

## **Call for Papers:**

# **“The Women, Peace and Security Agenda: History, Politics, and Practice”**

## **Guest Editors:**

Zeynep Alemdar (İstanbul Okan University)

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Alternatif Politika is pleased to announce a special issue focusing on the *Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda*. The United Nations Security Council Resolutions setting up the WPS Agenda have been ground-breaking for international politics since they have recognized the impact of war on women and the importance of women’s contributions to peace. By bringing issues around women and war to the realm of the United Nations' highest decision-making body, the WPS Agenda raises awareness and encourages implementation at national, regional, and international levels (Bell & O’Rourke, 2010: 943). It has created an environment that urges accountability to protect women in conflict, ends the use of sexual violence crimes as a weapon in conflict, increases women’s participation in peace and security efforts, and provides relief and recovery for women affected by violence (Tickner & True, 2018: 226). The Agenda develops continuously and therefore offers multiple potentialities for engagement by broad alliances of policymakers and activist networks.

The WPS Agenda has gained a prominent place in international politics. Over the two decades since Resolution 1325 was passed in 2000, nine complementary Resolutions have been adopted. As of 2022, 86 countries have developed and implemented National Action Plans, and various international organizations have incorporated the Agenda into their policies. In addition, social movements, civil society groups, and humanitarian organizations now tie their work on gender-sensitive relief and recovery, women's participation in decision-making processes, conflict prevention, and protection to the WPS Agenda. At the same time, the WPS Agenda has been subjected to considerable scrutiny by academics, activists, and practitioners relating to its theoretical underpinnings and practical constraints (Basu, Kirby & Shepherd, 2020).

The Special Issue aims to introduce the WPS Agenda to a Turkish-speaking audience with a majority of articles in Turkish. In this Issue, Bilge Sahin outlines the feminist movements and concepts that underpin the WPS Agenda as well as its historical context. Burcu Ozdemir Sarigil investigates the implementation of the WPS Agenda by focusing on National Action Plans in the Western Balkans. Gizem Bilgin Aytac analyses women's engagement with peace processes and the WPS Agenda through gender mainstreaming in United Nations peacebuilding operations. Zeynep Alemdar highlights the relevance of the WPS Agenda for foreign policy and the pursuits of a feminist foreign policy for both conventional and unconventional security threats. Bezen Balamir Coskun explores the interconnectedness between the WPS Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals to achieve sustainable peace and gender equality in international politics. Aysegul Gokalp Kutlu discovers new issues for the WPS Agenda beyond the conflict/post-conflict context through an engagement with climate change and the problems it creates for women. These contributions comprehensively examine the WPS Agenda through

its history, connections, implementation, and political opportunities. The articles in this Special Issue aim to highlight the WPS Agenda's potentialities and shortcomings.

We seek submissions from academics interested in how the WPS is relevant for countries such as Turkey, where women's rights are not an issue in foreign policy and feminist foreign policy seems a distant goal. Nevertheless, a robust civil society works to promote it. For example, the Women in Foreign Policy Initiative has been promoting the WPS agenda in Turkey since 2016 and has received recognition not only among civil society but also among the bureaucrats and diplomats interested in women's rights.<sup>1</sup> We welcome authors' submissions for papers for this Special Issue on the implementation of the WPS Agenda, connections between the WPS Agenda and other political frameworks, specific issues with the Agenda, and future prospects. Articles can address theoretical discussions as well as specific case studies from the region or country.

Two referees will review all submissions.

**The deadline for abstract submissions is 22 December 2022 and 1 June 2023 for final article submission.**

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Abstracts need to be between 200-300 words, and manuscripts between 6000 – 10000 words and can be submitted via email to [womeninforeignpolicy@gmail.com](mailto:womeninforeignpolicy@gmail.com) and [bs42@soas.ac.uk](mailto:bs42@soas.ac.uk)

**For Author Guidelines:** <http://www.alternatifpolitika.com>

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