

Security Council

Directed By: Roman Ramos

TSMUN XXIV BACKGROUND GUIDE 2020

**Topic I: Situation in Myanmar**

**Topic II: Women, Peace, and Security**

Dear Delegates,

We would like to welcome you to Tallahassee Southern Regional Model United Nations (TSMUN)! Here at TSMUN, it is our goal to be able to provide an atmosphere in which you can improve your knowledge on international relations as well as coordinating with others and further improving your writing and speaking skills. My name is Roman Matthew Ramos, and I will be your Director for Security Council for TSMUN 2020. Several years ago, I was the recipient of the TSMUN scholarship which helped be achieve my associate of arts at Tallahassee Community College while participating in Model United Nations. Now I am a student at Florida State University pursuing a degree Political Science with a minor in International Affairs.

The topics under discussion for TSMUN 2020’s Security Council are:

1. The Situation in Myanmar,
2. Women, Peace, and Security.

The United Nations (U.N.) Security Council is one of the six main organs of the U.N. The Security Council’s role in the international community is to help maintain peace and security across the world. It is the only body with the unique powers to pass legally binding resolutions and may also impose economic sanctions and invoke peacekeepers if deemed necessary. This body is composed of fifteen U.N. Member States. Of the 15 Member States, 5 of them are permanent members and wield vetoing power. The coordination and the execution of the powers possessed by the Security Council make it a unique body.

This background guide is created with the purpose to guide you through this conference. It is meant to introduce to unfamiliar topics as well as challenge you to come up with solutions that may not be in place yet. The background guide will contain information regarding the history of the topics as well as actions taken by the international community. It is in your best interest to research the topics after this background guide has been published as both these topics will certainly progress in the time being. Members are encouraged to study and research past frameworks, countries in association with the topics as well as Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO’s) that may have been involved with these topics in the past.

Each delegation is responsible for submitting their own position paper. They may be submitted either through email at [positionpapers@tsmun.org](mailto:positionpapers@tsmun.org) , a hardcopy, or a USB drive before the beginning of the first committee session. Plagiarism of any sort will not be tolerated. Questions regarding formatting and content of position papers can be found on <http://www.tsmun.org/position-papers.html>. For conference, scholarship, and information that might be useful to you visit <http://www.tsmun.org> . If you have any questions relating to  the conference feel free to contact me at [sc@tsmun.org](mailto:sc@tsmun.org) or our Secretary-General, Mónica García Vega at [sg@tsmun.org](mailto:sg@tsmun.org) . I am excited to see forth your potential in these topics and to reach solutions that may make a difference.

Sincerely,

Roman Ramos

Director of Security Council

**Committee Overview**

***Introduction***

After its ratification in 1945, the UN Charter established the Security Council (UNSC) as one of the six main branches of the UN.[[1]](#footnote-1) Within the UN Charter, the UNSC is granted the following role: maintaining international peace and security[[2]](#footnote-2). The United Nations headquarters is located in New York City.[[3]](#footnote-3) The UNSC gathers throughout the year and in times of emergency they may be summoned.[[4]](#footnote-4)

***Committee Mandate***

The UN Charter dictates that the four main purposes of the U.N. are to: develop friendly relationships among states, attain international cooperation in solving international problems, maintaining international peace and security, and promoting human rights by coordinating actions that support these pillars.[[5]](#footnote-5) The Members of the UNSC  collectively determine whether an act of  aggression is sufficient to deter peace in any given geographical area.[[6]](#footnote-6) This council, composed of 15 members, summons conflicting parties to settle any acts of violence or aggression through peaceful settlements and negotiations.[[7]](#footnote-7)  The UNSC is given the power to issue military actions or determine sanctions on a party in order to settle the conflict if deemed necessary.[[8]](#footnote-8) Under the U.N. Charter, every Member State must comply with any resolution proposed by the UNSC as they are legally binding[[9]](#footnote-9). The UNSC also submits a recommendation for a new Secretary General and the admission of any new state into the General Assembly.[[10]](#footnote-10)

***Governance, Structure, and Membership***

The UNSC is made up of fifteen Member States.[[11]](#footnote-11) Five of the members have guaranteed seats while the remaining ten are rotated in a cyclical basis.[[12]](#footnote-12) The five permanent members have the authority to veto any important decisions or resolutions.[[13]](#footnote-13) The five permanent members of this council are: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom, and the United States.[[14]](#footnote-14)

The other ten members are selected by the General Assembly for a two-year term.[[15]](#footnote-15) If invited by a UNSC member , any U.N. Member State may attend a UNSC meeting.[[16]](#footnote-16) The Member States invited are not allowed to vote, however, they retain the right to assist with resolutions in regards to the matter at hand.[[17]](#footnote-17) For any proposal to be heard and voted on it must be submitted by a member of the UNSC itself.[[18]](#footnote-18) The President of the UNSC holds the authority to call a meeting or for an agenda to be approved on the floor.[[19]](#footnote-19) Each member of the council has the opportunity to serve as president. The role of the presidency begins in alphabetical order and their term is one month.[[20]](#footnote-20)

***Conclusion***

The powers withheld by the UNSC give it a unique role in the international community. The UNSC holds special powers such as the use of military force and economic sanctions. These actions are taken to support the mandate of maintaining international peace and security. The Security Council plays a vital role in settling humanitarian struggles across the world and establishing peace between parties in conflict.

**The Situation in Myanmar**

***Introduction***

Formerly known as Burma, Myanmar is a country that hosts over 135 different types of ethnic groups.[[21]](#footnote-21) This has led to a diverse set of different religions, cultures, and languages within the state. Before the colonization of Burma, Sangha played a large role in Burmese communities through education and community engagement. Sangha is known as the Buddhist Monastic order which is comprised of Monks, Nuns, Laymen, and Laywomen.[[22]](#footnote-22) After the third Anglo-Bermese War came to an end in 1890, Burma became a colony to the British Empire. When colonized, Burma integrated with the state that is known today as India. Under colonial rule, the British established a secular rule that devalued the Sangha and its practices. This included defrocking monks and replacing them with secular teachers.[[23]](#footnote-23) It was also common tradition to have Christian mission trips to Burma from England which came with heavy criticism of Buddhism and its culture.[[24]](#footnote-24)

With the integration India and Burma, Britain brought over Muslim immigrants to Burma as a means of cheap labor.[[25]](#footnote-25) This factor led to tension between the two nationalities. British rule also prohibited political groups but not religious ones.[[26]](#footnote-26) This led to ethnic and national pride within communities. As time continued, Burmese leaders noticed that they did not receive the same privileges the people of India were receiving. This included issues such as access to engineering and medicine schools as well as not allowing for constitutional reform.[[27]](#footnote-27) After observing these discrepancies, the Burmese people led a rebellion that led to a separation from India in 1937 and then became fully autonomous by 1947.[[28]](#footnote-28) Upon their independence, Burmese political leaders drafted the *Panglong Agreement* with its main focus being on the protection of religious diversity. However, when this agreement was drafted, many religious groups were left out.[[29]](#footnote-29) This included the Rohingya Muslim people who were not recognized by the Burmese government.

In 1961, the Burmese government passed the State Religion Act also known as the SRA.[[30]](#footnote-30) The SRA established the Burmese state as religious patron. This legislation made Buddhism the official religion of the country.[[31]](#footnote-31) This made many non-Buddhist residents uneasy as they were unaware whether their civil rights would become altered due to their different beliefs. In 1962, there was a

military coup that established the Burma Socialist Programme Party (BSPP).[[32]](#footnote-32)They believed that minority ethnic and religious identities were a threat to the unity of Burma. The following decades, due to poor governmental management, there would be food and gasoline shortages. These issues were often blamed on minority groups in the region. [[33]](#footnote-33)

In 1988, the state changed its name to Myanmar to distance itself from its colonized roots. However, this did not incur much change. Although there was an effort to democratize Myanmar in 1991, the BSPP did not accept the results of the election and remained in power until 2010.[[34]](#footnote-34)

***Current Situation***

Although it seemed that Myanmar was progressing its democratic rights, it is important to note that Rohingya Muslims were not allowed to vote in any election and aren’t recognized in the national census.[[35]](#footnote-35) Policy makers in the country speak of the Rohingya Muslims poorly, stating that the UN should take over 800,000 of them and place them in different countries.[[36]](#footnote-36) This inequality has led to a suppressed life for this group of people as they face oppression by members in their own communities. This includes the 969 Buddhist nationalist movement also known as Ma Ba Tha.[[37]](#footnote-37) This movement encourages Buddhist to only buy from other Buddhist by going to stores with the 969 symbols which in turn has affected the economic stability of religious minorities.[[38]](#footnote-38) Another example is a law that prohibits Buddhist women from marrying someone from a different faith unless they have contacted local authorities.[[39]](#footnote-39)

These policies have instilled violence against the Rohingya Muslim people. Since 2013, mobs have attacked Rohingya Muslim communities often lighting their houses on fire.[[40]](#footnote-40) This has led to a wide amount of assault and displacement of the Rohingya Muslim population. It is difficult to find the exact number of Rohingya Muslim victims that are affected by these levels of violence. In January 2014, Buddhist security forces attacked a neighborhood of Rohingya Muslims that killed 48 people however the Myanmar government refutes these numbers.[[41]](#footnote-41) The Myanmar government has also shut down Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) such as Doctors without Borders due to them assisting Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.[[42]](#footnote-42) Although Doctors without Borders states that they assisted over 700,000 displaced Rohingya Muslims, the Myanmar government denies of any events taking place.[[43]](#footnote-43) Violence against Rohingya Muslims also includes attacking Mosques. In June of 2016, two mosques were attacked by Buddhist Nationalists which led to more displacement of the Rohingya Muslim people.[[44]](#footnote-44)

After the attack on the mosques, the National League of Democracy (NLD) created policies to hold aggressors accountable as well as a taskforce to combat Muslims hate speech.[[45]](#footnote-45) They also condemned Ma Ba Tha and denounced their status as a political party.[[46]](#footnote-46) Although these actions would not make up for the displacement and suffering of the Rohingya Muslim people, it was a step towards progress.

However, tensions returned in 2017 when a group that went by the name Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army (ARSA) attacked a military outpost that led to the death of 100 people.[[47]](#footnote-47) This resulted in a military response that included raiding villages and mosques.[[48]](#footnote-48) Over 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have been forced to flee to Bangladesh in order to avoid persecution.[[49]](#footnote-49) For those that remain in Myanmar, they live in a constant state of fear. Some have remained trapped in camps known as “No man’s land” which have led to the torture, arson, and disappearance committed by officials.[[50]](#footnote-50) Since 2017, there have been over 392 villages burned to the ground.[[51]](#footnote-51)The government has used this opportunity to bulldoze any remaining territory and use it as their own property, leaving the Rohingya people nothing to return to once they come back.[[52]](#footnote-52) The government does not allow for journalism or UN investigative research, which leads to difficulty in knowing how many people are imprisoned and for how long they have been there.[[53]](#footnote-53)

The lack of humane treatment has led to a civil war within the state. There have been instances of conflict between the Military and the Kachin Liberation Army (KLA) since 2018.[[54]](#footnote-54) These battles had the Myanmar military use heavy artillery which leads to fighters being stuck in rubble for weeks at a time if they survive.[[55]](#footnote-55) Due to the constant attack on cities, victims find themselves escaping to the jungle where they have no guarantee of food or water for months on end.[[56]](#footnote-56)

***Actions Taken by the United Nations***

Due to the complex nature of the situation, many different UN agencies have been involved in alleviating the problem. In 2017, the United Nations Refugee Agency (UNRA) declared that the crisis in Myanmar is considered a level 3 emergency, which is the highest level they can declare, and that due to the influx of refugees into Bangladesh, the organization is in need of funding.[[57]](#footnote-57) They state that since 2017, over 742,000 Rohingya Muslims have sought refuge in Bangladesh, with forty percent of the refugees being under the age of 12.[[58]](#footnote-58) The UNRA has also reported over 600,000 people are living within 13 square miles of each other, straining the few resources they

have at hand.[[59]](#footnote-59) UNICEF reports that there are over 7,500 children suffering from severe malnutrition and over 180,000 that lack psychological and recreational support.[[60]](#footnote-60)

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) examined the condition of Myanmar and released a statement in the resolution *A/HRC/32/18* for the General Assembly.[[61]](#footnote-61) This resolution, known as *Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar,* declares that Myanmar still uses practices that make it unsafe for Rohingya Muslims to exist in the region.[[62]](#footnote-62) This includes incitement of hatred and religious intolerance, restrictions on the freedom of movement, and the denial on the right to health and education, amongst other violations.[[63]](#footnote-63) Some of the solutions proposed by the UNHCR include constitutional reform, international and local cooperation and accountability for those that committed war crimes.[[64]](#footnote-64)

The UN Security Council has met on multiple occasions to discuss the situation in Myanmar. However, there have been no resolutions passed in regard to the matter at hand. There are some instances where the President of the Security Council has released statements relevant to the crisis. One statement was released on November 2017 labeled as *S/PRST/2017/22.[[65]](#footnote-65)* This Presidential Statement condemns the actions taken against the Rohingya Muslim people and expresses that the Myanmar government ought to reconcile those affected by changing its laws and rebuilding the areas they destroyed.[[66]](#footnote-66) In September of 2018, a Presidential Letter titled *S/2018/880* clarified that there had been some progress made in communication between Bangladesh and Myanmar.[[67]](#footnote-67) This statement reads that there were diplomatic talks between representatives of both states in the state of China and there is an understanding of each other’s goals. Parties agreed on how to help transfer the refugees back to their respective state once the conflict had calmed down.[[68]](#footnote-68)

***Regional and International Framework***

Besides the UN, there are also several other actors involved with helping the Rohingya Muslim people. This includes state actors at a regional and international level, as well as non-state actors.

One of the current frameworks available to help the problem is the UNHR’s Joint Response Plan for Rohingya Humanitarian Crisis of the year 2019.[[69]](#footnote-69) This includes the transporting of over 1,500 metric tons of goods, which include blankets, plastic sheets, sleeping mats, and tents, to vulnerable populations.[[70]](#footnote-70) They also commit to planning with refugees in mind which includes providing water systems for sustainable sanitation and hydration in order to avoid diseases such diarrhea which may be lethal.[[71]](#footnote-71) They also have a system to help children who have been separated by their families

while migrating.[[72]](#footnote-72) However these actions are expensive and a report from 2018 dictates that of the 951 million dollars requested, only thirty two percent of their planned projects were able to be implemented.[[73]](#footnote-73)

One of the NGO’s that is assisting Bangladesh and Myanmar is the International Rescue Committee (IRC).[[74]](#footnote-74) The IRC is devoted to helping victims who have been displaced and help them adapt to any current challenges they are facing. [[75]](#footnote-75)To the refugees in Bangladesh this includes giving women and girls access to hygienic materials they may need.[[76]](#footnote-76) They also create work programs to help children with their cognitive and social skills as well as help adults find jobs to find sustainable practices.[[77]](#footnote-77) In Myanmar, the IRC focuses on providing agricultural training, health clinics, skill based training for over 140,000 people in need.[[78]](#footnote-78) Recently the IRC, alongside 60 other NGO’s, released a joint statement declaring that Bangladesh and Myanmar must reach the agreement to recognize the human rights of the Rohingya Muslims if they expect them to return to their previous homes.[[79]](#footnote-79) This joint statement comes after the update that over one million Rohingya Muslims are currently in refuge in Bangladesh.[[80]](#footnote-80)

***Conclusion***

Throughout this background guide we have analyzed the ethnic conflict that is occurring in Myanmar and how it is affecting the Rohingya Muslims. I hope that the information provided helps you come up with solutions to the issues at hand. However, I strongly encourage for you to do research outside the background guide. This is due that several advancements may have occurred after the publishing of this guide. Also, this guide does not include everything that has to do with the subject. Your independent research can be vital to coming up with original solutions. Some questions I would consider you ask yourselves:

Why hasn’t the Security Council passed a resolution to address Myanmar?

Will the use of Peacekeepers or sanctions be necessary?   
How can the Security Council work with other UN bodies or NGOs to address the situation?

**Women, Peace, and Security**

***Introduction***

The role of women in the peacemaking process is essential to ensure equity between both genders. Although women comprise fifty percent of the world’s population, they only account for four percent of signatories in peace agreements and ten percent of peacemakers at negotiating tables.[[81]](#footnote-81) The effects of a lack of representation is notable in conflict zones. Maternal mortality is two and half times more likely in areas of conflict and women are more likely to migrate than their male counterparts. [[82]](#footnote-82)

In order to for women to see change in their livelihoods it is important that they have the ability to act as agents of change. An agent of change can be defined as someone who has the ability to enter a position to voice themselves freely and enter into action that allows to fix an issue.[[83]](#footnote-83) Some challenges women face to become agents of change include: being victims of war, forced into involuntary labor, restrictions that do not allow them to leave from home.[[84]](#footnote-84) In order to overcome these obstacles it is important to empower women through local work and legislative engagement that will allow them to work towards their goals.[[85]](#footnote-85)

Before the United Nations Security Council began discussing how women can become involved in Peace and Security, a series of resolutions discussing conflict were approved. This includes *S/RES/1261[[86]](#footnote-86)* which discussed the use of child soldiers, and *S/RES/1265[[87]](#footnote-87)* which discussed the protection of civilians in armed conflict. With these resolutions, the United Nations Security Council began seeing the protection of human rights as a mitigator for peace. This was even more apparent in the press release *SC/6816,* in which the United Nations Security Council stated that they would begin to work on the issue of Women, Peace, and Security.[[88]](#footnote-88)

In the year 2000, the United Nations Security Council approved *S/RES/1325* by a unanimous vote.[[89]](#footnote-89) The purpose of this resolution is to create a framework for countries to adapt a framework that helps women participate as agents of change through peace negotiations, governance, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian planning, and post-conflict peacebuilding involvement.[[90]](#footnote-90) This resolution called on all Member States of the United Nations to provide a framework with steps in order to address the situation at hand.[[91]](#footnote-91) This UN Security Council framework is seen as the basis for providing structure to facilitate women’s involvement in peace keeping.

***Current Situation***

There is evidence that women becoming involved in the peacebuilding process leads to longer lasting peace. A UN study overviewing eighty-two peace agreements between 1989 and 2011 saw that peace was more likely to be sustainable by thirty five percent if women were involved in the process.[[92]](#footnote-92) In order to make these goals more effective, it is important to implement gender-oriented policies. These policies help stakeholders understand how actions in conflict zones affect women. However, since 2015, only twenty seven percent of peace agreements contained gender-oriented requirements, which ignores the effects on women of violence and inequality.[[93]](#footnote-93)

In the United Nations, women make up approximately forty-one percent of leaders in peace-making processes.[[94]](#footnote-94) This is a seventeen percent increase from the year 2017.[[95]](#footnote-95) However, women’s involvement as UN peacekeepers make up a low number of four percent, with only one woman military force commander.[[96]](#footnote-96) At the moment, women make up approximately twenty-two percent of ambassadors to the United Nations General Assembly with only 3 ambassadors to the Security Council being women as well.[[97]](#footnote-97) This reflects how women only make up twenty three percent of parliamentary seats world-wide.[[98]](#footnote-98)

Extreme circumstances make it very difficult for women to become a part of the peace building process. This includes facing issues such as teen pregnancy, child marriage, and lack of economic benefits. These issues occur at a higher rate in conflict zones. In Yemen, for example, child marriage rose by sixty six percent in 2017 as a result of the ongoing conflict.[[99]](#footnote-99) Lack of maternal resources has led to 870 pregnant women dying every day in zones of conflict.[[100]](#footnote-100) Weapons such as small arms have proven to affect women at a disproportionate rate. Weapons and arms are often viewed as enhancing masculinity, which can lead to men being attracted to use them as a form of violence.[[101]](#footnote-101) Homicide is three more times as likely to occur if there is access to a weapon in a household.[[102]](#footnote-102) Arms can also be seen as a status symbol for upward mobility which can encourage the acquisition of weapons.[[103]](#footnote-103) Women are also targeted to be used as soldiers against their will. Since 2005, there have been reports of armed conflict in 57 countries that have used women against their will.[[104]](#footnote-104) Due to the nature of the groups, it’s impossible to known how women are treated and what their livelihoods are like in these cases.

In September 2018, it was reported that only 77 of the 193 Member States had implemented a national action plan for women, peace and security.[[105]](#footnote-105) Sixty-six percent of the states that were implementing a national action plan had a monitoring system, however; only 18 states had allocated appropriate funding toward the implementation of their national action plans, making them more difficult to accomplish.[[106]](#footnote-106)

***Actions Taken by the United Nations***

Since the year 2000, additional resolutions have been passed that enhance what was previously mentioned in resolution 1325. This includes resolutions such as *S/RES/1888* which helps establish leadership, coordination improvement, and deployment expertise to help assess matters of assault of women in conflict.[[107]](#footnote-107) In 2009, the United Nations Security Council also passed *S/RES/1889* in order to set up a monitoring system that indicated the effect women being involved in the peace process helped in previous and post conflict zones.[[108]](#footnote-108) Later in 2010, the United Nations Security Council would pass *S/RES/1960* to allow an accountability system to groups that were enacting war crimes against women in areas of conflict. Resolution 1960 further explains how to set groups accountable including strategies, collection of information, and country specific related plans.[[109]](#footnote-109)

The United Nations also has a body called UN Women. UN Women was founded in 2011 under the General Assembly.[[110]](#footnote-110) Their purpose is to combat inequality faced by women in social, economic, and political situations. Some of the actions they partake in include assist with the annual report of the Secretary General to the United Nations Security Council, facilitation of the participation of women from civil society into the Security Council, and council briefings to the rotating president.[[111]](#footnote-111)

UN Women acts as the secretariat for Informal Experts Group (IEG) on Women, Peace and Security towards the United Nations Security Council.[[112]](#footnote-112) The IEG was established as a part of the *S/RES/2242* in 2015.[[113]](#footnote-113) This resolution gives the IEG a routine schedule to advise the security council on specific matters that require urgent assessment. Its purpose is to facilitate the flow of information and utilize it effectively by focusing on solutions to enhance women in peace building initiatives.[[114]](#footnote-114) The IEG has advised on country specific initiatives in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Iraq, Mali and the broader Sahel region, Yemen, the Lake Chad Basin, Libya, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and South Sudan.[[115]](#footnote-115) The advising in these countries included the

facilitation of access of resources, meeting with peacekeepers, and meeting with women protection advisers.[[116]](#footnote-116)

In May of 2018, the Secretary General issued a reported statement for the purpose of involving women in the disarmament process called “Securing Our Common Future”.[[117]](#footnote-117) The report highlights the inequity between how men and women are victims of gun violence.[[118]](#footnote-118) This report shows that women are often subjected to domestic violence through the use of small arms and often burdened with psychological and economic impacts of gun violence.[[119]](#footnote-119) The report calls for states to adopt gender inclusive policies in accordance of arms use so they can understand how gun violence directly impacts women and the ways gender roles can impact the practice of disarmament policies.[[120]](#footnote-120)

***Regional and International Framework***

In 1995, the fourth world conference on women took place in Beijing and was attended by 183 Member States.[[121]](#footnote-121) This conference, known as the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, led to the agreement that women in armed conflict should be one of the twelve subjects that should be considered by the United Nations Security Council as a critical concern.[[122]](#footnote-122) It emphasized that there is a link between gender equality and peace development. This conference called on countries to reduce the sizes of their militaries and control the amount of armament supplied.[[123]](#footnote-123) It also highlighted the importance of women becoming involved in the peace-making process, and how women who have fled due to persecution are entitled to return home and rebuild their lives.[[124]](#footnote-124) Although many of the instruction of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action would not be fully implemented in the years to come, its values are still held as a standard to be accomplished.

The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom issued a committee on the subject of “Women organizing for change in Syria and Bosnia” in order to promote peace in those regions.[[125]](#footnote-125) In September 2014, they held a conference with female representatives of the Member States of Syria, Bosnia, Iraq, Yemen, and Libya.[[126]](#footnote-126) This coalition of women from professional backgrounds of law and psychology came up with four strategies that proved to be effective in their communities to involve women in the peace process.[[127]](#footnote-127) These strategies include building trust through partnerships and coalitions, develop capacity for women activist, raise public awareness, and advocate for different levels of cooperation such as locally or internationally.[[128]](#footnote-128)

The Mano River Women’s Peace Network is a regional framework from the MENA region.[[129]](#footnote-129) Originally constituted of women from Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Guinea, the Mano River model was the idea that women can facilitate peace more effectively if there are a large number of them involved.[[130]](#footnote-130) The Mano River model was developed in the 1970’s when women organized themselves to develop an economy that suited their needs in Liberia and Sierra Leone.[[131]](#footnote-131) The regions still meet on an annual basis to discuss matters of women and peace involvement through economics or social movements.[[132]](#footnote-132)

There are also local frameworks being implemented to ensure women are in the peace-making process. The National Democratic Institute launched an NGO within the Democratic Republic of the Congo called “Win with Women”.[[133]](#footnote-133) This NGO allows for women to attend workshops on campaign skills, roundtable discussions, and the ability to meet with political leaders.[[134]](#footnote-134) The purpose of this NGO is to help women overcome barriers in the political process so they can be a part of the peacebuilding and political process.[[135]](#footnote-135)

***Conclusion***Throughout this background guide we have learned about the history of women’s involvement in peace and security and how they are affected by it. I hope that this background guide serves well in your research. It’s important to understand the different factors that may influence how women’s involvement in peace and security may be disrupted. As the Security Council you should ask yourselves the following questions:  
  
What can the Security Council do to enhance the powers of resolution 1325?  
How can we involve women in the peace and security process?  
What conflicts that are ongoing are affecting the process of women being involved in peace and security building?  
How can women be involved in the disarmament process as listed under the “Securing Our Common Future” plan?

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