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# WOMEN, Peace and Security



LÁ FHÉILE BRÍDE  
Ag Ceiliúradh Cruthaitheachta na mBan

ST BRIGID'S DAY  
Celebrating the Creativity of Women

## Ireland's Approach to Women, Peace and Security Newsletter

February 2021

We would like to warmly welcome you to this newsletter – our first of 2021. We also wish all our readers a happy St Brigid's Day in these difficult times, as the global Covid-19 pandemic continues to impact on us all.

## Saint Brigid's Day Events

**Embassy Rome** will host a panel discussion on ***WPS and the role of women in democratic decision-making***, at which Brigadier General Maureen O'Brien will be one of the guest speakers. This event will take place tomorrow, **Tuesday 2 February, at 4pm Irish time**. Further details and registration link available [here](#)



Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Iodáil  
Embassy of Ireland | Italy  
Ambasciata d'Irlanda | Italia



WIIS Women In  
International Security  
ITALY

**The Irish Consulate in Vancouver** is supporting Vancouver's 2021 St Brigid's Day Festival. The festival's programme of free virtual events are taking place this week (31 January to 7 February), including ***'Wave Goodbye to Dinosaurs': A screening and Q&A with Monica McWilliams on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm Irish time*** (12pm PST), presented by the Consulate. Registration details, as well as details of the full line-up of the festival, are available [here](#)

**Embassy Paris** is hosting a webinar with the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue entitled ***Voices of the Sahel: Community approaches to peace-building***. The event will take place on **Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> February at 11am Irish time** (12pm CET). Please see [invitation](#) attached for details and link to the Eventbrite page, however you may wish to note that **this event will be**

**conducted through French with no interpretation available.**



The poster features a dark green background with a white pattern of overlapping circles on the left side. In the top left corner, there is a harp icon and the text: "Ambasáid na hÉireann | An Fhrainc", "Embassy of Ireland | France", and "Ambassade d'Irlande | France". The main title is "Voix du Sahel : approches communautaires pour la consolidation de la paix". Below the title, it says "8 février 2021 12h00 CET". To the right, it states "Un webinaire avec l'Ambassade d'Irlande en France et le Centre pour le Dialogue Humanitaire". At the bottom right, there are logos for "hd" and "IRELAND United Nations Security Council 2021-2022".

Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels will this week release a **series of specially commissioned videos showing a variety of Irish women in roles across the EU institutions**. These will be sent out via the PRB Twitter account, one video per day this week. You can find these videos [@IrelandRepBru](https://twitter.com/IrelandRepBru).

Information on these and other events will be posted to the [@DFAPeaceSupport](https://twitter.com/DFAPeaceSupport) Twitter account, so don't forget to subscribe!

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## Other Events

On the 5 February, join Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP) for a webinar entitled "**A new decade for women, peace and security**". Speakers will share findings from the joint Government of Ireland & UN Women report "Building Peace from the Grassroots: Learning from Women Peacebuilders to Advance the WPS Agenda" (download the report [here](#)) as well as an overview of Ireland's aims for its seat on the UN Security Council 2021-22 and how the Women, Peace and Security agenda links into

this.



Northern Ireland  
Women's European Platform

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**A new decade for women, peace and  
security**

Friday 5 February 2021, 1-2pm

Register [here](#)

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## **Saint Brigid's Day Video**

On the occasion of Saint Brigid's day, when we celebrate the mythological pre-Christian goddess associated with Spring and healing, and Ireland's patron saint of the same name, the Department of Foreign Affairs would like to bring you the voices of several of our women colleagues who are working for peace around the world. We also wanted to use this opportunity to commemorate the legacy of Eavan Boland who died in 2020. In this video, you will find an extract of Eavan Boland's poem, 'Our future will become the past of other women', commissioned to mark the centenary of women's suffrage, as a message of support for, and celebration of, all women building peace around the world.



Watch it on Youtube by clicking on the picture or [here](#).

Watch it on Twitter [here](#).

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## Security Council

On 1 January 2021, Ireland officially took its seat at the UN Security Council for a two-year term. UN member states have entrusted Ireland with a significant responsibility to help maintain and promote international peace and security. Ireland's tenure on the Council will be guided by three principles: Building Peace; Strengthening Prevention; and Ensuring Accountability. Women, Peace and Security will be a priority for Ireland, which has been confirmed as co-chair of the Security Council's **Informal Expert Group (IEG) on Women Peace & Security (WPS)** alongside Mexico.



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## Other Events

On the **25 January**, over 250 participants including NGO, civil society, as well as a large variety of Member States representatives and UN colleagues took part in an interactive and open discussion on the barriers to the greater participation by women in peacekeeping. The ***“Breaking Barriers - Women in Peacekeeping”*** event was organised by Ireland and co-sponsored by Germany, South Africa, Bangladesh and Namibia. With over sixty years of peacekeeping experience, Ireland knows well the importance and urgency of increased female participation in all areas of peacekeeping operations. During the discussion, it was acknowledged that increasing women’s participation has to focus not just on numbers but also on understanding and putting in place measures that will bring about the institutional and structural transformation that is necessary to achieve the goal of gender equality across the system.



*Brigadier General Maureen O'Brien, Deputy Force Commander of UNDOF*



*Lt. Col Sekgobela, South Africa*

## Peacebuilding Fund

On 26 January, Minister Coveney, announced at the **High-Level replenishment conference for the Peacebuilding Fund** that Ireland will provide €10m to the UN Peacebuilding Fund from 2020-2024, a 33% increase in our average annual contributions. Women and youth empowerment are investment priorities of the PBF Strategy 2020-2024 and the UN PBF has allocated 40% of its investments in 2019 to gender-responsive initiatives. Speaking at the conference, Minister Coveney noted: “The Peacebuilding Fund can help prevent conflict before lives are lost and costly peacekeeping interventions are needed, and sustain peace in fragile contexts.”



See the full address [here](#)

## Ressources

- Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland Ambassador to the UN on newstalk about Ireland's work on the UN Security Council <https://www.newstalk.com/podcasts/highlights-from-the-pat-kenny-show/irelands-work-on-the-un-security-council>
- UN Peacebuilding, women and peacebuilding: <https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/policy-issues-and-partnerships/policy/women>
- Peacebuilding Fund 2020-2024 strategy [https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf\\_strategy\\_2020-2024\\_final.pdf](https://www.un.org/peacebuilding/sites/www.un.org.peacebuilding/files/documents/pbf_strategy_2020-2024_final.pdf)



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Please feel free to contact us at [wpsconsultation@dfa.ie](mailto:wpsconsultation@dfa.ie)

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