

## WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

# VIDEO: A BETTER ROAD TO PEACE

### ABOUT THE EXERCISE

- Duration: video (4 min) and discussion (about 25 min)
- Students will learn about the topic of “women, peace and security” by first watching a video on the topic, and then discussing it in a group with the teacher.

### AIMS OF THE EXERCISE

In this exercise, students will learn about the theme of “women, peace and security”, and about how women could contribute to peace processes, negotiations and resolving armed conflicts.

### **DISCUSSION: WHY WOMEN ARE IMPORTANT PEACE-BUILDERS (25 MINUTES)**

For discussion:

- How the exclusion of women from peace processes prevents lasting peace and leads to prolonged conflicts.
- How does it affect the legitimacy and viability of the peace process?
- Does it increase the commitment of the parties to the implementation of the peace agreement that was made?
- Should women’s efforts during violent conflict and during the peace-building process be acknowledged? Why, or why not?

### **DISCUSSION: WOMEN AS “NATURAL” PEACE-BUILDERS (20 MINUTES)**

A simplistic understanding of gender is common: men are portrayed as naturally aggressive “warriors”, and women as peace-builders. Discuss this with the class.

Questions to guide the discussion:

- Do you believe that women are naturally peace-builders and less violent than men?
- Can you think of examples from modern times or from history that would support the idea that women are less likely than men to actively seek out violent conflict?

- Alternatively, can you think of examples from modern times, or from history, that would show that women and men are equally likely to seek out armed conflict? Or examples that conflict with the “peace-loving” image often assigned to women?

## **WATCHING THE VIDEO**

1. What did the animation teach you about peace negotiations in general?
2. How do today’s wars differ from those of a hundred years ago, for example?
3. How do these changes affect peace processes and peace-building?
4. Who should be at the negotiating table, and why?
5. What is the role of the United Nations?
6. What are the typical obstacles to women’s participation in peace processes? Why?
7. What makes for a good peace agreement?
8. What are the best ways to ensure inclusive participation?
9. Why is a good peace agreement crucial for lasting peace?
10. What did you find surprising in the animation?
11. What ideas did it bring to mind?
12. How is the animation related to the country presentation you created?
13. How would you define a female peace-builder?
14. Who would you describe as peace-builders in your country?
15. In your opinion, how can a more participatory peace process contribute to peace in the country you’re discussing? Outline some of the measures that would have been possible.