

ABIGAIL E. RUANE

www.abigailruane.com

SUMMARY

Globally recognized advocate, thought leader, team builder, and organizer with cross-cutting experience and expertise on human rights, sustainable development, and inclusive peacemaking. Strategic visionary with a demonstrated track record of building and leading diverse coalitions for inclusive peace based on social justice. Works proactively to identify entry points for solving systemic challenges, and inspires and orchestrates teams to shift power and create prospects for a more just and peaceful world. Strategic, collaborative, and impact-oriented.

SKILLS

- Strategic planning
- Program management
- Political analysis
- Global policymaking
- Fundraising / Development
- Outreach
- Communication
- Leadership
- Team-building

CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

- As **Political Affairs Officer** for the **UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA)**, co-led DPPA work to identify and promote targeted measures to advance women's meaningful participation in peace and political processes as part of moving forward the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights.
- As **Global Organizing Partner** for the **Women's Major Group on Sustainable Development**, co-led a 1,300 member coalition in developing and advocating for consensus positions on gender equitable sustainable development. This resulted in the 2019 High Level Political Forum Political Declaration committing to inclusive decision-making and policy coherence to promote integrated solutions for sustainable development.
- As **Women, Peace and Security Program Director** for the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, led successful advocacy to prioritize disarmament in global Women, Peace and Security efforts. As a result of this work, the UN Secretary-General included a goal to reverse military spending and invest in human security as one of his Five Forward-Looking Goals on Women, Peace and Security in 2020.

EXPERIENCE

Political Affairs Officer, UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Policy and Mediation Division (December 2019-Present)

As part of the DPPA Gender, Peace and Security (GPS) Unit, drives strategic and technical support, capacity building, monitoring, and outreach to accelerate DPPA delivery of commitments on inclusive and sustainable peacemaking and peacebuilding based on women's meaningful participation, protection, and rights.

- Developed DPPA analysis for the UN Secretary-General's Call to Action on Human Rights outlining measures to increase women's participation in peace processes, which shaped UN system-wide Key Messages.
- Provided operational support to the UN-led peace process in Libya, which contributed to the Roadmap to 2021 elections committing to 30 per cent of women in leadership positions of the new Government of National Unity.
- Led gender conflict analysis trainings for UN regional divisions and facilitated dialogues on inclusive peacemaking with the UN Standby Team of Mediation Advisers and UN field-based Gender Advisers.
- Coordinated DPPA's 20th anniversary of Women, Peace and Security campaign to open the doors to women's meaningful participation; launched 3 publications and coordinated events with over 2,500 participants.

Women, Peace and Security Program Director (2016-2019), Program Manager (2014-2016) & Consultant (2013)
Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

As part of the longest-standing women's peace organization in the world, led global advocacy, monitoring, capacity-building and outreach on realizing Women, Peace and Security (WPS) commitments with activists in 39 countries.

- Led WILPF's "Move the Money" Campaign in New York, which led to the UN Secretary-General in 2020 outlining Five Forward-Looking Goals on Women, Peace and Security, including one to reverse military spending.
- As active contributor and then 2019 Global Organizing Partner of the 1,300-member Women's Major Group for Sustainable Development, successfully advocated for the 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to include stand-alone goals on gender equality and peace, and for the 2019 High Level Political Forum to identify inclusive decision-making and policy coherence as key for integrated solutions to sustainable development.
- As active contributor to the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security, helped expand civil society speakers to the Security Council on geographic agenda items from 1 in 2016 to approximately half of the 41 speakers in 2019; promoted Security Council pivot from "adding women" to addressing root causes of violence.
- Led reorganization of WILPF's WPS strategy; increased core support through additional funding; managed 3 staff / 5 interns; financially responsible for \$300K/year program in approximately \$3million/year NGO budget.

Policy Consultant, Women's Environment and Development Organization (July-September 2012)

Developed policy recommendations on gender and sustainable development with international partners.

Human Rights Adjunct Assistant Professor, Hunter College (January 2012-May 2013)

Developed and taught undergraduate and graduate human rights classes using debates, games, and role plays.

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Author of a book, a book chapter, 5 academic articles, and numerous statements, briefs, and publications, including:

- SDG 16 – Governing for gender equality and peace? Or perpetual violence and conflict? (2019 Global Civil Society Report on the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals).
- The International Relations of Middle-earth: Learning from *The Lord of the Rings* (with Patrick James, 2008 article / 2012 University of Michigan Press book) (2009 ISA Misty Gerner Innovative Teaching Award)
- Pursuing Inclusive Interests, Both Deep & Wide: Women's Human Rights & the UN (2011 book chapter)

OTHER LEADERSHIP

- Board Member and Outreach Liaison, Intersections International (2017-2019)
- Board Member and Vision Taskforce Chair, Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership (2014-2018)

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., International Relations, University of Southern California (2010) (2010 International Studies Association Peace Studies Section Kenneth Boulding Award and 2011 American Political Science Association Human Rights Section Best Dissertation Award)
- M.A., International Relations, University of Southern California (2006)
- B.A., Psychology, with a concentration in Law and Society, Cornell University (2002)
- *Other trainings:* Digital Inclusion, Bystander Intervention, Analysis, Advocacy, Mediation (ongoing since 2000)

INTERESTS

- Working/speaking experience in 20 countries. Constructive. Playful. Sense of humor. Enjoy biking and fiction.