

Women in Biosecurity



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Biosafety and Biosecurity: Future Trends and Solutions***

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verbatim



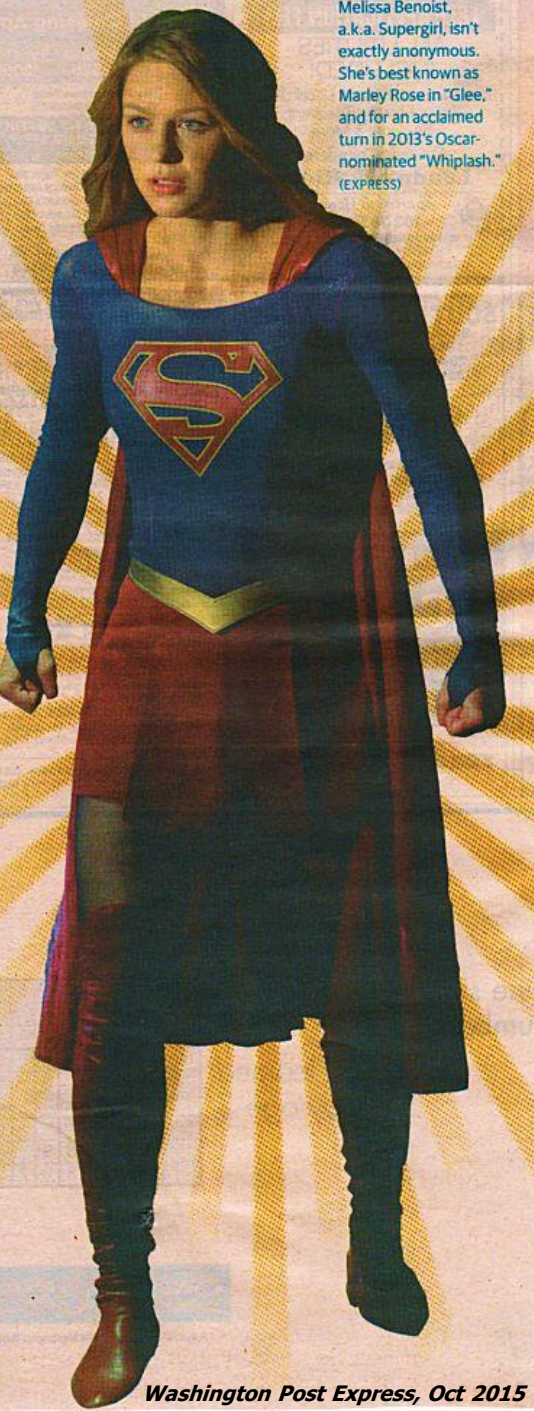
**“I am tired of the stranglehold that women have had
on the job of presidential spouse.”**

BILL CLINTON, making a joking reference to his wife's bid to become the first female president. He spoke Saturday in Des Moines, Iowa, at a Hillary Clinton rally, his first appearance for her on the campaign trail this year.

Washington Post Express, October 2015

Super who?

Melissa Benoist, a.k.a. Supergirl, isn't exactly anonymous. She's best known as Marley Rose in "Glee," and for an acclaimed turn in 2013's Oscar-nominated "Whiplash."
(EXPRESS)



"This show's strength is that it shows how super girls can be"

"Superman stands for an unambiguously uber-mensch service to the cause. Supergirl says: Move over and make some room".



Bottom Line Up Front

It is about time to make (more) room for women in counter-terrorism and WMD non-proliferation decision-making processes

*“...it is past time for **women** to take their rightful place, side-by-side with men, in the rooms where the fates of peoples, where their children’s and grandchildren’s fates, are decided, **in the negotiations to make peace, and in the institutions to keep it**” - Hillary Rodham Clinton, 2011*

- **mentions** "*the important contribution of women to the implementation of the Strategy*"

and

- **encourages** "*Member States, United Nations entities and international, regional and subregional organizations to consider the participation of women in efforts to prevent and counter terrorism*"



UN General Assembly resolution 68/33 (2013) on *Women, Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Control*

Recognizes “*the valuable contributions of women... in promoting disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control*”

Notes that the role of women in these areas should be further developed

Calls upon all States to empower women, including through capacity building efforts, to participate in the design and implementation of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control efforts

Requests that relevant UN organs, agencies, funds and programs assist States, upon request, in promoting the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control

UNGA “*urges Member States, relevant subregional and regional organizations, the United Nations and the specialized agencies to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to matters related to*



The UN Security Council...

often makes statements recognizing and welcoming the roles of, and contributions made by women as mediators, educators, peace-makers, peace-builders & advocates for peace, as well as their active contribution to reconciliation efforts & disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration processes

reaffirmed its *“the intention to increase its attention to women, peace and security issues in all relevant thematic areas of work on its agenda, including in threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts”– UNSCR 2122 (2013)*

However, no such gender consideration is sought specifically with regard to the role of women in countering WMD proliferation, implementation of UNSCR 1540, or on enhancing women’s participation in related decision-making processes



UN Security Council Agenda - The Missing Link -

***WMD Non-Proliferation
(i.e. UNSCR 1540 and obligations on
nuclear, chemical, and bio security)***

Women, Peace, and Security

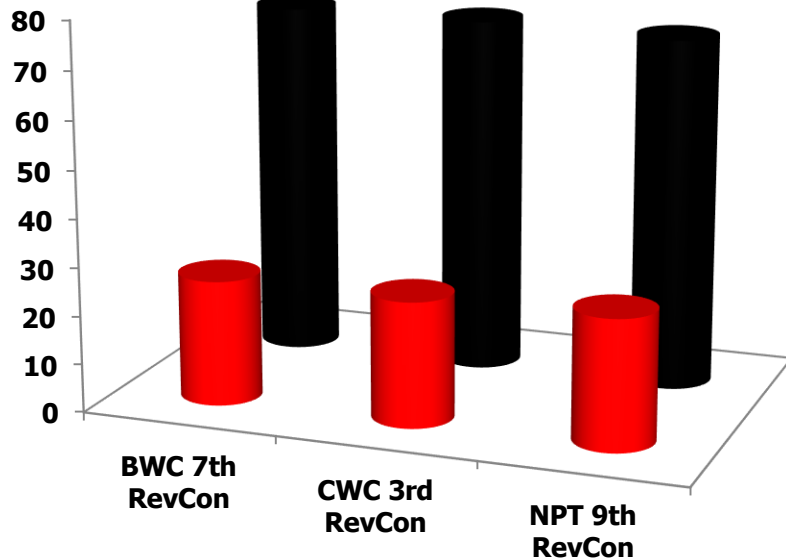


Weapons of Mass Destruction Treaty Negotiations - Women Participation -

Women participation in national delegations at the 2011 Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) 7th Review Conference (RevCon), 2013 Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) 3rd RevCon, and the 2015 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) 9th RevCon.

■ % women delegates

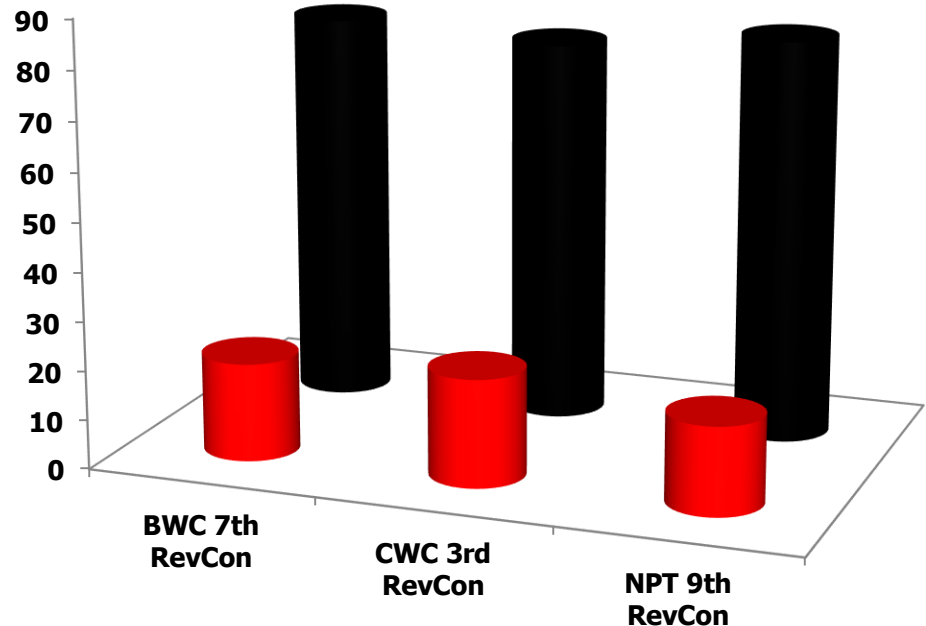
■ % men delegates



Women leadership at the 2011 BWC 7th RevCon, 2013 CWC 3rd RevCon, and the 2015 NPT 9th RevCon. "Headed by a woman" implies that a woman is the formal head of the national delegation or the most senior official in a national delegation.

■ % delegations headed by women

■ % delegations headed by men



The Glass Ceiling

The Millennium Development Goals Report
2014



Worldwide, women hold only 17.2 % of Government ministerial posts and 21.8 % of all parliamentary seats

“Political commitment and policy are key components to women’s progress in this area”

- UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon -



Why is this relevant to biosecurity?

- **Women are more vulnerable to the negative effects of disasters but they may also act as critical players in mobilizing communities to respond to disasters and increase communities' resilience**
- **Applying the gender-balanced lens ensures a comprehensive situational awareness of gender dynamics and its influence on achieving the desired end-state**
- **Empowering women nationally and globally to participate in the design and implementation of counter-terrorism, WMD non-proliferation, & biosecurity efforts is **not about parity in numbers or denying men's rights** but about ensuring that the decision-making processes are representative and effective and that women have the opportunity to contribute their perspectives and talents for the benefit of the whole community**



Charting the way forward (1)

- **Incorporate a gender component into the national and global counter-terrorism/ counter-WMD (CWMD) strategies**
- **Empower women nationally and globally to participate in the design and implementation of counter-terrorism and WMD non-proliferation efforts, promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes with regard to these matters, and strengthen governments' cooperation with women's groups**
- **Raise awareness on UNSCR 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security agenda when providing educational modules on WMD non-proliferation and instruments of international power**



Charting the way forward (2)

- **Promote women's participation in BWC delegations and make a practice of reporting at Meetings of States Parties stats on women's participation, in order *to promote equal opportunities for the representation of women in all decision-making processes*, as recommended by UNGA resolution 68/33 (2013)**
- **Establish informal and professional networks and platforms to empower women with the tools, training, and support they need to become strong leaders in strengthening biosafety/ biosecurity and the international norms & effective measures against BT and BWs**
- **Collect and analyze gender-disaggregated data on the global health security initiatives, including on biosafety/biosecurity capacity building, GHSA assessments and decision making processes, or any other gender-sensitive activities**



*“Women are the largest untapped reservoir of talent
in the world”*

– Hillary Rodham Clinton, 2011



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