

**Oversight Group of Ireland's second
National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015 – 2018)**

Second Meeting

09 December 2015, Belfast

Minutes

Attendees:

Oversight Group

Attendance

1. Nora Owen, Independent Chair
2. Colm Byrne, Oxfam Ireland
3. Marianne O'Shea (representing Anastasia Crickley)
4. Nicola Donnelly, Cosc (National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence), Department of Justice and Equality
5. Jaqueline Healy, National Women's Council of Ireland
6. Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross-Border Studies
7. Kevin Kelly, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
8. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre
9. Jayne Lawlor, Defence Forces
10. Niall Morris, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
11. Noreen Gumbo (representing Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair), Trócaire
12. Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
13. Rory O'Connell (representing Catherine O'Rourke), Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster
14. Michael Rowan, independent expert
15. Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
16. Sarah McGrath, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Apologies:

- Émer Deane, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the EU
- Barry Lavin, Intl Security and Defence Policy Branch, Dept. of Defence

Secretariat

- Helena Keleher, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Pat McLoughlin, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Officials from Anglo-Irish Division, DFAT

- Ruairí de Búrca, Joint Secretary, British Irish Intergovernmental Secretariat in Belfast
- Fionnuala Callanan, Director of the Reconciliation Fund

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1. Forthcoming Meetings

Q1 2016 - Gender-Based Violence in conflict-related Emergencies

Theme of meeting will be 'Gender-Based Violence in Conflict-related Emergencies'.

Meeting will consist of two sections:

1. Focus on National Action Plan and relevant monitoring framework. This will showcase the work of Irish Aid and organisations working in the area on aspects such as training and deployment of people with expertise; policy development; and research and innovations.
2. Examine the recommendation from the [Irish Humanitarian Summit](#) and how this message can be carried forward to the World Humanitarian Summit

The date for Q1 2016 meeting will be **Wednesday 10th February 2016**.

Suggestion to involve people who are working on this issue on the ground and to examine the challenges this work entails.

Q2 2016 - Peace Support Operations

Reminder that Q2 2016 will look at Peace Support Operations.

Noted that meeting needs to be well planned in advanced.

Option to discuss topical issues relating to Peace Support Operations and Women, Peace and Security including issues of impunity.

Noted that meeting will need to examine what is within the National Action Plan's framework. Agreed that this meeting will be led by the Defence Forces, An Garda Síochána and International Security Policy (DFAT).

Agreement of Theme for Q3 2016

Theme will be 'Women from conflict affected countries living in Ireland'.

On behalf of the Group, the Chair wrote to the Minister of Justice in relation to the cross-departmental Taskforce of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, in order to note the group's interest and intention to examine the commitments made under the National Action Plan. This letter is on the Taskforce's agenda.

Q3 2016 meeting will take place in the second half of September 2016.

Noted that meeting will need to examine the specific actions as per the National Action Plan's framework.

Q3 meeting will be led by HSE and the Department of Justice.

Q4 will focus on Midterm review by the Oversight Group.

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2. Any Other Business

- The Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence held its annual seminar on 25 November 2015. The seminar entitled “Standing Up, Speaking Out: Transforming Men’s Attitudes and Behaviours to end Violence Against Women” examined how men and boys can be an effective tool in the fight to end violence against women and girls. The keynote speech was delivered by President of Ireland, Michael D. Higgins. The seminar was opened by Minister Sean Sherlock, Minister of State for Development, Trade Promotion and North South Co-operation.

The event also included [an exhibition](#) which profiles the work of members of the Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence based in Malawi, to address gender inequalities and work towards ending violence against women and girls.

Additionally a [video](#) , entitled “Malawi: Transforming Gender Roles to End Gender Discrimination”, was shown reflecting the work undertaken in transforming men’s attitudes and behaviours to end violence against women and girls.

- Anastasia Crickley attended an OSCE Security Days event in Vienna ‘In Pursuit of Peace and Security: How Gender Makes a Difference’ on Friday 13 November. A written report is forthcoming.

Programme for Oversight Group visit to Belfast under the theme of ‘Post-Conflict Reconciliation on the island of Ireland’

Bus tour of interface areas and wall murals

The Oversight Group partook in a bus tour of interface areas and wall murals.

Visit to Youth Action Northern Ireland

[Youth Action Northern Ireland](#) is a regional voluntary youth organisation with bases in Belfast, Armagh, Newry, South Tyrone, Enniskillen and Derry. The organisation works with young people to enable them to be active and equal citizens. Current activities include a gender equality programme, a community leadership programme, a young men and violence project, and a youth arts programme. The organisation also provides volunteering opportunities, life skills, performing arts training, apprenticeships, mentoring, accredited training, leadership opportunities and health initiatives.

Briefing with Joint Secretary and NI Political Director

The Oversight Group was briefed on the current situation in Northern Ireland, with an emphasis on the Fresh Start Agreement and its proposed pathway for tackling paramilitarism. The gender aspects of Fresh Start and the new institutions for dealing with the legacy of the past were discussed, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade’s Reconciliation Fund supported publication on this theme.

Meeting with Civil Society Organisations

The Oversight Group met with a number of representatives from civil society organisations.

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Visit to Short Strand Women's Group

Short Strand Women's Group, located in East Belfast, works to build positive relationships between communities. Based in the Short Strand Community Centre, the Women's Group provides a wide range of services, including outreach to vulnerable members of the community. The Group has worked with women's groups in East Belfast and in Louth to improve cross-community and cross-border relationships.

Recommendation: It is recommended that the Oversight Group highlight the funding challenges faced by the women's sector in Northern Ireland in opportunities that arise with key influencers.

ENDS

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