

Feminist Spaces in Peace and Security

The field of peace and security in both academia and politics is widely associated with national security, defence systems, the military apparatus, peacekeeping missions, or peace negotiations. Peace and security, however, is not restricted to the absence of war and violence as well as the presence of intact defence systems or nuclear umbrellas. Feminists claim that peace and security needs to include discussions on issues such as an intact planet, access to food and water, a safe place to live, and a gender-just and supportive social system. Peace and security issues concern all people on a structural and individual level. Yet, institutions such as governments, international organizations and universities are mainly male-dominated, both in representation and in ideas and often lack an intersectional representation.

Women's and feminist movements are currently on the forefront of entering these unbalanced systems of power, contesting security practices and criticizing the exclusion of several groups of society in decision-making. An increase in feminist and women's meaningful participation in the discourse of peace and security takes place in several spaces, such as in governmental organizations, civil society movements, youth organizations and academia.

With representatives of these different spaces of society we will discuss the following questions:

- What is feminist peace/feminist security?
- Why are feminist analysis and theories still not accepted as norm in policy and academia?
- How can the women's and feminist movement contribute to the balancing of the current system of peace and security?
- How can we bring feminist theory and practice into the centre of policy and research? Where are opportunities and entry points?
- What are successful strategies for change? Do we have to go big or start small?

Panel Discussion:	April 29th, 6pm – will be recorded and live on Cisco Webex <u>What and where are spaces for feminist peace and security in academia, activism and politics?</u>
Welcoming:	Victoria Scheyer, German Association of Peace and Conflict Studies
Moderation:	Prof. Dr. Eva-Maria Hinterhuber, Professor for Gender and Diversity at the Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences
Panellists:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Simone Wisotzki, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt • Heidi Meinzolt, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom • Madita Standke-Erdmann, Research Associate and PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Vienna • Srruthi Lheka, student activist at UN Women & student at HSRW

The event is hosted by the **Rhine-Waal University of Applied Sciences** and **German Association for Peace and Conflict Studies**. To register, please send an email with the subject "Feminist Spaces" to Victoria.Scheyer@hsrw.org and you will receive the link for the event.