

# The Initiative for Inclusive Security

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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## **THE INITIATIVE FOR INCLUSIVE SECURITY RELEASES COMPREHENSIVE RESEARCH ON THE IMPACT OF RWANDAN WOMEN LEADERS**

*Three-year Project on Women in Post-Genocide Rwanda to be Presented April 11 at the Woodrow Wilson  
International Center for Scholars*

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—With nearly half its parliament composed of women, Rwanda provides a compelling example of how women leaders helped rebuild society, 14 years after a genocide that left nearly a million Rwandans dead. The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, today announced the release of three years of field research that examines how women in government have had a significant impact on the country's reconstruction. A panel discussion and presentation with the Rwandan Ambassador to the U.S., James Kimonyo, will be held at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, D.C., on Friday from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

“The Rwandan parliament has more women than any other in the world. Our research provides clear evidence of their positive impact,” said [Carla Koppell, director of The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#). “Rwanda’s experience offers important lessons regarding the ways women can effect profound change—lessons that apply globally.”

The Initiative’s comprehensive body of written work documents the significance of women’s leadership following conflict (visit [http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/478\\_rwanda\\_project.cfm](http://www.huntalternatives.org/pages/478_rwanda_project.cfm) to download). These papers reveal that women legislators have:

- Led parliament by drafting the only substantive bill to emerge from the legislative rather than the executive branch, a far-reaching law to combat gender-based violence;
- Spearheaded efforts to eliminate discrimination and enhance human rights protections; and
- Fostered cross-party and male-female collaboration through the Forum of Rwandan Women Parliamentarians, Rwanda’s all-party legislative women’s caucus, and by involving men in efforts to craft legislation.

“The Initiative for Inclusive Security study into the contribution of women’s leadership to the development and stabilization of post-genocide Rwanda has implications for transitional societies everywhere,” said Howard Wolpe, director of the Africa program at Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. “This initiative is one of the first to examine in-depth the transformative impact of women’s participation on legislative priorities and, more generally, on governance.”

For admission to the panel discussion and presentation at the Wilson Center on April 11, please call: Erin Mosely, 202-691-4266.

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The Initiative for Inclusive Security, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, advocates for the full participation of all stakeholders, especially women, in peace processes. Creating sustainable peace is achieved best by a diverse, citizen-driven approach. Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. Since 1999, the Initiative has connected more than 800 women experts with more than 5,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information, visit [www.InclusiveSecurity.org](http://www.InclusiveSecurity.org).