



# Gender and Security

# Overview

Gender equality is one of DCAF's core operational principles. It is reflected in our policy and research work, and integrated into the design and implementation of our programmes and projects. The Gender and Security Division leads our work on promoting gender equality in all aspects of security sector reform and governance, ensuring that DCAF remains a leading global player in this field.

Our programmes and initiatives are all practice-oriented, backed by 20 years of operational experience around the world, and designed to support the implementation of international frameworks such as the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Sustaining Peace Agenda.

## **Policy-oriented research**

DCAF develops and provides high-quality research, toolkits, and advisory products on gender equality to civil society groups, national governments, donor countries, and international organizations working in the area of security sector reform and governance.

## **Support to multilateral Institutions**

DCAF works closely with multilateral institutions offering evidence-based policy guidance on how to integrate gender equality into their SSG/R programmes and initiatives. We also facilitate dialogue between civil society groups and policy makers to increase the diversity of viewpoints taken into account in the development of policies that affect gender equality in the security sector.

## **Support to national partners**

DCAF supports national partners to ensure that gender equality remains an integral component of their SSG/R processes. Our activities include:

- » Improving the judicial response to domestic violence in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Ukraine in order to provide access to security and justice for all citizens;
- » Gender mainstreaming within the Malian National Police in order to strengthen the effectiveness, efficiency and stability of police services;
- » The development and implementation of an organization assessment for the Georgian Armed Forces to identify institutional and cultural barriers to gender equality.

# Highlights

## › GENDER AND SECURITY TOOLKIT

This innovative toolkit is made up of nine tools and four policy briefs which are aimed at a range of actors involved in the reform and governance of the security and justice sector, such as police, military, parliament, and the judiciary. While supporting these actors to advance gender equality within their institutions, the Gender and Security Toolkit also provides guidance for effectively contributing to the overall success of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Each tool is an accessible, practical resource featuring concrete examples from national reform processes, international missions, and community projects around the world. They provide guidance on key topics such as inclusive leadership, conducting gender analysis, gender training, improving women's participation, strengthening oversight, and more effectively collaborating with civil society organizations.

The tools and briefs are free to download at [www.dcaf.ch/gender-and-security-toolkit](http://www.dcaf.ch/gender-and-security-toolkit).

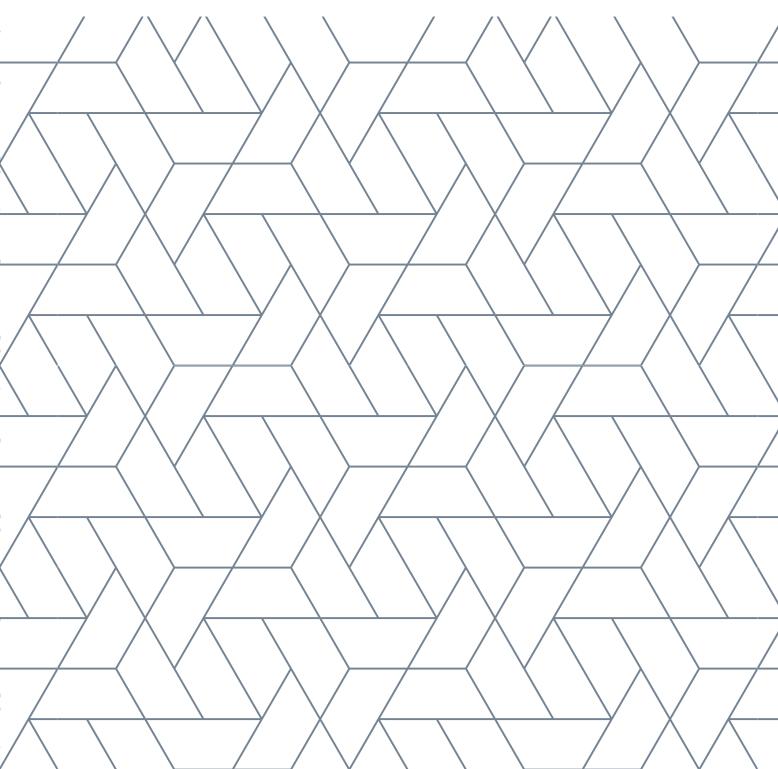
## › SUPPORT TO THE ELSIE INITIATIVE FOR WOMEN IN PEACE OPERATIONS

In 2017 Canada launched the Elsie Initiative for Women in Peace Operations to develop and test a combination of innovative approaches to overcoming barriers to uniformed women's meaningful participation in UN peace operations. DCAF is contributing through the development and application of the Measuring Opportunities for Women in Peace Operations (MOWIP) methodology. After successful pilots in a range of troop- and police-contributing countries, the MOWIP Methodology is now being used to identify and promote good practices to enhance women's meaningful participation with the support of national partners, the UN Elsie Initiative Fund and international donors.

## › IMPROVING THE JUDICIAL RESPONSE TO GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN UKRAINE

Based on an assessment of the response of the criminal justice system to cases of violence against women, DCAF and La Strada-Ukraine are working with national institutions to implement new legislation that combats domestic violence and addresses crimes of sexual violence within the framework of Ukraine's Justice Sector Reform Strategy and the European Union's PRAVO-Justice Project.

Activities include developing and testing innovative new training modules with the National School of Judges and the National Academy of Prosecutors to promote an institutionalized approach that addresses underlying biases and includes good practices from around the world. In addition, DCAF and La Strada are monitoring changes in outcomes for the victims of gender-based violence, and supporting the design of model courts that are more sensitive to the needs of witnesses in vulnerable situations.



# Context



Gender equality is an international norm and democratic principle and thus critical to achieving the goals of security sector reform and good governance, such as democratic civilian control, rule of law, and respect for human rights.

Gender inequality puts people in different relative positions of power, risk, security and insecurity, and gives them different degrees of protection and support from security forces and institutions. It is also a root cause of gender-based violence – a grave threat to both human and state security. Addressing the different needs of women, men, girls and boys as victims of insecurity, agents of violence, and security sector personnel can improve both human and state security.

The ability to integrate a gender perspective is a fundamental principle of security sector reform and a defining attribute of effective security institutions. It is a multi-faceted endeavour that includes not only increasing the number of women working in the sector at all levels, but also integrating principles of gender equality into legal oversight frameworks, and institutional policies and practices. It also includes giving women and men equal opportunity to influence reforms and participate in public oversight of the security sector.

Integrating gender equality into SSR also means that security and justice institutions actively contribute to achieving the broader goals of gender equality, such as those of the Woman, Peace and Security Agenda.



DCAF - Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance is committed to making people more secure through accountable and effective security and justice. We help national and international entities to deliver security that respects human rights, upholds the rule of law, and is democratically controlled by:



**Helping to improve the way national security sectors are governed**



**Guiding the development of sound, sustainable security governance policy**



**Promoting locally owned reforms that are inclusive, participatory, and gender responsive**

DCAF pursues five main activities:



**Providing technical expertise to nationally led SSG/R processes**



**Capacity building for state and non-state actors**



**Publishing research and knowledge products**



**Promoting internationally recommended good governance practices**



**Advising on security sector-related legal and policy questions**



For more information, please contact:

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