OMNI WOMEN’S EQUALITY DAY, 19th Amendment, AUGUST 26 [1920], 2012 GENDER JUSTICE NEWSLETTER #2 (see: International Day of Women March 8 and Women’s Equal Pay Day April 17) Newsletters. Compiled by Dick Bennett for a Culture of Peace.

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Aug 26, 1920:

**19th Amendment adopted**

The 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women the right to vote, is formally adopted into the U.S. Constitution by proclamation of Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby. The amendment was the culmination of more than 70 years of struggle by woman suffragists. Its two sections read simply: "The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex" and "Congress shall have power to enforce this article by appropriate legislation."

America's woman suffrage movement was founded in the mid 19th century by women who had become politically active through their work in the abolitionist and temperance movements. In July 1848, 200 woman suffragists, organized by Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Lucretia Mott, met in Seneca Falls, New York, to discuss women's rights. After approving measures asserting the right of women to educational and employment opportunities, they passed a resolution that declared "it is the duty of the women of this country to secure to themselves their sacred right to the elective franchise." For proclaiming a women's right to vote, the Seneca Falls Convention was subjected to public ridicule, and some backers of women's rights withdrew their support. However, the resolution marked the beginning of the woman suffrage movement in America.

The first national woman's rights convention was held in 1850 and then repeated annually, providing an important focus for the growing woman suffrage movement. In the Reconstruction era, the 15th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution was adopted, granting African American men the right to vote, but Congress declined to expand enfranchisement into the sphere of gender. In 1869, the National Woman Suffrage Association was founded by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton to push for a woman suffrage amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Another organization, the American Woman Suffrage Association, led by Lucy Stone, was formed in the same year to work through the state legislatures. In 1890, these two groups were united as the National American Woman Suffrage Association. That year, Wyoming became the first state to grant women the right to vote.

By the beginning of the 20th century, the role of women in American society was changing drastically: Women were working more, receiving a better education, bearing fewer children, and three more states (Colorado, Utah, and Idaho) had yielded to the demand for female enfranchisement. In 1916, the
National Woman's Party (formed in 1913 at the Congressional Union for Woman Suffrage) decided to adopt a more radical approach to woman suffrage. Instead of questionnaires and lobbying, its members picketed the White House, marched, and staged acts of civil disobedience.

In 1917, America entered World War I, and women aided the war effort in various capacities that helped break down most of the remaining opposition to woman suffrage. By 1918, women had acquired equal suffrage with men in 15 states, and both the Democratic and Republican parties openly endorsed female enfranchisement.

In January 1918, the woman suffrage amendment passed the House of Representatives with the necessary two-thirds majority vote. In June 1919, it was approved by the Senate and sent to the states for ratification. Campaigns were waged by suffragists around the country to secure ratification, and on August 18, 1920, Tennessee became the 36th state to ratify the amendment, giving it the two-thirds majority of state ratification necessary to make it the law of the land.

The package containing the certified record of the action of the Tennessee legislature was sent by train to the nation's capital, arriving in the early hours of August 26. At 8 a.m. that morning, Secretary of State Bainbridge Colby signed it without ceremony at his residence in Washington. None of the leaders of the woman suffrage movement were present when the proclamation was signed, and no photographers or film cameras recorded the event. That afternoon, Carrie Chapman Catt, head of the National American Suffrage Association, was received at the White House by President Woodrow Wilson and Edith Wilson, the first lady.


WOMEN'S EQUALITY DAY, 2012

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BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

On Women's Equality Day, we mark the anniversary of our Constitution's 19th Amendment, which secured the right to vote for America's women. The product of profound struggle and fierce hope, the 19th Amendment reaffirmed what we have always known: that America is a place where anything is possible and where each of us is entitled to the full pursuit of our own happiness. We also know that the defiant, can-do spirit that moved millions to seek suffrage is what runs through the veins of American history. It remains the wellspring of all our progress. And nearly a century after the battle for women's franchise was won, a new generation of young women stands ready to carry that spirit forward and bring us closer to a world where there are no limits on how big our children can dream or how high they can reach.

To keep our Nation moving ahead, all Americans -- men and women -- must be able to help provide for their families and contribute fully to our economy. That is why I have made supporting the needs and aspirations of women and girls a top priority for my Administration. From signing the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act into law and creating the White House Council on Women and Girls to combatting sexual assault and promoting women's economic and political empowerment at home and abroad, we have
worked to ensure women have the opportunities they need and deserve at every stage of their lives. As women around the world continue to fight for their seat at the table, my Administration will keep their interests at the core of our policy decisions -- and we will join them every step of the way.

Today, women are nearly 50 percent of our workforce, the majority of students in our colleges and graduate schools, and a growing number of breadwinners in their families. From business to medicine to our military, women are leading the fields that were closed off to them only decades ago. We owe that legacy of progress to our mothers and aunts, grandmothers and great-grandmothers -- women who proved not only that opportunity and equality do not come without a fight, but also that they are possible. Even with the gains we have made, we still have work to do. As we mark this 92nd anniversary of the 19th Amendment, let us reflect on how far we have come toward fully realizing the basic freedoms enshrined in our founding documents, rededicate ourselves to closing the gaps that remain, and continue to widen the doors of opportunity for all of our daughters and sons.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BARACK OBAMA, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2012, as Women's Equality Day. I call upon the people of the United States to celebrate the achievements of women and recommit to realizing gender equality in this country.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twenty-fourth day of August, in the year of our Lord two thousand twelve, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and thirty-seventh.

Kate Farrar
Director, AAUW Leadership Programs
GET UPDATES FROM Kate Farrar

Women's Equality Day: Not Just About Voting Anymore
Posted: 08/24/2012
Sunday we mark Women's Equality Day, a celebration of the 19th Amendment, the victory that gave women a voice in politics and policy.

Lately, however, women have reason to question whether they are being heard. What we are hearing is men spouting off misinformation about issues that affect women's pay, health, and families -- distortions that are difficult to correct when so few women hold leadership positions.

That's about to change. Thanks to a culture that is spurring rhetoric and equally outrageous legislation that try to silence women, we are again fighting for our voice. A historic number of women are running for Congress this year, and if elected, they will make a huge dent in our lack of political representation. No more will women have to put up with inflammatory statements like Rep. Todd Akin's: "If it's a legitimate rape, the female body has ways to try to shut that whole thing down."

His remark was just the latest shocking comment about women. Earlier this summer, Brian Kilmeade, co-host of the morning show Fox & Friends, said, "Women are everywhere. We're letting them play golf and tennis now. It's out of control."

And finally, Michigan state Rep. Wayne Schmidt likened the censure of his female colleague to "giving the kid a time out for a day." Schmidt was referring to his fellow representative Lisa Brown, who was rebuked for using the word "vagina" during a floor debate on an abortion bill.
These quotes act as mute buttons, a way to control who is heard and respected in policy discussions. But we didn't fight so hard for a voice to give it away so readily. Tired of nonsensical politics over their health care, their paychecks, and, yes, their birth control, women are taking their representation into their own hands.

A record-breaking 154 women have received party nominations for U.S. House races this year, thanks in part to the efforts of numerous training programs across the country and the 2012 Project, a campaign that encouraged and supported women to run this cycle. (Its slogan: "Don't get mad. Get elected.")

There's also good news on the Senate side, where women could hold as many as 25 seats after this election, and the 18 women running have raised more than $135 million -- a sign that donors also believe in women candidates.

We are also seeing more women under 40 running (supported by such groups as WUF PAC) who, if elected, can build seniority, master the issues, and become powerful congressional leaders.

Such positive possibilities could not come at a better time. Over the last two decades, the number of national women lawmakers has increased, on average, by just two per year. At this rate, women won't have equal representation in Congress until 2098.

The last time women made such a collective run for office -- 1992 -- the country had just watched a panel of congressmen humiliate Anita Hill on national television. On the sidelines, a line of women waited to testify on Hill's behalf, to tell the nation of her credibility and courage. They were never called. The next election, 29 women joined Congress.

This past February, Americans watched a similar scene. An all-male panel once again told a woman her voice didn't matter, so Sandra Fluke sat in silence while five men discussed birth control.

Once again, Americans were not pleased. Baby boomers, who are rightly proud of their generation's work to advance women, were horrified at the threat of turning back the clock. Younger women, who weren't around for the first fight for reproductive rights, couldn't believe that the topic was up for debate. But what angered people most -- regardless of generation, gender, or party line -- was the unsettling scene of women excluded.

The large number of women running is a true signal that our leaders have failed to properly hear and amplify women's perspectives. We won't secure full parity in congressional representation this year, but the large number of women candidates will sound a call no one can silence: The face of politics must change.

On this Women's Equality Day, we should certainly celebrate the power of a woman's vote. But let's also celebrate a woman's voice and the fact that we can make ourselves heard every day -- not just every four years -- by supporting a sea change of leadership.

Get more results from the past 24 hours

WOMEN AND THE UN

October 3rd Webinar: UN Security Council Resolution 1325 National Action Plan
Elaina Ramsey news@wand.org via uark.edu to jbennet 9-25-11
Join us as we hear from Tanya Henderson, National Director of Women's...

UN Security Council Resolution 1325
In October 2000, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 1325 in recognition of the importance of including women in matters of peace and security. Its basic premise is that a just and lasting world peace cannot be achieved without the full and equal participation of women, especially since women are affected disproportionately by armed conflict, rape and domestic violence. Broadly applied, Resolution 1325 extends to all stages of peacebuilding, peacemaking, peacekeeping and conflict prevention. The U.S. section of WILPF has a multi-dimensional campaign to ensure that Resolution 1325 will not merely be used as a tool for making war safe for women, but will serve to advance the status of women everywhere and prevent future wars.

WAND is a co-sponsor of the campaign to advance Resolution 1325. Learn more about the presenter of this exciting new webinar, Tanya Henderson, by reading her biography on the WAND website here.

Sign Up Now!

UN Security Council Resolution 1325: A National Action Plan
Monday, October 3, 2011
3:00pm-4:00pm ET

This webinar will provide you with the opportunity to learn more about UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its implications for women, peace and security at home and abroad.

We hope you can join us!

Sign Up Now!

691 Massachusetts Ave. | Arlington, MA 02476 US

FEMINIST FILMS REVIEWED IN MS. MAGAZINE (Winter 2012)

The Whistleblower. Dir. Larysa Kondracki. Feature film based on memoir of U.N. peacekeeper Kathryn Bolkovac, who exposed the sexism of her male colleagues.
WOMEN VICTIMS

Eve Ensler, “One Billion Rising”


Ensler writes: "As economies collapse and the 99 percent struggles with less and less, as global warming increases, and fires, floods, drought abound, the violence against women and girls increases. They become targets. They become commodities, sold in many places for less than a cell phone."

READ MORE http://readersupportednews.org/opinion2/273-40/9730-focus-one-billion-rising

VAWA In Limbo: Victim of Election Year Politics or The War on Women?

During the past few weeks NOW has grown increasingly concerned about whether this Congress will reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act. Even though the bill (S. 1925) has 61 bipartisan sponsors and has passed through committee, the Senate leadership has not yet scheduled a floor vote. Read more.

http://www.now.org/issues/violence/040912VAWAinLimbo.html

WOMEN FEMINIST HEROINES

TODAY IN REALITY


Grace and Grit:
My Fight for Equal Pay and Fairness at Goodyear and Beyond


In 1998, after Ledbetter had spent 19 grueling years working at a Goodyear plant, an anonymous note showed her that she made 40% less than her male counterparts. So began her decade-long legal battle for equal pay, a story she tells movingly and frankly with coauthor Isom. After a hardscrabble childhood in a small Alabama community, Ledbetter knew a job at the nearby Goodyear plant meant lifelong financial stability. In 1979 as a manager there, Ledbetter found men reluctant to take orders from a woman, and faced blatant sexual harassment (a performance review ended with a solicitation). Ledbetter tried to take it in stride, but the stress took a mental and physical toll. Goodyear continually transferred her between departments, citing poor performance, but failed to
produce evidence when Ledbetter requested it. After discovering the anonymous note, she filed a complaint with the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, leading to her **landmark discrimination lawsuit under Title VII and the Equal Pay Act**. While Ledbetter lost the case on appeal (a decision upheld by the Supreme Court), the experience prompted her to become a spokesperson for equal pay. In January 2009, **President Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act**, a satisfying coda to this inspiring tale.

**TODAY IN FUTURISTIC FICTION FILM**

*The Hunger Games’ Feral Feminism*  
**Katha Pollitt** April 3, 2012 |  *This article appeared in the April 23, 2012 edition of The Nation.*

Jennifer Lawrence stars as 'Katniss Everdeen' in *The Hunger Games*. Photo courtesy: Lionsgate Films Inc. / Murray Close

As a mad fan of Suzanne Collins’s book *The Hunger Games*, I was totally pysched for the film. Secretly, though, I was prepared to be disappointed, because how often does Hollywood do justice to a book you love? The movie does oversimplify a bit, but then, for a book that reads like crack on paper, *The Hunger Games* is a complicated story, with many layers and lots of sharply drawn characters. While it has lost the first-person voice of its scrappy heroine, Katniss Everdeen, it’s amazing how much of the book the movie gets right.

**About the Author**

**Katha Pollitt**  
Katha Pollitt is well known for her wit and her keen sense of both the ridiculous and the sublime. Her "Subject to..." 

**Also by the Author**

**Wisconsin GOP Legislators Go After Single Mothers** (Gender Issues, Conservatives and the American Right)

If you had any doubt that Republicans have an even bigger anti-woman agenda than their
love of compulsory vaginal probes might suggest, consider Wisconsin’s Senate Bill 507.

Katha Pollitt

Dear Pro-Choice Women of Means (Reproductive Rights)

Here’s why you should make a major gift to an abortion fund.

Katha Pollitt

There are many ways to analyze The Hunger Games. You can see it as a savage satire of late capitalism: in a dystopian future version of North America called Panem, the 1 percent rule through brute force, starvation, technological wizardry and constant surveillance. The Games exemplify these methods: as punishment for a past rebellion, each of the twelve districts of Panem must sacrifice two teenagers, a boy and a girl, to come to the Capitol (sic) and compete in a televised ritual of murder and survivalism until only one is left. Tea Partiers can imagine an allegory of oppressive Washington, and traditionalists can revel in the ancient trope of the moral superiority of the countryside: the district people are poor and downtrodden and wear Depression-style clothes but they live in families, sing folk songs and have a strong sense of community. In the Capitol, which has the dated-futuristic look of a fascist Oz, the lifestyle is somewhere between the late Roman Empire, the court of Louis XVI and the Cirque du Soleil. You can also read the book as an indictment of reality television, in which a bored and cynical audience amuses itself watching desperate people destroy themselves, and the movie plays this angle for all it’s worth. When the unctuous Games host Caesar Flickerman (Stanley Tucci, in a startling blue wig) interviews the teens about to be murdered as if they were trying out for American Idol, you start to wonder when we’ll see Perez Hilton chatting up death row prisoners on Entertainment Tonight (“Any last words for your family?”).

The element that is the most striking to me, though, is Katniss, portrayed in the film by the splendid Jennifer Lawrence. Katniss has qualities usually given to boys: a hunter who’s kept
her mother and sister from starving since she was 11, she's intrepid and tough, better at killing rabbits than expressing her feelings, a skilled bargainer in the black market for meat. No teenage vegetarian she! At the same time, she's feminine: never aggressive or swaggering, tenderhearted and protective of the defenseless—when her little sister Prim's name is chosen for the Games, Katniss volunteers to take her place; during the games she risks death to protect the lovable girlchild Rue (Amandla Stenberg). Not to get too literary about this most popular of popular fiction, you can see Katniss as a version of the goddess Artemis, protectress of the young and huntress with a silver bow and arrows like the ones Katniss carries in the Games. Like the famously virginal goddess, Katniss is an independent spirit: she is not about her looks, her clothes, her weight, her popularity, gossip, drama or boys. The great Stuart Klawans made a rare slip writing in these pages that Katniss is a typical young-adult heroine, “greatly worried” about whether “guy number one” likes her and what “guy number two might think about that.” The whole plot turns on Katniss being so romantically uninterested in Peeta, her fellow District 12 Games contestant, she doesn’t realize he’s in love with her. When she’s not convinced he’s trying to kill her, she believes he’s pretending to be smitten with her to gain sympathy (and help) from the invisible TV audience. She rescues him several times anyway. As for “guy number two” back home, the devastatingly handsome Gale (Liam Hemsworth), Katniss only fleetingly thinks there might be more than friendship there. Mostly she is just trying to survive without becoming a horrible person.

Katniss is a rare thing in pop fiction: a complex female character with courage, brains and a quest of her own. She’s Jo March as coal miner’s daughter in hunting boots, the opposite of Bella, the famously drippy, love-obsessed heroine of the Twilight books—and unlike clever and self-possessed Hermione of the Harry Potter series, she’s the lead, not a sidekick. We’re worlds away from the vicious-little-rich-girls of Gossip Girl and its many knockoffs, where
everything revolves around looks, clothes, consumerism, social status and sexual competition.

She is a rare thing in real-life girl culture, too, where the latest news is of Dara-Lynn Weiss’s *Vogue* article—and book deal—recounting the rigid diet regimen she forced on her 7-year-old daughter. (At least Amy Chua browbeat her daughters to read books and play musical instruments!) What does it say about us that so many mocked the slender Lawrence’s Katniss as too “big”? It’s true that in the book, Katniss is underfed, like almost everyone in the districts, but in the movie none of the other Games contestants are skinny either, and they all look fit and healthy, even tiny Rue, who in the book has never even had a whole bird leg to herself. Besides, the anorectic cookie-cutter young actresses favored by Hollywood don’t have the acting chops for this role. Lawrence, who played another hardscrabble heroine in *Winter’s Bone*, brings to life the hidden tenderness that is one key to Katniss’s character.

The other key is Katniss’s moral centeredness. Unlike most of the contestants, she kills only in self-defense. Life as a celebrity—winners are feted and made rich for life—repels her. When she thinks about fairness and justice, she’s thinking about social class and political power, not about who gets to be prom queen. What would she make of the racist response of some fans to the casting of black actors as Rue and another beloved character, Thresh? I suspect she’d be as contemptuous of them as she is of the hyperprivileged darlings of the Capitol.

Katha Pollitt  
April 3, 2012  |  This article appeared in the April 23, 2012 edition of *The Nation*.

**NINETEENTH CENTURY**
In America, celebrated public intellectuals who are women have, most often, been admitted to the ranks of high cultural regard only one at a time, and never without qualification. In the last century, for instance, the spotlight fell on Mary McCarthy in the 1940s and Susan Sontag in the 1960s, each of whom was smilingly referred to by the public intellectuals of their times as the “Dark Lady of American Letters.” In the first half of the nineteenth century, although a fair number of her sex among abolitionists and suffragists were brilliant, it was Margaret Fuller, world-class talker and author of the influential treatise *Woman in the Nineteenth Century* (1845), who stood in the allotted space, alone in a sea of gifted men, most of whom chose to denature her—she thinks like a man—as they could not believe they had to take seriously a thinking woman. This was a great mistake, thought a former student of Fuller’s. “With all the force of her intellect,” said Ednah Dow Cheney in 1902, “all the strength of her will, all her self-denial and power of thought she was essentially and thoroughly a woman, and she won her victories not by borrowing the peculiar weapons of man, but by using her own with courage and skill.”

**The Lives of Margaret Fuller**  
A Biography. By John Matteson.

*Vivian Gornick*  
Vivian Gornick is an essayist and critic. Her biography of Emma Goldman is forthcoming from Yale.

**Also by the Author**  
*Emma Goldman Occupies Wall Street* (Occupy Wall Street)

This is the second time in living memory that an American movement protesting social injustice has embraced her.
Jonathan Raban has made a persona out of the self that feels nowhere at home.

Vivian Gornick

Some 160 years after her death, Fuller remains a haunting figure not so much for the one important book she committed to paper as for the exceptional life she lived, the significance it had in its own moment as well as the one it might have had, if it had not been cut severely short in 1850 when she was 40. Within that short span of time, however, Fuller underwent the kind of dramatic transformation that calls attention to one of moral philosophy’s great conundrums: Is it nobler to spend one’s time on earth devoted to the spiritual elevation of one’s own individuality, or to bond with the eternal struggle for equality in the belief that to serve the greater good is to elevate the spirit life of humanity? This question provides John Matteson’s new book, The Lives of Margaret Fuller, with its organizing principle, and has helped him write a biography that tracks Fuller’s internal journey with a degree of informed sympathy that does full honor to a uniquely American woman who was never more American than when she went abroad in search of large answers to this large question.

Margaret Fuller, born. . . .

MORE
http://www.thenation.com/article/167179/double-inheritance-margaret-fuller

The United States National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security
Adapted from the White House Office of the Press Secretary March 2012
“The goal is as simple as it is profound: to
empower half the world’s population as equal partners in preventing conflict and building peace in countries threatened and affected by war, violence and insecurity. Achieving this goal is critical to our national and global security.”

-The U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security

In December 2011, President Barack Obama released the first-ever U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security, and signed an Executive Order directing the Plan to be implemented. Together, the Executive Order and National Action Plan (NAP) chart a roadmap for how the United States will accelerate and institutionalize efforts across the government to advance women’s participation in preventing conflict and keeping peace. These documents represent a fundamental change in how the United States will approach its diplomatic, military, and development-based support to women in areas of conflict. Perspectives and considerations of gender must be woven into the fabric of U.S. policies and activities related to peace processes and conflict prevention, as well as the protection of civilians and humanitarian assistance.

The NAP is the outcome of a process that began more than a decade ago with the passing of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which encouraged the U.N. and its member states to integrate a "gender perspective" in all aspects of peace and security. In October 2004, a subsequent Security Council Presidential Statement called on the “development of national action plans” to further implement SCR 1325. To date, 35 countries have approved plans.

Women’s Action for New Directions ● 691 Massachusetts Ave ● Arlington, MA 02476 ● 781.643.6740 ● www.wand.org

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The NAP contains commitments by the Departments of State, Defense, Justice, Treasury, and Homeland Security, and the U.S. Mission to the United Nations, the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the Office of the United States Trade Representative, targeted at meeting these objectives:
National Integration and Institutionalization:
Institutionalize a genderresponsive approach to
diplomatic, development, and
defense-related work in conflictaffected
environments through
interagency coordination, policy development, enhanced
professional training and education, and evaluation

Participation in Peace Processes and Decisionmaking:
Improve the prospects for inclusive, just, and sustainable peace by promoting and strengthening women’s rights, effective leadership, and substantive participation in peace and transitional processes, conflict prevention, and decisionmaking institutions in conflictaffected environments

Protection from Violence:
Strengthen efforts to prevent and protect women and children from harm, exploitation, discrimination, and abuse, including sexual and genderbased violence and trafficking, and to hold perpetrators accountable

Conflict Prevention:
Promote women’s roles in conflict prevention, improve conflict early-warning and response systems through the integration of gender perspectives, and invest in women and girls’ health, education, and economic opportunity to create conditions for stable societies and lasting peace

Access to Relief and Recovery:
Respond to the distinct needs of women and children in conflictaffected disasters and crises by providing safe, equitable access to humanitarian assistance
In line with these objectives, agencies will do the following:

- Establish and improve policy and training on Women, Peace, and Security
- Advocate for the integration of women and gender perspectives in negotiations concerning conflict resolution, peace-building, and political transitions, and serve as a model through U.S. delegations
- Build women’s capacity for roles in local and national government, the security sector, and civil society in conflict-affected environments, while supporting non-governmental organizations that advocate on behalf of women’s participation in decisionmaking
- Work with partner nations to develop laws and policies that promote and strengthen women’s rights and women’s participation in security-related decisionmaking bodies
- Improve the capacity of the U.N. system, peacekeepers, partner militaries and law enforcement, and implement contractors and aid workers to better prevent and respond to conflict-related violence against women
- Ensure conflict early-warning systems include gender-specific data and are responsive to sexual and gender-based violence, while investing in women and girls as a means to reduce the long-term drivers of conflict
- Promote women’s equal access to aid distribution mechanisms and services, support access to reproductive health in emergencies, and ensure that U.S. government crisis response and recovery teams have access to gender expertise

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To ensure comprehensive follow-through, agencies will be held accountable for their
commitments under the NAP. The Departments of State and Defense, as well as USAID, will designate officers to ensure implementation and submit to the National Security Advisor agency-specific plans establishing time-bound, measurable, resourced actions. These plans will be coordinated by a standing interagency committee chaired by the White House National Security Staff. This committee will take these steps:

• Monitor and evaluate actions taken in support of national objectives through the creation of specific indicators
• Integrate the concepts behind Women, Peace, and Security into relevant national-level policies and strategies
• Establish a mechanism for regular consultation with civil society representatives
• Report annually to the National Security Council Deputies Committee on progress made toward achieving commitments, in order to inform a report to the President
• In 2015, conduct a comprehensive review of, and update to, the NAP, which will be informed by consultation with international partners and relevant civil society organizations

The U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security sets forth the United States’ commitment to ensuring that women around the world play an equal role in promoting peace and achieving just and enduring security.