

NDU Women Peace and Security Student Research and Writing Competition

BACKGROUND

The United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) seeks to increase women's participation in conflict prevention and create conditions for long-term peace.¹ In June 2020, the Department of Defense published its first WPS strategic framework and implementation plan.² UN Security Council Resolution 1325 adopted a set of seven resolutions that call for increased participation of women in peace and security related initiatives, such as women's participation in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. They emphasize the active role women play in conflict prevention and the need for support of these roles, making provision for the protection of women and girls from violence during and after conflict. States are implementing these women, peace, and security resolutions around the globe through their domestic, security, military, and foreign policies. As of August 2023, 104 countries have developed National Action Plans to implement the WPS Agenda, including the United States.³

CRITERIA FOR SELECTION

As part of NDU's commitment to implement the WPS Strategy, students are invited to participate in the annual WPS research and writing competition. Winning papers will address one or more of the following areas:

How a gendered understanding, perspective and/or approach⁴ relate to: Advancing peace, national security, economic and social development, or international cooperation; Conflict resolution; Peacebuilding; Conflict prevention; Protection of rights; Protection from gender-based harms; Protection of women and girls from violence; Access to relief and recovery; Humanitarian Assistance/Disaster Relief; Leadership; Counterterrorism or Irregular warfare; Gender equality in military, law enforcement, and other security services.

RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES

- Candidates must be enrolled at NDU during the 2022-2023 academic year.
- Submissions must reflect graduate-level writing, be free of errors, and suitable for publication.
- Submission Deadline to one of the Committee Members is **May 1, 2023**.
- Submission format:
 - Include a cover sheet with the student's name, paper title and if previously written for an NDU course, state the course number and title.
 - Submissions should be typed, double-spaced, using 12-point Times New Roman font, with page numbers, one-inch margins and between 12-20 pages, exclusive of bibliography, appendices, annexes, or narrative footnotes/endnotes.
 - Source footnotes or endnotes are included in the page-count and should be in accordance with *The Chicago Manual of Style*, 17th ed.

¹ This strategy responds to the Women Peace and Security Act of 2017 (Public Law 115-68) that directs the U.S. government to establish a gender-inclusive approach to diplomatic, development, and defense-related work as U.S. government policy. White House, *United States Strategy on Women, Peace, and Security*, June 11, 2019.

² Department of Defense, *Women, Peace, and Security Strategic Framework and Implementation Plan*. June 2020.

³ Peace Women: <https://www.peacewomen.org/member-states>

⁴ That is, consideration of the gendered norms and values attached to the status of women, men, girls and boys within a societal or institutional context.

JUDGING & NOTIFICATION

Submissions will be read and judged by the WPS Research and Writing Competition Selection Committee. The authors of the top three papers will be invited to give 5-minute oral presentations to the Selection Committee. The Committee will notify the winner no later than May 19, 2023.

AWARD

The winner will be awarded a Certificate of Achievement signed by NDU-P and an award from the NDU Foundation. The selection committee reserves the right to award an Honorable Mention to a runner up. Winners may also be invited by the Military Women's Memorial or other partners to present their research to a wider audience.

PREVIOUS WPS WRITING AWARD WINNERS:

- 2022: COL. Jacqueline Stingl, ES, "In the National Security Equation: Excluding Women from the Draft Does Not Add Up."
- 2021: Amy Patel, DoS, ES, "Vietnam: The Nexus of Climate Change, Migration, and Human Trafficking." Honorable Mentions: LtCol Jennifer Parker, USMC, ES, "Implicit gender bias in the US military: a barrier to executive-level leadership for uniformed women" and Jadee Purdy, AF, ES, "Neglected Air Force Core Values Enable Gender Barriers."
- 2020: Debra I. Mosel, USAID, NWC, "Decreasing Migration from Central America to the United States through Addressing Violence against Women and Children." Honorable Mention: Jennifer Anne-Marie Harwood, Department of State, CISA, "Chechnya's Black Widows: Examining Gender in Terrorism."
- 2019: Mercedes Fitchett, USAF, ES, "Indonesia—Lessons Learned in Addressing the Security Threat from Female Returnees and Deportees of ISIS." Honorable Mention: LTC Khanh Diep, ES, "Shaping US Military Culture to Better Compete for Female Talent."
- 2018: LT COL Allison Black, USAF, CISA, "Women of ISIS: A Threat Hiding in Plain Sight."
- 2017: LT COL Elizabeth Hanson, USAF, ES, "From Kindergarten to Pilot: How Girls are Vectored Off Course and Course Corrections for Success" and Ms. Rahima Kandahari, Department of State, CISA, "Evolution of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and its Impact on Literacy in Afghanistan."
- 2016: LtCol Esther C. Sablan, ANG, ES, "The Critical Path to Critical Mass: Mixed-Gender Sponsorship in the Profession of Arms."
- 2015: COL Linell A. Letendre, USAF, ES, "Women Warriors: Why the Robotics Revolution Change the Combat Equation."
- 2014: LTC Niave Knell, USA, NWC, "Leaning in: Actions Taken by Congresswomen of the 113th Congress to Address Military Sexual Assault."
- 2013: LtCol Diana Staneszewski, USMC, CISA, "The Female Marine Engagement Program."

RESOURCES

NDU Library's Women Peace and Security website: http://ndu.libguides.com/MERLN_WPS

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