



March 10, 2015

Dear Mr. President:

This year marks the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landmark U.N. Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. In 2015, the U.S. government will also undertake a comprehensive review of its National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security (NAP). Both milestones represent invaluable opportunities to recognize the progress made to date, and to recommit the political will and resources required to fully meet this country's commitments to the full and meaningful inclusion of women in all aspects of efforts to prevent and respond to conflict.

The U.S. Civil Society Working Group on the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (CSWG) is a network of experts, NGOs, and academics with years of experience working on issues involving women, war, and peace. Inspired by and building upon the international Women, Peace, and Security agenda, the CSWG informs, promotes, facilitates, and monitors the meaningful implementation of the U.S. National Action Plan on Women, Peace, and Security.

The CSWG was privileged to support the development of the first U.S. National Action Plan and to advocate for its effective implementation. We consider the creation of the NAP to be one of the key achievements of your first term and an essential framework for effective conflict resolution and peacebuilding. Similarly, a robust and transparent review process that engages all partners, shares findings with the public, and results in a strengthened National Action Plan will serve as an important legacy for your Administration and an essential roadmap for the next President.

In keeping with your Executive Order instituting the first National Action Plan, the CSWG urges the Administration to develop a detailed strategy for engaging with civil society. This should include the establishment of formal mechanisms for communication and consultation at key points in the process with U.S. civil society. As part of the review process, we urge the Administration to consult with U.S. civil society on the structure, process, objectives, and results of the mid-term review. The CSWG has established a recognized role as a convening body of U.S. organizations that are experts in women, peace and security that consults with U.S. government agencies. We stand ready to facilitate such engagement and help identify the most effective mechanisms for regular consultation.

The Center for Gender and Peacebuilding at the U.S. Institute of Peace serves as the Secretariat for the CSWG and will follow up with your staff on how best to move these questions forward. We remain most appreciative of your personal commitment to promoting the participation, empowerment and human rights of women and girls, and look forward to continued good work with the Administration in 2015.

Sincerely,

Member Organizations of the CSWG\*

### \* Full Member Organizations

- 4Girls GLocal Leadership (4GGL)
- American Red Cross
- Amnesty International USA
- Baha'is of the United States
- Consensus Building Institute, Inc.
- Equality Now
- Foreign Policy Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL)
- Futures Without Violence
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace & Security
- Global Gender Program
- Human Rights Watch
- Inclusive Security
- Institute for State Effectiveness (ISE)
- International Center for Research on Women (ICRW)
- International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN)
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES)
- International Research and Exchanges Board (IREX)
- Peace X Peace
- Promundo – U.S.
- Protect the People
- Strategy for Humanity
- The Tahrir Institute for Middle East Policy (TIMEP)
- United Nations Association of the United States of America
- U.S. National Committee of U.N. Women
- Vital Voices Global Partnership
- WomenEnabled International
- Women for Women International
- Women in International Security (WIIS)
- Women, Peace & Security Resources
- Women's Action for New Directions (WAND)
- Women's Refugee Commission

### Supporting Organizations

- Creative Associates International
- National Democratic Institute (NDI)
- Refugees International
- Women Thrive Worldwide
- Women's Democracy Network