

Consultation Paper

Ireland's

Second National Action Plan

Women, Peace and Security

Open Invitation for Submissions

11 July 2014

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An Roinn Gnóthaí Eachtracha agus Trádála
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

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1. Introduction

The Conflict Resolution Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is leading the development of Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. This National Action Plan will detail the actions to be undertaken in implementing the Women, Peace and Security Resolutions of the United Nations Security Council. The development of this plan will include a process of public consultation to seek the views of all interested parties and relevant stakeholders on this theme.

This consultation document:

- presents the context for the development of Ireland's second National Action Plan;
- sets out key international developments in the area of Women, Peace and Security;
- proposes issues for consideration to guide and frame inputs; and
- outlines the process for submission of inputs.

Submissions are invited from all interested parties and details of how to make a submission can be found at on page 6 of this document.

2. Women, Peace and Security Agenda

The adoption by the [United Nations Security Council of Resolution \(UNSCR\) 1325](#) in 2000 marked a watershed in the recognition of the unique and disproportionate impact of conflict on women and girls. Importantly, it also highlighted the critical role of women and girls in conflict prevention and resolution, peace negotiations, peace building, and post-conflict reconstruction and governance. [UNSCR 1325](#) is strengthened and complemented by six further resolutions [1820](#) (2008); [1888](#) (2009); [1889](#) (2009); [1960](#) (2010), [2106](#) (2013) and [2122](#) (2013), known collectively as the Women, Peace and Security agenda of the UN Security Council.

Ireland is recognised internationally as a strong and consistent advocate and supporter of this thematic agenda which is applicable to women affected by conflict living in Ireland and internationally.

3. Ireland's National Action Plan 2011-2014

Ireland's first [National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 \(2011-2014\)](#) was launched by the then Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Éamon Gilmore, T.D. in November 2011.

It was drafted following on from an interdepartmental governmental and civil society consultation process and an international cross-learning initiative, involving women from Timor-Leste, Liberia and Ireland/Northern Ireland. This first National Action Plan represents Ireland's inputs into wider international efforts to implement the Women, Peace and Security agenda. It focuses on five pillars, listed below, each with a number of objectives, and establishes clear actions and target timeframes.



Pillar 1:

Prevention of Conflict Including Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse

Pillar 2:

Participation and Representation of Women in Decision Making

Pillar 3:

Protection from Gender Based Violence and Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Other Violations of Women's Human Rights and International Law

Pillar 4:

Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation

Pillar 5:

Promotion of the Women Peace and Security agenda in International, Regional and National Arenas

A monitoring and evaluation structure was created within the framework of the first National Action Plan, including a Monitoring Group led by an Independent Chair. The Plan presents actions across the relevant state bodies, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the Department of Justice and Equality, the Department of Defence, the Defence Forces and An Garda Síochána. The built-in monitoring mechanisms and the unique dual focus (both international and domestic) of Ireland's National Action Plan have been highlighted by both the United Nations and the European Union as examples of best practice.



A [Mid-Term Progress Report](#) examined the outputs and results of the first 18 months of Ireland's first National Action Plan. It highlighted a number of successes as well as a number of gaps and challenges in that plan which informed recommendations for the development of the Second National Action Plan.

4. Looking to 2015 and beyond

The UN Security Council has declared its intention to convene a High-level Review in 2015 to assess progress at the global, regional and national levels in implementing UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. Against this background, the UN Secretary General has been invited to commission a global study, highlighting good practice examples, implementation gaps and challenges, as well as emerging trends and priorities for future action. The Study, which arose from the most recent Women, Peace and Security Resolution (UNSCR [2122](#)), is taking place at an opportune time to inform and be informed by a number of policy reviews and debates related to the empowerment of women and girls. These include discussions on the Post-2015 development framework, in which Ireland has prioritised and called for a standalone goal on gender equality as well as the mainstreaming of gender equality across all other goals, as well as the 20-year review of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

5. Issues for Consideration

Ireland's second National Action Plan, like the first one, will be considered a "living document" open to continuous improvement. While all input is welcome, it should be informed by [the first National Action Plan](#) and its [Mid-Term Progress Report](#), which called for "strategic objectives supported by fewer but broader actions and indicators". It should also be critically informed by the lived and on-going experiences of women affected by conflict and the wider implications for the world in which we live.

What action do you think Ireland should take on Women, Peace and Security?

The following questions, which are not exclusive, are based on the development and implementation of Ireland's first National Action Plan and intended to guide and frame submissions for Ireland's second National Action Plan scheduled to start in 2015:

1. **What strategic objectives should be priorities for the second National Action Plan?**
2. **How can Ireland help empower women affected by conflict?**
3. **How can the second National Action Plan reflect the commitments in Ireland's Policy for International Development, *One World, One Future*, and other relevant government policies and strategies?**
4. **How should the National Action Plan approach actions relating to Ireland-Northern Ireland?**
5. **How can the existing monitoring mechanisms of the first National Action Plan be improved? How can the Oireachtas play a greater role?**
6. **How should Ireland promote Women, Peace and Security in multilateral organisations?**

6. Who Should Submit?

All submissions are welcome, in particular those from or representing:

- Women and men affected by conflict, both interstate and intrastate conflict, living overseas or on the island of Ireland
- Grass roots civil society organisations, in particular women’s groups, both in Ireland and overseas, that work with women who have been affected by conflict
- International non-governmental organisations working in conflict and post-conflict situations
- Independent experts, academics or practitioners with experience of or working in the fields of gender equality, conflict resolution, peace-building, mediation, justice and accountability and related areas.

Making a Submission

This paper has been circulated by the Conflict Resolution Unit (CRU) of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, in conjunction with a Consultative Group on the drafting of Ireland’s second NAP, which comprises relevant state representatives, civil society organisations, independent experts and academics with experience of Women, Peace and Security issues, and women affected by conflict and post-conflict situations both in Ireland and internationally. (See Annex I)

Submissions, on any or all of the questions raised, or on related issues, of any length but no longer than 3,000 words, should be made in writing in English or Irish. They should be sent by post marked “WPS Consultation” to the Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs & Trade, 79-80 St Stephen’s Green, Dublin 2, Ireland. Submissions are preferred by **Friday 15 August 2014**.

The review team may release all or part of a submission, subject to data protection requirements. Please indicate if you are willing to authorise this release when making a submission. Please also indicate if you are willing for your submission to be published on the website of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

The provisions of the Freedom of Information Acts will apply to submissions received, which may therefore be released in total or in part. When making a submission, please indicate if there are aspects of your submission that you seek to have withheld, and the reasons for same (more information here: www.foi.gov.ie).

Further Information can be found by contacting the Conflict Resolution Unit at the details below:

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79-80 St. Stephen’s Green
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Annex I

List of Consultative Group Members

Name	Role/Organisation
Colm Byrne	Independent Chair, Oxfam Ireland
Government Departments/Statutory Bodies	
Brendan Ward	Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Orlaith Fitzmaurice	Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Carina Connellan	Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Diane Nurse	Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
Nicola Donnelly	COSC, Department of Justice and Equality
David Byrne	Department of Defence
Comdt Jayne Lawlor	Defence Forces
Supt Louise Synnott	An Garda Síochána
Civil Society	
Deirdre Campbell	Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence
Egide Dhala	Wezeshá
Salome Mbugua	Akidwa
Irene Miskimmon	Northern Ireland Women's European Platform
Reiseal Ni Cheilleachair	Trócaire
John Roche	Irish Red Cross
Academia/Independent Experts	
Dr Melanie Hoewer	University College Dublin
Dr Catherine O'Rourke	University of Ulster
Marianne O'Shea	NUI Maynooth