

Special Screening and Panel Discussion of the PBS *Women, War & Peace* film *Peace Unveiled* with three Afghan Women Leaders

WHAT: [*Women, War & Peace*](#), is a bold, new PBS miniseries exploring women's role in conflict and peacebuilding. Airing every Tuesday evening, Oct. 11, through Nov. 8, *Women, War & Peace* tells the stories of women in conflict zones from Bosnia to Afghanistan, Colombia to Liberia, and is the first major broadcast campaign to show that women are not only suffering unprecedented casualties in today's wars, but they're also emerging as leaders in peacebuilding and postconflict resolution.

Created by Abigail E. Disney, Pamela Hogan, and Gini Reticker and featuring narrators **Matt Damon, Tilda Swinton, Geena Davis**, and **Alfre Woodard**, *Women, War & Peace* prompts us to ask, what if we looked at war as though women mattered?

The third film in the series, *Peace Unveiled*, airs **Tuesday evening, Oct. 25, on PBS**. *Peace Unveiled* takes an in-depth look at Afghan women's insistent demand to be included in the peace process, as the fraught security transition accelerates without a negotiated settlement in place. Along the way, the audience gets a unique, behind-the-scenes perspective as the camera follows women leaders into the June 2010 peace *jirga* and meetings with top US and Afghan officials, including Secretary of State Hillary Clinton.

On **Thursday, Oct. 27**, a special screening will take place in New York at the **Church Center for the United Nations. The Institute for Inclusive Security**, the **NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security**, **UN Women**, and **Women's International League for Peace and Freedom** will host the screening.

WHEN & WHERE:

6:30–8:30 PM, Oct. 27

Church Center for the United Nations

777 UN Plaza, 2nd floor

44th Street at the corner of 1st Avenue

WHO: Three Afghan women leaders will attend the screening and participate in a panel discussion immediately following the film. The women will be in New York to advocate to UN policy shapers about women's inclusion in the Afghan peace process in light of the 11th anniversary of UN Security Resolution 1325, which calls for women to participate in all levels of conflict prevention and resolution (supported by The **NGO Working Group**). **Afifa Azim**, founder of the **Afghan Women's Network**; **Nilofar Sakhi**, former **Open Society Foundations Afghanistan director**; and **Orzala Ashraf**, a women's rights advocate, will discuss the film and the current role of women in the Afghan peace process. **Lakshmi Puri**, UN Women Assistant Secretary General and Deputy Executive Director for Intergovernmental Support and Strategic Partnerships, will deliver opening remarks before the film begins. Immediately following the film, **Miki Jacevic**, chief

training officer for **Inclusive Security**, and **Gini Reticker**, film director, will join the Afghan women leaders in the panel discussion.

Media inquiries: Jaime Horn, 202.403.2014; Jaime_horn@huntalternatives.org

Featuring:

Orzala Ashraf has long been a strong advocate for human rights and the active participation of women in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, consulting with international organizations including Human Rights Watch, Swiss Development Corporation, UNDP, and UNIFEM. She is a member of the Afghan Women's Network and Civil Society and Human Rights Network, Persian Gender Network, Gender and Law working group (professionals and scholars involved in crafting the constitution), and is one of the founding members of the Women's Political Participation Committee. Ms. Ashraf and her organization were given the Isabel Ferrer Award for women's education and the Amnesty International award for humanitarian aid to children and women; she was a World Fellow at Yale University in 2008. Ms. Ashraf holds master's degree from the University of London in development planning, with a special focus on social development practice

Afifa Azim is general director and cofounder of the Afghan Women's Network, a nonpartisan network of 99 Afghan women's organizations and more than 5,000 individual women. AWN is an umbrella group of nongovernmental organization and women activists advocating gender equality. Ms. Azim is an internationally respected speaker, facilitator, and advocate for the rights of women and children. She has worked as a banker, teacher, trainer/facilitator, and was coordinator for 15 years with Save the Children Sweden and the government of Pakistan and Afghanistan. She was a member of the Gender Advisory board for AWN 2002–2006 and is a member of the Afghan first national election committee, a member of the Afghan American Council, a steering committee member of Peaceful Tomorrow, and a member of the Global Network of Women Peace Builders.

Mirsad "Miki" Jacevic is chief training officer at the Institute for Inclusive Security. He has worked with the organization since its inception in 1999, originally serving as the liaison among members of the Women Waging Peace Network, which links women peacemakers from conflict areas around the world. In his current capacity, he oversees Inclusive Security's training program, as well as strategic consultations with leaders from conflict areas around the globe, to help them remain focused on promoting women's inclusion in all stages of the peace process. He was the primary author of *[Inclusive Security: A Curriculum for Women Waging Peace](#)*, a highly interactive training manual based on more than a decade of experience designing and leading workshops around the world. Mr. Jacevic currently directs the Institute's programs in Afghanistan and Pakistan and has previously managed country efforts in Bosnia, Colombia, and Liberia. He has also led workshops and consultations on inclusion of civil society in various aspects of peace processes in 40 countries.

Lakshmi Puri of India was appointed by United Nations Secretary Ban Ki-Moon as assistant secretary-general for intergovernmental support and strategic partnerships at the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) on March 11. In this position, Ms. Puri is responsible for the leadership and management of the bureau in supporting intergovernmental bodies, UN coordination and external relations. She also serves as one of the two deputies to UN Women Executive Director Michelle Bachelet.

Ms. Lakshmi Puri has more than 37 years of experience in economic and development policymaking as well as in political, peace, and security, humanitarian and human rights–related diplomacy. She has spent more than 20 years working with the UN system.

Gini Reticker is an executive producer of *Women, War & Peace* and directed both *Pray the Devil Back to Hell* and *Peace Unveiled*, the third film in the series about Afghanistan. Ms. Reticker is one of the world’s leading documentary filmmakers focusing a lens on the real-life dramatic stories of women’s rights and international social justice issues.

Ms. Reticker produced *Asylum*, the 2004 Academy Award®–nominated short focusing on the story of a Ghanaian woman who fled female genital mutilation and sought political asylum in the US. She was the producer/codirector of *1 Heart of the Matter* which won a 1994 Sundance Award and was the first full-length documentary about the impact of HIV on women in the US.. She produced and directed the 2005 Emmy Award–winning documentary *Ladies First* for the PBS series *WIDE ANGLE*, which focuses on the role of women in rebuilding postgenocide Rwanda. Ms. Reticker also garnered an Emmy for directing and producing *Out of the Darkness*, which looked at women and depression. For *WIDE ANGLE*, she’s also directed *The Class of 2006*, which spotlights the first 50 Moroccan women to graduate from an imam academy in Rabat.

Nilofar Sakhi is an Afghan advocate for human rights with a focus on civil and political liberties. Ms. Sakhi has served as a country, as well as a senior consultant on rule of law, transitional justice, and human rights, at the Open Society Foundations in Afghanistan. She is a founder and the chair of the national civil society organization WASSA (Women Activities and Social Services Association). She established the Center for Conflict Resolution and Peace Building at WASSA.

--30--

About The Institute for Inclusive Security

The Institute for Inclusive Security uses research, training, and advocacy to promote the inclusion of all stakeholders, particularly women, in peace processes. We work with a global network of well over 1,000 women leaders from more than 40 conflict regions. Our research gives policymakers new strategies to drive inclusion by examining tangible contributions of women peacebuilders. Our training provides leaders the specialized skills and knowledge to direct local, national, and international peacebuilding. Our

advocacy to high-level policymakers promotes change that makes peace processes more broad based, and thus sustainable. To learn more, visit <http://www.inclusivesecurity.org>.

About the NGOWG

The NGOWG on Women, Peace and Security advocates for the equal and full participation of women in all efforts to create and maintain international peace and security. Formed in 2000 to call for a Security Council resolution on Women, Peace and Security, the NGOWG now focuses on the implementation of all Security Council resolutions that address this issue. The NGOWG serves as a bridge between women's human rights defenders working in conflict-affected situations and policymakers at UN headquarters.

About UN WOMEN

In July 2010, the UN General Assembly created [UN Women](#), the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. UN Women's main roles are to support intergovernmental bodies, such as the Commission on the Status of Women, in their formulation of policies, global standards, and norms; to help member states implement these standards, standing ready to provide suitable technical and financial support to those countries that request it, to forge effective partnerships with civil society; and to hold the UN system accountable for its own commitments on gender equality, including regular monitoring of systemwide progress.

About the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) is a women's peace organization founded in 1915 with membership and national sections around the world. WILPF believes that building and maintaining sustainable peace must be achieved with a holistic approach to security, the inclusion of women in decision making, fulfilling international obligations to human rights, and reducing the buildup of arms. WILPF has an established Women, Peace and Security Project, PeaceWomen (www.peacewomen.org), which for 10 years has systematically monitored, advocated, and provided the primary online information hub for resources on UNSCR 1325. WILPF is also a member of the NGOWG.