



# Peace Operations Training Institute®

Study peace and humanitarian  
relief any place, any time.

## August 2026 Newsletter

### In this issue:

|                                                                               |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| New Releases and Updates .....                                                | 1 |
| Recent Engagements .....                                                      | 2 |
| New Women, Peace, and Security Webinar with Maj. Gen.<br>Joyce Sitienei ..... | 3 |
| From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri .....                   | 4 |

### Connect with POTI »



### New Releases and Updates

POTI is proud to announce the new course [\*Family Responsibilities and Care\*](#), written in partnership with the Monash Global Peace and Security Centre. The course discusses how family and caring responsibilities affect the recruitment, retention, well-being, and career progression of uniformed personnel in the security sector and peace operations. It draws on global research, including interviews and surveys of personnel from diverse countries and missions. French and Spanish translations are available, as well as an English audiobook.

The Institute has also expanded its offerings for *Cultural Awareness for Peace Operations Personnel*, written by Dr. Robert A. Rubinstein and Dr. Clementine Fujimura. A French translation ([\*Sensibilisation culturelle à l'intention du personnel des opérations de paix\*](#)) and an English audiobook are now available, making the course more accessible to students with different language backgrounds and learning styles.

## Recent Engagements

Over the past few months, POTI was honoured to connect with partners and advocates across the global stage at several unique engagements.

In June, the POTI Deputy Director Elisabeth Rosenbaum Maurer presented to the Regional Roundtable on UN Peace Operations in Ljubljana, Slovenia. The event, hosted by the Government of Slovenia, the Peace Operations Training Centre (POTC), and the United Nations Light Coordination Mechanism (LCM), provided a forum for discussing the future of peace operations and methods for ensuring training adapts to meet operational realities.

In July, the POTI Executive Director and Deputy Director discussed present and future realities of the peacekeeping training landscape with the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP). PELP is a group of UN Member States and UN agencies invested in the development and delivery of effective e-learning for peace operations personnel. PELP meetings provide opportunities for nations to provide feedback on the use of e-learning for training. One example is the following feedback from Brig. Gen. Alobawone Atogebakoga, Military Adviser of the Permanent Mission of Ghana to the United Nations:

*Brig. Gen. Atogebakoga expressed Ghana's strong support for POTI e-learning. He shared how he personally benefited from POTI courses while serving in the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei, noting that the training equipped him for responsibilities beyond traditional military preparation, particularly in areas such as protection of civilians, ethics, and human rights.*

*He highlighted how POTI e-learning is beneficial for peacekeepers by offering flexible training available without administrative or logistical barriers. He also noted POTI courses provided a standardized level of knowledge among those on mission, ensuring senior mission leaders and troops shared a common*



*POTI Deputy Director Elisabeth Rosenbaum Maurer presenting at the roundtable discussion.*

*understanding of UN mandates and responsibilities, reducing knowledge gaps among personnel from different troop-contributing countries.*

*He emphasized that, given the UN's current financial constraints and the UN80 reform initiatives, strengthening e-learning is an efficient and cost-effective way to sustain high-quality peacekeeping training.*

The Institute is grateful for the continued advocacy and consultation of PELP participants.

In August, POTI Deputy Director Elisabeth Rosenbaum Maurer attended a roundtable discussion on the project *Advancing the Meaningful Participation of Women in UN Peace Operations by Supporting Personnel with Caring Responsibilities*. The project was the basis of the Institute's new course, *Family Responsibilities and Care*. Both initiatives explore a key barrier to women's full and meaningful participation in peace operations. Ms. Rosenbaum Maurer discussed the course with participants from a variety of organizations and various UN bodies. We thank the Permanent Mission of Canada and the Elsie Initiative Fund for hosting the event and providing a forum to discuss this important issue.

## New Women, Peace, and Security Webinar with Maj. Gen. Joyce Sitienei



*Maj. Gen. Sitienei with POTI Executive Director Ramona Taheri at a conference.*

The Institute's 2026 instalment of its Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) webinar series features Major General Joyce Sitienei of Kenya, a distinguished leader with more than two decades of experience in peace operations.

Maj. Gen. Sitienei currently serves as Deputy Vice Chancellor of the National Defence University-Kenya (NDU-K) and previously served as Director of the International Peace Support Training Centre (IPSTC), a valued partner of POTI, from 2021 to 2025.

Throughout her career, she has held key roles in command, training, and strategic leadership, championing inclusive approaches to peace operations and mentoring the next generation of peace operations personnel.

In the webinar, Maj. Gen. Sitienei emphasizes the critical importance of women's participation in peace operations, stating:

"Women's participation in peace operations is vital to the credibility and effectiveness of peace operations. Women peacekeepers often have greater access to local communities, particularly women and children, which enhances situational awareness and strengthens protection strategies and builds trust. Beyond these advantages, inclusive peacekeeping reflects the fundamental principles that peacekeeping operations exist to serve entire societies, reinforcing military legitimacy and long-term stability."

Regarding the transformations she has witnessed over the past two decades, she notes progress, alongside the need for continued advancement:

"Since the early 2000s, I have witnessed significant progress. I have seen increased deployment of women, stronger policy frameworks, and greater visibility in women leadership roles. However, transformation must go further, and I hope to see more women in command, in senior positions in mission, better alignment between policy commitments and operational realities, and full integration of WPS into planning, budgeting, and evaluation. True success will be evident when women's participation is institutionalized rather than exceptional."

Offering guidance to students and future peace operations personnel, she shares:

"To students and future peacekeepers preparing for peace support operations, my message to you is this: Competence, integrity, and empathy are all very, very important. It is important that you understand your mandate and respect the communities that you will work with. And remember your conduct represents not only your uniform but also your country and the international community."

She also shares a message specifically for women pursuing careers in peace operations:

"Remember that you belong to peace operations by qualifications and commitment, and that you are not there by exception. Lead with confidence. Remain grounded in values and recognize that peace can be built as much through character as through capability."

POTI commends Maj. Gen. Sitienei's leadership and contributions to advancing the WPS agenda. Her insights offer valuable guidance for those working toward more inclusive and effective peace operations worldwide.

The Institute would also like to thank its funders who support our programme on WPS: Global Affairs Canada's Peace and Stabilization Operations Programme; the Danish Ministry of Defence; the Government of Sweden; and the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office of the United Kingdom.

Watch the full webinar [on YouTube here](#).

## From the Desk of the Executive Director Ramona Taheri



We at the Institute are deeply grateful for our partners, including those featured in this newsletter. Monash University recently partnered with POTI to create a new course on family responsibilities. This is part of a larger research project on how caring responsibilities affect the career satisfaction and progression of women in security sector institutions and UN peace operations, entitled *Advancing the Meaningful Participation of Women in UN Peace Operations by Supporting Personnel with Caring Responsibilities*. Global Affairs

Canada, also a sponsor of POTI, funded this research. More information and resources can be found here: <https://caringforpeacekeepers.org/>.

Another key collaboration is the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP), a group of UN Member States and UN agencies providing aegis, financial support, and guidance to POTI. We thank the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN for hosting and chairing PELP meetings in 2026. We also thank all participants for their constructive and deeply valuable feedback.

We continue to work with stakeholders worldwide to ensure peacekeeping improves and is sustained into the future with adequate support and safeguards.

Our thanks to the Member States of the Partnership for E-Learning on Peace Operations (PELP) for providing the support that makes e-learning on peace operations possible.



Australia



Canada



Denmark



Portugal



Sweden



United Kingdom



The Peace Operations Training Institute (POTI) is an independent nongovernmental organization (NGO) recognized by the United States Internal Revenue Service as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt nonprofit public charity based in Richmond, Virginia, USA.

### Download the Peace Operations Training Institute mobile application



All the major features of the POTI online classroom are available. Internet connection typically required.

Google Play and the Google Play logo are trademarks of Google LLC. App Store is a service mark of Apple Inc.



Women in peace operations are key to peace. POTI encourages women to enrol and study our courses.