



Government
Equalities Office

Putting equality at the heart of government

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Dear Anne

Re: Commission on the Status of Women, New York, March 2010

Thank you for your helpful letter dated 26 February. Please accept my apologies for the delay in responding.

On 1 March 2010, Harriet Harman attended the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York. At the CSW, Ministers reviewed progress on the delivery of the Beijing Platform for Action, 15 years after agreeing the declaration which committed to further improve women's lives, including tackling violence against women and increasing the number of women in power. Harriet Harman made a statement on behalf of the UK, and many regional and national statements included references to Resolution 1325.

Prior to the start of the meeting Harriet Harman met with Permanent Representatives, senior women officials from the UN, and existing agencies such as UNIFEM to discuss the new UN women's agency and general progress on women's rights. For further information, please refer to the Government Equalities Office recent publication on CSW, which is available on our website:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/302470_GEO_CSJ_Report_acc.pdf

You referred to the application of UNSCR 1325 at a domestic level in relation to specific issues in Northern Ireland. It is widely recognised that women have made an enormous contribution to the peace process in Northern Ireland over the past 30 years and we understand that the Northern Ireland Executive is exploring the possibility of taking action on this agenda.

Yours sincerely

Helene Reardon-Bond
Head of Gender Equality Policy and Inclusion

Government Equalities Office