

Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship Programme

The Beyond Borders Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship is a programme that aims to promote the principles enshrined in landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which “affirms the importance of the participation of women and the inclusion of gender perspectives in peace negotiations, humanitarian planning, peacekeeping operations, and post-conflict peacebuilding and governance”

The Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship programme aims to realise the principles of UNSCR1325 by:

- Gathering a diverse group of women activists from conflict-affected regions to be trained in practical skills relating to mediation, reconciliation, dialogue methodologies, and process design, with an emphasis on sustainable conflict resolution.
- Exploring methodologies for promoting the role of women in peace-building processes, and identifying entry points to those processes.
- Providing a safe space for women to connect, share stories, and take time for themselves away from their daily commitments.
- Creating a network of Fellows who can share resources, knowledge and collaborate across various regions and areas of work.

The History of the Fellowship: 2015

A partnership between Beyond Borders Scotland and the European Institute of Peace led to the establishment of a pilot ‘Women in Conflict’ programme, with the support of then-Executive Director of the EIP, Martin Griffiths.

2016-present

Tri-annual one week Fellowships in Edinburgh and the Scottish Borders offering workshops and training sessions on issues relating to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, the gender-conflict-climate nexus, and using the arts as a tool for peacebuilding are run.

2017

Multi-year funding for the Beyond Borders Women in Conflict 1325 Fellowship programme officially launched by then-First Minister of Scotland Nicola Sturgeon at UN Headquarters along with the Executive Director of UN Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Assistant-Secretary General, Andrew Gilmour, and the Head of the UN DPPA’s Policy and Mediation Division, Theresa Whitfield.

2018

Launch of the BBS Women in Conflict 1325 Alumnae Network and Community of Practice Programme.



“By training women in conflict mediation and peace building, they can play a positive role in achieving a settlement shaped by men and women. Scotland has a strong and enduring commitment to securing democracy, rule of law and fundamental human rights across the world.”

Nicola Sturgeon, Former First Minister of Scotland with UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura and Founder of Beyond Borders Scotland Mark Muller Stuart KC



(top) March 2024 WiC 1325 Fellowship Participants with Kaukab Stewart MSP and Mairi McCallan MSP at the Scottish Parliament; (bottom) Nicola Sturgeon with Dr. Houda Abadi, members of the WiC 1325 Fellowship in ‘Stories from the Frontline’ at the Beyond Borders International Festival 2022.



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Scotland**

I am going back with a heart full of emotions and memories I shall cherish all my life.”

Participant in the August 2024 Fellowship



“The programme opened the gate for many many conversations. More than the lectures that we received, I learnt so much from the discussions which were happening inside our lecture hall. Every women who sat in that hall brought their own set of experiences, lessons learned, heartaches, and the stories of love, forgiveness, and resilience. No room can get better than that I believe.”

Participant in the Nov/Dec 2022 Fellowship



360+ women
from **40 countries**
participating in **26 Fellowships**

“The Fellowship encouraged me to start my self-care and healing journey by acknowledging my challenges, revisiting my priorities and prioritising my mental health after it was neglected in the last 12 years due to the ongoing Syrian war and cumulative traumas over the years. This helped me restore energy which I have poured into fighting for women’s rights and accountability, and seeking for justice and sustainable peace for my Syria.”

Participant in the Nov/Dec 2022 Fellowship

Beyond Borders and United Nations Support

Beyond Borders is a Scottish-based initiative dedicated to facilitating cultural dialogue and international exchange to foster greater understanding between peoples, nations and different cultures. Beyond Borders Scotland provides peacebuilding and safe space facilities for cultural dialogue at its retreat centre, Traquair House, in the beautiful surroundings of the Scottish Borders. Beyond Borders works in partnership with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs and its United Nations Mediation Support Unit, which provides UN experts for the programme. Beyond Borders also works with a range of other international peace-building organisations and academic institutions around the world to deliver its fellowship and alumnae programmes.

“The Fellowship provided me with valuable insights, skills and networks for advancing gender-sensitive approaches to climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts in alignment with SC1325 principles and objectives.”

Participant in the March 2024 Fellowship



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