

Conflict Resolution Unit
Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
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Ireland's Second National Action Plan Women, Peace and Security

The Committee on the Administration of Justice (CAJ) was established in 1981 and is an independent non-governmental organisation affiliated to the International Federation of Human Rights. The Committee seeks to ensure the highest standards in the administration of justice in Northern Ireland by ensuring that the government complies with its responsibilities in international human rights law. The CAJ works closely with other domestic and international human rights groups such as Amnesty International, Human Rights First (formerly the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights) and Human Rights Watch and makes regular submissions to a number of United Nations and European bodies established to protect human rights.

The organisation has been awarded several international human rights prizes, including the Reebok Human Rights Award and the Council of Europe Human Rights Prize.

4. How should the National Action Plan approach actions relating to Ireland-Northern Ireland?

CAJ fully support the application of UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security to Northern Ireland and have responded to both the Westminster Associate Party Group-NI Inquiry into the application of UNSCR 1325 in September 2011 and subsequent NI All Party Group on UNSCR 1325 Inquiry on UNSCR 1325 in December 2013¹. CAJ have also highlighted the need for the application of UNSCR 1325 to NI in their submission to the CEDAW Committee in July 2013².

¹ S356 CAJ's submission to the Associate Parliamentary Group Inquiry into UNSCR 1325 response Sept 2011- updated Oct 2013 available at <http://www.caj.org.uk/contents/991>

² S411 CAJ's Submission to United Nations CEDAW, June 2013 available at <http://www.caj.org.uk/contents/1185>

CAJ is firmly convinced that respect for and defence of human rights must be the cornerstone of any lasting settlement to the conflict. Unless the peace process delivers concrete improvements in the situation of people on the ground it will not deliver lasting peace and so the parties to the 1998 Belfast /Good Friday Agreement affirmed 'the right of women to full and equal political participation and the advancement of women in public life'³ these provisions can be mapped to the framework of the subsequent UNSCR 1325. Sadly the commitment to this has yet to be fully recognised for the women of Northern Ireland.⁴

The UK have not included Northern Ireland in their UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan and CAJ view this position, as a missed opportunity to advance gender perspectives and gender mainstreaming along with real and meaningful participation for women in public and political life and broader conflict resolution processes.

CAJ would urge Ireland as signatories to the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement to include provisions and targets for women in Northern Ireland in their second National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 Women, Peace and Security.

CAJ would recommend targets such as those outlined in the supporting documents to this letter.

Yours Sincerely



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³ Belfast/Good Friday Agreement 'Rights, Safeguards and Equality of Opportunity,' paragraph 1.

⁴ For further detail please see CAJ 'Mapping the Rollback' Report December 2013, Specialist Session 2, Equality 15 Years On available at <http://www.caj.org.uk/files/2013/12/16/No. 65 Mapping the Rollback, HR Provisions - 15 years on, Conference Report, Nov 2013 7.pdf>