

Dear Members and Friends,

It has been a challenging year, but we are also grateful for all that has been accomplished. A highlight of 2020 was the response from across the globe to our UNSCR 1325 essay competition. The innovative and timely proposals on how to energize and move forward with the Women, Peace and Security and gender equality agendas make us hopeful for the future.

WIIS continues to expand geographically. Our international affiliates and national chapters continue to grow and are extremely active in their communities. WIIS also continues to grow programmatically. In 2020, we launched the second edition of our Think Tank Scorecard with a focus on the nuclear community. We also worked with the Department of Defense's US Southern Command to examine how well the military and national police in Latin America and the Caribbean have integrated WPS and gender equality principles into their policies and operations. The book, *The Gender & Security Agenda: Strategies for the 21st Century* examining gender dynamics in ten sub-fields of security was published by Routledge in July. In addition, we published many new Policy Briefs and blogs.

We are grateful to all our funders and partners who have helped us grow and attain our objectives to advance the professional development of women in the national and international security field; increase knowledge and understanding of the nexus between gender and security; and bridge the divides between the traditional security communities and the gender and WPS communities. Most importantly and speaking on behalf of the whole WIIS Global team, we are grateful for the continued support and engagement of our members.

We hope we can continue to draw on your support in 2021. WIIS is dedicated to the future—we have many exciting new plans for 2021 and beyond in the works. We seek to continually enhance our programs, publications, and partnerships, but we cannot do it without your support. We encourage you, this December, to make WIIS part of your holidays by becoming a member, giving the gift of membership, or making a donation. Please get in touch if you would like to learn more about supporting any of our programs and publications or to learn of additional opportunities to help us continue to advance the mission of WIIS.

On behalf of the entire WIIS team, we wish you very happy, safe, and healthy holidays.

Chantal de Jonge Oudraat
President