

Education for Inclusive Peace: the role of education and research in promoting the Women, Peace and Security agenda in the Nordics

Monday 29 November 2021, 12:00-16:00 CET+1

Organisers: Ministry of Education and Culture of Finland, University of Helsinki (Global Development Studies), and the Finnish 1325 Network.

As part of the Finnish Presidency of the Nordic Council of Ministers, this seminar will explore the role of education and research in the implementation of the Women Peace and Security agenda. Its aim is to collect best practices and to develop recommendations on how to better harness the education sector for building an inclusive and sustainable peace, both in the Nordic countries and globally.

The Women, Peace and Security agenda calls for the full participation of women in all aspects of peacebuilding and conflict prevention and requires that their needs are considered at all stages¹. While there is a strong history in harnessing the role of educators in both peacebuilding and in the promotion of gender equality, the role of the education sector in the Women, Peace and Security agenda has not been fully explored. To fill this gap, this event will bring together academics, policy makers and educators for a dialogue on the role of education and research in promoting the goals of inclusive and sustainable peace. We will explore questions such as:

- What is the role of education and educators in promoting an inclusive and sustainable peace in different learning environments?
- What is the potential of international education collaboration in furthering peacebuilding and gender equality?
- What is the potential of collaboration between researchers and policymakers in the making of Women, Peace and Security policy?

The seminar takes place online. The language of the event is English.

Programme

All times are CET+1

The seminar is moderated by **Brita Fernandez Schmidt**, author and transformational coach.

12:00-12:15 Opening words

Li Andersson, Minister of Education

Antti Kurvinen, Minister of Science and Culture

12:15-13:10 Visions for Inclusive Peace in Education and Research in the Nordics

¹ More information on the Women, Peace and Security agenda: [in English](#); and [in Finnish](#).

In this interactive panel discussion, we explore the visions and priorities for harnessing education and research for inclusive and sustainable peace in the Nordics.

Annick T. R. Wibben, Anna Lindh Professor of Gender, Peace and Security, Swedish Defence University

Helena Ranta, Professor Emerita, University of Helsinki

Maija Gellin, Programme Director, VERSO – Mediation in Education, Finnish Forum for Mediation

13:15-14:00 **Change Starts with Knowledge: Unlearning and Reimagining Our Worldviews for Women's Emancipation**

Minna Salami, author and social critic, will deliver the keynote lecture, followed by discussion.

14:00-14:15 **Break**

14:15-15:15 **Parallel sessions**

Roundtable 1: What is the role of education and educators in promoting an inclusive and sustainable peace in different learning environments?

Schools and other learning environments play an important role in supporting societal change, challenging prejudices, and changing attitudes. Schools and educators contribute to the early prevention of conflict and violence and can help societies deal with trauma and past injustices. At the same time, schools are not immune to broader societal tensions and can become places where discrimination or violence impedes learning and wellbeing. In this roundtable, we discuss Nordic experiences of harnessing the transformational potential of education in contexts of conflict, discrimination or radicalisation.

Chair: TBC

Ingrid Aspelund, Head of Youth Section, The European Wergeland Centre

Mina Khan, Teacher; Co-founder, Mahdin nuoret ry

Roundtable 2: What is the potential of international education collaboration in furthering peacebuilding and gender equality?

Nordic countries have a strong background in international education collaborations. While “education export” can make an important economic and social contribution to both sides of the partnership, in this roundtable, we focus on the pedagogical and academic impacts of collaborations among higher education institutions in the Nordics and those in conflict-affected countries. Our focus is on collaborations that challenge conventional power dynamics between scholars and students in the global North and in the global South.

Chair: Marjaana Jauhola, Docent, University Lecturer, University of Helsinki

Nanda Amalia, University of Leiden

Elise Feron, Docent, Senior Research Fellow, University of Tampere

Roundtable 3: What is the potential of collaboration between researchers and policymakers in the making of Women, Peace and Security policy?

Nordic governments have been frontrunners in the implementation of the global Women, Peace and Security agenda. In this roundtable, we discuss Nordic experiences of collaboration between researchers in higher education institutions and policymakers in the design and implementation of WPS policies and make recommendations for how research can inform Nordic policies in the future.

Chair: Elisa Tarnaala, Senior Adviser, CMI; vice-chair, Finnish 1325 Network

Ambassador Erik Lundberg, Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Torunn L. Tryggestad, Deputy Director, PRIO; Director, PRIO Gender, Peace and Security Centre

Swathi Parashar, Professor, School of Global Studies, University of Gothenburg

15:20-15:50 Plenary discussion

The roundtable chairs will report on discussions in the parallel sessions.

Discussant: Elina Korhonen, Chair, Finnish 1325 Network; Director of International Affairs, Global Development, Väestöliitto

15:50-16:00 Closing remarks