

The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

ISRAELI RECOMMENDATIONS

The following recommendations for ensuring women's inclusion in the security sector were developed by a coalition of Israeli women security experts convened by The Initiative for Inclusive Security in January 2008.

TO PROMOTE CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH SECURITY SECTOR ACTORS, ESPECIALLY INITIATIVES LED BY WOMEN

Goal: Incorporate civil society's input into the shaping of the long-term and annual National Security Assessment.

Strategy: A new civilian body of ten high-profile individuals would be established to meet IDF General Staff to discuss and incorporate civilian input into the Security Vision prior to its finalization.

Goal: Increase the role of civil society in establishing the civil defense doctrine.

Strategy: Legislation would be passed mandating the establishment of a body comprised of local government authorities (municipalities, mayors, etc.) that, together with relevant emergency agencies and the home front command, would establish crisis response plans for any contingency. Women's organizations, the Arab municipality committees, and local municipalities would all be included within this body. Any annual plan of the home front command would have to be approved by this body in order to receive funding.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP IN GOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES AND OVERSIGHT BODIES WITH RESPONSIBILITY OVER THE SECURITY SECTOR (DEFENSE, INTERIOR AND JUSTICE MINISTRIES, LEGISLATURES, PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEES)

Goal: Increase the representation (or seats) of women to 50 percent in the Knesset, 30 percent in the government, and ensure that there is at least one woman in the cabinet.

Strategy: To achieve this goal:

1. Civil society would initiate a national campaign calling for amendment of the Basic Law of the Knesset and Basic Law of the Government to require quotas for women in the government and legislature.
2. The Knesset would change the Basic Law of the Knesset and the Basic Law of the Government to reflect this quota appropriately.
3. Political parties would apply this requirement to their political processes before the next elections; not doing so would endanger their public funding.
4. The 2005 amendment to the Israeli Law of Equality, based on UNSCR 1325, would be amended to specify one-third women's participation in any negotiations toward

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interstate settlements. The law would also specify that Israel will only meet with external delegations that include women delegates.

TO PROMOTE WOMEN'S FULL INCLUSION IN FORMAL SECURITY SECTOR STRUCTURES (MILITARY, POLICE, INTELLIGENCE).

Goal: To advance the principles of inclusive security within the Israeli security sector, increase the number of women in leadership positions in the Israeli military, police, and other security bodies. (A suggested target is at least 25 percent of one-star Generals and 15 percent of two-star Generals, and equivalent.)

Strategy: The Knesset should pass legislation mandating the percentages set above. To realize the goals laid out in the legislation:

1. A 5-year interim plan would be developed in order to transition toward the aforementioned goal.
2. A list of core positions that should also be occupied by women would be developed within the 5-year plan.
3. A special education and training program would be created to fast-track women to leadership positions within each body.
4. A quota would be established to ensure 25 percent minimum participation by women in all advanced training courses, specifically from the rank of Major and up (and equivalent).
5. The participation of women in core military activities, including combat and operations, would be increased.
6. A public campaign would be launched to raise awareness of the need to promote women to senior ranks in the military, police, and other security agencies.

Monitoring: The military, police, and other security agencies would annually report to the Knesset's Foreign Policy and Security Committee regarding the promotion of women as required by the legislation. The Committee would be given the power to call for investigation into promotion practices and to freeze male promotions until a sufficient number of women are promoted.