

Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

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Peacekeeping missions - a challenge for peace

Grotius Centre for International Legal Studies, Leiden University- Campus The Hague, Stichthage Offices 13th Floor Room Lange Voorhout

Thursday 14th June 9.00 - 13.00 hrs

- 9.00 10.30 Introduction about Peacekeeping by *Prof. Dr. Joris Voorhoeve*
- **11.00 13.00** Panel discussion with:

Francesco Mascini, Development Advisor, the Ministry of Defence *Brigid Inder,* Executive Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice *Jort Hemmer,* Sudan expert, Institute for International Relations Clingendael *Kuer Gideon Dau,* Programme Manager, the New Sudan Women's Federation

Chaired by Liesbeth van der Hoogte - Oxfam Novib

We have seen an uprising of many violent conflicts in the world, mostly intra-state, although this does not mean that there are no cross-border activities or no external involvement. These conflicts increasingly effect civilians with a differentiated and gendered impact on women and men, minorities and marginalized groups. The struggle for resources and power are among the most important causes, and injustice and poverty some major drivers of violent conflict.

Many conflicts have been contained and were followed by a post-conflict process towards peace and non-violent management of conflict. However, violence is often recurrent. Political commitment is a continuous challenge.

Peacekeeping missions are employed to monitor cease fires and other agreements and to support post-conflict processes.

What is the exact role of these peacekeeping missions? How are they established, which and whose mandate do they have? Who participates? How do these missions operate and how do they work with local governments and the different expressions of civil society? How do they operate in the 'minefield' of often recurring clashing interests?

You might like to discuss these and many other questions with different stakeholders. If that is the case, then you are kindly invited to a penal discussion in The Hague. The panel will focus particularly on the mission in South Sudan - the UNMISS - but many issues will go beyond this particular case.

Key questions for the panel are: What are the conditions for a proper implementation of the UNMISS mandate, particularly for *protection of civilians, promotion of participatory political processes, security sector reform*? What are the roles of the South Sudanese government and civil society?

This panel is part of an international training on Women Peace and Security. Participants from different parts of the world will participate in the discussion.

