

1. In October 2000, the United Nation's Security Council passed resolution 1325 on 'Women, Peace and Security'. This groundbreaking resolution called on all actors to **adopt a gender perspective** to promote women's equal participation with men in peacebuilding and all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.
2. It identified in particular the need to **mainstream gender perspectives** in conflict prevention, peace negotiations, peacekeeping operations, humanitarian assistance, post-conflict reconstruction and Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) initiatives.
3. The Resolution not only recognised **the disproportionate affect of conflict on women**, but underlined the **essential role of women in the prevention of conflict** and as full participants in post-conflict peacebuilding and reconstruction efforts.
4. The main provisions of UNSCR 1325 are:

I. Participation of Women

II. Gender Perspectives in Peacekeeping

III. Protection of Women

IV. Mainstream Gender in UN Programmes and Reporting

What is the UK doing to implement UNSCR1325?

5. The UK continues to support this key resolution and to promote its implementation not just at the UN but also in other International Organisations such as the OSCE, EU and by individual countries. We are committed to raising awareness of the important role that women can play in peacebuilding and reconciliation and have been active in efforts to ensure that women are involved in conflict management, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction.
6. As part of our commitment to UNSCR 1325 the UK has developed a National Action Plan. This work was undertaken in consultation with key government departments – The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), Department for International Development (DFID); and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) and also with representatives from civil society in the UK.
7. The plan sets out clear action for government personnel and departments, linking development, humanitarian, defence and diplomacy work, all-important to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. It consists of 12 broad areas of activity and sub-action points, with actions shared across MOD, FCO, DFID and the UK Mission in New York. These areas include an audit of the UK Armed Forces Peace Support Operation training to ensure that it deals adequately with the areas covered by UNSCR 1325; a commitment from DFID to support UNDP's efforts to mainstream gender throughout their activities and FCO advocacy, within the UN

and amongst member states, for sustained funding of gender units within Peacekeeping Operations.

8. Recent examples of activity under the Action Plan include:

Action Point 1 & 2: HMG to continue to ensure that gender elements are incorporated in the objectives of Security Council missions and make recommendations relating to women and girls in any follow-up reports; as well as ensuring that gender perspectives continue to be reflected in all Security Council mandates for peacekeeping/support operations, and to include gender perspectives when negotiating UN peace agreements, ensuring that they are subsequently adopted.

- The FCO has produced some guidance language on SCR 1325 which desk officers should work to include in resolutions, new and revised mission mandate, terms of references for mission visits, as well as in progress reports at the UN and other International/Regional Organisations. This guidance language together with the checklist produced by the NGO working group in New York has been circulated to all relevant desk officers and is being used to ensure language is included, for example in SCRs for UNIOSIL, UNMIS (Darfur) and UNMIT. We are also in the process of drawing up a checklist of cross-cutting issues that should be included in all Peacekeeping related resolutions.

Action Point 6: UK Ministry of Defence Armed Forces to undertake audit of gender content of Pre-Deployment Training. Where necessary, develop gender awareness training, and raise awareness of the UN Code of Conduct on personal behaviour. Where appropriate, incorporate gender perspective related training into other military and conflict related personnel doctrines.

- The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has conducted an audit of existing individual and pre-deployment training to provide assurance that the current training given to British military personnel complies with the intent of UNSCR 1325. It is concluded from the audit that British military personnel generally receive sufficient training in relevant subjects, mainly through the Law of Armed Conflict and specific pre deployment training to be assured that they will be compliant with the intent of the resolution.

The audit also concludes that the UK Armed Forces are fully compliant with the UN code of conduct through existing training provisions, as it aligns with our existing values and standards.

To further reassure the compliance with the Resolution, the MOD have asked Permanent Joint Headquarters to include relevant briefing material on the role/relevance of gender to the specific society living in the deployed area.

Pre-deployment planning currently covers social and cultural issues tailored for particular operations, and includes specific gender issues that should be taken into account. As a result of the audit, the MOD has sought inclusion of the intent of the resolution.

Action Point 4: HMG to provide financial support to; the UNDP / Bureau of Crisis Prevention and Recovery (BCPR) in support of mainstreaming gender and; UNHCR's work with Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) and reduction of gender based violence against refugees

- DFID has recently (February 2007) commenced funding of a new £3.2m programme with UNIFEM to support women's engagement in peacebuilding and reduction of gender violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. The programme works at the community level to enable women's effective participation in peace-building and post-conflict recovery, and to reduce sexual violence. It will respond to the needs of women during and after conflict by engaging community decision-makers, local police and informal institutions. Officials from DFID attended a very successful inaugural workshop held in Lira (northern Uganda), involving UNIFEM teams and partners from all six focus countries (Uganda, Rwanda, Liberia, Afghanistan, Haiti, Timor Leste) and from UNIFEM's New York headquarters and regional offices. The programme was also formally launched in Rwanda, with a particular focus on work with the police and on economic empowerment for women as way to reducing sexual violence.

Action Point 8: HMG to continue to deploy, where appropriate, female personnel on operations

The MOD continues to deploy women on operations but can only do so in proportion to the number of women in the Armed Forces.

The FCO has attended National Conferences and Seminars raising the profile of International Policing with particular focus on the deployment of female officers and conducted discussions with the Head of the Ministry of Defence Police (MDP), International Secondments Team on ways to generate further interest from female MDP officers. We are also focusing attention on the recruitment of female officers during the 2007/08 International Secondments Team (IST) recruitment campaign.

The FCO has specifically targetted the recruitment of women police officers and staff in a range of articles in specialist police magazines such as Police Review and Constabulary magazine. The articles feature both male and female officers in order to highlight the opportunities for both men and women in international policing and to challenge perceptions that there are no roles for women overseas. We are also in the process of publishing an article in Grapevine magazine (produced by the British Association for Women in Policing) specifically profiling three female officers working in Iraq and Bosnia.

The FCO's Police Adviser, DCI Kate Halpin, has spoken at the British Association for Women in Policing's (BAWP) Senior Women in Policing Conference (Birmingham 28/2-1/3), and has hosted a meeting of the Metropolitan Police Service's Association of Senior Women Officers in December 2006. DCI Halpin, who served in Jordan at the International Police

Training Centre, has been able to speak from her personal and professional experience of the importance of women in international policing.

A further strand of our work is to incorporate information on women, peace and security in the education of police officers serving overseas. The FCO is currently developing a set of guidelines for use by officers in international peace operations which includes specific references to UNSCR 1325 and the essential role of women in the prevention of conflict and post-conflict reconstruction. The guidelines, "Peace Support Operations: Information and Guidance for UK Police Officers", is due to be published in Spring 2007.

A second document (planned for publication this year) will support the guidelines and provide more practical information for officers in theatre. The handbook, "A Manual of Procedures and Guidance", will cover the practical day to day aspects of working in an international peace operation and will include information on UNSCR 1325 and on UN policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse.

Action Point 10: HMG to continue to implement its Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Strategy, which provides a key tool to mapping out the concrete actions needed to tackle this issue and to assess progress made.

- HMG continues to support the actions of the Secretary-General to implement his 'zero-tolerance' approach in all United Nation Missions. The UK has also recently funded, through the GCPP, the development of a Awareness-Raising Video on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse by United Nations Staff. The objectives of this video are:
 - To promote the Secretary-General's Bulletin on *Special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse* (ST/SGB/2003/13);
 - To highlight the consequences of sexual exploitation and abuse and the importance of United Nations staff members complying with the Bulletin's provisions;
 - To raise awareness among United Nations staff members of the widespread occurrence of sexual exploitation and abuse and what the United Nations is doing to combat it.

HMG has also, through the GCPP, funded a project to support the UN reforms relating to SEA and in particular the work on policy development and on the welfare consultant. This work is being taken forward by CDU.

9. The Global and Africa Global Conflict Prevention Pools (GCPP & ACPP) and Global Opportunities Fund (GOF) provide the key funding mechanism for supporting women and conflict projects around the globe. There have been many conflict prevention related projects that both directly and indirectly affect women in conflict situations. The Conflict Prevention Pools support women and conflict initiatives through its many strategies. For example;
 - The UK Government co-funded, a Conference on Peace and Security: Implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325. The Conference was held at

Wilton Park between 30 May and 2 June 2006 and provided a forum for discussion on implementation of UNSCR 1325, drawing together policy makers and practitioners in order to find constructive ways forward. The President of Liberia, Ellen Johnson-Sirleaf, who was one of the prime movers behind UNSCR1325, came to open that conference.

- **Iraq:** The UK continues in its efforts, working with our International Partners, to improve the treatment of Iraqi women prisoners. We are encouraging the recruitment of female Iraqi prison officers to look after female prisoners. The proposed refurbishment and redesignation of a prison in South Eastern Iraq as an exclusive female and juvenile facility will dramatically improve the lot of female prisoners in South Eastern Iraq.
- **Democratic Republic of Congo:** HMG worked closely with UNIFEM, MONUC (UN Mission to the DRC), the Electoral Commission and local women's organisations to develop a shared strategy and action plans to ensure women's full participation in the elections as voters, potential leaders, civic educators and election observers.

10. In addition, an Associate Parliamentary Group (APG) has been set up by a member of Parliament, Joan Ruddock, to support the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Civil servants from the FCO, DFID and the MOD are members of this group, together with parliamentarians and NGOs. The structure of this Group is unique in that it incorporates these different viewpoints on an equal footing and will serve as a useful tool in moving the UK government's agenda forward on the implementation of the SCR 1325.