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From Reaction to Prevention: WPS and Artificial Intelligence

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Contents

Executive Summary 3

Introduction 3

Using AI as a Prevention Tool 5

Challenges to Using AI for Prevention 7

The Gap Between AI/Tech Development and Policy 8

WPS and AI 9

AI and Governance Frameworks 10

The WPS and AI Connection in Detail 11

 Online and Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence 11

 Online Misogyny 12

 Early Warning Signs 12

 Prevention as an AI Governance Imperative 13

 WPS and AI: Underutilized in Prevention 13

For U.S. Government and Congressional Initiatives 15

For Think Tanks, Academic Institutions, and Nonprofits 15

For the Private Sector 16

Reframe AI as a Preventive Security Tool 16

Conclusion 16

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Artificial intelligence (AI), when intentionally aligned with the prevention pillar of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, can serve as a powerful tool for anticipating conflict, protecting individual security, and strengthening democratic resilience.

AI implementation within existing security frameworks is largely reactive, focused on operational or postcrisis response rather than prevention, while initiatives that develop early warning indicators or build social cohesion and community resilience are limited in scope and implementation. Using AI as a tool for prevention requires deliberate choices and understanding to rethink not only how AI is used but also the broader security paradigms that determine which risks are prioritized, how tech systems are governed, and whose security is considered actionable.

The WPS agenda provides a proven model for conflict prevention. Applying the WPS model, and the broader humanitarian principles it draws on, to AI governance and policy structures would facilitate more comprehensive and context-sensitive approaches to conflict prevention. Reframing AI from a reactive solution to a preventive instrument across government, civil society, and the private sector offers a critical opportunity to reduce both digital and physical pathways to conflict while advancing more inclusive and sustainable security outcomes.

Introduction

Artificial intelligence and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda intersect as two critical components of a rapidly evolving security sector. This intersection holds vast potential if policies and intent are successfully defined and developed in concert. Yet prevention is inconsistently incorporated into existing AI governance frameworks, and few frameworks explicitly center or align with gender-responsive security principles found in the WPS agenda.

From local communities to international institutions, artificial intelligence¹ is rapidly reshaping social, political, economic, and security environments. However, within the arena of national and international security, governments and leaders overwhelmingly use AI in a reactive or operational manner. In some instances, AI is being used to optimize processes that benefit specific groups, such as in the United States, where AI is being used to streamline claims processing for veterans.² However, many policymakers tend to focus on AI's use in warfare.³ Regulation, surveillance, military applications, and postconflict crisis management are the norm with AI in the policy realm, while initiatives that develop early warning indicators or build social cohesion and community resilience – like many other preventive measures – are limited in scope and implementation.

Further, governance regulations, policies, or frameworks guiding the use of AI are often fraught with enforcement and implementation challenges.⁴ In addition to this lack of a coherent governance structure,⁵ there are limited built-in moral and ethical guardrails⁶ and little to no focus on individual or community resilience in overarching AI security uses.⁷

A similar challenge exists with the WPS agenda where, despite being founded

1 Anna Provan, "Militarising Artificial Intelligence: A Feminist Analysis of Algorithmic Warfare," *Centre for Feminist Foreign Policy*, 2025, <https://www.techpolicy.press/ai-warfare-is-outpacing-our-ability-to-control-it/>.

2 Grace Dille, "How the VA Leveraged AI to Accelerate Claims Processing," *MeriTalk*, January 30, 2026, <https://www.meritalk.com/articles/how-the-va-leveraged-ai-to-accelerate-claims-processing/>.

3 Marie Lamensch, "AI at War: What the Ongoing Conflicts Reveal About Power, Technology and Ethics," *CIGI Online*, May 20, 2026, <https://www.cigionline.org/articles/ai-at-war-what-the-ongoing-conflicts-reveal-about-power-technology-and-ethics/>.

4 Carmen Marsh, "Cybersecurity, Ethical Governance, and the Risks of AI Integration in Countering Hybrid Threats," *The Defence Horizon Journal*, January 15, 2026, <https://tdhj.org/blog/post/cybersecurity-ethical-governance/>.

5 Emmanouil Papagiannidis, Patrick Mikalef, and Kieran Conboy, "Responsible Artificial Intelligence Governance: A Review and Research Framework" *The Journal of Strategic Information Systems*, Volume 34, Issue 2, June 2025, January 3, 2025, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0963868724000672>.

6 Kristian Humble, "War, Artificial Intelligence, and the Future of Conflict," *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, July 12, 2024, <https://gija.georgetown.edu/conflict-security/war-artificial-intelligence-and-the-future-of-conflict/>.

7 Anna Hehir, "AI Warfare is Outpacing Our Ability to Control It," *Tech Policy Press*, April 3, 2026, <https://www.techpolicy.press/ai-warfare-is-outpacing-our-ability-to-control-it/>.

PILLARS OF UNSCR 1325

ecdpm



PILLAR 1 PARTICIPATION

This pillar covers efforts to ensure and improve women's equal participation in peace and security decision-making processes at national, local and international levels. This includes appointing more women as negotiators, mediators, peacekeepers, police and humanitarian personnel, as well as support for local women's peace initiatives.



PILLAR 4 RELIEF AND RECOVERY

This pillar includes efforts to meet women and girls' needs in repatriation and resettlement, disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes (DDR), the design of refugee camps, support to internally displaced persons (IDPs) and in the delivery of humanitarian assistance. It also includes efforts to strengthen the role of women in relief and recovery processes and activities.



PILLAR 2 PROTECTION

Efforts under this pillar are focussed on ensuring protection of women and girls' rights in conflict-affected situations or other humanitarian crises, including protection from gender-based violence (GBV) in general and sexual violence in particular.



PILLAR 3 PREVENTION

This pillar focuses on integrating a gender-sensitive perspective in conflict early warning systems, conflict prevention and disarmament activities, but also increasing prosecutions for perpetrators of sexual violence. This pillar also includes efforts to challenge discriminatory gender norms, attitudes and behaviour and working with men and boys, not only as perpetrators but also victims of violence and agents of change.

Source: European Centre for Development Policy Management (ECDPM) [Discussion Paper No. 245: Rhetoric and real progress on the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Africa, Page 8; by Desmidt and Davis]

on the principles of conflict prevention and resolution, it remains underutilized as a strategic security framework and is frequently siloed from mainstream security operations and decision-making processes. For decades, practitioners and experts across government and nongovernment sectors have generated substantial evidence demonstrating that threats to individual security – particularly the disproportionate targeting of women and other marginalized populations – are often warning signs of broader instability.⁸ However, leaders and policymakers continue to disregard WPS and gender-responsive initiatives⁹ and limit incorporating them into security strategies, preventive or otherwise.

WPS broadly, and its prevention pillar specifically, is rooted in the recognition that international and national security is inseparable from individual and community security. Patterns of exclusion, harassment, disinformation, and violence targeting women and marginalized groups are shown to precede or actively contribute to political violence, democratic erosion, and armed conflict.¹⁰ AI is already influencing these spheres by shaping information ecosystems (such as disinformation campaigns in the war in Ukraine),¹¹ reinforcing or disrupting social cohesion, changing dynamics of warfare (such as through AI-driven drone operations),¹² and altering access to economic and

8 Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security and Peace Research Institute Oslo, *Women, Peace and Security Index*, accessed March 28, 2026, <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>.

9 Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security (GIWPS), "New Report Raises Alarm on Lack of Progress Globally for Women's Rights and Wellbeing," *GIWPS*, October 27, 2025, <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/2025/10/27/new-report-raises-alarm-on-lack-of-progress-globally-for-womens-rights-and-wellbeing/>.

10 Kathleen J. McInnis and Kyleanne M. Hunter, "Gender Wars Are an Early Warning Sign for Authoritarianism," *RAND*, November 22, 2024, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2024/11/gender-wars-are-an-early-warning-sign-for-authoritarianism.html>.

11 Daniela Iampolsca, "From Trolls to Generative AI: Russia's Disinformation Evolution," *Centre for International Governance Innovation*, February 25, 2025, <https://www.cigionline.org/publications/from-trolls-to-generative-ai-russias-disinformation-evolution/>.

12 *Vision of Humanity*, "Artificial Intelligence as a Tool for Peace," Accessed March 16, 2026, <https://www.visionofhumanity.org/artificial-intelligence-as-a-tool-for-peace/>.

“While AI and WPS are largely incompatible in their current modes of utilization, they both have powerful preventive potential. Therefore, the integration and development of AI guiding principles based in the core tenets of WPS and human security can accelerate progress toward harnessing technology to promote peace.”

political participation, all of which have been proven to exacerbate instability.¹³ This typically plays out through amplifying or developing harmful narratives of public figures and leaders, skewing surveillance practices, and/or hindering and reducing civic participation.

What matters at this stage is not simply whether AI is used and developed but how and by whom. AI has frequently and overwhelmingly been developed and deployed without being systematically aligned with preventive, gender-responsive security frameworks, even as digital spaces increasingly shape pathways to conflict.¹⁴ Effective prevention methodology has always required bringing together diverse leaders and experts and integrating multiple frameworks (such as WPS)¹⁵ and strategies to enhance representation and create transformative approaches. In this case, to ensure AI systems are built responsibly, are responsive to real-world risks, and do not reinforce existing inequalities, leaders and experts must work across sectors and utilize a whole-of-society approach. While AI and WPS are largely incompatible in their current modes of utilization, they both have powerful preventive potential. Therefore, the integration and development of AI guiding principles based in the core tenets of WPS and human security can accelerate progress toward harnessing technology to promote peace.

Using AI as a Prevention Tool

AI is increasingly embedded in the systems that shape political behavior, economic opportunity, and social cohesion. However, its application within security frameworks remains focused on operational or postcrisis response rather than anticipatory prevention. This overlooks a critical point: The same systems that enable AI to process large volumes of data, detect patterns, and generate predictive insights¹⁶ also position it as a potentially transformative tool for preventing conflict and crisis at multiple levels.¹⁷

At the level of individual and community security, for example, AI has the capacity to detect shifts in digital and social environments that precede broader patterns of conflict.¹⁸ Online harassment (particularly targeted toward women) and tech-facilitated gender-based violence (TFGBV), coordinated mis- and disinformation, and targeted intimidation campaigns directed toward women and marginalized populations are not isolated phenomena.¹⁹ They are frequently viewed as early manifestations of deeper structural tensions, including political polarization, exclusionary governance, and weakening institutional trust.²⁰ However, instead of framing these issues as central to security analysis and early warning signs of civil unrest and conflict, they are often dismissed as peripheral or confined to social domains.

AI-generated content, such as deepfakes and synthetic media, has introduced

13 Philip Schellekens and David Skilling, “Three Reasons Why AI May Widen Global Inequality,” *Center for Global Development*, May 2023, <https://www.cgdev.org/blog/three-reasons-why-ai-may-widen-global-inequality>.

14 Daniela Schnidrig, “Bridging the Gap: Addressing Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence in Global AI Governance,” *Association for Progressive Communications*, February 25, 2026, <https://www.apc.org/en/pubs/bridging-gap-addressing-technology-facilitated-gender-based-violence-global-ai-governance>.

15 Jessica Anania, “Bridging IHL and WPS: Untapped Potential to Advance the Well-Being of Women in Conflict Settings,” *International Committee of the Red Cross*, January 29, 2026, <https://blogs.icrc.org/law-and-policy/2026/01/29/bridging-ihl-and-wps-untapped-potential-to-advance-the-wellbeing-of-women-in-conflict-settings/>.

16 Faruk Deniz, “The Impact of AI and Machine Learning on Conflict Prevention,” *Trends Research and Advisory Group*, May 2, 2025, https://trendsresearch.org/insight/the-impact-of-ai-and-machine-learning-on-conflict-prevention/?srsltid=AfmBOodld6hZq_8Sdlr432KFM2jn1-m2510sNStbF-0NU988pPLqotd6.

17 Michele Giovanardi, “AI for Peace: Mitigating the Risks and Enhancing Opportunities,” *Data For Peace Technology*, (Cambridge University Press), 20234, <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/data-and-policy/article/ai-for-peace-mitigating-the-risks-and-enhancing-opportunities/797BC0FF182A0367F2A99FC5FB064150>.

18 Muhammad Usman Ullah, Sahar Saleem, Amina Munir, “Artificial Intelligence in Conflict Prediction and Prevention: Opportunities and Risks for International Peace and Security,” *Global Social Sciences Review*, March 2025, <https://www.gssrjournal.com/article/artificial-intelligence-in-conflict-prediction-and-prevention-opportunities-and-risks-for-international-peace-and-security>.

19 Lucina Di Meco and Kristina Wilfore, “Gendered Disinformation Is a National Security Problem,” *Brookings Institution*, March 8, 2021, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/gendered-disinformation-is-a-national-security-problem/>.

20 Kathleen J. McInnis and Kyleanne M. Hunter, “Gender Wars Are an Early Warning Sign for Authoritarianism,” *RAND*, November 22, 2024, <https://www.rand.org/pubs/commentary/2024/11/gender-wars-are-an-early-warning-sign-for-authoritarianism.html>.

new forms of information manipulation that are difficult to detect and counter. These tools are increasingly used at the individual level to target women leaders, activists, and journalists and to push rhetoric in spaces that invite extremist content (such as online chat rooms, social media, and other platforms). Misogynistic and harmful content developed and used with the explicit intention of silencing and isolating women²¹ from civic and political settings is used to disrupt trust in democratic processes writ large.²² The scale and speed at which AI can be used to generate and amplify such content represents a significant escalation in TFGVBV.²³ Multiple studies have documented how the use of AI is intensifying online abuse, enabling harassment, blackmail, and personal attacks that frequently translate to offline stalking, assault, harm, and political and social disengagement.²⁴ The speed and scale at which AI can produce and circulate this content outpaces most existing detection and response efforts. While inroads have been made in leveraging AI, particularly generative AI, to prevent online harassment and detect mis- and disinformation campaigns or at least identify these patterns, there is still much work to be done.^{25,26}

AI systems, when designed with and used for a prevention-oriented framework, could identify these signals at scale and in near-real time. For example, machine learning models could track the proliferation²⁷ of gendered disinformation narratives,²⁸ detect coordinated harassment campaigns, and identify spikes in abusive language that correlate with political events and could lead to instances of political violence. These insights would provide policymakers, civil society actors, and international organizations with earlier and more granular understanding of the risks and escalation of conflict.

Rather than replacing traditional indicators, the value of AI is that it can help decision-makers identify emerging risks earlier and with greater precision. AI, when built on solid data, could extend the analytical reach of traditional early warning systems²⁹ in a way that works with existing policy frameworks such as WPS and atrocity prevention to enhance historically slower-moving indicators that predict growing conflict, such as economic decline, migration or internally displaced people, or political crises. Examples such as GeoAI, which incorporates spatial analysis with AI, could revolutionize how governments and organizations anticipate and respond to humanitarian disasters, violent conflict, and more.³⁰ The ability to quantify large amounts of data for analysts to use in policymaking and implementation creates opportunities for preventive interventions before instability escalates into violence.

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- 21 Kalliopi Mingeirou, Yeliz Osman, Raphaëlle Rafin, "The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Violence Against Women and Girls," *Stimson Center*, February 26, 2026, <https://www.stimson.org/2026/the-impact-of-artificial-intelligence-on-violence-against-women-and-girls/>.
 - 22 U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Artificial Intelligence: Federal Agencies' Use and Oversight of AI Systems* (GAO-24-107292), 2024, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-24-107292>.
 - 23 Sameer Hinduja, "Generative AI as a Vector for Harassment and Harm," *Cyberbullying Research Center*, May 10, 2023, <https://cyberbullying.org/generative-ai-as-a-vector-for-harassment-and-harm>.
 - 24 UN Women, "AI-Powered 'Online Abuse: How AI Is Amplifying Violence Against Women and What Can Stop It,'" November 18, 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/faqs/ai-powered-online-abuse-how-ai-is-amplifying-violence-against-women-and-what-can-stop-it>.
 - 25 University of Michigan College of Engineering, "Researchers Leverage AI to Fight Online Hate Speech," accessed March 12, 2026, <https://cse.engin.umich.edu/stories/researchers-leverage-ai-to-fight-online-hate-speech>.
 - 26 Khari Johnson, "A New Way to Train AI to Curb Online Harassment," *Wired*, August 2021, <https://www.wired.com/story/new-way-train-ai-curb-online-harassment/>.
 - 27 Mark Finlayson and Azwad Anjum Islam, "Weaponized storytelling: How AI is helping researchers sniff out disinformation campaigns," *Florida International University Science and Technology News*, May 29, 2025, <https://news.fiu.edu/2025/weaponized-storytelling-how-ai-is-helping-researchers-sniff-out-disinformation-campaigns>.
 - 28 Katerina Sedova, Christine McNeill, Aurora Johnson, Aditi Joshi, and Ido Wulkan, "AI and the Future of Disinformation Campaigns," *Center for Security and Emerging Technology (CSET)*, December 2021, <https://cset.georgetown.edu/publication/ai-and-the-future-of-disinformation-campaigns-2/>.
 - 29 Kalu Okigwe, "When Early Warning is Built on Uncertain Data," *Harvard School of Public Health*, December 30, 2025, <https://hsph.harvard.edu/atrocity-prevention-lab/news/when-early-warning-is-built-on-uncertain-data/>.
 - 30 Devika Jain, "The Critical Challenges of GeoAI," *Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis*, February 2026, <https://gis.harvard.edu/critical-challenges-geoai>.



Women participate at a discussion entitled “Are Women Missing Out on AI?” during the 17th Annual Meeting of the New Champions in Dalian, northeast China’s Liaoning Province, on June 23, 2026. (Cheng Tingting / Xinhua via Getty Images)

Challenges to Using AI for Prevention

Because AI systems are only as comprehensive and inclusive as the people who have built them, they could have limited utility as a preventive tool. As AI reflects the priorities, assumptions, and biases of its designers and users, systems developed without diverse perspectives, accountability mechanisms, or consideration of human security can reinforce and exacerbate exclusion, discrimination, and instability rather than help prevent them. In a widely cited example of this outcome, a since-scrapped Amazon, Inc., AI recruiting tool that was trained on resumes submitted mostly by men downgraded applicants who included the word “women” anywhere in their resumes.³¹ The incident shows an AI system encoding and enacting data bias due to a lack of diverse design input, a factor applicable to policy systems writ large.³²

At national and international levels, this duality is also evident. AI-driven predictive analytics offer the potential to develop and integrate diverse datasets that include social, economic, and gender-disaggregated indicators to identify patterns associated with conflict risk.³³ When applied effectively, these systems could inform early engagement through diplomatic channels, targeted development interventions, and preventive security measures. For example, combining data on digital harassment, economic marginalization, and political engagement/exclusion could reveal cross-cutting and compounding pressures within specific communities and regions before they manifest as overt conflict.

In practice, however, AI applications in security contexts at these levels have largely prioritized surveillance, intelligence-gathering, and military capabilities.³⁴ This reflects broader policy incentives that favor immediate outputs over long-term preventive investments.³⁵ It is important to note that prevention-based approaches are broadly and generally not well supported in the security sector. Security institutions are reactive, and AI is inheriting that tendency. This is true regardless of AI advancements or challenges, and it reflects a longstanding,

31 Jeffrey Dastin, “Insight - Amazon Scraps Secret AI Recruiting Tool That Showed Bias Against Women,” *Reuters Blog*, October 10, 2018, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-amazon-com-jobs-automation-insight-idUSKCN1MK08G/>

32 Kyra Wilson, Aylin Caliskan, “Gender, Race, and Intersectional Bias in AI Resume Screening via Language Model Retrieval,” *Governance Studies Media Office*, April 25, 2025, Brookings Institute, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/gender-race-and-intersectional-bias-in-ai-resume-screening-via-language-model-retrieval/>

33 Chris Mahony, Varalakshmi Vemuru, Evie Calcutt, “How AI and Machine Learning Can Predict and Explain Social Risks for More Effective Development Operations,” *World Bank Blogs*, February 9, 2026, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/african/how-ai-and-machine-learning-can-predict-and-explain-social-risks-for-more-effective-development-operations>

34 Anna Hehir, “AI Warfare is Outpacing Our Ability to Control It,” *Tech Policy Press*, April 3, 2026, <https://www.techpolicy.press/ai-warfare-is-outpacing-our-ability-to-control-it/>

35 Yaasmin Afina, “The Global Prism of Military AI Governance,” *United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research*, (Geneva: UNIDIR, 2026), <https://unidir.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/UNIDIR-The-Global-Prism-of-Military-AI-Governance.pdf>

well-documented struggle within the field to shift institutional practices toward prevention rather than response. Unfortunately, budget cuts are compounding this struggle as funds are continually diverted from community and individual security issues such as development and human rights.^{36,37}

AI does not resolve this issue on its own, but it can ease some practical barriers, including individual biases, that have made prevention a more difficult argument to fund and sustain. Building and maintaining warning and monitoring frameworks has historically required significant staff and resources. AI can absorb some of that burden by continuously tracking data and flagging emerging risks in ways that reduce the number of person hours needed to sustain monitoring over time. This is just one example that makes the case for AI as a tool for prevention more practical, not just more urgent. While AI funding for issues outside of warfare will continue to be scarce or diverted, the promising potential for it to ease the cost of prevention work while supporting a less reactive stance with evidence-based arguments must be explored.³⁸

The Gap Between AI/Tech Development and Policy

The gap between technological capability and policy application is widening. AI systems are already shaping the environments in which conflict emerges, particularly through their influence on information ecosystems and social interactions. This creates an imperative for AI to be conceptualized within security policy in a new way. Rather than treating AI simply as a replacement for human expertise or a way to increase efficiency, it must also be integrated into frameworks that prioritize prevention, inclusion, and human security.³⁹ But to integrate it in a way that enhances security is not a purely technical exercise. Rather, it requires deliberate choices and understanding to rethink not only how AI is used but also the broader security paradigms that determine which risks are prioritized, how tech systems are governed, and whose security is considered actionable.

This means asking not only whether a system works but also whose insecurity it is designed to detect and whose it overlooks. Existing security paradigms were built around state-level and physical threats; as such, governments and policies have struggled to keep pace with AI and other tech developments. WPS offers a starting point to cover that gap. Machine-learning tools like the Violence and Impacts Early Warning System, developed by the Peace Research Institute Oslo and Uppsala University, already use predictive modeling to flag conflict risk and are being expanded to track other impacted areas.⁴⁰ Similarly, research from U.N. Women and the U.N. University in Macau on AI and WPS in Southeast Asia found that AI meaningfully supports WPS objectives when women are included in its design and governance from the outset, and there would be immense strategic opportunity in mainstreaming WPS considerations directly into AI governance dialogues.⁴¹ While neither of these are perfect solutions, they both show that using AI tools for prevention is more successful – and governance is more adaptable – when it is combined, built, and guided with a WPS lens from the start, rather than retrofitted after.

36 Erin Stern, Kate Doyle, Ruti Levitov, and Lori Heise, “Unravelling progress: How US Foreign Aid Cuts Undermine Global Efforts to End Violence Against Women,” *BMC Public Health*, March 10, 2026, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC12977835/>.

37 Human Rights Watch, “Every Autocrat’s Dream: A Global Snapshot of the Human Rights Harms of U.S. Foreign Aid Cuts,” May 2026, https://www.hrw.org/sites/default/files/media_2026/05/us_aidcuts0526_0.pdf.

38 Bobby Kogan, “Trump’s Budget Request Cuts Programs That Help Ordinary Americans and Sinks That Money Toward War,” *Center for American Progress*, April 7, 2026, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/trumps-budget-request-cuts-programs-that-help-ordinary-americans-and-sinks-that-money-toward-war/>.

39 Jean Yves Ndzana Ndzana, “The Role of Artificial Intelligence in Conflict Prevention and Management in Africa,” *ACCORD*, 2024, <https://www.accord.org.za/analysis/the-role-of-artificial-intelligence-in-conflict-prevention-and-management-in-africa/>.

40 Paola Vesco, “It comes in peace? AI’s promise and peril for Women, Peace and Security,” *Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*, November 27, 2025, <https://www.prio.org/comments/1843>.

41 UN Women and UN University Institute in Macau, “Artificial Intelligence and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in South-East Asia,” *UN Women*, 2024, <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/en/digital-library/publications/2024/05/artificial-intelligence-and-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda>.

“Rather than treating AI simply as a replacement for human expertise or a way to increase efficiency, it must also be integrated into frameworks that prioritize prevention, inclusion, and human security.”

WPS AI INTEGRATION

While this area is ever-evolving, there are resources and guides available for how to both integrate WPS and other governance and prevention frameworks with AI, as well as how to develop and use AI responsibly in all areas of society. Here is a non-comprehensive list of resources:

- Munkh-Orgil Tuvdendarjaa, “Artificial Intelligence in Contemporary Peacekeeping Operations,” *DKI APCSS Security Nexus*, 2024, https://dkiapcss.edu/nexus_articles/artificial-intelligence-in-contemporary-peacekeeping-operations/.
- Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), “OECD AI Principles,” accessed March 16, 2026, <https://www.oecd.org/en/topics/ai-principles.html>.
- UNESCO, “Tackling Gender Bias and Harms in Artificial Intelligence (AI),” accessed March 16, 2026, <https://www.unesco.org/ethics-ai/en/articles/tackling-gender-bias-and-harms-artificial-intelligence-ai>
- UNESCO, “Recommendation on the Ethics of Artificial Intelligence,” 2021, <https://www.unesco.org/en/artificial-intelligence/recommendation-ethics>.
- Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Women’s Empowerment in Peace Processes (EMPOW), June 2025–June 2027, <https://www.prio.org/projects/2049>.
- Lizzie Short, “Building a Responsible AI Framework: 5 Key Principles for Organizations,” *Harvard Division of Continuing Education*, 2024, <https://professional.dce.harvard.edu/blog/building-a-responsible-ai-framework-5-key-principles-for-organizations/>

WPS and AI

Preventive deployment of AI requires an expert understanding of how digital spaces intersect with offline realities, including governance structures, social norms, and power dynamics. For example, identifying a coordinated harassment campaign is only useful if mechanisms are in place to respond in ways that protect affected individuals and address the systemic underlying drivers of the behavior. AI alone cannot achieve this.

The WPS agenda provides a proven model for coordination that emphasizes inclusivity, local knowledge, and sustained engagement. For decades, WPS experts have shown through research and practice that implementation relies on coordination among governments, civil society organizations, international institutions, academic researchers, and local communities. As an example, WPS National Action Plans, the primary mechanism through which governments implement global WPS commitments, are meant to be developed in a multisectoral approach, particularly to coordinate with local women’s networks and organizations.⁴² This framework offers a model for addressing complex and cross-cutting challenges in the security sector that cannot be addressed through isolated efforts. By contrast, current AI governance efforts, as previously outlined, have largely been shaped through government and industry channels without a comparable structural requirement for civil society or community input. Applying the WPS model, and the broader humanitarian principles it draws on, to AI governance and policy structures would close that gap and facilitate more comprehensive and context-sensitive approaches to prevention.⁴³

It is crucial to underscore the importance of mindfully integrating AI into policy and institutional frameworks with diverse stakeholders. For example, the United Nations Development Program’s AI-led Gender Social Media Monitoring tool, developed through a public-private partnership, sought to map harmful social narratives targeting women. The tool generated the kind of real-time evidence policymakers and civil society need to intervene before

42 WILPF, “1325 National Action Plans,” Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, <https://www.wilpf.org/women-peace-and-security/>.

43 United Nations High Commission for Refugees, “Humanitarian Principles,” accessed March 12, 2026, <https://emergency.unhcr.org/protection/protection-principles/humanitarian-principles>.

these narratives escalate into violent acts.⁴⁴ AI's value was not just in early detection but also in timing. Tools like this, when paired with the power of WPS built on community and collective action, can surface these narratives when there is still time to act instead of after their effects become evident or manifest in offline violence. The bottom line is that strengthening partnerships among organizations, platforms, academic researchers, and governments has been shown to identify and mitigate these early warning signals before they escalate.

Prevention broadly requires cross-sectored collaboration. No single sector can, nor should, address AI-driven conflict risks alone. Most major commercial AI developers maintain their own rules, guidelines, and built-in limits on their programs, but these remain voluntary, company-specific, and inconsistent. Further, as noted, no binding, harmonized policy framework that governments, industry, and civil society have jointly signed onto exists, and no existing individual initiatives connect these standards to prevention-oriented frameworks.⁴⁵

WPS is a proven framework for cross-sector coordination grounded in community-level insights.⁴⁶ Such collaboration could be accomplished through formal engagement mechanisms among AI developers, WPS practitioners, government leaders, and academic experts; joint research initiatives linking conflict-prevention scholars and technology firms; or coordination between peacebuilders and AI experts. These are all easily achievable at multiple scales. For example, New York University's 2025 "AI Across Sectors" convening brought together organizations including U.N. Women, the American Red Cross, Microsoft, and OpenAI to address participatory AI governance for peacebuilding.⁴⁷ One of the U.N. Innovation Network's multiple initiatives, the U.N. Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, partners with private sector and academic partners to run AI-assisted dialogues to, for example, identify common areas for cooperation by analyzing thousands of data points from different actors in active conflict settings like Yemen and Libya.⁴⁸ Initiatives such as these are particularly important, as they remain the exception rather than the norm, but they demonstrate that these collaboration mechanisms are not just hypothetical. There are opportunities to develop a cohesive digital and tech governance structure.

AI and Governance Frameworks

Democratic resilience is increasingly tied to the integrity and influence of digital participation. What distinguishes AI-enabled harassment and surveillance from other forms is scale and access. The same tools that can be used to monitor and detect threats can just as easily be used (deliberately or not) to suppress the participation of specific groups en masse. This has implications not only for representation but also for the legitimacy and effectiveness of institutions. AI systems that contribute to these dynamics, whether intentionally or inadvertently, therefore have direct consequences for stability. On the other hand, systems designed to protect participation and reduce harm can strengthen community resilience.

AI is already being integrated into decision-making spaces and security networks, but at a rate outpacing the safeguards needed to make it useful for prevention. Predictive analysis is part of the solution, but only if it is paired with

44 UNDP, Gender Social Media Monitoring, *UNDP*, July 29, 2022, <https://data.undp.org/insights/gender-social-media-monitoring>.

45 SCSIP, "AI for Crisis Response," *Substack*, 2025, <https://scsp222.substack.com/p/ai-for-crisis-response>

46 Paola Vesco, "It comes in peace? AI's promise and peril for women, peace and security," *Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)*, November 27, 2025, <https://www.prio.org/comments/1843>.

47 NYU, "AI Across Sectors: Bridging Technology and Peacebuilding," September 2025, <https://steinhardt.nyu.edu/ihdsc/ai-across-sectors-bridging-technology-and-peacebuilding>

48 DPPA Innovation, "Futuring Peace," UN Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, <https://www.behance.net/dppainnovation>



Victims of sexual and digital violence demonstrate outside the National Polytechnic Institute in Mexico City, Mexico, on Dec. 10, 2024. (Gerardo Vieyra/NurPhoto via Getty Images)

gender-responsive frameworks and cross-sector accountability. Without them, AI risks flagging the wrong signals, or the right ones too late. As an example of successful use of community and gender-driven uses of AI warning systems, the U.N.-backed Early Warning Systems for All⁴⁹ uses AI-backed predictive modeling to support and warn people about natural disasters in a timely manner, demonstrating that this kind of anticipatory system can work at scale. Other global initiatives based on AI modeling support rapid response programs for people to access resources or information in conflict settings.⁵⁰

But such tools have limits. While AI can enhance data analysis and pattern recognition, it cannot replace the contextual understanding and ethical judgment required for effective decision-making and innovation.⁵¹ Ensuring AI remains a tool in service of mindful and responsive human-led processes is critical to its effective, ethical, and responsible use.

The challenge is not simply whether AI systems are safe, transparent, or effective but also whether they are designed and governed in ways to help identify and mitigate conditions that contribute to instability before harm occurs. Applying lessons learned from WPS to AI governance initiatives focusing on prevention offers one pathway for ensuring that technological innovation strengthens, rather than undermines, individual security and democratic resilience.

The WPS and AI Connection in Detail

Online and Tech-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence

The increase of digital gender-based violence further illustrates the urgency of adopting a prevention lens and practice. AI-enabled tools have significantly expanded the scale and sophistication of this abuse, from nonconsensual deepfakes to coordinated harassment campaigns targeting journalists and activists. Research demonstrates that TFGBV has direct implications for political participation and governance outcomes. Women who experience online abuse are more likely to withdraw from public engagement, and the advent of AI-enhanced online abuse only exacerbates this.⁵² These gendered threats and exclusionary practices often precede more “visible” forms of political violence and democratic erosion, providing a window of opportunity for preventive action. Information ecosystems are increasingly mediated by algorithmic systems that determine what content is visible, amplified, or suppressed.⁵³ This reduces representation and weakens institutional strength and legitimacy.⁵⁴

The WPS’s protection pillar already provides much of the infrastructure this moment requires: established survivor-support networks, documentation protocols, and referral pathways. The focus now must be on developing the pathways between what AI can detect and flag and how WPS frameworks can support experts and leaders in applying that data to solution-focused and preventative initiatives.

49 UNDRR, “Global: AI-powered early-warning systems under the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) Initiative,” *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*, July 18, 2025, <https://www.undrr.org/resource/case-study/global-ai-powered-early-warning-systems-under-early-warnings-all-ew4all>.

50 United Nations University, “5 Ways AI Can Strengthen Early Warning Systems,” *United Nations University-EHS*, September 11, 2024, <https://unu.edu/ehs/series/5-ways-ai-can-strengthen-early-warning-systems>.

51 Steven Melendez “AI won’t make the call: Why human judgement still drives innovation,” *Harvard Business School*, September 29, 2025, <https://www.hbs.edu/bigs/artificial-intelligence-human-jugment-drives-innovation>.

52 New America, “The Targeting of Female Public Officials,” *New America*, 2023, <https://www.newamerica.org/insights/a-weapon-against-women-in-politics/the-targeting-of-female-public-officials/>

53 Rosario Palese, “Artificial Truth: Algorithmic Power, Epistemic Authority, and the Crisis of Democratic Knowledge,” *Societies* 16, no. 3 (2026): 102, <https://doi.org/10.3390/soc16030102>.

54 Lena Koch, Maria Paola Russo Riva, and Janina Isabel Steinert, “Technology-Facilitated Gender-Based Violence Against Politically Active Women: A Systematic Review of Psychological and Political Consequences and Women’s Coping Behaviors,” *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse* (2025). <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/15248380251343185>

Online Misogyny

One of the indicators policymakers and leaders most often overlook regarding radicalization and societal instability is normalization of misogyny and outright hostility toward women and other groups.⁵⁵ This normalization is not simply a social issue but when it is consistently overlooked it becomes a security issue. Many violent extremist groups and online radicalization networks rely on narratives of male grievance, rigid and archaic notions of gender hierarchies, and overt hostility toward women as part of their recruitment and mobilization strategies.⁵⁶

Online chat rooms and social media have increasingly been used by both state and local actors to target men's views of and relationships with women to recruit and radicalize into different extremist ideals and actions. Recently, an investigation by British-American journalist, broadcaster, documentarian, and author Louis Theroux of the "manosphere" (an online "network" promoting idealized masculinities and spreading misogynistic and anti-women narratives)⁵⁷ found that the movement's online messaging was spread online through algorithms that prioritized engagement over content.⁵⁸ English feminist writer Laura Bates documented the consequences emerging from various online chatrooms that give a space for people, typically men, to discuss their anger toward and frustration with women. This anger has been shown to translate from these AI-assisted online forums and groups to in-person acts of violence, terrorism, and misogynistic backlash.⁵⁹

Additionally, these narratives frequently intersect with racist, xenophobic, and antigovernment sentiments, opening pathways for other forms of extremism that can manifest in political violence and instability. This is not a new concern for WPS. In 2015, the U.N. Security Council passed Resolution 2242, formally linking the WPS agenda to countering violent extremism, recognizing gendered grievance narratives as a radicalization pathway nearly a decade before AI began accelerating their spread.⁶⁰ These forms of violence are not contained within digital spaces and are, in fact, exacerbated using AI and mis- and dis-information, which contributes to broader patterns of intimidation, exclusion, and democratic erosion.^{61,62}

Early Warning Signs

Traditional security frameworks focus on indicators that emerge after instability has become visible, such as mass displacement, unrest, violent attacks, and more. The WPS agenda takes a broader view, recognizing and seeking to address threats to individual and community security that emerge long before political violence, democratic erosion, or armed conflict.⁶³ These indicators provide an opportunity for earlier intervention and prevention.

Importantly, early warning indicators are not limited to violence. Declining trust

55 Sarah Ascol, Wiam Ayachi, Ashley Lovell, Kayla McGill, Emiley Pagrabs, and Ryan Yandell, "Gender, Terrorism, and Foreign Fighters," *Report prepared for the Office of Global Women's Issues, U.S. Department of State*, April 2018, https://bush.tamu.edu/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Gender-Terrorism-and-Foreign-Fighters_2018WPSCapstone.pdf.

56 OSCE and WIN, "The Linkages Between Violent Misogyny and Violent Extremism and Radicalization that lead to Terrorism," *Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe*, September 6, 2022, https://cdn.osce.org/sites/default/files/ff_documents/d/c/525297.pdf.

57 Georgia Lala, "Into the Manosphere: Louis Theroux's Documentary and How Platforms Enable the Business of Misogyny," *Global Network on Extremism & Technology*, June 2026, <https://gnet-research.org/2026/06/02/into-the-manosphere-louis-therouxs-documentary-and-how-platforms-enable-the-business-of-misogyny/>.

58 Dylan Valley, "Inside the Manosphere Exposes Online Hate and the Dying Voice of Traditional Media," *The Conversation*, 2026, <https://theconversation.com/inside-the-manosphere-exposes-online-hate-and-the-dying-voice-of-traditional-media-279034>.

59 David Futrelle, "Men Who Hate Women' Explores the Manosphere World of Incels," *NPR*, March 13, 2021, <https://www.npr.org/2021/03/13/976379494/manosphere-world-of-incels-exposed-in-laura-bates-book-men-who-hate-women>.

60 UNSCR 2242, "Resolution 2242," Adopted 2015, UN Security Council, https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/s_res_2242.pdf.

61 Constance Copley, Jason Luger, Lisa Thomas, and Ozge Dilaver, "The Political Geographies of AI and the Manosphere," *Political Geography* 125 (2026): 103462, <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0962629825001957>.

62 Laura Bates, *Men Who Hate Women: From Incels to Pickup Artists, the Truth About Extreme Misogyny and How It Affects Us All* (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2020).

63 UN Women, "What is the Women, Peace and Security Agenda?" *UN Women*, October 20, 2025, <https://www.unwomen.org/en/articles/explainer/what-is-the-women-peace-and-security-agenda>.

“Policymakers often conflate AI with technology broadly, leading to both overestimation and underestimation of its impact.”

in institutions, increased political polarization, restrictions on civic spaces, and attacks on electoral legitimacy can all signal growing instability. While these trends emerge gradually and could be difficult to identify across multiple systems, WPS has long emphasized that instability frequently emerges first at the community level. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe has documented this directly, noting that men and women often experience and report threats differently, making early warning systems that integrate a gender lens more accurate.⁶⁴ Leaders in this space have spent decades gathering information and working with individuals and communities to identify these trends. This work could be bolstered greatly with AI-assisted analyses to help identify patterns across reporting systems, information environments, public discourse, and civic sentiment that suggest democratic resilience is weakening.

Prevention as an AI Governance Imperative

Existing AI governance frameworks (which are essentially nonexistent) remain insufficiently aligned with prevention objectives, reflecting the lack of prevention focus in national security strategies broadly.⁶⁵ National strategies frequently emphasize innovation, economic competitiveness, and technological leadership, reflecting competition in AI development. While these priorities are not inherently incompatible with prevention, they often overshadow considerations related to social cohesion, human security, and conflict mitigation.⁶⁶ As a result, governance approaches tend to focus on regulating outcomes after harm has occurred rather than shaping systems to mitigate risk in earlier stages.

This mirrors a broader tendency within the security sector to prioritize crisis response over prevention.⁶⁷ A WPS-informed approach to AI governance would require what WPS already mandates elsewhere: gender-disaggregated risk assessment and structured civil society consultations built into policy feedback loops. AI governance has largely inherited this orientation, investing in managing risks once they emerge but not identifying and addressing the conditions that contribute to instability. This challenge is compounded by a widespread lack of clarity and understanding regarding AI capabilities and limitations. Policymakers often conflate AI with technology broadly, leading to both overestimation and underestimation of its impact.⁶⁸ This can manifest as overreliance on and a lack of awareness of the ways in which AI is already influencing social and political dynamics. Improving AI literacy among policymakers and security practitioners is essential to ensure governance approaches are grounded in realistic assessments and that AI use by governments will be applied in an ethical manner.⁶⁹

WPS and AI: Underutilized in Prevention

Few policies require AI systems to incorporate gender analysis, conflict-prevention research, or intersectional considerations into their design and deployment. Where such considerations exist, they are often nonbinding, not backed by funding, or applied and/or reported on inconsistently. Research highlights persistent gaps in accountability and enforcement, particularly with

64 OSCE, 'Gender and Early Warning Systems: An Introduction,' 2009, OSCE, <https://odhr.osce.org/sites/default/files/f/documents/1/a/40269.pdf>.

65 Allison Minor, "Where U.S Conflict Prevention Falls Short and How to Fix It," *Brookings Institute*, September 18, 2024, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/where-us-conflict-prevention-falls-short-and-how-to-fix-it/>.

66 Patrick W. Quirk, "Why and How the National Security Strategy Should Address Fragile States," *Brookings Institute*, March 2, 2021, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/why-and-how-the-national-security-strategy-should-address-fragile-states/>.

67 Lindsey McLendon, Rachael Eisenberg, and Nick Wilson, "Improving Public Safety Through Better Accountability and Prevention," *Center for American Progress*, May 16, 2024, <https://www.americanprogress.org/article/improving-public-safety-through-better-accountability-and-prevention/>.

68 Sarosh Nagar and David Eaves, "Governments Can't Agree on What AI Actually Is," *Washington Post*, May 11, 2026, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/ripple/2026/05/11/governance-artificial-intelligence-ai-superintelligence-agi/>.

69 Marlon Possard and Hannah Rachel Josef, "Artificial Intelligence and Ethics in the Era of Digital Transformation," *The Defence Horizon Journal*, February 12, 2026, <https://tdhj.org/blog/post/ai-ethics-transformation/>.

respect to the social impacts of AI systems. Overreliance on AI in governance without compensating for trained experts and qualified personnel risks reinforcing existing biases, narrowing analytical frameworks, and reducing accountability.⁷⁰ Without more deliberate integration of these principles, and more public awareness and education, AI governance will continue to fall short of addressing the conditions that contribute to instability.⁷¹

A central barrier to leveraging AI for prevention in tandem with WPS is the continued underutilization of the prevention capacity of the WPS agenda in national and international security practices. Implementation of WPS at senior governance levels has often focused on participation and protection in postconflict or crisis settings, rather than preventing conflict. This reactive application limits the ability of policymakers to identify and address early warning indicators linked to individual and community insecurity. It also reinforces a fragmented understanding of security in which gendered harms are treated as secondary rather than integral factors.

Positive, albeit reactive, examples of this approach are beginning to emerge. Organizations in conflict settings are using AI-assisted monitoring to identify harmful narratives,⁷² track changes in online discourse,⁷³ and analyze open-source information relative to community security.⁷⁴ Countries such as the Netherlands are focusing on digital safety to support local peacebuilders and protect civic spaces by improving situational awareness and highlighting human rights and women's security as a core component of AI usage.⁷⁵ However, these examples, while representative of WPS-focused solutions to addressing harmful narratives and community security, remain the exception rather than the norm.

Where gender analysis, conflict prevention, and WPS considerations are present in the development and deployment of AI systems, they are often voluntary, inconsistently applied, or insufficiently resourced.⁷⁶ As a result, responsibility for ethical implementation relies largely on individual developers or institutions instead of being integrated into governance structures themselves. The question is not whether AI should play a role in future security environments; it already is. The challenge is whether those in the security sector will choose to align AI policy and governance with preventive approaches like WPS that prioritize human security, democratic resilience, and risk analysis prior to conflict escalation.

70 Debra Kahn, "Human Judgment vs. AI Insight: Rethinking Strategy in an Automated World," *International Institute for Learning*, April 1, 2026, <https://blog.iil.com/human-judgment-vs-ai-insight-rethinking-strategy-in-an-automated-world/>.

71 Noemi Dreksler, Stephen Clare, Kaylyn Jackson Schiff, Daniel S. Schiff, Chloe Ahn, achary Peskowitz, Harry Law, "What the Public Thinks About AI and the Implications for Governance," *Brookings Institution*, 2023, <https://www.brookings.edu/articles/what-the-public-thinks-about-ai-and-the-implications-for-governance/>.

72 Mark Finlayson and Azwad Anjum Islam, "Weaponized Storytelling: How AI is Helping Researchers Sniff Out Disinformation Campaigns," *FIU News*, May 29, 3035, <https://news.fiu.edu/2025/weaponized-storytelling-how-ai-is-helping-researchers-sniff-out-disinformation-campaigns>.

73 D. Erokhin, "Real-Time AI Monitoring of Online Discourse for Crisis Communication," *International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA)*, November 19-20, 2025, <https://pure.iiasa.ac.at/id/eprint/21008/>.

74 Fida Hussain, "The role of Artificial Intelligence in Early Warning System for Violent Conflicts: Explores how technology can predict and prevent violence, a cutting edge, and interdisciplinary angle," *Advance Social Science Archive Journal*, Vol. 3 No. 02, 2025, <https://assajournal.com/index.php/36/article/view/475>.

75 OECD, "The Netherlands' Inclusive and Human Rights-Based Approach to Supporting Civil Society in the Digital Age," *OECD*, June 18, 2025, https://www.oecd.org/en/publications/2021/03/development-co-operation-tips-tools-insights-practices_d307b396/the-netherlands-inclusive-and-human-rights-based-approach-to-supporting-civil-society-in-the-digital-age_f4a75e24.html.

76 CMI, "Gender and Inclusive Mediation Strategies: Practical Guidance for Digital Inclusion," *CMI Martti Ahtisaari Peace Foundation*, April 27, 2026, <https://cmi.fi/2026/04/27/new-practical-guidance-note-examines-how-digital-tools-can-support-inclusive-peace-mediation/>.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Current approaches to AI governance and policy globally remain fragmented, largely voluntary, and primarily oriented toward innovation, risk management, or post-harm mitigation rather than prevention.⁷⁷ Existing frameworks, including principles advanced by bodies such as the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and emerging regulatory efforts within the EU establish important norms around transparency, accountability, and safety.⁷⁸ However, they do not systematically address early warning, conflict prevention, or the protection of individual and community security as core objectives.

No comprehensive governance framework integrates gender analysis, conflict-prevention research, and the WPS agenda into the life cycle and application of AI systems for security. This gap between the capabilities of AI and its application in preventing conflict and mitigating risks is increasing. Addressing it requires coordinated action across sectors and issue areas to move beyond reactive governance toward a prevention-focused approach.

1 BUILD UPON EXISTING LAWS AND STRATEGIES

2 DEVELOP ACTIONABLE TOOLS

For U.S. Government and Congressional Initiatives

Prevention must be embedded as a core objective of AI use and national security. Departments and agencies must establish and enforce requirements for gender-responsive and conflict-informed risk assessments for AI systems deployed (and being developed) in governance, security, and information environments, using existing laws and strategies (such as the Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018⁷⁹ and the U.S. Women, Peace and Security Act of 2017⁸⁰), ensuring that risks are identified and mitigated before harm occurs. The WPS Act, Elie Wiesel Act, and other existing policy frameworks provide mechanisms and outline avenues for preventing conflict and promoting social cohesion through elevating and implementing a whole of society approach to developing responsible policies and implementation initiatives.

AI governance should build upon these structures rather than entirely separate processes. This requires mandating the integration of WPS prevention principles when using AI as a tool for diplomacy, foreign policy engagements, and security planning. Federal funding should be directed toward targeted research that examines how AI shapes early warning indicators, individual security, and democratic resilience.

For Think Tanks, Academic Institutions, and Nonprofits

Advance applied, interdisciplinary research that directly links the developing AI governance structures with WPS and conflict prevention outcomes to bridge the persistent gap between technical development and policy implementation.

Organizations and leaders should translate technical risks into actionable tools that policymakers can implement, moving beyond abstract analysis to operational guidance. The Institute of Strategic Dialogue's (ISD) work on misogynistic radicalization pathways offers a strong example of this dynamic.

77 Steven Feldstein ed., "Digital Democracy in a Divided Global Landscape," *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, May 2025, <https://carnegieendowment.org/research/2025/05/digital-democracy-in-a-divided-global-landscape>.

78 Airlie Hilliard, Ayesha Gulley, Emre Kazim, and Adriano Soares Koshiyama, "Artificial Intelligence Policy Worldwide: A Comparative Analysis," *Royal Society Open Science* 13, no. 2 (2026): 242234, <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsos/article/13/2/242234/480264/Artificial-intelligence-policy-worldwide-a>

79 *Women, Peace, and Security Act of 2017*, S. 1158, 115th Cong. (2017), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1158>

80 *Elie Wiesel Genocide and Atrocities Prevention Act of 2018*, S. 1158, 115th Cong. (2018), <https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/senate-bill/1158>

3 DELINEATE POLICY GOALS

By going beyond the absence of gender-disaggregated data on TFGBV in some platforms' algorithms, ISD delineated specific policy asks, including standardized transparency reporting requirements, survivor centered standards, and mandated intersectional analysis in AI risk assessments.⁸¹

4 PARTNERSHIPS TO SHARE AND COORDINATE INSIGHTS

In addition to analysis and proposed tools, think tanks, academic institutions, and nonprofits can serve as conveners, bringing together tech leaders, security practitioners, and WPS experts to share insights and coordinate responses. Partnerships are key in this effort.

5 IDENTIFY AND MITIGATE AI HARM

Companies must take an active role in identifying and mitigating AI-enabled harms, including deepfakes, coordinated harassment, and mis- and disinformation that disproportionately target women and marginalized populations.

6 EDUCATIONAL INVESTMENT

Invest in education initiatives and improve efforts for AI literacy for policymaking and public resilience. Ensure education highlights human-led critical thinking and expert-led implementation.

7 TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Institutionalizing transparency and accountability mechanisms is essential to ensure alignment with democratic values and human security, particularly as AI systems scale and shape public discourse.

8 DIGITAL VIOLENCE RECOGNITION

Digital gender-based violence and targeted attacks must be recognized as core national and international security concerns.⁸²

9 AI LITERACY INVESTMENT

Investments in AI literacy are necessary to strengthen both policymaking and public resilience, while reinforcing that AI supports, rather than replaces, human judgment and expertise.

10 INSTITUTIONALIZE COLLABORATION

Cross-sector collaboration must be institutionalized as a standard component of AI governance, ensuring that prevention is embedded in both policy design and implementation.

For the Private Sector

Prevention must be integrated into the full life cycle of AI systems. This includes embedding gender analysis and conflict-prevention metrics into design, testing, and deployment processes rather than treating them as secondary considerations.

Reframe AI as a Preventive Security Tool

Digital gender-based violence and targeted attacks must be recognized as core national and international security concerns.⁸²

Investments in AI literacy are necessary to strengthen both policymaking and public resilience, while reinforcing that AI supports, rather than replaces, human judgment and expertise.

Cross-sector collaboration must be institutionalized as a standard component of AI governance, ensuring that prevention is embedded in both policy design and implementation.

Conclusion

AI is already shaping the conditions used to influence information ecosystems, impacting who can and will continue to participate, creating opportunities for collaboration as well as expanding divides. WPS was built for precisely this kind of moment, recognizing that threats to individual and community security are signals of broader instability and that preventing conflict requires coordination across government, civil society, and international institutions rather than siloed action. If AI is being integrated into security decision-making

81 Sara Bundtzen, 'Misogynistic Pathways to Radicalization: Recommended Measures for Platforms to Assess and Mitigate Online Gender-Based Violence,' September 14, 2023, *Institute for Strategic Dialogue*, <https://www.isdglobal.org/publication/misogynistic-pathways-to-radicalisation-recommended-measures-for-platforms-to-assess-and-mitigate-online-gender-based-violence/>

82 S&P Global Ratings, 'The Frontier of Cyber Risk: AI Will Multiply Threats and Bolster Defenses,' 2024, <https://www.spglobal.com/ratings/en/regulatory/article/the-frontier-of-cyber-risk-ai-will-multiply-threats-and-bolster-defenses-s101672778>

structures, it logically must also be part of the prevention and peacemaking structures that WPS has spent decades building.⁸³ This is not a future challenge, it is an immediate policy gap.

Ensuring that AI development and governance are inclusive, prevention-oriented, and collaborative will determine whether it contributes to stability or reinforces existing vulnerabilities. AI's potential in the context of security is immense, but it must be viewed as an additional piece of the security framework around prevention, not as the entire solution. Aligning AI with the prevention pillar of the WPS agenda and learning from WPS implementation and multistakeholder coordination provides a clear and necessary pathway for leveraging potential while mitigating risks. Similarly, WPS does not need to be reinvented to accommodate AI. It needs to be resourced, prioritized, and treated as a central component of security policy rather than peripheral.

Prevention is not a technical challenge but a policy choice. AI and WPS must be viewed and utilized as complementary tools for anticipating and preventing instability, rather than merely responding to it after the fact.

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⁸³ Rod Moshtagi, Josh Cortez, Angie Sohn, "AI and the Future of Conflict Resolution: How Can Artificial Intelligence Improve Peace Negotiations? Event Summary," *The Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School*, May 27, 2025, <https://www.belfercenter.org/research-analysis/ai-and-future-conflict-resolution-how-can-artificial-intelligence-improve-peace> <https://www.belfercenter.org/research-analysis/ai-and-future-conflict-resolution-how-can-artificial-intelligence-improve-peace>

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