

Despite progress, challenges remain in achieving full gender equality in the military. Gender stereotypes, cultural norms, and institutional barriers can hinder women's advancement and integration into combat roles. Addressing these challenges requires continued efforts to eliminate gender bias, provide equal opportunities for training and advancement, and foster a supportive and inclusive environment for all military personnel.

Women in military service around the world have made significant strides in breaking barriers and challenging stereotypes. Their contributions strengthen armed forces, enhance operational effectiveness, and contribute to greater diversity and inclusivity in defense institutions. As societies continue to evolve, the role of women in the military will undoubtedly continue to expand, shaping the future of defense and security on a global scale.

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EXPANDING THE ROLE OF WOMEN IN THE MILITARY SPHERE

Throughout the history of human civilization, women have repeatedly participated in various military campaigns alongside men. Mostly, they organized the daily life of military personnel, ensuring their physical and emotional well-being by performing domestic or medical tasks (cooking, laundry, sewing, nursing). Only a small number of women directly participated in military actions alongside men [1].

Often, for this purpose, as well as for their own safety, women disguised themselves and often dressed in men's clothing. Therefore, for many centuries, providing special conditions for women serving in the armed forces was not given significant importance. Only after the Second World War, in which women participated massively, even in combat, did the issue of normative-legal consolidation of the status of women in the military and their participation in military actions begin to be considered at the international level.

For example, the provisions of the Geneva Convention relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War of 1949 stipulate that female prisoners of war should be treated with the same respect and benevolence as male prisoners (Article 14); any camps housing female prisoners of war should have separate sanitary facilities (paragraph 2 of Article 29); female prisoners of war subjected to punishment by judicial process should be kept in separate quarters under the supervision of female staff (Article 108) [3].

It should be noted that alongside the provisions of international conventions on the laws and customs of war, the principle of equality between men and women and the prohibition of any discrimination against women have also been enshrined in many other international legal instruments. For example, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women provides for equal political, economic, social, cultural, and civil rights regardless

of marital status and requires states to adopt national legislation prohibiting discrimination against women. The Beijing Declaration recognizes women's rights to full participation based on equality in all spheres of societal life, including participation in decision-making processes and access to power. It also declares that achieving global peace is inseparably linked to the development of women, who are a key force in leadership, conflict resolution, and promoting sustainable peace at all levels [4].

UN Security Council Resolution 1325 «Women, Peace, and Security» emphasizes the importance of women in the military in fulfilling certain tasks in peacekeeping operations where military and peacekeeping objectives intersect. However, despite seemingly threatening their entry into traditionally male-dominated spaces such as the army, the composition of the army in many countries continues to be determined by gender. Gender stereotypes still influence the determination of a woman's social, professional, and managerial role in society. And women's advancement into traditionally male positions also undermines conventional expectations regarding male and female gender roles [2].

For instance, P. Choudhri notes that there is a strong belief that fighting is men's work and the army is purely a male domain, considering all aspects of war. At the same time, the involvement of women challenges traditional gender roles in society. But despite the seemingly ominous intrusion of women into the Indian army, its composition continues to be determined by gender.

The role of women in the military sphere has evolved significantly over time, reflecting broader societal shifts towards gender equality and recognition of women's capabilities in traditionally male-dominated fields. While historically marginalized from combat roles, women have increasingly demonstrated their value and prowess across various military functions, prompting a reevaluation and expansion of their roles within armed forces worldwide.

One significant aspect of this expansion is the inclusion of women in combat positions. Recognizing that physical strength is not the sole determinant of combat effectiveness, many countries have opened previously restricted roles to women, acknowledging their diverse skill sets and contributions. This shift reflects a departure from antiquated gender stereotypes and a commitment to merit-based recruitment and promotion within military ranks [1].

Moreover, the expanding role of women in the military extends beyond combat duties. Women now serve in a wide range of roles, including intelligence, logistics, engineering, cybersecurity, and administration, among others. Their expertise and leadership are increasingly valued in diverse operational environments, enriching military capabilities and enhancing overall effectiveness [2].

Efforts to expand the role of women in the military also encompass initiatives to promote gender diversity in leadership positions. Increasing the representation of women in decision-making roles within armed forces not only fosters inclusivity but also enhances organizational performance by leveraging diverse perspectives and talents. As women ascend to higher ranks, they serve as role models and mentors, inspiring future generations of military personnel and fostering a more inclusive and equitable military culture.

However, while significant progress has been made, challenges remain in fully integrating women into the military sphere. Persistent gender biases, cultural barriers, and institutional obstacles may hinder women's advancement and limit their opportunities for career development and progression. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to combat discrimination, promote gender-sensitive policies, and provide support mechanisms to facilitate women's success in the military.

In conclusion, expanding the role of women in the military sphere is essential for advancing gender equality, enhancing military effectiveness, and building more inclusive armed forces. By recognizing and harnessing the talents and capabilities of women, armed forces can better meet the complex challenges of modern warfare and contribute to a more just and equitable society. Embracing diversity and inclusivity strengthens military readiness and resilience, ensuring that armed forces are better equipped to fulfill their mission of defending national security and promoting global peace [4].

Modern women have well-developed physical capabilities. They are psychologically prepared to participate in military operations. The enlistment of physically fit women into military service, as well as the expansion of understanding the importance of non-traditional security issues, contributes to achieving various goals, including: increasing the size and defense capability of national armed forces, establishing communication with local women, improving the protection of troops in the operation area, and so on. Gender is an inappropriate criterion for any restrictions on

military service, so further research on establishing gender equality in the armed forces remains a relevant direction for the development of both domestic and international legal science.

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МЕХАНІЗМ ЗАБЕЗПЕЧЕННЯ ГЕНДЕРНОЇ РІВНОСТІ ТА НЕДИСКРИМІНАЦІЇ В УМОВАХ ВОЄННОГО СТАНУ

Проблема гендерної рівності є досить актуальною й поширеною в Україні, і особливо це стало відчуватися при введенні воєнного стану на території нашої держави. Непроста ситуація склалася і у сфері охорони праці, де часто спостерігається нерівність у працевлаштуванні чоловіків і жінок, їх призначенні на різні посади тощо. Відкритому демократичному суспільству необхідні такі якості, як толерантність, критичне мислення, незалежність. Без гендерної рівності неможливо побудувати гармонійні стосунки між жінками і чоловіками. Саме визнання ідей гендерного балансу дозволяє інакше подивитись на світ, на власну роль у суспільстві, на стосунки з іншими людьми, представниками своєї та протилежної статі, що приводить до серйозних змін у світогляді, формування більш активної громадянської позиції, зрештою, до зміни суспільної свідомості [1].

Український народ потерпає від гендерних стереотипів, які формувалися роками. Одним із крайніх проявів нерівності та дискримінації в суспільстві є гендерно зумовлене насильство. Однак помилково застосовувати термін «гендерне насильство» виключно як насильство щодо жінок, навіть враховуючи те, що переважна більшість випадків насильства вчиняється саме щодо них. Насильство, спрямоване на жінок, вчинене за ознакою статі, є проявом (актом) гендерного насильства. Саме тому цілком виправданою є увага міжнародної спільноти до протидії цьому явищу. Більш того, масштаби ситуації, що утворилася, стали підставою для того, щоб розглядати насильство стосовно жінок як одну з форм дискримінації, що обмежує їхні можливості в користуванні правами і свободами на основі рівності з чоловіками [2].

У світі існують різні механізми, які можуть бути використані для того, щоб забезпечити рівність чоловіків та жінок, а також щоб позбавитись гендерних стереотипів. Умови воєнного стану створюють особливі виклики щодо забезпечення гендерної рівності та запобігання дискримінації. Американські дослідники Е. Рин та Е. Сирлиф у своєму дослідженні вказують на такі механізми для їх подолання [3]:

1. На законодавчому рівні: прийняття законодавчих актів, які гарантують рівні права та можливості для чоловіків і жінок у воєнний період, забороняють будь-яку форму гендерної дискримінації і встановлюють механізми захисту прав жінок у зоні конфлікту;