



**Global
Justice Center**
Human Rights Through Rule of Law

October 23, 2015

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work to end this
discrimination
against women and
girls.

Dear Friends,

How have the lives of women and girls surviving conflict situations improved in the last 15 years? As Women's Rights Leader [Julienne Lusenge](#) of the DRC reflected on the international community's response,

***Almost Nothing Has Changed.
Rapes, murders, and kidnapping continue.***

This is the harsh reality that was abundantly clear last week as the UN Security Council celebrated the 15th Anniversary of Security Council Resolution 1325 and the passage of Security Council Resolution 2242, which addresses women's role in preventing violent extremism and the reality that sexual and gender-based violence is a part of the strategic objectives and ideology of terrorist groups like Boko Haram and ISIS.

While these are historic achievements in advancing the discussion on Women, Peace, and Security, they are also a solemn realization that systematic mass rape of women and girls continues to be the weapon of choice in today's armed conflicts.

Last Thursday, I [spoke](#) in Brussels at the European Parliament addressing how the experience of 1325's failure to stop systematic rape and crimes targeting women starkly exposes the soft underbelly of the Geneva Conventions and the ways it does not work for the women and girls who at the center of today's wars.

“The Geneva Conventions remain mired in the mud of their patriarchal origins.”

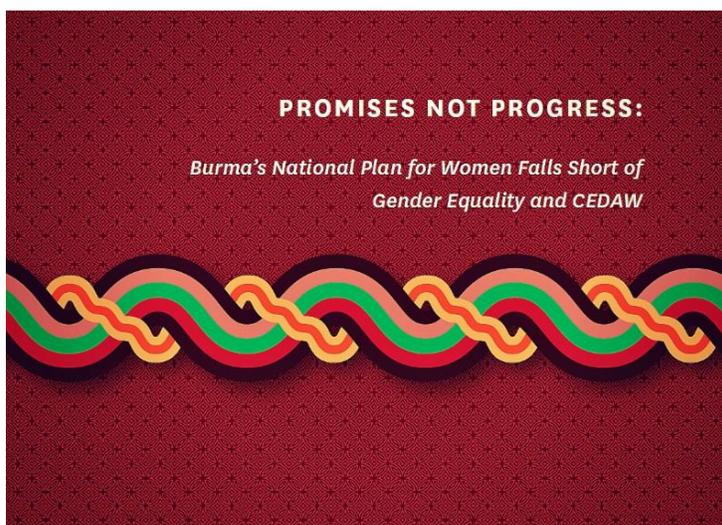
- Janet Benshoof



Watch [speech here](#).

Last week, we also released our comprehensive report, produced in collaboration with the Leitner Center for International Law and Justice: [Promises Not Progress: Burma's National Plan for Women Falls Short of Gender Equality and CEDAW](#).

The report documents gross inaction to fulfill Burma's international obligations to ensure gender equality. At its best Burma's National Plan is an inadequate and amorphous effort to improve women's experience in Burma without disruption to long-embedded power structures that insulate the country's male-dominated elite. At its worst, the Plan is a deceptive document that pays lip service to Burma's CEDAW and other human rights obligations while actually entrenching gender inequality. **Women will never enjoy equal rights in Burma without dismantling structural barriers to gender equality.**



It is our responsibility to not only call out the failures of these processes, but also [offer solutions](#). Our report on the Women Peace and Security Agenda identifies concrete actions that must be taken by the international community to translate these commitments on paper to practice.

We must not continue to fail women and girls who are forced to survive terror, kidnapping, rape, forced impregnation, and other unspeakable violence!

[Raise your voice with us!](#)

Janet & the GJC Team

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