armed conflict on children.