



Associate Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security



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Parliamentary Question Database, 2008 (whole year)

Member	Chamber	Date	Type	Question	Minister	Answer
Turner, Baroness	Lords	26.11.2008	Oral	My Lords, is the Minister aware that there are 1,000 women among these refugees in Ashraf City, who are very concerned about the possibility of their being returned under the care, so to speak, of the present Iranian Government, in view of their policy and attitude on women's rights?	Malloch Brown, Lord	My Lords, there is no doubt that with the return of these people to the Iranian Government, the rights not just of women but of the whole group would be in some jeopardy. That is why I assure my noble friend that the United States has worked hard to make sure that the camp remains open and people are not at risk of return.

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Swinson, Jo	Commons	25.11.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the budget is for the UK National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325; whether he plans to increase it; and if he will make a statement.	Rammell, Bill	There is no specific budget for the UK National Action Plan to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1325 as the issues are largely mainstreamed into our work on conflict. However, through the tri-departmental (Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence) Conflict Prevention Pool the UK provides direct funding support to a range of projects aimed at tackling gender-based violence and building capacity for female participation in conflict resolution. We will continue to identify projects that promote the recommendations of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and ensure that all HMG funded projects take into account gender issues. UK training to troop contributing countries prior to deployment in UN missions includes guidance on the protection of women and children. In the last three years we have given the UN Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) around £9 million in core funding, including £3.4 million for its project on "Women's engagement in Peacebuilding and Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Project". Other projects include funding research into the problem of violence against women in Afghanistan, and £2 million of funding for Pakistan's Gender Justice and Protection Fund which supports national approaches to combat violence against women. In South Africa we provide support to NGOs aimed at empowering women, men and youth to demand and protect women's rights, reducing the vulnerability of women and girls to gender based violence and HIV/AIDS.
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Bercow, John	Commons	25.11.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in implementing the UK's National Action Plan on UN Security Council Resolution 1325.	Rammell, Bill	I have been asked to reply. The UK National Action Plan is a policy framework against which the UK monitors progress on the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. Detailed updates on progress against the plan are published periodically on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website at " http://www.fco.gov.uk/resources/en/pdf/unscr-1325-uk-action-plan ." Recent progress includes the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1820 in June this year, focussing on longer-term measures to tackle sexual violence in conflict, and a Security Council Open Debate on 'Women, Peace and Security' which reiterated the need to strengthen the participation of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. The UK played a major role in this debate and drafted a presidential statement that was adopted by the Council on 29 October. This called on the Secretary-General to appoint more women to senior operational UN positions and to provide the Security Council with a report and recommendations on this issue. By working closely with the UN's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UK is also making good progress on its aim to ensure that planning for Peace Support Operations includes gender components, and that they recruit more female military and police personnel.
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Swinson, Jo	Commons	24.11.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of incidents of rape and violence against women in Democratic Republic of Congo in recent weeks; and if he will make a statement.	Merron, Gillian	The UK remains very concerned by the situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the recent unconfirmed reports of armed forces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (FARDC) soldiers raping and killing civilians. Unfortunately there are not yet any comprehensive statistics for such incidents in 2008. With the ongoing conflict in Eastern DRC, sexual violence is used to humiliate and intimidate women and sometimes men of all ages, tearing up families and whole communities. With UK support, the UN Peacekeeping Mission in the DRC (MONUC) mandate was amended in December 2007 to include a requirement to protect civilians against sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The UN has appointed a Senior Adviser on Sexual Violence, who is working with international partners and the DRC government to develop a plan of action and coordinate initiatives to deal with the problem. The UK also took the lead in drafting UN Security Council Resolution 1820 which recognises SGBV as a peace and security issue.
Verma, Baroness	Lords	13.11.2008	Oral	My Lords, given that Great Britain is a large donor country to Nepal, what is it doing to address with the Nepalese Government the increasing incidence of violence against women? How do the Government track the aid given to Nepal?	Malloch Brown, Lord	My Lords, as the noble Baroness correctly points out, we are indeed one of the major donors to Nepal. I should say that over the past 10 years there has been a striking reduction in the incidence of poverty in Nepal. Aid and development are working despite the difficult political situation. Moreover, we do a lot on gender issues in the country.

Northover, Baroness	Lords	22.07.2008	Written	What is their response to the recent Save the Children report No One to Turn To about the involvement of international aid workers in sexual violence against refugees.	Tunncliffe, Lord	The UK takes all allegations of misconduct by UN and other peacekeepers extremely seriously and we welcome Save the Children's report highlighting this grave issue. We support any efforts to protect refugees, particularly the most vulnerable—women and children—from instances of abuse. It remains the case that the vast majority of UN staff live up to the highest standards of behaviour, while carrying out important work in difficult circumstances. But, where they do not live up to their mandate, we support the implementation of the UN's "zero tolerance" policy concerning instances of abuse. The Secretary of State for International Development raised this issue with the UN Secretary-General on 16 June. We are expecting a Security Council discussion on UN Resolution 1325 (Women, peace and security) in October. We will also be pushing for a Security Council presidential statement reinforcing the UN's commitment to zero tolerance concerning abuse by peacekeepers.
Swinson, Jo	Commons	27.10.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in promoting the role of women in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction.	Rammell, Bill	Eight years after the adoption of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325, the resolution has had a positive impact on the inclusion of women in post-conflict negotiations and reconstruction. It has drawn international attention to the issue, it has resulted in greater inclusion of women in political dialogue in countries where the UN Peacebuilding Commission is operating, and mandates for UN peacekeeping missions now routinely request that the role of women is fully recognised. But we recognise that work must continue to ensure the systematic involvement of women at all stages of the conflict cycle. The adoption of UNSCR 1820 in June this year was a significant step forward in strengthening previous calls to address women's under-representation. In September, the UN Security Council held an Open Debate on

					<p>'mediation' in conflict resolution reiterating this call and in October, the UN Security Council Open Debate will focus on the need to enhance the role of women in peace processes. The UK is at the forefront of international efforts to ensure the comprehensive and effective implementation of UNSCR 1325. We were among the first countries to draw up a national Action Plan setting out action for Government personnel and Departments to implement UNSCR 1325 and have encouraged other countries to do the same. Several European countries have since developed their own action plans. We regularly review the plan in partnership with civil society. We are raising awareness of gender in conflict by ensuring references in all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, and are promoting the role of women in conflict prevention, conflict resolution and peacebuilding through forums in a range of conflict affected countries. The UN Peacebuilding Commission was established in 2005, to offer technical assistance to countries emerging from conflict and provide catalytic financial support for reconstruction efforts. The UK is a member of the Commission and has been instrumental in ensuring that UNSCRs 1325 and 1820 are mainstreamed through the Commission's engagement with countries on its agenda.</p>
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Rana, Lord	Lords	07.07.2008	Written	Further to the Written Answer by Lord Malloch-Brown on 18 June (WA 172) about the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325, how many women have been nominated or selected for senior posts in post-conflict reconstruction by the United Kingdom in Southern Sudan since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement in January 2005.	Malloch Brown, Lord	We do not nominate or select members of the Government of southern Sudan, the UN, or non-governmental organisations working on post-conflict reconstruction in Southern Sudan. The UK does not have any staff, male or female, working solely on post-conflict reconstruction in Southern Sudan. However, our ambassador in Khartoum and the head of the Department for International Development's office in Sudan are both female. The UK successfully nominated a woman to the post of head of the Joint Donor Office, a senior leadership role in Southern Sudan reconstruction and development.
Rana, Lord	Lords	18.06.2008	Written	asked Her Majesty's Government: What steps they are taking to ensure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1325 (S/RES/1325) (31 October 2000) in southern Sudan.	Malloch Brown, Lord	The Government are committed to enhancing the important role that women have to play in preventing and resolving conflicts and building sustainable peace. The UK was a driving force behind the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which placed these issues firmly on the UN's agenda. We promote the implementation of UNSCR 1325 throughout Sudan. In 2007, the UK contributed 60 per cent (US\$590,701) of the total budget of the UN Common Humanitarian Fund, which includes support for civil society projects to prevent gender-based violence and to promote women's leadership in society. Through the Department for International Development's governance programme, we provide training for the police, judiciary and prison officers to enable them to tackle gender-based violence more effectively and support local non-governmental organisations to run workshops and media campaigns on HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and gender-based violence. Our embassy in Khartoum has supported conflict mitigation and peacebuilding initiatives which have encouraged women to lead on reconciliation efforts. In the UN, the UK supported the inclusion of

						language on UNSCR 1325 in Security Council resolutions relating to the UN peacekeeping missions in Sudan. For example, the following language was included in the most recent mandate for the UN mission in Sudan: "“emphasising in particular the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, as recognised in resolution 1325”." The UK also supports the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations' work to incorporate gender issues into all peacekeeping missions. Additionally, we raise gender-related issues through the EU-Sudan Dialogue on Human Rights. We continue to develop our national action plan on UNSCR 1325, to promote and support the crucial role that women have to play in delivering sustainable peace and security in conflict areas, including southern Sudan.
McKechin, Anne	Commons	11.06.2008	Oral	My hon. Friend—[Interruption.] My hon. Friend will be aware that it is absolutely essential that women are involved in any solutions to achieve security in areas such as the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The United Kingdom has been ahead of the game in having a national plan on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, but as yet, none of the international forces, either at NATO or UN level, has such a plan. Will my hon. Friend persuade international forces that now is the time to prepare a UN plan on Security Council resolution 1325?	Merron, Gillian	We will certainly continue our efforts. I agree with my hon. Friend that what we see in the Democratic Republic of the Congo are some of the highest rates of sexual violence against women and girls in the world, so our commitment to tackling the issue is absolutely crucial. Underlying all that is our dealing with the root causes of the conflict and addressing the humanitarian situation there. In all those ways, we also seek to empower women to take control over their own lives.
Hylton, Lord	Lords	14.05.2008	Written	asked Her Majesty's Government: Whether they are encouraging the participation of women in negotiations to end violent conflicts around the world; and whether the protection of children has a high priority	Malloch Brown, Lord	Women have a crucial role to play in delivering sustainable peace and security in conflict areas. The UK was a driving force behind the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in 2000. Our National Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 commits to work to

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			<p>in all programmes for relief and reconstruction.</p>	<p>increase the number of women at senior decision-making levels in conflict resolution and peace-building in UK and international institutions and civil society. In October 2007 the UK supported a UN Security Council presidential statement which urged the UN "to enhance the role of women in decision-making with regard to all peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction". We also encourage the implementation of these principles in specific conflicts. For example, we supported language in UNSCR 1812 (April 2008) mandating the UN peacekeeping mission in Sudan. This encouraged the mission to emphasise "the role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building". The UK supports programmes to promote the involvement of women in conflict resolution. For example, last year we started funding a £3.2 million programme with the UN Development Fund for Women to support women's engagement in peace-building and reduction of gender violence in conflict and post-conflict countries, including Afghanistan, Liberia, Rwanda and Uganda. The UK places the protection of civilians, including children, at the centre of its humanitarian action. We support the UN Children's Fund with £4 million per year, to lead, co-ordinate and strengthen the capacity of the humanitarian system in specific areas, including child protection. In addition, the UK is providing £1.3 million (2006-11) to Save the Children-UK, to develop and train a stand-by roster of 46 emergency child protection officers, able to deploy rapidly to respond to the protection needs of children affected by conflict or natural disasters. Civil society organisations applying to the Department for International Development's Civil Society Challenge Fund, and the Governance and Transparency Fund to work with children, are also required to have a written child protection policy. The UK will continue</p>
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						to encourage the participation of women in efforts to prevent and resolve conflict, and afford a high priority to the protection of children in our programmes for relief and reconstruction.
McKechin, Anne	Commons	28.04.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence, what assessment he has made of the effects of the application of UN Security Council resolution 1325 in Afghanistan.	Browne, Des	The Government have made no formal assessment of the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 in Afghanistan. Nonetheless, the UK is keen to fulfil its commitment under this resolution to protect the rights of women and girls in areas suffering conflict, and to incorporate their perspectives in conflict resolution and peacekeeping planning. To this end we fund various programmes, including a five-year Women's Empowerment programme that began in 2005, implemented by the NGO Womankind. This initiative focuses on promoting women's equal participation in governance and building awareness of women's rights among civil society and policy makers.
Northover, Baroness	Lords	22.04.2008	Oral	asked Her Majesty's Government: What steps they are taking following the recent report by Women for Women International on the incidence of domestic abuse during the past five years in Iraq.	Malloch Brown, Lord	The Government condemn all intimidation of, and violence against, women and are committed to supporting the development of women's rights across the globe, including in Iraq. The Iraqi Government have consistently made clear their commitment to ensuring women's rights are fully respected. The Iraqi constitution includes provisions to protect women's rights. The Iraqi Ministries of Human Rights and Women are working to ensuring women's rights are fully respected.

Drew, David	Commons	12.03.2008	Written	<p>To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the UK is taking to ensure that the UNAMID peacekeeping force in Darfur operates in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325, with particular reference to its calls for (a) more women to be appointed to peacekeeping operations, (b) peacekeepers to be trained in gender issues and (c) women and girls to be provided with extra protection in war zones.</p>	Munn, Meg	<p>The UN set a target that women constitute 40 per cent. of the police component of the UN-African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). The training conference in Accra in February reconfirmed that gender issues will be a significant part of the UNAMID pre-deployment training curriculum. UNAMID is already conducting firewood patrols that provide protection to internally displaced persons gathering wood (mainly women). In Sudan, our embassy in Khartoum has supported a number of conflict mitigation and peace building initiatives, which have actively encouraged women to lead on reconciliation efforts in line with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 of October 2000. The UK also funds a number of projects in Sudan training the police, judiciary and prison officers in issues related to gender-based violence. The UK leads at the UN on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. We pushed for the most recent Presidential Statement on UNSCR 1325, of October 2007, to call for increased reporting on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls. The UK is co-sponsoring a Wilton Park conference for Chief-of-Staff-level military personnel from troop contributing countries to discuss practical tactics that the military can employ to protect women from violence.</p>
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Drew, David	Commons	12.03.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the Darfur peace process takes into account the special wants and needs of women and girls, in line with UN Security Council Resolution 1325.	Munn, Meg	The UK has given £1 million to the Darfur-Darfur Dialogue and Consultation which consults civil society on the Darfur peace process including women's groups and non-governmental organisations supporting women's rights. The UK has funded Femmes Africa Solidarité (FAS) to support women's peace initiatives in Darfur, Juba and Khartoum. FAS organised the African Women's Consultation on Darfur at the end of January, where about 100 women gathered to discuss the situation in Darfur and Sudan. An Interim Steering Committee will implement the new Action Plan for Peace. FAS is sponsoring an event during the Human Rights Council (3 to 28 March), and will be offering training on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and legal instruments supporting women's issues. FAS plans further consultation and training events in Darfur throughout the year. The UK funds governance projects in Sudan which include training the police, judiciary and prison officers in issues related to gender-based violence, and support to local non-governmental organisations for workshops and seminars on peace-building initiatives, HIV/AIDS, reproductive health and media campaigns against gender-based violence. The UK also contributes 60 per cent. of the budget of the UN's Common Humanitarian Fund which supports women's rights projects in Sudan, including action on sexual and gender-based violence in Darfur and Southern Sudan and strengthening civil society organisations to prevent sexual and gender-based violence and promote women's leadership role in society.
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Spink, Bob	Commons	29.02.2008	Written	To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government have taken in support of implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325.	Browne, Des	<p>The UK is one of only six countries to have drawn up a National Action Plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325. This outlines how the UK implements the Resolution in a wide range of areas. The main focus for the Ministry of Defence is to ensure that female personnel are deployed in appropriate numbers on operations, and that the provisions of UNSCR1325 are reflected in operational planning, doctrine and training. The department has conducted an audit of existing training which concluded that British military personnel generally receive sufficient training to ensure that they are compliant with the intent of the Resolution. Following the recommendations of the audit, we have also ensured that the Resolution is covered in relevant doctrine, and that pre-deployment training includes relevant briefings on the role/relevance of gender to the specific society living in the operational area. More information on the Government's efforts to implement UNSCR 1325 is available on the FCO website: "http://www.fco.gov.uk/servlet/Front?pageName=OpenMarket/Xcelerate/ShowPage&c=Page&cid=1142534038014"</p>
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