2021 ANNUAL REPORT
OUR MISSION

WIIS IS THE PREMIER GLOBAL ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO ADVANCING WOMEN’S LEADERSHIP AND ACHIEVING GENDER EQUALITY IN THE FIELD OF INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY.

Founded in 1987, WIIS (pronounced “wise”) is an international professional development network with members in nearly 50 countries. WIIS publishes research, conducts trainings, and convenes policy forums that bridge the gap between gender and security.
Message from our President & CEO

I joined WIIS in July to help the organization achieve its important mission of women's advancement and gender equality in the field of peace and security.

I am honored to follow in the footsteps of retiring President Dr. Chantal de Jonge Oudraat, who remains on our Board of Directors.

Since WIIS was founded in 1987, women have advanced to increasingly important international security roles.

But equal representation of women is not yet a reality. This work is much harder now due to the COVID-19 "shadow" pandemic and worsening gender equality gap.

This gap is even more pronounced in relation to women of color and members of the LGBTQIA+ community.

"Our global security challenges have never been more complex. But thanks to WIIS's 35-year legacy, the case that women's leadership and gender empowerment are vital ingredients to achieving security and stability has never been more compelling."

Ariela Blätter
President & CEO

Moving forward, for real change to occur, we must ensure there is an inclusive, and intersectional approach to the Women Peace & Security Agenda. Both are critical and necessary components for a peaceful and prosperous world.

In Gratitude,

Ariela Blätter
OUR TEAM

ARIELA BLÄTTER
President & CEO

DR. KARIN JOHNSTON
Senior Fellow

DR. ELLEN HARING
Senior Fellow

ANA LAURA VELASCO UGALDE
Fellow

DR. DIORELLA ISLAS LIMIÑANA
Fellow

DR. JANA WATTENBERG
Fellow

ROKSANA VERAHRAMI
Public Affairs and Program Manager

DIANA WHITTEMORE
Gender and Global Security Program Assistant

AVA KALINAUSKAS
Gender and Global Security Program Assistant
Catherine M. Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies

In 2019, WIIS and the University of Maryland School of Public Policy launched the Catherine M. Kelleher Fellowship for International Security Studies.

Professor Kelleher is a founding faculty member of the UMD School of Public Policy, where she also established the Center for International and Security Studies at Maryland and WIIS. Throughout her policy, government, and academic careers, Professor Kelleher has been a champion for women in the field of international security policy.
Throughout 2021, WIIS continued to expand its global reach. The WIIS global network now consists of nearly 15,000 individuals located in 47 different countries.

WIIS Italy: A Conversation with Jigmiddash Bayartsetseg (President of WIIS Mongolia)

WISCOMP (WIIS India): South Asia Union Summit Led by Women

WIIS Horn of Africa: Capacity Building Workshop on Gender Mainstreaming and Preventing Violent Extremism

WIIS Netherlands: The Gender Agenda in International Courts and Tribunals
A GROWING NETWORK

SPOTLIGHT: WIIS MEMBERS APPOINTMENTS

PRESIDENT OF WIIS ITALY, IRENE FELLIN

Appointed NATO Secretary General’s Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.

FMR WIIS PRESIDENT, AMBASSADOR LAURA HOLGATE

Nominated US Ambassador to the United Nations (Vienna) and the International Atomic Energy Agency

FMR WIIS BOARD MEMBER, ANNE WITKOWSKY

Nominated US Assistant Secretary of State for Conflict and Stabilization Operations

WIIS NEXT GENERATION GLOBAL SCHOLARS: 2021/2022

Kelly E. Atkinson
Tevvi Bullock
Kelly Fisher
Pratha Garkoti
Molly Gilligan
Claire Harrison
Julia-Silvana Hofstetter

Liliya Khasanova
Tahina Montoya
Margaret Monyani
Balsam Mustafa
Jacqueline Nakaiza
Veronica Waeni Nzioki
Gaia Pallecchi

Daniela Philipson
Ann-Kathrin Rothermel
Eric Rudberg
Claudia Schettini
Reyhan Topal
Nuri Widiastuti Veronika
The Next Generation Symposium (NGS) is a global mentorship and training program to develop the next generation of academics and practitioners in gender and security.

Launched in 2017, with support from the Carnegie Corporation, NGS has produced a diverse and knowledgeable community of international security experts that will remain connected throughout their careers. This year's cohorts come from Australia, India, Switzerland, Russia, Kenya, Iraq, Uganda, Italy, Mexico, Germany, Turkey, Indonesia and the United States.

In November, WIIS held a reunion for the first three cohorts of the WIIS NGS program. The two-day event examined the future of an inclusive Women, Peace, and Security Agenda.
With the generous support of the Embassy of Liechtenstein in Washington, D.C., WIIS facilitated a series of expert roundtables to explore the gender dimensions of key security challenges.

**Women's Rights and Gender Equality Under Threat: Conflict and Authoritarianism, Closing Civic Space and COVID-19**

"The events in Afghanistan show in the most explicit terms what we are discussing today: that women are on the front line when things turn for the worse – never of their own making. And still, time and again, women stand up for their rights and the rights of all against impossible odds." – H.E. Dominique Hasler, Foreign Affairs Minister of the Principality of Liechtenstein

**Afghanistan: Humanitarian Emergency and Gender Discrimination**

"We may have lost the country, but we have not lost the nation." – H.E. Adela Raz, Ambassador from Afghanistan to the US on the current situation in Afghanistan.

**Gender and Conflict: Inclusive Responses Within the WPS Agenda**

"The comprehensive implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda must address underlying harmful stereotypes and power dynamics." H.E Georg Sparber, Ambassador to the US from the Principality of Liechtenstein.

Not pictured: New Technologies and Cybersecurity: The Role of Gender
As part of this year's Gender, Peace, and Security Policy Series, WIIS published a series of policy briefs to explore the gender dimensions of key security challenges.

**A Gender Framework for Arms Control and Disarmament**, by Chantal de Jonge Oudraat and Jana Wattenberg

**Mexico’s First Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan: An Assessment**, by Daniela Philipson García and Ana Velasco Ugalde

**Galamsey in Ghana: Mitigating its Negative Effects**, by Felicia Dede Addy and Shikshya Adhikari

**A Gendered Global Fragility Act: Seizing an Opportunity for Change**, by Jessica Margolis and Tahina Montoya
Achieving gender equality is central to the values and aims of the European Union (EU). In 2019, the EU witnessed the election of its first female president, Ursula von der Leyen, who has made gender equality and gender mainstreaming a top priority.

Senior WIIS Fellow, Dr. Karin L. Johnston authored a policy brief examining the EU's commitment to gender mainstreaming and concluded that it is still often seen as an “add-on” rather than a framework and guide for transformational change.

Launch Event with the Wilson Center's Global European Program

The EU has done quite a lot of thinking about gender equality in a very traditional, liberal kind of way, however it is still in its infancy when it comes to understanding the intersectional dimension of gender, gender equality, and its role especially when it comes to external affairs.”

Dr. Roberta Guerrina,
University of Bristol
WIIS has continued to engage with existing and new partners throughout 2021. We have collaborated with a number of different organizations to support women’s leadership and mentorship and to help advance research in the field of gender and security.

### The Wilson Center

WIIS partnered with the Wilson Center for two events during 2021. WIIS cosponsored “Pathways to Justice: Gender-Based Violence and the Rule of Law” along with the George W. Bush Institute as well as our research launch event.

### Women's Foreign Policy Group

WIIS continues to work alongside the Women's Foreign Policy Group (WFPG) to co-host professional development events for our members. A full list of the events are available [here](#).

### Organizations in Solidarity

WIIS remains committed to promoting diversity and inclusion in the fields of peace and security, foreign policy, and national security. This year, we continued our work as part of the Organizations in Solidarity, an initiative created by Women of Color Advancing Peace and Security.

### The Missing Peace Young Scholars Workshop

WIIS continued its partnership with the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), the United States Institute of Peace (USIP), and the University of California, Berkeley, on the Missing Peace Scholars Initiative, which focuses on preventing sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict settings.

### Gender Champions in Nuclear Policy

WIIS continues to work as part of the Gender Champions in Nuclear Policy to promote gender equality and inclusion in nuclear policy.

### U.S. Civil Society Working Group on Women, Peace & Security

LOOKING FORWARD:

IN 2022, WIIS WILL CELEBRATE ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY AS THE LEADING GLOBAL NETWORK PROMOTING WOMEN’S ADVANCEMENT AND GENDER EQUALITY IN THE PEACE AND SECURITY SECTOR.

WIIS is addressing the gender equality gap head on.

Critical global challenges require effective leadership, and this must include women’s voices.

Since 1987, WIIS has helped women occupy increasingly important international security roles, but equal representation remains elusive.

Women’s diverse voices and skills are still being overlooked, especially at the highest levels of foreign and security policy.

Despite recent challenges, such as Covid-19 and the "shadow" pandemic, WIIS continues its work, providing our members’ access to a growing global community of mentors and experts, professional development resources, 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.