

Questionnaire to inform the review of the current 3-year UK National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 women, peace & security and the development of the 2014-2017 National Action Plan

In 2006, the UK developed a National Action Plan (NAP) to implement UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security and strengthen its ability to reduce the impact of conflict on women and to promote their participation in conflict resolution and peace-building. The NAP was substantially revised in 2010 following the 10-year anniversary of UNSCR 1325.

The distribution of this questionnaire and review of responses is carried out in conjunction with Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) and is targeted at Civil Society Organisations and a number of posts within HMG's internal network. The purpose is to inform the review of the UK's delivery of the current NAP (2010-2013) and will help to shape the development of the new 3-year NAP (2014-2017), due to be published in March 2014. This consultation process builds on recent work undertaken by an independent consultant to evaluate the current UK NAP and will feed into the three year progress report of the 2010-2013 NAP that will report to Parliament in October 2013.

Feel free to provide further feedback or evidence on relevant items not covered in the questionnaire separately.

The deadline for submissions is Friday 6th of September at 18:00 GMT to **Shah.Rahman@fco.gov.uk**

If you feel comfortable with doing so, please provide your details below:

***Name of Organisation:* Womankind Worldwide**

***Type of Organisation:* NGO**

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Please consider the following questions and rate each statement in terms of 1-5. (1=very poor; 2=poor; 3=average; 4=good; 5=very good). Please provide any comments you may have in the boxes provided.

1. How would you rate the UK's work on Women, Peace and Security in comprehensively covering all aspects of UNSCR 1325?

Womankind Worldwide welcomes the UK government's efforts to comprehensively cover all aspects of UNSCR1325. The 2010 National Action Plan (NAP) and the subsequent 2012 revision led to considerable progress in the NAP and its implementation including clear sections on each pillar and the inclusion of bilateral country sections. While welcoming these significant advances, Womankind would like to highlight a number of areas where the UK government could strengthen its work on Women, Peace and Security (WPS) to ensure that all areas of UNSCR1325 are comprehensively covered and commitments are translated into concrete action.

In developing our response to this questionnaire, Womankind consulted our partners in fragile and conflict-affected countries. The following women's rights organisations inputted into this response: Afghan Women's Resource Centre (Afghanistan); Liberian Women Media Action Committee (Liberia); Feminist Dalit Organisation (Nepal); SAATHI (Nepal); Women's Peace and Justice Project (Sierra Leone); WAVES (Sierra Leone); and Isis-WICCE (Uganda).

a) Cross-government capacity, coordination and policy coherence

Cross-government coordination is key to ensuring the comprehensive implementation of UNSCR1325 and Womankind welcomes the efforts of the FCO, DFID, and MOD to work closely and collaboratively together on WPS. However, since the launch of the NAP in 2010 it has become apparent that there are several issues which need addressing to ensure the government is in a stronger position to respond to its UNSCR1325 commitments:

First, there have been a number of occasions that have highlighted the need for broader understanding amongst DFID, MOD, and FCO staff on issues relating to UNSCR 1325 and its implementation and women, peace and security more widely. For instance, the 2013 London Conference on Somalia communiqué has a welcome commitment to address sexual violence but contains no provision for the participation of women in building peace¹.

Second, the NAP's commitment to 'ensure policy coherence across HMG, particularly with the implementation of the Building Stability Overseas Strategy and the UK's National Action Plan on Violence Against Women' is promising. However, challenges remain in implementing the principles of the NAP into broader government policies and strategies. For instance, many DFID country operational plans do not reference the NAP or the need for the UK to meet its WPS commitments². In addition, it is unclear if any member of the National Security Council has explicit responsibility for WPS to ensure gender perspectives are taken into account in all discussions.

Finally, despite the efforts made to date for increased cross-government coordination and collaboration on WPS, progress in this regard often appears to be hampered by limited staff capacity. We understand that the FCO currently has 80% of one full-time post dedicated to WPS, while within DFID only 20% of a post is designated for this work. The level of staffing capacity dedicated to WPS within the MOD remains unclear. This lack of staff capacity and focus on WPS impacts negatively on the government's ability to further the WPS agenda and ensure a comprehensive and coordinated implementation of the NAP.

¹ UK government website, *Somalia Conference 2013: Communiqué*, 7th May 2012, <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/somalia-conference-2013-communication> (accessed 8th September 2013)

² For example, DFID, *DFID Uganda Operational Plan 2011 – 2015 (Updated June 2012)*, June 2012, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/67416/uganda-2011.pdf (accessed 1st September 2013)

Recommendations:

- To ensure the comprehensive coverage of all aspects of UNSCR1325 we recommend that specific training on WPS is rolled out to all staff in FCO, DFID and MOD whose portfolio covers working on or in fragile and conflict affected states.
- Ensure that the review of DFID country plans in 2015 includes a commitment to the principles of the NAP.
- Ensure that at least one person is the nominated WPS Representative on the National Security Council.
- Womankind recommends that, as a minimum, one full-time lead on WPS is appointed in each government department involved in the development and implementation of the UK's NAP.

b) Consulting and working in partnership with southern women's rights organizations

Women's rights organizations are key stakeholders in ensuring the UK government's work on WPS comprehensively covers all aspects of UNSCR1325 and has a tangible impact on the lives of women and girls living in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

All four strands of UNSCR1325 require policies and programmes to promote and support transformations in gender norms. Women's rights organizations often have a fuller understanding of local social and political structures that violate women's rights and have found ways of negotiating plural legal systems to women's advantage and of appropriating international human rights standards into local practice. They are also well placed to tackle violations of women's human rights that are justified by ideas of 'culture' or 'religion'. Therefore effective social norm and behaviour change work is often led by women's rights organisations that have a connection to the community and are able and willing to engage over long periods of time. Womankind welcomes activities in the NAP that support programmes run by women's rights organizations, for instance supporting the Feminist Dalit Organization's work to increase Dalit women in leadership position. However, Womankind's consultation with our partners has revealed the UK government could strengthen its partnerships with women's rights organizations – partners in Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Sierra Leone and Uganda have told Womankind that to date they have had very little (or no) interaction with the UK government on Women, Peace and Security issues.

In addition, the meaning individuals and communities ascribe to 'peace' will affect the implementation of UNSCR1325. Womankind research *From the Ground Up*³, carried out in Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sierra Leone in 2012, shows that women and men view peace, and what peace means, quite differently. This study showed that men tended to associate peace with the absence of conflict at the community, regional and national levels, and with stability in the formal government and economic spheres. Because of their gendered roles, women tend to define peace more broadly than men to include the household level as well as attainment of individual rights and freedoms.

Recommendation:

- We welcomed the in-country consultations which informed the 2012 NAP revision and strongly recommend that this process should be replicated in the development of the new NAP. This should include comprehensive consultation and subsequent partnering with southern women's rights organizations to ensure the application of UNSCR1325 reflects the interpretation of 'peace' articulated by women in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

³ Womankind Worldwide, *From the Ground Up: women's role in local peacebuilding in Afghanistan, Liberia, Nepal, Pakistan and Sierra Leone*, 2012, <http://www.womankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/09/From-The-Ground-Up-FINAL.pdf> (accessed 29th August 2013)

c) Funding for Women, Peace and Security work

The NAP states that ‘there are a number of avenues for funding for Women, Peace and Security projects and expenditure is drawn from a variety of budgets across the three government departments, including the Conflict Pool, FCO Human Rights and Democracy Fund, DFID programme funding and Arab Partnership funding.’ Whilst we welcome this commitment to funding Women, Peace and Security work, we advise that specific funding be attached to the NAP.

Recommendation:

- In line with the United Nations target, a minimum of 15% of all funds in support of peacebuilding should be dedicated to activities whose principal objective is to address women’s specific needs, advance gender equality or empower women.
- When the new NAP is launched, a clear funding stream, including support for women’s rights organisations, should be announced.

As mentioned above, women’s rights organizations are vital in implementing the four pillars of UNSCR1325. Furthermore, evidence shows that women-led organisations offer added-value to donors as a result of their relevance and connectedness to women’s and girls’ lives, as well as the innovative approaches they take to achieving their objectives⁴. Yet despite this, women’s rights organizations do not receive a level of donor support commensurate with the substantial contribution they are able to make to NAP implementation; they remain underfunded and often unable to access funding which commits beyond an annual cycle. For example, OECD Development Assistance Committee data shows that just 1.3% of all DAC screened funds dedicated to gender equality in the 2010 budget went to women’s rights organizations and women’s ministries⁵.

Recommendation:

- To ensure the full implementation of UNSCR1325 and the UK NAP, the government should look into other donor approaches in order to find the best way to provide vital support to women’s rights organizations working on WPS at the national and local levels. This should be combined with efforts to engage national governments on the importance and added-value of funding women’s rights organizations.

e) Prevention, Protection and Participation Pillars

Relevant to all of the UNSCR1325 pillars is recognition of the diversity of women’s experiences. Women in fragile and post-conflict countries are not a homogenous group. Widows, ex-combatants, survivors of sexual violence, displaced women, women living with HIV and AIDS or disabilities all face unique challenges and require different approaches to ensure the protection and promotion of their rights. Womankind welcomes the inclusion of several activities in the NAP that recognise the diversity of women’s experiences, for instance the Nepal bilateral section includes a project to support the political participation of Dalit women.

Recommendation:

- The new NAP should expand and build on programmes that recognise the diversity of women’s experiences.

⁴ Comic Relief, What added value do organizations that are led and managed by women and girls bring to the work addressing the rights, needs and priorities of women and girls, July 2012

⁵ Womankind Worldwide, Leaders for Change: why support women’s rights organizations, 2012, <http://www.womankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2013/03/LeadersForChange-FINAL.pdf> (accessed 3rd September 2012)

Prevention: VAWG is widely recognised as a manifestation of unequal power relations between women and men – as being caused by, and reinforcing, gender inequality. Therefore to comprehensively cover the Prevention pillar of UNSCR1325 there should be a focus on improving the status of women through the empowerment of women and girls. This approach is supported by DFID’s *Theory of Change for Tackling Violence Against Women*⁶, which showed that interventions to empower women and girls are a prerequisite for effective violence and prevention response. The *Theory of Change* also identified social norms that condone VAWG and support male dominance as a major barrier to effective VAWG prevention and response.

Recommendation:

- To fully implement UNSCR1325’s pillar on Prevention a greater focus should be placed on tackling the root causes of VAWG and transforming the norms that condone VAWG. We also recommend that DFID’s *Theory of Change on Violence Against Women and Girls* is fully integrated across the Protection and Prevention pillars.

There is strong evidence to show that investment in gender equality and women’s rights is vital to preventing conflict and essential to working in fragile and conflict-affected countries. For example, research carried out by RAND in 2008 found that gender parity plays a critical role in state stability, and that decisions and compromises that are bad for women are ‘bad for human security, bad for development, and detrimental to genuine peace’⁷.

Recommendation:

- Gathering information on women’s role in driving peace and conflict at all levels (micro, meso and macro) should be a prerequisite of conflict analysis and actor mapping.
- The Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS) – a tool of the BSOS – should integrate the principles of the NAP and incorporate a strong gender analysis in all conflict analysis and upstream conflict prevention.

Protection: Domestic violence is only mentioned once in the NAP (in the Afghanistan bilateral section). However, research has shown even among survivors of other egregious forms of violence, there is a substantial backdrop of violence by partners and family members that often goes unnoticed and unaddressed. A survey of women living in communities embroiled in the Cote d’Ivoire conflict found that in even in the context of conflict, the most common form of violence women experienced was from partners and family members. Womankind’s partner Isis-WICCE also highlighted many donors focus on infrastructure development when responding to protection of women’s rights and fail to take an approach that focuses on the needs of the survivor.

Recommendation:

- For a comprehensive approach to UNSCR1325’s pillars on Protection and Prevention it is vital that tackling domestic violence, as well as other forms of VAWG, is a priority.

Participation: UNSCR1325 calls on all actors to take measures that support local women’s peace initiatives, and to ensure the full participation of women in peacebuilding processes.

⁶ DFID, *How to note on Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls*, 2012, http://www.womankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/08/VAWG_guidance1_toc11.pdf (accessed 8th September 2013)

⁷ Bernard, C (Winter, 2008) *Caution Nation-Builders: Gender assumptions ahead*, RAND Monograph Vol 32:1, p. 27. See also Caprioli, Mary (2003) *Gender Equality and Civil Wars*, CPR Working Paper No. 8, World Bank

Womankind's research *From the Ground Up* shows that despite significant barriers women are active in peacebuilding at the local level, both in their homes and communities, and often work collectively to create change. Yet despite this, attention to the issue of women's participation in peacebuilding has tended to concentrate on processes taking place at the national and international levels. As a result, the contribution of, and the challenges facing, women building peace at the local level have been largely ignored together with the positive impact of their involvement on women, their communities, and on national-level peace processes. Women's organisations have been identified as 'the missing link' between national peace and decision-making processes and local communities, and their work has been shown to be recognised and valued by people across communities. However, funding for women's organisations is inadequate and not sufficiently long-term, meaning that their capacity is limited and so grassroots and national-level work remains disconnected.

Recommendations:

- To fully implement UNSCR1325 it is vital to increase the support for women's participation in peacebuilding at all levels and ensure programmes address the significant barriers to women's participation which exist. Peace processes must include women as decision-makers, and reflect the priorities and views of women building peace at local levels.
- The important role of women's organisations in ensuring local women's participation in national-level processes must be fully recognised, and their work must be supported through adequate, sustainable and core funding to allow them to reach their full potential.

2. How would you rate the effectiveness of the monitoring and evaluation of the UK's National Action Plan? How could it be made more effective?

Womankind welcomed the improved monitoring and evaluation framework of the current NAP, for instance the inclusion of formal reporting to parliament and the inclusion of indicators. However, we believe the NAP's monitoring and evaluation framework could be strengthened through:

a) Impact-oriented change, the inclusion of timeframes and reporting against indicators

The aims and objectives of the current NAP are not impact-oriented, for example the aims of the NAP do not mention the impact that the UK government's wishes to have on the lives of women and girls living in fragile and conflict-affected countries. Womankind believes that increased clarity about the desired impact, through the inclusion of impact-oriented change aims and objectives, would strengthen the Plan's monitoring and evaluation mechanisms.

The inclusion of indicators in the 2010 NAP was a welcome step, however the utility of the indicators in monitoring progress is eroded by the lack of timelines.

Recommendation:

- Womankind recommends that the monitoring and evaluation framework of the NAP is based around impact-oriented change aims, with the inclusion of timelines for each objective and activity to increase its overall effectiveness. In addition, reporting against the indicators would be a positive step in increasing the effectiveness of the NAP's monitoring and evaluation.

b) Taking a joint approach to M&E system development

As highlighted in Question one, policy coherence between different government processes and position is vital to ensuring the greatest impact. It is essential that these strategies cross-reference and build on each other – and that there are mechanisms in place to share knowledge, good practice and evidence. In addition, there are opportunities to harness in-house expertise on monitoring and evaluation – particularly in DFID.

Recommendations:

- Womankind recommends that the UK government considers developing a joint mechanism for implementation and monitoring of government strategies such as Building Stability Overseas Strategy (BSOS), NAP, Cross-government VAWG strategy, and DFID's gender vision.
- Womankind recommends that the UK government harnesses in-house expertise on M&E. For instance, DFID has produced a Guidance Note on Monitoring and Evaluating for Programming on Violence Against Women and Girls⁸ that could be utilised in the M&E of the Prevention and Protection pillars.

Womankind welcomed the engagement with civil society in the development of the 2012 NAP revision, in particular the consultation with women's rights organizations in Afghanistan, DRC and Nepal.

Recommendation:

- Womankind recommends that the UK government continues to actively engage with civil society, both in the UK and internationally, to monitor and evaluate progress to implement UNSCR1325.

c) OECD gender policy marker

Womankind research has found that the majority of FCO projects reported as ODA in 2011 and published on the OECD Creditor Reporting System were not screened against the gender marker. This presents a major challenge for M&E, especially as funding for WPS is not ring-fenced.

Recommendation:

- Womankind recommends that all UK aid, including ODA originating from the FCO, is screened against the OECD gender equality marker to support M&E mechanisms.

3. How would you rate the UK NAP in helping you to achieve your organisation's goals on Women, Peace and Security?

Womankind has found the UK NAP to be a useful document in achieving our goals across policy, advocacy and programmes. In particular the UK NAP has:

a) Increased the visibility of Women, Peace and Security

The UK NAP supported Womankind's policy and advocacy work by increasing the visibility of Women, Peace and Security across departments and in the UK Parliament. For instance, the annual review in Parliament has engaged the APG on Women, Peace and Security and included Ministers and senior officials from each department. In addition, Womankind believes the UK NAP has contributed to an increase in awareness of officials of the UK's commitments on Women, Peace and Security.

⁸ DFID, *Guidance on Monitoring and Evaluation for Programming on Violence against Women and Girls*, 2012, http://www.womankind.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/downloads/2012/08/VAWG_guidance3_-ME1.pdf (accessed 30th August 2013)

b) Collating activities and provides a common understanding

We have found the UK NAP a useful document in collating UK government activities on UNSCR1325 and in providing a common understanding between the UK government and civil society on the commitments of UNSCR1325.

c) Linking to other strategies

The UK NAP has been a vital advocacy tool in lobbying for the inclusion of WPS in other UK government policies, projects and programmes in fragile and conflict-affected countries. For instance, Womankind referenced the NAP in our lobbying and advocacy for BSOS to include a gender and women's rights perspective.

d) International advocacy

The UK NAP has been an important tool in supporting our work with partners in countries that also have NAPs. In addition, Womankind has referenced the UK NAP when meeting in-country DFID and FCO officials and EU / multilateral bodies.

e) Afghanistan and Nepal

Womankind's partners in Afghanistan and Nepal welcomed the inclusion of both countries in the UK NAP bilateral section and recommended that the new UK NAP should continue to have bilateral action plans on Afghanistan and Nepal. Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) recommends that a new bilateral section on Afghanistan should focus on women's role in decision-making at the national level. SAATHI recommends that the UK's future work on Nepal and WPS should prioritize programmes to promote women's political participation, leadership and socio-economic empowerment, provision of support services for survivors of violence and access to justice. FEDO recommends that the UK government continues to support the political participation of Dalit women in Nepal.

4. How would you rate the UK Government's bilateral support to other countries in the NAP? What do you feel has or has not worked?

The development of bilateral action plans was a positive step, including the addition of the Middle East and North Africa regional section in the 2012 NAP revision. Womankind recommends the UK government maintain the approach of the bilateral action plans. We believe the bilateral section could be strengthened through:

a) Linking to priorities identified in own-country NAPs

Womankind partners stated that the UK NAP could increase its bilateral support to other countries by linking to the priorities in own-country NAPs. SAATHI, Womankind's partner in Nepal, stated the UK NAP bilateral section could generate increased interest, attention, and allocation of funding for own-country NAPs. SAATHI also stated that the UK NAP bilateral section should focus on enhancing accountability and strengthening efforts towards the implementation of own-country NAPs. Womankind's partner in Afghanistan, Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) recommends that the UK NAP should explicitly link to one objective of the Afghanistan NAP and should support that objective's implementation.

Recommendations:

- Womankind recommends that the new NAP bilateral sections explicitly link to own-country NAPs;
- Womankind strongly recommends that in the development of new bilateral plans, the UK government consults a wide range of women's rights organizations.

b) Greater coordination across and within departments

As noted in Question 1, increased policy coherence is vital to ensure comprehensive coverage of UNSCR1325 and to ensure Women, Peace and Security work is comprehensively implemented. Womankind believes that there are opportunities to strengthen the coordination across government in the implementation of the bilateral plans. In the Nepal bilateral plan, for instance, DFID is taking the lead on 9 out of 11 activities to increase women's participation. Despite this the DFID Operational Plan on Nepal (2013)⁹ does not mention UNSCR1325.

Womankind is also concerned that there are no actions in the entire bilateral section which have the MOD as their designated lead. This is most acute in the case of the Afghanistan bilateral plan, where the MOD has its largest commitment of military personnel.

Recommendation:

- Womankind recommends that in the new NAP's bilateral section the MOD should identify opportunities to lead activities in countries where it already has existing operations.

5. What criteria should be used to determine target countries that the UK could support to develop their own NAPs? What other support should be offered to non-priority countries?

a) Own NAPs***Recommendations:***

- Womankind suggests a three-stage process in identifying target countries that the UK could support to develop their own NAPs: consultation with target country government; engagement with the wider donor community to negate the risk of duplication; and engaging with women's rights organizations and experts.
- Womankind strongly recommends that the UK government's commitment to supporting own country NAPs goes beyond development and also supports the implementation of the NAP through diplomatic pressure and aid.

b) Non-priority countries

The UK government's commitment to implement UNSCR1325 should not be limited to focus countries in the NAP. In response to our consultation, Womankind partners in non-priority countries suggested tangible activities that the UK government could undertake to support the implementation of UNSCR1325 in their countries. WAVES, for instance, who are based in Sierra Leone suggested that the UK government could organize a nationwide consultative forum to capture the views of women on WPS and provide information that the UK government could use to inform the support offered to a non-priority country.

Recommendation:

- All government policies and programmes should reflect WPS commitments, for instance DFID Country Operational Plans and FCO Country Business Plans of non-priority countries should integrate WPS.

⁹ DFID, *Operational Plan Nepal 2011 – 2015*, 2013, https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/208964/Nepal.pdf (accessed 8th September 2013)

6. How would you rate the UK Government's regional Women, Peace and Security support to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)? What do you feel has or has not worked?

Womankind does not work in the Middle East and North Africa. However, we recommend that the UK government undertakes a meaningful consultation with governments, other donors, and women's rights organizations to inform the development of its MENA regional plan.

7. Has the UK's multilateral engagement been effective? Which areas, if any, need to be strengthened?

The UK government continues to be a powerful champion of women's rights internationally, with the influence to raise the profile of WPS issues with governments overseas and in international spaces. The UK government was a vocal supporter of all six Security Council resolutions on WPS and through UNSCR2106 brought a renewed focus on sexual violence in conflict.

United Nations Security Council: UNSCR 2106 is a commendable achievement and has brought international attention to the urgent need to address sexual violence in conflict.

Recommendation:

- Womankind believes the UK government can now play a critical role in ensuring all six resolutions are fully implemented and ensuring Women, Peace and Security is mainstreamed through all Security Council work.

G8: The UK government has played a key role in raising the priority of sexual violence on the G8 agenda, notably by addressing the issue while holding the Presidency in 2013 and hosting the G8 summit in 2013 which led to the signing of the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and the advancement of the International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence. Crucially, the G8 Foreign Ministers recognised women's Civil Society Organisations, networks and women human rights defenders for their role in the documentation and investigation of sexual violence against women in the Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict 2013¹⁰.

Recommendations:

- Womankind recommends that the UK government continues to champion preventing sexual violence as it hands over the Presidency to Russia and ensure that other aspects of UNSCR1325 (for instance women's participation) are also a high priority for the G8.
- We recommend that the UK Government continues to play a lead role in the development of the International Protocol on the Investigation and Documentation of Sexual Violence, and ensures the development of a strong international framework which prioritises working with local women's organisations and supporting survivors of sexual violence.
- We recommend that the UK government builds on the recognition of the role of women's CSOs in tackling sexual violence in conflict and works with G8 members to

¹⁰ UK government, *The G8 Declaration on Sexual Violence*, 11 April 2013, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/g8-declaration-on-preventing-sexual-violence-in-conflict> (accessed 28th August 2013)

ensure that local women's rights organisations and networks are prioritised in all measures taken to tackle sexual violence in conflict areas.

European Union: In discussions with EU country missions, the UK government has been commended as consistently raising women's rights. However, these discussions have also highlighted the need for greater involvement of women's rights organizations in EU working groups.

Recommendation:

- The UK government should facilitate the involvement of women's rights organizations in EU working groups, for instance the EU+ Working Group on Gender and Human Rights (Afghanistan).

Funding arrangements with United Nations agencies:

The UK government provides funds to various UN agencies, but often it is not clear if the funds provided are ring fenced to UNSCR1325 implementation work, or whether the UK views its overall contribution to UN agencies and the subsequent (UN-led) filtering of these funds to specific WPS projects as tantamount to the UK's contribution to these projects. Therefore, the UK government's level of commitment to and control over UNSCR1325 implementation work carried out through UN agencies remains unclear. In addition, perhaps the most important UN partner in WPS work – UN Women – remains severely underfunded and has limited capacity to act on this issue as a result.

Recommendation:

- The UK government should ensure that its funding of UN agencies whose remit relates to SCR3125 implementation work – and in particular UN Women – is targeted and adequate to ensure that its contribution leads to tangible outcomes in this area.

Linking bilateral and multilateral work: The UK government should ensure consistency between its bilateral and multilateral work on WPS. For instance, the Afghanistan bilateral section references supporting women's participation in the police, these activities can be strengthened through coordination with EUPOL and UNDP's Law and Order Trust Fund (LOFTA).

8. Are there multilateral partners, other than the European Union and the United Nations, which we should be working with (e.g. African Union)?

Womankind recommends the UK government integrates engagement with the following multilateral partners in the new National Action Plan:

NATO: The current NAP states that the UK government will provide political support for measures to incorporate UNSCR 1325 into the political and operational activities of NATO, building on their existing 5-track approach. NATO's *Secretary General's Second Annual Public Report on Implementing UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and related resolutions*¹¹ highlights several areas of focus to strengthen implementation of UNSCR1325 including:

- Further strengthening education and training as a strategic tool for ensuring implementation of the Resolutions on WPS.

¹¹ NATO, *Secretary General's Second Annual Public Report on Implementing UNSCR1325 on Women, Peace and Security, and related resolutions*, January 2013, http://www.nato.int/nato_static/assets/pdf/pdf_topics/20130115_130111-SG-1325-Public-Report2013.pdf (accessed 8th September 2013)

- Reviewing the practical implications of UNSCR 1325 for the conduct of NATO operations and missions with a view to further refining our policy and Action Plan.

Recommendation:

- The UK government should support the implementation of the recommendations in the Secretary General's 2013 report.

World Bank: Womankind understands that the World Bank has recently allocated \$150m (£98m) to finance gender-based projects in the Democratic Republic of Congo as part of the new Country Assistance Strategy.

Recommendation:

- We recommend the UK government maps World Bank activities on WPS to identify if there are opportunities for collaboration and reciprocal learning.

Bilateral: We also recommend that the UK government evaluates which multilateral partners it works with in light of the new bilateral countries.

9. In your opinion, what have been the major achievements and challenges that you have faced in implementing activities related to UNSCR 1325?

Womankind is delighted to host and chair the Gender Action for Peace and Security network (GAPS), and have been pleased to support the ongoing, mutually beneficial relationship between HMG and the network.

Womankind works with women's rights organisations in Africa, Asia and Latin America¹². We would like to highlight the achievements and challenges that our partners have faced in implementing activities related to UNSCR1325, identified during a partner consultation carried out by Womankind in August 2013 which focused on the implementation of the UK NAP and the UK's overseas work on Women, Peace and Security.

a) Achievements

Participation

Womankind's partner Afghan Women's Resource Centre (AWRC) has been supporting the creation of women's committees in local communities around Afghanistan, where it is still rare to encounter women in decision-making positions. Eight years ago, AWRC supported a number of women to be involved in committees – two of whom became committee leaders. Soon after this, AWRC supported these two women to become committee leaders at the district level. Following their experience and the increased access to politics that this gave them, they ran for election in parliament. They were both MPs in the previous parliament.

Prevention

The Feminist Dalit Organisation (FEDO) works to empower Dalit women to act against gender-based and cultural violence. Supported by Womankind, FEDO has set up Dalit women's groups which offer training on women's rights, counselling and VAWG; organizes community awareness meetings and events on violence against Dalit women; and offers counselling. Achievements include organizing 16 village forum meeting with over 700 people.

¹² We worked in 15 countries – Afghanistan, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Nepal, Peru, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe – in partnership with 37 women's organisations. Please see: <http://www.womankind.org.uk/about/>

Protection

In Sierra Leone, Womankind and our partners WAVES are working to increase rural women's access to justice by protecting and promoting the welfare and rights of women and girls who are survivors of violence. The project supports individual women survivors of violence to access justice; change attitudes in communities towards violence against women; ensure that all women understand their rights and how to claim them and that those who have a responsibility to protect and promote those rights do so. In addition, the project provides support for survivors of violence seeking redress; for example through support for transportation and accommodation to survivors and witnesses.

b) Challenges*Lack of funding*

Womankind's research *From the Ground Up* and the responses we received in our consultation with partners all highlighted lack of funding as a major challenge in implementing WPS work. The funding they receive tends to be short term in nature and restricted to specific project areas, such as livelihood training or counselling. In addition, the funding received is generally not provided through a full-cost recovery model, meaning that core organisational costs are not provided for. In addition, the organizations struggle to set their own agendas, and are often influenced by the funding preferences of donors. For example, several of the local organisations that participated in the *From the Ground Up* research identified a need to engage in income-generating activities, including skills training and education, but they have been unable to obtain funding for this. One partner also highlighted the lack of donor awareness of UNSCR1325 as a challenge in accessing adequate funding for their work on WPS and other raised difficulties in grassroots organizations accessing funding for WPS work. Partners have also highlighted difficulties in accessing funding for WPS work in countries that are not a priority for the UK NAP.

High demand for services

In their consultation response, one of Womankind's partners in Nepal highlighted the high demand for their projects and programmes as a major challenge to its Women, Peace and Security work. The organization is operating in 56 out of 75 districts throughout Nepal and has been requested to expand its projects and programmes to all districts. Whilst service delivery is a key component of addressing women's practical needs, women's rights organisations need the time, capacity and funding to engage in the political work necessary to ensure full and meaningful implementation of all the UNSCRs on women, peace and security.

Cultural and structural barriers

Liberian women's rights organization LIWOMAC highlighted cultural and structural barriers as challenges in implementing activities relating to UNSCR1325. For example, LIWOMAC established the first women owned and run radio station in Liberia which discusses women's issues including violence against women and peacebuilding. LIWOMAC has found that social norms confining women to the private sphere have resulted in women not having the confidence to engage with the radio project. In Afghanistan, AWRC finds the main challenges to implementing its work on WPS include: community *shura* resistance; lack of family permission and security threats at the community level. In Sierra Leone, Women's Partnership for Justice and Peace finds a major challenge to its work on WPS is traditional, religious and cultural views of people in the communities they work.

