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Culture of peace

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 31 August 2026

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/80/L.108)*]

80/301. International Day of Recognition for Women Searchers of Missing Persons

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Reaffirming also its resolutions 53/199 of 15 December 1998 and 61/185 of 20 December 2006 on the proclamation of international years, and Economic and Social Council resolution 1980/67 of 25 July 1980 on international years and anniversaries, in particular paragraphs 1 to 10 of the annex thereto on the agreed criteria for the proclamation of international years, as well as paragraphs 13 and 14, in which it is stated that an international year should not be proclaimed before the basic arrangements for its organization and financing have been made,

Guided by the principles of applicable international law, and recalling its resolution 79/173 of 17 December 2024 on missing persons and Security Council resolution 2474 (2019) of 11 June 2019, in which the importance of addressing the issue of missing persons and supporting their families was recognized,

Reaffirming the obligation of States to respect, protect and fulfil the human rights of women and girls, and that States bear the main responsibility to address the issue of missing persons,

Expressing its concern about the dramatic increase in persons reported missing, noting with deep concern the rising number of documented cases of persons reported missing in the context of armed conflict, migration processes, natural disasters and other humanitarian crises, and recognizing that it is critical for States to address the

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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issue holistically, from prevention to the tracing, location, identification and return of missing persons or, where applicable, their remains,

Noting that accountability, including the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence, is one of the key components of addressing the issue of missing persons,

Highlighting the important role of civil society organizations, community-based initiatives, and associations of families of missing persons, which provide essential legal, psychological and material support to women searchers of missing persons and act as key pillars in preserving historical memory,

Recognizing that every instance of a missing person is a unique human experience that inflicts profound and indescribable suffering upon those affected, including the absence of certainty regarding the fate and whereabouts of their loved ones and, where applicable, a final resting place,

Acknowledging that the question of missing persons entails consequences, not only for the victims and survivors themselves, but also for their families and communities, especially women and children, in terms of social, health, educational, physical safety and legal consequences, as it often results in psychological trauma, social exclusion, extortion, stigmatization and increased poverty or economic deprivation,

Recognizing the strength, voices, agency and leadership of women who, collectively and individually, dedicate themselves to the search for missing persons, and valuing their critical contributions to truth, justice and historical memory, while also acknowledging the need to address the disproportionate impact that the task of searching for missing persons has on them,

Stressing that acknowledging the efforts and struggle of all women searching for the missing, including mothers, wives, daughters, sisters and other family members, as well as their determination to preserve their families, struggle to provide for them and mitigate the impact on children, and keeping the memory of that suffering alive constitutes a small part of recognition of the harm inflicted upon them,

1. *Decides* to proclaim 19 December as the International Day of Recognition for Women Searchers of Missing Persons;

2. *Invites* all Member States, entities of the United Nations system, international and regional organizations and other stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, academia and the media, to commemorate the International Day in an appropriate manner, promoting events and activities that highlight the efforts of women who have sought to find missing persons and faced the consequences of it;

3. *Encourages* all Member States and the United Nations system to take concrete measures to prevent and eliminate all forms of discrimination and violence against women searchers of missing persons, as well to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights by women searchers of missing persons;

4. *Encourages* the inclusion of women searchers of missing persons in ongoing discussions regarding this issue and in decision-making processes concerning them;

5. *Emphasizes* that the cost of all activities that may result from the implementation of the present resolution should be covered by voluntary contributions, including from the private sector as appropriate;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to bring the present resolution to the attention of all States Members of the United Nations, members of the specialized agencies and observers of the General Assembly, as well as the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant stakeholders, for appropriate observance of the International Day of Recognition for Women Searchers of Missing Persons.

109th plenary meeting
31 August 2026