



## Minutes: Annual General Meeting

29 June 2010 • 11.00

Thatcher Room, Portcullis House

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### 1. Present

Nicola Blackwood MP, Madeleine Moon MP, Ann McKechnin MP and Baroness D'Souza of Wychwood.

Hannah Wright (Office of Jo Swinson MP), Chris Levick (Coordinator), Natalie Sharples (GAPS, Campaign and Outreach Officer).

### 2. Apologies

Apologies were noted from: Baroness Gardner of Parkes, Lord Judd, Mary Macleod MP, Baroness Kinnock of Holyhead and Amber Rudd MP.

### 3. Election of Officers

The post of chair was contested between Nicola Blackwood MP and Baroness Uddin. There was a brief discussion of having a Joint Chair, one in the Commons and one in the Lords, as in the previous parliament. This proposal was rejected. Nicola Blackwood MP was unanimously elected Chair.

Three further nominations for Vice Chair were received: Baroness D'Souza, Jo Swinson MP and Madeleine Moon MP. These posts were all unanimously elected.

The Group has no funds to administer and the coordinator acts as a secretary, so it was decided there was no need to appoint a Treasurer or Secretary. The Group's Executive was elected as:

Chair:	Nicola Blackwood MP
Vice Chairs:	Baroness D'Souza of Wychwood Madeleine Moon MP Jo Swinson MP

### 4. Discussion on the Group's work

Three key areas of work were identified: (a) upcoming elections on Afghanistan scheduled for September 2010, (b) tenth anniversary of the adoption of resolution 1325 in October 2010 and the revised National Action Plan, and (c) increasing the evidence base of the Group's work, a brief discussion was held on launching an inquiry on 1325 in Northern Ireland. These were all agreed; Chris Levick will develop these further with the Group's Executive.

Further, the Group's work on (a) widowhood, (b) gender training of deployable personnel, and (c) Iraq were all noted. Further activities in these areas will be taken on an as hoc basis.

## 5. Update on Women, Peace and Security

The meeting received a very brief update on women, peace and security at the UK and global levels:

At the UK level, HM Government are in the process of reviewing the National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, the government's strategy for implementation of women, peace and security resolutions. The Plan was launched in 2006 and since a handful of plans – some very sophisticated strategies, Austria for example – have been released, including three post conflict countries: Liberia, Sierra Leone and Côte d'Ivoire. Three further Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security have been adopted since the Plan was developed, 1820, 1888 and 1889. HM Government are due to publish the new strategy by the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 in October

At the UN level, the main discussions are on the development of a set of global indicators to monitor the implementation of women, peace and security resolutions. A draft document was presented to the Security Council in April 2010, and a further six month consultation was approved. The final set of global indicators should be published by the tenth anniversary.

Natalie Sharples gave members a short briefing on the GAPS public facing campaigns work in the lead up to the tenth anniversary: the campaign No women, no peace. will be launched in October. It will be targeted at the UK government and sit alongside GAPS' policy work to create public pressure. During the campaign GAPS will liaise closely with women's groups in the focus countries (particularly Afghanistan) and feed their priorities and advocacy messages, into the campaign. Prior to the launch GAPS is running a public art and design competition to generate materials and content.\*

## 6. Any other business

A short discussion was had on the upcoming Afghan elections and what the Group could do before the summer recess. Several members of the Group will collect testimonies from contacts in Afghanistan.

The next Annual General Meeting must be held by 28 June 2011.

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\* For further info see: [www.nowomennopeace.org](http://www.nowomennopeace.org)