

LET'S BEGIN WITH PEACE-

BUILDING BACK BETTER

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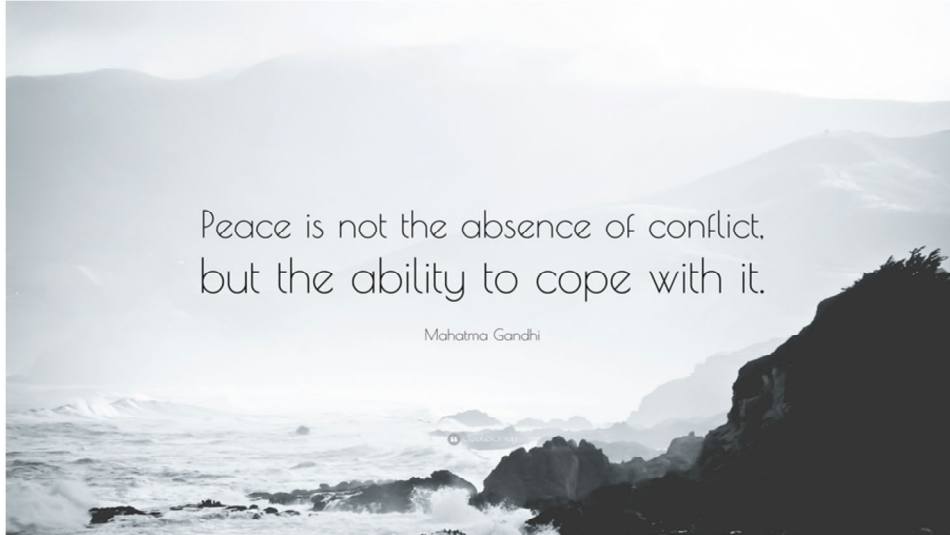
**Women inspiring action,
*transforming lives***



**LET'S BEGIN WITH PEACE
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Mahatma Gandhi once said these words, which befit the times we live in- Peace has become the ability to cope.

UN – 75**Beijing Platform for Action – 25****UNSCR 1325- 20****UN Women- 10****SDGs- 5****The Decade of Action for the SDGs**

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2020 was heralded with much promise and great expectations. The UN was turning 75.-75 years of relentless service to the global community. It was 25 years since the historic Women's Conference in Beijing. It was here that the Document Beijing Platform for Action was released—and it remains the strongest blue print for women's struggle for gender equality.....

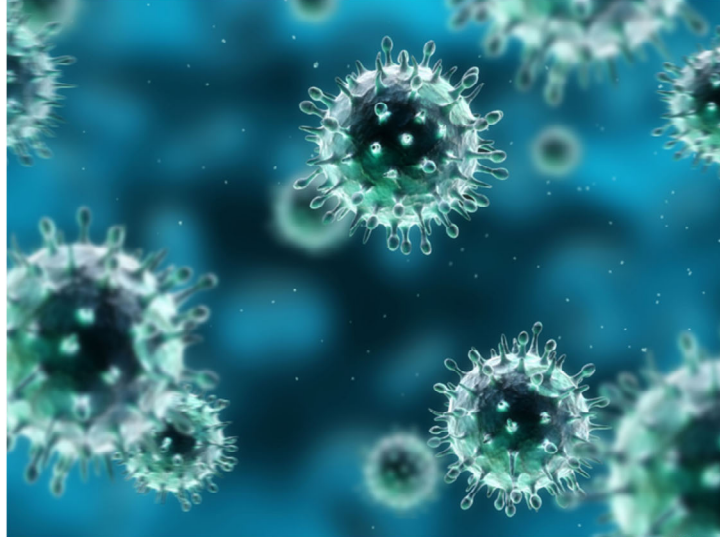
Its 20 years since the UN Security Council passed Resolution 1325 – a landmark instrument for women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

UN Women formed 10 years ago- an agency, set up to

focus solely on gender equality issues.

5 years ago the Sustainable Development Goals were brought to the stage and accepted unanimously by member states- as a collective thrust to the future.

2020 also marks the beginning of the Decade of Action. It kicks off a reaffirmation of global commitment towards achieving the 2030 agenda. [With only 10 years left to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#), it is more important than ever for the global community to mobilise for accelerated action.



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Brought to a halt by a protean virus-that's challenging scientists and the medical community. The pandemic is reversing decades of uneven development progress, making achievement of the goals “even more challenging,” according to U.N. “[The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020](#),” released. An estimated 71 million people are expected to be pushed back into extreme poverty in 2020.



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Further environmental setback began. Nature's fury unleashed with super cyclone Amphan in India.....



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the double hurricanes in the US, the raging fires in East coast of the US and in Australia



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In 2020, the Arctic, Siberia, Indonesia, Brazil and Argentina also [experienced their worst wildfires](#) in decades.and the monsoon floods in Asian countries. and the monsoon floods in Asian countries.



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Health care systems have been over-stretched and the staff overworked. Women are more likely to be exposed to the virus given their traditional caregiving roles and participation in the healthcare workforce. Every disaster and crisis, impacts women and girls unequally, as every response includes a woman- as the first responder. Yet they are the resilience silent force to build back better.

*During Covid-19-**243 million** women and girls - suffered violence.

*Women and girls aged 15-49 years have been subjected to sexual and/or physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner



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The steep spike in gender –based violence doesn't help peace. As stay-at-home orders expand, women with violent partners increasingly find themselves isolated from the people and resources that can help them. Domestic violence shelters are reaching capacity, or unable to take new victims due to lockdown and social distancing measures. Psychosocial support for women and girls affected by the outbreak, gender-based violence survivors, must be considered essential services



JOB LOSSES,

SMALL BUSINESSES CLOSED



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The grave economic downturn impacts women as they hold the majority of jobs within heavily-affected sectors as those within retail, the service industry, education, and more. Women are already experiencing higher rates of job loss than men. The closure of small businesses is a further blow

LOSS OF EDUCATION

We were already living a learning crisis before the pandemic. With the spread of the coronavirus, the learning crisis will be even deeper – the baseline from which we need to accelerate and improve learning is now even more challenging.

-World Bank Official

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The COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. It has highlighted the inequities that made the "old normal" difficult for so many — especially women and girls. The huge *Class divide* evident in learning has created new challenges. Learning losses also threaten to extend beyond this generation and erase decades of progress. The enormity of preventing a learning crisis from becoming a generational catastrophe is real

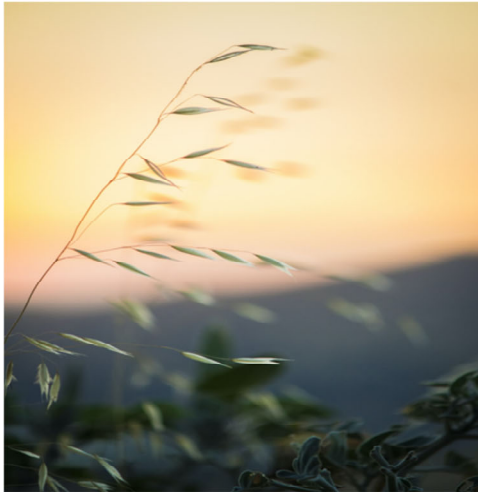
THE IMPACT ON MIGRANT WORKERS AND REFUGEES.



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According to the World Economic Forum the majority of the world's 25.9 million refugees and 41.3 million internally displaced persons are in [developing countries](#). [Persons displaced internally and across borders](#) are at risk living in cramped quarters hence social isolation is not an option. Closure of borders and internal travel restrictions has placed migrant labourer in harm's way and as they suffer work losses.

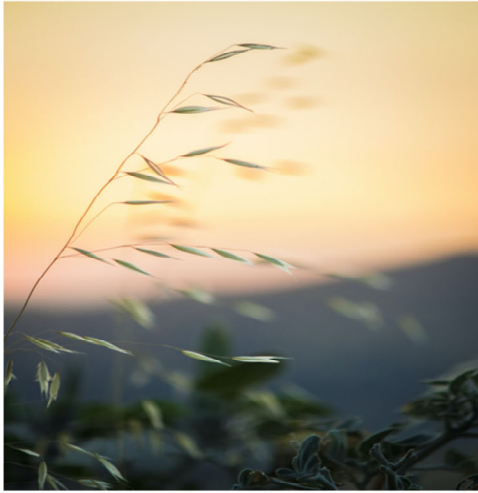


**The window of
opportunity -
The possibility to build
back better**

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Humans have the capacity to cope and in the coping they look for elusive peace and justice. The time immediately following a crisis creates a window of opportunity to re-imagine what the next phase of life can look like.



“Trust the Wait, Embrace the
Uncertainty, Enjoy the beauty
of Becoming, When nothing
is certain, everything
is possible”

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To Build Back Better

- *Discover humanity - rekindle relationships
- *Discover the tenacity and resilience
- *Discover a new hope for peace and justice
- *Discover a new pattern of social life of equality and inclusion

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Immense vulnerabilities and gaps in our societies have been exposed but at the same time given the chance to build back better. To grasp peace with a renewed vigour and hope

A time to reassess our world, our relationships and resources and our responsibilities.

To Build Back Better

- *Ignite the spirit of re-invention
- *Discover the optimum use of technology – to connect.
- *Discover – novel ways of doing business.
- *Re-imagine learning and accelerate change in teaching and learning

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Humans have always been adept at re-invention. As workplaces close and people to stay at home, access to the internet can make a life-or-death difference, simultaneously providing opportunities and challenges 8 months of the pandemic has shown that technology is paramount.

Recovery and reconstruction, through their phases, provides the opportunity to rebuild resilient businesses

The current challenges have stimulated innovation within the education sector with innovative approaches in support of education and training

continuity. Demands are being tabled to expand the definition of the Right to Education to include connectivity entitlement.

It is the opportunity to work toward equitable sustainability: this implies a balance; it means avoiding diversions that are unsustainable.

To Cope and to Transition to Peace and Justice

*We must build back better by taking an intersectional feminist approach.

*The time is now to break down past thinking patterns and old structures.

"Peace cannot wait and peace cannot be a casualty of the COVID-19 crisis!"

Ms. Cabrera-Balleza _UN

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This crisis has shown the need to build back better, and create the appropriate support and infrastructure for women — which includes having them at the table for coronavirus response,

And further emphasized the importance of women's participation in peace negotiations and during implementation of peace agreements.

As Soroptimists and as a global community we believe in re -designing a society that cannot leave anyone behind or be built on past structures that have held

women back. That is the way forward

"Everyone is talking about building back better. The SDGs were drafted to be transformative, to transform our societies to be better and more resilient. And if we are looking to build back better, we should be using the SDGs as our guide," -
John Romano .

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- **Thank you**