



Norwegian Defence University College

Sexual Violence, the Armed Forces and Military Operations

Oslo, June 17, 2011
Gamle Logen, Grev Wedels plass 2

**INTRODUCING THE CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS:
THE GENDER PROJECT AT THE NORWEGIAN DEFENCE
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE**

The Gender Project at the Norwegian Defence University College: Implementing UNSCR 1325 and gender perspectives in the Norwegian Armed Forces

The aim of the Gender Project at the Norwegian Defence University College is to assist the Norwegian Armed Forces to implement its international obligations under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 in all aspects and areas of the military organization and in military operations. Moreover, the Gender Project seeks to enhance awareness and competencies on gender and cultural issues among military personnel in order to improve the Armed Forces' operational effectiveness and mandate fulfilment.

The Gender Project seeks to implement UNSCR 1325 in the Norwegian Armed Forces through three channels: education, networking and cooperation, and research.

Education: The Gender Project assists military training schools, academies and colleges, deployment units and troop contributors with education, training, training material and simulations on gender perspectives in military operations and information on women, peace and security related issues.

Networking and Cooperation: The Gender Project seeks to establish a knowledge network on UNSCR 1325 and gender perspectives in military operations through cooperation, participation and awareness raising in different forums, workshops, conferences, and seminars, within and outside the Armed Forces and both nationally and internationally.

Research: The Gender Project supports independent research projects and cooperates with both civilian and military research institutions and policy think tanks on the topics of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on women, peace and security and sexual violence in conflicts, and gender and culture in military operations.

Partners: The Gender Project cooperates with both civilian and military actors on integrating and institutionalizing gender perspectives in military operations in which the Norwegian Armed Forces contribute.

Partners include:

- The Norwegian Armed Forces' political and military leadership through the Ministry of Defence, Norwegian Defence Staff, and the Norwegian Defence Operational Headquarters
- Central actors within the Norwegian Armed Forces educational system
- Research institutions, such as the Norwegian Defence Research Institute (FFI), the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences (NIH), the Peace Research Institute in Oslo (PRIO), the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI) and the University of Oslo.
- Relevant partners and processes in NATO and UN agencies and organizations

Project Background - UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (2000): The United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security was unanimously approved in October 2000. The Security Council and UN member states recognize women's unique situation and role in conflicts and highlight the importance of women and men's equal participation in peace-building and post-conflict reconstruction. UNSCR 1325 calls for an integration of gender perspectives in all conflict resolution, peace and security initiatives. The Norwegian Government is obligated and committed to implementing UNSCR 1325. In addition to implementing UNSCR 1325, the Norwegian Government is committed to the implementation of related resolutions, such as UNSCRs 1820, 1888, 1889 and 1960 and has consequently developed the *Norwegian Government Action Plan* (2006) and a *Strategic Plan 2011-2013* (2011) that contain concrete goals and indicators for implementing the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security and sexual violence in conflict. These plans are some two of the guiding documents for the Gender Project.

Biographies of the Gender Project Staff:

Lena P. Kvarving, a Lieutenant Colonel in the Royal Norwegian Air Force, currently manages the Gender Project at the Norwegian Defence University College. The aim of the project is to fulfil the Norwegian Armed Forces' obligations related to United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and the implementation of a gender perspective in military operations. Kvarving holds an MA from Hogeschool Maastricht and University of North London in addition to traditional higher military education. She has served in various positions in Norway, as well as abroad in the United States and Afghanistan. Kvarving is also a PhD scholar with the Norwegian Defence University College and focuses her research on factors that impede and facilitate the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Armed Forces.

Cecilie Beise Fleming, advisor for the Gender Project at the Norwegian Defence University College, holds a Masters degree in International Affairs with a specialization in conflicts, conflict resolution and peace operations from George Washington University in Washington DC. Fleming conducted her MA research on African Union conflict management capacities and donor relations in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Since 2006, Fleming has held several field-based positions with non-profit organizations and the United Nations, including in the West Bank, Northern Uganda, Afghanistan and Sierra Leone. While with the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in Sierra Leone, Fleming implemented a Peace-building project aimed at enhancing women's empowerment and women's role in peace-building (UNSCR 1325). Fleming also helped develop the *UN Joint Vision for Sierra Leone*, an integrated mission framework document under UNIPSIL outlining the UN agencies' development and post-conflict reconstruction plans for Sierra Leone.

Anita Schjølset, Ph.D., currently works as an advisor for the Gender Project at the Norwegian Defence University College. Schjølset has previously worked as a Senior Researcher at the International Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO). She received her Ph.D. in International Relations in 2008 (University of Southern California, Los Angeles) and holds a degree in Political Science (Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim). Since 2009, Schjølset has focused on issues related to gender and conflict, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and gender and the armed forces. Schjølset has also served as an academic coordinator and lecturer of the PRIO, ANU, and Bjørknes College joint postgraduate degree program in International Relations. Schjølset has produced several articles on governmental institutions and international conflict and has developed and taken part in a growing network of scholars and practitioners in Norway, Western Europe and North America who work on issues pertaining to UNSCR 1325, and gender and the military.

Ole Magnus Totland has worked as an advisor at the Norwegian Defence University College Gender Project since March 2010. His professional responsibilities include the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and gender perspectives in training and education in the Norwegian Armed Forces. Totland holds a Masters degree in social anthropology from the University of Oslo (2009) and is a graduate Reconnaissance Team Leader from the Royal Norwegian Coastal Artillery Officer Candidate School and the Norwegian Coastal Ranger Command. Totland has conducted fieldwork in Norway and Afghanistan where he studied group identity, gender and body culture among professional soldiers in the Norwegian Telemark Battalion. Totland's professional and academic interests include cultural perspectives on power, legitimacy and rationality in military operations as well as recruitment and cultural integration of gender in the Armed Forces.