

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY UPDATE - MARCH 2018

Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Please find below a brief update on the Women, Peace and Security agenda for February 2018. Please do not hesitate to get in touch at any time if you have [news](#), an [event](#) or [project](#) relevant to Ireland's WPS agenda that you would like circulated to this mailing list.

For more general information on Ireland's WPS agenda, please visit our [webpage](#). More information on the Oversight Group (including membership and meeting minutes) can be found [here](#). To see a copy of [Ireland's 2nd National Action Plan](#) itself, please click [here](#).

Heads of Mission Conference



The Conflict Resolution Unit organised a panel for the Heads of Mission Conference titled "**Ethical Responses to Global Challenges**". The panel included distinguished gender expert, Bronagh Hinds, who provided an overview of Ireland's approach to implementing

the Women, Peace and Security agenda. She highlighted that the National Action Plan should not just be seen as an international policy, but also a domestic one, particularly with the rise in women from conflict contexts now living in Ireland. She also noted that Ireland has an important role to play internationally through promoting women's practical engagement in mediation processes. Bronagh is currently working with women in the peace negotiations on Syria.

The issue of taking a gendered perspective in approaches to development, security and foreign policy was also highlighted by other speakers: **Vice Admiral Mark Mellet**, Chief of Staff for the Irish Defence Forces, **David Nabarro**, former Special Advisor on the SDGs, and **Dominic McSorley**, CEO of Concern. The Irish Youth Delegate to the UN, **Paul Dockery**, even went as far as advocating for Ireland to adopt a feminist foreign policy.

Dare to Dialogue



CRU attended a seminar on the 10th December 2017 organised by **Akidwa**, titled, **Dare to Dialogue**, which focused on **engaging men and faith leaders in challenging gender based violence (GBV)**. The event hosted a panel that included Alan O'Neil from the Men's Development Network, representatives of the Dublin Interfaith Forum, and representatives from a diversity of faiths. The event allowed for a

vibrant discussion and led to CRU bring the important matter of engaging faith leaders against GBV to the attention of the UNSCR 1325 Oversight Group. For more information on the work of Akidwa, see the link [here](#).

Colombia

Recent Ambassadorial Appointment

H. E. Barbara Jones, recently presented her credentials to H.E. Juan Manuel Santos, President of Colombia.

Ambassador Jones who resides in Mexico is currently Ambassador of Ireland to Mexico and is accredited to Colombia as a non-resident Ambassador. As part of the DFAT global expansion it was recently announced that Ireland will open an Embassy in Bogota later this year.



Ireland's Participation in the UN's Department of Political Affairs (DPA) visit to Colombia as part of the UN's Verification Mission



Members of the Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York participated in the visit, which was designed to provide insight into the work of the UN's Verification Mission, and the challenges facing the peace process. Among other areas the mission sought insights into progress in the Women, Peace and Security agenda. See the news feed [here](#)

An update on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 in Colombia can be found in the [Sixth Summary Report on the Monitoring of Resolution 1325](#). Also, an excellent book has been produced by two leading Colombian Women's organisations, CAISE and Corporation Humanas, titled, [Experiences, Contributions, and Recognitions: Women in the Peace Process in Havana](#). This is available in Spanish and English.

EEAS Mediation Retreat

A representative of the Conflict Resolution Unit attended an EU level mediation retreat organised by PRISM within the EEAS. Ireland raised the issue of greater inclusion of women in peace processes noting the need for a diversity of women's voices in mediation. The retreat was also an opportunity to gain further information on Women Mediation Networks, such as the [New-Med Research Network](#), the [Nordic Women Mediators](#), and the [Mediterranean Women Mediators Network](#).



International Women's Day – 8th March 2018

Women Peacekeepers – Mission (not yet) Accomplished

The Irish Mission in The Hague in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands, hosted an event at the Peace Palace in The Hague, titled **Women Peacekeepers – Mission (not yet) Accomplished**. The event highlighted and debated the role and contribution of women to international peace and security, and the challenges and opportunities in ensuring a gender sensitive approach to peacekeeping.

The panel included: [Ameerah Hag](#), former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Field Support, [Vice Admiral Mark Mellet](#), Chief of Defence for Ireland, [Major-general M.H. Wijnen](#), Deputy Chief of Defence for the Netherlands, [Captain Deidre Carberry](#), Peace and Former Gender Advisor for the Irish Defence Forces, [Commander Ella van den Heuvel](#), Gender and Security expert, Netherlands. The discussion was chaired by **Ambassador Marriet Schuurman**, Head of the Dutch Taskforce for the UN Security Council.

Each speaker's presentation can be viewed by clicking on their names above. The event also received attention in the Dutch and Irish press, see [here](#) for an article in the Irish Times.

Changing Gender Norms to Empower Rural Women and Girls.

The Permanent Mission to the United Nation in New York will host an event along the same theme as CSW, titled '**Changing Gender Norms to Empower Rural Women and Girls**'. Speakers will include: **Caroline Harper**, Principal Research Fellow, Overseas Development Institute (ODI); **Purna Sen**, Director of Policy, UN Women; **Chernor Bah**, Co-Founder and Executive Director, Purposeful Productions and, **Nancy Glass**, Associate Director, John Hopkins Centre for Global Health.

The event will be chaired by **Anju Malhotra**, Principal Advisor on Gender and Development, UNICEF, and the Opening Address will be made by Ambassador **Geraldine Byrne Nason**, Ireland's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

The event was also live streamed and can be viewed [here](#).

International Alert

In April the Conflict Resolution Unit will host members of International Alert, including their gender advisor. They will present to the department an overview of their work in various conflict contexts. The event will be open to external participation and we will be issuing invitations nearer the time. A link to International Alert's work on Women, Peace and Security related issues can be accessed [here](#).

Commission on the Status of Women

Ireland is currently **Chairing the Commission on the Status of Women**, between the 12th and 23rd of March. The CSW was opened on the 12th March, with the key note speech made by Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason. See the opening of the event [here](#).

Ireland will host or co-host five side events over the period of the programme. These are:

1. Investing in the rural health workers for the economic participation and empowerment of rural women and girls. (13th March, 11:30-12:45)

A collaboration between: Ireland, World Health Organization (WHO) and International Labour Organization (ILO) Women in Global Health.

2. A Climate Justice Dialogue: Enabling grassroots and indigenous women's participation in gender responsive climate action. (14th March, 16.45-18:00)

A collaboration between: Ireland and the Mary Robinson Foundation - Climate Justice.

3. Presenting challenges and considering solutions to combat sex trafficking and other forms of commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls. (16th March, 15:00-16:15)

A collaboration between: Ireland, The Council of Europe, Ruhama and CAP International.

4. Learn, grow and thrive: an agenda to empower rural girls (Evidence from the Young Lives study of childhood poverty). (21st March 13:15-14:30)

A collaboration between: Ireland and the University of Oxford.

5. Good practices in the empowerment of rural women and girls through addressing gender-based violence. (22nd March, 13:15-2:30)

A collaboration between: Ireland, Irish Consortium on Gender-Based Violence and the International Rescue Committee.



Meeting with the Working Group on Girls

Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason met with the **Working Group on Girls** to discuss pressing issues in advance of **CSW**. This engagement is important for the Conflict Resolution Unit, which seeks to work more closely on the issue of interlinking the WPS and Youth, Peace and Security agenda.

Information on the Working Group on Girls can be found on their [website](#), this includes the prepared talking points document for the [CSW](#).

Ambassador Byrne Nason is conducting a series of briefings with a NGOs and members states in advance of CSW, these allow for the sharing of positions on issues relating to CSW and to begin negotiations on the Agreed Conclusions.

“Young women can play vital roles within and across communities in challenging global insecurities.”

Paul Dockery, Irish Youth Delegate to the United Nations, Heads of Mission Conference, January 2018.

The Report of the Midterm Review of Ireland’s second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security is [available](#) on the Women, Peace and Security webpage.

Please let any interested parties know that they can sign up to the mailing list by contacting wpsconsultation@dfa.ie. Should you wish to unsubscribe from the mailing list at any time, please also email wpsconsultation@dfa.ie.