

: Programme

Berlin Summer Dialogue 2026

Women, Peace and Security in Practice: Strengthening Participation, Protection and Local Action

Berlin Global Village
(Am Sudhaus 2, 12053 Berlin)
27 May 2026, 17.00 hrs

Language
English

Cooperation

giz Deutsche Gesellschaft
für Internationale
Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

Im Auftrag des



Bundesministerium für
wirtschaftliche Zusammenarbeit
und Entwicklung

BERLIN	
Senatsverwaltung für Wirtschaft, Energie und Betriebe	
Landesstelle für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit	

BACKGROUND

More than a quarter century after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda faces renewed urgency amid democratic backsliding and declining international support for gender equality. Yet its implementation is under increasing strain: in many conflict-affected contexts, women peacebuilders, women-led organisations and other civil society actors face shrinking civic space, increasing insecurity and intensified backlash against gender equality and human rights.

At the same time, there is broad evidence that inclusive approaches to peace and security are not only normatively important, but also practically effective. Meaningful participation, protection from gender-based violence, and sustained support for local actors are essential for more just, legitimate and durable peace processes. Yet these priorities are still too rarely translated into long-term political attention, flexible funding and operational support.

Building on the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2025, which explored barriers to inclusive peace, anti-gender backlash and the role of development cooperation in strengthening participation, Part II shifts the focus from diagnosis to practice. The central question is how Women, Peace and Security can be advanced in concrete terms through German development cooperation and international partnerships.

The event will therefore focus on practical experiences from partner contexts and on lessons for policy and implementation. Particular attention will be paid to local and grassroots responses to gender-based violence, the role of women-led organisations in peacebuilding, and the conditions under which participation can become meaningful even in highly fragile settings.

South Sudan will serve as one important case in point, while the discussion will also draw broader lessons relevant to German development cooperation in other conflict-affected contexts. In this way, the Berlin Summer Dialogue 2026 aims to identify practical entry points for strengthening the WPS agenda under difficult political conditions.

Key questions:

- What does it take in practice to strengthen the Women, Peace and Security agenda in fragile and conflict-affected contexts?
- How can German development cooperation better support women-led and local organisations working on peacebuilding, protection and responses to gender-based violence?
- What can be learned from contexts such as South Sudan about grassroots action, access to funding and the realities of implementation on the ground?
- How does anti-gender backlash affect women peacebuilders and civil society actors, and how can international partners respond more effectively?
- Which political, financial and institutional conditions are needed so that WPS commitments translate into sustained practice?

: 27 May 2026

16.45 HRS **ADMISSION**

17.00 HRS **WELCOME**

Dr Anna Hochreuter

Head of the Economic Policy and Regulatory Framework Division at the Senate Department for Economic Affairs, Energy and Public Enterprises, State of Berlin

Nora Witt

Executive Director, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:), Bonn

KEYNOTE

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN PRACTICE: PRIORITIES FOR GERMAN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

17.20 HRS **Input**

Marianne Kreuzig

Senior Policy Officer for Feminist Development Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

17.40 HRS **INTERACTIVE PANEL DISCUSSION**

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY IN PRACTICE: LOCAL RESPONSES, POLICY LESSONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Chair: Dr. Miriam Tekath, Development and Peace Foundation (sef:)

Panelists:

Safia Ibrahimkhel

Member, Co-Founder and former Co-chair of the UNHCR Global Youth Advisory Council (GYAC) (Afghanistan/Pakistan), member of the Action Network on Forced Displacement – Women as Agents of Change

Marianne Kreuzig

Senior Policy Officer for Feminist Development Policy at the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)

Evelyne Owino

Researcher, Bonn International Center for Conflict Studies (BICC), project lead “Strengthening Grassroots Responses to Gender-Based Violence in South Sudan”

PD Dr. Simone Wisotzki

Senior Researcher and Member of the Board, Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, project lead “Dealing with Resistances and Backlash of Gender Equality Norms in Peacebuilding”

followed by Q&A with the audience

18.50 HRS **CLOSING**

Key take-aways from panelists and audience

19.00 HRS **RECEPTION**

Get-together and networking