

Ninth Meeting

6th September 2017, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Iveagh House

Minutes: Formal Meeting

Attendees:

Oversight Group

Nora Owen, Independent Chair

Frank Smyth, Director UN Coordination Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Áine Hearn, Director Conflict Resolution Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade

AnnMarie Quarry, Gender Equality Division, Department of Justice and Equality

Cmdt. Eoghan McDermott, Defence Forces

Colm Byrne, Oxfam Ireland

Anastasia Crickley, Dept. of Applied Social Studies, Maynooth University

Jaqueline Healy, National Women's Council of Ireland

Réiseal Ni Chéilleachair, Trócaire

Ruth Taillon, Centre for Cross Border Studies

Michael Rowan, Independent Expert

Nura Hagi, Mind the Gap

Alternates

Supt. Anne Marie Cagney, An Garda Síochána

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

Guests

Bríd Kennedy, Concern Worldwide

Prof. Brandon Hamber, INCORE, Ulster University

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

Heidi Riley, incoming Conflict Resolution Unit intern

Secretariat (Conflict Resolution Unit)

Olivia Lucas, Desk Officer

Apologies

- Ger Considine, Development Co-operation Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Sarah McGrath, Anglo-Irish Division, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Diane Nurse, Social Inclusion Unit, Health Services Executive
- Barry Lavin, Intl Security and Defence Policy Branch, Dept. of Defence
- Supt. Louise Synnott, An Garda Síochána
- Dr. Rob Kevlihan, Kimmage Development Studies Centre
- Dr. Catherine O'Rourke, Transitional Justice Institute, University of Ulster

1. Adoption of previous meeting's minutes

The Chair welcomed the new representative for the Department of Justice and Equality, AnnMarie Quarry, and Heidi Riley who will be taking over as the Oversight Group Secretariat from October. The contributions made by Paula Molloy and Nicola Donnelly to the work of the Group were also noted. After summarising the agenda for the day, the Chair then deferred to Frank Smyth to explain the restructuring currently underway within the Conflict Resolution Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Minister Zappone's response to the Chair's letter of 18th May 2017 was highlighted for discussion. It was agreed that the Chair would write again to both the Department of Justice and Equality and the Department for Children and Youth Affairs for updates and clarification on steps to progress Ireland's commitments under the Irish Refugee Protection Programme, particularly in regard to Unaccompanied Minors, and to request a breakdown in allocation of the €22.1 million earmarked for the provision of services tackling domestic, sexual and gender based violence. Further, the views of civil society organisations undertaking immigration support functions should be sought on Minister Zappone's response.

In addition, the Group wish to contact the Reception and Integration Agency for information on the support available to children transitioning out of the Direct Provision system after many years, to assist them in integrating into society and securing housing (and on special measures to secure housing for the refugee population more generally).

The minutes were formally approved.

2. Update on Developments on WPS since Q1 2017 meeting

i) Update on the Work of the Secretariat

- The Secretariat continues to implement the recommendations in the Midterm Review Report. Hard copies of the Report were circulated to all present at the meeting.

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

- The first meeting of the Oversight Group subcommittee for civil society engagement took place on 13th June in light of Recommendation 8 of the Midterm Review Report. The meeting produced the proposed engagement strategy included in the briefing packs.
- The Midterm Review Report has also been circulated to the original contributors to the consultation for the 2nd National Action Plan and those organisations have been asked for their feedback.
- Ireland participated in the second meeting of the Informal Working Group for review of the EU Comprehensive Approach to UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 on 7th July in Brussels and will continue to take part in the process until its completion.
- Ireland recently made a submission to the Member State survey for the Youth, Peace and Security Progress Study. The Study aims to provide evidence of young women and men's involvement in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and resolution, and social cohesion efforts.
- The Secretariat continues to implement the Oversight Group Communications Strategy. The mailing list continues to grow and tweets were again published using the hashtag #WPSIreland. The format of the monthly updates email has also been redesigned to be more engaging.

ii) **Update on WPS developments in Ireland and abroad**

- The Report on the Indicators for the Comprehensive Approach to EU Implementation of the UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 will be published this month.

iii) **Looking forward to WPS in Q4**

- Ministerial Week of the 72nd Session of UN General Assembly is taking place from 12th-25th September. Ireland will take part in the 2nd meeting of the Global Network of WPS Focal Points on the 21st September.
- The UNDPKO workshop for RAR1325 which was due to take place this quarter will no longer go ahead.
- Ireland will again participate in the next meeting of the Informal EU Taskforce on UNSCR1325 in October. Date to be confirmed.
- The Security Council Open Debate on WPS is scheduled to take place in October. Ireland will likely make an intervention to this.
- The Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation is running a residential dialogue workshop from the 21st-23rd September entitled 'Re-imagining how women can influence peace on the island of Ireland'. Oversight Group members have been invited to attend.

3. Forthcoming Meetings

The Q4 meeting will address the theme of 'Women's Political Participation in Ireland'. There was concern that this theme be kept relevant to the Women, Peace and Security agenda. As such the meeting should in part address the nature and extent to which political parties are engaging on issues relevant to the National Action Plan in their manifestos. A number of organisations were suggested to present on the involvement of women from minorities and particularly from conflict zones in mainstream politics in Ireland. These included; Women for Election, The Women's Resource and Development Agency, and The National Collective of Community Based Women's Networks (NCCWN). Individuals from conflict affected states engaged in local politics were also highlighted as possible speakers. A presentation on violence as a barrier to women's political participation internationally could also be included.

4. AOB

Proposals for Oversight Group Civil Society Engagement Strategy

Given the time constraints it was agreed that discussions on the above would be pushed forward to the Q4 meeting in December.

Secretariat to the Oversight Group to Ireland's 2nd National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security

12th September 2017