



WOMEN, Peace and Security



Ireland's Approach to Women, Peace and Security Newsletter

October 2020



We would like to warmly welcome you to this newsletter as we mark Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Month and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a time to celebrate what the WPS agenda has achieved, but also for honest reflection on remaining challenges and the way ahead. While there have been landmark achievements in the last 20 years, women peacebuilders in the field are calling for a renewed commitment to more effective implementation and a considerable change of pace.

WPS Annual Open Debate

As we approach the WPS Open Debate on 29 October, let us recall the words of our Permanent Representative to the United Nations at the last debate in 2019:



“The fact is, those who wage wars – not, in the main, women – continue to set the parameters for peace. Without women. Quite apart from the inequality this reinforces, let’s be clear. It is also fundamentally ineffective as a peacebuilding approach. We have the evidence that peace is more durable when women have participated in its negotiation... Put simply, WPS ought to be part of all our peacebuilding work. In this chamber, that means part of every mandate renewal, of every geographic and thematic discussion, of every local consultation, of every analysis completed in the field.”

Upcoming Events

- **GNWP Database Launch event**

We would like to invite all of the readers to the launch of a database on the role of women in peacebuilding during the Covid-19 pandemic, developed with Ireland’s support by our partners the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN Women (register [here](#)).

gnwp Global Network
of Women
Peacebuilders



IRELAND



Database Launch

Peacebuilding in a Pandemic: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Women, Peace, and Security

Commemorating 20 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Date: 21 October 2020
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 AM US EDT
RSVP: bit.ly/COVID-Database



We are looking forward to an insightful discussion with grassroots women peacebuilders who have contributed to the development of the database and to hearing their perspectives and recommendations for a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response. This will be preceded by a short demonstration of the database and its dashboard and followed by an interactive Q & A with opening remarks from Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Brian Flynn.

About the database

GNWP, while conducting research and consultations commissioned for Ireland's 1325 anniversary project was able to collect, process and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of COVID-19 on women peacebuilders and their work. This data, in combination with additional primary and secondary sources including Surveys, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews was compiled in a database and will be made available and automatically translatable online. As part of the project, data visualizations will also be provided to facilitate analysis and the use of the database. It is our hope that this innovative database will serve as a resource for advocacy by civil society but also the UN and

government policy makers and practitioners.



The existence, and hopefully the active use of this the database, has the potential to enhance the development of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive interventions on COVID-19 as well as future humanitarian crises.

- **Ireland's UNSCR 1325 20th anniversary project High-Level event**

Taking inspiration from grassroots women leaders and wishing to hear directly from them and learn from their experience, 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. Through consultations that focused discussions on the six priority areas outlined in the UN Secretary-General's 2019 report on WPS, we invited women peacebuilders to take stock of the WPS and Sustaining Peace agendas in 2020 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work.



SAVE THE DATE

LEARNING FROM GRASSROOTS WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security
Agenda beyond 2020

with

Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

Monday, 26 October 2020

10:30 AM-12:00 PM US EDT

RSVP : <https://bit.ly/3j55Qgg>



This High-Level event will launch the report of these consultations and highlight their key recommendations and will feature a keynote address by H.E. Mary Robinson, as well as contributions from grassroots women leaders who participated in the project, international leaders and champions of gender equality. We look forward a lively exchange of views on the concrete steps Member States and the international community can take to advance the WPS agenda on-the-ground and in international policy. Register [here](#).

- **Embassy Pretoria UNSCR 1324 anniversary event**

On Thursday 29 October, Embassy Pretoria will hold an interactive online discussion on implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, on the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. For full event details and to register for the webinar, please visit [here](#).



REPORT LAUNCH

The Embassy of Ireland in Pretoria together with UN Women in South Africa invite you to the launch of a consultative report on implementation gaps in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda

Date: Thursday, 29 October 2020
Time: 12:00 - 14:00 SAST

Sustaining Peace
 Peacebuilding at the Grassroots: Challenges and Opportunities
 Twenty Years after UNSCR 1325

 

- **Embassy of Ireland to Belgium and IIEA**

The Embassy of Ireland to Belgium, in partnership with the IIEA, is also preparing an inspiring Panel Discussion on **‘Women in Leadership – Peace, Diplomacy and Security’** as part of Irish Embassy’s #VisibleWomen2020 initiative, amplifying the female voice and women’s role in diplomacy, development, entrepreneurship and the arts. In acknowledging that more needs to be done to advance gender equality and put women central to peace building, they invited three trail-blazing Irish women leaders to ask them for their perspectives and how more women around the table can shape better policy and operational decisions. Brigadier General Maureen O’Brien is the most senior woman serving in the Irish Defence Forces and the first Irish woman to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. She is Deputy Force Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Forces Mission in the Golan Heights, and has extensive overseas experience in Lebanon, Western Sahara, East Timor, Chad and Sarajevo. Jacqui Mc Crum is the first woman to lead the Department of Defence as Secretary General. Previously, she was Deputy Secretary General in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Sonja Hyland is the first woman to serve as Political Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs. She has also served as Ireland’s Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, IGAD and the African Union, and Ireland’s Ambassador to Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. We hope to hear about their personal

experiences as women in senior leadership roles, and their contribution to gender equality in their own organisations and externally, as well as their perspectives on women peace and security, sharing real, practical examples from their organisation's work and their own experience. Make sure to pencil in this event into your diary for the **16th November at 12.30pm**, Irish time. Link and invitation to the event will be shared on [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) soon.

Past Events and Webinars

On 14 October the Conflict Resolution Unit attended a webinar hosted by the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP) entitled: "Women can't wait! Marking 20 years of learning and practice on women, peace and security". H.E. Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders and former President of Ireland, gave the keynote address (more about the event and the exceptional panel [here](#)). NIWEP represents women's organisations in Northern Ireland in the European Women's Lobby, as part of the UK Joint Committee on Women. NIWEP also represents Northern Ireland at the United Nations, as an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1999. This event was a great opportunity to look back on the experiences of women in Northern Ireland in peacebuilding and reflect on the continuing relevance of UNSCR 1325 .



On the 12 and 13 of October, the Embassy of Ireland in Mexico along with UN Women, the Mexican Foreign Ministry, and INMUJERES, organised a series of webinars that addressed different issues related to the implementation of the WPS agenda, as well as lesson sharing and international good practices. This series saw the participation of a number of senior Irish women diplomats: Ireland’s Ambassador to Mexico H.E. Barbara Jones co-hosted the event and gave the opening and closing remarks; H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland’s Permanent Representative to the UN participated at the session on Lessons Learned and Opportunities for advancing the WPS Agenda; and Sonja Hyland, Political Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs, took part in a discussion on women’s leadership in peace efforts. Commandant Gillian Collins, Ireland’s Permanent Defence Forces Gender Equality and Diversity advisor was a panellist on a session on Women leadership in Security and Peacekeeping.

On 9 September, as members of the WPS Focal Points network, CRU staff attended a very insightful webinar that examined how governments and the international community can better protect women peacebuilders. Hosted by Sanam Anderlini, founder of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN [here](#)), the event “**Building Peace: Taking Action to Support Women**

Peacebuilders” also introduced ICAN’s upcoming report and recommendations (report [here](#)).

Ireland's UN Youth Delegates and WPS

September also saw the appointment of Ireland’s two new UN Youth Delegates, Conn McCarrick and Tara Grace Connolly. We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate them on such a fantastic achievement. The Conflict Resolution Unit is looking forward working with them and making sure to engage with them to benefit from their insight and experience.



For the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda we asked Tara for her thoughts on the Agenda itself, its achievements and the way forward.



Click [here](#) to hear what she had to say.

Oversight Group Meeting

In September Ireland's third National Action Plan Oversight Group met for the third time this year. The Secretariat updated the group on the implementation of the NAP and in particular on developments within the Department of Foreign Affairs since the last meeting. The annual plan which will be presented to the Foreign Affairs Oireachtas Committee is currently being compiled. Maria Butler (WILPF) and Frances Collins (Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit, DFA) gave an extensive and insightful presentation on Gender and Disarmament and other government representatives updated the group as follows:

Other inputs to the meeting included the Defence Forces input on its endeavours to recruit and retain women in the Defence Forces as part of their own WPS Action Plan.

The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) has requested the Department of Justice to report on gender related impacts of the pandemic.

The Oversight Group also warmly welcomed the news of the appointment of Commander Roberta O'Brien as the first female Naval Commander and the first female naval diver in Irish navy history, Sub Lieutenant Tahlia Britton.

Civil Society Members also briefed the group on relevant recent developments in their field.

Efforts by the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána to tackle gender based violence during the pandemic were acknowledged, but concerns were also raised around Ireland's response to human

trafficking and Ireland's ranking in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons ([here](#)).

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is currently undertaking a joint project with the DJA on cultural competency training for personnel working with victims of trafficking and SGBV. The IOM is also training mediators, including migrant women.

GNWP Blog

“Sustainable peace is only possible if we change the dominant models of the economy and challenge patriarchy” – Ana Cristina Piño from the Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular (CENTRAP).

Ana is one of the many interviewed by our partner GNWP during the consultations mentioned above. Inspired by these incredible women and wanting to share their work with a larger public, a side-product of the report and the database, their story will be published on GNWP's blog in the form of "Women Peacebuilders Profiles". Don't miss the account about the paths to peace built by women from Colombia, Northern Ireland, Uganda and South Africa and check [@GNWP](#) and [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) twitter for new profiles every week.



“2020 is an opportunity to reflect on what works and what does not work in peacebuilding, and how local women and their perspectives can be better included” – Tintswalo Makhubele, South Africa Congress of Non-Profit Organizations (SANOCO)

You can find a sneak peek of the report and learn more about the consultations and its participants [here](#).

WPS as a priority at the UN Security Council

As we prepare to take our seat as an elected member of the UN Security Council, Ireland will work to ensure that we highlight the work women peacebuilders. In the words of H.E. Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason at the UN Peacebuilding Commission meeting on WPS on the 2 October: “We’re ready to play our part to ensure 2020 is not just an anniversary year but a threshold opportunity for action.”



This was echoed by Minister Simon Coveney who reminded us that Ireland is “firmly committed to advancing women’s inclusion in all aspects of peace and security”. Click [here](#) to see his speech at the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on women or the **Beijing Declaration** on the 1/10/2020.

Ambassador Byrne Nason will deliver Ireland’s statement at the Open Debate on WPS at the UN on 29 October. Please follow our [Peace Support twitter account](#) for more details.



Rapid Response Window for Women in Peace Processes

Our summer newsletter featured our peacebuilding partner, the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Covid-19 emergency response window. On the 8 September, they launched a WPHF Rapid Response Window (RRW) on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.



The RRW addresses funding gaps for short-term support for women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate in peace processes. Its overall objective is to support urgent and strategic initiatives including civil society initiatives for women's influence and meaningful participation during all stages of peace processes. Find out more about the RRW [here](#).

Funding for Irish Civil Society Organisations

The Conflict Resolution Unit would like to remind all of our Civil Society readers of some funding opportunities for civil society such as:

- the Rethink Ireland Equality Fund [here](#)
- the National Integration Fund [here](#)
- the Communities Integration Fund [here](#)

Gender and Disarmament



Ireland is among the most active supporters and promoters of gender issues in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, regularly calling for equal representation and the meaningful and equal participation at all levels by women and men, and for the integration of substantive gender perspectives across all areas of work. Ireland's Third National Action Plan on WPS is currently the only national action plan which includes actions related to both conventional and weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The Group heard about our work across a range of treaties and conventions as well as DFA's role in providing observations on export licenses for military and dual use goods which includes gender considerations. Ireland's leading role in drafting key provisions on the recognition of the disproportionate impact of ionising radiation on women and girls and promoting equal participation in the [Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons](#) (TPNW) was highlighted. The

ongoing work of the [International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group](#), co-chaired by Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Michael Gaffey, was also highlighted as well as Ireland's ongoing support to address [Gender Based Violence within the Arms Trade Treaty](#).

"Our future will become the past of other women"

In 2018, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Royal Irish Academy commissioned Eavan Boland to write a poem in commemoration of 100 years of women's suffrage.



We would like to leave you with [her powerful words](#) in a gesture of hope, reminding us that even that which seems out of reach might one day become a future generation's reality.

We mourn the loss of Eavan, who died in April of this year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

Ressources

- Advancing women's meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes in times of COVID-19 (UN Women)
- This photo book celebrates women leaders around the world and marks 20 years since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Oxfam)
- "What Fuelled the Far-Reaching Impact of the Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action as a Milestone for Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Support Operations and Where Is Implementation 20 Years Later?", 12/09/2020, Nina J. Lahoud, Journal of International Peacekeeping. Open Access [here](#).
- "Rooting out inequalities: Women's participation in forest management in conflict-affected areas of Karen state in Myanmar", International Alert, June 2020 [here](#)
- Amelia Stein Photo Exposition "the bloods" [here](#). Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer has produced a body of work that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

Please feel free to contact us at wpsconsultation@dfa.ie



This email was sent to HQ-POLPoliticalDivision@dfa.ie
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

WPS · 24 Elm Mount Crescent · Beaumont · Dublin, D d02 · Ireland



WOMEN, Peace and Security



Ireland's Approach to Women, Peace and Security Newsletter

October 2020



We would like to warmly welcome you to this newsletter as we mark Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Month and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a time to celebrate what the WPS agenda has achieved, but also for honest reflection on remaining challenges and the way ahead. While there have been landmark achievements in the last 20 years, women peacebuilders in the field are calling for a renewed commitment to more effective implementation and a considerable change of pace.

WPS Annual Open Debate

As we approach the WPS Open Debate on 29 October, let us recall the words of our Permanent Representative to the United Nations at the last debate in 2019:



“The fact is, those who wage wars – not, in the main, women – continue to set the parameters for peace. Without women. Quite apart from the inequality this reinforces, let’s be clear. It is also fundamentally ineffective as a peacebuilding approach. We have the evidence that peace is more durable when women have participated in its negotiation... Put simply, WPS ought to be part of all our peacebuilding work. In this chamber, that means part of every mandate renewal, of every geographic and thematic discussion, of every local consultation, of every analysis completed in the field.”

Upcoming Events

- **GNWP Database Launch event**

We would like to invite all of the readers to the launch of a database on the role of women in peacebuilding during the Covid-19 pandemic, developed with Ireland’s support by our partners the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN Women (register [here](#)).



gnwp Global Network of Women Peacebuilders

IRELAND

UN WOMEN

Database Launch

Peacebuilding in a Pandemic: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Women, Peace, and Security

Commemorating 20 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Date: 21 October 2020
Time: 9:00 – 10:30 AM US EDT
RSVP: bit.ly/COVID-Database

The poster features a stylized illustration of a woman with long dark hair, wearing a white jacket with red trim, sitting and using a laptop. The background is a dark purple with a faint world map and a light grey wavy shape at the bottom.

We are looking forward to an insightful discussion with grassroots women peacebuilders who have contributed to the development of the database and to hearing their perspectives and recommendations for a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response. This will be preceded by a short demonstration of the database and its dashboard and followed by an interactive Q & A with opening remarks from Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Brian Flynn.

About the database

GNWP, while conducting research and consultations commissioned for Ireland's 1325 anniversary project was able to collect, process and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of COVID-19 on women peacebuilders and their work. This data, in combination with additional primary and secondary sources including Surveys, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews was compiled in a database and will be made available and automatically translatable online. As part of the project, data visualizations will also be provided to facilitate analysis and the use of the database. It is our hope that this innovative database will serve as a resource for advocacy by civil society but also the UN and government

policy makers and practitioners.



The existence, and hopefully the active use of this the database, has the potential to enhance the development of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive interventions on COVID-19 as well as future humanitarian crises.

- **Ireland's UNSCR 1325 20th anniversary project High-Level event**

Taking inspiration from grassroots women leaders and wishing to hear directly from them and learn from their experience, 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. Through consultations that focused discussions on the six priority areas outlined in the UN Secretary-General's 2019 report on WPS, we invited women peacebuilders to take stock of the WPS and Sustaining Peace agendas in 2020 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work.



SAVE THE DATE

LEARNING FROM GRASSROOTS WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security
Agenda beyond 2020

with

Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

Monday, 26 October 2020

10:30 AM-12:00 PM US EDT

RSVP : <https://bit.ly/3j55Qgg>



This High-Level event will launch the report of these consultations and highlight their key recommendations and will feature a keynote address by H.E. Mary Robinson, as well as contributions from grassroots women leaders who participated in the project, international leaders and champions of gender equality. We look forward a lively exchange of views on the concrete steps Member States and the international community can take to advance the WPS agenda on-the-ground and in international policy. Register [here](#).

- **Embassy Pretoria UNSCR 1324 anniversary event**

On Thursday 29 October, Embassy Pretoria will hold an interactive online discussion on implementation of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, on the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. For full event details and to register for the webinar, please visit [here](#).

REPORT LAUNCH



The Embassy of Ireland in Pretoria together with UN Women in South Africa invite you to the launch of a consultative report on implementation gaps in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda

Date: Thursday, 29 October 2020
Time: 12:00 - 14:00 SAST

Sustaining Peace
 Peacebuilding at the Grassroots: Challenges and Opportunities
 Twenty Years after UNSCR 1325




- **Embassy of Ireland to Belgium and IIEA**

The Embassy of Ireland to Belgium, in partnership with the IIEA, is also preparing an inspiring Panel Discussion on **‘Women in Leadership – Peace, Diplomacy and Security’** as part of Irish Embassy’s #VisibleWomen2020 initiative, amplifying the female voice and women’s role in diplomacy, development, entrepreneurship and the arts. In acknowledging that more needs to be done to advance gender equality and put women central to peace building, they invited three trail-blazing Irish women leaders to ask them for their perspectives and how more women around the table can shape better policy and operational decisions. Brigadier General Maureen O’Brien is the most senior woman serving in the Irish Defence Forces and the first Irish woman to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. She is Deputy Force Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Forces Mission in the Golan Heights, and has extensive overseas experience in Lebanon, Western Sahara, East Timor, Chad and Sarajevo. Jacqui Mc Crum is the first women to lead the Department of Defence as Secretary General. Previously, she was Deputy Secretary General in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Sonja Hyland is the first woman to serve as Political Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs. She has also served as Ireland’s Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Djibouti, IGAD and the African Union, and Ireland’s Ambassador to Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. We hope to hear about their personal experiences as women in senior leadership roles, and

their contribution to gender equality in their own organisations and externally, as well as their perspectives on women peace and security, sharing real, practical examples from their organisation's work and their own experience. Make sure to pencil in this event into your diary for the **16th November at 12.30pm**, Irish time. Link and invitation to the event will be shared on [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) soon.

Past Events and Webinars

On 14 October the Conflict Resolution Unit attended a webinar hosted by the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform (NIWEP) entitled: "Women can't wait! Marking 20 years of learning and practice on women, peace and security". H.E. Mary Robinson, Chair of The Elders and former President of Ireland, gave the keynote address (more about the event and the exceptional panel [here](#)). NIWEP represents women's organisations in Northern Ireland in the European Women's Lobby, as part of the UK Joint Committee on Women. NIWEP also represents Northern Ireland at the United Nations, as an NGO with Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations since 1999. This event was a great opportunity to look back on the experiences of women in Northern Ireland in peacebuilding and reflect on the continuing relevance of UNSCR 1325 .



On the 12 and 13 of October, the Embassy of Ireland in Mexico along with UN Women, the Mexican Foreign Ministry, and INMUJERES, organised a series of webinars that addressed different issues related to the implementation of the WPS agenda, as well as lesson sharing and international good practices. This series saw the participation of a number of senior Irish women diplomats: Ireland's Ambassador to Mexico H.E. Barbara Jones co-hosted the event and gave the opening and closing remarks; H.E. Geraldine Byrne Nason, Ireland's Permanent Representative to the UN participated at the session on Lessons Learned and Opportunities for advancing the WPS Agenda; and Sonja Hyland, Political Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs, took part in a discussion on women's leadership in peace efforts. Commandant Gillian Collins, Ireland's Permanent Defence Forces Gender Equality and Diversity advisor was a panellist on a session on Women leadership in Security and Peacekeeping.

On 9 September, as members of the WPS Focal Points network, CRU staff attended a very insightful webinar that examined how governments and the international community can better protect women peacebuilders. Hosted by Sanam Anderlini, founder of the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN [here](#)), the event "**Building Peace: Taking Action to Support Women Peacebuilders**" also introduced ICAN's upcoming report and recommendations (report [here](#)).

Ireland's UN Youth Delegates and WPS

September also saw the appointment of Ireland's two new UN Youth Delegates, Conn McCarrick and Tara Grace Connolly. We would like to use this opportunity to congratulate them on such a fantastic achievement. The Conflict Resolution Unit is looking forward working with them and making sure to engage with them to benefit from their insight and experience.



For the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda we asked Tara for her thoughts on the Agenda itself, its achievements and the way forward.



Click [here](#) to hear what she had to say.

Oversight Group Meeting

In September Ireland's third National Action Plan Oversight Group met for the third time this year. The Secretariat updated the group on the implementation of the NAP and in particular on developments within the Department of Foreign Affairs since the last meeting. The annual plan which will be presented to the Foreign Affairs Oireachtas Committee is currently being compiled. Maria Butler (WILPF) and Frances Collins (Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Unit, DFA) gave an extensive and insightful presentation on Gender and Disarmament and other government representatives updated the group as follows:

Other inputs to the meeting included the Defence Forces input on its endeavours to recruit and retain women in the Defence Forces as part of their own WPS Action Plan.

The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHE) has requested the Department of Justice to report on gender related impacts of the pandemic.

The Oversight Group also warmly welcomed the news of the appointment of Commander Roberta O'Brien as the first female Naval Commander and the first female naval diver in Irish navy history, Sub Lieutenant Tahlia Britton.

Civil Society Members also briefed the group on relevant recent developments in their field.

Efforts by the Department of Justice and An Garda Síochána to tackle gender based violence during the pandemic were acknowledged, but concerns were also raised around Ireland's response to human trafficking and Ireland's ranking in the US Department of State's Trafficking in Persons ([here](#)).

The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) is currently undertaking a joint project with the DJA on cultural competency training for personnel working with victims of trafficking and SGBV. The IOM is also training mediators, including migrant women.

GNWP Blog

“Sustainable peace is only possible if we change the dominant models of the economy and challenge patriarchy” – Ana Cristina Piño from the Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular (CENTRAP).

Ana is one of the many interviewed by our partner GNWP during the consultations mentioned above. Inspired by these incredible women and wanting to share their work with a larger public, a side-product of the report and the database, their story will be published on GNWP’s blog in the form of “Women Peacebuilders Profiles”. Don’t miss the account about the paths to peace built by women from Colombia, Northern Ireland, Uganda and South Africa and check [@GNWP](#) and [@DFAPeaceSupport](#) twitter for new profiles every week.



“2020 is an opportunity to reflect on what works and what does not work in peacebuilding, and how local women and their perspectives can be better included” – Tintswalo Makhubele, South Africa Congress of Non-Profit Organizations (SANOCO)

You can find a sneak peek of the report and learn more about the consultations and its participants [here](#).

WPS as a priority at the UN Security Council

As we prepare to take our seat as an elected member of the UN Security Council, Ireland will work to ensure that we highlight the work women peacebuilders. In the words of H.E. Ambassador Geraldine

Byrne Nason at the UN Peacebuilding Commission meeting on WPS on the 2 October: “We’re ready to play our part to ensure 2020 is not just an anniversary year but a threshold opportunity for action.”



This was echoed by Minister Simon Coveney who reminded us that Ireland is “firmly committed to advancing women’s inclusion in all aspects of peace and security”. Click [here](#) to see his speech at the 25th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on women or the **Beijing Declaration** on the 1/10/2020. Ambassador Byrne Nason will deliver Ireland’s statement at the Open Debate on WPS at the UN on 29 October. Please follow our [Peace Support twitter account](#) for more details.



Rapid Response Window for Women in Peace Processes

Our summer newsletter featured our peacebuilding partner, the Women Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) Covid-19 emergency response window. On the 8 September, they launched a WPHF Rapid Response Window (RRW) on women's participation in peace processes and the implementation of peace agreements.



The RRW addresses funding gaps for short-term support for women peacebuilders and women's civil society organizations to influence and participate in peace processes. Its overall objective is to support urgent and strategic initiatives including civil society initiatives for women's influence and meaningful participation during all stages of peace processes. Find out more about the RRW [here](#).

Funding for Irish Civil Society Organisations

The Conflict Resolution Unit would like to remind all of our Civil Society readers of some funding opportunities for civil society such as:

- the Rethink Ireland Equality Fund [here](#)
- the National Integration Fund [here](#)

- the Communities Integration Fund [here](#)

Gender and Disarmament



Ireland is among the most active supporters and promoters of gender issues in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, regularly calling for equal representation and the meaningful and equal participation at all levels by women and men, and for the integration of substantive gender perspectives across all areas of work. Ireland's Third National Action Plan on WPS is currently the only national action plan which includes actions related to both conventional and weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The Group heard about our work across a range of treaties and conventions as well as DFA's role in providing observations on export licenses for military and dual use goods which includes gender considerations. Ireland's leading role in drafting key provisions on the recognition of the disproportionate impact of ionising radiation on women and girls and promoting equal participation in the [Treaty on Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons \(TPNW\)](#) was highlighted. The ongoing work of the [International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group](#), co-chaired by Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Michael Gaffey, was also highlighted as well as Ireland's ongoing support to address [Gender Based Violence within the Arms Trade Treaty](#).

"Our future will become the past of other women"

In 2018, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Royal Irish Academy commissioned Eavan Boland to write a poem in commemoration of 100 years of women's suffrage.



We would like to leave you with [her powerful words](#) in a gesture of hope, reminding us that even that which seems out of reach might one day become a future generation's reality.

We mourn the loss of Eavan, who died in April of this year.

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a h-anam.

Resources

- Advancing [women's meaningful participation in ceasefires and peace processes in times of COVID-19](#) (UN Women)
- [This photo book celebrates women leaders around the world](#) and marks 20 years since the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (Oxfam)

- “What Fuelled the Far-Reaching Impact of the Windhoek Declaration and Namibia Plan of Action as a Milestone for Gender Mainstreaming in UN Peace Support Operations and Where Is Implementation 20 Years Later?”, 12/09/2020, Nina J. Lahoud, Journal of International Peacekeeping. Open Access [here](#).
- “Rooting out inequalities: Women’s participation in forest management in conflict-affected areas of Karen state in Myanmar”, International Alert, June 2020 [here](#)
- Amelia Stein Photo Exposition “the bloods” [here](#). Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer has produced a body of work that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

Please feel free to contact us at wpsconsultation@dfa.ie



This email was sent to HQ-POLPoliticalDivision@dfa.ie
[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

WPS · 24 Elm Mount Crescent · Beaumont · Dublin, D d02 · Ireland

