

The Initiative for **Inclusive Security**

A Program of Hunt Alternatives Fund

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IN DEMAND: U.S. POLICEWOMEN FOR OVERSEAS MISSIONS

WASHINGTON, D.C. – [The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#), in partnership with the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) at the U.S. Department of State and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, convened a consultation to identify strategies to increase the recruitment of U.S. policewomen for international civilian police missions June 20 in Washington, D.C.

Female officers currently serving in Liberia and Afghanistan joined leaders of the National Center on Women and Policing, the National Association of Women Law Enforcement Executives, the International Association of Women Police, private contractors and others to develop approaches to improving incentives for women applicants, facilitating their recruitment and improving outreach.

While most stakeholders acknowledge the need to increase the number of women police officers in overseas peace missions, few women apply. As of April 2007, the U.S. has contributed nearly 800 officers to U.S. and United Nations-led police missions around the world. Less than 5 percent are women.

Carla Koppell, director of the Initiative for Inclusive Security, said: “Women officers enhance the internal dynamics and performance of police forces, are more likely to emphasize crime prevention rather than crime control, and are less apt to use excessive force. In post-conflict societies where public trust in security forces has been eroded, women police officers can play a critical role in rebuilding confidence and strengthening communities. We must attract women to this arena as it is one of the most fundamental ways to create societies governed by equity and rule of law.”

The consultation was the first step in a productive dialogue among INL, its contractors, policewomen and police agencies. Participants of the consultation will release proposed recommendations in the coming weeks.

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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, 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.