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Statement of Purpose

The Women's Initiative is a vital part of our collective efforts to realize a world where nuclear weapons will never be used again and where all are guaranteed the right to a safe and secure future.

We must build a nuclear policy field that is an equitable space, open to new ways of thinking. The exclusion of ideas, people and organizations that diverge from the conventional or traditional is an obstacle to achieving a more just, inclusive and secure world. We all should strive to inject approaches that will place people, not the weapons themselves, at the center of policy.

Including women's voices as well as other marginalized and diverse perspectives in the creation of nuclear policy is necessary to achieve the vision of a nuclear-free world. It will help counter prevailing views on the necessity of threats and force for resolving conflict and broaden the horizon of what is possible. In plain words, it is essential that we work to make sure that good ideas that have been blocked from even entering the room are now put squarely on the table.

We should explore new security paradigms that include more diverse, feminist and inclusive perspectives. Given an opportunity to bring the full scope of their experiences to a security sector that has often devalued them, women can help move us all closer to a world liberated from the threat of nuclear catastrophe.

As a funder, advocate and multiplier of the work of grantees and as a foundation in a position to influence many in the security and peace sector, Ploughshares Fund commits to the following:

- Meeting the highest standards of transparency and accountability in our grantmaking practices.
- Ensuring that gender issues and perspectives are injected at the beginning of any decisionmaking process, not at the end, as has been done in the past, if at all.
- Promoting women leaders externally and encouraging the inclusion of diverse and emergent voices within the nuclear policy field.
- Changing the culture and incentives that inhibit the development of policies capable of giving us real and sustainable security.