



The Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence presents:

# Women, Peace and Conflict:

## United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325

Conference report: 17th November 2008





Delegates attend  
the Women and  
Peace Conference  
in Dublin, November  
2008

**Top:** Leymah Roberta Gbowee (Women, Peace and Security Network Africa), Brendan Rogers (Irish Aid), Justin Kilcullen (Trocaire), Mukesh Kapila (IRCRC), Tom Arnold (Concern), Gisela de Carvalho (Young Women Working Together).

**Bottom:** Liz O'Donnell (Former Minister for State at DFA), Colm O'Gorman (AI Ireland), Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights), Micheál Martin T.D. (Minister for Foreign Affairs)

## Document Credits:

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Design: Pixelapes

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# Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence

# Women, Peace and Conflict

## 17th November 2008

### Statement from the Conference

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR); the ambition behind the UDHR of creating a world where the dignity and humanity of each and every person would be respected by all nations is undermined by the systematic violence that women face in conflict situations on a daily basis. Denying women the opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their lives, denying women protection from acts of violence, denying women justice and dignity, these are all violations of their human rights that need to be addressed. The implementation of this United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR1325) is vital for the realisation of these human rights and ultimately for the achievement of the promise of human rights for all.

On 17th November 2008 the Irish Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence hosted a conference “Women, Peace and Conflict”. The conference was attended by international and Irish women’s rights activists, representatives from Irish government agencies, including the Irish Defence Forces and Department of Foreign Affairs, and representatives from Irish and international civil society organisations.

The conference heard how UNSCR 1325 commits the international community to protect women in conflict especially from gender based violence; to end impunity for rape and sexual violence; to facilitate women’s participation in conflict prevention and peace-building; and to ensure a gendered approach to peacekeeping and humanitarian missions.

The conference heard from women around the globe who have been affected by conflict, including from Timor-Leste, Afghanistan, Northern Ireland, and Liberia. They told of the impact of conflict on the lives of women and the experience of women in processes of conflict resolution and peace-building including barriers to women’s participation. They also demonstrated how even in the most difficult of circumstances women can and will come together to look for solutions and to work with each other towards conflict resolution and peace building. The conference heard how the Netherlands is implementing resolution 1325 and also of progress at a UN and international level.

The Irish Government has identified Resolution 1325 as one of six priorities of its Conflict Resolution Unit and is in the process of developing a national action plan including consultations with representative of women's organisations.

The Consortium's report **Stepping up Ireland's Response to Women, Peace and Security: United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325** was launched at the conference and provides guidance for the process of developing a national action plan, its contents and its implementation.

### The messages of the conference were clear:

To all parties to conflict resolution, and peace building including the UN, the EU, AU, governments, civil society and parties to conflict:

- Do not forget women; women are agents for positive and sustainable change.
- Paper promises have no value unless followed up by sustained action and accountability.
- It is critical that substantive actions are taken urgently as women's rights continue to be violated in a systematic manner on a daily basis.

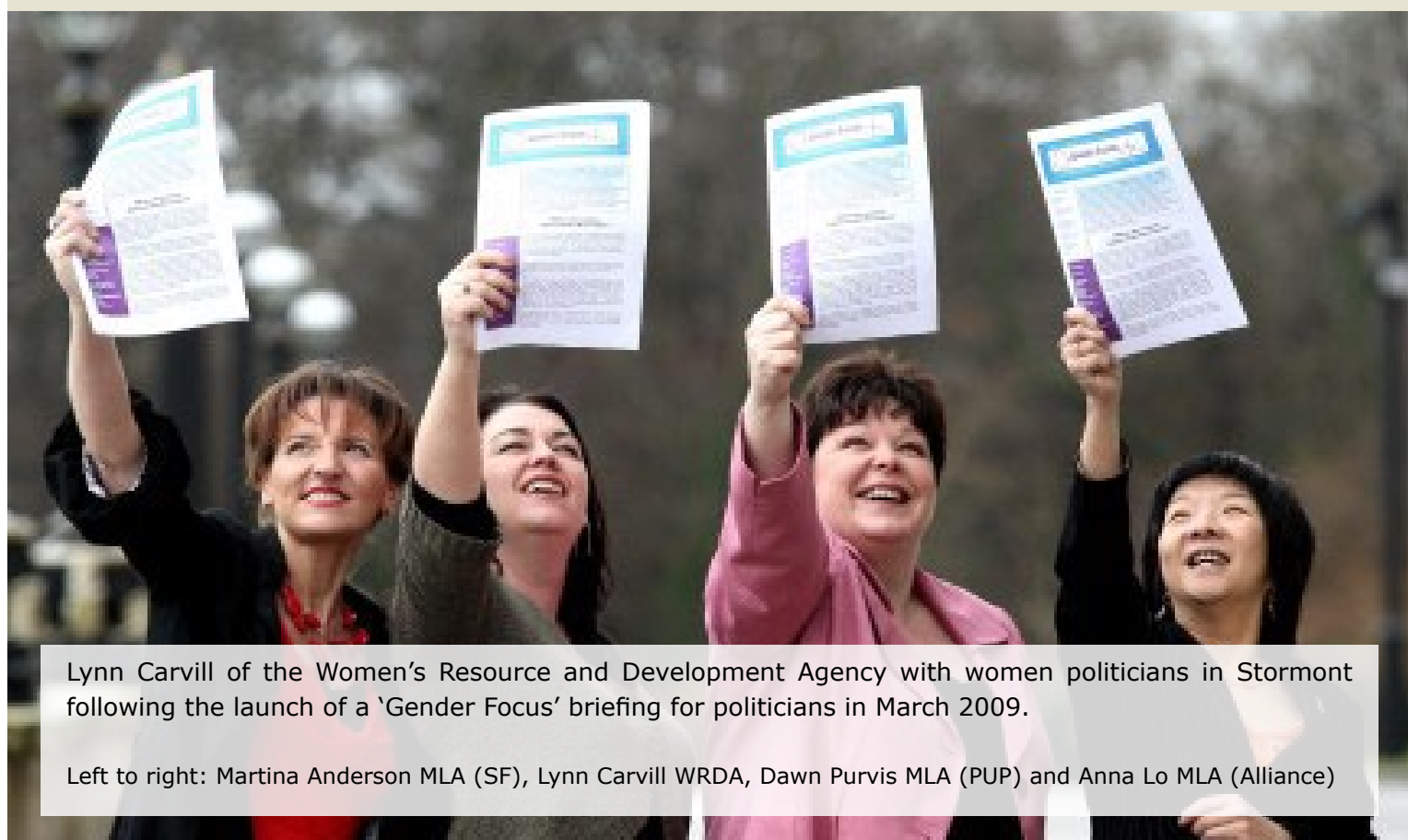
### And to women everywhere:

- Never give up because "what doesn't seem possible is possible".

### The participants in this conference:

- Recognise that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is crucial to addressing gender based violence and consider that the development of national action plans for UNSCR 1325 is necessary to translate the principles of UNSCR 1325 into action; and believe that women who have experienced situations of conflict need to be involved in developing national action plans.
- Welcome the Irish government's commitment to developing and implementing a national action plan for UNSCR 1325 and recognise that this is a unique opportunity for Ireland to adopt a progressive and inclusive approach to UNSCR 1325; in particular through the establishment of the 'twinning' process between Ireland and Liberia and Timor-Leste.
- Call on the Irish Government to provide strong political leadership and commitment, to develop an ambitious national action plan but with specific, realistic and time-bound targets; to allocate adequate human and financial resources; and to establish monitoring and accountability mechanisms.

- Call for a consultative process in drafting the Irish national action plan through structured consultations with stakeholders, including government agencies, civil society organisations, and academics. In particular the Irish national action plan should be informed by the experiences and expertise of women who have been affected by conflict, including women's organisations in Northern Ireland and grass roots women's rights organisations in the South.
- Call on the government and NGOs to promote and support women's human rights organisations.



Lynn Carvill of the Women's Resource and Development Agency with women politicians in Stormont following the launch of a 'Gender Focus' briefing for politicians in March 2009.

Left to right: Martina Anderson MLA (SF), Lynn Carvill WRDA, Dawn Purvis MLA (PUP) and Anna Lo MLA (Alliance)

## Recommendations

Based on discussion at a number of round tables, the conference participants made the following recommendations for an Irish National Action Plan (NAP), as follows:

### 1. A central platform of Irish Foreign Policy

Building on the commitment of the Irish government to UNSCR 1325 reiterated by Minister Micheál Martin in the morning session, place UNSCR 1325 at the centre of Irish foreign policy. This would necessitate:

- Ensuring that UNSCR 1325 is addressed in all the interventions Ireland makes at the General Assembly and Human Rights Council and in Ireland's reporting to treaty bodies. This would be a benchmark against which Ireland's commitment and/or performance is/are assessed.
- Ireland would examine other State reports to see if human rights and other issues relating to 1325 are addressed and ask appropriate questions and encourage the provision of support to enable other countries to do better.
- Ireland would engage with the dialogue on UN gender architecture, rationalising where women rights are best served and devising the best structure that is going to facilitate implementation
- Ireland and its foreign policy officers select three issues related to UNSCR 1325 to which they would commit to progressing over the next three years drawing on its various resources including the European Union, its membership of various commissions, and the UN itself.
- Ireland should work with others to prevent conflict, and not only on responding to conflict, conflict resolution or peace keeping. This necessitates looking at the underlying socio-economic causes, including international trade and international financial relationships that are contributing towards conflict.

### 2. Working to comparative advantage

Identify Ireland's key strengths in relation to UNSCR 1325 and play to these comparative advantages rather than doing the same as other countries. This will necessitate examining existing policies, legislation, practice, organisations, opportunities, and using this analysis as a solid base on which to move forward.



### 3. A human rights framework

The NAP should be based on human rights and reflect a rights perspective. It should provide a broad framework but it must also be tailored to country-specific needs. It shouldn't only be focused on situations of conflict and peace agreements but have a long-term perspective from the outset. The contextualisation is fundamental and will be dependent on the nature of the participation and consultations that take place with civil society and the government in any specific country.

### 4. Apply NAP to the domestic situation in Ireland

The NAP should be applied domestically in Ireland as well as overseas. Critical issues were raised including: Is Ireland comfortable with deporting refugees even if the women are vulnerable to FGM? Is adequate support being provided to victims of gender based violence in Ireland? To what extent is gender analysis mainstreamed across Irish government ministries?

### 5. A two-pronged approach

The NAP needs to have both a short and long term perspective:

- meeting the short term needs in relation to 1325 around conflict and peace
- going much further and looking at the socio economic and cultural issues that underpin gender based violence

There was also a call by Mukesh Kapila for a ten-point charter of action – to fit on one page, but would be the action plan for ministers and staff of agencies. He called for Ireland to make a long-term commitment (perhaps a generational commitment) to two or three countries in order to bring about transformational change.

### 6. Twinning with other countries

Build on the commitment to twinning arrangements between the Irish government and Liberia and Timor Leste; this should be based on mutual respect, and should not only take place at government level but also between civil society groups, women's organisations, and grass roots community level.

### 7. Awareness raising

The process of developing the NAP itself should be used as an opportunity to create awareness both in Ireland and in the countries with which Ireland will twin. A key



challenge will be how to make UNSCR 1325 more applicable to people working at community level, and how to make it relevant for local partners in developing countries? One key area is that of education, not least for men, and within the curriculum for boys.

## 8. Listen to women

It is essential to engage women as change agents in the process of developing a NAP and to work with women's groups, networks and movements in the development of the NAP.

## 9. Participation

The development of the NAP needs to have as wide a participation as possible across Irish government ministries (not confined to a couple of ministries). Civil society needs to have a voice and these should be people at senior level with influence. It will be crucial to involve representatives from Northern Ireland and to tap into their experience of conflict and peace.

## 10. Alliances and partnerships

At partner-country level (e.g. Timor Leste and Liberia) women, and civil society groups and faith-based organisations in the south should be involved as well as governments. It will be important to identify male champions from the outset (not the token man at the last minute). Partnerships should be developed both with and between women's groups in both Ireland and partner countries.

## 11. Accountability

Responsibility needs to be defined in the NAP, as should the relevant capacity and resources to meet that responsibility. In terms of accountability, it will be important to set realistic benchmarks and targets from the outset to inform review and assessment processes once implementation commences.

- Mukesh Kapila suggested that there be parliamentary scrutiny on progress on gender issues, and that the government issue a report annually on the progress that has been made in its policies, processes and practice.
- He also suggested that Irish Aid, within its annual report, presents a chapter on the budget in a way that reflects the gender impact of spending (not money on women's projects or women's activities alone), or on how gender impacts on Irish Aid's international assistance.

- Colm O’Gorman suggested that civil society groups, and members of the Consortium should do likewise in their own annual reporting based on an audit for their own practises against the spirit and substance of UNSCR 1325.
- Leymah Gbowee suggested that benchmarks be set with developing country governments, and reported against each year with a view to monitoring the implementation at different levels and on different issues. She also suggested that there be an accountability tool where governments would report to citizens on what has (and has not) been done.

## 12. A global tracking system

Ireland could add its voice to a call to set up a violence tracking monitoring worldwide system, which would be conducted in an impartial way. A global violence monitoring tracking system is required so that benchmarking can happen and to enable a statement on what is getting better or worse in any particular country. This would also provide a basis of uncontested evidence.

## 13. National coordination

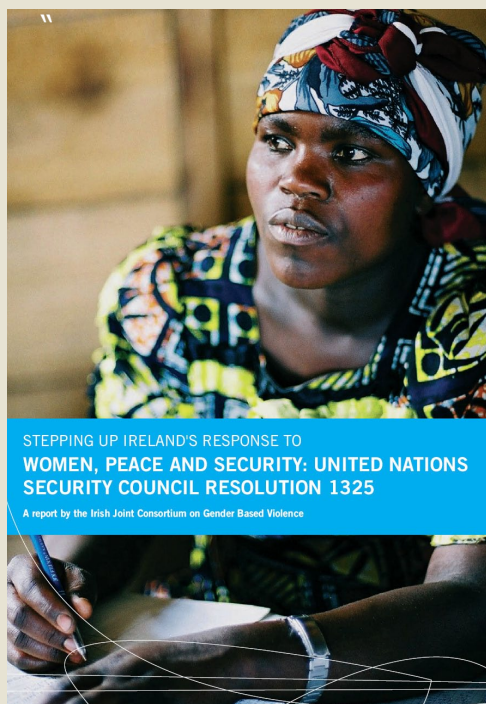
A focal coordination mechanism should be established at country level that would bring the various (often diverse) parties to work on the issues outlined.

## 14. Learn from the experience of women in Northern Ireland

Ireland should work in partnership with the UK in terms of implementing UNSCR 1325 in Northern Ireland – hence an opportunity for diplomacy.



Gisela de Carvalho (Young Women Working Together), Suraya Pakzad (Voice of Women in Afghanistan) & Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights).



The Consortium's Report, 'Stepping Up Ireland's Response to Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325', was launched.

## Introduction

This report summarises key messages arising from a one-day conference on Women, Peace and Conflict, hosted by the Irish Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence held in Dublin on 17th November, 2008. The focus of the Conference was to explore how implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 can address the impact of armed conflict on women and ensure that women are central to conflict prevention, peacekeeping, conflict resolution and peace-building.

### The aim of the conference

The conference was in support of the Consortium's report, *Stepping Up Ireland's Response to Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325*, which was launched earlier in the day by Mary Robinson. Chair of the Consortium, Angela O'Neill de Gulio, reminded participants that the report recognises, that from the outset, UNSCR 1325

demands recognition of the role of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution. It calls on the international community to take specific action to enhance women's meaningful participation in this process and to protect women in times of conflict.

The development of National Action Plans (NAPs) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by Member States was called for by the UN Secretary General in 2004. NAPs are considered to be the most effective way to translate the goals of UNSCR 1325 into reality. The report contends that in order for Ireland to fulfil its foreign policy commitment on the promotion of gender equality and the principles of UNSCR 1325, the development of an Irish National Action Plan on 1325 is essential and should be prioritised. The Consortium has engaged in a process of consultation with the Conflict Resolution Unit within the Department of Foreign Affairs, which has taken the development of such a National Action Plan for implementation as one of its core objectives. The Consortium's report is intended to be a contribution to the development of an Irish NAP, and provides examples of good practice of how a NAP could be developed based on the experience of other countries, and sets out the way forward for an Irish National Action Plan.

## Conference Rationale and Structure

The conference was designed to create awareness of UNSCR 1325, hear from experts on the experience of implementing the resolution, learn from the experience of women in countries emerging from conflict, and tap into the expertise of participants to develop a statement, with recommendations on how Ireland can respond to UNSCR 1325.

The conference process included speakers to the plenary session, panel discussions to elaborate issues relating to UNSCR 1325, and group work by the 250 participants who defined priority recommendations for the development of the Irish National Action Plan.

Speakers to the plenary session were **Mary Robinson**, Director of Realizing Rights: The Ethical Globalization Initiative, and honorary Special Advisor to the Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence; **Michaél Martin**, Minister for Foreign Affairs, **Gisela de Carvalho**, Young Women Working Together, Timor-Leste, **Suraya Pakzad**, Voice of Women in Afghanistan, **Inez McCormack**, Chair of the North/South Participation and the Practice of Rights Project, **Sam Cook**, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Office, **Annemieke de los Santos**, Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and **Nuala O'Loan**, Roving Ambassador and Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution to Timor-Leste for the Irish Government and former Police Ombudsman in Northern Ireland.

Panelists were **Madeline Rees**, Head of Gender and Human Rights from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, **Mukesh Kapila**, Special Representative for HIV and AIDS of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, **Leymah Roberta Gbowee**, Executive Director of Women, Peace and Security Network Africa.

Chairpersons included **Liz O'Donnell**, former Minister for State at the Department of Foreign Affairs, **Joanna McMinn**, Chief Executive of the National Women's Council of Ireland, **Ollie Barbour**, Irish Defence Forces, **Colm O'Gorman**, Amnesty International. The conference was facilitated by **Mary Jennings**, Consultant with the Joint Consortium on GBV. The complete programme is available in annex 2 of this report.

The conference participants represented a diverse group and included representatives from a range of statutory and civil society organisations and the media. Members of the Conflict Resolution Unit and other members of the Department of Foreign Affairs attended. Several ambassadors to Ireland attended including H.E. Ms. Priscilla Jana, the South African Ambassador to Ireland, H.E. Ms. Mannete Ramaili, the Lesotho Ambassador to Ireland, and H.E. Catherine Muigai Mwangi, Kenyan Ambassador to Ireland. Participants from civil society organisations ranged from people who have experienced conflict and peace building to representatives from community organisations



and members of national and international non governmental organisations. Participants came from Ireland, north and south, and from across the globe bringing a huge amount of knowledge, experience and expertise to the discussion.

## The Consortium's report, *Stepping Up Ireland's Response to Women, Peace and Security: UNSCR 1325*

### The research particularly recommends that:

- A key Government Ministry must take the lead in developing the National Action Plan.
- Structured consultations with civil society are essential and must be in place from the outset, before drafting of the NAP begins.
- A Working Group consisting of all stakeholders across government, CSOs and academic institutions must be in place from the outset to facilitate these consultations.
- Planning for implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the NAP must be made from the outset. The Working Group must be adapted and expanded to function in this role after the action plan is finalised and implementation begun.
- The action plan must be based on an assessment of actions already being implemented across Government and any gaps therein (i.e gender audit). However, it must strive to go beyond the status quo and further advance actions to address issues of women, peace and security.
- Adequate budget must be allocated to implement the action plan.

The paper identifies that existing NAPs have failed to engage with women, or indeed governments, affected by conflict in the formulation of action points and the content of action plans. In order for NAPs to address the real substance of issues of women, peace and security, the paper puts forward the unique recommendation that Ireland advance the ways in which NAPs are developed by engaging in meaningful consultation with women affected by conflict during the formulation of the Irish NAP. Furthermore, it encourages the Irish Government to engage in a 'twinning' process with a partner country in a process of mutual support towards the development of each country's action plan.

The research resulted in wider recommendations for the Irish Government, international governments and civil society organisations, focusing on the need for increased accountability towards the full implementation of UNSCR 1325.

## Recommendations specify that the Irish Government should:

- Place Priority on the development of an ambitious National Action Plan which intensifies Ireland's efforts to support the full implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Make available adequate and appropriate human and financial resources to the Conflict Resolution Unit of the Department of Foreign Affairs to lead the development of the NAP and ensure its successful implementation.
- Promote standards of excellence for the development of NAPs by supporting research into what difference NAPs make and why they should be developed and use this to reinvigorate attention to the process and generate political will to replicate the actions Ireland has taken. Adequate budget must be allocated to implement the action plan.
- Support the development of NAPs in countries affected by conflict.
- Provide leadership on issues of women, peace and security through strong support at international level to promote the need for the full implementation of UNSCR 1325.
- Ensure that a gender perspective informs the Irish Government's actions in conflict resolution and peace building.
- Crucially, the Irish NAP must ensure that the principles of gender equality, women's rights and women's empowerment, which are the central tenets of UNSCR1325, are key elements informing the development of the NAP.



Politicians and women and children's sector representatives in the Stormont Committee room after the first 'gender agenda' event organised by the Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA) in June 2009. 'Gender Agenda' is a new forum bringing together MLAs and party representatives from across political parties and women's sector representatives in Northern Ireland to discuss strategic policy issues that have gender equality implications.

Front row - Margaret Ward (WRDA), Lynn Carvill (WRDA), Dawn Purvis MLA (PUP) and Ann Marie Gray (NIWEP)  
 Back row - Marie Marin (Employers for Childcare), Roy Beggs MLA (UUP), Judith Cochrane (Alliance), Robyn McCready (Childcare NI), Paddy Skates (Women's Forum), Tiziana O'Hara (WCRP), Ann Moore (Save the Children), Marie Cavanagh (Gingerbread)

## UNSCR 1325



Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights), Colm O'Gorman (Amnesty International Ireland)

### What is UNSCR 1325?

"Don't forget women"

Madeline Rees

UNSCR 1325 encompasses the fundamental principle of women's participation in the prevention of conflict, building peace and working towards social justice is recognised in UNSCR 1325 (2000). It not only recognises the impact of conflict on women but advocates that women are included as indispensable actors in finding solutions. It has implications for many different actors from national governments to UN systems, to parties fighting in armed conflict.

### What does it say?

Sam Cooke explained that the resolution is often seen to call for a gender perspective in five key areas:

1. Role for women at all decision-making levels The resolution recognises the different roles women play in relation to conflict and calls for more women at all levels of decision-making - national, regional and international institutions - and in mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflict. It calls for women's involvement in UN field-based operations, and for the Secretary General to appoint women as special representatives, as heads of mission, as envoys, as part of visiting missions, and for women to be appointed as military observers, civilian police, human rights and



humanitarian personnel. Peacekeeping forces should include gender units, and gender training to be provided.

2. Special measures to protect the human rights of women and girls against GBV; the resolution cites existing international law, and especially humanitarian and international human rights law is its basis; in essence it gives effect to equality and participation as provided for in existing treaties and conventions.

3. An end to impunity, including amnesties in relation to the prosecution of crimes of sexual violence; this was further enforced by UNSCR 1820 passed in June 2008.

4. Design of refugee camps to recognise the particular needs of women and girls and a gender perspective to inform the civil and humanitarian nature of refugee camps.

5. Needs of women and girls to be considered in post conflict reconstruction, demobilisation disarmament, repatriation, resettlement and the reintegration (DDR) of fighting forces.



Women activists in Liberia demand an unconditional ceasefire, dialogue for a negotiated settlement and an external intervention force. Subsequently, when peace talks started, Liberian women were able to make their presence felt with the support of the Women in Peacebuilding Network (of the West Africa Network for Peacebuilding, WANEP) and the Mano River Women's Peace Network (MARWOPNET).



## Why is it important?

"Extraordinarily talented, energised, informed, highly qualified women - but feeling their voices aren't being heard"

Mary Robinson



Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights)

In her work on bringing human rights objectives to a global level, Mary Robinson told participants that she has witnessed not only that conflict bears down terribly on women and their families, but their voices are not being heard. She stated that women were not passive victims, but wanted to have change and knew the kind of change they wanted to see happen. She reflected on the similarities between African countries that are suffering from violence and conflict or post conflict with Northern Ireland, and the courage of women's groups that crossed the divide, and started a process of moving forward in joint recognition that violence was not good for their young, nor for society as a whole.

Nuala O Loan also spoke of women crossing the divide and the importance of funding to support such initiatives.

Mary Robinson drew attention to the fact that the counties that have developed National Action Plans on UNSCR 1325 in the 8 years since it was adopted, are primarily European counties. She said that while this is encouraging, the intention of the resolution is that all countries in the world would move to have national action plans but particularly to empower women in countries of conflict and post conflict. She commended Ireland on its commitment to pursue a formal twinning arrangement with Liberia and Timor Leste and she encouraged 'a very even partnership where both countries will learn from each other'.

She urged Ireland to promote such twinning relationships in the Human Security Network<sup>1</sup> (which it co-chairs with Tanzania) and explore the possibility of getting some of the countries that have already adopted plans of action to begin a respectful discussion with countries that they work with that have come out of conflict, or are still in conflict. She pointed out that such partnerships may encourage action in countries that find it hard to prioritise the issue, for example, a twinning process with the Democratic Republic of Congo may help move the agenda forward. She encouraged Ireland to use its leadership role to encourage the engagement of other countries (10-20) that are affected by conflict, not only in Africa, but also South Asia.

Mrs Robinson spoke of the opportunity for mapping the impact on women and their families of conflict, and accepting that women have to be at the table. She emphasised that there has to be a human rights approach, and a link between tackling gender-based violence, women rights, and women's empowerment. She urged a move away from the idea of women being 'victims' to bringing out the impact of the violence in the context of women being 'agents for change'.

<sup>1</sup> The Human Security Network is an informal group of like-minded countries from all regions of the world which maintains dialogue on human security. Ireland chairs the Network for the period 2008-2009 and has chosen to make gender-based violence a focus of the Chairmanship. The Human Security Network has identified gender-based violence as a human security issue and works to highlight the increasing pervasiveness of gender-based violence in conflict situations, as well as the dramatic increase in domestic violence in conflict and post-conflict zones.

## How can UNSCR 1325 be implemented?

"We don't think outside the box in terms of involving women in the actual negotiations leading up to the peace treaty"

Madeline Rees

Mukesh Kapila reminded participants that 99 per cent of all sexual violence in conflict is perpetrated against women; that conflict displaces populations and that 80 per cent of all people displaced in conflict are women and children. He also pointed out that it is women who suffer the most economic hardship during and after conflict; they are often left alone to bring up their

families, left to keep some kind of community going without much support, and that they endure harassment while doing that. But he also argued that sexual violation goes way beyond the physical and is about completely eroding the identity of the woman, her family, her community, and is a fundamental insult. He referred to the bitter legacy of the violence against women that generates and handicaps efforts to bring about peace and reconciliation.

There was a consensus among the speakers that implementation of UNSCR 1325 is crucial, but that so far, there are few good examples. Madeline Rees pointed out that there is no example of peace treaties that have included women, and considers that the reason for this is that such treaties are framed by, and negotiated within a patriarchal structure, and that the UN is no exception to this. As a result, she argues that such processes do not know how to consult or to secure meaningful participation, and do not consider how a (state) constitution should reflect demands for equality.



Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights), Suraya Pakzad (Voice of Women in Afghanistan) & Micheál Martin T.D. (Minister for Foreign Affairs).

"It is only by combating impunity that we can challenge the deeply entrenched cultural and societal attitudes that surround these crimes"

Minister Micheál Martin

However, UNSCR 1325 is seen as an important instrument to open the door; because it is enshrined in international law, it demands prosecution, and along with UNSCR 1820<sup>2</sup>, puts an end to impunity and amnesties for perpetrators of GBV. Minister Micheál Martin, stated that UNSCR 1820 on sexual violence in armed conflict which Ireland was proud to co-sponsor, was important not only in terms of reinforcing one of the central messages of UNSCR 1325 but also in

stressing that sexual violence can significantly exacerbate situations of armed conflict and impede the restoration of peace and security. He committed Ireland to continuing to stress the importance of addressing these issues at international level, including through working with the EU and other partners, to include references to 1325 and 1820 in resolutions at the UN and elsewhere.

"Peace treaties should provide for effective social and economic rights protection and effective prosecution of sexual violence and the ending of impunity"

Madeline Rees

Minister Martin also stated Ireland's commitment to prosecution for sexual violence; he said that Ireland strongly supported the role of the International Criminal Court and other ad hoc tribunals in prosecuting the perpetrators of rape and other acts of sexual violence and opposes the inclusion of amnesty provisions in peace agreements for these perpetrators. He said that the Irish government believed that the issue of prosecution could not be separated from that of

prevention and protection from GBV.

However, Madeline Rees argued that there will not be effective prosecution of sexual violence if existing models continue to prevail. She pointed out that some argue that a human rights framework must allow for the accused to cross examine the victim; for example, women from Bosnia, who went to the International Criminal Court in The Hague, stated that they would never do so again because of being subjected to cross examination. She cited this as a significant barrier that detracts from women being able to access formal justice mechanisms.

<sup>2</sup> In June 2008, the UN Security Council adopted resolution 1820 which confronts sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. Key provisions of the resolution recognize a direct relationship between the widespread and/or systematic use of sexual violence as an instrument of conflict and the maintenance of international peace and security; commit the Security Council to considering appropriate steps to end such atrocities and to punish their perpetrators; and request a report from the Secretary General on situations in which sexual violence is being widely or systematically employed against civilians and on strategies for ending the practice.



"1325 was not advocated for by women around the world to make war safe for women. War (is not) a sort of inescapable human phenomenon we can't escape from... we must use 1325 to talk about disarmament and about ending militarism"

Sam Cooke

Madeline Rees raised the issue that UNSCR 1325 does not define what measures are to be taken to ensure that women are able to access formal justice mechanisms. This is a particular problem when women are too busy surviving, often with nowhere to live, worried about how they are going to look after their children, how they can access health services, while also living with the uncertainty of a missing husband. She pointed out that recognition of these necessities is absent from UNSCR 1325 and from peace treaties, and that responding to these needs is normally left to humanitarian actors and

bilateral donors, who implement associated projects but a comprehensive approach is absent. She argued for a political policy-based approach, based in human rights, which would make explicit what needs to be done. Specifically, she said that peace treaties should provide for effective social and economic rights protection and effective prosecution of perpetrators / crimes of sexual violence and the ending of impunity.

Attention was drawn by Sam Cooke to the absence of any accountability in the UNSCR 1325 – either institutional or individual – and that there are no targets or benchmarks for implementation and no agreed set of indicators. The only requirement is an annual report from the Secretary General to feed back into the UN system. She also pointed to the lack of designated responsibility for effective implementation.

At UN level, Sam Cooke would like to see a broad range of actors other than the UN Security Council engage with the resolution e.g. the UN system at large, and national governments in their own right and as member states of the UN. She would also like to see a restructuring of the gender equality UN architecture with a new women's entity that would bring together the various policies and agencies (INSTRAW, UNIFEM, the Division for the Advancement of Women, and the Office of the Special Advisor on Gender issues), with an appropriate budget.

At national level, she argued that there is a need for all governments to engage – not only those affected by conflict – and to consider what national level implementation means for them. She pointed to their many possible roles at the international level and at the regional level, as a troop contributor, a donor's police contributor, as a member state of the UN, as one of its decision makers, in bilateral dealings with countries. Sam Cooke also highlighted the need for governments to focus internally on their own constituencies, engaging not just the women's movement but civil society at large.

She argued that implementation was about weaving a strong web of different actors who would ask the simple question 'does a particular policy or programme or action or budget decision affect men and women differently. And if so, how can things be thought about differently so that those policies, programmes and actions take those differences into account to achieve gender equality'.



"Laws, policies and plans must be translated into action"

Leymah Gbowee

Gisela de Carvalho (Young Women Working Together), Leymah Gbowee (Women, Peace and Security Network Africa), Suraya Pakzad (Voice of Women in Afghanistan).

"The military and the leaders of armies have an important role to play in relation to the prosecution of combatants whether they are from the regular army or irregular armies"

Leymah Gbowee

Speakers from post-conflict countries gave prominence to the fact that laws and policies in themselves will not change anything for women, unless they are translated into actions, and they drew attention to the fact that violence against women increases in post-conflict situations. For example, in the DRC, it is no longer combatants but civilians, who are conducting the sexual violence. Leymah Gbowee stated that rape was increasing at a horrifying rate in Liberia, yet, while

there is a law against rape, the country lacks an effective judicial system to prosecute some cases. She stated that while it is important to have national actions plans and to create awareness about 1325, it is equally important to have systems and structures in place to help to make UNSCR 1325 effective. She emphasised the need not only to have laws and policies but also the instruments for prosecution and the need to tackle resistance to prosecute.

Liz O'Donnell raised the issue of commanders' responsibility for the actions of their troops. Madeline Rees indicated that 'military and the leaders of armies have an important role to play in relation to the prosecution of combatants whether they are from the regular army or irregular armies'. She said that there has been significant progress in the prosecution of sexual violence under military and international law, and there has been a lot of advocacy in relation to 'command responsibility'. Rape of a woman is a breach of the Geneva Conventions and is now interpreted by the ad hoc tribunals as a war crime, torture, a crime against humanity, and can be interpreted as contributing to genocide. So if a commander knew or should have known that his troops were likely to commit such crimes then the commander is accountable.

However, the provision for such prosecution is not necessarily translating into the conduct of troops, and questions have to be raised as to what commanders are doing to prevent it? For example, many troops in the DRC appear to be able to rape with impunity, and there is virtually no accountability. In such contexts, there is a key role for peace keepers to assist in enforcing such laws, especially when they directly engage with opposing forces. Peacekeepers can insist that there be an enforceable code of conduct which has true sanction amongst the military, and should report on its enforcement. Moreover, there is an onus on commanders to demonstrate that they did all in their power to prevent rape so that they cannot be held accountable.



Liz O'Donnell (Former Minister for State at DFA), Brendan Rogers (Irish Aid) & Mukesh Kapila (IRCRC).



## Lessons learnt

### Lessons from post-conflict countries

"Any conflict is soluble if you put it in the context of justice and equality and within international parameters. It's when you take out those international parameters, that something (becomes regarded as) insoluble because it's regarded as something too particular to be resolved. And you'll hear all of those excuses from those who don't want change"

Inez Mc Cormack



Delegates attend the Women and Peace Conference in Dublin, November 2008

Top: Annemieke de los Santos (Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs), Sam Cook (Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Office), Leymah Roberta Gbowee (Women, Peace and Security Network Africa), Brendan Rogers, Irish Aid, Justin Kilcullen (Trocaire), Mukesh Kapila (International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies), Tom Arnold (Concern), Gisela de Carvalho (Young Women Working Together), Madeleine Rees (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights), Joanna McMinn (National Women's Council of Ireland), Angela O'Neill (Irish Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence).

Bottom: Inez McCormack (Participation and Practice of Rights), Liz O'Donnell (Former Minister for State at DFA), Colm O'Gorman (AI Ireland), Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights), Micheál Martin T.D. (Minister for Foreign Affairs), Suraya Pakzad (Voice of Women in Afghanistan), Nuala O'Loan (Roving Ambassador and Special Envoy for Conflict Resolution to Timor-Leste for the Irish Government).



The conference heard from three very diverse post-conflict contexts from which valuable lessons can be learnt for application elsewhere – Afghanistan, Northern Ireland and Timor Leste. The main messages are summarised in this section.

“Women in countries in conflict suffer especially not only from sexual violence and rape and others assaults but also from exclusion from decision making, exclusion from peace negotiation”

Nuala O Loan

## Peace Negotiation Process

### **1. It is essential to have frameworks that name women’s issues as primary and that regard them as primary.**

Inez Mc Cormack spoke of how women had to fight to have the words ‘due regard to the notion of equality’ in the Northern Ireland peace agreement – a negotiation process that took thirty seven meetings to get these few words. Leymah Agbawi pointed to the difficulties women in Liberia had in having gender equality issues addressed in law because of the dearth of references in the peace agreement. This omission served to aid sceptics who argued that if the UN did not see it as important enough to include gender concerns in the peace agreement, then they should not be a priority in government legislation.

### **2. Who participates?**

In terms of participation in the peace process, Inez Mc Cormack pointed out that the test of any peace agreement is not just whether it is implemented in terms of the conditions within the agreement, but also who is at the table when that agreement is made.



Nuala O’Loan (Government of Ireland’s Special Envoy on Security Council Resolution 1325 and to Timor Lesté) & Mary Robinson (Realizing Rights).

### 3. Build and maintain alliances

Both Inez Mc Cormack and Mary Robinson spoke of the importance of building and maintaining alliances that help shape the 'right' peace agreement, and to work with people who can create space for, and can give credibility to women's rights. In particular they spoke of supporting groups that are willing to cross the divide between conflicting communities.

### 4. A web of alliances, a ring of steel in law, and a commitment to enforcement

The experience of Northern Ireland has shown that if a different status quo is to be created, then there has to be a change in the power relationship between the old status quo and the new one. Inez Mc Cormack said that essential elements are 'rings of steel in law, and that for implementation to happen there also needs to be a culture of alliances on the ground, linked with international support and the requirement to enforce the law.

"Since the fall of the Taliban, very important conventions on women's human rights have been certified. Unfortunately, most of them are beautiful only on paper. They have never been put into practice so that women can benefit from them"

Suraya Pakzad

### Implementation

### 5. International conventions are not enough

In Afghanistan, before the peace agreement, violence was systematic and institutionalised at a government level. Domestic violence, rape, child and forced marriages, suicide and self-immolation were very common, and nobody was willing to hear the voices of women. It was common for women to be deprived of access to health, education, justice, employment

and basic rights. Since then Afghanistan has signed up to a number of international conventions, including the elimination of all forms of domestic violence against women and resolution 1325, yet, there has been little progress in reducing forms of violence against women in a practical sense despite a lot of talk about equity and equality in the documentation.

### 6. Engage with the legal and governance framework

Lack of governance, weak law enforcement, poverty, insecurity and corruption are the challenges facing women today, and especially in Afghanistan. Violence is not legal today but is dramatically more widespread throughout society. Nuala O Loan highlighted the situation of many post conflict countries where the police, the courts, and the justice

system have broken down and there's a tradition of male dominance which makes women acutely vulnerable. There may be no police to investigate, no police station to go to, no courts to hear the cases. There may be no criminal justice system to administer sanctions. The situation is further complicated she said where if a woman in a violent relationship makes a complaint and her partner is sent to prison. In many countries she is simply more vulnerable because she doesn't have a male in the house to protect her and she's lost somebody who might earn some money to keep the children. So she's actually in a worse place.

## **7. Seek to strengthen institutions that have responsibility for women's rights.**

The experience of Afghanistan points to the importance of working with and seeking to strengthen those organisations with responsibility for women's rights e.g. ministries of justice, women's affairs.

## **8. Multi-dimensional approach.**

The experience from Timor Leste and Afghanistan urges a multi-faceted approach to meeting the diverse needs of women in post-conflict situations. They indicate that a range of complementary initiatives are required :

- services such as 'safe houses' for women who have run away from domestic violence, from forced and child marriages,
- awareness raising on violence against women, and on UNSCR 1325, and other resolutions and conventions,
- advocacy with government and institutions to have an effective and fair judicial system,
- provision of reparation grants to victims,
- psychosocial assistance and trauma healing,
- employment opportunities, and
- promotion of women's empowerment.

## **9. Constantly test who is participating and benefiting**

The Northern Ireland experience cautions that there is need to ensure that the benefits of peace or a National Action Plan is not just implemented for those who have the loudest voice.

## 10. Working with women's groups and networks

In post-conflict Timor Leste, the Commission for Truth and Reconciliation has helped to give voice to women guerrilla fighters, while a network of eighteen women's groups and voluntary organisations have sought to provide services for women, support to women and men in peace camps, and provide food, medicine and shelter. They also have a 24 hour, seven days a week, support service for women. Such groups have also been very active in promoting women's involvement in the peace process following the crisis in 2006 and their engagement at parliamentary level.

## 11. Recognise the varying impacts of traditional, religious and statutory law

The importance of recognising the impact of traditional/customary justice systems was highlighted by Gisela de Carvalho, Nuala O Loan and Suraya Pakzad. Nuala O Loan cautioned that while the local traditional justice system may produce some good results it may also result in the situation in which the man is found guilty of a serious assault and is ordered to pay reparation to his wife's father. In the case of Timor Leste, the Peace and Democracy Foundation has undertaken research on traditional justice and its role in mediation which resulted in a training programme for communities, traditional leaders and women in mediation and in conflict transformation.

The example from Afghanistan (no. 6 above) illustrates how **the application of justice may vary between customary law or practice, Sharia law and statutory law**. This is especially critical in countries where government may not have full control over the whole country. In the words of Suraya Pakzad, 'customary law is still very powerful and when women face domestic violence they are not dealing with the Afghan constitution but with customary law'. Under customary practice in Afghanistan, around 57 per cent of women are married under 16; most marriages are child marriages of girls between 10 and 14 years and 59 per cent are forced marriages. Eighty seven per cent experience either physical sexual or psychological abuse in marriages. Women and girls are often unsafe in the family being subjected to child abuse, abuse by husbands, honour killing. When a woman is raped, because of their family reputation they don't want to talk about it and when women do report rape to the authorities, it is considered adultery because she cannot find three witnesses to prove that she was raped (the application of Sharia law). A woman who is raped may be jailed along with her children, or maybe even suffer death.

## 12. Recognise when it is time to move from an emergency response to long-term development

A further issued is the fact that in Afghanistan many development responses, including



the UN, are still operating in emergency mode when more long-term development and commitment is required.

### 13. Who benefits from post-war investment?

Experience from Northern Ireland prompts the question of whether the benefits of post-war investments will go to areas of conflict, and in turn, whether the women in those areas of conflict will be able to taste a difference in their lives.

"Any peace agreement has to be tested... not just whether it's implemented in terms of the conditions within the agreement, but (also) who is at the table when that agreement is made. And when the agreement is implemented (to ensure) that it's not just implemented for those who have the loudest voice. How do you consistently test that those who are furthest (from power)... and it's usually women and it's usually poor women. How can they be heard - always - to require the change? Peace is not peace if it's just the absence of the gun"

Inez Mc Cormack



In Liberia, women were markedly involved in the effort to end the country's civil war. In 2003, a campaign entitled "Mass Action for Peace" incorporated women from many sectors of Liberia, ranging from those in displaced camps, to churches and NGOs. Adopting the slogan, "We Want Peace; No More War", these women- who always dressed in white - became a constant presence on the streets of Liberia's capital, Monrovia. As support for this initiative became acknowledged, women were later able to meet with the then president Charles Taylor.

## Lessons from the Dutch experience of developing and implementing a National Action Plan

"Theirs is a voice without a political agenda;. it's not about diamonds, or political parties. It's simply about staying alive. About keeping their children from being taken by rebels. From their husbands being killed. And from themselves and their children being brutally raped. But their voices are not being heard enough"

Annemieke de los Santos talking about women who were demonstrating in the DRC

Annemieke de los Santos reiterated Mary Robinson's call that UNSCR 1325 should be used as an instrument to give voice to women who are usually not heard at the peace negotiation table. To tangibly illustrate what UNSCR 1325 is about she spoke of women in their hundreds marching all over the eastern city of Goma demanding peace and protection. The women had gathered together to cry and to ask for peace because their children are sick, starving, lost or dead. They said they were being raped by rebel fighters, as well as army and police forces. Her central message was to start listening to these voices and to create opportunities for women to be heard.

The Dutch National Action Plan is signed by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, civil society and academics, all of whom are accountable for its implementation. The action plan provides a framework for five key areas, an international legal framework, conflict prevention, mediation and reconstruction, international co-operation (e.g. how the Netherlands works with the UN, EU, NATO with other international organisations), peace missions, harmonisation and coordination.

In terms of funding, the action plan doesn't have its own budget but is intended to be a framework for cooperation. However, Annemieke de los Santos explained that as part of the pact with civil society organisations, provision was made for the establishment of an MDG3 fund, for which 70 million euro was set aside, of which around 14 million is going to organisations working in conflict and post-conflict situations. Furthermore, there is a stability fund which supports UN organisation in peace and security issues; individual embassies also have delegated funding.

## Implementation of a National Action Plan – the Dutch Experience

“We need national action,  
not action plans”

Sam Cooke

Annemieke de los Santos provided two examples of how the Dutch are translating their NAP into practice – the DRC and Afghanistan.

### A. Democratic Republic of Congo

The multi-pronged approach developed by the Dutch embassy in the DRC to tackle sexual violence is a multi-annual plan focusing on human rights, and particularly women’s rights, and combating impunity for violence against women and improving access to justice. This included support for projects in one of the provinces of the DRC, working as part of the sub-group on sexual violence to move the agenda forward (led by the Ministry of Women’s and Family Affairs with the Netherlands is the co- secretariat), and support for the UN peace operation and the Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) and Security Sector Reform (SSR) processes.

A lesson learnt for establishing an action plan and for working in fragile states is the need to be very flexible in the approach adopted so that the risks that will inevitably have to be taken can be accommodated. She urged that when governments and organisations are contributing humanitarian aid, this is an important opportunity to speak up about human rights violations and about rape.

### B. Afghanistan

The Dutch have adopted a different model in Afghanistan, – the 3D approach that is a combination of diplomatic, defence and development efforts, mirroring the thrust of the national action plan on UNSCR 1325 and the parties to it. The Dutch soldiers that participate in provincial reconstruction teams – PRT - are being trained, before going on mission, in the roles and positions of women in Afghanistan. The PRT team who went to Afghanistan in 2008 were the first to use a checklist on integrating gender aspects into the planning process, and the results are being monitored closely. Technical support is being provided on peace, security and gender in Kabul with a focus on how UNSCR 1325 can contribute to the working of the PRTs. The embassy also supports UNIFEM’s work with women’s groups and a gender expert was seconded to work with Opal - the police force in Kabul.

## Lessons for Ireland's NAP

**Annemieke de los Santos raised a number of issues that may have relevance for the development of an Irish NAP, as follows:**

**Realism** An important lesson is not to be too ambitious but to have focused goals, objectives and activities – the Dutch NAP has 19 goals and 72 activities.

**Build on existing strengths** Look to Ireland's current strengths in the areas of diplomacy, defence and development, and build on these. For example, Argentina is developing an action plan and are focusing on their role as a troop contributing country - how to get more women into peace missions? How to protect women? How to protect civilians in conflict settings? How to get women into more senior positions in their missions?

**Division of labour** Develop a clear but coordinated division of labour between the parties aligned to the action plan, and look for ways for working jointly (not just information sharing).

**Establishment of indicators** Indicators should be more in terms of social processes, qualitative indicators and perception surveys.

**Accountability** To integrate a gender perspective in peace building, or in mechanisms for coordination and harmonisation, accountability needs to be clear e.g. who is accountable to whom and who is responsive to whom and at which level.

**Use the aid effectiveness agenda** as an entry point Meetings on aid effectiveness offer the opportunity to advocate for moving the agenda on gender and human rights policies at the UN and EU levels.

At an operation level support **institutional reforms**, develop economic opportunities for women and support the women's movements.

**Advocate for changing perceptions** that women aren't only victims and mothers and wives, but negotiators and entrepreneurs and leaders.

Adopt a sense of **urgency** versus the sense of complacency



## Moving Forward a National Action Plan in Ireland

The Conflict Resolution Unit within the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs has committed to leading the development of a National Action Plan for Ireland, but as Nuala O Loan indicated, this is complex work, and involves the ministries of Defence, and Justice and Law Reform. She spoke of the role of women in the peace process in Northern Ireland and said that Ireland had a lot of lessons which may have application to other countries. Some of these include the following:

**Measures to give visibility and voice to women** She stated that a key challenge is to try and help governments to provide the infrastructure and culture that will recognise women's skills and talents, and their desire to be part of the development of their country.

**Funding** The provision of funding to enable people to cross the divide is important and while arrangements have to be robust, an important lesson is that funding must be flexible; if criteria are rigidly applied real opportunities for progress may be lost.

**Justice and policing** Encourage women's involvement in politics, and especially in justice and policing which women in Northern Ireland worked tirelessly to achieve. Today, in Northern Ireland the number of women has increased from eight to forty percent of each new intake of Police recruits, and women are moving through the ranks.

**A legislative framework** It is essential to have a legislative framework which gives women equality of opportunity in employment, a remedy if they are discriminated against, and special programmes to enable women to get into education and training.

**Role of the army** Defining and supporting a positive and relevant role for the army in the post conflict context, particularly where it's not required in a defensive role, and the provision of appropriate training and mentoring for soldiers, are critical to meeting the aspirations of resolution 1325 because - to put it bluntly - women will be safer.

**Extra measures** Extra measures will be required to facilitate women to secure equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and conflict prevention and resolution - which is what 1325 is about. There is a responsibility on the international community and on governments to provide those measures to enable women to play a full and active role.

## Annex 1

## Irish Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence

The Joint Irish Consortium on Gender Based Violence has been in existence since 2004 in response to a growing consciousness among Irish agencies and organisations of the need to address the high prevalence of sexual violence reported in such situations as Darfur in Sudan. The consortium has evolved into a unique collaboration between fourteen Irish humanitarian, development, and human rights groups in addition to Irish Aid and the Irish Defence Forces. It is working to create a coordinated and coherent response to gender based violence in all the work of the members in both development and humanitarian settings. The Consortium believes that a collective voice and action can strengthen preventative actions and responses to gender based violence.

### The objectives of the Consortium are:

- To ensure that actions to prevent and respond to gender based violence are visible and systematically addressed in the policies, procedures and programmes of all member agencies.
- To develop and strengthen skills and capacities of member organisations for more effective prevention of, and response to, gender based violence at programme levels.
- To inform, affect and monitor policy implementation to improve actions on prevention of and response to gender based violence. The Consortium has produced two publications. The first, 'Gender Based Violence: A Failure to Protect, A Challenge to Action' provides an overview of endemic and conflict related forms of GBV, and promotes an understanding of the dynamics of GBV. The second publication, 'Gender Based Violence: Ireland Responding' provides guidance to institutionalise approaches to GBV within individual agencies.

The Consortium is overseen by a Steering Committee consisting of a representative of each member organisation. Its annual action plans are executed through thematic working groups arranged around different streams of work. The 'Advocacy and Awareness Raising Group' have organised awareness raising seminars for member organisations' staff and for Irish politicians on issues of GBV and HIV, Women and War and produced briefings on GBV. The 'Learning and Practice Group' facilitate the presentation of case studies by members and guest organisations to share lessons learned from working on GBV in different contexts around the world. The group have also developed a library

of resources on GBV which is hosted on the Consortium website ([www.gbv.ie](http://www.gbv.ie)) where further information on the work of the Consortium can be found.

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Former President of Ireland and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, and founder of Realising Rights: the Ethical Globalisation Initiative, Mary Robinson acts as Special Adviser to the Consortium. A meeting is held with Mrs. Robinson on an annual basis to update on progress made towards the objectives of the Consortium and to gain her inputs and recommendations to the Consortium's work plans.

"The joint consortium on GBV...is one of those really good practices... that includes not just the Irish government through Irish Aid but also the Irish Defence Forces. It's an extremely good model and now we have to build on that and give the leadership that flows from it"

Mary Robinson

## Members of the Consortium:



3 The Irish Red Cross participates with the Consortium solely within the parameters of its mandate to prevent and alleviate human suffering without discrimination, to protect human dignity, and to promote international humanitarian law and the protection provided therein. The Irish Red Cross is a member of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and is guided by the seven Fundamental Principles of humanity, impartiality, neutrality, independence, voluntary service, unity and universality.



## Annex 2

## Conference Programme

## WOMEN, PEACE AND CONFLICT CONFERENCE PROGRAMME

<b>09.15 – 09.45</b>	<b>Registration</b>
09.45 – 09.50	Ice-breaker
<b>09.50 – 10.05</b>	<b>Conference Opening</b> Angela O'Neill, Chair, Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence
10.05 – 10.20	Official Opening Micheál Martin T.D., Minister for Foreign Affairs
10.20 – 10.40	Keynote address Mary Robinson, Director of Realising Rights: The Ethical Globalisation Initiative and Special Advisor to the Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence
<b>10.40 – 11.30</b>	<b>Panel One: UN Security Council Resolution 1325: Women, Peace and Security</b> Chair: Liz O'Donnell, former Minister for State at the Department of Foreign Affairs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Madeline Rees, Head of Gender and Human Rights from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights</li> <li>• Mukesh Kapila, Special Representative for HIV and AIDS of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies</li> <li>• Leymah Roberta Gbowee, Executive Director of Women, Peace and Security Network Africa</li> </ul>
11.30 – 11.50	Tea and coffee break
<b>11.50 – 12.30</b>	<b>Panel Two: Experiences From the Ground</b> Chair: Joanna McMinn, Chief Executive of the National Womens' Council of Ireland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gisela de Carvalho, Young Women Working Together, Timor-Leste</li> <li>• Suraya Pakzad, Voice of Women in Afghanistan</li> <li>• Inez McCormack, Northern Ireland</li> </ul>
<b>12.30 – 13.10</b>	<b>Group Work – Lessons Learned</b>
13.10 – 14.10	Lunch

## Annex 3

## Conference Speakers

Angela O'Neill	Irish Joint Consortium on Gender Based Violence
Micheál Martin T.D.	Minister for Foreign Affairs
Mary Robinson	Realizing Rights
Liz O'Donnell	Former Minister for State at the DFA
Madeleine Rees	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
Mukesh Kapila	International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Leymah Roberta Gbowee	Women, Peace and Security Network, Africa
Joanna McMinn	National Women's Council of Ireland
Gisela de Carvalho	Young Women Working Together, Timor – Leste
Suraya Pakzad	Voice of Women in Afghanistan
Inez McCormack	Participation and Practice of Rights
Lt. Col. Ollie Barbour	Irish Defence Forces
Sam Cook	Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, UN Office
Annemieke de Los Santos	Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Nuala O'Loan	Government of Ireland's Special Envoy on Security Council Resolution 1325 and to Timor Lesté
Colm O'Gorman	Amnesty International Ireland

## Annex 4

### Conference Participants

Jacueline Agnew	Irish Red Cross
Marja Almqvist	NUI Galway
Leslie Antonia	Sunday Independent
Tom Arnold	Concern Worldwide
Karol Balfe	Amnesty International
Ollie Barbour	Defence Forces
Helen Basini	University of Limerick student
Selene Biffi	Youth Action for Change
Alison Blayney	Kilcooley Women's Centre
David Bloomfield	Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Margaret Boden	Christian Aid
Albha Bowe	Action Aid
Roisin Boyd	Irish Refugee Council
Monica Anne Brennan	Network Coordinator
Nicola Brennan	Senior Development Specialist HIV/AIDS
Colm Byrne	Irish Red Cross
Vivienne Callan	Rape Crisis North East
Catherine Campbell	Irish Aid
Deirdre Campbell	Women's Aid
Patricia Campbell	Amnesty International
Shiela Cannon	Glencree Centre for Peace and Reconciliation
Caroline Caranda	International Alert, Liberia
Elizabeth Carolan	Rialto Community Network
Mary Carroll	Plan Ireland
Niamh Carthy	Oxfam
Frances Clayton	
Anne Cleary	
Kieran Clifford	Amnesty International
Jason Collodi	Research Assistant
Eileen Connolly	DCU
Bernadette Crawford	Concern Worldwide
Edel Cribbin	Fundraising Executive

## Annex 4

## Conference Participants

Siobhan Curran	Amnesty International
Saoirse de Bont	University of Oxford
May De Silva	Women in Politics
John Delap	Dublin Institute of Technology
Selam Desta	D-Talk / DSC Kimmage
Lorena Di Lorenzon	Access Ireland
Serena Di Matteo	Christian Aid
Breege Doherty	Cross Border Women's Reconciliation Project
Áine Doody	Irish Aid
Iris Elliott	NUI Galway
Lucia Ennis	Concern Worldwide
Susanna Facci	
Orla Fagan	
Alessandra Fantini	Policy Officer
Eimear Farrell	Irish Human Rights Commission
Monica Fasciani	
Finola Finnan	Trocaire
Mike Fitzgibbon	
Siobhan Foran	Trocaire
J French	South Dublin County Council
Eimear Friel	Conflict Resolution Unit
Breda Gahan	Concern Worldwide
Sheila Garry	World Vision
Michelle Gillian	SPIRASI - NGO
Monica Gorman	Self Help Africa
Shirley Graham	Hanna's House
Carol Hannon	Irish Aid
Jennifer Hannon	
Noeleen Hartigan	Amnesty International
Heather Harvey	Amnesty International
Marna Hatton	Laois Support Service against Domestic Abuse
Anne Healy	UNIFEM Ireland



## Annex 4

## Conference Participants

Michelle Healy	Concern Worldwide
Deirdre Healy	D-Talk / DSC Kimmage
Bronah Hinds	DemocraShe
Melanie Hower	University College Dublin
Prerna Humpal	Irish School of Ecumenics, Trinity College Dublin
Ali Huneiti	Jordanian ministry of Foreign Affairs
Jim Hunt	Defence Forces
Pamela Izevekhai	
Sharon Jackson	Trinity College
Ray Jordan	Self Help Africa
Rachael Kalaba	D-Talk / DSC Kimmage
Mutale Kampuni	
Julie Kavanagh	Amnesty International
Orla Keane	Human Rights Unit, Department of Foreign Affairs
Clionadh Keeffe	National University of Ireland Galway
June Kelly	
Brid Kennedy	Concern Worldwide
Doodle Kennelly	
Paula Kenny	Conflict Resolution Unit
Helen Keogh	World Vision
Justin Kilcullen	Trocaire
Vera Kremb	IFPC
Nataliya Kudryashova	St-Vincent Hospital
Juliet Lang	World Vision
Deirdre Lawlor	Dublin 12 Domestic Service
Nuala Lawlor	Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation
Valerie Llano Arias	Latin America Solidarity Centre
Margaret Logue	Director
Minna Lyytikainen	International Alert
Éamonn Mac Aodha	Director
Tendai Madondo	Christian Aid
Deirdre Mangaoang	Medecins Sans Frontiere

## Annex 4

## Conference Participants

Pam Mc Hugh	Childfund Ireland
Barbara McAllister	Bray Women's Refuge
Tressan McCambrige	World Vision
Sarah McCan	Trocaire
Kate McCarthy	Inchicore Outreach Centre
Mary McCarthy	Worldwise (Léargas)
Maria McConalogue	Bray Women's Refuge
Olga McDonagh	Action Aid
Irene McEneaney	Rape Crisis North East
Maura McGinn	
Ann McGrath	UCC
Jean McGrath	Childfund Ireland
James McIntryre	Department of Foreign Affairs
Eamonn McKee	Conflict Resolution Unit
Tracey McRory	An Teach Ban
Shannon Meehan	International Resue Committee
John Moffet	Christian Aid
Her Excellency	
Mrs. Mannete M.Ramaili	Embassy of the Kingdom of Lesotho
Her Excellency	
Ms. Priscilla Jana	South African Ambassador to Ireland
Goretti Mudzongo	Southside Travellers Action Group
Tess Murphy	Longford Women's Link
Deirdre Murray	Comhlamh
Barnabas Musonda	D-Talk / DSC Kimmage
Catherine Mwangi	Ambassador Kenya
Nancy Mwaniki	Treasure Centre International Ministries, Women Ministry
Nora Newell	
Eilís Ní Chaithnía	Amnesty International
Deirdre Ní Cheallaigh	Trocaire
Maire Ni Shuilleabhain	ICI
Kate Nolan	UNIFEM Ireland

## Annex 4

## Conference Participants

Sinead O' Reilly	Goal
Michael O' Riordan	Oxfam
Paul O'Brien	Concern Worldwide
Comdt. Maureen O'Brien	Irish Defence Forces
Siobhan O'Brien Green	AKIDWA
Rachel O'Hanlon	MA Student Development DCU
Prof Helen O'Neill	University College Dublin
Angela O'Neill	Concern Worldwide
Jacqui O'Riordan	UCC
Kyu-Hee Park	Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)
Iryna Pokhilo	Cairde
Samantha Priestly	Senior Services Manager
Niamh Reilly	National University of Ireland, Galway
Verena Riedl	
Sarah Robinson	Concern
Brendan Rodgers	Irish Aid
Commandant Michael Rowan	Irish Defence Forces
Claire Rush	Department of Foreign Affairs
Nasruddin Saljoqi	Afghan Community and Cultural Association of Ireland
Brain Scott	Oxfam
Eamon Sharkey	D-Talk / DSC Kimmage
Norma Shearer	Training for Women Network Ltd (TWN)
Ben Siddle	Self Help Africa
Eileen Smith	Banúlacht
Frances Soney-Ituen	Women's Integrated Network, WIN, Athy
Carol Staunton	National University of Ireland, Galway
Sue Ellen Stefanini	Skillshare International Ireland
Karen Sweeney	Traning for Women Network Ltd (TWN)
Xante Swift	Action Aid
Maeve Taylor	Banúlacht
Caterina Totaro	Christian Aid
Amy Tyndall	Crosscare

## Annex 4

## Conference Participants

Kim Wallis	Trocaire
Helen Walmsley	Voluntary Service International
Eilis Ward	NUI Galway
Noel Wardick	Irish Red Cross
Máiríde Woods	
Gillian Wylie	Trinity College Dublin
Eric Yao	Africa Centre