



Community Foundation
NORTHERN IRELAND

connecting people who care
with causes that matter

13 December 2018

By Email: wpsconsultation@dfa.ie



I am writing in reference to the Department of Foreign Affairs Conflict Resolution Unit's paper, For Ireland's Third National Action Plan Women, Peace and Security, which is currently out for consultation.

I am responding to this paper on behalf of The Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. We are a local, independent charitable foundation, connecting people who care with causes that matter. Since 1979, we have been committed to addressing the challenges of peacebuilding and social justice. Through our funding and development work, the Community Foundation gives community and voluntary groups the tools and support to change lives.

The Community Foundation welcome's the third National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security and its relevance to all people on the island of Ireland who have been affected by conflict. We note that although the resolutions use the term "women", the document considers all those on the island who come from or have lived in a conflict or post conflict affected country, regardless of their gender identity, as important stakeholders. This has particular relevance to the context of Ireland-Northern Ireland as well as migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and others. It is not however explicit from the document how you will reach out and facilitate the involvement of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, particularly in a post Brexit environment.

You have highlighted that the scope of this plan will provide further outreach with communities and individuals to better engage women and girls, men and boys, and LGBTQI+ people from conflict affected areas. Those living in Ireland who are not direct stakeholders still have a role to play in their support and action of the implementation of the plan. Again, it is not clear how this will be facilitated.

The 4 pillar approach you present is logical and you have stated that there is a strong commitment to Monitoring and Evaluation with an Oversight Group which will be comprised of equal representation from statutory bodies responsible for implementation and civil society. The list of bodies to be represented does not appear to include any agencies from Northern Ireland and in our view contradicts the all island approach which you purport you want and raises questions of inclusivity. So whilst the plan

Community House
City Link Business Park
6A Albert Street
Belfast BT12 4HQ

Unit 4 Rath Mor Centre
Bligh's Lane, Creggan
Derry, County Londonderry
BT48 0LZ

E info@communityfoundationni.org
W www.communityfoundationni.org
T @CFNIreland

T 028 9024 5927

T 028 7137 1547

Registered Charity Number: NIC105105

appears to take a Whole of Government Approach' it is certainly not taking a 'whole island' one.

It is the view of the Community Foundation that the 'Oversight Group' should also include representation from the very sectors you wish work within. Those with 'lived experience' are best placed to effectively challenge, shape and target policies and programmes. Their inclusion from the outset is key to successful and targeted engagement.

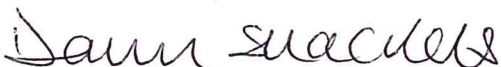
Overall, it's our view that structure does not appear to be critically informed by the lived and on-going experiences of women affected by conflict and the wider implications for the world in which we live. Nor does it appear to be critically informed by the lived and on-going experiences of all those on the island who come from or have lived in a conflict or post conflict affected country, regardless of their gender identity, migrants, refugees, asylum seekers and others.

The NAP is, in our view, too broad and requires further focus. We recognise the intersectionality of issues and why the plan has a broad focus beyond women; but we think it would benefit from more specific activities and outcomes that are about women.

Primarily however the Foundation is concerned with the how the the National Action Plan will apply in the Ireland-Northern Ireland context particularly post Brexit and it would be helpful to have further detail on this.

In conclusion, as a Foundation a strong all island working relationship is important to us and to many of the groups and communities we work with who could be affected and/or supported through this action plan. Given our conflict related experience, strong national and international reputation, our work with women, with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, we would be happy to engage with you on the application of this plan in an Ireland-Northern Ireland context helping to ensure that those with the 'lived experience' are at the heart of engagement.

Yours sincerely,



Dawn Shackels
Impact Director