Lessons based on The Commission on the Status of Women 60
How one conference or document can serve as social justice based lessons across the curriculum. This gender equality document can be used as:

Math lesson to flush out what the percentages mean, How much one percent increase would mean in terms of money and in comparison to what's spent on weapons of war.

Language Arts: Brainstorm the issues raised in the document. Draft petitions that reflect your highest priority. Send petition(s) on the internet. First clarify to whom they will be sent.

Social Studies: Research difference between the US and European and then poor countries regarding rights for women.

Foreign Languages: Same as Soc Stud. but in the language of the country.

PE: Which countries have recently included women in international sports competitions. Are there any changes by the international community that has made that possible?

Science: Choices in women's health and reproductive health? Why is this important? Or its it?

Art: New pieces on display by women artists? Themes? Encourage students to produce their own pieces and tell reasons for the choice.

Music: Women musicians who are gaining popularity. Are they unique in their style, content or must they mimic male musicians?
EDITORIAL:

Women’s Economic Empowerment: From an Economy of War to An Economy of Peace

By: Emilia Reyes (Guest Contributor), Equidad de Género (Gender Equity), Mexico

For too long, gender inequality has been seen as a problem that has apolitical, social origins. Yet gender inequalities are deeply political. They are a product of actions and omissions of States. This is why the most crucial and the only effective way to address root causes of gender inequality and violence is to address structural causes and changing the logic of States themselves.

2015 was a year of decisions. 2016 will be the year of setting the institutional pillars for what comes next. As we start the 60th Commission on the Status of Women, we must know that we can create a more equal and sustainable world by overcoming obstacles to equality, gender justice, and peace.

The current system facilitates exploitation, war and violence.
Citizenship, for a start, has been a long battle for women, with full and equal political decision-making far from being accomplished. Even in 2016, we still have to campaign for the first ever UN Secretary General! Budgetary and financial allocation is another angle from which we can see that gender equality is not a priority: even in those countries in which gender budgets have been implemented to reduce inequalities, less than 1% of the total national budget has been addressed. And we continue to invest $1.7 trillion in global arms – while, as Malala has pointed out, just eight days of this spending would provide universal education for girls and boys everywhere.

Women all around the world face economic oppression due to the burden of unpaid care and domestic work, to the point in which this is the main obstacle for women to exercise their rights: they are expected to fulfil their role as care-givers before they can undertake a decision in life regarding education, work, political participation or any other field. Women, especially women of colour, subsidize the entire economy with their unpaid work, and the other actor who is in the capacity to act and modify that situation is the State. Women in situations of conflict and state collapse put their bodies and lives on the line to cover gaps in social support and fabric abandoned by the State.

Implementing commitments on sustainable development from 2015 – including the Sustainable Development Goals, High Level Political Forum, and Financing for Development Forum – in a way that eliminates inequalities and promotes structural transformation will be critical to moving forward. Structural transformation requires building on women’s human rights at Beijing (1995), Cairo (1994) and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (including the 2015 Global Review). At the
regional level, the promise of our regional Sustainable Development Forum (and perhaps Financing for Development regional Forums?) is one opportunity to deepen that path. At national and local level, we need to revise the legal and programmatic frameworks, as well as their respective fiscal structures, around principles of gender equality, disarmament, and peace so that implementation really goes hand-in-hand with the aspirations of an equal and sustainable world.

The challenges that the world is facing right now are not only because the problems are too huge. The challenges are that we need to change ourselves and the very structure that is meant to lead that change. States must recognize that their military expenditure is excessive and reallocate budgets towards gender equitable sustainable development; but further, we must demand States rethink all of their dynamics, with the rights and flourishing of those most at risk as the baseline for success.

The challenges are great, but are not up in the air: the time is now to take action! Demand that your states make a paradigmatic shift for a world that we want to see now. Not tomorrow, but now.
The Global Study on UNSCR 1325 is the evidence base for action. Learn more about it through this series highlighting key recommendations and join us in taking action!

Chapter 3 of the Global Study on Women, Peace and Security addressed women’s participation. According to the study, actors involved in mediation and conflict resolution remain resistant to including women, claiming success is judged on effectiveness, not inclusiveness. Yet the history of traditional peacemaking is littered with examples of failed mediation attempts and broken peace agreements. Conversely, a growing body of evidence shows unequivocally that women’s participation contributes to the conclusion of talks and the implementation and durability of peace agreements.

**Facts & Figures:**

- Women’s participation increases the probability of a peace agreement lasting at least two years by 20 percent,
and by 35 percent the probability of a peace agreement lasting 15 years.

- In cases where women are able to exercise a strong influence on the negotiation process, there is a much higher chance that an agreement would be reached than when women’s groups exercised weak or no influence.

**Key recommendations:**

- Make quantifiable, time-sensitive commitments and offer incentives to ensure women's direct and meaningful participation during specific phases of the process, to include women's perspectives and gender-responsive provisions in all meetings, consultations, and agreements, to train all parties on their gender-responsive obligations within their area of expertise, and to acknowledge and provide holistic support for women's groups that are engaged in ‘track 2’ diplomacy efforts.

- Include women’s systematic engagement in peace talks in the terms of reference of every mediator, envoy, and leader of peace mission, and ensure regular reporting for accountability.

- Desist from using observer status as a substitute for real and effective participation for women. Women should not be on the sidelines observing, but an integral part of negotiations and decision-making on the future of their country.

For more information, see UN Women’s [Global Study Factsheets](https://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/women-in-development/peace-and-security) or the full [Global Study on Women, Peace and Security](https://www.unwomen.org/).
Commission on the Status of Women 60 has arrived!

By: Marta Bautista

The Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 60 is here! PeaceWomen and WILPF are thrilled to participate again this year. Join us in our main event:

"The Global Study on UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Strategies for Implementation" | Tuesday March 15th, 1:30 PM at CUNY Law School (WILPF, MADRE, AWID, the Nobel’s Women’s Iniciative)

We are also engaging in a variety of other events to strengthen feminist mobilisation for change:

- "What has the Empowerment of Women and Girls Got to Do with Sustainable Development?" | Monday March 14th, 6:15 PM at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), Drew Room (WILPF-US)

- "Women’s Leadership in the Korea Peace
"Process" | Thursday March 17th, 10:30AM - 12:00PM at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), Boss Room, 8th Floor (Women Cross DMZ)

- "The Syrian Regional Crisis - A Women’s Rights Perspective on Humanitarian Action and Protection" | Friday March 18th, 11:30AM - 1PM at Baha'i International Community Centre, 866 United Nations Plaza (WILPF, Care International and the UK NGO CSW Alliance)

- "It Takes Two to Tango" | Friday March 18th, 4:30PM at Salvation Army (SA), Downstairs Room, 221 E.52nd Street (MenEngage)

- "Expanding Gender Equality, Unbinding the Gender Binary" | Monday March 21st, 4:30 PM- 6:00 PM at the Church Center for the United Nations (CCUN), 10th Floor (WILPF-US)

Don’t forget to read our written statement for this year!

In a year where the focus is on implementing the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals, it is critical to recognise that women’s economic empowerment is a means for conflict prevention. Moving the money away from arms trade and war and redirecting our resources to invest in gender equitable sustainable development is critical for women’s human rights and peace.

Stay tuned on all the events, highlights, and outcomes around CSW 60! Make sure to follow PeaceWomen online; we will post updates on events, highlights and outcomes of CSW 60 on this page and on Facebook and Twitter!
As part of our preparations for the 60th Commission on the Status of Women and as part of our ongoing webinar series by the WILPF Academic Network, WILPF hosted a webinar on March 2, 2016, on the topic, “Towards the Goal of Social Justice: Women’s Empowerment and Sustainable Development (CSW 60).” The discussion of this webinar focused on shifting the current economic and security
paradigm to promote people over profit for human rights, human security, and sustainable peace.

WILPF PeaceWomen Programme Director, Abigail Ruane, introduced the webinar, highlighting how investing in gender equitable sustainable development is a key element of conflict prevention and sustainable peace. She highlighted how the 1987 Brundtland Report and subsequent Rio conferences on sustainable development supported a holistic understanding of development based on the intersection of environmental protection, social development (including women’s human rights), and economic development. Peace activists and women human rights defenders from Syria to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and beyond have brought attention to the incompatibility of human security with prevailing military arrangements. Strengthening women’s substantive participation and rights and moving from an economy of violence and war to an economy of gender justice is critical for sustainable and democratic peace.

The Center for Women’s Global Leadership (CWGL) Faculty Director Radhika Balakrishnan then provided a gender analysis of current macroeconomic policies and explored how to promote human rights through macroeconomic policy. She spoke on the importance of addressing women’s limited access to education, budgetary cuts to healthcare, and unpaid work, which is provided disproportionately by women on a daily basis. Balakrishnan analysed the way countries respond to global economic instabilities often disproportionately impacts women and girls. She reminded participants that the international community has made strong and comprehensive commitments to gender equality and women’s rights. Human rights treaties, mechanisms and instruments have addressed the issues of women’s participation and leadership and
women’s access to and control over resources, and we need to strengthen accountability on these commitments including through macroeconomic policy.

In closing, the panelists of the webinar reiterated the need for the full and meaningful implementation of the international framework regarding gender equality and women’s human rights. As the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are taken forward, it is critical to ensure implementation is conducted through a human rights lens with women’s human rights at the core.

For the full recording of the webinar, please check WILPF’s YouTube Channel.

REPORTS / POLICY BRIEFS / RESOURCES:

Monthly Action Points (MAPs) for the Security Council: March 2016
Transforming Women's Work: Policies for an Inclusive Economic Agenda
Kenyan Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission Report

WILPF INITIATIVES AND EVENTS:

WEBINAR: Towards the goal of social justice: Women’s empowerment and sustainable development (CSW 60)
FEMINIST STRATEGIES FOR IMPLEMENTING THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS
The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development
Panel Discussion on Climate Change and the Right to Health
Creating an International Gender and Peace Agenda: Transnational Companies, Weapons and Violence Against Women
Madeleine Rees’ TedX Talk: Gender, War and Peace: Why does the international system keep failing us?
EXTERNAL INITIATIVES:

1 for 7 Billion

Marshall Islands sue Britain, India and Pakistan over nuclear weapons

Nuclear Zero campaign

An African Ecofeminist Perspective on the Paris Climate Negotiations

How to Avoid All-Male Panels