

Stephanie Ortoleva, “**Who’s Missing? Women with Disabilities In U.N. Security Council resolution 1325 National Action Plans,**” 18 ILSA J. Int’l & Comp. L. 395 (Spring 2012)

Abstract: Women across the world are standing their ground against political exclusion in conflict and post-conflict situations, but more must be done to ensure that a gender-sensitive and disability-inclusive approach is used. This inclusive approach would guarantee that all women have the opportunity to participate in building the rule of law and strengthening democracy and that all women have a voice in decision-making processes post-conflict. Sustainable peace requires the inclusion of all groups affected by conflict in all stages of the peace-building process. Some progress has been made through a series of United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on women, peace and security, beginning with UNSCR 1325 in 2000,[1] to give women a place at the table in post-conflict peace building and reconciliation. However, women with disabilities are missing and ignored and have not had a role in these processes. Women with disabilities are excluded both in practice and formally through the various UNSCRs and policy documents, including the UNSCR 1325 Indicators[2] and the UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans each country is to prepare to implement UNSCR 1325 and to measure progress. This paper reviews the history of the development of the UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security framework, including the requirement for the development of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plans. The paper then reviews a sample of National Action Plans issued to date and explores the extent of coverage of issues of concern to women and girls with disabilities within these documents. Pitfalls in coverage are enumerated and analyzed in light of the requisite international human rights legal perspectives and the extent to which the input of organizations of women with disabilities were sought and/or included. Finally, recommendations are set forth to address the gaps.

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