

Women's Participation in USIP Panels¹

In January, Tamara Cofman-Wittes (Brookings Institution) and Marc Lynch (George Washington University) wrote about their findings that [roughly two-thirds of panels on Middle East policy held by leading think tanks in Washington, DC had no female speakers](#).² They also found that 82% of all speakers were men. The authors followed up their original post with a more [detailed look at the data](#) and compared individual think tanks.

USIP was not included in the analysis, but USIP's internal guidelines for events emphasize having balanced gender representation. So using the same methodology as Cofman-Wittes and Lynch, we analyzed the participation by women in all 2014 USIP public events.

So, how is USIP doing? The short answer is: "better than others, but we have work to do."

The analysis found that in USIP's Middle East policy events **26% of the speakers were women, and almost one-third of the events (31%) featured all-male panels**. None of the events had an all-female panel. The table below presents a comparison of these results with the results collected for the other think tanks.

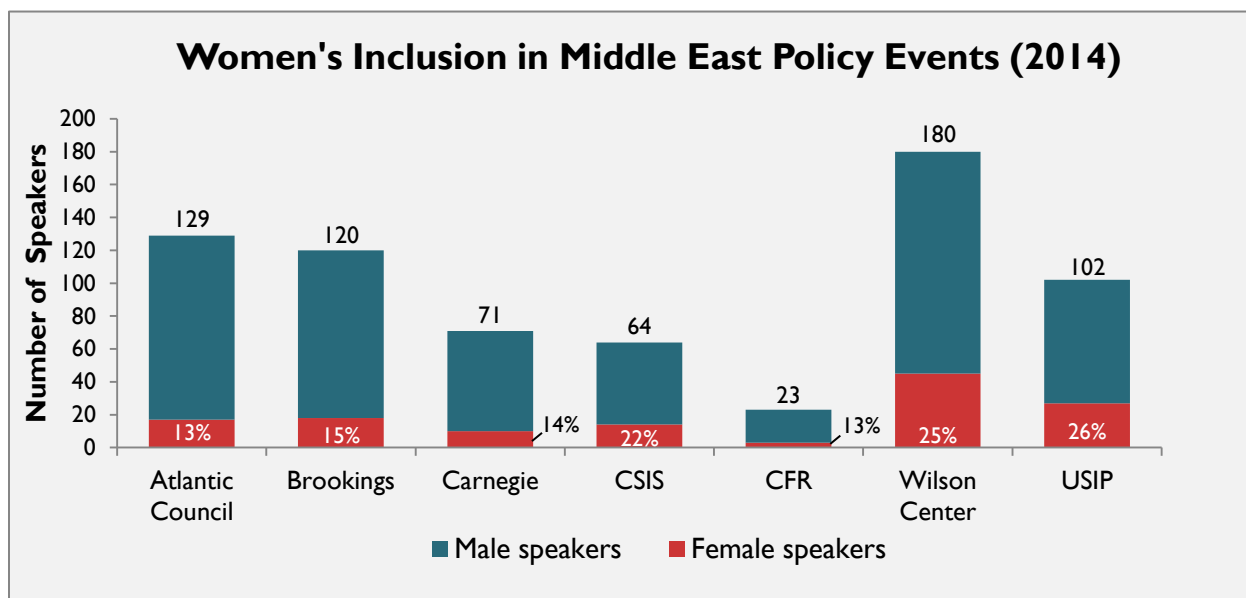
Middle East Policy Events: Think Tank Comparison³

	Number of events	Number of events with all-male speakers	Number of speakers	Number of women speakers	% all-male events	% women speakers
Atlantic Council	57	41	129	17	71%	13%
Brookings	49	33	120	18	67%	15%
Carnegie Endowment	31	23	71	10	74%	14%
Center for Strategic and International Studies	26	17	64	14	65%	22%
Council on Foreign Relations	15	12	23	3	80%	13%
Wilson Center	68	33	180	45	48%	25%
Totals from Above	246	159	587	107	65%	18%
USIP - Middle East Policy	26	8	102	27	31%	26%
USIP – All Events	77	23	375	147	30%	39%

¹ NOTE: This analysis will appear as a section in the forthcoming 2014 USIP Annual Events Report to be released in March 2015.

² Using the same criteria of Cofman-Wittes and Lynch, "Middle East Policy" events are those that focus on any country in the Middle East or North Africa regions, Afghanistan, Turkey, or events about counterterrorism and nuclear non-proliferation with a clear Middle East angle. See the following for a detailed look at other aspects of the methodology: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2015/01/23-cofman-wittes-women-absent-from-middle-east-policy-debates>

³ This table, other than the two rows with USIP data, is borrowed directly from Cofman-Wittes and Lynch (2014). The full, original table can be found here: <http://www.brookings.edu/blogs/markaz/posts/2015/01/23-cofman-wittes-women-absent-from-middle-east-policy-debates>



To explore whether this imbalance was a phenomenon of Middle East policy events, or a broader issue, we also looked at all USIP events in 2014.

	Number of events	Number of speakers	% all-male events	% women speakers
All USIP Events	77	375	30%	39%
All USIP Events Without Gender and Peacebuilding Center	71	327	32%	33%

In comparison to Middle East policy events, we found that all USIP events fared better in regard to the inclusion of women. Women made up 39% of all speakers from all USIP events (compared to 26%), and 30% of events had all-male panels (compared to 31%).

In the data collection process we noticed that events held by USIP's Gender and Peacebuilding Center had a significantly higher proportion of women speakers (79% of speakers). To get a clearer sense of the impact of this, we conducted an analysis that did not include events held by USIP's Gender and Peacebuilding Center. The results of that analysis are included in the above table as well.