

Women in the peace movement – from the peace congress to UN resolution 1325

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Despite their important role in the peace movement, women had little opportunity to influence national and international security policy. This was the case in 1912 and is still true 100 years later. Neither the foundation of the League of Nations nor subsequently of the UN have really been able to change this. It was not until 2000 that the fact that a just and sustainable peace could not be achieved while excluding half of the population was addressed in the field of international security policy. With the adoption of resolution 1325 on ‘Women, Peace and Security’, the UN Security Council for the first time officially recognised the importance of women in peace processes. The key demands of the resolution for the equal participation of women in ‘all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security’, for more effective prevention and for protection from sexual violence, and for the inclusion of a gender-sensitive perspective in peacebuilding programmes, have been incorporated into both international and national policies. The paper looks at a number of initiatives which seek to increase women’s participation in peace processes, and examines how these efforts influence Swiss security policy.