

The Oireachtas All-Party Interest Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Population seeks to ensure Ireland prioritises gender issues and, specifically, sexual and reproductive health and rights in its input into international decisions on development and rights issues. The group welcomes the opportunity to contribute to the development of Ireland's second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security.

As chairman of the Oireachtas All-Party Interest Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Population I would, on behalf of the TD members, support in full the observations and recommendations of the Irish Family Planning Association.

I would like however to make one additional submission in respect of the role of parliamentarians as scrutineers of progress on implementation of our second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security. The submission refers specifically to issue number five for consideration in the review.

While the Foreign Affairs Committee has received an interim report from the 1325 Monitoring and Evaluation Group and the Department of Foreign Affairs report annually to the Committee, it is felt that the process could be strengthened by more frequent reporting to the Dáil Committee. Under the current regime where the Monitoring group report a lack of progress in a particular area and recommendations are made to speed up progress, it can be a full year before there is any feed back to the committee on progress or, more importantly, on lack of progress. There may consequently be a lack of urgency in necessary follow up.

As many of the indicators require actions from other departments, the committee could also play a useful role in support of the Department of Foreign Affairs in highlighting, in a timely manner, the indifferent or slow response from other actors.

We would therefore respectfully suggest more frequent reporting to the Committee from the Monitoring and Evaluation Group.

Yours Sincerely,

Olivia Mitchell TD

Chair of the Oireachtas All-Party Interest Group on Sexual and Reproductive Health Rights and Population