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# THE SWEDISH WOMEN'S MEDIATION NETWORK

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## A NETWORK FOR INCLUSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE PEACE

Minister for Foreign Affairs Margot Wallström initiated the Swedish Women's Mediation Network in 2015 in response to the increasing challenges against peace and security worldwide. As part of Sweden's broader peacebuilding and feminist foreign policy, the aim of the network is to promote peaceful conflict resolution and actively support women's meaningful participation in sustainable peace-making processes before, during and after conflict.

The network is prompted by the knowledge that women's meaningful participation in peace processes increases the likelihood of peace agreements being reached and sustained. Yet in practice, and despite normative progress, women remain systematically underrepresented in peace making processes.

The Swedish Mediation Network is an instrument for advocacy as well as for hands on mediation and engagement in support of peace. As the Minister for Foreign Affairs' Representatives for Inclusive Peace Processes, members of the network actively participate in peace processes as well as promote the inclusion of women and civil society in peace-making and conflict resolution; from early warning and prevention to mediation and effective implementation of peace agreements.

The network currently consists of nine senior Swedish diplomats with extensive experiences of peace processes, security sector reform, disarmament, demobilization, reconciliation, international law, human rights, humanitarian affairs, develop-

ment assistance and other areas of peace building. The Swedish Mediation Network is part of the Nordic Women Mediators.

## SUPPORTING LOCAL WOMEN PEACE BUILDERS

The network's approach reflects the contemporary multidimensional mediation landscape. The proliferation of actors engaged in conflict and the growing complexity of violence have altered the needs for international mediators and peace facilitators.

A legitimate peace process requires inclusive and interlinked efforts at the local, national and international level. The Swedish Mediation Network therefore has a supportive approach with particular emphasis on promoting, empowering and building the capacity of local women peace builders – recognizing that local ownership and inclusivity is key to achieve sustainable peace.

## A NETWORK FOR ENGAGEMENT AND ADVOCACY

As part of Sweden's broader and increased efforts in the field of peaceful conflict prevention and resolution, the Swedish Women's Mediation Network contributes to synergies between diplomatic dialogue, legal solutions, capacity building and development assistance. By March 2017, the network had contributed to peace efforts in Afghanistan, Syria, Colombia, Liberia and Burundi.

The network actively partners with international, regional and sub-regional organisations, spanning from governments to civil society. The network's approach is guided by international law, human rights and the rule-of-law.

Combining its capacity building and advocacy, the network has participated in numerous events associated with the UN, the AU, the EU and the OSCE.

Sweden is committed to see this and similar mediation network initiatives expand, and will continue to advocate women's meaningful participation in peace processes. We look forward to cooperate with relevant partners engaged in enhancing inclusive peace and security worldwide.

The network is supported by the Support Function for Dialogue and Peace Processes at the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Government Agency for Peace and Security.

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