



Ireland's Approach to Women, Peace and Security Newsletter

October 2020



We would like to warmly welcome you to this newsletter as we mark Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Month and the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. It is a time to celebrate what the WPS agenda has achieved, but also for honest reflection on remaining challenges and the way ahead. While there have been landmark achievements in the last 20 years, women peacebuilders in the field are calling for a renewed commitment to more effective implementation and a considerable change of pace.

WPS Annual Open Debate

As we approach the WPS Open Debate on 29 October, let us recall the words of our Permanent Representative to the United Nations at the last debate in 2019:



"The fact is, those who wage wars – not, in the main, women – continue to set the parameters for peace. Without women. Quite apart from the inequality this reinforces, let's be clear. It is also fundamentally ineffective as a peacebuilding approach. We have the evidence that peace is more durable when women have participated in its negotiation... Put simply, WPS ought to be part of all our peacebuilding work. In this chamber, that means part of every mandate renewal, of every geographic and thematic discussion, of every local consultation, of every analysis completed in the field."

Upcoming Events

• GNWP Database Launch event

We would like to invite all of the readers to the launch of a database on the role of women in peacebuilding during the Covid-19 pandemic, developed with Ireland's support by our partners the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders and UN Women (register <u>here</u>).

Database Launch

Peacebuilding in a Pandemic: Tracking the Impact of COVID-19 on Women, Peace, and Security

Commemorating 20 Years of UN Security Council Resolution 1325

Date: 21 October 2020 Time: 9:00 – 10:30 AM US EDT RSVP: bit.ly/COVID-Database

We are looking forward to an insightful discussion with grassroots women peacebuilders who have contributed to the development of the database and to hearing their perspectives and recommendations for a gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive COVID-19 response. This will be preceded by a short demonstration of the database and its dashboard and followed by an interactive Q & A with opening remarks from Ireland's Deputy Permanent Representative to the UN, Ambassador Brian Flynn.

About the database

GNWP, while conducting research and consultations commissioned for Ireland's 1325 anniversary project was able to collect, process and analyse qualitative and quantitative data on the impact of COVID-19 on women peacebuilders and their work. This data, in combination with additional primary and secondary sources including Surveys, Focus Group Discussions and Key Informant Interviews was compiled in a database and will be made available and automatically translatable online. As part of the project, data visualizations will also be provided to facilitate analysis and the use of the database. It is our hope that this innovative database will serve as a resource for advocacy by civil society but also the UN and

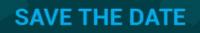
government policy makers and practitioners.



The existence, and hopefully the active use of this the database, has the potential to enhance the development of gender-responsive and conflict-sensitive interventions on COVID-19 as well as future humanitarian crises.

• Ireland's UNSCR 1325 20th anniversary project High-Level event

Taking inspiration from grassroots women leaders and wishing to hear directly from them and learn from their experience, Ireland, in collaboration with UN Women and the Global Network of Women Peacebuilders (GNWP), brought together women peacebuilders from different backgrounds and contexts in Colombia, Northern Ireland, South Africa and Uganda. Through consultations that focused discussions on the six priority areas outlined in the UN Secretary-General's 2019 report on WPS, we invited women peacebuilders to take stock of the WPS and Sustaining Peace agendas in 2020 and the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on their work.



LEARNING FROM GRASSROOTS WOMEN PEACEBUILDERS

Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda beyond 2020

with

Mary Robinson, Chair of the Elders

Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, UN Women Executive Director

Monday, 26 October 2020 10:30 AM-12:00 PM US EDT RSVP : https://bit.ly/3j550gg



This High-Level event will launch the report of these consultations and highlight their key recommendations and will feature a keynote address by H.E. Mary Robinson, as well as contributions from grassroots women leaders who participated in the project, international leaders and champions of gender equality. We look forward a lively exchange of views on the concrete steps Member States and the international community can take to advance the WPS agenda on-the-ground and in international policy. Register <u>here</u>.

• Embassy Pretoria UNSCR 1324 anniversary event

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The Embassy of Ireland in Pretoria together with UN Women in South Africa invite you to the launch of a consultative report on implementation gaps in the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda

> Ambasáid na hÉireann Embassy of Ireland

 Date:
 Thursday, 29 October 2020

 Time:
 12:00 - 14:00 SAST

Sustaining Peace Peacebuilding at the Grassroots: Challenges and Opportunities Twenty Years after UNSCR 1325



• Embassy of Ireland to Belgium and IIEA

The Embassy of Ireland to Belgium, in partnership with the IIEA, is also preparing an inspiring Panel Discussion on 'Women in Leadership – Peace, Diplomacy and Security' as part of Irish Embassy's #VisibleWomen2020 initiative, amplifying the female voice and women's role in diplomacy, development, entrepreneurship and the arts. In acknowledging that more needs to be done to advance gender equality and put women central to peace building, they invited three trail-blazing Irish women leaders to ask them for their perspectives and how more women around the table can shape better policy and operational decisions. Brigadier General Maureen O'Brien is the most senior woman serving in the Irish Defence Forces and the first Irish woman to achieve the rank of Brigadier General. She is Deputy Force Commander of the UN Disengagement Observer Forces Mission in the Golan Heights, and has extensive overseas experience in Lebanon, Western Sahara, East Timor, Chad and Sarajevo. Jacqui Mc Crum is the first women to lead the Department of Defence as Secretary General. Previously, she was Deputy Secretary General in the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. Sonja Hyland is the first woman to serve as Political Director in the Department of Foreign Affairs. She has also served as Ireland's Ambassador to Ethiopia, South Sudan, Diibouti, IGAD and the African Union, and Ireland's Ambassador to Mexico, Cuba, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia and Peru. We hope to hear about their personal

experiences as women in senior leadership roles, and their contribution to gender equality in their own organisations and externally, as well as their perspectives on women peace and security, sharing real, practical examples from their organisation's work and their own experience. Make sure to pencil in this event into your diary for the **16th November at 12.30pm**, Irish time. Link and invitation to the event will be shared on <u>@DFAPeaceSupport</u> soon.

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Other inputs to the meeting included the Defence Forces input on its endeavours to recruit and retain women in the Defence Forces as part of their own WPS Action Plan.

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"Sustainable peace is only possible if we change the dominant models of the economy and challenge patriarchy" – Ana Cristina Piño from the Corporación Centro de Apoyo Popular (CENTRAP).

Ana is one of the many interviewed by our partner GNWP during the consultations mentioned above. Inspired by these incredible women and wanting to share their work with a larger public, a side-product of the report and the database, their story will be published on GNWP's blog in the form of "Women Peacebuilders Profiles". Don't miss the account about the paths to peace built by women from Colombia, Northern Ireland, Uganda and South Africa and check <u>@GNWP</u> and <u>@DFAPeaceSupport</u> twitter for new profiles every week.



"2020 is an opportunity to reflect on what works and what does not work in peacebuilding, and how local women and their perspectives can be better included" – Tintswalo Makhubele, South Africa Congress of Non-Profit Organizations (SANOCO)

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ongoing work of the <u>International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group</u>, cochaired by Ireland's Ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva H.E. Michael Gaffey, was also highlighted as well as Ireland's ongoing support to address <u>Gender Based Violence within the Arms Trade Treaty</u>.

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Please feel free to contact us at wpsconsultation@dfa.ie



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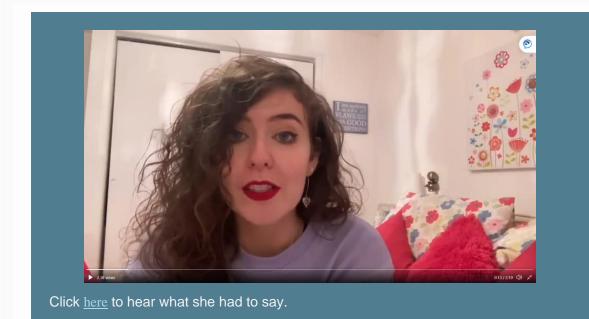
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- "Rooting out inequalities: Women's participation in forest management in conflict-affected areas of Karen state in Myanmar", International Alert, June 2020 <u>here</u>
- Amelia Stein Photo Exposition "the bloods" <u>here</u>. Working with members of the Defence Forces from the 3 Inf Bn, based in James Stephens Barracks, Kilkenny, the photographer has produced a body of work that seeks to represent the diversity of those men and women who are currently serving or have served within the walls of the Barracks.

Please feel free to contact us at wpsconsultation@dfa.ie



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