The Eight Point Agenda:
Practical, positive outcomes for girls and women in crisis

1. **Strengthen women’s security in crisis: Stop violence against women**
   - Violence against women is an affront to the foundations of human rights, human decency and human dignity.
   - Rape and sexual violence are not collateral damage: they are methods of war. Perpetrators of these war crimes must be held accountable - by their communities, governments and by the international community, including through the International Criminal Court (ICC).
   - Violence against women also impedes progress in poverty eradication; combating HIV/AIDS; and peace and security.
   - Men and boys have a critical role to play in reversing the pandemic of violence against women.

2. **Advance gender justice: Provide justice and security for women**
   - Laws to protect women’s rights must be included and enforced within legal frameworks.
   - Women must know their rights and be able to access legal systems, e.g., through free legal services.
   - Custom, tradition or religious beliefs should never serve to excuse or justify violence against women.

3. **Expand Women’s Citizenship, Participation and Leadership: Advance women as decision-makers**
   - Women need the skills and confidence to influence the decisions that directly affect their lives, including through direct participation in government and the security sector.
   - Women often are denied access to business transactions and excluded from negotiations surrounding land titles. Legislation needs to change to allow women to access business and land ownership.
   - Women need to be represented in social, political and economic spheres, giving them a voice in the peace and recovery processes.

4. **Build Peace with and for women: Involve women in all peace processes**
   - Women must be involved in all stages of the peace and recovery processes, including as high-level negotiators in peace talks.
   - Peace agreements offer opportunities for inclusiveness, democratic reform and for gender equality. These opportunities must be seized.
   - Gender provisions must be included in peace agreements and given priority as agreements are implemented.

5. **Promote gender equality in disaster risk reduction: Value women’s knowledge and experience**
   - Women’s unique needs must be incorporated in analyses of disaster risk and post disaster risk assessments.
As community structures crumble and violence escalates, steps must be taken to prevent the increased vulnerability of women and girls. Women’s economic potential goes unrealized as their interests are not factored into the recovery effort. For example, cash-for-work schemes often do not specifically target women-headed households. Temporary housing often denies women privacy, increases their vulnerability to exploitation and discrimination and marginalizes widows. This has an effect on the well-being of women and children. Women’s experience and knowledge must be valued and incorporated in any plans or policies.

6. Ensure gender-responsive recovery: Support men and women to build back better
- Women must be given equal opportunities to livelihoods, including access to land and credit. Rebuilding in key sectors such as transportation, shelter and health care must specifically benefit women.
- Recovering from crisis provides an opportunity to “build back better”, reducing inequalities and protecting the rights of the most vulnerable.

7. Transform government to deliver for women: Include women’s issues in the national agenda
- Women need to be engaged in decision-making on government budgets and resource mobilization.
- Incentives need be offered to public institutions that address women’s needs.

8. Develop Capacities for Social Change: Work together to transform society
- Women organizations and networks need to be strengthened to ensure responsiveness and accountability on gender issues.
- Men need to be educated to promote gender equality and support women’s empowerment.

Achievement of this Eight-Point Agenda will require:

Supporting full implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325; Incorporating gender equality priorities into advocacy and strategic planning in the development, humanitarian, peace, and security spheres; Strengthening human resources, policies and programmes to ensure responsiveness and accountability on gender issues; Building partnerships to maximize impact on gender priorities; Developing gender-responsive funding mechanisms and resource mobilization strategies; Supporting data collection that counts women, counts what women value, and values what women count; and Advancing intellectual leadership, knowledge management, monitoring and evaluation on gender and CPR issues.