

## Radio Scripts: Women Talk Peace in English

### **African women and Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security**

#### **A radio feature on UNSCR 1325 – with excerpts from the 2005 Peacebuilding Cyberdialogues**

**11.17 minutes**

*SFX: blasts, gun shots, children crying*

1. Sadia: Mam! Mam! Mamaaaaa! Help! Help me! Somebody..... Help! Anybody! Oh God, Please save my husband. He's all I have left. Please God. Please.

2. Juma: Salim! Salim wake up. Come on brother.... I know you can beat this. You are a strong man... it's just a bullet wound. Salim! Don't die on me brother. Don't do this. Don't die on me.... What will happen to your wife and children?

3. What have I done to deserve this? Just kill me you gun totting militias hungry for innocent blood.

3. Juma: Sadia please. For the sake of the children, run away and save your life. Let go. Salim is no more. They've killed him.

4. I hate you! I hate you! I hate you! - *More weeping interspersed with ethnic music---fades down as voice is faded up*

5. Narrator (female): A painful reality facing Sadia just reeling from the loss of her husband during a militia attack on her village. Sadia and her seven children have just watched militias slit open her husband's throat in a night raid. They are the latest victims of the war in Gulu district of Northern Uganda.

*Intersperse with ethnic music—fades down as voice is faded up*

6. Narrator (male): A painful yet realistic story that people like Sadia go through each day. The reality of wars especially in sub Saharan Africa, specifically in the horn of Africa and the Great Lakes region leaves mainly women and children in desperate need for answers.

7. Narrator (female): Sierra Leone, Liberia , the Democratic Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Angola, Sudan, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia and Northern Uganda—to name a few countries and areas emerging from war, where women have been at the core of the pain, anguish and suffering brought about by the gun. It is not therefore wrong to say that this is the time for African women to stand up and fight against war, not by the use of guns and machetes, but by justly seeking space at the peace table.

8. Narrator (male): Over and over again, women speak of violence in their experiences of war, and how war entrenches violence in their communities and just how violence is experienced differently by women and men. Societies become militarized in civil war and the militarization lingers on long afterwards. The military sow a culture of violence in long wars that is difficult to eradicate. This violence makes life difficult and dangerous for women, especially with the diffusion of cheap small arms.

9. Narrator (female): Violence against women does not end when treaties are signed to end the war; in fact violence escalates. What can we do to protect ourselves during conflict and in the aftermath? How can we prevent violence? How can we help women heal from the trauma? In Kenya, which is relatively calm in comparison to her neighbours, the rape of girls and women is on the rise in all strata of society.

10. Narrator (male): Until recently one of the most invisible aspects of armed conflict is the violence against women. For women in countries where the environment and the economy have been devastated by fighting, prostitution may be the only means of survival. Even in refugee camps—supposedly safe from war—forced prostitution is an all too frequent occurrence. Rape is turned into a weapon of war. Does it always have to be like this?

11. Narrator (Female): No, it doesn't always have to be like this. What was hidden and invisible, is now being discussed at the highest levels. In October 2000, the United Nations Security Council adopted a revolutionary instrument in Resolution 1325. It is the first resolution ever passed by the Security Council that specifically addresses the impact of war on women, and women's contributions to conflict resolution and sustainable peace.

The resolution emphasizes the role of women in the prevention of conflict, the importance of women's equal participation in all peace and security efforts, and the need to protect women in times of armed conflict. The three "Ps" in Resolution

1325 –participation, prevention and protection--also demands UN Member States that women are represented in all decision-making mechanisms and processes on peace and security issues.

We have with us here Jessica Nkuuhe, Associate Director of Isis WICCE who would explain how they are using Resolution 1325 to ensure Ugandan women's participation in all peace and security discussions:

12. Jessica Nkuuhe (JN): Ever since Isis-WICCE got involved with the UN Resolution 1325 and that was soon after its passing in October 2000, the organization embarked on ensuring that the women themselves understood this resolution. And therefore as part of our training, we included issues of international humanitarian law, and also gave women skills in negotiation, in understanding, analyzing and resolving conflict, as well as skills in advocacy. So that when they are invited to negotiation tables they will have the requisite skills necessary for the exercise.

At the same time the organization has been involved in documenting experiences of women in situations of armed conflict and we can together with other women join the campaign to stop violence against women in situations of armed conflict. We have been able to produce both print and video documentaries on the violations of women, the specific violations especially sexual violence, as well as the trauma that women experience in these situations. We also facilitate Ugandan women's participation in international discussions such as the Peacebuilding Cyberdialogues that the International Women's Tribune Centre organized during the meeting of the UN Security Council in October 2005.

13. Narrator (male): It was mentioned earlier that Resolution 1325 also demands UN Member States to ensure women's representation and participation in all decision-making mechanisms and processes on peace and security issues. We now have the first African woman president in Liberia. What is the significance of this Jessica?

14. JN: This is very significant because Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf's election in Liberia has demonstrated what women can achieve when they are organized. And has also demonstrated that both men and women can have confidence in a woman to lead.

In fact, in her inaugural speech, Ms. Johnson-Sirleaf recognized that it was the power of women especially market women and other women at the grassroots level which ensured her victory in this elections. Therefore, the contributions of women at the grassroots level is very important.

In 2004 for example, Isis WICCE produced a video documentary on unique women's peace initiatives in different countries in Africa to show exactly what women are doing in the area of peacebuilding starting at the grassroots level right up to the highest level of governance. At the national level with policy makers, on the African union level and internationally, there are women out there who are capable as leaders in conflict resolution and in peacebuilding as well. Therefore, these women can participate even more ably than men at the peace table. So the excuse of saying that there are no women out there who are capable of participating in peace processes just does not hold water at all.

I must emphasize also the importance of involving the right women and training the right women. We must get the right women in positions of leadership. Because not every woman who goes in this position have the passion to ensure that women's human rights are protected, are promoted, and are respected. Here in Uganda for example, whenever we go to elect women leaders, do we ensure that we have put our best women in these different spaces? Because it's only when we have our best women that we can make a difference. I know that men out there also mess up the situation but that doesn't mean that we cannot include our best women. We in Uganda and the African region have a great responsibility to ensure that the provisions outlined in this UN Security Council Resolution 1325 are realized.

We need to reach out to as many women as possible especially those who live in communities affected by armed conflict so that they can use this resolution to claim their rights and space in building peaceful societies.

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is part of the international law. Its dissemination begins now. It begins with us.

15. Be informed, be involved! Support women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. Let us get more of our African sisters to the peace tables.  
Support women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. Write, call, or visit this station to learn more about the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and how best this could be used in your communities.

A message from the International Women's Tribune Centre in partnership with the Uganda Media Women's Association made possible by the support from the Human Security Program in the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, Canada;

United Nations Development Fund for Women; the Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and this station.

*Music fades up and fades down*

*written by Lillian Odera  
with inputs from Mavic Cabrera-Balleza*

**Charity and Nora, two friends building peace  
A radio feature on national action plans on UNSCR 1325.**

**7.08 minutes**

*Knocking or sounds at the door to announce a visitor (depending on the country and audience)*

1. Charity: Hello, hello, is anyone home?
2. Nora: Oh, hello, Charity. Come in, come in. Sit down. I've just put the kettle on.
3. Charity: Thank you, Nora. That's sounds wonderful. I've had a hard day.
4. Nora: It's soooo good to see you. It's been a long time. Actually, it's been a long time since any of our friends got together. But, at last, this conflict may be over. And, those of us who are left can begin to get our lives back together.
5. Charity: Yes, it's been a horrible period. War and violence never get us anywhere. Is your family alright?
6. Nora: Yes, thank God, they all alive and reasonably well. And yours?
7. Charity: Yes, my family is fine as well. You know, Nora, that's one of the reasons I came over today....besides just wanting to see you again. I've been thinking that we're the lucky ones, and we need to find a way to smooth the road to peace in our country. I wanted to tell you about some new ideas I had.
8. Nora: Sure. You always have wonderful ideas, Charity. What's happening?
9. Charity: Well, have you heard about this new UN Resolution 1325?
10. Nora: Yes, I've heard about it in one of the meetings in our organization. That's the one about women's participation in peacebuilding, right? But honestly, I don't know how we can make use of that policy here in our country.
11. Charity: Well, I think the recent developments have been really exciting because now the discussions on Resolution 1325 are focused on developing national action plans that draw on our experiences and perspectives as women and how we contribute not only in peacebuilding but also in the prevention of conflict. The national action plan on 1325 would also help our government maintain its commitment to gender equality in conflict and even during a period of post conflict reconstruction. This also means allocating funds and other resources to support women's peace initiatives at the local level.

Believe me, Nora I think we have a tool to help us make more of a difference. It is really groundbreaking for us. Let's make sure that the three Ps - protection for women in conflict situations, prevention of violence, and participation of women in decision-making and the peacekeeping, peacebuilding processes happen through the national action plans.

There are a lot of countries in Africa where the first two are critical, but, it's the third one where I think we can make a difference. I've been thinking about this a lot, and I began to talk to a few people.

We need to participate in developing a National Action Plan so we can really participate in the peacekeeping afterwards. And that links to the prevention of future conflicts if we have a voice.

12. Nora: You are absolutely right, Charity. They need our voices and our perspectives. Look at how women suffered in this conflict. And our needs are different from men's. We tried to protect our children. Many of us were raped. Some died. Women could do so much in preventing conflicts in the first place...in building the peace, and working towards social justice after these horrible times.

Working on a National Action Plan makes a lot of sense. We could really help our government to understand the gender dimensions of violent conflict—before, during, and afterwards. How do you see it working?

13. Charity: First of all, it could bring key ministries and government departments together who never talk to each other, let alone about gender. And we could get them talking to other organizations who would be interested in these issues. We could get our women's groups together to publicize this to make sure we get a role in the decision-making. Also, the women lawyers, the human rights groups. And don't forget the important women who are already in the government. And we need to find sympathetic men in key positions and enlist them as partners.

14. Nora: You know, what is so exciting about this is that a National Action Plan could really be a tool for accountability of our government.

15. Charity: Yes, and the government is beginning to recognize that civic groups are important in implementing some of their political commitments. I heard some of the other African countries are beginning to use civic groups more effectively. You know, many things the government does in reconstruction have profound gender implications, and I am sure they haven't given it a thought.

16. Nora: So, what do you think we should do? What are our first steps? Let's make a list.

17. Charity: First, let's call some of the other women's and other groups, talk to a few people individually, both men and women, and then see if we can get a meeting.

### ***Music fade...***

18. Narrator (male): Women—and men—like Charity and Nora are stirring all over Africa. Finally they have a tool to use in helping women to have a voice—and a role in the decision-making about peacekeeping and peacebuilding. You and your group, your community can have a voice. And you can help all women have a voice. Women are hurt by conflict in many ways...ways very different from men. Women deserve a chance to use their skills and wisdom to help prevent conflicts, to protect themselves and girls in conflict situations, and women should play a big role in reconstruction and peacekeeping.

19. Narrator (female): Be informed, be involved! Support women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building. Let us get more of our African sisters to the peace tables.

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*Music fades up and fades down*

*Written by Maggie Range*

*With inputs from Mavic Cabrera-Balleza*

### **Did You Know?**

#### **Curtain raiser (radio plug/public service announcement) on UNSCR 1325**

**1:46 minutes**

Did you know that five years ago the United Nations Security Council passed a groundbreaking resolution on women, peace and security? That resolution, Resolution 1325, calls for women's participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and peace-building

This resolution is timely. The worst victims of armed conflict are mostly women and children. In the years 2003-2005 for instance, 13,000 children were abducted from the districts of Gulu, Kitgum and Pader in Northern Uganda, following a brutal war raging between the Lord's Resistance Army and government troops in the region.

It is against this background that women should be part of resolving conflicts. Resolution 1325 calls for women's participation in decision-making in peace negotiation panels.

This is easier said than done. We women have been taught that issues of peace and security are solely men's business. Men don't think women belong at the peace table and we women don't see ourselves there either. This has to change.

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*Written by Mavic Cabrera-Balleza*