

WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



WOMEN IN INTERNATIONAL SECURITY
35TH
ANNIVERSARY

1250 Connecticut Ave. NW, Suite 700
Washington DC, 20036
www.wiisglobal.org

ABOUT WIIS

Founded in 1987, WIIS is a non-governmental organization working to advance an inclusive Women, Peace, & Security agenda. We provide professional development opportunities, conduct gender research and policy analysis, hold prestigious events, and nurture a community of powerful mentors, advocates, experts, and leaders.

WIIS has helped women secure representation at the highest levels of private and public service as security leaders, ambassadors, Secretary of State, special advisors, and defense ministers in the United States, the European Union, NATO, and Fortune 500 companies. Our network spans 50 countries across six continents and includes over 15,000 supporters who are all committed to one ambitious goal: closing the gender equality gap worldwide.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to advance gender equality and leadership opportunities for women in the international peace and security field.

OUR VISION

We envision a future in which all genders are treated equally, and women are empowered as leaders to safeguard international peace and security.

Message from our President & CEO



It all started 35 years ago around a kitchen table. WIIS was founded from those first gatherings, where Dr. Catherine Kelleher brought together women like her, who had broken through the glass ceiling of the male-dominated security sector.

Each had muscled through, with little organized support for attaining their success or advancing. Looking back over her shoulder, Catherine could not see where the path had been cleared for the next generation. Something needed to change. She wanted WIIS to be that change.

Catherine believed that increasing women's participation and leadership would not only promote gender equality but also improve the quality of security policy and decision-making. She saw WIIS as a way to help women overcome barriers and challenges and create a more diverse and inclusive community of peace and security professionals.

Over the last 35 years, WIIS Global has grown its network of 15,000 members in over 50 countries, focused on closing the gender inequality gap, and proving once and for all that women are integral to the professional and academic spheres of international peace and security.

Ariela Blätter
President & CEO

*Today, the WIIS global network can be proud of its accomplishments. Our **Next Generation Scholars Program** is paving the way for the younger generations. Our **Research Program** is closing the gender data gap. Our **Women in Defense Program** provides training for better policy and decision-making around the Women, Peace & Security agenda. We are excited to see what the next 35 years bring. Onward!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ariela Blätter'.

Ariela Blätter

IN MEMORIUM

THE DR. JO L. HUSBANDS MEMORIAL FUND



Dr. Jo L. Husbands passed away in November 2022. Dr. Husbands was a long-time supporter of Women In International Security (WIIS) and served as a member of the WIIS advisory board.

Dr. Husbands supported the development of WIIS' Summer Symposia series, an initiative designed to bring together young leaders from around the world to discuss the complex dynamic between globalization and security.

At the request of Dr. Husbands family and friends, WIIS has established the Dr. Jo L. Husbands Memorial Fund. All donations to the Dr. Jo L. Husbands Memorial Fund will support the WIIS' Next Generation Scholars (NGS) Program. Like the Summer Symposia, this program aims to build and sustain a community of young national and international security experts who are diverse and knowledgeable about the gender dynamics of national and international security challenges.

Support the fund today.

OUR TEAM



ARIELA BLÄTTER
President & CEO



DR. KARIN JOHNSTON
Research Director



RUTH MIKRE
Membership Engagement Manager
Joined 2022



ROKSANA VERAHRAMI
Public Affairs and Program Manager



AMY COWLEY
*Gender and Global Security
Program Assistant*
Joined 2022



REBECCA WILSON
*Gender and Global Security
Program Assistant*
Joined 2022



ELLEN HARING
Senior Fellow



LOREDANA TEODORESCU
Senior Fellow



BRENDA OPPERMANN
Senior Fellow and Legal Advisor
Joined 2022

OUR TEAM- CONT.



JOAN JOHNSON-FREESE

Senior Fellow
Joined 2022



JANA WATTENBERG

Resident Senior Fellow
Residency began 2022



ANA LAURA VELASCO UGALDE

Fellow



DIORELLA ISLAS LIMIÑANA

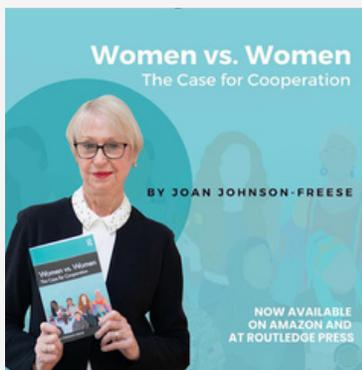
Fellow



TAHINA MONTOYA

Fellow
Joined 2022

Book Launch: Women Vs. Women - The Case for Cooperation



WIIS hosted a book talk with Senior Fellow, Dr. Joan Johnson-Freese, to discuss her book *Women vs. Women: The Case for Cooperation*. *Women vs. Women* analyzes power dynamics and competition between women. It argues that women have been mired in competitive quicksand since the beginning of time, often starting in earnest during adolescence, to their social, economic, and political detriment.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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Joined 2022



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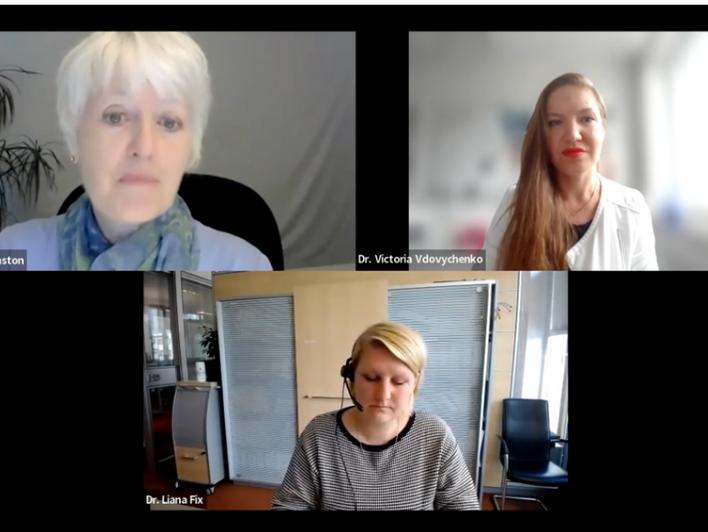
NADIA CREVECOEUR
Board Member
Joined 2022



CATHERINE KELLEHER
Honorary Board Member and
Founder of WIIS

RESPONDING TO THE WAR IN UKRAINE

As the crisis in Ukraine worsens, WIIS' global network, including our bordering international affiliates, worked to assess the unfolding humanitarian situation and provide timely gender analysis and reporting.



[A World Remade: The Geostrategic and Human Costs of the Ukraine War](#)

On July 7th, WIIS Global and WIIS Germany held a virtual briefing on the situation in Ukraine featuring Dr. Victoria Vdovychenko (Associate Professor, Borys Grinchenko Kyiv University) and Dr. Liana Fix (Program Director for International Affairs at the Körber-Stiftung). Experts spoke about the strategic implications of the war and gave a broader account of the impact on Ukraine's citizens amidst Russian disinformation efforts.



[WIIS Portugal: Perspectives on the War in Ukraine and NATO Enlargement](#)

In July, WIIS Portugal hosted a discussion on NATO enlargement, the war on Ukraine, and the inclusion of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda in NATO's new Strategic Concept, featuring Satu Suikkari-Kleven (Ambassador of Finland to Portugal) and Sofia Moreira de Sousa (Head of the European Commission Representation in Portugal).



[WIIS Romania: The Security of the Transatlantic Space- Facing Putin's Aggressive Russia Together](#)

In March, WIIS Romania hosted a discussion featuring Rose Gottemoeller (Former NATO Deputy Secretary-General), Luminița-Teodora Odobescu (Presidential Adviser, Romanian Dept. of European Affairs), Karin Johnston (WIIS), Simona Cojocaru (State Secretary for Defense Policy, Romanian Ministry of National Defense), Cynthia Enloe (Research Professor, Clark University), and Cristina Cileacu (Producer of "Diplomatic Passport", Digi24 Romania).



FEMINIST FOREIGN POLICY

Feminist foreign policy perspectives enhance our understanding of security, especially during war. In 2022, WIIS examined how feminist foreign policies can respond effectively to crises around the world and how they may be approached through a regional lens.



Amplifying Voices: Why a Feminist Foreign Policy Matters for the Global South and North

HEINRICH BÖLL STIFTUNG
WASHINGTON, DC
USA | Canada | Global Dialogue

In partnership with Heinrich-Böll-Stiftung Washington, DC, WIIS hosted a discussion on the future and shape of feminist foreign and development policy in a turbulent world. This event featured opening remarks from H.E Sebastian Kraljevich Chadwick (Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Chile to the Organization of American States), and panelists Tarah Demant (National Director of Programs, Advocacy and Government Affairs, Amnesty International USA), Hilary Anderson (Senior Gender Specialist, Inter-American Commission of Women, OAS) Sofiia Shevchuk (Ukrainian researcher), and Fakhriyyah Hashim Abdallah (Nigerian Development Consultant).

FEATURED PUBLICATION



Reconciling Two Key Frameworks: Feminist Foreign Policy and Women, Peace & Security

By Joan Johnson-Freese and Susan Markham

SPOTLIGHT: THE 2022 #SHECURITY INDEX

WIS was honored to again participate in the research and launch of the [2022 #SHEcurity Index](#) and report. The report measures women's representation and the WPS agenda across four regions: Middle East and North Africa, Latin America, Africa, and Asia. It reveals how close we are to achieving global gender parity.

WIS Fellows Ana Velasco and Dr. Diorella Islas Limiñana wrote the report's Latin America chapter. WIS participated in #SHEcurity's virtual launch event to share the report's findings and recommendations for advancing women's representation. The 2022 #SHEcurity Index was selected as a featured project at the [2022 Paris Peace Forum](#).

“ The WPS agenda must reassess the concepts of conflict and security for it to be useful in our region. It must answer the question: what makes Latin American women in-secure? ”

ANA
VELASCO

Fellow
WIS Global

#SHECURITY



LAUNCH EVENT:



“In Latin America, the narrative is often that there are no conflicts between nations, so there is no need for WPS. But the region is very violent, especially regarding homicides and gender-based violence.

Ana Velasco

Fellow, Women In International Security

ADVANCING GLOBAL PEACE AND SECURITY

WIIS' international network continued to engage leaders and key stakeholders on critical global security issues.

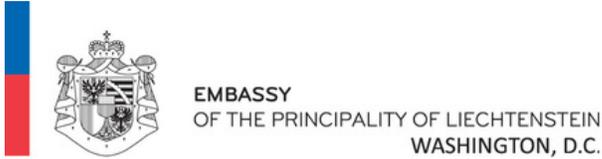


In 2022, WIIS resumed its previous leadership roles at the Munich Security Conference, Berlin Security Conference, Paris Peace Forum, and the Warsaw Security Forum, where WIIS Poland hosted a working networking breakfast for women in the field.



WIIS Poland and the Northrop Grumman Corporation launched a new mentorship program. The [WIIS Poland - NGC Women Mentoring Program 2022-2023](#) is open to female students and young graduates studying science, technology, engineering, and mathematics who are interested in pursuing careers in international security, defense, and peace studies. Students and graduates are connected with experienced mentors during the year, receive individual mentorships, and participate in skills-building workshops. The program will conclude with mentees and mentors participating in the 2023 Warsaw Security Forum.

GENDER, PEACE, AND SECURITY POLICY ROUNDTABLE SERIES



With the generous support of the Embassy of Liechtenstein in Washington, DC, in 2022, WIIS facilitated a series of expert roundtables exploring the gender dimensions of key security challenges.



[Safety and Security of Nuclear Facilities in Conflict Zones: The War in Ukraine](#)

In April, WIIS, the Embassy, and the Black Sea Women in Nuclear network hosted a discussion on the impact and intersection of gender, nuclear security, and safety. H.E. Ambassador Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein provided introductory remarks, and Leslie Hayden, Counselor for Nuclear Affairs, US Mission to International Organizations in Vienna, gave the keynote address.

[Exploring the Nexus between Gender, Climate Security, and Migration](#)

In Sept. we hosted a discussion exploring how diversity, equality, inclusiveness, and access (DEIA) can advance our understanding of the gender, climate change, and migration nexus. The event featured H.E. Ambassador Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein, Dr. Marisa O. Ensor (Georgetown University), Maryruth Belsey Priebe (Pacific Forum), Ilhan Dahir (Stimson Center) and Dr. Maxinne Rhea Leighton (WIIS NY/ Director, Jaros, Baum & Bolles).



[Gender, Justice, and Accountability: Atrocity Crimes and the Protection of Witnesses and Survivors](#)

In Dec. we discussed how gender perspectives are integrated into justice and accountability measures, particularly witness protection provisions. The speakers were H.E. Ambassador Georg Sparber of Liechtenstein, Catherine Marchi-Uhel (UN Head of the IIM-Syria), Jennifer Glaudemans (Senior Advisor, Office of Global Criminal Justice, U.S. Dept of State), Wai Wai Nu (Rohingya Burmese Activist and Founder and Director, Women's Peace Network), and Naomi Kikoler (USHMM).



NEXT GENERATION SCHOLARS



2021-2022
Cohort

WIS Next Generation Scholars Symposium (NGS) is a global mentorship and training program to develop the next generation of academics and practitioners on gender and security. In 2022, WIS successfully completed the third iteration of this program.

Launched in 2017 with support from the Carnegie Corporation, NGS has produced a diverse and knowledgeable community of international security experts that will support each other and remain connected throughout their careers. The 2021-2022 cohort comes from the United States, Australia, India, Switzerland, Russia, Kenya, Iraq, Uganda, Italy, Mexico, Germany, Turkey, and Indonesia.



"Programs like WIS Next Generation Symposium make me hopeful about the future! Creating a space that allows us to think about the gender and international security nexus is essential and I feel very fortunate to be part of this organization and cohort."

Tahina Montoya

2021-2022 NGS Fellow and Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of the Air Force (Manpower & Reserve Affairs)

FEATURED PUBLICATION



Gender and Climate Security: Weaponizing Water Scarcity

By Claire Harrison

PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT: WOMEN IN DEFENSE

The WIIS Women in Defense and Security program advances meaningful and sustainable change in women's representation in decision-making positions. The program addresses gaps in integrating the WPS agenda in military and security organizations, such as the lack of assessment tools and insufficient advancement in changing entrenched masculinized cultures. WIIS evaluates and assesses plans and programs and provides training for government agencies, security and defense institutions, and institutional partners on successfully implementing WPS goals and objectives.



In 2022, WIIS conducted training seminars on *Women's Integration into the Armed Forces* in **Mexico**, **Colombia**, and **Panama**. WIIS also conducted a training session at the inaugural Women's African Military Professional Legal Network in **Botswana** for AFRICOM's Legal Office (African Military Law Forum) and a course at the Women Leadership and National Defense Residence Course in **Monterey, California** for the Institute for Security Governance, Naval Postgraduate School.

CELEBRATE 35 YEARS BY GIVING BACK

FOR OVER 35 YEARS, WIIS HAS SUPPORTED PROFESSIONAL GROWTH OPPORTUNITIES FOR WOMEN, LED GENDER EQUALITY RESEARCH PROJECTS AND POLICY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES, AND NURTURED A COMMUNITY OF MENTORS, ADVOCATES, EXPERTS, AND LEADERS.



Today's peace and security challenges are urgent, widespread, and often interconnected. Despite the successes, there are also setbacks. This year saw conflicts and humanitarian crises deepen, including the war in Ukraine, the protests in Iran, Afghanistan, Sudan, and China, as well as persistent older conflicts in Syria, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, and Haiti. While the COVID-19 pandemic receded, we remain far away from achieving gender parity.

WIIS takes on this challenge every day by facilitating our members' access to a growing global community of mentors and experts, professional development resources and support, as well as insightful analyses on gender and women's representation.

[Your continued support is critical to helping us achieve our important mission. Please consider making a tax-deductible donation today.](#)