

Rapport 1-2014:  
Gender equality in peace processes  
– is it all just genderwashed?

How UNSCR 1325 is implemented and understood in Sweden

Katharina Hill

Report no 1-2014 in the series Rapport från Ålands fredsinstitut - Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute presents and discusses the way the Swedish government understands and implements United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. The report is written by Katharina Hill who is currently studying for a Master of Social Sciences in International Security and Law at the University of Southern Denmark. Katharina wrote the report during her internship at the ÅIPI in the summer of 2013.

While the resolution is relatively recent, it has attracted considerable interest and new institutional structures have been created in Sweden. Resources have been invested in the idea of the importance of gender and of women's needs in peace processes. However, as shown by Katharina Hill, this effort has mainly focused on quantitative participatory aspects, i.e. the number of women participating at different levels and structures. Particular emphasis has been put in the participation and status of women and of gender knowledge in the Swedish Armed Forces. Such an approach, necessary as it may be as one single aspect of UN Resolution 1325, shifts the focus from peace processes to peace operations and thus seems to aim primarily at promoting the cause of civilized but still military operations, rather than ensuring the analysis and integration of gender sensitive concerns in non-military peace efforts. The gendered needs and plights of peace efforts are militarized and work with UN Resolution 1325 could be seen as a form of "genderwashing" pulling us even further away from the idea that sustainable peace needs to be constructed primarily with peaceful and gender sensitive tools.

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Rapport nummer 1-2014 i serien rapport från Ålands fredsinstitut - Report from the Åland Islands Peace Institute presenterar och diskuterar hur den svenska regeringen förstår och genomför FN:s säkerhetsråds resolution 1325 om kvinnor, fred och säkerhet. Rapporten är skriven av Katharina Hill, som studerar till en master i internationell säkerhet och folkrätt vid Södra Danmarks universitet. Katharina Hill skrev rapporten då hon praktiserade på Ålands fredsinstitut sommaren 2013.

Trots att resolutionen är relativt ny har den väckt stort intresse och Sverige har anammat idén om vikten av jämställdhet och kvinnors behov i fredsprocesser bland annat genom att skapa nya institutionella strukturer. Som framgår av Katharina Hills rapport, har detta arbete främst fokuserat på kvantitativa aspekter, det vill säga antalet kvinnor som deltar på olika nivåer och i olika strukturer - i synnerhet inom det militära.

Deltagande är en viktig aspekt av FN:s resolution 1325, men att fokusera på den aspekten och främst inom försvaret gör att fokus hamnar på de militära strukturernas fredsoperationer snarare än på icke-militära fredsinsatser och fredsprocesser. Behovet av jämställdhet inom fredsarbete militariserar och arbetet med FN:s resolution 1325 kan ses som en form av "genderwashing". Detta motverkar tanken om att en hållbar fred måste byggas främst med fredliga och genuskänsliga verktyg.

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