



Rialtas na hÉireann
Government of Ireland

**First Annual Report on
Women Peace and Security:
Ireland's third National Action Plan for the
implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related
resolutions 2019-2024**

January 2021

Table of Contents

Foreword	3
1. Background and Context	5
2. Oversight Group Members	8
3. Ireland’s WPS Activities July 2019 – June 2020	11
<i>Pillar 1: Prevention</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Pillar 2: Participation</i>	<i>16</i>
<i>Pillar 3: Protection</i>	<i>18</i>
<i>Pillar 4: Promotion</i>	<i>21</i>
4. COVID-19	26
5. Focus Countries	30
<i>Southern Africa</i>	<i>30</i>
<i>West Africa</i>	<i>31</i>
<i>African Union</i>	<i>34</i>
<i>Middle East</i>	<i>35</i>
6. Case Studies – Domestic Implementation of the WPS Agenda	36
<i>Operation Faoiseamh</i>	<i>36</i>
<i>International Organisation for Migration and the Irish Refugee Protection Programme</i>	<i>39</i>
7. Conclusion	43
Annex 1 – Traffic-Light Monitoring Framework	44

Foreword

Mr Simon Coveney, T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs

I welcome the completion of the first Annual Report on Ireland's Third National Action Plan (NAP) on the Implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 and related resolutions on Women, Peace and Security (WPS).



Ireland is a committed advocate for the WPS agenda and our third NAP has received international recognition for ensuring inclusivity during its development but also in its implementation. We are fully aware both of the disproportionate impact conflict can have on women and girls and of the value of the involvement of women and girls in peacebuilding and conflict resolution as a means to developing a sustainable peace. Through Ireland's third NAP, we hope that Ireland can remain a leader in both implementing and advancing the WPS Agenda domestically and internationally.

WPS is a key priority for Ireland as a member of the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term. We are proud to serve as co-Chair, alongside Mexico, of the Security Council's Informal Experts Group (IEG) on WPS. We will advocate for the mainstreaming of gender analysis across the UN's work to better understand the drivers of conflict – including gender inequality – as well as the crucial voice of women in conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

While WPS is a key feature of Ireland's foreign policy and our interventions on the international stage, our credibility on this issue is linked to our ability to deliver on WPS across the work of Government. In this context, I welcome this report's overview of implementation of the third NAP to date, and its inclusion of case studies outlining the valuable work ongoing on this agenda both internationally and domestically. It will help us to identify where we are performing strongly and can share lessons with our partners, as well as areas that require more attention and resources. Two decades on from the adoption of UNSCR 1325, which broke new ground in founding the WPS agenda, we must ensure that Ireland along with its international partners deliver on its extraordinary vision.

Simon Coveney, T.D,

Minister for Foreign Affairs

Mrs Nora Owen, Independent Chair, Oversight Group for the National Action Plan



As chairperson of the Oversight Group, I am delighted to welcome this Annual Report on Ireland's third National Action Plan on WPS. The report highlights the work undertaken by the Government of Ireland and its partners in advancing the WPS agenda and implementing it practically on the ground.

I am keenly aware of the challenges that have arisen in implementing the NAP since its launch in June 2019. In particular, the unexpected emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have had to find new ways of working, including the use of virtual meeting spaces to conduct our quarterly meetings and maintain regular contact on progress on NAP implementation.

The Oversight Group contains an even number of representatives from Government Departments or statutory agencies, and from civil society and academia, all with relevant experience and expertise in the area of WPS. As Chair, I recognise the importance of having a range of voices from varied backgrounds in order to ensure that actions being taken to achieve the NAP's objectives are comprehensive and appropriate. Following the formation of a new Government and the transfer of functions from the Department of Justice to the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth (DCEDIY), we welcomed a representative from the latter Department onto the Oversight Group in Q4 2020.

The meetings of the Oversight Group since the launch of the third NAP in June 2019 covered various important topics, including gender-based violence (GBV) in the Direct Provision system; the work of the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP); the impact of COVID-19 on the WPS agenda; and the gendered dimensions of disarmament and non-proliferation. The Oversight Group has been an important arena for lesson sharing and has been a valuable resource for both policy makers and civil society to provide and receive information that can help to shape Ireland's response to the WPS agenda.

This Annual Report is the first to be drafted under the third NAP, and provides an overview of the initial progress made by the lead Departments and Agencies on their stated commitments. COVID-19 has indeed had an impact on the implementation of some actions, and there have been challenges in collecting necessary data to establish baselines and thus provide updates on the indicators set out in the Plan. The traffic light updates included at Annex I are therefore an informed indication of progress under each action. A more detailed Monitoring Framework containing detailed progress will be undertaken in Q1 2021.

1. Background and Context

Ireland's third National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions (2019-2024) was launched by the then-Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, Simon Coveney T.D., in June 2019. This document¹ on the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda builds on the two previous NAPs, launched in 2011 and 2015 respectively. It focuses on ensuring a holistic and comprehensive approach to conflict prevention, the adoption of the EU Strategic Approach to WPS² and the conclusions of the 2015 UN Study on the implementation of the WPS Agenda³. It aims to renew Ireland's commitment to implementing the WPS agenda internationally and domestically across all of Government, and ensuring the engagement of civil society throughout.

Last year saw the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325⁴ which is recognised as the first 'Women's Resolution'. It highlights both the disproportionate impact that conflict has on women and girls, as well as the essential role that the participation of women plays in building a sustainable peace. The commitments made in this Resolution have been reinforced and supplemented by nine further resolutions on WPS over the past two decades

The development of the third NAP was led by a dedicated Working Group that included statutory agencies, civil society and academic experts. It considered the recommendations of the independent reviews of the previous NAPs, particularly the second. These included extending the period of the Plan from three to five years, as well as strengthening accountability, monitoring and reporting. Public and stakeholder consultations were undertaken, including three consultative workshops held in Cork and Dublin, and following a public call, 49 written submissions were also received. This extensive exercise doubled the number of individuals and organisations engaged with compared to the previous NAP consultations.

¹ <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourrolepolicies/womenpeaceandsecurity/Third-National-Action-Plan.pdf>

² <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/37412/st15086-en18.pdf>

³ [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf)

⁴ <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N00/720/18/PDF/N0072018.pdf?OpenElement>

As with previous iterations, Ireland's third NAP is based on four thematic pillars, namely:

- Prevention;
- Participation;
- Protection; and
- Promotion.

The NAP recognises the intersectionality and interdependence of these pillars, and the importance of delivering on our commitments in all four to ensure a comprehensive approach to implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

A Monitoring Framework has been developed containing all actions under the Plan (Annex 1), the aim of which is to guide implementation and oversight throughout the duration of the NAP. This Framework includes outcomes, indicators and specified timelines to ensure that progress continues at a consistent rate throughout the NAP's 4-year term, and any delays to implementation will be flagged in a timely manner.

In terms of monitoring and evaluation, the Minister for Foreign Affairs appointed an Oversight Group to oversee the implementation of actions across all four pillars under this Plan. The Group, which is independently chaired, consists of 50% representation from civil society, academia and independent experts, and 50% representation from Government Departments and agencies who have responsibilities for activities outlined in the NAP. An overview of membership is included in Section 2.

The NAP contains a commitment to report to the appropriate Joint Oireachtas Committee. This Annual Report is the result of that commitment and provides an additional means of assessing the implementation and impact of the National Action Plan on a regular basis. A traffic-light monitoring framework will accompany this Report, providing a high-level overview of progress made on the NAP actions in the year following the Plan's publication. A more comprehensive monitoring framework will be drawn up and published in Q1 2021. The third NAP will be reviewed at its mid-term point in 2022 and will undergo a Final Evaluation towards the end of its term, in line with the previous NAPs.

As well as seeing the 20th anniversary of the adoption of UNSCR 1325 on Women Peace and Security, 2020 was also an unexpectedly challenging year due to the impact of COVID-19, which was experienced on a global scale and which continues to restrict efforts to achieve our goals under the NAP. This report aims to provide an overview of the progress that has been made despite these challenges under the four key pillars of prevention, participation, protection and promotion.



Nala Malan Tshala, Niger, who is a student at the Assaga centre under Plan International's accelerated education programme for students affected by the conflict in the Diffa Region.

This programme is supported by Irish Aid.

Photo: Hamed Ali/DFA

2. Oversight Group Members

The Oversight Group for Ireland’s National Action Plan for WPS consists of an Independent Chair, civil society organisations, academia, and relevant Government Departments and Agencies. The various statutory bodies on the Oversight Group reflects the whole-of-Government approach taken towards this important but cross-cutting issue. Terms of Reference for Oversight Group Members are attached at Annex 2.



*Members of the Oversight Group for the third National Action Plan at the Group’s inaugural meeting
Photo: DFA*

The representatives from civil society, academia, and independent members are as follows:

Nora Owen – Independent Chair

Nora Owen is a former TD and served as Minister for Justice from 1994-1997. Mrs Owen chaired the Oversight Group for Ireland’s second National Action Plan on WPS.

Oliver Barbour - Independent Expert (former Defence Forces)

Oliver Barbour was the Defence Forces representative for the first National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325. He travelled to Timor Leste and Liberia as part of the consultation group in developing the first NAP on UNSCR 1325 and was also involved in the public consultations process in Ireland. He has presented in Ireland’s UN Training School (UNTSI) and other UN Schools in the area of Gender Equality, GBV and sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) and has served on several UN Missions including Kosovo, Bosnia, Lebanon, Western Sahara, East Timor, Liberia, Chad Ethiopia and Sudan.

Noeline Blackwell – Dublin Rape Crisis Centre

Noeline Blackwell is a human rights lawyer with a recognised expertise and history of involvement with and commitment to women’s rights, migrant rights and refugee rights over a number of years. She is currently CEO of the Dublin Rape Crisis Centre and was previously Director of FLAC (Free Legal Advice Centre). While vice-president of the International Federation for Human Rights, she had special responsibility for women’s

human rights and the rights of human rights defenders. She acted as liaison person for women human rights defenders as board member at Front Line Defenders.

Maria Butler - Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)

Maria Butler is currently the Director of Global Programmes at WILPF, and was previously the Director responsible for WILPF'S Women, Peace and Security program. She is the co-author of the article "WPS and Arms Trade Treaty" in the Oxford Handbook of Women, Peace and Security. She is a pioneer of the WPS app and is responsible for the Strategy development and implementation, Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning at WILPF.

Egide Dhala - International Organisation for Migration

Egide Dhala is currently working for International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Ireland as an Outreach Coordinator and has over 20 years of experience working with migrants (women and men) in Ireland. He set up an education programme, while working with Spirasi, in support of vulnerable women and worked with AkiDWA in engaging men to address violence against women. He is the co-founder of Wezesha, which supports African women who are affected or likely to be affected by conflict and violence. While based in Ireland and working with other migrant groups to support migrant integration, Wezesha works also with women and children in Africa, empowering vulnerable women exposed to gender violation.

Nura Hagi - Mind the GAP

Nura Hagi is a Human Rights Defender from Somalia. She is a Member of the Board of Directors for the Sexual Violence Centre in Cork and is the CEO of Karti, an organization that supports women from conflict zones living in Ireland. She also works for Mind the GAP a development education arts project and an advisor at the Women's section in the Islamic Information Centre. She is a member of the Women's sub-group of the Cork City of Sanctuary movement.

Emma Johnston – Youth Action Northern Ireland

Emma Johnston is a Young Women's Development Worker for Youth Action Northern Ireland and an Assistant Lecturer in Community Youth Studies at Ulster University. In 2009, she was elected as a committee member of NIWEP (Northern Ireland Women's European Platform) to represent the voice of young women. In 2013, Emma was selected as the representative for Northern Ireland on the UK Joint Committee on Women, which holds a board member seat on the European Women's Lobby. She is a committee member of the Foyle Pride Committee planning and implementing activities for LGBT awareness week and the annual Foyle Pride week of activities and the pride protest itself.

Dr Walter Kilroy - Dublin City University (DCU)

Walt Kilroy is currently Assistant Professor at DCU's School of Law and Government, teaching on issues of development, conflict, security, peacekeeping, protection of civilians, and post-war recovery. He is also Associate Director of the university's Institute for International Conflict Resolution and Reconstruction. Dr. Kilroy served on the Oversight Group for the second National Action Plan from March 2018 until its term finished in 2019.

Abby Ryan - Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence (ICGBV)

Abby Ryan is currently the Coordinator for the ICGBV and is its representative on the NAP Oversight Group. The Consortium is a unique collaboration between a diverse group of human rights, humanitarian and development organisations as well as academic institutions. Her previous experience includes her role as a Junior Professional Intern for Gender Equality and Human Rights in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and as an Asylum Seeker Support Worker for the UK Lesbian and Gay Immigration Group.

Government Departments & Agencies

- Áine Hearn
Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs
- Shane Keenan (2019-2020); Vicky Dillon (2020-present)
Development, Cooperation and Africa Division, Department of Foreign Affairs
- Deirdre Ní Neill, (2019-2020)*; Nessa O’Doherty (2020– present)
Department of Justice
- Noreen Woulfe
Department of Defence
- Jayne Lawlor (2019); Gillian Collins (2020-present)
Defence Forces
- Aoife Davey
HSE
- Louise Synnott
An Garda Síochána
- Eibhlin Byrne
Irish Refugee Protection Programme
- Deirdre Ní Neill (2020-present)*
Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth

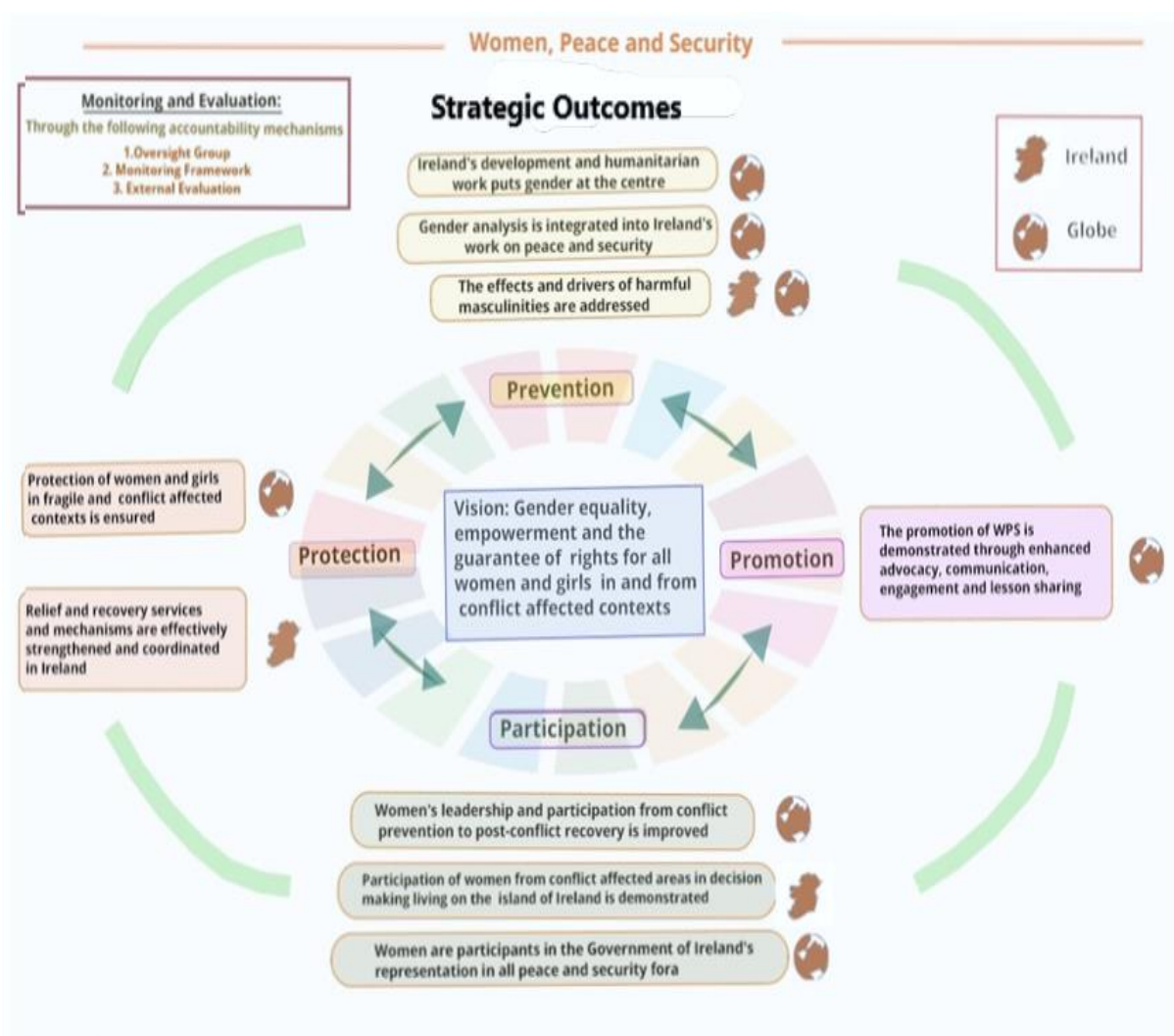
Secretariat to the Oversight Group

William Barrett, Conflict Resolution Unit, 2019
Richard O’Neill, Conflict Resolution Unit, 2019-2020
Claire Dowling, Conflict Resolution Unit, 2019-2020
Caitlín Higgins Ní Chinneide, Conflict Resolution Unit, 2020-present
Anna Sparynska, Conflict Resolution Unit 2020-present
Sarah Doherty, Conflict Resolution Unit, 2020-present

*Due to the transfer of functions between the Department of Justice and the Department of Children, Equality, Disability, Integration and Youth following the formation of Government in 2020, the latter Department will be represented on the Oversight Group from December 2020.

3. Ireland's WPS Activities July 2019 – June 2020

The third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is structured around the four pillars of **Prevention**, **Participation**, **Protection** and **Promotion**. Nine strategic outcomes were generated from these pillars, and set out Ireland's aims and commitments over the five-year term of the third NAP.



In the year since the launch of the NAP in June 2019, Ireland has begun to implement the various actions under these pillars and strategic outcomes. This section will provide a narrative overview of some of the progress of the various Government Departments and statutory agencies in this regard.

Pillar 1: Prevention

The prevention of conflict in the first instance is a priority in Ireland's foreign policy. It is recognised that tackling the root causes of conflict needs a comprehensive approach and, importantly, needs to be viewed through a gender lens. This was echoed in NAP actions under the Prevention Pillar.

Conflict can be driven by and result in various factors such as climate change, mass migration and displacement, new technologies of war, cyber related threats and the rise in violent extremism. It is important to comprehensively address these issues as part of Ireland's foreign and development policy, including by applying a gender perspective. This involves mainstreaming the WPS agenda across all policy areas within the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) and all other Government Departments and agencies. DFA rolled out training on gender equality and Women, Peace and Security to over 60 staff in 2019, and virtually to over 130 staff in 2020. The training aimed to build participant's understanding of Ireland's approach to these subjects, including gendered approaches to international development peace and security concerns as well as DFA actions and responsibilities in this space under *A Better World*, Ireland's International Development Policy⁵ and the third NAP. DFA's Humanitarian Unit also rolled out training on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Minimum Standards for GBV in Emergencies.

Inequality, including gender inequality, is both a driver and a result of conflict. Gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is one of four policy priorities of *A Better World*, which commits to integrating gender equality across all of our partnerships and interventions and in a range of thematic areas. In 2019, 76% of all of Ireland's bilateral overseas development aid (ODA) contributed to gender equality and women's empowerment, representing one of the highest percentages of all OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) donors. To mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 on WPS, the OECD DAC analysed the amount of aid that contributes to gender equality and women's empowerment in 57 fragile and conflict-affected countries and territories⁶. It found that 86% of the aid Ireland invests in fragile contexts contributes to gender equality. This is

⁵ <https://www.irishaid.ie/media/irishaid/aboutus/abetterworldirelandspolicyforinternationaldevelopment/A-Better-World-Irelands-Policy-for-International-Development.pdf>

⁶ <https://www.oecd.org/development/gender-development/Aid-Focussed-on-Gender-Equality-and-Women-s-Empowerment-2020.pdf>

among the highest shares of aid focused on gender equality in fragile contexts of all DAC donors, coming fourth after Canada, Iceland and Sweden.



Tailoring training forms part of a skills programme for young mothers in Save the Children's 'Fambul Welbodi' (Family Health) project, funded as part of Ireland's work to empower women and girls.

Photo: Noel Molony/DFA

Tackling root causes including gender stereotypes, discrimination against women and girls and other practices that promote inequality can amend social norms and attitudes, including those that condone gender-based violence. Related to this is the importance of engaging men and boys in the WPS agenda. Combatting various discriminatory gender norms and harmful masculinities can make an important contribution to efforts to achieve women's equality and participation, and tackle conflict and gender-based violence.

At the 2019 Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) Preparatory Committee, Ireland delivered a statement during the specific issue debate on improving the effectiveness of the strengthened review process, which addressed harmful masculinities in international security. During a side-event organised by Ireland in partnership with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF), one speaker explored how masculinities and gendered discourse influence understandings of power, how this plays out in the context of the NPT, and how States Parties might address harmful masculinities towards a human-centric approach to peace and security. Core funding was also provided to WILPF, who have a particular focus on harmful masculinities, and to United Nations Institute

for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), which included support to their gender and disarmament programme. The Gender and Disarmament Resource Pack developed by the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group (DIG) contains information on the relevance of gender perspectives to arms control, non-proliferation and disarmament, as well as practical ideas that can support diplomats in applying a gender lens to their work.

Ireland is also undertaking research in this space. Via the OECD DAC International Network on Conflict and Fragility (INCAF)⁷, Ireland has funded research on harmful masculinities and engaging with men and boys, including as stakeholders in WPS. Through the International Rescue Committee's (IRC) strategic partnership with Irish Aid, the IRC's Women's Protection and Empowerment programs engage refugee and displaced men in attitude, behaviour and social norms change approaches. These promote positive masculinities and address discriminatory gender norms. The Irish Defence Forces (DF) has also conducted a research piece in the area of military masculinities with a view to informing future action in this regard. This has been included as a strategic objective in the Defence Forces Action Plan⁸ on WPS, the third iteration of which was launched in December 2020.

The funding of programmes in support of GBV prevention in Ireland's bilateral programme countries and through our NGO partnerships increased from €11.3 million in 2018 to €13.7 million in 2019. This support is aimed at ending GBV, particularly the more difficult areas of transforming deeply entrenched attitudes and behaviours that allow violence to prevail. This includes support provided through our Mission network in countries including Tanzania, Liberia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe as well as funding provided through civil society partners such as Action Aid or Raising Voices.

In addition, Ireland also provides funding to GBV programmes through our multilateral and humanitarian funding. This includes a major partnership with the IRC on GBV prevention and empowerment, which is being implemented by IRC in Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Somalia. The Women's Rights Programme collaborates with the Centre for Behaviour Change to understand the problems of GBV and lack of economic empowerment in behavioural terms, making it possible to begin a process of deeper behavioural analysis to bring about more sustainable change by the end of the programme. Through Irish Aid's

⁷ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/conflict-fragility-resilience/incaf-network.htm>

⁸ <https://www.military.ie/en/public-information/publications/unscr-1325-and-related-resolutions.pdf>

work with IRC, over 80,000 community members, approximately 53% female and 47% male, were reached with GBV prevention activities through the Irish Aid funded project sites. In addition to our work with the IRC, Ireland also funds GBV prevention and response work through our investments in the multilateral system including through UN Women and the UN Trust Fund to end Violence against Women as well as through our investment in a range of other pooled funding mechanisms.

Ireland's work on prevention of Gender-Based Violence in Africa

In 2020, Ireland worked with partners to adapt and maintain essential GBV services in light of reports of increased incidence of GBV in the context of COVID-19

- In Zambia, support is being provided through the UN Joint Programme on GBV to expand the delivery of emergency shelter services for survivors of GBV
- In South Africa, Ireland is supporting UN Women on the development of rapid referral systems for survivors of GBV
- In Sierra Leone, Ireland is supporting government efforts to roll out one-stop centres that support the provision of GBV response services and working with UNFPA to adapt the programmes that support the establishment of safe spaces for adolescent girls out of school
- In Liberia and Tanzania, Ireland is supporting partners working at community level in providing essential GBV prevention and response services.
- In Zimbabwe, Ireland is supporting the UN, government and civil society partners to establish GBV mitigation and prevention measures, while strengthening referral mechanisms and disseminating information about the availability and accessibility of GBV services

Ireland will work to continue to put gender at the centre of its development and humanitarian work, and to integrate gender analysis into all aspects of its peace and security agenda. As will be outlined in the following section, the involvement in women and girls in all aspects of conflict prevention and resolution is imperative to build a sustainable peace and this can only be achieved by applying a gender lens to all aspects of Ireland's foreign policy.

Pillar 2: Participation

Women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflict, but, despite this, are often not involved in conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The third NAP commits that Ireland will ensure that gender analysis and women's leadership is strengthened in governance, conflict prevention and peacebuilding processes at all levels, including local, regional and national.

It is important to address the point that women are not a homogenous group, and the issue of intersectionality must be borne in mind. Women can face discrimination not only because of their gender, but also due to their religion, culture, sexual orientation, age, ethnicity and level of physical or mental ability. The active participation of women in peace and security matters must also be diverse, and efforts must be made to break down the barriers preventing this.

The empowerment of all women and girls is essential so that they can take their place as leaders and full and equal participants in conflict prevention, resolution, mediation, dialogue and peacebuilding, both domestically and internationally. This requires ensuring access to education, expanding women's capabilities and supporting women's leadership in political, economic and social life. It must be achieved at all levels, beginning at the grassroots. The linking of local, national, regional and international women's movements is key to addressing challenges faced on the ground by women human right defenders, local women's groups, grassroots women mediators and negotiators. Intergenerational dialogue will help to building the voice of young people and ensure that the WPS agenda is aligned with that of Youth, Peace and Security (YPS).

Ireland continues to provide funding to a range of programmes dedicated to women's voices in decision making including the Inter Parliamentary Union's Women in Politics programme, as well as support to women peacebuilders through funding to the Women's Peace and Humanitarian Trust Fund, the African Women Leaders Network, and a range of civil society partners including Trócaire and Action Aid.

During 2019 and 2020, women and girls across Kenya, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Cameroon and Somalia have been empowered to lead over 40 actions to highlight issues affecting women and girls in the community with decisions makers and humanitarian leaders. This has been supported by capacity strengthening activities under the IRC-Irish Aid strategic partnership

for women and adolescent girls on leadership and advocacy; increasing the role of diverse women and girls in managing Women and Girl Safe Spaces (WGSS); and supporting women and older adolescent girls in carrying out community actions. Examples of this include working with local authorities to address the continued practice of female genital mutilation (FGM) in Somalia; advocating with the Director of a local hospital in Cameroon for free access to medical care for survivors of GBV, and advocating for the extension of weapon free zones in South Sudan to allow for safe collection of firewood.

Increase funding and support to women's rights organisations is an important commitment in Ireland's international development policy *A Better World*. 2019 saw an increase in funding to women's rights organisations from €5.47m in 2018 to just over €5.7m.

Women's participation and gender perspectives in disarmament and non-proliferation

Ireland has actively promoted gender perspectives in national statements to disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control fora, and co-lead a joint statement on gender and disarmament to UNGA75 First Committee in October 2019, which had the support of over 80 countries.

In terms of research, DFA has funded two studies on Patterns of Participation in Multilateral Disarmament Forums (Norwegian People's Aid, 2020) and Still Behind the Curve: Gender Balance in Arms Control, Non Proliferation and Disarmament Diplomacy (UNIDIR, 2019).

In May 2019, the Disarmament Impact Group (DIG) held a side event at the 2nd Preparatory Committee for the 2020 NPT Review Conference in New York titled *When Participation Becomes Meaningful: Advancing the conversation on gender diversity in the NPT*.

Ireland passed the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons Act in January 2020, which gives effect to the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) in Irish Law. As well as recognising the disproportionate effect of ionising radiation on women and girls, the Treaty includes a provision on the equal participation of men and women in the Treaty's work.

During the preparatory phase of the Fifth Annual Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP5) cycle (2019), Ireland worked with co-chairs of the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group to develop a factsheet that presented ideas for action on gender and arms control. At the CSP5 itself, Ireland, with the support of Canada and Namibia in leading on a Joint Statement on Gender and the Arms Trade Treaty, which secured the support for 46 States Parties and which, among other issues, stressed the importance of gender perspectives in arms control.

The Oversight Group is pleased to report that one of the actions under this pillar is completed. The Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) have reported that refugees have been registered for childcare facilities both in Emergency Reception and Orientation Centres and following resettlement. A key driver of this is to enable women to take advantage of English classes and other cultural activities.

The participation of women and girls in all aspects of the peace and security agenda must be promoted at all levels of society. It is important to remember, however that in many areas, female participation can come with its own risks and therefore women leaders, participants and human rights defenders must be protected in order to allow them to carry out their work.

Pillar 3: Protection

The protection of women in the area of peace and security is of paramount importance. This can encompass the protection of their human rights; the physical protection from gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse; ensuring gender-responsive peacekeeping and peacebuilding; combatting human trafficking and, importantly, relief and recovery for victims of conflict-related violence.

While it is important not to view women through a solely protectionist lens, it is clear that efforts have to be made to protect women and girls from the impacts of conflict and conflict-related violence, as well as ensuring those that they interact with are cognisant of the gender perspective at all times. Ireland is also committed to advocating for

accountability for human rights violations in conflict settings in order to prevent such abuses from occurring again.

Ireland continues to increase multi-year support to gender equality-related programmes and initiatives in emergency settings and responding to and preventing GBV. This funding has increased from a baseline of €1.5m in 2018 to €2.2m in 2019. The IRC Strategic Partnership with Irish Aid has been instrumental to enabling the IRC to take forward and strengthen its work on the protection of women and girls in acute emergencies and protracted, forgotten crises, as well as supporting Ireland's commitments in this area.

A key action under this pillar is the allocation of specific human resource capacity, technical specialist expertise and provision of necessary training in order to support an effective humanitarian response to gender based violence. In 2018, Ireland conducted a recruitment round of membership for the Rapid Response Roster of Experts. Protection and child protection were amongst the areas prioritised in the application process. Seven new recruits with expertise in this area supplemented the roster of 120 experts, which already included roles such as Gender Advisor and GBV Advisor. In 2020, these new members have been deployed to fill surge capacity positions with the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in countries such as South Sudan, Myanmar, Palestine and Greece. In addition, DFA supported the Defence Forces in November 2019 on the delivery of training to NATO and UN member states on the investigation of sexual and gender based violence in conflict situations and peacekeeping operations.

Ireland co-chaired a process in the OECD DAC leading to the adoption of a recommendation to End Sexual Exploitation and Abuse and Sexual Harassment. This informed the development of a new draft DFA Safeguarding Policy which is expected to be finalised and adopted in 2021.

On the domestic front, the HSE is undertaking the following actions:

The role of the HSE in health related services

The HSE supports a range of NGOs nationally to provide health related services either as members of interagency working groups or networks or through provision of funding. A number of projects are funded to provide information, support and advocacy to service users accessing health and other support services due to conflict.

- Specific projects are funded to provide awareness raising among communities and healthcare providers and support for survivors of FGM. This includes a specialist clinic operated by the IFPA for girls and women who have undergone FGM and work carried out with at-risk communities, in particular Refugees and International Protection Applicants by AkiDwA.
- Spirasi are funded to provide support services to victims/survivors of torture.
- Specific Mental Health Projects have been funded or co funded to promote and improve positive mental health and well-being among Refugees and International Protection Applicants, e.g. Smashing Times Theatre for Positive Mental Health programme, Diversity Mayo and the follow-up WIN (welcoming and including new communities), Limerick Mental Health Initiative for Refugee Women.
- HSE Sexual Health Crisis Pregnancy Programme leads on the development of an outreach programme with Direct Provision (DP) communities, with local NGOs linking with the centres to provide information, which has enabled access to sexual health and unplanned pregnancy/abortion support service information.
- Mental health supports in the areas of gender, orientation, sexual health and HIV are provided. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the HSE has supported NGO services to deliver their activities online or remotely.

An Garda Síochána (AGS) have undertaken actions to combat human trafficking, including strengthening accountability mechanisms. Ireland's Human Trafficking National Referral Mechanism is currently under review by a Stakeholder Forum, including representatives from AGS, the HSE, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and leading victim-led NGOs. In particular, examples of victim experiences and engagement with such victims through the NGOs are being sought in order to inform and provide relevant input, both positive and negative, into the review for the development and enhancement of existing and proposed institutional mechanisms.

Awareness training is an important aspect of combatting human trafficking. By the end of 2019, almost 5,000 members of AGS received specific human trafficking awareness training as part of the core curriculum to all Trainee Garda, as part of Foundation Training at the Garda College in Templemore. While it was not possible to continue this training into 2020

due to COVID-19 restrictions, it is intended, in conjunction with Training staff at the Garda College, that cognisance of Ireland's Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security will be included into future modules of the current training curriculum of victim identification, awareness-raising, relevant legislation and responsibilities under the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland.

Combatting human trafficking must be undertaken on a whole-of-Ireland basis in order to be effective. An Garda Síochána and the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Unit (MSHTU) continued their collaborative island-wide focus on protecting victims of organised prostitution and associated offences.

Over two hundred (200) individuals who continued to advertise the provision of sexual services in both jurisdictions were sent a message reinforcing the availability of members of both An Garda Síochána and the PSNI to help or assist Sex Workers experiencing difficulties. Additional efforts to assist, and detect, potential victims of trafficking in the sex industry are continuing as part of the National COVID-19 Policing Plan.

The Irish Refugee Protection Programme has completed two actions under the third pillar. The Community Sponsorship Programme was piloted and launched as a mainstream programme during the reporting period, and, offers complementary pathways to resettlement. It continues to develop with an emphasis on local community support for refugees. Additionally, all staff working with IRPP have been appraised of the requirement for gender sensitivity in relation to booking of interpretation and with particular sensitivity regarding issues such as forced marriage and domestic, sexual and gender-based violence.

Pillar 4: Promotion

Mainstreaming the Women, Peace and Security agenda across foreign policy and all other relevant policy areas requires a high level of awareness raising, both domestically in Government Departments and civil society and internationally through multilateral international organisations and regional bodies. This effort to promote the WPS agenda should include advocacy, lesson-sharing, communications and highlighting focus contexts to demonstrate work being undertaken in this space. As a first step towards promotion, the third NAP was launched in the Irish Secretariat, Belfast, by Minister Simon Coveney in

October 2019, thereby completing one of the actions under this Pillar. The Plan was also launched at a WPS event in Ireland's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York in October 2019 by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne-Nason.

In terms of the promotion of WPS through workstreams, the DFA integrates a gender equality perspective across all of its work including in policies, resolutions, decisions and instrument relevant to peace and security across the EU, UN, OSCE, OECD and other international fora. At UN level, Ireland successfully chaired the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) for the 62nd and 63rd sessions in 2018 and 2019, ensuring the entire outcome document of CSW was negotiated on a consensus basis across the 193 UN member states and adopted by consensus by the members of the Commission. During the two weeks of CSW, Ireland hosted side events on education in emergencies; on women, peace and security; on gender-based violence in humanitarian contexts; and on gender budgeting with a diversity of partners.

While no new Civilian EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) missions have been launched during the reporting period for this document, Ireland has engaged positively on gender issues in working group level discussions. DFA will support the inclusion of a reference to gender equality in Civilian CSDP council conclusions in December 2020.

Lesson sharing initiatives in Colombia

Ireland's support to the Colombian peace process, implemented through the Embassy in Bogotá, the EU Trust Fund and the UN Multi Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF), includes a crosscutting gender approach. Each activity funded analyses and implements a gender focus following the UN recommendations and promoting the effective implementation of a WPS strategy. The Embassy also promotes the Colombian peace accords as an example of best practice in terms of incorporating gender considerations in peace negotiations.

The Gender Approach in the Police Service project, funded through the Colombian UNMPTF, aimed to strengthen a gender approach in Rural Police and improve the response and prevention of different forms of GBV in 7 municipalities prioritized by the Colombian government, contributing to the construction of a stable and lasting peace. 437 police officers were trained in gender approach, of which 372 graduated. 401 police officers were trained in GBV of which 319 graduated. 14 workshops were carried out with

the community as a commemoration of the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Rural Women’s Day.

A WPS Consultation was held to provide a space for conversation on good practices and lessons learned in Colombia, South Africa, Northern Ireland and Uganda in the area of sustainable peace, within the framework of promoting the effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. The session was hosted by the Embassy of Ireland and UN Women Colombia, and 17 different organisations working on gender topics in Colombia participated. The event encouraged the dialogue on the inclusion of women in the peace process in Colombia.

An ICMPS project entitled *The role of women in the Nature Tourism Program in the Nima Corridor to consolidate the peace in Colombia* was launched. It aimed to generate capacities for women from grassroots organisations and the youth in the Nima Corridor to participate in the execution of early actions for the implementation of the Nature Tourism Program in this territory with a view to consolidate peace and provide alternatives. During the first trimester of 2020, the project fully met its goals.



Children from San José del Guaviare sharing Joropo Llanero music in Iveagh House. Their music fosters and builds Reconciliation & Peace among children and adolescents affected by violence.

Photo: Phil Behan/DFA

WPS is a central theme of the Irish Embassy in Mexico's Presidency of the International Cooperation Roundtable on Gender Equality in Mexico (2019-2020). This has included high-level lesson sharing on developing and implementation of WPS National Action Plans.

The IRC's recently published global policy report, *What Happened? How the Humanitarian Response to COVID-19 Failed to Protect Women and Girls*, has amplified the voice of 852 women from refugee, displaced and post conflict settings across Africa using a standard safety audit questionnaire. In this way, IRC has been able to share with the humanitarian community evidence of how COVID-19 has affected the lives of women and girls.

Domestically, a Northern Ireland Consultative Group on WPS, organised by the Irish Secretariat, was launched by Minister Coveney in October 2019. Thematic areas to discuss in future meetings were outlined and the timeline and work-plan was established; unfortunately, due to COVID-19 restrictions no meetings or events have yet been held.

Ireland consistently advocates for the promotion of the WPS Agenda in the course of its ongoing participation in key Working Groups on International Security and Defence. The Defence Forces are guided by the NATO/Euro Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) WPS Policy⁹ in its implementation of the WPS agenda, which is articulated in the DF implementation policy document. The DF also attends the annual NATO Conference on Gender Perspectives (NCGP); however, NCGP 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19. Defence Forces Chief of Staff became a member of the WPS Chiefs of Defence (CHOD) Network Executive in 2020. The purpose of the WPS CHOD Network of senior Military Gender Champions is to address the challenges associated with the implementation of UNSCR 1325, by enabling the influence of senior military leaders to drive transformative cultural and institutional change within their own armed forces.

CRU Communications on WPS

In line with the commitment in Ireland's Third National Action Plan on Women Peace and Security, the Conflict Resolution Unit (CRU) in the Department of Foreign Affairs worked

⁹ https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/pdf_2018_09/180920-WPS-Action-Plan-2018.pdf

at developing a communications plan to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda both in Irish media and online, and through outreach events in Ireland.

A twitter account, @DFAPeaceSupport, was created in October 2019, in order to promote the WPS agenda. The Twitter account was also verified and obtained the much desired “blue tick”.

The content shared on the account is varied. For the occasion of the 20th October anniversary of the Agenda the UN Youth Delegate from Belfast shared with over 2,300 viewers what WPS meant to her. October also saw a coordination of publications across missions and units to demonstrate the cross-cutting and whole of government approach to the Agenda as well as the publication of a video translated in French, Italian and Spanish explaining Ireland’s commitment to progressing the Women Peace and Security agenda to over 1,400 viewers.

Through continued online engagement with DFA missions around the world, partners and colleagues, and with visual material such as graphic cards, infographs, newspapers articles and videos, it is believed that the WPS agenda issue can be brought closer to the general public, civil society and academia alike. To this end, the Conflict Resolution Unit also periodically compiles a newsletter, entitled “Ireland’s approach to the Women, Peace and Security Agenda” to promote the cross-departmental efforts dedicated to the Agenda in an accessible and attractive way, while sharing relevant resources and event invitations. The Unit also ensures that the DFA webpage dedicated to the Department’s work on UNSCR 1325¹⁰ is up to date and offers timely and quality content. Newsletters are available to the wider public for download from this webpage, as well as all research work coordinated by the Unit such as our most recent joint report with UN Women and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders, “Building Peace from the Grassroots: Learning from Women Peacebuilders to Advance the WPS Agenda”¹¹, commissioned for the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. These combined efforts to increase awareness of our work and improved communication planning will also add transparency to DFA’s work, promote its achievements and improve accountability.

¹⁰ <https://www.dfa.ie/our-role-policies/international-priorities/peace-and-security/women-peace-and-security/>

¹¹ <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourrolepolicies/peaceandsecurity/Building-peace-from-the-grassroots-Oct-2020.pdf>

4. COVID-19

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has been felt world-wide, and the repercussions of restrictive measures introduced to curtail the spread of the virus have been far reaching. The 2019 Secretary-General's report to the Security Council on WPS outlined six priority areas which need to be addressed to advance the WPS agenda twenty years on from the adoption of UNSCR 1325. These areas include accountability; meaningful participation of women; condemnation of human rights violations; increased number of women uniformed personnel; women's economic security; and increased funding to WPS. Initial assessments point to increased challenges in these areas due to the impact of the pandemic on societies globally, particularly in fragile conflict or post-conflict regions.

The WPS agenda is driven at grassroots level and civil society and women peacebuilders have been key players in any advancement made over the past twenty years. These actors are also those at the frontline of the global COVID-19 response. The pandemic has brought with it unprecedented challenges such as the closure of civil society spaces and the diversion of vital attention and resources away from WPS and peacebuilding towards responding to the crisis.

In response to this, Ireland, in collaboration with UN Women and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), brought together women peacebuilders from different backgrounds and contexts in Colombia, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Uganda to take stock of the WPS agenda in 2020, and the impact of COVID-19 on their work. These consultations held with the assistance of our Embassies in Belfast, Bogota, Kampala and Pretoria , involved experienced women peacebuilders and focused on the six priority areas identified by the UN Secretary General.



South African Consultations
Photo: GNWP/Flow Communications South Africa

A report¹² of these consultations, *Building Peace from the Grassroots: Learning from Women Peacebuilders to Advance the WPS Agenda*, was launched at a high-level event held in October 2020. Speakers including Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders and former President of Ireland and UN High Commissioner for Human Rights; Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, Executive Director of UN Women; and Mavic Cabrera Balleza, CEO of GNWP; as well as a number of grassroots women peacebuilders from the four focus countries. Contributions addressed the heightened risks facing grassroots women peacebuilders in progressing the WPS agenda in the context of COVID-19 – including the reported deliberate targeting of women human rights defenders, shrinking civil society spaces and increased levels of gender-based violence – and the increased burden of care that is now placed on women globally.

The report and the event also highlight how many civil society and advocacy bodies have risen to the challenge of COVID-19 and have worked imaginatively and effectively throughout 2020 to continue to deliver results on the ground despite the restrictions they are facing, including through increased use of online and digital communication platforms.

The United Nations Women’s Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)

The WPHF is a pooled funding mechanism supporting local women’s organisations working on peace and security and humanitarian response. WPHF was launched in 2016 and has funded over 200 projects in 25 countries ever since, providing rapid and flexible funding to local initiatives aiming at preventing and mediating conflict, strengthening women’s participation in conflict response and providing relief and recovery support to the communities. Ireland supported the establishment of WPHF and has been a consistent donor and supporter of the Fund since 2016.

In the face of the growing COVID-19 pandemic and its documented impacts on women and girls, especially in crisis settings, WPHF conducted a survey as early as March 2020 with its grantees across 4 continents to better understand how COVID-19 was affecting their work and their organisations and to potentially identify new ways of supporting them. Almost 30% of respondents felt their organisation’s existence was at risk due to the

¹² <https://www.dfa.ie/media/dfa/ourrolepolicies/peaceandsecurity/Building-peace-from-the-grassroots-Oct-2020.pdf>

impacts of COVID-19, with funds being often redirected to Governments or other larger organisations, and with gender being dramatically deprioritised. At the same time, a wide majority of respondents felt that they were in a particularly well placed position to respond to COVID-19 and its gender dimensions.

In response, WPHF launched in April 2020 a new COVID-19 Emergency Response Window, designed to support women-led and women's rights organisations in crisis settings to prevent COVID-19 and respond to its gendered impacts (programmatic funding), but also to provide institutional funding to organisations working on women, peace and security to help them sustain themselves throughout the crisis.

To date, the funding window has supported 43 projects involving 65 civil society organisations in 18 countries, through both institutional and programmatic funding. The funding gap of this window to date is still at \$31.6m USD, showing how significant the needs still are for women's organisations responding to COVID in crisis contexts.

In Liberia, WPHF is supporting the 'Association of Female Lawyers of Liberia' with institutional funding of just under \$30,000 USD. The organisation works on providing pro bono support for indigent women and children survivors of SGBV through two satellite legal clinics in Liberia. The WPHF funding is helping the organisation to sustain remunerations for staff, office space rentals and equipment as well as cover new communications costs especially via phone and the internet to serve their communities. This will help the organisation sustain its operations and provide online support to ensure women's access to justice during the COVID-19 crisis.

In Palestine, WPHF is supporting 'the Culture and Free Thought Association (CFTA)' organisation through programmatic funding of just under \$200,000 USD. The organisation is building the capacities and providing financial support to 10 different Community Based Organisations, led by women or targeting women across the Gaza Strip, to overcome the current crisis, which is putting them at a high risk of closing down. The project also provides financial support to women headed households who are at risk of losing their small businesses due to the COVID-19 related economic crisis. In addition, the project is providing women and girls, including those with disabilities, with a full package of sexual and reproductive health services including family planning, post-natal and natal care.

Finally, the organisation also plans to work with men and boys on GBV prevention by organising round table discussions, Q&A and broadcasting radio programs on social norms, gender roles and combatting domestic violence, increased by the pandemic.



In Liberia, the WPHF is financing the work of Supporting Citizen Initiative for Development in Africa (SCIDA) on a project to strengthen the participation of Liberian women & girls in decision-making processes that address COVID-19 at the community level. SCIDA has led workshops for over 100 rural women & girls on COVID-19 and SGBV risk and prevention strategies

Photo: SCIDA

5. Focus Countries

As part of the NAP's international focus, a number of key Focal Point missions have been undertaking work in the WPS space.

Southern Africa

South Africa

South Africa's already widespread and high levels of gender-based violence have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with President Ramaphosa describing GBV as a "second pandemic" affecting the country in 2020. Women have also been the hardest hit by the post COVID-19 recession, leaving them more economically vulnerable. Embassy Pretoria has supported the development and implementation of a National Strategic Plan to combat GBV and Femicide in South Africa, and Ireland's civil society partners have continued to provide vital services to survivors of domestic and sexual violence throughout the pandemic, as well as support women entrepreneurs to sustain their livelihoods.

Ireland and South Africa have also worked together to advance the WPS Agenda. South Africa's Department of International Relations and Cooperation supported Embassy Pretoria's consultation with women peacebuilders, as part of a multi-country process that led to the publication of the "Building Peace from the Grassroots" report, referred to previously.

Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, where UNSCR 1325 has yet to be signed and ratified and where only 25% of public servants are women, the Embassy in South Africa, accredited to Zimbabwe, has adopted a strong focus on enhancing the role of women in politics and society. In 2020, the Embassy launched two new initiatives, one to support women's leadership at a national level and a second to strengthen networks of smaller women's organisations. The first initiative, with UN Women, saw the launch and establishment of a Zimbabwe chapter of Africa Women's Leaders Network. The Network has made good progress in expanding its reach, despite COVID-19 restrictions. The second initiative, which works through an established civil society network, uses media, virtual platforms and where possible, physical

meetings, to bring women together to network effectively and encourage participation in decision making at all levels.

Zimbabwe's layered humanitarian crisis is characterised by drought and both political and economic fragility, all exacerbated by COVID-19 restrictions. The Embassy supports a gender protection programme through the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) to enhance the provision of basic services for survivors of gender-based violence, which has increased significantly since the introduction of lockdown to address the spread of COVID-19.

West Africa

Liberia

In Liberia, Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is a significant widespread problem, and the COVID-19 pandemic saw an escalation of incidence and reported cases, as has happened in many other countries. This led the President of the Republic of Liberia to recently declare rape to be a national emergency, and to launch an 'Anti-SGBV Roadmap' to tackle it. The Embassy previously supported a joint Rule of Law programme, implemented by UNDP, where specialised prosecution of SGBV cases was institutionalised. Liberia is one of nine selected countries in Africa for the EU-UN Spotlight Initiative, which aims to eradicate sexual and gender-based violence, and the Embassy is actively involved in the Steering Committee overseeing its implementation. A four-year programme on GBV prevention and community-led response is being implemented with a civil society consortium. The Embassy also provides support to the UN Peacebuilding Office to strengthen political participation, with a specific focus on women's participation in civic and political life. Another programme supports an enabling environment for Women Human Rights Defenders and LGBTQI Rights Defenders in Liberia, through a civil society consortium. We also co-fund an EU multi-year programme building civil society capacity on advocacy, communication, gender awareness, policy dialogue, public sector reforms and public accountability.



*A village near Boegessay in Rivercess county comes together to build an improved pit latrine with Irish support through Oxfam International
Photo: DFA*

In addition to the above programming, the Embassy is engaged in political advocacy with government, civil society and the international community in support of sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) prevention and response, and wider WPS issues. Ireland has cooperated with the Government of Liberia, through the Ministry of Gender, on the drafting of its second National Action Plan and sits on the Steering Committee for its implementation. Liberian civil society representatives were also involved in the consultation process for Ireland's third NAP, building on earlier lesson-sharing exercises. The Embassy further supports efforts to increase the profile of Liberia's WPS agenda on the international stage, including by facilitating the participation of the Minister of Gender at multilateral events in the context of UN WPS Week and the Commission on the Status of Women, and by regularly raising WPS and gender issues at the Liberia Configuration of the UN Peacebuilding Commission in New York. In the coming year, the Embassy hopes to continue strengthening capacity in this area, including by training Liberian female peacekeepers in Ireland and by offering scholarships to Liberian students interested in developing their knowledge of WPS matters.

Sierra Leone

The Mission has been involved through advocacy, policy engagement and supporting implementing partner's interventions in the development and implementation of the first and second NAP on UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 (which concern the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war). Ending SGBV and adolescent pregnancy are central to its gender work.

The Mission played a leading role in integrating gender in the Government's response to COVID-19. It supported the Ministry of Gender and Children's Affairs (MoGCA) implement their Gender Responsive COVID-19 Framework by embedding two Gender Experts in the national-level response command structure and five Gender Experts at district-levels. In partnership with UN Women, it also supported the National Statistics Office to conduct a rapid gender assessment on COVID-19 impact on women. Recognising COVID-19 as a WPS issue, the Mission through UN Women supported training of the Mano River Union Peace Network (MARWOPNET) Community Women Peace Ambassadors, a regional women's organisation, on enhancing gender equality and protection in COVID-19 response in 20 chiefdom cross-border communities.



*MARWOPNET training of peace ambassadors in Freetown
Photo: DFA*

The mission co-chairs with UN Women the Development Partner's Group on Gender Equality (with representatives from EU, Department for International Development (UK), UN Women, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), UNICEF, UN Development Programme (UNDP), World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF)).

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, the Group has supported MoGCA in developing national guidelines on gender equality within the national COVID-19 response and guidelines that specifically focus on the national health and economic response pillars.

The Mission continues to support services for survivors of SGBV. In 2020, it supported MoGCA to establish five 'One Stop Centres' and a national SGBV toll free #116 hotline. This augments the services provided by Rainbo Initiative, a long-standing partner which, for the last 12 years, has been the main provider of free health and psychological services to survivors of SGBV.

The Mission is currently implementing a project 'More than a Woman: Strengthening Women's Participation in Politics and Governance' that aims to strengthen women's collective voice, knowledge and accountability in governance and politics at district and regional level. The Ambassador is also leading an initiative bringing together women leaders and activists network effectively, highlighting the critical role of women's rights organisation and movements in meaningful participation at all levels of decision-making in Sierra Leone.

African Union

The Embassy of Ireland in Addis Ababa provided funding to UN Women, in collaboration with the African Union's Office of the Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security, to hold a consultative meeting in Dakar, Senegal, of AU Member States and Regional Economic Communities that have WPS National Action Plans, to assess the implementation of the WPS Agenda. The Embassy in Addis Ababa also provided funding for the production of a video and the promotional materials to be used by the African Union Member States and UN Women Africa offices for the celebration of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

The Embassy in Addis Ababa, working with UNHCR, ensured the meaningful participation of refugee and displaced women at a series of high-level meetings throughout 2019, which was demarcated by the African Union as 'The Year of Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons: Towards Durable Solutions to Forced Displacement in Africa'.

Middle East

Palestine

Gender remains a priority for many of the organisations that Ireland supports in Palestine. Ireland's Development Framework for Palestine commits to better integrating gender equality into the programme for development and humanitarian assistance in Palestine and to ensure the systematic mainstreaming of gender equality.

Ireland continues to support the Palestinian Authority on national initiatives to address violence against women. In 2019, Ireland signed an agreement with the Ministry of Women's Affairs to support a project on building institutional capacity to combat violence against women through research into its economic cost.

Ireland supports the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund, which funded projects related to GBV that targeted over 45,000 people in 2019. Activities related to combating GBV under these projects included group counselling and psychosocial support activities; legal aid for GBV survivors; provision of shelter services to GBV victims; and economic empowerment through specialised trainings and on-the-job coaching.

Women rights and gender equality are prioritised by Ireland across all engagement with civil society organisations (CSOs). Ireland supports CSOs that focus on empowering women's political participation and advancing implementation of UNSCR 1325 and CEDAW at all levels. Protecting women from GBV and ensuring their rights through the legal systems are another focus area. Ireland's human rights partner organisation, the Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy (MIFTAH), trained 50 women through its Elections Support Programme. A series of training workshops over 12 days took place in various districts to support women's participation in legislative elections.

6. Case Studies – Domestic Implementation of the WPS Agenda

Operation Faoiseamh

At the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic, An Garda Síochána recognised that domestic abuse incidents were increasing, in line with international trends. There was an acute appreciation of the importance of An Garda Síochána working quickly and decisively to ensure support and assistance was provided to the victims of domestic abuse.

By way of proactive pre-emptive response, Operation Faoiseamh was launched nationwide on 1 April 2020. The goal of the Operation was, and continues to be, to provide proactive support and reassurance to victims of domestic abuse during the COVID-19 pandemic. The implementation of Operation Faoiseamh revolved around a four-pillar approach:

- i. a media campaign
- ii. execution of arrests for breaches of Domestic Violence Act 2018 orders
- iii. completing domestic abuse call-backs
- iv. proactive follow up calls to all victims of domestic abuse by Garda Victim Service Offices

i. Media Campaign

A robust media campaign, supported by the Garda Press Office and including a number of press, radio and television interviews by senior management attached to the Garda National Protective Services Bureau, was actioned to coincide with the launch of Operation Faoiseamh. The launch received support and positive feedback from advocacy NGOs. Safe Ireland, in a press release issued on 1 April 2020, stated that “An Garda Síochána’s proactive operation (Operation Faoiseamh) to help and support victims of domestic abuse and coercive control was a welcome and reassuring initiative that sends a clear message to both victims and abusers.”

Operation Faoiseamh was further supported by the ‘Still Here’ media campaign launched by the Department of Justice on 10 April 2020. The ‘Still Here’ campaign included radio and television advertisements addressing domestic abuse and encouraging victims to seek support and assistance.

ii. Execution of Domestic Violence Act 2018 orders

The importance of the prompt execution of arrests for breaches of Domestic Violence Act 2018 orders was strongly emphasised in the Operation Faoiseamh operational order. An Inspector from the Garda National Protective Services Bureau, with responsibility for Domestic Abuse, made personal contact with the respective nominated Divisional Inspectors across the country who had been given operational responsibility for the implementation and monitoring of Operation Faoiseamh. This engagement facilitated an opportunity to address any uncertainties and to provide clarity in respect of aspects of the Operation as required. The importance of the swift execution of arrests for breaches of orders was also reemphasised during these interactions.

Furthermore, an internal awareness campaign was implemented with the view to ensuring that investigating members were fully equipped with the necessary knowledge of the pertinent powers and investigative processes relating to domestic abuse investigations.

iii. Completing Domestic Abuse Call-backs

A proactive approach was adopted by the Garda National Protective Services Bureau in respect of 'call-backs' to reported domestic abuse incidents. This approach involved interaction with local Garda management to provide guidance and advice in order to improve compliance rates, at Divisional level, to achieve the organisational goal, to improve '7 day call-back' compliance rates.

An Inspector attached to the Garda Victims Liaison Office of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau, made direct contact with local operational managers in order to identify successful processes in Garda Districts which are attaining high levels of 'call-backs' for domestic abuse incidents, while also identifying areas where improvements could be implemented. Engagement between the Garda Victims Liaison Office at the Garda National Protective Services Bureau and local management continues in this regard.

iv. Proactive follow up calls to all victims of domestic abuse by Garda Victim Service Offices

As part of Operation Faoiseamh, phone contact by Garda Victim Support Office personnel was initiated in respect of each domestic abuse related incident reported since 1 January 2020.

Pertinent incidents were identified with the assistance of the Garda Síochána Analysis Services and a detailed list was disseminated to each Garda Division.

Guidance was provided to Garda Victims Support Officers in respect of the relevant processes by the Garda Victims Liaison Office of the Garda National Protective Services Bureau.

Response

As of the 7 December 2020, An Garda Síochána has recorded a 17% year on year increase to date in calls for assistance in respect of domestic-related issues from 2019 levels; a year-on-year increase of 25% was recorded at the height of the pandemic.

To date, a total of 20,699 contacts or attempts at contact to victims of domestic abuse have been recorded as part of Operation Faoiseamh. A number of victims used the opportunity presented by the proactive contact to request further assistance from An Garda Síochána and local resources were dispatched accordingly.

The overall response in respect of Operation Faoiseamh, from victims, NGOs, state agencies and the Policing Authority has been overwhelmingly positive.

The Policing Authority has engaged with organisations working in the area of Domestic Abuse and reported as follows in its Sixth Report on Policing Performance by the Garda Síochána in Relation to Covid-19 Regulations¹³, which was published on 17 July 2020:

- *The view was expressed that a number of high risk interventions conducted by Gardaí over this period may ultimately have averted, in some cases, the risk of domestic homicide*
- *Organisations are also reporting positively on the quality of the phone calls being made to prior victims of domestic abuse and the establishment in some areas of domestic abuse hubs*
- *The view was expressed that the policing response to domestic abuse is the best it has ever been in Ireland*

The Policing Authority provided further positive commentary on Operation Faoiseamh and An Garda Síochána's approach to Domestic Abuse in its 7th Report on Policing Performance

¹³ http://www.justice.ie/en/JELR/Pages/Use_of_Covid-19_related_powers_by_An_Garda_S%C3%ADoch%C3%A1na

by the Garda Síochána in Relation to Covid-19 Regulations⁸, published on the 16th September 2020, stating:

- *The feedback from organisations contacted by the Policing Authority continued to be “uniformly positive about Operation Faoiseamh”*
- *There was a perceived ‘shift in practice’ within the Garda Síochána organisation and that “there has been what organisations have called a ‘paradigm shift’ in the approach to domestic abuse by the Garda Síochána”.*
- *This has in turn resulted in victims having a “greater confidence to report”.*

In addition, An Garda Síochána was recognised by the Civil Service Excellence & Innovation Recognition Event, under the ‘Excellence in Customer Service’ category, for Operation Faoiseamh during a virtual recognition event held on the 26 November, 2020 to formally showcase and recognise initiatives that have been developed in response to the Covid-19 crisis in a challenging environment.

Operation Faoiseamh will be subject of review in early course in order to integrating the positive aspects of Operation Faoiseamh in the updated Domestic Abuse Intervention Policy and Procedures; and the Domestic Abuse Intervention Strategy.

International Organisation for Migration and the Irish Refugee Protection Programme

Resettlement is critical to finding durable solutions for refugees. It is also an important symbol of international solidarity and commitment to refugees unable to return to their country of origin for fear of continued persecution.

Founded in 1951, to assist in the resettlement of Europeans displaced in the aftermath of World War II, the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) has provided essential assistance in support of refugee resettlement operations for almost seven decades. In the last decade alone, IOM has organised the resettlement movements of well over 1.19 million refugees and other vulnerable persons of concern from 166 locations around the world.

Ireland is a signatory on both the Global Compact for Migration (GCM) and the Global Compact for Refugees (GCR) and has always remained dedicated to the rights and protections of refugees. In 2015, the Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRRP) was established as a direct response to the humanitarian crisis that developed in Southern Europe.

In the last quarter of 2020, the IRPP requested IOM's support with the resettlement of some 160 refugees currently residing in Lebanon and Jordan. With IOM assistance, the IRPP had previously travelled to both countries, Jordan and Lebanon, where their teams had selected, vetted and medically assessed these refugees wishing to be considered for the Irish Refugee Programme.

IOM works with IRPP on all aspects of resettlement with gender considerations given central consideration. During the selection missions and pre-departure orientation (PDO) sessions, child-minding services are made available to ensure both the principal applicant and spouse can attend the interview and PDO in full, while small children remain in a safe environment with the needed supervision and care. Interpreters of a specific gender are assigned as needed or requested by the beneficiary in coordination with the delegation. Safe spaces are assigned as needed or requested by the beneficiary in coordination with the delegation. Safe spaces and breastfeeding rooms are made available as necessary and as culturally appropriate. Gender considerations are also considered when beneficiaries are assessed medical teams. IOM's Migration Health teams consist of a mix of male and female specialists who assist the medical team with their specialist evaluation.

'My son in Germany sent us money to support us because I am sick and I couldn't work. When the plane took off for Ireland we were so happy we started praying and thanking God. I was sick a lot in Lebanon but not anymore. We are getting the care that we need. Thank you Ireland for accepting us.'

Mohamad Hisham Khaled and family

For the November arrivals, IOM conducted migration health assessments to ensure all refugees were cleared for travel and to facilitate the treatment of known and pre-existing conditions, hospital referrals, and to address psychosocial needs. This was closely coordinated with the IRPP and the Irish HSE. All refugees also had a pre-embarkation check 24-72 hours before departure to establish their fitness to travel. COVID-19 testing was completed at this time prior to departure for all beneficiaries regardless of age and refugees were accommodated in a quarantine facility in preparation for departure.

During their time in the pre-departure quarantine facility, the refugees could access pre-departure orientation and information sessions on life in Ireland and what to expect. This

allowed them to ask any questions and address any concerns that they may have about their life in Ireland.

'We arrived in Ireland from Lebanon; we couldn't believe we were selected to come to Ireland. We felt safe and happy. It was cold but we were happy. In Lebanon, we were scared because of racism and our kids had no school. Now our life can begin. My wife is not scared anymore and my children are happy.'

Hisham Blo Morad and family

The IOM and the IRPP team continued to work closely to ensure their safe and timely arrival, which also need to be coordinated in close consideration of COVID restrictions and regulations. The refugees travelled to Ireland by charter flight and arrived on 19th November to a warm welcome from IRPP and IOM teams. They were transported from Dublin Airport to a quarantine facility where they remained for a two-week period. Throughout this time, they were supported and assisted by IRPP, IOM and Irish Red Cross staff who remained on site to manage their daily needs and requests.

During the two-week period, a series of training and information sessions filled the days, with refugees learning invaluable lessons on life in Ireland. Sessions included Irish culture and holidays, childcare, education and schooling, money and budgeting, banking, housing, cultural norms and laws. The sessions were all facilitated through Arabic and feedback from the refugees remained positive throughout.

Gender considerations were at the forefront of the IOM and IRPP consciousness with childminding facilities provided in parallel to information and training sessions, ensuring female participation. Specific sessions were delivered to the women and teenage girls on gender specific realities in Ireland such as a session on 'Life as a Muslim Women' which was delivered by the Islamic Women's Association; 'Mother and Parenting' delivered by a team of Tusla social workers; 'GBV and reporting' delivered by AkiDWA and the Irish Refugee Council; and a session on women's health. Education and access to further education was discussed in depth with the women and information was provided on training opportunities that they may be eligible to apply for. Childcare and accessing supports were also discussed in order to allow the women consider all of their options clearly here in Ireland.

'I liked staying there [at the quarantine facility] because it was safe and fun. We waited so long in Lebanon and when we got the call that we were going to Ireland my Aunt fainted with relief!'

Rawan Kor Ali (12)

After two more rounds of COVID-19 testing, with negative results, and having successfully completed the required timeframe for post-arrival quarantine, the refugees left Dublin and dispersed to their new accommodation. As they mounted the steps of the bus, they were ready to leave the facility and were eager to start their new lives.

The children talked excitedly about the school lives that they had heard so much about and the new friends that they were going to make. They wanted to practice their English and play field sports outside like they had seen in the pictures. Parents and adults were anxious but eager now, as they had spent years investing their thoughts, worries and hopes on this opportunity for a safe place to make a home for themselves and their family and they could now finally breathe a sigh of relief. This was the last leg of a very long physical, mental and emotional journey for many of them and the sense of anticipation and excitement was tangible.

'I always felt like I could ask them for help with anything. It was really fun and gave us a chance to forget any worries and just have a good time.'

Ahmad Al Ahmad (13)

7. Conclusion

Ireland's third National Action Plan has featured in the UN Secretary General's last two annual reports on Women Peace & Security as an example of best practise. Internationally, we have a reputation as a leader in the WPS field, and we have assisted a number of countries in the development of their NAPs, including the European Union, Malta, Bulgaria, Liberia, Lithuania and Greece in 2019, and Uzbekistan in 2020. We have also presented and shared lessons with various WPS support groups of which we are members, such as the WPS Focal Point Network.

While the first year of the third NAP began well, the COVID-19 pandemic has meant that we have had to adjust working practices and certain challenges and delays have arisen in implementing a number of actions. It is clear, however, from the case studies above and the framework at Annex I that much has been achieved, and that Ireland is on the right track in terms of the Plan's implementation.

The third NAP is a five-year plan and as such, some of the activities were not scheduled to commence in the first year. Challenges around determining baselines continue to be addressed, as this Plan involves a shift in culture on how we think about these and effectively gather the data we require. Ireland is not alone in this problem, as all countries who have developed similar National Action Plans have difficulty in this regard.

The Oversight Group plays an important role in the implementation of the NAP, overseeing issues arising within the Plan and constantly briefing itself on issues trending in the field of WPS to ensure that Ireland is up to date in its responses both domestically and internationally. The NAP is a living document and flexibility is key as can be seen in how the programme adapted to the impacts of COVID-19 in 2020. The promotion of WPS remains a key priority and commitment for the Government as displayed in the examples outlined in this report, and there is much to do in the coming years.

As Ireland takes its seat on the Security Council in January 2021 and assumes our role of co-Chair of the Informal Experts Group on WPS, the WPS agenda will continue to be one of our key priorities as we focus on its global implementation. As the old Irish saying goes "Tús maith leath na hoibre" - A good start is half the work.

Annex 1 – Traffic-Light Monitoring Framework

PILLAR 1: PREVENTION					
Strategic Outcome 1.1: Gender equality and women’s empowerment is prioritised in all of Ireland’s development and humanitarian work, including in conflict-affected contexts to deliver A Better World and The Global Island policies					
Output	Action	Indicator	Start Date	Lead Organisation	Current Project Status
1.1.1 DFAT Approach to conflict is gender sensitive and inclusive of gender perspectives	Implement gender analysis in all engagements relating to conflict-affected contexts including reporting on sex and gender disaggregated data and reporting where possible	#N of reports with sex and gender disaggregated data	2021	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action on track
		Overall level of policy implementation 2019-2023 (low, medium, high)			Action on track
	Incorporate WPS as a key theme of engagement in situations of conflict and fragility, including across development and humanitarian programmes and in bilateral country strategies including focus missions	#N of Mission and Regional Strategies that reference WPS related policy priorities	2021	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Not started
		#N of WPS principal and WPS significant projects and programmes supported globally and at country level			
Annual reports from focus contexts on WPS related work, including local consultations, advocacy and/or funding. All reports published to including funding and	Level compliance (low, medium, high)	2021	DFA (DCAD, Political Division, IUKA)	Not started	

	actions across Ireland's programmes and missions, including sex and age disaggregated data, where possible				
1.1.2 Increase and streamline funding and reporting on WPS across Ireland's development and humanitarian work and gender equality in conflict-affected settings	Establish baselines and principle/significant funding on WPS across Ireland's development and humanitarian work.	€ and % baseline established and proportional increase	2020	DFA (DCAD; Political Division)	Action on track
	Scoping exercise identifying all of Ireland's WPS interventions and gender-sensitive funding allocations				Not started
1.1.3 Deepen our understanding of the gendered impacts of poverty, inequality, climate change and conflict, including as an essential element of reaching the furthest behind first, including women and girls	The Gender Equality Strategy is developed and ensures gender equality is integrated across all aspects of Ireland's development and humanitarian work including other policy priorities, climate action, reducing humanitarian need and strengthening governance	Level of implementation of gender equality commitments in A Better World (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Not started
	Strengthened poverty and vulnerability analysis, including baseline and specific measures to target the furthest behind first	Baseline and targets established			Action on track
	Increased support to work on gender equality and climate action	Evidence of activities addressing the different WPS-related impacts of climate change and environmental degradation			Action on track
1.1.4 Prioritise education for girls and scale up our funding to education, especially for girls in conflict-affected settings	Allocation of Ireland's Official Development Assistance (ODA) to education in emergencies and protracted crises	% of Ireland's ODA allocated to education in emergencies and protracted crises Target of €250 million 2019-2023 inclusive	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action on track
Strategic Outcome 1.2: A gender analysis is integrated into Ireland's work including in relation to conflict-affected contexts and on peace and security issues, including relation to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security policy and disarmament					
1.2.1 Ensure a whole of department approach to	Strengthen capacity and training around gender equality, GBV and gender-sensitive conflict analysis	#N of trainings and capacity building that include gender equality, gender sensitive	2019	DFA	Action on track

conflict that is gender sensitive		conflict analysis and GBV response training for DFAT staff and partners, including pre-posting training		(DCAD, CRU, Training Division)	
		% and #N of trainees report increased knowledge of gender equality. GBV and gender-sensitive conflict analysis			Action progressing with some delays
1.2.2 Advocacy and support for whole of department gender analysis on peace and security issues, including in relation to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and security policy and disarmament	Advocate for the systemic integration of gender analysis and perspectives into the EU's Early Warning System for Conflict and into other current and future concepts of and approaches to early warning and conflict analysis and related indicators, which have context-specific, inclusive and participatory processes	#N and % of early warning/disaster and violence risk reduction reports that integrate a gender perspective	2019	DFA (DCAD, CRU)	Not started
	Provide support for programmes focused on the inclusion of gender perspectives and women's effective participation in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) and radicalisation, with particular focus on the role of women as agents of change in society.	#N of programmes supported and #N of women and girls reached in these programmes	2020	DFA (Political Division, ISP)	Not started
	Provide support to programmes that analyse the direct effect on women and girls of violent extremism and radicalisation	Increase in reported awareness of PVE perspectives (low, medium, high)			

	Support the bridging of the gender gap in cybersecurity employment	Increased level of gender equality and perspectives in the field of cybersecurity (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (Political Division, ISP)	Action progressing
1.2.3 Increase investment in research and programming on gender and security impacts of climate change	Research commissioned on gender and security impacts of climate change in Pacific Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and findings are used by Pacific SIDS in their Security Council engagement and advocacy to the UN Special Rapporteur on climate and security	Level of uptake of commissioned findings (low, medium, high) % increase in funding Level of impact of research on policy (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action progressing
	Strengthen support for gender equality and women's involvement in climate action	Achievement of key indicators in Gender Action Plan for UNFCCC	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
1.2.4 Increase investment in and support for women's empowerment and security of land tenure	Support women's economic empowerment with a particular focus on food systems and land tenure including in conflict-affected and fragile contexts	#N of global agriculture and nutrition implementing partners with Gender Action Plans	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
Strategic Outcome 1.3: The effects and drivers of harmful masculinities and discriminatory gender norms are addressed, including support for the engagement of men and boys as advocates and stakeholders in WPS					
1.3.1 Further our work in understanding the impact of harmful social norms, including masculinities and discriminatory gender norms on gender equality	Further our work in understanding and challenging how harmful masculinities influence policies of disarmament and arms control, including conventional arms control, nuclear deterrence and other justifications for the possession of nuclear weapons	Provision of support through relevant funding streams	2020	DFA (Political Division, DNP)	Action on track
		#N of side events relating to or including masculinities			Action on track
		Level of research commissioned			Action on track
	Commission research on the effects and drivers of harmful social norms, including masculinities and discriminatory gender norms and support for the engagement of men and boys as advocates and stakeholders in WPS	Level of uptake of commissioned findings (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action on track

	Invest in capacity building and analysis on the effects and drivers of harmful masculinities and discriminatory gender norms in broader programming	Level of impact of research on policy (low, medium, high)			Action progressing
1.3.2 Prioritise whole of society engagement and transformative GBV prevention approaches recognising the role of women and girls, men and boys as well as national, community and local leaders	Increase support to programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing and responding to gender based violence, through whole of society engagement and transformative approaches	#N of partners engaged in transformative GBV prevention programming and number of people (women and men) supported through the programming Increased reported capacity, including research and training, to better integrate analysis of the effects and drivers of harmful masculinities and discriminatory gender norms across our programmes	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
	Continue to support through the Reconciliation Fund, projects that support women who have been affected by the conflict on the island of Ireland. Seek to support programmes that work with both women and men on gender equality and awareness raising on issues relating to GBV	#N of projects funded through the Reconciliation Fund	2020	DFA (IUKA)	Not started
1.3.3 Consideration of the effects of masculinities by the Defence Forces	Over the lifetime of NAP 3, the Defence Forces will consider the effects and drivers of violent masculinity and efforts to support the engagement of men both as advocates and beneficiaries of the WPS agenda	Issues reflected in the third Defence Forces Action Plan	2021	Defence Forces	Action on track
1.3.4 Gender equality is included in cultural orientation to Irish Refugee Protection Programme (IRPP) beneficiaries	Provision of a Cultural Orientation to IRPP beneficiaries whereby societal norms of Ireland with regards gender equality is communicated	Men are aware of cultural norms in Ireland	2020	IRPP	Action progressing

PILLAR 2: PARTICIPATION

Strategic Outcome 2.1: Women are meaningful participants in the Government of Ireland’s representation in all peace and security for a, including at senior decision-making and leadership levels

Output	Action	Indicator	Start Date	Lead Organisation	Current Project Status
2.1.1 Increase the recruitment, retention, advancement and participation of women within the DFA	Implement the Equality and Diversity Action Plan	The level of gender balance in the representation and participation of women at all levels of DFA reported through #N and %	2020	DFA	Action progressing
	Report on % of women interviewed, recruited, retained and represented at all levels of DFA				
	Increase in the level of affirmative measures for addressing the structural barriers to women’s representation and participation				
	Provide internal capacity building to promote women in leadership roles within DFA				
2.1.2 Increase the participation of women in disarmament discussions	Maintain a leadership role in the Disarmament International Gender Champions (IGC) network	#N Leadership meetings attended by women in DFA	2019	DFA (DNP)	Action on track
	Continue to promote a gender perspective in national statements to UN Disarmament fora	High reported quality level of contribution to international fora			Action on track
	Implement the Disarmament IGC Panel Parity Pledge. No longer support or participate in panel discussions or side events with single-sex panels	% panels chaired by women			Action on track
		Level of reported implementation of a gender perspective in national statements (low, medium, high)			Action on track
	Maintain our support for and continue to encourage delegations to promote women’s meaningful and equitable participation in all disarmament discussions	% of women represented in disarmament discussions at all levels	2019	DFA (DNP)	Action on track

	Systematically advocate for gender responsive language and action in resolutions, working groups, training programmes and more throughout the Arms Trade Treaty process	#N and quality of gender perspective and actions incorporated in resolutions, working groups, training programmes and more throughout the Arms Trade Treaty process (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (DNP)	Action on track
2.1.3 Women's meaningful and equitable participation at senior decision-making and leadership levels in Irish Defence is progressed through systematic and institutionalised mechanisms	Draft and launch the Defence Forces Third National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security	Action Plan is written and launched	2020	Defence Forces	Action complete
	Continue to undertake measures to improve the recruitment, retention and advancement of women within the Defence Forces	Measures undertaken and implemented on recruitment and retention supporting an increase in the number of women at senior level management in the Defence Forces #N and % increase of women at middle and senior level management in Defence Forces	2020	Defence Forces	Action on track
	Examine data gathering measures with a view to capturing the effectiveness of Defence Forces' training and organisational measures regarding the WPS agenda	Data collected Additional data gathering measures explored in DF Third Plan	2021	Defence Forces	Action on track
Strategic Outcome 2.2: Women's leadership and meaningful participation in conflict-prevention, resolution, mediation, recovery from conflict, international security, peacebuilding and the disarmament fora is significantly improved including through empowerment					
2.2.1 Increase and strengthen women's voices in decision making at all levels and their meaningful participation in peacebuilding	Increase funding to progress programmes dedicated to increasing and strengthening women's voices in decision making at all levels	€ increased funding	2019	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action progressing
	Continue an equitable and representative participatory approach (in Ireland and focus countries) to the development and implementation of NAPs	#N of equitable and representative participatory consultations #N of female briefers in UN fora supported by Ireland % mediators and participants demonstrating awareness of gender perspectives	2019	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action on track
	Encourage partners to work with and build capacity of local actors to provide women-led responses to emergencies	Reported compliance and improvement of building capacity of local actors to provide women-led response to emergencies	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing

2.2.2 Strengthen advocacy and implementation of WPS principles, including Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and women mediators	Support international, regional and where appropriate national, mediation organisations to increase the focus on the principles of WPS, particularly the inclusion of women mediators	#N and % of women mediators engaged in all stages of mediation facilitated and supported by our partners and in Track 1 mediation	2020	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
	Support and advocate for the mainstreaming of gender in the operational plans of CSDP Civilian Missions, both as part of Mission Mandates and day-to-day operation of Missions. Reflected in gender quota in recruitment and deployment of Irish civilian experts to EU CSDP Missions	Gender balance of 40% minimum female/male representation in DFA deployments	2019	DFA (ISP)	Action progressing
	Increase our funding and support for women's organisations and movements.	Increase in % funding Level of € support to women's organisations and movements, including women human rights defenders in conflict-affected and fragile contexts (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action on track
	Baseline established of women's organisations and movements, including women Human Rights Defenders in conflict-affected and fragile contexts	#N of Women Human Rights Defenders who visited Ireland per year from conflict-affected and fragile contexts			Action delayed
	Champion Action 21 of the United Nations Disarmament Agenda to build a greater understanding on the impact of arms on conflict management by contribution to the evidence base and analysis supported to understand the disproportionate impact of use of weapons on women and girls	Level of awareness of impact reported (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DNP, CRU)	Not started
		#N of contributions to the evidence base (low, medium, high)			Action on track
	Support and advocate for CSDP Mission Gender Action Plans and establishment of Gender Focal Points Network	High quality and meaningful provision of gender action plans and gender focal points in Missions	2020	DFA (ISP)	Action on track
2.2.3 Improve synergies between the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) Agendas	Support organisations building the voice of young people, recognising the intersections between the WPS and YPS Agendas including a focus on intergenerational dialogue	#N of quality YPS/WPS related events which engage young women and girls	2020	DFA (DCAD, CRU)	Action progressing

		Increased € and support for programmes that empower adolescent girls Level of reported inclusion of young women who meaningfully take part in decision-making, conflict prevention and peacebuilding at all levels (low, medium, high)			
Strategic Outcome 2.3: The empowerment and meaningful participation in decision-making of women on the island of Ireland, including those affected by conflict is demonstrably improved					
2.3.1 Improved technical and financial support for civil society programmes addressing the drivers of conflict with a gender sensitive approach	Provide technical and financial support through the Reconciliation Fund to civil society led initiatives at strategic level that strengthen women’s role in peacebuilding, repair those issues leading to conflict, building a strong civil society, and encourage political participation on the island of Ireland	Integration of WPS related tags into grant management system #N of meetings with civil society in Northern Ireland	2021	DFA (IUKA)	Not started
	Establishment of baselines for WPS funding and annual increase in funding allocated to WPS initiatives and programmes from the Reconciliation Fund	€ annual increase dedicated to civil society programmes related to gender	2020	DFA (IUKA)	Not started
2.3.2 Improve the participation of migrant women living in Ireland, including those from conflict-affected areas	Support the wellbeing of women in Direct Provision Centres and in the community	Establishment of peer groups is supported in Direct Provision centres and across communities	2020	IPAS	Action delayed
	Develop an English language acquisition programme for migrant women in Ireland	#N of women who receive the English language classes	2020	OPMI	Action delayed
	Monitor and evaluate the capacity building of female clients within the IRPP	Baselines established and monitored to track increase	2020	IRPP/OPMI	Action progressing
	Support opportunities for women to explore creative outlets and utilise their cottage industry skills	Provision of support through relevant funding streams	2020		Action progressing
	Liaise with appropriate government agencies with regards the provision of childcare in accommodation centres and communities for IRPP clients	Women’s capacity to participate actively and engage in opportunities in wider community and society is strengthened	2019	IPAS	Action complete
	Strengthen consultation, inclusion and participation and local, regional and national decision-making structures for women, including women from conflict and post-conflict affected areas	Values and principles and guidelines, protocols and benchmarks developed for good practice consultation, engagement and participation in decision-making processes.	2020	DRCD (Community Policy Unit)	Not started

		<p>Guidelines and protocol developed for securing diverse representation and equality (including gendered balanced representation)</p> <p>Participatory structures and processes developed by Government departments and state agencies</p>			
	Support female asylum seekers and refugees under the SICAP 2018-2022 programme	Number of female asylum seekers and refugees receiving SICAP interventions	2019	DRCD (Social Inclusion and Communities Unit)	Action progressing

PILLAR 3: PROTECTION

Strategic Outcome 3.1: Women’s and girls’ protection in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and the prevention and combatting of all human rights violations against women, including SEA and sexual and SGBV is ensured

Output	Action	Indicator	Start Date	Lead Organisation	Current Project Status
3.1.1 Ensure that the protection of women and girls in emergencies is prioritised in our international development commitments	Increase multi-year support to programmes and initiatives aimed at ensuring gender equality and protection for women and girls in emergency settings and responding and preventing gender based violence	Baseline established % and € increase with a target of at least 50% increase to humanitarian gender and protection funding	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action on track
	Increase multi-year support for programmes and initiatives which prevent and respond to GBV, including maintaining our commitment to active engagement in the Irish Consortium and Gender-Based Violence (ICGBV)	Level of engagement with the ICGBV and progress in implementing Consortium’s strategic plan (low, medium, high) #N, % and € increase of programmes	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action on track
	Continued support to civil society organisation to combat human trafficking	€ of programmes	2020	DFA (DCAD, HRU)	Action on track
	Strengthen accountability for SGBV including through support for partners to gather and store documentation for investigation of such crimes	Evidence of documentation and accountability mechanisms	2020	DFA (Political Division)	Action progressing
	Allocating specific human resource capacity and technical specialist expertise in order to support effective humanitarian response to gender-based violence in emergency and recovery contexts, including through our Rapid Response Corps	Increased #N of Gender Specialists on the Rapid Response Corp Roster	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
	Include the protection of women and girls in emergencies in the appraisal criteria for all recipients of Irish Aid humanitarian funding and continue to engage internationally through the Call to Action. The severity of needs of women and girls in emergencies is incorporation into allocation decisions for humanitarian funding	#N and % of programmes supported which include protection of women in appraisal criteria	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
3.1.2 Strengthen work on the prevention of SEA in	Provide funding for training for Peacekeeping Contingents in the Investigation of Conflict-related SGBV	Reported increase of impact (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD, ISP)	Action on track

conflict, humanitarian and development contexts	Support training for development and humanitarian actors on SGBV prevention and response	#N of training programmes on SGBV conducted and level of impact (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action on track
	OECD DAC recommendation on Preventing Sexual Exploitation and Abuse adopted	Inclusion of policy embedded within relevant DFA documents	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
	Comprehensive DFA policy on preventing SEA which aligns with international best practice adopted and implemented	Level of implementation (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action progressing
	Funding provided to strengthening international action to implement best practice on preventing SEA	Inclusion of best practice SEA in funding criteria € level of funding provided	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Not started
3.1.3 Increase advocacy to ensure protection mechanisms and services are properly funding and prioritised globally	Increased advocacy through existing partnerships, engagement in international fora, and participation in partner governance mechanisms	Level of advocacy (low, medium, high) Level of implementation of advocacy (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (DCAD)	Action on track
	Advocate for greater reference to conflict-related SGBV across thematic activities and country-specific activities as a criterion for UN sanctions and advocate for accountability for the use of conflict-related SGBV	Increase in reporting and #N of interventions made by Ireland where support for reference to conflict-related SGBV as a criterion for UN sanctions; number of interventions made by Ireland supporting accountability for the use of conflict-related SGBV.	2019	DFA (CRU & Pol Sec in consultation with Legal Division (ICC))	Action progressing
	Continue to support the work of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the ICC Trust Fund for Victims	Financial support for ICC and ICC Trust Fund for Victims	2019	DFA (Legal Division (ICC))	Action on track
3.1.4 Intensify and advance work on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) in emergencies and conflict-affected settings	Analysis conducted on current Irish programming on SRHR including Irish emergencies Baseline established and proportional increase in scope and funding for our work on SRHR programmes in emergencies and conflict-affected settings	Analysis is used to inform policy and decision making (low, medium, high) Baseline established and proportional #N and % increase in scope and funding in emergency and conflict settings	2019	DFA (DCAD, Political Division)	Action on track
3.1.5 Support for Human Rights Defenders (HRD) and the protection of civil society space, with a	Support for HRDs and civil society space remain an Irish foreign policy priority	Number of recommendations by Ireland on HRDs (particularly WHRDs) in Universal Periodic Review Process	2019	DFA (HRU)	Action progressing

special focus on the difficulties faced by Women HRDs (WHRDs)	Ireland continues to lead on civil society space resolution at the Human Rights Council (HRC) and continues to act as EU burden-sharer on HRDs	#N of resolutions sponsored/co-sponsored and #N of statements/interventions made on the issue of HRDs			Action on track
3.1.6 Maintain efforts to ensure the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), including its gender related provisions (article 7.4)	Continued emphasis on the link between illicit arms flows and gender impacts	#N and % of obligations implemented	2019	DFA (DNP)	Action on track
	Analysis is conducted and development of practical guidelines to support States Parties with the implementation of GBV obligations in the ATT is rolled out	Documented evidence of emphasis			Action on track
3.1.7 Ensure women's and girls' protection in fragile and conflict-affected contexts and the prevention and combatting of SEA and SGBV	Continue the implementation of effective training policies on the prevention of SEA, human rights, gender equality, and international humanitarian law, code of conduct, for all relevant Irish staff deployed overseas, including through supporting the United National Training School Ireland (UNTSI) as a centre of excellence as well as training of civilian deployees	#N of Irish and international military and civilian deployees and potential deployees trained on WPS issues Regular, quality, up-to-date training on issues relating to WPS Qualitative reporting of best practice of integrating gender/WPS in CSDP missions and operations when implementing the mandate, including a checklist for personnel employed in gender roles with specific targets that could be achieved	2019	Defence Forces	Action on track
	Increase and improve training for Defence Forces personnel who may be investigating cases of sexual assault, to ensure the victim receives the required support whilst an unbiased investigation is carried out	Training policy implemented	2019	Defence Forces	Not started
Strategic Outcome 3.2: Institutional mechanisms and services are effectively coordinated and strengthened to ensure the protection, relief, recovery and rehabilitation of women in Ireland affected by conflict					
3.2.1 Ensure the relief, recovery and better integration of women in Ireland affected by conflict	Ensure consistency of services relating to psycho-social wellbeing across the Direct Provision Centres	Services established with monitoring framework	2019	IPAS	Action delayed
	Support implementation of National Standards for Accommodation offered to People in the Protection Process	Provision of a quality service as outlined in National Standards document	2019	IPAS	Action progressing

	Oversee effective monitoring and evaluation of the resettlement process and the impact of such on its women beneficiaries	Engagement with national and international partners and relevant bodies who may provide learning	2019	IRPP	Action progressing
	Develop Community Sponsorship programme to further facilitate strong integration of women into the community and growth of local relationships	Arrival of further families under Community Sponsorship Programme	2019	IPAS	Action complete
	Acknowledge need for gender sensitive interpretation when applicable	Provision of female interpreters, in the event of sensitive, gender-related issues	2019	DCEDIY	Action complete
3.2.2 In providing an agile police service, responsive to the changing nature of crime, to also provide a victim-focused policing service, supportive of all vulnerable service users in implementing the statutory obligations of AGS to victims	Explore the development of a formal identification process for victims of human trafficking in liaison with critical stakeholders	Improved victim identification and referral and issue a revised referral mechanism in coordination with NGOs, offering formal identification, a recovery and reflection period, and victims' services to all victims without referral to the police. Trafficking in human beings training deliver to Garda personnel to include cognisance of Ireland's National Action Plan on Women, Police & Security	2019	GNPSB	Action on track
	Support the implementation of the Second National Action Plan to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking in Ireland	Increased #N of female victims of Human Trafficking identified from conflict zones Continue initiatives, nationwide, under Operation 'Quest', which targets those involved in organised prostitution, in order to identify, prevent, detect and prosecute those involved in trafficking of human beings for the purpose of sexual exploitation	2019	GNPSB / All Divisional and District Officers	Action on track
	Prevention and investigation of Hate Crime emanating from gender and ethnicity causations	AGS will endeavour to address 'hate' crime by a three-pronged approach, through: (i) Education/Awareness: Garda Schools Programme and Campus Watch	2019	GNPSB	Action on track

		<p>(ii) Law Enforcement: the publication of an operational policing definition of hate-crime and hate-incidents; encouraging the reporting of such incidents; ensuring the thorough recording and rigorous investigation and prosecution of such crimes</p> <p>and (iii) Supporting Victims throughout investigations – highlighting the role of Investigating Gardaí to support Victims, the appointment of Family Liaison Officers (where appropriate) and the support mechanisms for victims also provided through the Divisional Victim Services Offices supported by the National Victims Office (GNPSB)</p>			
	Restorative Justice / Mediation Training will be provided	This will continue to be provided to Juvenile Liaison Officers in all Garda Divisions in order to assist young people from all communities, including women and girls, and boys and men from former conflict zones relocated to Ireland who require support of AGS or, otherwise, come into contact with law enforcement officers in Ireland. To include Ethnic Liaison Officers in receiving this training, to enable them to better engage with members of minority and diverse groups within their communities	2019	Garda Youth Diversion Bureau	Action progressing
	The new Garda Síochána Strategy Statement emphasises human rights as a foundation for providing policing services	Further to the investment by AGS in human rights, AGS will progress internal and external diversity and inclusion initiatives and develop and implement a hate-crime policy	2019	AGS HR Directorate GRIDO	Action on track

		AGS will engage with communities and stakeholders, listening to and understanding their policing needs and working in partnership to address them, resulting in a visible responsive policing service tailored to community needs, which can be accessed by all of our diverse communities. This will also include scheduled visits, by Community Policing personnel, as well as Ethnic Liaison Officers, to Direct Provision Centres located at District and Divisional level			
		In line with our positive duty obligations under Section 42, Irish Human Rights and Equality Act, 2014, AGS will build our human rights capacity during the lifetime of the Strategy	2019	CAO/Legal	Action on track
	Develop, implement and publish a revised Diversity and Integration Strategy for AGS	<p>Roadmap underpinning the policing service provided by AGS to vulnerable female immigrants/refugees and asylum seekers</p> <p>Delivery of training to Garda Diversity Liaison Officers and Ethnic Liaison Officers engaged with women from immigrant communities</p> <p>AGS will continue with organisation-wide training, particularly to those working with women from immigrant communities, for example, Garda Diversity Liaison Officers and Ethnic Liaison Officers, and working with other agencies to identify issues impacting on women and girls relocated in Ireland from former conflict zones</p>	2019	<p>Garda Community Relations Bureau</p> <p>Community Engagement & Public Safety</p> <p>HR Directorate</p>	Action on track

		<p>Community Gardaí will continue to proactively engage and support Members of Ethnic Communities within their respective Districts through interaction with community/religious leaders</p> <p>Hosting of Garda Community Clinics at Refugee/Asylum Seeker Centres</p> <p>National Diversity and Integration Office will continue to engage with leaders and members of Diverse Communities [through National and Local Intercultural Partnerships / Fora], in particular with men and boys from former conflict zones, now residing in Ireland</p>		<p>GNDIO</p> <p>Garda Community Relations Bureau</p> <p>GNDIO</p>	
	Provision of Anti-Radicalisation Training for Community Gardaí, Diversity Officers, Crime Prevention and Juvenile Liaison Officers	Garda Community Policy Bureau will develop and roll-out radicalisation training and awareness to Community Gardaí, Diversity Officers, Crime Prevention Officers and Juvenile Liaison Officers as well as other members of An Garda Síochána, organisation-wide	2019	Garda Community Policing Bureau	Action delayed
	Deliver Guidance and Policy to protect the most vulnerable in the criminal justice system	The development and implementation of guidance and policy to enable members of AGS in meeting goals and commitments to the most vulnerable with whom they engage directly within the criminal justice system	2019	GNSPB/STO	Action on track
	Establishment of Community Policing Areas under the auspices of the National Community Policy Framework and assignment of local Community Gardaí	<p>This will continue to build professional relationships with all members of the communities we serve</p> <p>Garda Community Clinics at Refugee/Asylum Seek Centres</p>	2019	Garda Community Policing Bureau	Action on track

	Under the auspices of the Joint Agency Task Force (JATF), a partnership with the Police Service of Northern Ireland, HM Customs and Excise, the Revenue Commissioners and the National Crime Agency tackling issues facing border counties, the pillars of which include rural crime, drugs-related crime, financial criminality, revenue / excise crime, immigration offences, including trafficking in human beings and children	The UN WPS Agenda will also be pursued in the context of the pillars agreed by the JATF, specifically being targeted in the border counties	2019	Policing and Security	Action on track
3.2.3 Ensure the relief and recovery regarding GBV of women from conflict-affected countries living in Ireland	Roll out a training programme for HSE staff in supporting appropriate, effective responses to women from areas of conflict who have experienced domestic, sexual or gender-based violence (DSGBV)	Training resources “Recognising and Responding to Victims of DSGBV in Vulnerable or At-Risk Communities” is operationalised	2019	HSE	Action on track
	Support implementation of a Vulnerability Assessment for women seeking international protection in line with the EU Recast Receptions Conditions Directive (Directive 2013/33/EU)	Assessment implemented	2019	HSE	Action on track
	Continue to support the range of NGOs providing health related services to women refugees, those seeking international protection and other migrant women who have experienced violence/conflict including mental health programmes, an FGM Clinic, sexual and reproductive health outreach in Direct Provision	#N of NGOs funded to deliver services on HSE’s behalf through service level agreements Regular reporting on these programmes	2019	HSE	Action on track

PILLAR 4: PROMOTION

Strategic Outcome 4.1: Ireland's commitments and actions on the WPS Agenda, including lesson sharing, is enhanced and demonstrated by advocacy, communication and engagement at local, national, regional and international levels

Output	Action	Indicator	Start Date	Lead Organisation	Current Project Status
4.1.1 Increase advocacy for the WPS Agenda internationally	Advocate for the integration of a gender perspective in policies, resolutions, decisions and instruments relevant to peace and security across the EU, UN, OSCE, OECD, the IFIs, and other international fora	#N of interventions in support of gender perspectives across these fora #N of WPS Group of Friends and Focal Point Networks attended	2019	DFA (DCAD, UN Policy, CoE, OSCE, OECD, etc.)	Action on track
	Use our voice and influence to promote the WPS Agenda at the UN, and advance WPS in the context of Ireland's candidature to, and prospective membership of, the UN Security Council for the 2021-2022 term	#N of interventions made to ensure that the WPS Agenda is well reflected and resourced by implementing organisations #N of statements referencing WPS			
	Support UN funds, entities and bodies, to facilitate implementation and mainstreaming of the WPS Agenda including through the ongoing UN reform processes	#N of UN programmes, funds, entities and bodies and UN reform processes which incorporate gender and peacebuilding perspectives	2020	DFA (DCAD, UN Policy, CoE, OSCE, OECD, etc.)	Action on track
	Advocate for the inclusion of steps taken to implement the WPS resolutions including the protection of women human rights defenders and to combat GBV and SEA as part of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the UN Human Rights Council	#N and quality of recommendations and references dealing with WPS, GBV and SEA in UPR processes	2020	DFA (HRU)	Action progressing
	Research undertaken to support Ireland's work to influence EU policy in support of WPS	Level of reflection of the research in policy (low, medium, high)	2020	DFA (DCAD)	Action delayed
	Participate fully in the European Union Taskforce on UNSCR 1325 in order to increase coherence and consistency in the approaches across the EU to WPS, including through commitments in the EU Action Plan on WPS	#N of EU Informal Taskforce Meetings attended #N of relevant actions fulfilled by Ireland in the EU Action Plan	2020	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
	Advocate for the inclusion of gender equality into EU Common Security and Defence Policy (CSDP) operations	#N of interventions by Ireland to advocate for the inclusion of gender mainstreaming			

	plans and crisis management concepts for military and civilian missions and operations, including where appropriate reporting separate and in parallel to chain of command	across all CSDP missions (both mandates and mission operations)			
4.1.2 Promote lesson sharing of WPS	Promote lesson sharing initiatives in Colombia and the Americas	#N of lesson sharing events and programmes funded	2020	IUKA	Action on track
	Promote women's experience and expertise in peace-building in Northern Ireland/Ireland within the international arena, including by highlighting women role models	#N of peacebuilders funded by DFA working to support peace processes internationally #N of conferences/events which share lessons from Northern Ireland Peace Process supported	2019	DFA (CRU, IUKA)	Action on track
	Research produced and disseminated on the role of women in the NIPP supported by Ireland	Reflection of research in policy (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (CRU)	Not started
	Promote lesson sharing on the Development of National Action Plans across the EU and focus contexts	#N of Lesson Sharing initiatives supported	2019	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
4.1.3 Develop a communications plan to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda in both Irish media and online, and through outreach events in Ireland	Communications plan agreed and rolled out	#N of WPS outreach events Increase of communication (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
	Promote the principles of WPS through political and official-level engagement and advocacy with relevant partners at executive, parliamentary and local authority level, and support the establishment of a North South Consultative Forum as provided for in the Good Friday Agreement, which could advise the administrations and the North South Ministerial Council on social, cultural and economic issues, including the advancement of women in public life	Number of references to WPS in speeches, press releases, public statements etc.	2019	DFA (IUKA)	Not started
		Increased extent to which post-conflict structures address gender-specific legacy concerns	2020		
4.1.4 Establish regular outreach events in Northern Ireland and border counties to promote awareness of	Establishment and quarterly meetings of a Northern Ireland consultative group, organised by the Irish Secretariat	Number of events on WPS hosted by the Irish Secretariat, Belfast	2019	DFA (IUKA)	Action delayed
		NAP launched in the Irish Secretariat, Belfast			Action completed

the Agenda, which are inclusive	Establishment and regular review of a list of cross-generational and cross community women's organisations (including migrant and refugee groups) and other civil society actors focused on WPS across Northern Ireland to be included in WPS outreach events	#N of participants at events Level of diversity (low, medium, high)	2019		Action delayed
4.1.5 Promote synergies between WPS and the empowerment of women in conflict and post-conflict situations, when working with private sector entities and in promoting Irish interests	Key commitments in the National Plan on Business and Human Rights are coherent with, and complement the NAP on WPS	Level of policy coherence and uptake of commitments (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (HRU)	Action progressing
	Increased level of gender equality and perspectives in the field of cybersecurity	Level of policy coherence and uptake of commitments (low, medium, high)	2019	DFA (ISP)	Action on track
4.1.6 Ireland's action and engagement on WPS is enhanced regionally and internationally in our defence related work	Advocate for the including of gender into EU CSDP operations plans and crisis management concepts for military and civilian missions and operations, including where appropriate reporting separate and in parallel to chain of command	% of new CSDP missions and operations with specific gender elements and/or reporting structures in place	2019	Dept of Defence and DFA (Political Division)	Action on track
	Through its participation in the Partnership for Peace (PfP), Ireland will contribute to the implementation of the NATO/EAPC WPS Policy and Action Plan	Level of Ireland's contribution of activities and milestones under the NATO/EAPC WPS Policy and Action Plan Implementation Framework	2019	Dept of Defence and Defence Forces (in partnership with DFA (Political Division))	Action on track
	Advocate for the participation of Irish staff in Gender Adviser roles in international peace operations	Defence Forces participates on an international level in the sphere of WPS		Dept of Defence and Defence Forces	Action on track
	Ensure the WPS Agenda is reflected in Ireland's training pledges to UN's Peacekeeping Readiness Capability System	Gender related training courses pledged and level of participation by female personnel from overseas	2019	Dept of Defence	Action on track

	Ongoing deployment of gender-trained personnel overseas in order to incorporate a gender perspective into planning and execution of operations overseas	Gender trained personnel deployed	2019	Defence Forces	Action on track
4.1.7 Ireland's commitment and action on WPS is promoted among domestic stakeholders	Women from conflict affected areas are informed of the WPS Agenda	Inclusion of WPS in orientation / information pack given to refugees and asylum seekers on their arrival to Ireland	2020	IRPP/IPAS	Not started
	Training and continually inform staff on the WPS Agenda	Number of staff trained on WPS NAP is on the agenda of the IRPP programmes	2020	IRPP/IPAS	Not started
	Maintain communication channels between stakeholders to enhance shared learning and cooperation Ireland will work with other Member States to develop and improve programming on integration to include gender	Level of participation in relevant forums with local, national, regional and international papers	2020	IRPP/IPAS	Action progressing
	WPS will be included across strategies and policy that are related to Ireland's policy on gender equality	Increase in the number of WPS related references and actions across DoJ policy documents	2019	DCEDIY (Gender Equality)	Action progressing
4.1.8 Better alignment of WPS and CEDAW	WPS will be included in CEDAW reporting including but not limited to Recommendation 30	#N of WPS related references in Ireland's CEDAW reporting		DoJ in cooperation with DFA (HRU/IUKA)	Action delayed
	Support implementation of CEDAW at global and country level, with particular emphasis on General Recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations	Level of inclusion of information on the implementation of CEDAW general recommendation No. 30 in Ireland's periodic report to the Committee	2020	DoJ in cooperation with DFA (HRU/IUKA)	Action delayed
		Level of support given to the implementation of CEDAW including implementation of the General Recommendation in international fora as appropriate			Action progressing

<p>4.1.9 Synergies between WPS and the SDGs at the domestic level will be improved regarding SDGs 5 and 16</p>	<p>Supporting implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, including 5 and 16 as they relate to participation of women from conflict and post-conflict affected areas living in Ireland</p>	<p>Programme developed to raise awareness of SDGs for local decision-making structures, local authorities, Government departments and agencies, community and voluntary organisations and local development bodies</p> <p>Toolkit developed for design and proofing of programmes and plans against SDGs</p> <p>Support capacity of local government and community and voluntary sectors in relation to SDGs</p>	<p>2020</p>	<p>Community Policy Unit, DRCD, and other relevant Government Departments</p>	<p>Not started</p>
--	---	--	-------------	---	--------------------

WORK PLAN FOR THE OVERSIGHT GROUP OF THE THIRD NATIONAL ACTION PLAN

Output	Action	Indicator	Start Date	Lead Organisation	Current Project Status
The Oversight Group will monitor the effective implementation of the NAP	Facilitate an annual visit meeting of the Oversight Group	Feedback/Report from Oversight Group and groups visited	2019	DFA (CRU)	Not started (due to COVID restrictions)
	Ensuring that those who were consulted during the drafting of this NAP are informed and kept up to date with regards to its implementation	Mailing list maintained and updated	2019	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
		Number of newsletters published			
	Allocate a dedicated budget to NAP related activities in the areas of monitoring and data collection	Budget available	2019	DFA (CRU)	Action progressing
		Increase in availability of data			
	Develop a Communication Strategy for WPS, including an online resource for the dissemination of material on WPS	WPS effectively communicated	2019	DFA (CRU)	Action on track
Online resource in use					
Work through the relevant Joint Committees to raise awareness of WPS issues including lesson-sharing opportunities including through the circulation of short summary documents of the NAP and any progress reports within government bodies, the Houses of the Oireachtas, and the media	Oversight Group presenting regularly to the relevant Joint Oireachtas Committees to raise awareness of WPS	2019	DFA, DoJ	Action on track	
	Number of documents circulated				
Government members of the Oversight Group are responsible for reporting (as indicated in the ToRs) to the Group on progress in relation to their actions as set out in the NAP	Updates from Government members at each meeting	2019	Government members of the Oversight Group	Action on track	