



Beyond (peace)

BEYOND STORIES

Issue no. 04 /// Spring 2015

www.beyondpeace.fr

01

She Has a Story to Tell

Beyond (peace) is announcing its first home-grown project. The aim of Storytelling for a Cause is to identify, highlight and share effective women's contributions in enhancing peace and security in their communities.

It is based on the assessment that the international political and legal efforts to promote women's participation and protection (including UN Security Council resolution 1325 and other initiatives) are largely failing to recognise and support women's concrete strategies to improve the security and safety of their communities.

Example: The story of Jihan

(real names and locations are undisclosed)

"In our region, armed groups control the area. We do not call them Al-Qaida, in order not to stigmatise them. We call them the sons of our valley who have taken the weapons, and we try to remain in dialogue with them. As women, we have attempted a two-pronged strategy: 1. As parents have no control on their children forcefully or willingly joining the armed groups, we spoke to the Imams, so they would in their preaches criticise child enrolment and discourage parents from sending their children away from home; 2. At the same time, we opened a dialogue with those armed men, to identify their needs and to reach with them an agreement: that the villagers will not exclude them or stigmatise them if they stop recruiting our children."



This story illustrates how women can use creative means that are safe and grounded in local realities to engage with men who are the overwhelming source of violence and often ignored in programmes targeting the safety and rights of women. Their resourcefulness and sense of dialogue guide women to inspire collective, non-violent forms of resistance based on rule of law and which can be effective in increasing community security and dialogue.

Beyond (peace) seeks through this project to collect and write up a number of these stories. By gathering them and writing them into accessible formats (such as web stories, policy papers, presentations, etc.), we aim at:

A Connecting the various initiatives in favour of women's participation in peace and security, by sharing local stories with high-level and mid-level audience (Track 1 and 2).

B Supporting these and other women around the world by creating role models and providing courage, a sense of hope and possibly a network, to women who are fighting for peace and security, isolated.

C Rejoicing for all the good things that have been done discreetly on the ground and that have contributed to improve people's lives.

Beyond (peace) is looking for support to implement this project. We are specifically looking for funding and for our partners to help us identify such women's actions in their regions.

02

Combating sexual violence

Cynthia Petrich was selected by UK Government to participate in the designing and production of the UK standardised training modules on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV) for Peacekeeping Troop Contributing Countries. The training package builds on international best practice as well as on the PSVI Summit recommendations on empowering peacekeepers by improving troop performance on CRSV. This is also a Women Peace and Security deliverable from the National Action Plan set out in the UK's Implementation Plan.

More in next issue.

Our work on prevention of sexual violence with the MILF in partnership with Geneva Call (see Beyond Stories #3) is continuing and new series of workshops with the Group will be designed and implemented in the second half of 2015.



Judge P. Kirsch, Commissioners K. Abuzayd and P. Pinheiro and C. Petrich at launch of Harvard publication

03

International investigations

Our 3-year pro bono involvement with the Harvard Group of Professionals on Monitoring, Fact-Finding and Reporting has reached its conclusion with the production of an *Advanced Practitioner's Handbook on Commissions of Inquiry*. The handbook was launched in an event Chaired by Ambassador Fasel of Switzerland at the *Human Rights Council* in Geneva on 16 March. It was attended by state representatives as well as personalities and experts from the field.

(03 continued) The Handbook was written by the Group based on the following contributions - ([go to link here](#)).

Cynthia Petrich from *Beyond (peace)* authored an article on witness protection and participated in the Group's research throughout the 3-year period.

The full collection (Handbook and articles) will be gathered in a publication by Cambridge University Press to be released this fall.

04

Working with European partners to support Humanitarian and Human rights operations

We are continuing our cooperation with agencies training humanitarian professionals. A "Special Course for ECHO staff" (Heads of Field Offices and HQ staff) was organised by PHAP in Brussels on March 9-11, 2015, where *Beyond (peace)* Cynthia Petrich delivered training sessions on Principled Humanitarian Action and on Protection of Civilians. Upcoming courses include Yemen, Lebanon and Senegal.



Scuola Santa Anna students at Brindisi UN logistics base

The *Scuola Superiore Santa Anna* in Pisa - ([go to link here](#)) - invited *Beyond (peace)* to deliver the course on "Human Rights Field Operations" this spring semester.

Under the leadership of Professor Andrea de Guttry, the course addresses Masters students and includes Documenting and Reporting War Crimes and other Human Rights and IHL Violations; Human Rights in Peacekeeping Operations; Displacement and Human Rights; Conflict-related Sexual and Gender-Based Violence; and practical case studies on actual conflict situations.