



**Rt. Hon. Bill Rammell MP**  
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### **UK National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325**

Many thanks for your answer to my question relating to women, peace and security in Afghanistan on 12 February (Question no: 246213), and I note your answer to John Bercow's question on a similar topic last November (Question no: 233786). Your answer to my question provides some useful information on HMG's work assisting women in Afghanistan, and towards the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR1325). The UK was one of the first countries to adopt a National Action Plan on UNSCR1325 (NAP) and is currently one of only a handful of governments to have done so – this is a positive step. At the end of your answer, as well as in November, you referred to the periodic updates on the NAP's progress which are published on the FCO website. These documents are also useful and contain some good information, but I wanted to raise a couple of points:

1. I note that the last update was released in November 2007. Can you specify when the next update will be released, and if the government will consider making narrative updates more regularly, perhaps annually? Also, when the next update is published, will you (or the appropriate minister) commit to making a statement to the House on the content?
2. I observe that alongside the commitment to produce periodic updates, the Plan notes regular evaluations "provide an opportunity for revisions and updates to be made as necessary." It is evident that the current update does not demonstrate quantifiable impact from the NAP's implementation. Are you able to make a commitment to revising the NAP to include measurable indicators and benchmarks so stakeholders can monitor real progress of its implementation? The Austrian and Dutch NAPs include such indicators and frameworks. Further, as the NAP speaks of FCO, DFID and MoD being equal stakeholders, what arrangements are there for monitoring implementation across Whitehall departments and is there a mechanism for regular engagement with UK civil society and outside experts?

The UK government has a strong record on women, peace and security issues of which I am proud. The inclusion of a transparent monitoring, evaluation and accountability framework would reaffirm the government's commitment to this important area of policy and be a natural progression to the Government's commitment to UNSCR1325. I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

David Drew MP  
Vice Chair