



PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING

This one's for the girls!

"This one's for the girls | Who've ever had a broken heart | Who've wished upon a shooting star | You're beautiful the way you are | This one's for the girls | Who love without holding back | Who dream with everything they have | All around the world | This one's for the girls" Martina McBride song lyrics

Character Education

- Survey female role models in non-traditional roles
- Consider gender issues in relationship to character development and life choices
- Evaluate how change agents, either male or female, contribute to societal development

Facts

- The 100th Anniversary of International Women's Day was March 8, 2011
- The United Nations launched UN Women in 2011; Canada followed suit with UN Women-Canada launches in four major cities
- Women make up 9% of the 12,000 deployed UN police officers; they make up over 15% of Canadian Forces, 18% of Canadian police officers and approximately 22% of federal legislators

Before the Reading

- Make a list of all the famous women you know and then put them into categories by what caused their fame. In what areas do women seem to be noticed?
- How do conflict and war affect men and women differently?
- Look up Burundi and Ghana on a map of Africa before the reading and keep a list of other countries as you read

Reading

Aside from the Amazons of Dahomey, Boudicca of Great Britain and Joan of Arc of France, the tales of women leading armies into battle are exceptions in the long history of human warfare. Women are equally under-represented

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

An Interview with Carolyn McAskie, January 2011

Excerpts from "Being at the Table" in peacewomen.org



Carolyn McAskie, former UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support
PHOTO: unac.org

Peace talks are nearly always among those who fought the war, whereas they should be among those who will build the peace, the peace-builders; and women are an important component of that. Women also need to be represented in post-conflict planning and governance to make sure that women's issues are addressed. The basic concept here is that if women aren't at the table, the chances of their issues being addressed are very low. I think it's an important point not to assume that there is a women's view—like any other group there are a whole variety of views, and it's not a case of "OK, here's the gender aspect, let's make sure we include it." No. You just have to make sure that women are at the table;

in the processes of peacekeeping and peacemaking. Like war, peace has been gendered.

In the 20th century men dominated formal peace talks and exit strategies from armed interventions. Their “gender blind” approach failed to take into account the difference experiences of women and men in war and their distinct post-conflict needs. If peacekeeping and peacebuilding were to succeed in the long-term, it was essential to understand the gender dimension of conflict.i

In 2002 UN Secretary Kofi Annan stated the matter simply in his report on women, peace and security: “We can no longer afford to minimize or ignore the contributions of women and girls to all stages of conflict resolution, peace-making, peacebuilding, peacekeeping and reconstruction processes. Sustainable peace will not be achieved without the full and equal participation of women and men.”

And although the process of integrating women into peacekeeping and peacemaking has been slow, the 21st century has seen progress. In 2004 UN General-Secretary Kofi Annan named Carolyn McAskie of Canada into a senior position as his Special Representative of the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Burundi. Carolyn, who had been part of the Facilitation Team of the Burundi Peace Process in Arusha in 1999 and a Humanitarian Envoy for the crisis in Cote d’Ivoire in 2003, was the natural choice to lead the UN Peacekeeping Operation in Burundi. She was only one of a handful of women leading UN missions then and now.

« À l’époque, le Burundi avait été déchiré par la guerre civile et envahi par des réfugiés fuyant la brutalité et les conflits du pays voisin, la République démocratique du Congo. Lorsque les Nations Unies proposent à Carolyn McAskie de prendre la tête d’une mission de paix au Burundi en 2003, c’est avec enthousiasme qu’elle accepte. Femme dynamique et directe, Carolyn McAskie étonne. Elle réussit à faire avancer les choses : respect des échéances, intégration des rebelles, approbation d’une constitution. À la tête de 1 000 fonctionnaires et de 5 000 casques bleus, elle construit la paix lentement, dans le dialogue et la négociation, fut-elle musclée.

Grâce à une vaste consultation, elle a réussi à tenir une élection démocratique et à faire en sorte que de nombreuses femmes soient élues. »

In 2006 in recognition of her exceptional work, Annan named McAskie to a senior post in the newly created UN Peacebuilding Commission aimed at helping post-conflict countries avoid sliding back into war. Carolyn became the United Nations Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support. « ... sa responsabilité a alors été

then you get the whole variety of views and information. Women are often excluded because they haven’t had the background or the training. But get the women to the table and you’ll discover they can do just as well.

There was an interesting incident on my mission, where my gender adviser came to me and said, “I’ve got a problem here. There are lots of women coming in with the rebels, who have been attached to the rebels, and our guys are not including them in the disarmament program because they are not in uniform or carrying a gun.” She said there is a very clear policy that has been developed for women who have been associated with armed groups and may not necessarily be fighters. But she said she couldn’t get our disarmament team to give them the same benefits of reintegration into society that the male rebels received. So I called in my chief of the disarmament unit, my gender adviser and my political deputy and said, “Listen to my gender adviser,” and she explained it. I turned to the disarmament chief and I said, “We’re going to do this, right?” and he said, “Yes, ma’am!”

So when you have a woman in a leadership position who is prepared to call the managers to account, the men have no difficulty in implementing your instructions. My gender adviser said that she was the envy of all the gender advisers, because she had a female boss who wasn’t afraid to make sure the men understood why they had to look at issues from a gender point of view. I’m not saying I’m doing anything wonderful. What I’m trying to say is I was doing it differently. And that’s why having women at the table matters. I think the important thing is not to look for anything amazingly different or scientific, but when people say, “Why is it important to have women at the table?” the answer is, “How can you do it without women and men at the table? Would you do it without men at the table?”

de mettre sur pied la nouvelle Commission de consolidation de la paix, aux Nations Unies dont le but est de contribuer à la reconstruction pacifique des pays marqués par d’importants conflits. »

Currently three women lead peace operations as Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, three are Deputy SRSGs and a woman has recently been appointed as a

PEACEKEEPING AND PEACEMAKING MINUTES

Empowering peace: Canada helps put female police officers in the driver's seat



The Director General of Human Resource Development of the Ghana Police Service, Mrs. Joana Osei-Poku has called on all personnel to constantly train to uplift their competencies to meet the international policing standards. www.ghanapolice.info/news_95.htm

March 10, 2010 at the Police Headquarters in Accra, Ghana, 50 female officers graduated from a driver training course developed and run by facilitators from the Pearson Peacekeeping

Centre and the Ghana Police Service and supported by Foreign Affairs and International Trade Canada. Canada donated eleven 4x4 vehicles, communications and GPS equipment to ensure Ghanaian officers had the right equipment for driver training and for training for UN peace missions.

UN peacekeepers were required to have excellent vehicle handling, defensive driving and quick decision making skills in crisis situations, skills that most Ghanaian women had had no opportunity to develop until the groundbreaking Canada-Ghana cooperation.

Pearson Peacekeeping facilitators noted that at least 85% of the Officers who had previously failed their driving exams would now pass under the guidance of newly trained driving instructors at Ghana Police Service.

In her comments, Joana Osei-Poku, who spoke on behalf of the Deputy-Inspector General of Ghana Police, noted that the 2009 driving course was designed for Officers who would conduct the UN peacekeeping pre-selection driving test and mentor other Officers to become driving examiners. The two week course was set up in the "train the trainer" model to ensure long-term capacity building.

The 2010 female graduating class deployed to the UNAMID mission in Darfur. According to one participant, "Women are suffering all over the continent and I wanted to help my sisters in places like Sudan. This course was very important to me and my whole family because now I was able to participate in a mission and make a difference in the lives of my African sisters."

The Canadian High Commissioner to Ghana, Darren Schemer, pointed out at the 2010 closing ceremonies that Canada's part in facilitating peace operation participation helped bring security, stability and support to highly volatile situations, and also helped lay the ground for reconstruction and development.

Deputy Force Commander.

Prior to Carolyn's Burundi Mission, in 2000 the research for UNIFEM's *Independent Experts Assessment on Women, War and Peace* showed that female peacekeepers, including the presence of female police officers, interpreters and other civilian specialists, made a positive difference. They:

- Improved access and support for local women
- Facilitated communication with victims of assault, sexual abuse and violence
- Broadened the repertoire of skills and styles available within a mission;
- Helped reduce conflict and confrontation.

By 2007 the UN had recruited its first female unit for United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL). They deployed a 125 member all-female police contingent from India to Liberia. The female Indian contingent brought along 22 men, as cooks, mechanics and drivers to support them.

Since 2007 the UN female unit in Liberia (joined by

female police officers from Nigeria) has trained Liberian girls and young women in self-defence, computer skills and arts. They provided medical awareness campaigns on issues of hygiene and sanitation. They adopted the pupils of Hebron Orphanage and Victory Chapel School.



India's All-Female UN Police Unit Serves As Inspiration For Liberian Women
PHOTO: info-wars.org/2009/11/21/all-female-un-police-unit-serves-as-inspiration/

The Indian and Nigerian female unit left a positive legacy for the Rule of Law in Liberia when they successfully patrolled the streets of Monrovia, protected various installations and secured the headquarters of President

Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf. Since their deployment, Monrovia has witnessed decreased crime rates and increased local cooperation.

Gostine Hallie, police chief in Congo Town a Monrovia

suburb where crime rates soared after the war in Liberia, trudged along with the Indian women on their foot patrols. Hallie credited the old-fashioned foot patrols with cutting armed robberies by as much as 65 per cent. "Since we started foot patrols, the crime has considerably reduced, and we're getting maximum cooperation from local people," said Mr. Hallie, whose station only recently received electricity.

Seema Dhundia, the Unit Commander for the female UNMIL unit in Liberia stated in 2007, "I think that for the first time the Liberian people are seeing a fully trained contingent of female officers out on streets. Their own women are getting inspired and motivated and now they are coming forward. Seeing my girls performing their duties is inspiring young Liberian women to join the regular forces—in this way we are sort of role models for the young Liberian ladies. Their numbers have considerably increased after our arrival here."

Today women comprise 18% of Liberia's Formed Police Unit, 25% of the national staff and 30% of the international staff. The role models are working.

UN Under-Secretary Michelle Blanchelet, the Executive Director of UN Women and former president of Chile stated, "We are already in Bangladesh and India as specifically women forces but we need to expand that capacity because we believe that's important; female forces can reach women in a better way. But it also shows that women can do anything, and that is symbolically empowering because they see women engaging in very important issues."

There are currently all female UN units in Haiti from Bangladesh, in Timor from Samoa and in Sudan from Rwanda.

After the Reading

- List all the female role models in this Reading and in the Peacekeeping and Peacemaking Minutes. How are their roles non-traditional?
- How have the females in all the Readings (including Minutes) changed themselves and also acted as change agents?
- Discuss how the soldiers who supported Carolyn McAskie, the male personnel who supported the UN's Indian all female police force in Liberia and the male driving trainers in Ghana are also agents of change

Extensions

- Research female firsts in non-traditional roles and explain to your class how they as significant change agents promoted societal change
- Look up the Amazons of Dahomey, Boudicca and Joan of Arc and provide a short blurb for your class about them with enough pizzazz to inspire further research into warrior women. Provide your class with a starter list to research further
- Carolyn McAskie used the metaphor of women being "at the table." Artist Judy Chicago realized this metaphor in a ceramic work titled "The Dinner Table." Find pictures of this project to present three of the significant settings explaining why they are significant

Sources

- "Carolyn McAskie, 2009 Honorary Doctorates Citation" *Office of the President, University of Ottawa*, <http://www.president.uottawa.ca/doctorate-details.html?var=763&more=citation>
- Jessica "Interview: Unit Commander on all-female UN peacekeeping force", *UN Dispatch*, May 25, 2007
- Lahai, John Indriss "Gendered Battlefields: a Contextual and Comparative Analysis of Women's Participation in Armed Conflicts in Africa" *Peace and Conflict Review*, vol 4 Issue 2, year 2010 p 4
- Potts, Ian "Taking up arms in support of women peacekeepers around the world" *Media Global*, Feb. 22, 2011
- Rehn, Elisabeth and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf *Women, War, Peace: The Independent Experts' Assessment on the Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Women's Role in Peacebuilding*, UN, 2002
- Ryan, Sarah Marie "Gender Issues: Democratic Republic of the Congo – Women for Women. Female Peacekeepers in the DRC", *Refugees International*, April 27, 2011

¹ Paraphrased from "Background: Women's Issues and UN Peace Operations" *Peacekeeping to Peacebuilding: Lessons from the Past / Building for the Future, the report on the UNA-Canada 50th Anniversary of UN peacekeeping International Panel Series 2006-2007, Ottawa, United Nations Association in Canada, 2007*