



CHOOSE LANGUAGE

# NATO REVIEW

magazine

*where the experts come to talk*

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## Women in security: a work in progress?

What more needs to be done to better integrate women in security? And how can men help? We ask some women who know the difficulties what they would change and how they think this could impact the wider world.

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Women in security:

a work in progress?

Are there enough women in security?

I don't think

there has ever been a female

as the Head

of the Defence Department

or a security advisor,

that sort of thing.

Areas where warfare

is more central, I think,

are still relegated to men,

which is, you know, unfortunate.

Women in political positions do not

always represent women's issues.

And they shouldn't be

voted in to do that.

But the more there are women of all

status at the decision-making table,

the more we can respond

to their concerns.

Overall there are more and more

women in leadership positions

in security and defence.

And it's less and less written about.

And that's important,

the fact that it's just not newsworthy

anymore, and it shouldn't be.

We looked at the women

in the armed forces,

where we had representatives

from the British armed forces.

One of the people

was a British female combat pilot,

a combat rescue pilot, who was

actually very highly decorated

as a consequence

of actions in Afghanistan.

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**READ MORE:**

women, women, peace and security, gender balance

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I don't suppose anybody  
cared in the slightest  
about the gender of the pilot  
rescuing them.  
How can men help  
improve the situation?  
I think men are critical  
and I see men  
as our allies in our struggle  
to achieve equal rights  
and opportunities for all.  
I think their voice  
and their engagement  
is absolutely necessary  
for us to be able to succeed.  
I think you can't change  
issues like gender-based violence,  
unless you engage men and boys.  
Often they are perpetrators.  
There's also a role to be played  
by men and boys as agents of change  
in the same way  
there's a role for women  
to be playing as agents of change.  
Do gender issues get  
the treatment they deserve?  
Gender is still considered  
a separate item on the list,  
whereas I think  
everybody should be aware  
when you go into operations,  
when you plan for operations  
that gender perspective is taken,  
but not just by women  
that are gender advisors,  
but by the average military.  
Let's get away from:  
Let's address gender issues  
once everything else is being solved.  
That is often the answer.  
That was the answer in the Arab  
Spring. We hear that regularly.  
Let's address gender issues  
from the beginning.  
What difference could  
existing initiatives make?  
If the resolutions were implemented  
as they were meant to be,  
we would make substantial progress.  
In women at the table,  
combatting violence,  
addressing crimes,  
improving access to justice.

I think we would have lasting peace.  
I believe that if we would  
really have a strengthened role  
of women in the peace negotiations,  
but also in post-conflict settings,  
that we could reach something,  
which is more lasting than it is now.  
The goal behind all those resolutions  
and all those grand words  
is to produce a fairer society.  
And that would mean  
a much better world.  
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Queen Elizabeth II

NEWSLETTER  
MAKE SURE YOU DON'T MISS A THING

## quotes

*Whatever life throws at us, our individual responses will be all the stronger  
for working together and sharing the load*

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