



United States Mission to the OSCE

PRESS RELEASE

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Women, Peace and Security: The Role of Women in the Security Sector

The participating States of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) in concert with nearly 500 NGOs have begun their wide-ranging review of the status of human rights, fundamental freedoms and democracy in the OSCE region. Government and civil society representatives have gathered at the Warsaw portion of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference to evaluate the implementation of human dimension commitments by the 56 OSCE participating States and to review the procedures and mechanisms for monitoring and enhancing compliance with these commitments.

To contribute to these discussions, the delegation of the United States of America and the OSCE's Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) are hosting an event on the margins of the Review Conference called "**Women in the Security Sector: Where do We Stand on the Eve of the 10th Anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325?**" It will be held on **Wednesday, October 6, 2010, from 13:00 to 15:00 at Warsaw's Hotel Sofitel Victoria, in meeting room 1.** Refreshments will be provided.

Ensuring the participation of women in conflict prevention, resolution and peace building is critical to achieving sustainable peace and ensuring that the needs of all those affected by conflict are equally addressed. UN Security Council Resolution 1325 is a landmark call to action in this respect, urging nations to ensure increased representation of women in security sector institutions and mechanisms for addressing conflict. In this side event, speakers will discuss successful gender mainstreaming strategies of national security policies and institutions – strategies that are bringing countries closer to achieving their international obligations.

The keynote speaker will be Nola Joyce, Chief Administrative Officer of the Philadelphia (Pennsylvania) Police Department. She is principally responsible for strategic planning and policy in the fourth largest police department in the United States. Prominent panelists from the Russian Federation, Georgia and Serbia will respond to Ms. Joyce's address. Speakers are expected to highlight challenges that are still to be met and provide recommendations for the way forward in promoting women in security sector decision-making. OSCE Special Representative for Gender Issues, Wendy Patten, will moderate the discussion.

For information about the Warsaw Review Conference: www.osce.org

For information about the U.S. Mission to the OSCE: <http://osce.usmission.gov>

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