



To His Excellency Ban Ki-Moon
Secretary-General, United Nations

Esteemed Mr. Secretary-General,

We address you to demonstrate our profound support for the complete and thorough implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security (2000).

Our organization, Operation 1325, gathers representatives from five Swedish peace and women organizations¹ with the aim to contribute to the full implementation of the resolution in question. We would like to raise your attention to a number of questions referring to the accomplishment of resolution 1325.

As advocates of UNSCR 1325, we pay our contribute to the United Nations System-wide action plan of the implementation of resolution 1325 and its update for 2008 – 2009. However, we would like to *enquire Mr. Secretary General about your arrangements so far concerning the realization of the action plan.* Furthermore, we would like to *ask what actions the UN have taken to develop women's participation in UN missions as civil observers?* We also most respectfully *ask you to explain in what way the importance of women's participation in all peace building has been pointed out for the Swedish Government.*

Concerning peace negotiations and agreements, we express our concern regarding how Mr. General Secretary ensures that the gender perspective and human rights of women are considered in these processes. *What requirements have been formulated on behalf of the UN in relation to these issues, directed towards peace negotiators?*

Regarding the problem with sexual abuse committed by personnel in peace-keeping missions, we stress the need to sufficiently educate soldiers and commanders. Training of this kind is a necessary complement to existing codes of conduct, crucial for their implementation. *What arrangements have been made to ensure that gender roles are addressed to a satisfying extent in the education of soldiers and commanders?*

¹ The Swedish section of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Women for Peace, UNIFEM Sweden, the Swedish Ecumenical Women's Council and the Federation of International Associations for Immigrant Women.

In addition, we would on the basis of the content of UNSCR 1325, and its aim to involve women at all levels of peace processes, like to request that you:

- make certain that all civil UN missions such as observers, mediators and negotiators are manned by one man and one woman
- request that all governments, at the appointment of UN missions, nominate two qualified candidates: one man and one woman
- make sure that observers from human rights organizations accompany peace-keeping forces to ensure that international law is maintained
- make certain that the special needs of women refugees are encountered when organizing refugee camps
- emit a yearly report on the proceeding of the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and the integration of a gender perspective into all peace-keeping and conflict resolution missions

Finally, Mr. Secretary-General, we pledge our fullest support for you as you carry out your responsibilities and anticipate your reply.

Sincerely yours

On behalf of Operation 1325
Birgitta Ahlqvist, President

March 31, 2008
Stockholm, Sweden