

GUEST EDITOR'S NOTE

Negar Partow¹

On 8 March 2021 the 110th anniversary of the International Women's Day celebrated women of the past, present and future and commemorated more than one million women and men who marched across Europe in 1911 for women's rights and to end discrimination against women. It was only after the 1970s, however, that discourses on gender equality went beyond what had been formally exclusive to demanding rights and ending discrimination. The second wave of feminism in the late 1960s and early 1970s posed more significant challenges to the existing patriotic order. In 1982, Harvard professor Carol Gilligan published her research on differences between men and women in the process of moral development. The study was based on the Heinz dilemma, asking what Heinz should do, having exhausted every other possibility, he must decide whether to steal an expensive drug that offers the only hope of saving his dying wife. In her research, Gilligan found out that men responded to the Heinz dilemma by focusing on the empirical data and used them to decide the best course of action. Women, on the other hand, saw the problem to be more complex and focused on the relationship and connections amongst agents in the dilemma to find a solution. They responded by asking what would happen to the dying women if the husband is arrested and who would look after her. Gilligan pointed out that while men in her study paid attention to ethics of rules and regulations, female participants focused on "ethics of care", and considered the proper way to address the dilemma to be fighting the question and see the individual in the story with connections rather than an isolated entity. For women who responded to the dilemma, those relations mattered. Gilligan argued that in general, the male's approach to ethics is based on deciding what rules apply to individuals rather than being connected with others in a web of relationships. Acknowledging this difference not only highlights the implicit care that we all have explicitly but also it enhances our ability to assess security challenges and resolve them.

¹ Dr Negar Partow is a Senior Lecturer in the Centre for Defence and Security Studies at Massey University, and guest editor of this volume put together to observe International Women's Day, 8 March 2021.

The findings of Gilligan's and later gender studies scholars expanded Gilligan's finding to centralise the importance of gender equality and changed the very character of political philosophy by posing significant challenges to liberalism and its definition of an individual. This focus on relations and connections that was revealed in the 1970s and 1980s studies became a building block for vital studies on defence and security, all of which highlighted the lack of women's voices in the field and its significance in decision making about matters of security and defence. It took however, another two decades of dedicated work, writings, lobbying and raising awareness before the significance of women's voice was acknowledged in the field of defence and security by the United Nations Security Council in the UNSCR1325. This was the first international document in which women were not presented only as the victims of war but it reaffirmed the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace building, peacekeeping, humanitarian efforts and in post-conflict reconstruction. It emphasises the necessity of women's equal participation in all efforts regarding the preventing and ending of a conflict as well as reconstruction efforts. Two more decades have passed since the resolution, yet decision making about security issues that matter globally still are taken almost exclusively without the presence and participation of women. This issue of the *National Security Journal* is dedicated to the research of women researchers with, or associated with, the Centre for Defence and Security Studies, to address significant issues in New Zealand's national and international security environment.

The five articles in this issue of *National Security Journal* are all concerned with matters of national security, criminalisation and securitisation in narratives and practices of security. Deidre McDonald, writes about the significance of reframing New Zealand's biosecurity conversation in the post-Covid 19 era, a discussion that is essential for and relevant to thinking about risk management and biodiversity in the time of a pandemic. She argues that in order for New Zealand to be prepared, clear messaging about biosecurity practices, including quarantine, movement restriction and isolation as well as those risks that connects animal health management with human health are necessary. Drawing upon New Zealand's leading role in the international biosecurity discourse, MacDonal views New Zealand's biosecurity leadership position a great opportunity for developing a closer connection between human health and biosecurity threats internationally.

Integration and community policing policies are central themes in Yvette McKelvie's article on community policing of the Syrian community in Wellington in this issue. To this end McKelvie interviews those who work with Syrian community in Wellington and discusses some of their challenges and vulnerabilities. She highlights how, by paying specific attention to the role of community and cultural awareness, community policing could become more efficient and effective.

Claire Bibby takes a closer look at the role of communication and imaging in better policing and in developing a more inclusive security discourse that would allow police officers to communicate with the public in a more effective and influential way. She bases her research in the academic critique of the normative discourses of security, and surveys over one hundred police officers about their familiarity with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 and its implementations. Bibby shows how the lack of organisational awareness of the resolution and its implementation is embedded in the hegemonic and normative narrative of security and how changing perceptions of communication can foster transformational change.

Sheridan Webb undertakes a historical study of New Zealand's counter-terrorism legislation from 1977 to 2002 and discusses the internal and external factors that instigated change in the regulations. She notes that no counter-terrorism legislation has been developed in New Zealand that is not a response to a UN resolution or external stimulus. She argues that New Zealand governments historically have had little appetite for developing robust counter-terrorism policy or legislation, and in the wake of the recent Royal Commission of Inquiry report two options are open for New Zealand – to take a more proactive approach to terrorism, or revert back to previous neglect. The history of abortion law in a comparative study between Poland and New Zealand is the focus of Justyna Eska-Mikołajewska's article in this issue. Eska-Mikołajewska compares the history of abortion laws, particularly drawing on the connection between changes in politics and criminalisation of abortion to highlight that the existence of a progressive law does not guarantee its sustainability and how women's individual security and their rights could be easily undermined by political alliances that are often irrelevant to abortion or individual security of women. In the case of New Zealand, she points out, the government's decision to decriminalise abortion and consider health issues have prevented this health issue becoming further politicised. In her article, Eska-Mikołajewska explores how politicisation and criminalisation of abortion reproduces a specific discourse of power that reduces women's agency in politics.

This issue would not materialise without the hard work and determination of the editorial team of the *National Security Journal*. I particularly appreciate the work of Dr John Battersby, the editor of the journal, on reviewing individual articles and for working closely with our authors. I am also grateful to Mrs Pamela Dolman and Mr Nicholas Dynon who supported Dr Battersby and I in formatting the articles and uploading them on the *National Security Journal's* website. Finally, authors in this issue have been a real motivation and central in this process. I thank them all in considering the *National Security Journal* and trusting us as the platform for publishing their work. It was an absolute pleasure working with you all as the guest editor of this issue.

