

Oversight Group of Ireland's second
National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015 – 2018)

Fourth Meeting

09 June 2016, the Curragh Camp

Minutes: Formal Oversight Group Meeting

Attendees:

Oversight Group

Attendance

1. Nora Owen, Independent Chair
2. Niall Morris, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
3. Nicola Donnelly, Cosc (National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence), Department of Justice and Equality
4. Jaqueline Healy, National Women's Council of Ireland
5. Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross-Border Studies
6. Kevin Kelly, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
7. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre
8. Comdt. Eoghan McDermott, Defence Forces
9. Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair, Trócaire
10. Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
11. Michael Rowan, independent expert
12. Anastasia Crickley, Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University
13. Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
14. Sarah McGrath, Northern Ireland, the UK and the Americas Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
15. Barry Lavin, Intl Security and Defence Policy Branch, Department of Defence

Apologies

- Colm Byrne, Oxfam Ireland
- Catherine O'Rourke, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster
- Émer Deane, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the EU

Secretariat

- Paula Molloy, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- James Kelly, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Declan Heery, Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

External Attendees

- Brigadier General Peter O'Halloran, Defence Forces
- Marianne O'Shea, Maynooth University

Minutes of Oversight Group meeting

1. Adoption of previous meeting's minutes

On the opening of the meeting the Chair took the opportunity to congratulate Anastasia Crickley on her election to the Presidency of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and noted she was the first ever Irish person to serve as President of a UN Treaty body. She thanked the Defence Forces, the Department of Defence and An Garda Síochána for leading on the day's meeting.

As there were no matters arising from the minutes of the February 10th meeting from the floor, the Chair updated the group on her letter to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade, highlighting the challenges in accessing funding faced by women's groups in Northern Ireland. Once received, the response will be shared with the group. The minutes were deemed approved.

2. Update on developments on WPS since Q1 meeting

The Secretariat to the Oversight Group provided an update on developments on WPS since the last meeting. It was agreed that this update would become a standing item on the agenda of each meeting, to keep the Oversight Group abreast of the work of the Secretariat and progress on WPS more generally.

i. Update on the work of the secretariat

WPS was well represented in Ireland's national 'Core Commitments' to the World Humanitarian Summit, with some content based on the priorities identified by the Oversight Group at the February 10th meeting, including references to crimes of impunity committed by peacekeepers and the importance of lesson-sharing on Northern Ireland. Gender considerations were mainstreamed throughout Ireland's commitments, which also included an explicit reference to Ireland's National Action Plan on WPS.

The work of the Secretariat and the Chair continued through the quarter, with both participating on behalf of the Oversight Group in a number of workshops and events. For example, the Chair gave a presentation on the evolution of Ireland's National Action Plan from its first to its second iteration at a NATO-backed conference organised by UCD and the University of Coventry.

Within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, WPS is now a mandatory criterion for NGOs and multilateral organisations seeking funding from the Stability Fund. The Conflict Resolution Unit is also working to ensure integration of WPS objectives within the Department's conflict and fragility policy and its review of multilateral funding, which are under development, and in Ireland's national priorities for the forthcoming UN High Level Summit on Migration and Refugees scheduled for 19 September in New York.

ii. Update on WPS developments in Ireland and abroad

WPS has been discussed on several occasions at international fora, with Ireland seeking to promote WPS objectives in all relevant public interventions and speeches. Examples include recent National Statements delivered at UN Security Council open debates on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence, and on Peace and Security.

**Oversight Group of Ireland's second
National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015 – 2018)**

In response to the findings of last year's Global Review of 1325 which called for more predictable funding for implementation of WPS, the Global Acceleration Instrument (GAI) for UNSCR 1325 was launched earlier this year. Ireland is one of the five founding donors to the fund, which is intended to be a flexible funding mechanism for civil society organisations working in the WPS sphere. It aims to bolster the inclusion of women at all stages of the conflict and peace cycle in an effort to promote sustainable peace.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade hosted the first *Regional Acceleration of Resolution 1325* workshop in early June. The workshop, organised by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) brought together for the first time military and civilian gender advisors from regional agencies engaged in peace operations (UN, NATO and EU), to assess common challenges and opportunities in implementation of 1325 and outline next steps for joint initiatives.

Globally, the UN Inter-Agency Standing Committee's Guidelines for Integrating GBV Interventions in Humanitarian Action were launched. In Ireland, the Irish Consortium for Gender Based Violence facilitated a training session on the guidelines for defence and humanitarian personnel.

iii. Looking forward to WPS in Q3 2016

The Secretariat will take part in the Informal EU Taskforce on 1325 in July, the first meeting of the group in 2016. WPS will also be on the agenda at various meetings at EU level in June, including the EU UN Working Party (CONUN), the EU Working Party on Human Rights (COHOM) and the EU Working Party on Development (CODEV), where the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade will be represented.

The Secretariat has been approached by NATO to nominate a high level speaker from Ireland to take part in a conference entitled *Implementation of Ukraine's NAP on WPS* in Kiev later this month. The Secretariat sought expressions of interest from Oversight Group members in participating.

The Secretariat will participate in a peacebuilding roundtable for women involved in peace processes in Turkey, building on a recent visit by a group of women from Turkey to Ireland and Northern Ireland to learn lessons from the Northern Ireland Peace Process.

3. Midterm Review

The Chair invited feedback on the Terms of Reference of the Midterm Review (MTR), which had been developed by the Reference Group for the MTR and circulated since the last meeting. It was agreed that an extra question would be included to more explicitly ask whether there was a need for any modifications and changes to the existing indicators, commitments or actions, including with reference to the possible eventual 3rd National Action Plan. It was further agreed that the midterm review itself should be short and concise, and concentrated on reviewing implementation of the National Action Plan to date. The Secretariat will incorporate all suggested changes (to be received in writing from Group members)

4. Fulfilling Oversight Group Terms of Reference

Mr. Kevin Kelly spoke about the work being done by the Secretariat to ensure that both the Oversight Group and the Secretariat itself are fulfilling their respective Terms of Reference. The Secretariat produced three documents as part of this initiative. The first is a document assessing the recommendations made in the mid-term and final reviews of Ireland's 1st National Action Plan, including an update on progress in responding to the recommendations. Significant

**Oversight Group of Ireland's second
National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security (2015 – 2018)**

recommendations arising from this analysis included the need for the Oversight Group to engage in regular and systematic monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the NAP, and the need for improved communications and outreach to key stakeholders. Arising from these findings, the Secretariat prepared the second document, a framework for monitoring and evaluation; and the third document, a communications and outreach strategy for the Oversight Group and the Secretariat. Following discussion, all three documents as circulated to the group members in advance of the meeting were adopted by the Oversight Group, with agreement that the template to be used by statutory bodies to report on their progress against their NAP commitments would be amended to clarify that progress since the most recent update should be reported.

The proposal in the monitoring framework regarding the inclusion of a representative of an organisation representing conflict-affected women on the Oversight Group was discussed. While it was agreed that such an appointment should be made, members suggested that consideration should be given to possibly appointing an individual with personal experience of the immigration system. It was agreed that the Chair would undertake to identify a suitable representative for approval by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, taking the issues raised at the meeting into consideration. With regard to listening to the voices of conflict affected women on the island, it was further noted that the Oversight Group's single visit to Northern Ireland had not been sufficient to engage deeply with women affected by conflict there, and that further opportunities for engagement may be needed in the future. The secretariat endeavoured to incorporate opportunities to engage directly with women affected by conflict whenever appropriate and possible in the planning of Oversight Group meetings.

The Oversight Group noted that a WPS Forum or conference could be a useful outreach tool to the wider community, and said it must be thought through carefully to ensure all relevant voices are represented. It was noted that the Forum should include women's voices from across the spectrum of experience, and not focus solely on high-level participants.

5. Forthcoming Meetings

It has been agreed that the Q3 meeting will focus on migrant women affected by conflict living in Ireland, and will be led by Diane Nurse (HSE) and Nicola Donnelly (Cosc, Department of Justice and Equality), with assistance from Anastasia Crickley. A provisional date has been set for 15 September 2016 for the next meeting of the Oversight Group. The Chair decided to delay discussions for a topic for Q4 to allow greater flexibility to respond to emerging issues, including the possibility that the issues affecting migrant women may not be fully discussed in Q3.

16th June 2016

Secretariat to the Oversight Group, National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2015-2018