Symposium

*Women and War: A Critical Discourse*

**Welcome**

As the contemporary world is embroiled in many forms of war, there is no better time than now to confront the realities and complexities of violent conflict. Women and children disproportionately bear the burden of war in society, whether it is in the effect of a militarized culture, or the physical effects of war in society. Rape and sexual trafficking continue to be used as tools of war. However, women’s participation in war can not, and should not, be limited to the effect of war on women. To view women as a monolithic group, victims only, would ignore the varied and disparate roles women play in society, militarism, and war. Women are not only victims, they are participants, and often, effective resisters of war. At this critical time, the *Berkeley Women’s Law Journal* is proud to publish the transcripts from its fourth bi-annual symposium, *Women and War: A Critical Discourse*. It was through the lens of our mandate that *BWLJ* explored, critiqued, and analyzed the realities of war and the rhetoric of militarism.