

ending the country's civil war and the elections that followed.

However, their representation in government is abysmal with only 10% of the current cabinet being female while of the 124-member legislature only a little over 13% are women. Sierra Leone has therefore failed to take into consideration the recommendations of Resolution 1325.

Other UN Resolutions and Initiatives Promoting and Protecting Women's Rights

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW 1979)
- The Appointment of a Special Rapporteur on Violence against women, its causes and consequences (1994)
- The Appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the systematic rape and sexual slavery and slavery-like practices during war time, (1995)
- Beijing Declaration and Platform

for Action, 1995

- ECOSOC agreed conclusions on gender mainstreaming, 1997
- Security Council Presidential Statement (Bangladesh 8 March 2000)
- Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations (May 2000)
- Security Council Resolution 1820 on Sexual Violence (2008)



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Research Pathways Consortium on Women's Empowerment

(West Africa Hub)

UN Security Council Resolution 1325

(A simplified Version)

Background:

The suffering and violence women face in wars and the marginalisation they endure in society led to the adoption of several UN Resolutions to protect and promote women's rights. Abduction, rape, gang-rape, sexual slavery, forced marriage, forced conscription are among the dreadful things women endured in war-torn societies especially in former Yugoslavia, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Liberia and Democratic Republic of Congo, among others.

This spurred women not only in these countries, but all over the world to protest and demand for the protection of women's rights in war and in peace times.

Their actions resulted in the unanimous adoption on 31st October 2000 of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.

The Resolution became the first Security Council motion to address the grave impact of war on women and their marginalisation in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding processes.

What Resolution 1325 seeks to achieve

The 18-paragraph resolution seeks to achieve gender-equity and focuses on four key issues:

- It calls for women's **Participation** in peace processes around the world, and their involvement in decision-making and governance in the attainment of peace and security at national, regional and international levels.
- It seeks to ensure that **women's perspectives** and safety issues are **integrated** into the training of national police and military forces as well as in international peacekeeping operations.
- It requires the **protection of women** from all forms of gender-based violence in conflict zones, end impunity and prosecute perpetrators.
- It calls for the need to **incorporate gender issues** into the way UN programmes are implemented. This ensures the appointment of women to key UN positions.

Who should implement Resolution 1325

- The United Nations Security Council
- The United Nations Secretary-General
- UN Members States: Government, Parliament and the Judiciary
- Non-state actors: parties to conflicts and civil society organisations

Relevance to Sierra Leone

Resolution 1325 is relevant to Sierra Leone because the country went through a bloody civil war that resulted in the sexual abuse of over 250,000 women and girls and the displacement of over 1 million people mostly women and children.

Sierra Leone is one of the first beneficiary countries of the UN Peacebuilding Fund, which provides for the inclusion of gender concerns as part of its activities.

Women played a significant role in