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## Leaders from Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Israel, Liberia and Palestine to Convene in Cambridge, Mass. and Washington, D.C.

*International Forum Seeks to Increase  
Women's Participation in the Security Sector*

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass.** – [The Initiative for Inclusive Security](#), a program of Hunt Alternatives Fund, will host 25 senior women leaders from Afghanistan, Colombia, Haiti, Israel, Liberia, and Palestine for the Initiative's ninth annual Colloquium and Policy Forum held in Cambridge and Washington, Jan. 12-25, 2008. The Policy Forum will convene more than 400 policy makers and the women leaders in order to increase women's participation as members, constituents, and overseers of the security sector. Members of the media are invited to attend the events in either city and interview the women, all of whom play key roles at the highest levels of decision-making in the security sector.

Collaboration of this scale among women leaders in the security sector is unprecedented. There are few high-level women in the sector, and most are unaccustomed to close collaboration across such a wide spectrum. Representing some of the most volatile and politically significant parts of the world, such as Afghanistan, Israel, and Palestine, participants will not only advance women's participation, but also model the cooperation needed to enhance effectiveness throughout the sector.

According to the U.S. Department of State, women make profound contributions to stability, prosperity and peace throughout the world. Yet, only five percent of police and military forces worldwide are female. The presence of women police and military officers can strengthen and rebuild confidence in reformed security forces, while collaboration by security officials with women in civil society and government broadens the sector's constituency and boosts its legitimacy and effectiveness.

"Women have enormous value to add in the security sector yet they remain dramatically underrepresented in militaries, police and peacekeeping forces," said Carla Koppell, director of Inclusive Security. "This exceptional group of women leaders will shine a spotlight on some of the most valuable resources available globally for enhancing security sector effectiveness and building peace."

Colloquium participants include high-ranking parliamentarians with influence over defense policy and spending, senior ministry officials, government ministers, uniformed military and police officers and heads of development and advocacy organizations. The women leaders will take part in the *Women and Security Executive Program*, organized by the [Women and Public Policy Program](#) at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government from Jan. 14-17. They will then travel to Washington, where delegations from each country will develop concrete recommendations for increasing the participation of women in their country's security sector. They will advocate for their priorities at the Initiative's Policy Forum on Jan. 22 to more than 400 key decision makers from the U.S. government, military and police organizations, foreign governments, private security contractors, regional security organizations, and non-governmental organizations. Participants will also meet with senior officials at the departments of Defense and State, members of Congress, private security contractors, and others key players in the security sector.

The Initiative for Inclusive Security's Colloquium is led by its chair, **Ambassador Swanee Hunt**, who co-founded and directs the Women and Public Policy Program at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

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**Editor's Note: Media should call Lisa Marie Hennings to schedule an interview of the experts or to attend events in the Boston and Washington areas. Attached is a tentative schedule of events. The participant list will be sent at a later date.**

## The Initiative for Inclusive Security Colloquium

January 12-25, 2008

### Schedule of Events (Tentative)

*Members of the media must contact [Lisa Marie Hennings](mailto:Lisa.Marie.Hennings@huntalternatives.org) at 617-995-1925 to attend the following events.*

#### JANUARY 14-15, 2008 (CAMBRIDGE, MASS.)

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Selected participants from Liberia, Haiti, Israel and Palestine will speak in Ambassador Swanee Hunt's Inclusive Security course at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

#### JANUARY 16, 2008 (CAMBRIDGE)

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. **Public Forum - Engendering Peace: Security Through an Inclusive Lens**  
Location: JFK Jr. Forum, Kennedy School of Government  
Four participants will share their powerful stories in a panel discussion. An opportunity for questions will follow the formal speaking portion and there will be a reception after the forum.

#### JANUARY 17, 2008 (CAMBRIDGE)

9 a.m. – 12 p.m. Selected participants from Colombia and Iraq will speak in Ambassador Swanee Hunt's Inclusive Security course at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government.

#### JANUARY 20-21, 2008 (WASHINGTON, D.C.)

Members of the media are invited to observe strategy sessions facilitated by Inclusive Security staff and partners. For more details, please contact Lisa Marie Hennings, [Lisa.Hennings@huntalternatives.org](mailto:Lisa.Hennings@huntalternatives.org) or 617.995.1925.

#### JANUARY 22, 2008 (WASHINGTON)

10 a.m. – 12 p.m. **Policy Roundtable Discussions**  
Fairmont Hotel, 2401 M Street NW  
Country delegations will discuss recommendations for increasing women's participation in the security sector with experts and policy makers from the U.S. government, U.S. military and police, foreign governments, the World Bank, private security contractors, regional security organizations and non-governmental organizations.

12:30 p.m. – 2:30 p.m. **Policy Forum Luncheon**  
Fairmont Hotel, 2401 M Street NW  
A select number of participants will advocate for increased women's participation in The Initiative for Inclusive Security's ninth annual policy forum attended by over 400 key decision makers representing government, militaries, police, private contractors and non-governmental organizations.

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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](http://www.InclusiveSecurity.org).