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# UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2014-17

## Report to Parliament

December 2016



Department  
for International  
Development



Ministry  
of Defence

## Foreword

We are proud to report on the progress made over the last 12 months in delivering the Government's commitments under the UK's National Action Plan (NAP) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) 2014–2017.

As this report makes clear, the UK continues to lead the world on this agenda, through practical action, political lobbying and funding.

At the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul in May, the Department for International Development successfully lobbied to put gender equality at the heart of 21st century humanitarian action. We welcome the widespread agreement at the Summit that the interest and needs of women and girls must be at the forefront of any humanitarian response. The UK endorsed all of the UN's Core Commitments on Women and Girls and made further individual commitments to support their implementation, including by working to empower women and girls as leaders and to ensure that the UK's humanitarian programming is fully gender responsive.

In September, the Ministry of Defence and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office hosted the UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial. The Ministerial, a follow-up to the Leaders' Summit in New York in September 2015, met its core objectives. In addition to 30 new pledges of personnel and equipment and agreement to improved performance and accountability for UN peacekeepers, the meeting broke new ground on the WPS agenda, resulting in a set of ambitious targets for increasing the number of women in peacekeeping roles.

We have continued to champion women's participation as well as action against conflict-related sexual violence in the UN Security Council and to press for UN peacekeeping operations to reflect these priorities, including in Mali and the Central African Republic. At the UN General Assembly in September we launched the next phase of a campaign to end the stigmatisation of sexual violence survivors. We are encouraged by the international support we have received so far.

We have made a difference in our project work. In Colombia, for example we provided diplomatic, financial and technical assistance to ensure that once the



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peace agreement is finalised, it is sustainable. In so doing, we have promoted and supported the involvement of women in the negotiations. In Syria, we supported the efforts of the UN Special Envoy and the Women's Advisory Board to help to ensure women's views are represented in the peace process. We have also provided political and technical support to the opposition HNC Women's Consultative Committee.

Our international achievements are matched by our domestic progress. Over the last 12 months we have worked: to open military combat roles to women; update our military doctrine to reflect WPS; and increase the number of military gender advisers ready for deployment. We continue to provide world class training to foreign militaries in gender and preventing sexual violence. We have also trained 1,110 UK government officials on gender in conflict. Our policy overseas must be matched by best practice at home.

Of course, challenges remain. Despite our best efforts, too often the Security Council omits to consider women and girls. As a result, women continue to be marginalised in peace or post-conflict processes; excluded from negotiations or neglected by UN peacekeeping operations. We recognise that there is still much work ahead. But we remain steadfast in our commitment to put women and girls at the centre of international peace and security efforts.

## Introduction

The current UK NAP covers the period 2014 – 2017. Together with its Implementation Plan, the NAP sets out the joint aims and activities of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), the Department for International Development (DFID), and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) to implement the Government’s Women, Peace and Security commitments.

This annual report provides an update on our six focus countries—Afghanistan, Burma, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Libya, Somalia, and Syria—and on the eight commitments made by the UK at the UN Security Council High Level Review in October 2015.

A photograph of Baroness Anelay of St. Johns, a woman with short, curly brown hair, wearing a purple top, speaking at a wooden podium. A microphone is positioned in front of her. The background is a dark blue curtain.

*“We have already started work across the world on understanding the challenges and attitudes of stigma. It is only by working together, sharing knowledge and experience and by committing to challenge these harmful attitudes, that we will make a difference.”*

**Baroness Anelay of St. Johns, the Prime Minister’s Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, 2016**

## Overall progress

1. In 2016, the UK has made sustained and consistent progress in delivering the NAP commitments. We have already reached or surpassed the majority of the specific targets in the Implementation Plan. We are on course to reach the remainder by the end of the NAP's current cycle in 2017, except for those we have had to postpone due to political, security or operational constraints such as in Libya and Syria. Progress in our six priority countries is set out in the following section.
2. In addition to our pursuit of the NAP targets, we have also focused on the eight commitments the UK made at the 2015 High Level Review of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.
3. We have promoted women's participation in peace processes. For example, in Syria, we have been supporting the efforts of the UN Special Envoy to ensure women's views are represented in the peace process, including providing assistance to the Women's Advisory Board and the Women's Consultative Committee. In Colombia, we supported women's involvement in the peace negotiations. This signified an important breakthrough for women's participation. In Yemen, we have funded UN Women to work with the UN Special Envoy's office to ensure women are involved in the peace process. In Somalia, we have provided support to train women in leadership and governance skills to increase women's participation in



*"The facts are simple. Involving women in peace agreements secures peace resolutions more quickly and leads to lasting peace."*

**Rt. Hon. Priti Patel  
MP, Secretary of  
State for International  
Development, 2016**

decision-making. Through Oxfam and the South Sudan Law Society project we have delivered support to victims of sexual violence to make a positive impact on the lives of victims in Juba.

4. We have provided financial support to women's organisations. We have contributed more than £800,000 of start-up funding to the UN multilateral trust fund Global Acceleration Instrument which is a flexible and rapid financing mechanism

that supports quality interventions to enhance the capacity to prevent conflict, respond to crises and emergencies, seize key peacebuilding opportunities, and encourage the sustainability and national ownership of investments.

5. DFID has committed £8 million over five years to support local civil society organisations to end child marriage. DFID is also contributing £6 million to the UN Trust Fund to End Violence Against

Women, which provides grants to organisations across the world to tackle gender-based violence. It reached over one million people in 2015. In 2016, DFID announced a £1 million extension to the fund to help protect girls and women and support survivors of violence across Egypt, FYR Macedonia, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Serbia and Turkey. DFID continues to support the Centre for Women, Peace and Security at the London School of Economics, providing a total of £1 million over two years. On top of this, DFID will provide £10 million between now and 2020 to actively support interventions to improve women's social and political participation within Somalia.

6. The Conflict, Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) continues to deliver the UK's WPS/Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) agenda. The fund includes activities which specifically focus on WPS and/or PSVI, women and girls, and overcoming social norms and exclusionary practices. The CSSF has increased direct funding on WPS this year by fifty percent on last year and has ensured that all programmes are compliant with the Gender Equality Act.
7. Stabilisation Unit is ensuring UK work in fragile and conflict affected states is based on gender-sensitive analysis of conflict by updating the Joint Analysis of Conflict and Security guidance. Recent cross-Government conflict analysis on Libya and Yemen contained meaningful gender analysis.
8. Since the last report to Parliament, the MOD has made significant progress in its plans to improve gender representation and awareness in the Armed



Forces. Military doctrine is being made gender-sensitive. All UK troops deploying on overseas missions will receive training on WPS and PSVI. In July 2016, it was announced that the UK would be lifting the ban on women serving in ground close combat roles. From November 2016, women will be able to join the Royal Armoured Corps, and from 2018, the remaining ground close combat

roles will be open to women. Military exercises and the upcoming pre-deployment exercise for the UK peacekeeping deployment to South Sudan have been supported by Stabilisation Unit funded civilian gender advisors to validate troops' training.

9. In August 2016, the Army undertook a comprehensive tri-Service Training Needs Analysis

which identified options for standardised WPS training. This included training for specialist Gender Advisers and Gender Focal Points, as well as basic requirements for all Armed Forces personnel. The MOD will work to implement these recommendations during 2017. As an interim measure, a small pool of Gender Advisers and Gender Focal Points is ready to be deployed as opportunities arise. Throughout 2016, the Armed Forces have also continued to deliver expert training to a number of international partners overseas.

10. We have continued to drive forward work on PSVI. In November 2016 the FCO held a conference at Wilton Park to develop an action plan to tackle the stigmatisation of survivors of sexual violence. Embassies and High Commissions in Kosovo, DRC, Bosnia, Nigeria, Somalia, Colombia, Iraq, Sri Lanka and Burma hosted workshops on stigma to develop our understanding of local issues and challenges. We are conducting a revision of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict which builds on feedback from those using it in the field. A new Kurdish translation was launched in London and Iraq in April. Additionally, the FCO Rules Based International System (RBIS) Fund which was launched in August 2016 will contribute £4 million through 24 projects aimed at building local capacity, promoting women's participation, delivering justice for survivors and tackling survivor stigma.
11. We have made progress on tackling impunity for Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV)

crimes, to hold perpetrators to account. The impact of our work in this area will take time to become fully apparent. However we believe that international rulings, such as the ICC's historic conviction in March 2016 of Jean-Pierre Bemba Gombo for his responsibility for sexual violence crimes committed by soldiers under his command in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the work of UK funded NGO TRIAL that resulted in the submission of 18 cases on behalf of 132 Congolese victims send an important message that these acts will no longer go unpunished.

12. At the World Humanitarian Summit, new member states joined the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies bringing the total to 19<sup>1</sup>. We will continue to work with Sweden as current lead of the Call to Action to further expand its membership and ensure delivery of the Road Map, a framework for concrete action. DFID is working with the US and other partners to explore UK support for the Real Time Accountability Partnership to monitor the performance of donors and agencies against commitments to tackle gender-based violence in crisis settings.
13. We have identified two priority countries which need our support to develop, implement and measure their own NAPs on UNSCR 1325. We will undertake NAP implementation projects in Iraq and Afghanistan.
14. The FCO has increased its focus on gender and Countering Violent Extremism since October

2015. We have set aside £500,000 in 2016-2017 to ensure that programme activity and research are focused on developing our understanding of women as victims, perpetrators and preventers of violent extremism. The aim is to strengthen our partnerships with both global and grassroots women's organisations in this field.

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<sup>1</sup> Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, UK, USA

## Report by NAP Pillars

### **Pillar one:** Participation of Women in Peace Processes and Decision-Making

**Outcome:** Active inclusion of women, and women and girls' interests, in decision-making processes related to the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts.

The UK has supported the participation of women in all six focus countries from grassroots leadership through to national level peace negotiations and policy making.

In **Afghanistan**, the UK is supporting women aspiring to run for Parliamentary Elections to develop their skills and ensure greater prominence for women's issues at provincial level by creating better access for local women to engage with female MPs.

In **Burma**, UK support at grassroots level includes funding the Shan Women's Action Network to train 47 women in leadership skills. The UK-initiated Peace Support Fund offers technical support to civil society and women's groups in conflict-affected areas across the South East, Kachin and Shan to enable them to monitor ceasefire violations and to respond to communities' protection needs. The UK has supported the participation of women in the development of policy and legislation, and engaged in consultation with civil society, including through specific meetings on the draft Prevention of Violence Against Women law. The UK has supported the formation of the

Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP), ten members of which attended the Panglong Peace Conference in August 2016 as observers.

In the **DRC**, donors, including the UK, were closely involved in advocacy to ensure a more gender-sensitive revised Family Code. The UK continues to lobby the DRC government to implement revised legislation, national gender and sexual violence strategies and, in particular, the revised Parity Law, which should ensure equality for men and women throughout the processes of all government institutions.

In **Libya**, the UK provided funding to the UN Development Programme's Civic Engagement Grant Fund to build the capacity of Libyan civil society organisations, including support to women's grassroots organisations which advocate for women's rights in the Libyan Constitution drafting process.

In **Somalia**, the UK has worked to secure the endorsement of the Somali National Gender Policy and is working with government gender units in key Ministries to facilitate women's participation in policy and public decision making. The UK has also worked with the Somali Women's Study Centre to train women in leadership and governance skills; 12 women from this trained pool have taken up leadership and Parliament roles in Galmudug and South West State. The UK is also supporting a research project on Somali women in leadership positions in order to explore success stories and barriers to participation.

In **Syria**, the UK has supported women-led projects through a governance programme, which has enabled women to participate in community engagement activities, project development and decision making at the local level. The UK has supported partners to develop the 'I am She' network to establish a Women's Social Committee in Aleppo. This is working to elevate the voice of women leaders and give them a stake in the decision making processes. The High Negotiations Committee (HNC) of the Syrian Opposition, with UK support, now includes three women within a 16-person negotiation team. The HNC also has formed a broader Women's Consultative Committee.

### **Pillar two:** Prevention of Conflict and Violence Against Women and Girls

**Outcome:** Prevention of conflict and all forms of structural and physical violence against women and girls, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

Programming across this pillar has been diverse, ranging from access to justice to the provision of services to SGBV survivors and training of foreign militaries on women, peace and security.

In **Afghanistan**, the UK continues to support the Ministry of Interior to improve the complaints mechanisms for policewomen suffering sexual

harassment and violence from colleagues, and is helping with the implementation of the Ministry's Strategy for the Integration of National Police Female Personnel. The UK funds several projects to promote the rights of women and girls through an Access to Justice programme.

In **Burma**, UK-funded Access to Justice programming has enabled 60 women to receive paralegal training. With UK support, four Legal Aid Centres have been established nationwide, with 200 community paralegals trained in Rangoon. The UK is working with other donors to strengthen the effectiveness of the Burmese Government Sector Working Group on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment. MOD educational courses provided for the Burmese military have included modules on preventing sexual violence.

In the **DRC**, the UK supported a workshop run by the DRC Government and President Kabila's Personal Representative on Sexual Violence and Child Recruitment, Jeanine Mabunda Lioko. This reinforced the mandatory use of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict for medical and legal professionals throughout the DRC. Further technical discussions are on-going and the UK continues to push for implementation.

In **Libya**, the UK has provided support to media projects to train and work with aspiring and established Libyan female journalists, producing media content targeted at Libyan women and youth.

In **Syria**, the UK facilitated local discussions to highlight issues related to women's rights and sexual violence including capacity building for local activists.

### **Pillar three: Protecting the Human Rights of Women and Girls**

**Outcome: Women's and girls' safety, physical and mental health and economic security are assured and their human rights upheld in conflict and post-conflict situations.**

In **Afghanistan**, the UK continues to promote women's rights as integral to the development and implementation of government policy, and did so most recently at the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan in October 2016. The UK has provided multi-sector programming to prevent and respond to violence against women and girls. This includes: the establishment of the Psychological Treatment Unit within the Ministry of Women's Affairs; the Shelter Counselling Centre which (up to November 2016) has provided 584 individual therapy and 13 group therapy sessions to women victims/survivors of sexual violence; and a UN Population Fund programme to strengthen health, legal and psychosocial responses to Gender Based Violence. The UK's Girls' Education Challenge, a DFID initiative, has reached over 300,000 girls and trained over 9,600 teachers since its launch in 2011.

In **Burma**, the UK has promoted the Rule of Law and respect for human rights through the training of lawyers. We are funding technical advice to enable Burma to ratify the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and funding the translation into Burmese of the International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict. At a

local level, the UK has funded the participation of local leaders in the drafting of the law on the Prevention of Violence Against Women and supported coordination for the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls shadow reporting. We are also building capacity for civil society to investigate, document and report cases of sexual violence and protect women's rights in conflict areas.

In the **DRC**, the UK-funded La Pepinière programme is supporting women and girls' economic and social participation through a network of gender champions. The UK has developed service standards for the treatment of SGBV survivors through the Accès aux Soins de Santé Primaires programme, which up to November 2016 has ensured that 1,285 SGBV survivors received Post Exposure Prophylaxis Kits within 72 hours. The UK has also funded the training of local faith leaders to develop their role in preventing and responding to sexual violence.

Through the British Peace Support Team (East Africa) the UK has continued to deliver courses at the International Peace Support Training Centre in Kenya and helped to provide integrated training and advice to African Union Mission to Somalia troops deploying to **Somalia** to raise awareness of the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative and the need to prevent SGBV. The UK's Joint Health and Nutrition Programme continued to provide 24-hour delivery and emergency obstetric care services with skilled staff. Girls' retention and enrolment rates have increased under the UK-funded Girls Education Challenge programme.

In **Syria**, the UK has worked with the Free Syrian Police (FSP) in Aleppo to pilot the first women's

police station with six female police officers, who have introduced a revised Code of Conduct to meet the specific needs of women. The UK's Access to Justice and Community Security project has worked to increase women's representation in Community Security Working Groups with 65 women now serving.

#### **Pillar four:** Addressing Women's and Girls' Needs in Relief and Recovery

**Outcome:** Women and girls' specific needs are prioritised in conflict and post-conflict relief efforts.

In **Afghanistan**, the UK provided emergency nutrition services to over 90,000 women and 34,000 girls via the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs Common Humanitarian Fund. The UK has also worked to ensure that gender is taken into account in delivering humanitarian assistance and crisis response to the internally displaced and returning refugees.

In **Burma**, the UK supported a range of capacity building initiatives for service providers and humanitarian actors including the establishment of ten gender-based violence case management systems in Rakhine State.

In the **DRC**, the UK supports the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to provide services to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence. The ICRC reported that in 2015 some 3,100 victims of sexual violence, plus 1,000 people suffering from conflict-related trauma, received psychosocial support at 26 ICRC supported counselling centres.

### **UK High Level Review Commitments**

1. We will make sure the voices of women caught up in conflict are heard in all UK-hosted peace-building events. We will also provide support, including high-level lobbying, to ensure women's voices are represented in wider peace processes, negotiations, and state-building.
2. The UK will contribute \$1 million to the Global Acceleration Instrument to address the funding deficit for implementation of UNSCR 1325 and \$1.6 million additional funding over two years to support research at the LSE's Centre for Women, Peace and Security.
3. The UK will ensure all relevant military doctrine is made gender-sensitive. By November 2016, all UK troops deploying on overseas missions will receive training on WPS and Preventing Sexual Violence. We will grow and strengthen the pool of gender advisers within the MOD.
4. The UK will ensure that, by September 2016, all our early warning and joint conflict analysis and assessment tools are fully gender-sensitive.
5. Over the next five years, the UK will drive forward the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI). We will tackle impunity for SGBV crimes, ensure greater survivor support, and engage with other governments to deliver a stronger multilateral response.
6. The UK will champion the Call to Action on Protecting Girls and Women in Emergencies.
7. The UK will continue to help other governments develop NAPs on UNSCR 1325, implement these and measure their impact. We will identify priority countries that need support.
8. The UK will ensure that our overseas work to counter violent extremism includes programmes targeted specifically at women. Women will be given leading roles in the delivery of overseas counter-extremism work, both at national and local levels.

In **Somalia**, the UK has developed recommendations for partners on how to address gender needs in programme implementation.

In **Syria**, UK funding has enabled: more than 83,000 women to access reproductive health services; more than 166,000 women and girls to access safe spaces; at least 76,000 women and girls to receive psychosocial support; and at least 26,000 women and girls to benefit from SGBV specialist services.

## **Pillar five:** Building National Capacity

### **Outcome:** The United Kingdom implements its commitments on Women, Peace and Security.

The MOD has increased gender awareness within the Armed Forces by ensuring the inclusion of WPS and PSVI in all pre-deployment training by November 2016- meeting the pledge made at the High Level Review of 1325 in October 2015. The FCO deployed its first ever Gender Advisor who supports the CSSF the programmes in Middle East and North Africa.

Throughout 2016, the Armed Forces have continued to deliver expert training to international partners through overseas training establishments. Since September 2014 all training programmes at British Peace Support Training Centre (East Africa) have included elements of PSVI training. Through this channel the UK has already provided training on sexual violence issues to over 10,000 African peacekeeping military and police personnel.

The Stabilisation Unit has trained 1,100 government officials on gender in conflict, including those working on Afghanistan, Libya, Somalia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Sudan, South Sudan, Yemen, Colombia and other fragile and conflict affected states. Core skills training, including the Stabilisation Unit Security and Justice course, have formally integrated gender.

The need for gender expertise across Government departments has increased as a result of growing awareness of the issues and compliance with the International Development (Gender Equality) Act 2014. The Stabilisation Unit is conducting targeted recruitment of Gender, Conflict and Stability advisors on its Civilian Stabilisation Group in order to meet the Government's ambitious goals.

During 2016, UK officials have participated in several workshops including an EU/Netherlands-hosted NAP development workshop in Amsterdam in April, participated in and co-funded an OSCE/Inclusive Security NAP workshop in Vienna in September, and an OSCE/Germany-led WPS conference in November. These events alongside engagement in LSE WPS workshops, have been helpful in focusing the consultative development process for the next NAP. To further inform this planning the FCO has funded civil society consultation in three NAP focus countries. The cross-Whitehall WPS working group will continue to coordinate efforts at working level, including with civil society, on new NAP development.



Women singing and dancing at a community meeting in Kananga, DRC  
*Picture: Stephanie Dunga/Department for International Development*



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