

## UPDATES TO THE UK NATIONAL ACTION PLAN TO IMPLEMENT UNSCR1325



**Foreign &  
Commonwealth  
Office**



**Ministry of Defence**

### **UK SUPPORT TO THE UNITED NATIONS**

**Action Point 1: HMG 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.**

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 2: HMG to ensure 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.**

On 2 October the UK Mission in New York undertook SCR 1325 training for all its desk officers. UNIFEM and the NGO working group conducted the training, which is intended to familiarise all staff with the provisions of SCR 1325, make them aware of their responsibilities and demonstrate concrete ways in which the resolution can be incorporated into resolutions, reporting and peacekeeping mandates. This was the first in a series that Canada will take forward and roll out through the Friends of 1325. A second training session has now taken place (Belgium).

**Action Point 3: HMG to continue to incorporate gender perspectives into Peacekeeping operations; support the requirement to finance gender units; and support gender units/specialists requirement for access to senior level decision-makers; to ensure that gender perspectives are incorporated in all Peace Building Strategies.**

The UK is continuing to work closely with the Gender Adviser at DPKO in New York to promote the work of the gender advisers in peacekeeping missions. Along with Norway and Netherlands, officials from the FCO and DFID participated in a joint donor review mission to assess the effectiveness and impact of DPKO's work on gender, and the role of gender advisers as well as to identify lessons learnt. The final report from the mission was presented to USG Guéhenno, the rest of the UN system and member states in the third week of October 06. The UK also hosted the 2006 Arria Debate on SCR 1325. The focus of which was the role of women in peace consolidation and the newly established Peacebuilding Commission. Officials from the FCO, MOD and the Metropolitan Police also participated in a recent (Feb 07) strategy workshop with women's constituencies from TCCs and PCCs organised by DPKO. The workshop was aimed at enhancing gender mainstreaming in the national policy setting, training and planning processes that inform pre-deployment to UN's peacekeeping missions.

PBC – The UK pushed to ensure that the founding resolution for the PBC included the line “ Calls upon the Commission to integrate a gender perspective into all its work”. The chairman's summaries of the first PBC country-specific meetings on Sierra Leone and Burundi (12-13 Oct) both included specific references to UNSCR 1325 and /or women's empowerment. On-going work of the PBC continues to take gender into account.

**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 continues to be a major funder of BCPR. Following a critical review of gender dimensions of its work, BCPR organised a four-day workshop in September in London to address this issue. DFID participated fully in this event and helped towards a very constructive outcome, which was focussed on engendering BCPR's new four-year strategy. The workshop was also notable for the strong commitment of BCPR's leadership (and particularly the Director) to ensuring that gender concerns are fully integrated into all their activities.

DFID has continued to lead on supporting UNHCR's programme on Age, Gender and Diversity Mainstreaming (AGDM) for which we have previously provided earmarked support. This programme is now being rolled out globally, and important structures aimed at ensuring accountability for implementation of AGDM are currently being piloted with top management in Geneva and 20 country representatives.

Gender equality and women's empowerment (GEWE) has been agreed as one of the priority areas for the new joint Institutional Strategy for UNHCR under discussion between the UK, Denmark and Canada.

The recent annual meeting of UNHCR's Executive Committee (2-6 October) adopted a Conclusion on Women and Girls at Risk which the UK has strongly supported and which draws on earlier work funded by DFID.

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 current round of the Conflict and Humanitarian Fund (CHF) also calls for proposals supporting women's organisations and their work in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

### **TRAINING AND POLICY WITHIN HMG**

**Action point 5: HMG to raise awareness amongst key programme/project stakeholders of the importance of taking into consideration gender issues in all conflict/security programme/project activity.**

The FCO has sent an Egram to Posts overseas aimed at raising awareness of UNSCR 1325, explaining what the UK is doing to support implementation of the resolution, how this links into our strategic priorities and suggesting ways in which they can support. DFID will do the same with its country offices. We have received several reports back on several issues including; the broad context for Women's Participation in the host country and Posts 1325-related activity. Some of this activity includes:

- In Sudan where the Deputy Head of Mission has hosted several meetings with NGOs and MPs with a focus predominantly on GBV and FGM (Female Genital Mutilation) issues. The mission plans to develop these meetings into a regular forum of discussion and are looking to expand it to look more broadly at 1325-related activity.
- In Pakistan, DFID are currently drafting a new Country Assistance Plan (CAP). This will be informed by a number of pieces of analysis, including a Gender and Social Exclusion Analysis. The CAP will commit DFID to not only addressing gender inequality in specific initiatives but also to ensuring that gender issues are mainstreamed across the whole development programme, as well as in policy dialogue with the Government of Pakistan.

- In Nepal, DFID and the British Embassy are part of the UN peace support working group and helped draft the donor letter to the Government of Nepal and Maoists on women in cantonments and encouraged them to view women's inclusion in the peace process as integral, not an after-thought.

Post have also funded a media campaign on mainstreaming the gendered dimension of conflict and UNSCR 1325, which aimed at increasing the media's understanding of 1325 and its relevance for women's participation in peace building in Nepal.

- In the Democratic Republic of Congo, HMG is supporting the efforts to tackle gender-based violence by 1) Given £3 million towards a 15 million euro EU project to restore justice to Eastern Congo and; 2) Setting-up "one stop shop" centres for rape victims as part of our police reform programme.

The FCO is currently thinking about other ways to encourage Posts to build on their activities and to look for ways to enhance their gender support programmes.

The FCO organised an awareness-raising seminar in London, in September 06, for its UK-Based members of staff. They have started to brief Countries at Risk of Instability (CRI) policy reviewers on 1325, so that they can factor it into their work as appropriate. In addition, they have arranged for all GCPP Strategy Managers to be briefed on 1325 to ensure that they are informed and are therefore able to mainstream gender within projects and programme proposals. They have also factored gender into their work on UN Conflict Prevention (for example by including in our response to the SG's report on Conflict Prevention a call for full implementation of 1325 to be given a high priority).

The Directorate for Policy on International Organisations (DPIO) in the MOD has written an article about UNSCR 1325 in the MOD Policy Bulletin (a quarterly newsletter of the MOD's policy), which is circulated to the majority of the MOD staff, as well as to all Defence Attaches in posts. This will be followed up by an egram (in line with the one the FCO has sent out to posts) to major troop contributors with proposals on how to raise awareness about the resolution in their respective host country.

Following a cross-DFID evaluation of their gender work, DFID has now agreed a Gender Equality Action Plan (GEAP), in which the International Divisions have been fully involved. Objectives include ensuring that multilateral agencies develop and adopt a policy and strategic framework for achieving Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment (GEWE) which responds to internationally agreed standards and norms, and the GEAP specifically includes promotion of greater familiarisation within DFID of SCR 1325

**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 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 will ask 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 will also seek inclusion of the intent of the Resolution in relevant doctrine publications, to generally ensure that this is given due consideration during operational planning.

**Action Point 7: Encourage UK and international institutions, civil society, and UN Member States to identify suitably qualified female candidates for positions within their own countries/establishments in an attempt to increase the number of women at senior decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace-building.**

The MOD and the FCO have participated in developing and conducting a course for prospective female candidates, to enhance their understanding of military operations, strategy and planning. This was funded through the UN Strategy, Global Conflict Prevention Pools. Conflict Issues Group. FCO will also incorporate UNSCR 1325 into its Strategy Paper on recruitment.

**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.

## **GENDER JUSTICE INCLUDING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

### **Action Point 9: HMG to promote justice for women and tackle gender-based violence in post-conflict situations**

The UK Permanent Representative to the UN in New York hosted a breakfast for SC members, UN Secretariat and NGOs to explore what can be done to combat Gender Based Violence. The UK continues to work with OSAGI and UNIFEM to follow-up on this. We are including language on GBV in as many SC resolutions as possible.

As noted above (Action point. 4), DFID has recently (February 2007) commenced funding of a new £3.2m programme with UNIFEM to support women's engagement in peacebuilding and prevention of gender violence in conflict and post-conflict situations. The current round of the Conflict and Humanitarian Fund (CHF) also calls for proposals supporting women's organisations and their work in peacebuilding and conflict resolution. The Security and Justice Team of DFID's Conflict, Humanitarian and Security Department is currently developing a justice programme which will include a particular focus on access to justice for women, and this too is included in the current CHF call for proposals. Current DFID support includes the International Centre for Transitional Justice, which has been conducting extensive work on gender and reparations for human rights abuses in conflict and post-conflict.

The UK Mission in New York will be co-hosting an event with Action Aid in March 07 to present the findings of their report on GBV in Liberia. This will provide an opportunity to raise awareness further on the issue.

### **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.

We continue to work closely with the CDU in UN HQ and will work in the resumed session of the C-34 to finalise the outstanding documents related to SEA. There is now standard SEA language in the majority of SC resolutions and as mentioned under action point 1, 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. We will continue to work to resolve the remaining issues during the next session of the C-34.

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.

DFID has engaged with Save the Children and others on recent allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, e.g. by humanitarian workers in Liberia.

## **DISARMAMENT DEMOBILISATION AND REINTEGRATION**

### **Action Point 11: Address gender issues in UK supported disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration (DDR) programmes in countries emerging from conflict.**

Internal HMG guidelines on DDR have recently (10 October) been finalised, which refer to the UN Integrated Standards developed through an inter-agency process led by DPKO and UNDP. We supported this process financially (under the GCPP) and will continue to fund roll-out. DFID has also been heavily engaged in the process of agreeing an EU approach to DDR, in which gender features prominently (and again refers back to the UN Integrated Standards).

The GCPP is funding a Wilton Park conference in late March on Children Affected by Armed Conflict (CAAC). DFID and FCO are closely involved in setting the agenda, which will address specific issues affecting girls in DDR and how more girls may be brought into the process successfully. Reintegration of girls associated with fighting forces is recognised as a particular problem

## **WORKING WITH NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANISATIONS**

### **Action Point 12: HMG to liaise with NGOs, civil society and Parliamentarians on the implementation of SCR1325, continuing regular dialogue on gender related issues**

The UK worked closely with the NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security to support their October Advocacy Programme, and co-hosted a side event with the group and OSAGI on the development of National Action Plans in October. We continue to support the group financially through the UN Strategy of the GCPP. Where possible we participate in NGO organised events and brief NGOs on our work. Civil servants from the FCO, DFID and the MOD continue to participate in the Associate Parliamentary Working Group on Women, Peace and Security. All three Departments also participated in the successful meeting on SCR 1325 held in January 2007 by the Northern Ireland Women's European Platform, which involved senior civil servants as well as NGOs and women activists.