

Report: Creating Sustainable Peace is Achieved Best When Women Have a Say in Reconstruction

WASHINGTON, DC – April 6, 2007 – Despite more than a decade of experience in Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo, US-led reconstruction and stabilization operations are still plagued by persistent failures.

On Tuesday, April 10, The Initiative for Inclusive Security, The United States Institute of Peace (USIP), Women in International Security (WIIS), and The Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice will release *The Role of Women in Stabilization and Reconstruction*, a report arguing that “capitalizing on the activities of women peace builders not only advances women’s rights, but leads to more effective programs and, ultimately, to a more sustainable peace.”

Of the many sectors of society currently excluded from peace processes, none is larger—or more critical to success—than women. If we hope to transform instability and violence into prosperity, we must incorporate the expertise of women. This report outlines a comprehensive list of recommendations to the US government and highlights several critical action areas to impact the protection and participation of women in postwar situations.

Two additional reports will also be released at this event: *United Nations Reform: Improving Peace Operation by Advancing the Role of Women*; and *Who’s Making Policy? What Difference Does It Make? An International Conference on Gender-Inclusive Decision Making for Peace with Justice*.

Journalists are invited to attend this event but must respond to Katie Elbert, elbert@huntalternatives.org.

WHO: **Ambassador Harriet C. Babbitt**, Co-Chair, USIP Working Group on the Role of Women in Stabilization and Reconstruction, former Senior Vice President, The Initiative for Inclusive Security, and Deputy Administrator of the US Agency for International Development; **Dr. Harriet Hentges**, Co-Chair, USIP Working Group on the Role of Women in Stabilization and Reconstruction and former USIP Executive Vice President; **Dr. Joyce Neu**, Senior Fellow, USIP’s Jennings Randolph Fellowship Program and Executive Director, Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, University of San Diego (on leave); and **Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat**, WIIS Vice President and Senior Fellow, Center for Transatlantic Relations, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University.

WHERE & WHEN: US Institute of Peace, 2nd Floor Conference Room, 1200 17th Street, NW, Washington, DC; Tuesday, April 10, 2007, 10:30 AM—12:00 PM.

The Role of Women in Stabilization and Reconstruction is based on a series of consultations under the auspices of the Working Group on the Role of Women in Stabilization and Reconstruction Operations, chaired by Harriet Hentges, former US Institute of Peace executive vice president, and Ambassador Harriet C. Babbitt, former senior vice president of Hunt Alternatives Fund. The Role of Women Working Group is part of the Institute's Filling the Gaps series of working groups, which aims to systematically address the causes of failure in specific areas in reconstruction and stabilization operations and to generate policy options for those in the US government and elsewhere who lead and staff these missions. Filling the Gaps is directed by Daniel Serwer and managed by Beth Cole DeGrasse, senior program officer at the Institute. Camille Pampell Conaway authored the report.

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, Inclusive Security has connected more than 500 women experts with over 5,000 policy shapers to collaborate on fresh, workable solutions to long-standing conflicts across the globe. For more information visit www.InclusiveSecurity.org.