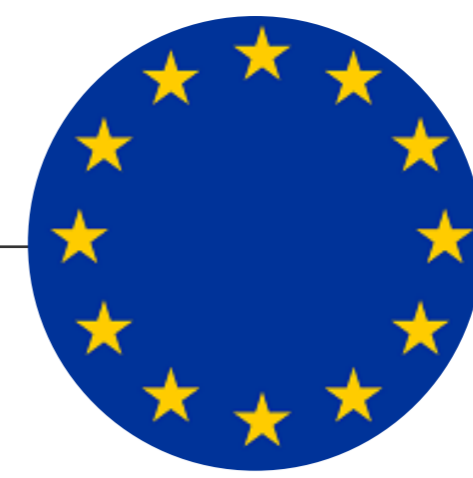


LOOK BACK AT 2018: THE YEAR IN WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

DECEMBER



The Council of the European Union adopted [conclusions on Women, Peace and Security](#) emphasizing the need for a gender perspective in all fields and activities of peace and security.

NOVEMBER

[Sahle-Work Zewde](#) became the first female President of Ethiopia following the appointment of the country's first gender-balanced cabinet in history.



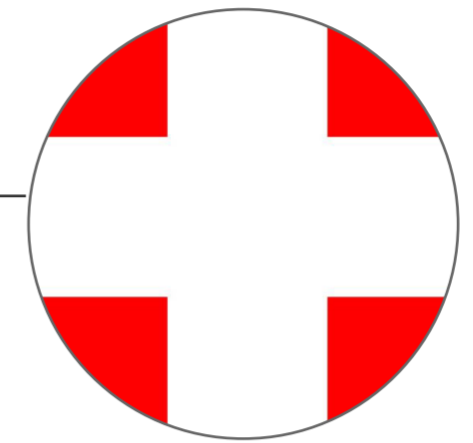
The [2018 US midterm elections](#) made record gains in diversity and women's representation, raising the number of female representatives from 107 to 124.

OCTOBER

The 18th annual United Nations Security Council [open debate on Women, Peace and Security \(WPS\)](#) was held to discuss the Secretary-General's most recent report on WPS and promote the implementation of WPS.



[Poland](#) launched its first WPS National Action Plan with goals to increase women's participation in peace processes, peacekeeping missions and operations, and decision-making and to protect women and children in conflict and post-conflict settings.



[Switzerland](#) adopted its fourth National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, building on the country's previous three plans with greater focus on the participation of women in preventing violent extremism.

SEPTEMBER

The US landmark [Women, Peace, and Security Act](#) of 2017 celebrated its first anniversary. A strategy for the Act's implementation has yet to be announced.



Canada announced a new position for an [ambassador of Women, Peace and Security](#).

[Albania's](#) first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was launched with a focus on raising awareness about UNSCR 1325 and increasing women's participation and protection in peace and security.

AUGUST

The [first all-female summit](#) of women foreign ministers was held in Montreal, Canada. The event was co-led by Canadian Foreign Affairs Minister Chrystia Freeland and European Union Diplomatic Chief Federica Mogherini. Women foreign ministers from almost 20 countries were represented, including Andorra, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Croatia, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Guatemala, Honduras, Indonesia, Kenya, Namibia, Norway, Panama, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, South Africa, and Sweden.



The [NATO/EAPC Policy and Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security](#) was passed. The document focused on integration, inclusiveness, and integrity.

The government of Sweden released its [Feminist Foreign Policy Handbook](#) as "a resource for international work relating to gender equality and all women's and girls' full enjoyment of human rights."



JULY

[Luxembourg](#) introduced its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security for a five-year period.



Newly elected Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez nominated a record 61.1 percent [majority female cabinet](#).

JUNE

[Mozambique](#) launched its first ever National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The plan's number one priority is the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

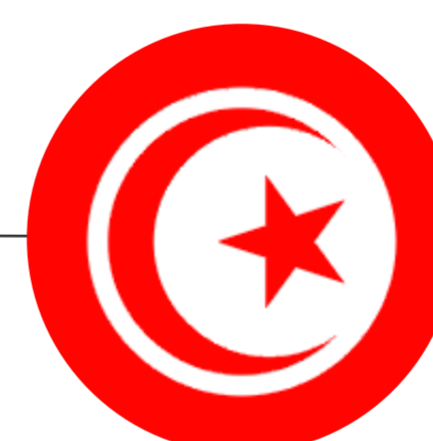


In Iraq, a [record number of 2,600 women](#) ran for election.



MAY

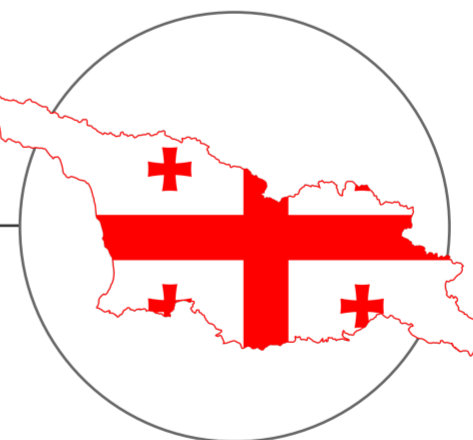
[Tunisia](#) adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security emphasizing five components: protection, control, participation, relief, and the media.



[Finland](#) introduced its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The plan did not include earmarked funding or a budget but aimed to better incorporate a gender perspective into arms control, disarmament, and nonproliferation.



[Georgia](#) launched its third National Action Plan for Women, Peace and Security with a focus on conflict and conflict-affected areas and mainstreaming WPS into peacekeeping and diplomatic efforts.



APRIL

[Moldova](#) adopted its first National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The plan focused on women's participation in security and defense.



MARCH

FEBRUARY

As a part of [Saudi Arabia's Vision 2020 modernization program](#), women in the country were granted the right to apply to join Saudi Arabia's armed forces for the first time.



JANUARY

[Clare Hutchinson](#) took office as NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security.



The [United Kingdom](#) launched its third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The new plan strengthened opportunities for local women's civil society groups to address local needs in the UK's international security and stability operations.

