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Welcome to our April newsletter! Don't forget to follow us on [Twitter](#).

Ireland on the UN Security Council – WPS Focus

As we conclude the first four months of our two-year term, please see below a brief update on some aspects of Ireland's WPS-related work at the UN Security Council

- **Informal Expert Group on WPS**

As announced in our [St Brigid's day newsletter](#) Ireland has been [appointed](#) as co-chair of the UN Security Council's Informal Expert Group (IEG) on WPS with Mexico. The IEG was established in 2016 to facilitate a more systematic approach to WPS within the Council's own work and enable greater oversight and coordination of implementation efforts. So far in 2021, the IEG has held meetings on South Sudan, Yemen, Libya and Mali. A summary of each IEG meeting and its recommendations are sent as an annex to a letter to the UN Secretary-General and published as a document of the Council; they are publicly available [here](#).

- **Arria formula meeting on WPS**

The Permanent Missions of Ireland and Mexico co-hosted an Arria formula meeting entitled “Call to Lead by Example: Ensuring the Full, Equal and Meaningful Participation of Women in UN-led Peace Processes”. The discussion highlighted the urgent need for a renewed commitment from the UN and member states to ensure the participation of women in UN-led peace and political processes.

The briefers were Ms. Rosemary DiCarlo, Under-Secretary-General with the Department of Political & Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA); Ms. [Rasha Jarhum](#), Founder and Director of the Peace Track Initiative from Yemen; Mr. Geir O Pedersen, Special Envoy of the Secretary General for Syria; and Ms. Bronagh Hinds, negotiator of the Good Friday Agreement and chief strategist of the Northern Ireland Women’s Coalition. Ambassador Byrne Nason’s statement is available [here](#).

In case you missed it, watch the event here: [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#)



“
The participation of women in peacebuilding is not naïve idealism.
Gender Equality is not an aspiration reserved for peaceful countries, somehow too difficult or inconvenient for countries in conflict.”

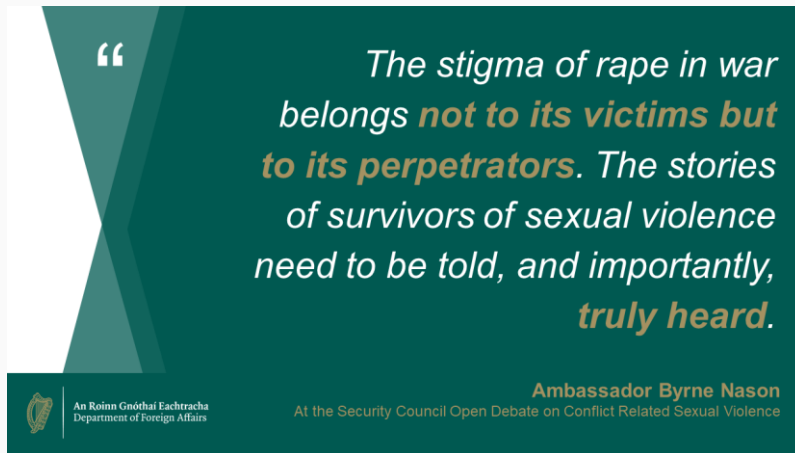
— **AMBASSADOR BYRNE NASON**
*Permanent Representative,
Irish Mission to the UN*

 **#IWD2021 Arria-Formula Meeting**  **@IRISHMISSIONUN**

- **CRSV Open Debate**

On the 14th April the UN Security Council held an Open Debate on conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). Ambassador Byrne Nason called on the Council to meet its responsibilities through the use of sanctions against perpetrators; tackling impunity including via International Criminal Court referrals; and ensuring UN missions monitor and document CRSV. Watch the recording of the event [here](#) and read Ireland’s statement [here](#). In recent weeks, Ireland has consistently raised concerns about conflict-related sexual violence in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and in other conflict-affected and fragile contexts at the Security Council. We have also been a strong voice on WPS issues more

broadly across country and thematic files. You can read our statements at the UN Security Council [here](#).



Generation Equality Forum (GEF)

The Generation Equality Forum is convened by UN Women and hosted by the Government of France and the Government of Mexico to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action. The Forum comprises two main high-level events, which represent the culmination of over a year of thematic, regional and other global consultation processes. The first event was the Mexico City Forum which was hosted by the Government of Mexico from 29 March to 31 March. The second event will be a Summit of Heads of State and Government hosted in Paris from 30 June to 2 July.



In that context, in February 2021, Ireland co-hosted a youth-led series of global dialogues entitled “Evidence and experience: Adolescent Girls’ Education in the Generation Equality Forum” (recording [here](#)). The outcome document of the dialogues - the “Youth Communique for Adolescent Girls’ Education in the Generation Equality Forum” - was finalised in March 2021. In line with that commitment Ireland is scaling up support for girls’ education and empowerment under the Global Ireland initiative and A Better World, Ireland’s policy for international development, including by investing a minimum of €250 million of Overseas Development Assistance in education over five years, with a strong focus on girls’ education.

Ireland has recently joined the Board of the Generation Equality Forum’s Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action (WPS-HA) – a multi-stakeholder group

- Recording for all public events can be accessed online [here](#).
- The recording of the plenary session is available [here](#)
- More information available here: [About | Generation Equality Forum](#)
- More information available here: [Women, Peace & Security and Humanitarian Action \(WPS-HA\) Compact | Generation Equality Forum](#)

that will focus on driving forward the implementation of existing commitments on WPS and humanitarian action – and is one of five Member State members represented along with Namibia, Norway, Sierra Leone and UAE. As part of its role in the WPS-HA Compact, Ireland participates in the working group on women’s meaningful participation in peace processes. During the Mexico City Forum, Minister of State Brophy participated in a thematic session on adolescent girls on 29 March and Minister Coveney delivered concluding remarks at an event on the WPS-HA Compact on 30 March.

Upcoming events



The final webinar from the three-part Action for Peacekeeping (A4P) WPS Champions series will take place on Monday 3 May. While the first two events focused on barriers for women peacekeepers both in the field and at a national level, the upcoming discussion will explore how the recently launched A4P+ can be a transformative opportunity for women in peacekeeping. Taking a forward-looking approach, the event will feature voices that will offer perspectives from the UN secretariat, practitioners and peacekeepers in the field on the strategic and operational integration of WPS in peacekeeping and the collective action required for its implementation.

When?

3 May, 15.00 Irish time

Register [here](#)

Watch the previous event of this series from the 29 March [here](#).

Ireland's Third National Action Plan on WPS

The first Annual Report of Ireland's Third National Action (NAP) Plan on Women Peace and Security (WPS) was submitted to the Joint Oireachtas Committee on Foreign Affairs and Defence on 11 February 2021 and is available on our [DFA WPS website](#) and our intranet page.

The Oversight Group held a meeting on the 3 March 2021, which featured presentations on human trafficking from guest speakers, **Professor Siobhán Mullally**, Special Rapporteur on Trafficking in Persons, and **Detective Superintendent Derek Maguire**, Organised Prostitution Investigation Unit, Garda National Protective Services Bureau, An Garda Síochána.

We would like to remind you that you can find our National Action Plan in English [here](#) as well as in Irish [here](#) where you can learn more about the role of the Oversight Group.

Resources

- [“A people-centred approach to security and justice: Recommendations for policy and programming”](#), Safeworld briefing, February 2021
- [Monthly Action Points \(MAP\) for the Security Council: March 2021 - NGO Working Group on Women, Peace and Security](#). March 2021: For March, in which the United States has the presidency of the UN Security Council, the MAP provides recommendations on Afghanistan, DRC, Libya and South Sudan.
- “The WPHF Int’l Women’s Day Event: 1000 Women Leaders - A Global Movement for Peace and Equality”, 8 March 2021: [event video recording](#)
- [“Katiba Macina and Boko Haram: including women to what end?”](#), By Ella Jeannine Abatan and Boubacar Sangaré, 31 Mars 2021
- [“This Feminist Is Putting Women at the Peace Table”](#), by Sonah Lee-Lassiter, April 13, 2021
- [Monthly Action Points \(MAP\) for the Security Council, NGO Working Group on Women Peace and Security](#), April 2021: For April, in which Viet Nam has

the presidency of the UN Security Council, the MAP provides recommendations on the situations in Ethiopia, Syria and Yemen and on conflict-related sexual violence.

- [Women in foreign affairs and international security Still far from gender equality](#), Elena Lazarou and Ionel Zamfir, EPRS, March 2021
- Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security new [WPS Resource Centre](#)
- [Assessing the UK Government Action on Women, Peace and Security in 2020](#), Gender Action for Peace and Security, Shadow Report of the UK Government's progress on its Women, Peace and Security National Action Plan April 2021



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