



ICAN's 2019 Women, Peace and Security Forum

*Securing the Gains and Strategizing the Future of the  
Global Women-led Movement for Inclusive Peace and Security*

### **Concept Note**

In November 2019, ICAN will host its 8<sup>th</sup> annual Women, Peace and Security forum bringing together the growing membership of the Women's Alliance for Security Leadership (WASL) from over 38 countries and other key international actors with Norwegian civil society and policymakers. The 4-day event will focus on situational and trends analysis regarding the threat of violent extremism and conflict, as well as lessons sharing regarding effective strategies and tactics to mitigate violence and promote peace, rights and security at the local level. This will also be an opportunity to assess the importance of establishing laws and governance structures to act as a bulwark against the current trends of rising authoritarianism and extremism. We anticipate some 70-80 participants from the alliance as well as international partners.

Given the upcoming 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of UNSCR 1325 in 2020, a key focus of the ICAN forum will be assessing the sustainability and development of the agenda as well as the threats and backlashes we are encountering. We will delve deeply into how to secure the gains of WPS and strategizing for the future. The forum will provide space to highlight the impact of women-led peace and security work, including prevention and countering violent extremism (P/CVE) and the strategies used by women peacebuilders to expand their reach and resonance in society. The recommendations will contribute to and culminate in the ICAN/WASL call to action to "Stand with Women Peacebuilders" and the launch of a global campaign.

The forum will address 4 key pillars of support to women peacebuilders:

- Institutionalizing the WPS agenda and principles through policy and legislation, including through national laws (e.g. US WPS Act) and intra-governmental processes (e.g. Norwegian and UK WPS NAPs);
- Securing women peacebuilders and their work including through improving threat assessment, protection mechanisms, and care at all levels;
- Financing women-led peace and security work by investing in trust and overcoming barriers to funding small women's organizations increasingly closed civil society space;
- Advocating for this agenda through public outreach and engagement with the media and other sectors, including by developing storytelling and other relevant skills. *(continues on next page)*

The event will also provide an opportunity for WASL to determine its collective policy and programming priorities for 2020. Four years after WASL was founded by ICAN and its partners with the support of the Royal Norwegian Government, we are excited to bring the vision, experience, and expertise of the network to Norway.

<b>Agenda Overview</b>	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Afternoon</i>	<i>Evening</i>
Sunday, 3 <sup>rd</sup> November	<b>Arrivals</b>		<b>Orientation dinner</b>
Monday, 4 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>WASL internal plenary discussions</b>	<b>WASL internal training sessions</b>	<b>Free evening</b>
Tuesday, 5 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>WASL internal plenary discussions</b>	<b>WASL internal roundtables</b>	<b>Reception (tbc)</b>
Wednesday, 6 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Program w/ policymakers, legislators, and other allies</b>		<b>WASL dance party</b>
Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Joint debrief &amp; action planning</b>		<b>Departures</b>
Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> November	<b>Departures</b>		