

Implementing Security Council Resolution 1325 at the EU level

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Why women and gender issues matter to EU peace and security policy

- Women and men play different roles and are affected differently by conflict and peacebuilding
- Women are a vital (but often unrecognised and unsupported) resource to conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and post-conflict reconstruction efforts
- Gender equality and women's rights are pre-requisites for sustainable peace, justice and development

“The EU strongly believes in gender equality as a prerequisite for peace and security [...] The EU is committed to increase women’s representation at all decision-making levels, increase the dialogue with local and international women’s groups, protect women and girls affected by conflict, and incorporate a gender perspective into all ESDP operations.”

Statement on behalf of the EU by H.E. Minister Ms. Elisabeth Rehn, New York, 26 October 2006

Key milestones on gender, peace and security policy within the European Union

- Participation of women in peaceful conflict resolution (EP Resolution 2000/2025(INI) October 2000)
- Resolution 1385 of the Council of Europe on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution: the Role of Women” (2004)
- Council operational paper on the implementation of SCR 1325 in the ESDP (November 2005)
- A roadmap for equality between women and men 2006-2010 (March 2006)
- Report on the situation of women in armed conflicts and their role in the reconstruction and democratic process in post-conflict countries (2005/2215(INI) May 2006)
- Checklist to ensure gender mainstreaming and implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the planning and conduct of ESDP Operations (July 2006)
- Report on women in international politics (2006/2057(INI) 17 October 2006)
- Council conclusions on promoting gender equality and gender mainstreaming in crisis management (November 2006)

Progress towards implementation of SCR 1325

- To date, three EU Member States (and five in Europe) have adopted National Action Plans for implementing SCR 1325
- For the first time a gender advisor was appointed to an EU military operation: EUFOR in the Democratic Republic of Congo
- Adoption of checklist on mainstreaming gender in ESDP
- Continued efforts by several MEPs to place SCR 1325 and gender issues on the agenda at the EU level
- EU Member States exchanged national best practices on gender mainstreaming and the implementation of UNSCR 1325

Obstacles to implementation

- Difficulty in moving from rhetoric to action
- Lack of effective accountability mechanisms
- Women and gender issues still not seen as central to peace and security policy
- SCR 1325 still seen as a ‘women’s issue’; men in leadership positions have not been successfully engaged in implementation efforts
- Too little coordination and cooperation between different institutions at the EU level
- Lack of prioritisation or operationalisation of the issues addressed by SCR 1325 within EU peace and security programming
- Failure to employ women at high-level decision-making roles within the EU institutions and within EU missions

Entry points for more effective implementation

- Development of an EU-wide Action Plan on SCR 1325 and development of NAPs by all EU Member States
 - Work with and through existing civil society networks on gender, peace and security issues (i.e. EPLO-GPS at the EU level and GAPS-UK at Member State level)
 - More comprehensive and routine gender training of EU representatives and mission staff and troops, and development of tools/methodologies for gender mainstreaming within the EU's work
 - Enhance reporting and monitoring efforts (i.e. ESDP presidency reports, EP debates, Member State annual NAP reports)
 - Link SCR 1325 and gender issues into other related tools and policies
- ❖ **Gender issues must be seen as an integral part of peace and security policy-making and all EU activities in conflict-affected regions rather than being marginalised or 'added-on' at the last minute**

Developing an EU Action Plan on SCR 1325

- What are the benefits of developing an Action Plan?
 - There is the need for a more comprehensive strategy outlining implementation of SCR 1325 within all of the EU's policies and programmes
 - Enable identification of objectives, setting of benchmarks and monitoring of SCR 1325 implementation which would enhance accountability
 - Assigns responsibility and ownership over implementation of SCR 1325
- How can Action Plans be developed?
 - Establish an internal working group involving representatives from the EP, the Council, the Commission and civil society organisations working on women, peace and security issues
 - Conduct a mapping/review of gender issues within EU peace and security policy and programming; assess gaps and identify areas of EU strategic priority related to SCR 1325 and EP Resolution 2000/2025
 - Broad consultation with civil society groups, including women's organisations, working on peace and security issues

Evaluating implementation of SCR 1325: Are National/Regional Action Plans the way forward?

- ❖ **NAPs should be context-specific: Approaches vary between countries and format/structure/implementation of the NAP can take on many different forms, but the overall result should be focused on increasing the participation of women and gender-sensitising peace and security policies and programmes**
 - Generate process of consultation between different actors at different levels
 - Useful tool for strategic planning, monitoring progress, and assessing implementation
 - A way for governments to link SCR 1325 with national-level priorities and strategies
 - Can be drafted as 'living documents' and updated/revised when necessary
 - Having an Action Plan does not automatically mean that SCR 1325 will be realised – accountability, responsibility, leadership and resources are critical
 - Need to find a balance between focus on a few realistic, strategic priorities and the need to ensure mainstreaming of gender into all policies and programmes
 - Need for transparency and consultation with civil society actors

The role of civil society in ensuring implementation of SCR 1325: Contributions of women's organisations

- The implementation of SCR 1325 has largely been led by women's organisations through advocacy, field-level programming and monitoring of UN and government activities
- Women's organisations as an expert resource for implementation at EU and Member State level
- Avoid reinventing the wheel: Build on the 'informal' peacebuilding activities that women are already undertaking in conflict-affected regions
- SCR 1325 is an extremely useful tool for civil society organisations in conflict-affected regions, but more effort needs to be made to raise awareness and develop context-specific approaches to implementation
- Civil society groups can monitor progress and act as a watchdog for Member State/EU level implementation of SCR 1325

Recommendations and steps forward...

- Gender and security issues must be more effectively linked at the EU level:
 - Gender issues ≠ women!
 - Gender issues are central to EU security policy
 - Obligations under SCR 1325 and EP Resolution 2000/2025 must be widely disseminated
- Build on what is already being done:
 - Sharing of lessons learned and good practices among civil society networks and EU representatives
 - Sharing of lessons learned and good practices on developing NAPs amongst EU Member States
 - Increase support for civil society organisations and networks working on gender and peacebuilding issues both within the EU and in conflict-affected regions
- Begin to develop a more coherent approach to implementation at the EU level:
 - Establish an EU SCR 1325 working group involving MEPs, Council and Commission representatives and civil society
 - Undertake commitment to develop an EU action plan
 - Ensure that adequate resources (financial, human and technical) are allocated to fulfil EU obligations in area of gender, peace and security

Useful Resources

- Resources on the EU and gender, peace and security: www.eplo.org
- INSTRAW (2006) “Securing Equality, Engendering Peace: A guide to policy and planning on women, peace and security”
- International Alert/Women Waging Peace (2004) “Inclusive Security, Sustainable Peace: A Toolkit for Advocacy and Action”
- Resources on gender, peace and security: www.peacewomen.org
- UNIFEM website on gender, peace and security: www.womenwarpeace.org
- NGOWG (2005) “From Local to Global: Making Peace Work for Women”