

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

Independent Chair

1. Nora Owen

Nora was a member of Dáil Eireann (Lower House of Parliament) from 1981-1987 and 1989-2002. She has held several political positions over her 20 years in politics including Deputy Leader of Fine Gael Party in 1993 – 2000 and Minister for Justice from 1994-1997. Nora has spent time in Rwanda as a Volunteer with Concern in 1994 and has taken part in Parliamentary training in Africa Asia and Europe with NDI (USA) and AWEPA. Nora serves on the Board as Vice-Chair of Concern Worldwide. She holds a BSc in Chemistry and Biochemistry and a Business Law Certificate. Nora is currently Chair of Justice and Home Affairs committee of Institute of International and European Affairs, and Chair of the Expert Advisory Group on Development Aid reporting to the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade. Nora has acted as TV Presenter in TV3 programs and presented Mastermind on TV3 as well as a commentator on several radio and TV programs.

Government Departments/Statutory Bodies

2. Kevin Kelly

Director, Conflict Resolution Unit, OSCE, Council of Europe and UN Co-ordination, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Prior to his current role, Kevin was Director for Emergency & Recovery (Humanitarian Affairs) in the Development Cooperation Division of the Department. Previously he served as Ambassador to Uganda, also accredited to Rwanda, as Director for Africa in Political Division of the Department of Foreign Affairs, as Head of Development in the Embassy of Ireland in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and as Senior Governance Adviser for the World Bank in Addis Ababa. Kevin also has experience of working with civil society organisations in Ireland, UK and Botswana, and has been responsible for the planning and implementation of non-formal human rights and global education programmes with the National Youth Council of Ireland.

3. Niall Morris

Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Niall is Irish Aid's lead policy advisor on gender equality and women's empowerment. Previous to his current role, Niall served at the Permanent Representation of Ireland to the OECD and UNESCO where he represented Ireland on the OECD's Development Assistance Committee.

4. Sarah McGrath

Political Director, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Sarah heads two units dealing with Northern Ireland; the Political Section which covers political and legacy issues; and the Reconciliation and Commemoration Section which oversees the disbursement of the DFAT Reconciliation Fund as well as dealing with the international and all-island aspects of the decade of centenaries, including Ireland 2016. Sarah has previously served as the Director of the Strategy and Performance Unit which leads the Department's input to civil service renewal and has also worked in the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Section focussing on nuclear issues. She has served abroad on two occasions at the Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations in New York, covering elections and budgetary issues, and the Embassy of Ireland to Germany, as head of

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the trade and cultural section.

5. Nicola Donnelly

Cosc (National Office for the Prevention of Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence, Department of Justice and Equality)

Nicola works on the formulation and implementation of policy in relation to the Second National Strategy on Domestic, Sexual and Gender-based Violence. She had previously worked on the implementation of the First National Strategy and in the Security Division of the Department. Cosc is an executive office within the Department of Justice and Equality, established in June 2007. Its primary role is to co-ordinate a 'whole of Government' response to domestic and sexual violence.

6. Diane Nurse

Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive

Diane is the National Lead for Social Inclusion in the Health Service Executive. This office holds a remit for health and care of vulnerable groups, including people with addiction issues, people who are experiencing homelessness, asylum seekers and refugees, Travellers and Roma, women experiencing violence and LGBT service users. She led on development and implementation of the HSE National Intercultural Health Strategy and represents the HSE on various Cross Departmental groups dealing with Asylum seeker issues, Refugee resettlement and Domestic, Sexual and Gender based violence.

7. Barry Lavin

International Security and Defence Policy Branch, Department of Defence

Barry works on the formulation and development of Defence inputs to Ireland's policy position in relation to the EU's Common Security and Defence Policy. Prior to this he had responsibility for the Conciliation & Arbitration Scheme for the Defence Forces Representative Associations and has previously worked in a number of other Departments, including the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he represented Ireland in Tanzania.

8. Jayne Lawlor

Defence Forces

Comdt. Jayne Lawlor was appointed by the Chief of Staff as the Defence Forces' first Gender, Equality and Diversity Officer, in 2012. She has served on Peacekeeping Missions in various appointments in UNIFIL, Lebanon, 2000 to 2001, in UNMIL, Liberia, 2004, in KFOR, Kosovo in 2006 and in ISAF, Afganistan in 2013.

9. Louise Synnott

An Garda Síochána (National Police Service of Ireland)

Supt. Louise Synnott joined An Garda Síochána in June, 1989. She was appointed to the rank of Sergeant in 2000 and Inspector in 2004 and was deployed in the office of Deputy Commissioner, Operations. In 2012 she was appointed to the rank of Superintendent and was allocated to Internal Affairs, under the Human Resources Directorate, with responsibility for Discipline, Complaints, Health & Safety, Compensation and the Overseas Office.

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10. Émer Deane

Permanent Representation of Ireland to the European Union

Émer works as a Counsellor in Ireland's Permanent Representation to the EU in Brussels where she is responsible for Ireland's relations with the EU Institutions. She has held a number of roles within the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade previously including Political Director of the Anglo-Irish Division, Consul General in San Francisco and Personnel Officer.

Civil Society, Academia and Independent Experts

11. Colm Byrne

Oxfam Ireland

Colm has worked with Civil Society Organisations both in Ireland and internationally and has been an active participant in the development and monitoring of Ireland's National Action Plans on Women, Peace and Security. He works as Humanitarian Manager with Oxfam in Ireland.

12. Anastasia Crickley

Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University

Anastasia was Head of Department of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University (2005-2015), where she led human rights and community development education and international initiatives in Africa and Asia. She is an elected member, and Vice-President, of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Chairperson of the Liberia Solidarity Group, Pavee Point Traveller and Roma Centre and of the Community Workers' Co-operative. Previously, Anastasia was a member of the Council of Europe Advisory Committee for the Framework Convention on National Minorities and the OSCE Chairperson's Special Representative on Racism and Discrimination. She has been, and is, active in a number of initiatives to address discrimination and promote the human rights of women, including women from minorities globally.

13. Jaqueline Healy

National Women's Council of Ireland

Jacqueline has worked as Women's Health and Human Rights Officer with the National Women's Council of Ireland since 2011. She co-ordinates their work on gender mainstreaming in health and violence against women including the Irish Observatory on Violence against Women. Jacqueline has over 15 years' experience working in human rights and community development, both in Ireland and overseas. She specialises in the areas of migration, racism and gender.

14. Rob Kevlihan

Kimmage Development Studies Centre

Dr. Rob Kevlihan is Executive Director of the Kimmage Development Studies Centre and Head of the International Development programme being run by Kimmage DSC at Maynooth University. He has over 15' years experience as a scholar and practitioner in fields related to conflict, development and humanitarian action and has worked in a number of different countries / regions overseas, including Sudan / South Sudan, Angola, West Africa (particularly Ghana, Niger, Burkina Faso and Chad), Central Asia (particularly Kazakhstan and Tajikistan) and Vietnam.

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15. Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair

Trócaire

Réiseal is the Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy Adviser with Trócaire, working with the organisation since 2012 returning to Ireland after 17 years overseas with Save the Children and Concern. She has extensive experience in development and humanitarian work. Her current work includes aspects of humanitarian law, protection, sexual and gender-based violence, research and policy development.

16. Ruth Taillon

Centre for Cross Border Studies

Ruth Taillon is Director of the Centre for Cross Border Studies. Ruth has many years' experience as a researcher and evaluator working with public and community-based organisations in both jurisdictions on the island of Ireland, specialising in gender, equality, and peace and conflict issues. She has a strong personal interest in Irish women's history.

17. Catherine O'Rourke

Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster

Dr Catherine O'Rourke is Senior Lecturer in Human Rights and International Law and Gender Research Coordinator at the Transitional Justice Institute, Ulster University. She has an ongoing role in gender and conflict research and policy-making for the United Nations, the British and Irish governments, and for a number of non-governmental organisations.

18. Michael Rowan

Independent

Michael Rowan served 37 years in the Defence Forces during which time he served on Peace Support Operations in the Middle East, Africa and the Western Balkans. From 2005 until his retirement he was Chief Instructor in Human Rights at the Defence Forces United Nations Training School Ireland (UNTSI). In 2012 he completed an MA in Women's Studies at University College Cork and his thesis addresses the Status, Role and Equality: The Experience of Women in the Irish Defence Forces. Michael currently works with Citizens' Information.

Oversight Group Secretariat

• **Helena Keleher, Deputy Director, Conflict Resolution Unit**

Helena has served as Ireland's national focal point on Women, Peace and Security since 2013. She has a postgraduate qualification in conflict and dispute resolution studies and 12 years' experience as a civil servant and diplomat, including on overseas assignments in Ireland's Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York as Head of Delegation for Human Rights, and to Ireland's Embassy to the Holy See.

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