

ABIGAIL E. RUANE

www.abigailruane.com

SUMMARY

Globally recognized advocate, thought leader, team builder, and organizer with cross-cutting experience and expertise on inclusive and sustainable peacemaking, human rights, and sustainable development. Strategic visionary with 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. 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 | • Global policymaking | • Communication |
| • Program management | • Fundraising / Development | • Leadership |
| • Political analysis | • Outreach | • 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 concrete measures on women's participation in peace and political processes. This resulted in a Secretary-General campaign mobilizing mediating entities to advance women's participation.
 - 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.
 - 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. This resulted in the UN Secretary-General including a goal to reverse military spending and invest in human security as one of his (2020) Forward-Looking Goals on Women, Peace and Security for the decade.
-

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.

- Supported the Secretary-General's "Common Pledge for Women's Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation in Peace Processes" (launched October 2024), with over 39 adopters, which mobilizes mediating entities to take concrete steps advancing women's participation in the peace processes in which they are involved.
- Led development of a (2024) DPPA, DPO and UN Women Options paper on "How the UN System Can Advance Tangible Results on Women's Participation in Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding", which led to the Secretary-General committing the UN to advocate for at least 1/3 women in peace processes, aiming for 50/50.
- Supported development and launch of the (March 2024) "UN System-wide Acceleration Plan for Gender Equality, which committed the UN system to stepping up delivery on gender equality commitments.
- Led gender conflict analysis trainings for UN regional divisions and facilitated to dialogues on inclusive peacemaking with the UN Standby Team of Mediation Advisers, staff and senior leadership.
- Provided operational support for UN-led peace processes, including for high level strategy meetings on women's participation in Syria and Libya, a youth What's App consultation in Tunisia, and a digital dialogue in Yemen.

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:

- "How the UN System Can Advance Tangible Results on Women's Participation in Peacemaking, Peacekeeping, and Peacebuilding by 2030", UN DPPA, DPO and UN Women Option Paper (lead drafter) (July 2024)
- "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)

OTHER LEADERSHIP

- Board Member of the League of Women Voters, Scarsdale (2023-Present)
- Board Member and Outreach Liaison, Intersections International (2017-2019)
- Board Member and Vision Taskforce Chair, Eleanor Roosevelt Val-Kill Partnership (2014-2018)

EDUCATION

- M.A. (2006) and Ph.D. (2010), International Relations, University of Southern California (2010 *International Studies Association Peace Studies Section Kenneth Boulding Award* and 2011 *American Political Science Association Human Rights Section Best Dissertation Award*)
- 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. Kind sense of humor. Enjoys songwriting, biking and fiction.