



**The Eight Point Agenda:
Practical, positive outcomes for girls and women in crisis**

1. Strengthen women's security in crisis: Stop violence against women

- Violence against women is an affront to the foundations of human rights, human decency and human dignity.
- Rape and sexual violence are not collateral damage: they are methods of war. Perpetrators of these war crimes must be held accountable - by their communities, governments and by the international community, including through the International Criminal Court (ICC).
- Violence against women also impedes progress in poverty eradication; combating HIV/AIDS; and peace and security.
- Men and boys have a critical role to play in reversing the pandemic of violence against women.

2. Advance gender justice: Provide justice and security for women

- Laws to protect women's rights must be included and enforced within legal frameworks.
- Women must know their rights and be able to access legal systems, e.g., through free legal services.
- Custom, tradition or religious beliefs should never serve to excuse or justify violence against women.

3. Expand Women's Citizenship, Participation and Leadership: Advance women as decision-makers

- Women need the skills and confidence to influence the decisions that directly affect their lives, including through direct participation in government and the security sector.
- Women often are denied access to business transactions and excluded from negotiations surrounding land titles. Legislation needs to change to allow women to access business and land ownership.
- Women need to be represented in social, political and economic spheres, giving them a voice in the peace and recovery processes.

4. Build Peace with and for women: Involve women in all peace processes

- Women must be involved in all stages of the peace and recovery processes, including as high-level negotiators in peace talks.
- Peace agreements offer opportunities for inclusiveness, democratic reform and for gender equality. These opportunities must be seized.
- Gender provisions must be included in peace agreements and given priority as agreements are implemented.

5. Promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction: Value women's knowledge and experience

- Women's unique needs must be incorporated in analyses of disaster risk and post disaster risk assessments.

CRISIS PREVENTION AND RECOVERY

- As community structures crumble and violence escalates, steps must be taken to prevent the increased vulnerability of women and girls.
- Women's economic potential goes unrealized as their interests are not factored into the recovery effort. For example, cash-for-work schemes often do not specifically target women-headed households.
- Temporary housing often denies women privacy, increases their vulnerability to exploitation and discrimination and marginalizes widows. This has an effect on the well-being of women and children.
- Women's experience and knowledge must be valued and incorporated in any plans or policies.

6. Ensure gender-responsive recovery: Support men and women to build back better

- Women must be given equal opportunities to livelihoods, including access to land and credit. Rebuilding in key sectors such as transportation, shelter and health care must specifically benefit women.
- Recovering from crisis provides an opportunity to "build back better", reducing inequalities and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable.

7. Transform government to deliver for women: Include women's issues in the national agenda

- Women need to be engaged in decision-making on government budgets and resource mobilization.
- Incentives need be offered to public institutions that address women's needs.

8. Develop Capacities for Social Change: Work together to transform society

- Women organizations and networks need to be strengthened to ensure responsiveness and accountability on gender issues.
- Men need to be educated to promote gender equality and support women's empowerment.

Achievement of this Eight- Point Agenda will require:

*Supporting full **implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325**;
Incorporating gender equality priorities into **advocacy and strategic planning** in the
development, humanitarian, peace, and security spheres;
Strengthening **human resources, policies and programmes** to ensure responsiveness
and accountability on gender issues;
Building **partnerships** to maximize impact on gender priorities;
Developing gender-responsive **funding mechanisms and resource mobilization
strategies**;
Supporting **data collection** that counts women, counts what women value,
and values what women count; and
Advancing **intellectual leadership**, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation
on gender and CPR issues.*