



HM Government

UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2018-2022: Annual Report to Parliament 2020



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Section One: Ministerial Forewords



Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office



The Rt Hon Dominic Raab MP

*Secretary of State for Foreign,
Commonwealth and Development Affairs*

FCDO

For 20 years, the UK has been a proud global champion of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, which aims to enhance women's role in conflict prevention, mediation and post-conflict reconstruction, and to protect women and girls' rights in conflict. We see the impact of this initiative in countries around the globe, whether it is enabling women to engage in Afghanistan's peace process or reaching over 1.5 million women with sexual and reproductive health services in Syria.

The report shows that two decades since the adoption of the landmark UN Security Council Resolution 1325, which recognised that sustainable peace relies on inclusive peace, the world is facing a very different set of challenges. Now, more than ever, states must uphold and protect women and girls' rights and address the disproportionately gendered impact of armed conflict.

Despite the best intentions of the global community, we face a widening implementation gap. COVID-19 is having a significant impact. The report describes the increase of violence against women and girls over the last year as a 'shadow pandemic'.

The UK is working closely with international partners to ensure women and girls are at the centre of global efforts to recover from COVID-19. We support the UN Secretary



Ministry of Defence



The Rt Hon Ben Wallace MP

Secretary of State for Defence

General's global Call to Action on protection from Gender-based violence (GBV). As co-leaders of the Generation Equality Action Coalition on Gender-Based Violence, we will use this global platform to drive more concerted, coordinated global action to prevent GBV and support survivors throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and its aftermath. We recently provided an additional £1 million funding to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, on top of our existing £21 million contribution.

The UK remains steadfast in its support of women's meaningful participation in peace processes. Last year we focussed on protecting the women who speak up for their rights. The UK has supported the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN) in developing the Protection Framework for women peacebuilders. This vital piece of work provides guidance to states and multilateral organisations on how best to prevent and respond to reprisals. We have also continued our support to Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Network, dedicating a further £1 million to their work to champion women's leadership and overcome the challenges facing women mediators.

The Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) remains a priority for the UK as we work to champion the cause of survivors worldwide. In June 2020, Lord (Tariq

Ahmad of Wimbledon, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, launched the draft Murad Code for global consultations and further development. This is a global code of conduct to ensure that work with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to investigate, document, and record their experiences is safer, more ethical, and more effective. In November 2020, alongside faith and belief leaders, Lord Ahmad launched the Declaration of Humanity during the Annual Freedom of Religion or Belief Ministerial Conference in Poland. The Declaration, the first of its kind, calls for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and denounces the stigma too often faced by survivors.

The creation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) enables the UK to better respond to women and girls' needs in conflict. Through the creation of the FCDO, we have joined our diplomatic and development capabilities, strengthening our resolve for action on women's inclusion across the UK National Action Plan on WPS's strategic objectives.

The twentieth anniversary of UN Resolution 1325 was an occasion to celebrate achievements towards empowering women and girls in efforts to prevent, end and recover from armed conflict and resolve to build on this progress. The impact of the global pandemic has, however, highlighted the fragility of these gains and the need to do more. As we look toward 2021, we will continue our longstanding leadership on the global stage to protect and advance the WPS agenda for decades to come.

MOD

British values of tolerance, justice and freedom go to the core of our military ethos, and our people practice what we preach. Whenever our Armed Forces deploy, the safety of civilians is paramount and we have a long history of defending the innocent. Recently, the British military has protected civilians in the Democratic Republic of Congo and widened roads to improve women's safety in the face of assaults in South Sudan.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) continues to ensure that WPS is a crucial consideration in our approach to operations. In preparing for our most recent UN peacekeeping deployment to the mission in Mali, we used pre-deployment training and worked with civil society to ensure our troops were ready to operate in a gender sensitive way. We also made female peacekeepers an integral part of the operation to foster confidence among local women. This builds on the MOD's success exceeding the UN target for women to make up 6.5% of our peacekeeping troops, with this number standing at 9% as of December 2020.

The UK Armed Forces' expertise in human security is respected globally and we continue to upskill our people and support international partners through specialist WPS and Human Security training. In 2020, military experts provided vital gender advice and training to UN and African Union peacekeepers. Our Human Security Adviser Course has run throughout the pandemic, which trains officers not just from the UK, but from other national armed forces. This will continue in 2021.

The UK's Armed Forces now have a cadre of leaders empowered to recognise, respond, refer and report on human rights violations. Our people are better equipped to protect vulnerable people through the planning of peacekeeping, humanitarian disaster relief and other operations.

We are proud of the progress we have made, but we know there is still more work to do. In 2021, the Vice Chief of Defence Staff will oversee an internal change programme for defence, which will provide a long-term strategy for embedding WPS as part of a human security approach. This change programme will also include a revision of related training, internal structures, resourcing and policy.

Our Armed Forces are resolute in their duty to protect civilians from human rights violations and we will continue to work hand in hand with the FCDO and international partners to uphold the UK's values and bring greater stability to the regions in which we work.

Section Two: Introduction

October 2020 marked the twentieth anniversary of the first UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). In agreeing this Resolution, the UK and other UN Member States recognised the specific impacts of conflict on women and girls and agreed to support women and girls to exercise their human rights. The UK government's National Action Plan (NAP) on WPS (2018 – 2022) guides our approach to achieving this objective and this report evaluates our progress.

The Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD), own the UK's NAP jointly.

2020 in brief

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has accentuated the importance of the WPS agenda in its anniversary year, while presenting challenges to its progress. Rates of Gender-based violence (GBV) have soared globally due to secondary impacts of COVID-19, including increased unemployment and lockdowns. In Iraq, a focus country for the UK's NAP, there was a reported 30 – 50% surge in GBV compared to 2019. Concurrently, women have found it harder to access services. COVID-19 required the adaptation of many programmes supporting WPS, and many activities had to be paused while mitigating measures were established.

The pandemic's impact was also felt in the UK. Nevertheless, the UK government has used investment and influence in the international system to mount a comprehensive response to what the UN refers to as the "shadow pandemic" of GBV and maintain momentum on WPS despite COVID-19. We have adapted to deliver where possible, continuing our support across the NAP's nine focus countries and beyond.

On the ground, the UK is helping prevent and respond to GBV. In Syria the UK provided £22 million in humanitarian funding to strengthen the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), reaching over two million women. The UK continued to ensure that peacekeeping operations served women and men in local communities. Our pre-deployment training of female African peacekeepers through the British Peace Support Team in Nairobi and our £2.5 million for Elsie Initiative Fund helped increase women's leadership and presence in security.

On the global stage, the UK upheld efforts to mainstream WPS in international initiatives. The UK played a leading role in NATO's development of its first policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse, endorsed by NATO leaders in December 2019. At the UN Open Debate in October 2020, Minister James Cleverly, Minister of State for the Middle East and North Africa with responsibility for WPS, announced the UK's support for the Protection Framework for women peacebuilders, developed through UK funds to the International Civil Society Action Network (ICAN). The UK also continued its support to the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Network, with a further £1 million. The UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, has strengthened peacekeeping

mandates, including WPS language in UN peacekeeping activities. In 2020, over 75% of UN Peacekeeping mission mandates included WPS language.

We are committed to deepening our understanding of the challenges facing women and girls and enhancing the efficacy of our response through research. For example, a study of women's access to informal and formal justice mechanisms in Somalia will enable us to understand how to increase women's roles within processes for the recovery and stabilisation of the country. UK-sponsored research into the gendered impacts of COVID-19 and the impacts of climate change on women and girls will help ensure that women and girls are at the heart of efforts to build a better future.

We have finalised [guidance notes](#) on Strategic Outcomes 2 (Peacekeeping), 3 (Gender-based violence) and 4 (Humanitarian Response) to support HMG staff and international partners in meeting the commitments under the NAP. The impact of COVID-19 on resources delayed the publication of the notes, now expected in early 2021.

Looking ahead

The global context in 2021 will remain a challenging one in which to progress WPS. COVID-19, climate change and economic downturns will continue to exacerbate gender inequalities and amplify the vulnerability of many women and girls. This is in a context where women and girls are already struggling to realise their most basic needs and rights in conflicts and crises; where the operating space for women's rights organisations is narrowing; and where women are still largely absent from peace processes.

Despite economic challenges brought about by the pandemic, the UK government remains firmly committed to delivering the WPS agenda through our programming and policy. As a global leader in efforts to build back better from COVID-19, we are helping ensure that women and girls are included in the recovery.

We will focus on strengthening the monitoring and evaluation of the NAP in 2021. We are working with experts to improve our existing approach and develop a monitoring and evaluation framework for the next NAP, commencing 2023, that addresses challenges and reflects international best practice.

Box 1: 20th Anniversary of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on WPS. To mark the anniversary, the UK:

- Announced our support for ICAN's [Protection Framework](#) for women peacebuilders at the UN Open Debate in October.
- Championed women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding and mediation, announcing a further £1 million to support the Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Network.
- Supported a virtual visit to Libya to meet women directly affected by, and responding to, conflict by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex, the first virtual visit of its kind by a member of the Royal Family.
- Committed £250,000 funding to support the Gender Action for Peace and Security and partners to undertake vital research on the gendered impacts of COVID-19 in fragile and conflict-affected states.
- Upheld international agreements on WPS by defending the UN Resolutions that form this agenda from attempts to unpick this framework that supports women's rights.
- Hosted a Defence Civil Society Roundtable chaired by the Vice Chief of Defence Staff, and attended by Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex and the Minister for Armed forces, to link the defence leadership and planners involved in the Mali Peacekeeping deployment with local WPS experts.
- Partnered with Wilton Park UN Elders Lakhdar Brahimi, Ban Ki-Moon, Graça Machel and Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and UN Women to deliver a high-level virtual gathering entitled 'The Elders in conversation on women in mediation in the Arab world (WP1778V)'. The report and recommendations, available in English and Arabic, is available [online](#).



Figures 1 and 2: Tweets by Minister Cleverly and The Royal Family, to mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325

Section Three: Responding to feedback

In 2019, the UK funded [Gender Action for Peace and Security](#) (GAPS) to conduct consultations with civil society in our focus countries. The outcome of this research was '[The 10 Steps: Turning Women, Peace and Security Commitments to Implementation](#)'. The 10 steps have been a valuable tool in driving forward UK policy and programming in 2020.

We have taken forward a number of recommendations, including using gender-conflict analysis as a basis for policy and programming. In 2020, the Stabilisation Unit (SU) produced guidance on Applying a Gender Perspective to the Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS), the UK government's conflict analysis methodology. We have funded civil society and Women's Rights Organisations (WROs) to conduct vital work and research on the ground, including in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The UK funded Women Mediators across the Commonwealth Network have directly supported women's meaningful participation in peacebuilding, at the grassroots and international levels. In collaboration with GAPS and local partners, the Conflict Stability and Security Fund (CSSF) Africa portfolio commissioned a regional WPS research project to explore how HMG can best support grassroots and local organisations delivering WPS objectives in fragile and conflict-affected states in Africa. The project aims to ensure HMG's approach to supporting WROs and women-led civil society is underpinned by evidence on needs, challenges and opportunities and will involve extensive consultation in Somalia, Nigeria and South Sudan.

We do however acknowledge that there is always more the UK can do to further the WPS agenda and we will continue to work with GAPS and key stakeholders to identify opportunities

Figure 3: Christian and Muslim leaders dance together to show their peaceful coexistence



UK NAP Strategic Outcomes



1: Decision-making:

An increase in women’s meaningful and representative participation in decision-making processes, including conflict prevention and peacebuilding at community and national levels



2: Peacekeeping:

A gender perspective is consistently applied in the setting and implementation of international standards and mandates for peace operations



3: Gender-based Violence:

An increase in the number and scale of interventions that integrate effective measures to prevent and respond to Gender-based Violence, particularly Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) which is the most prevalent form of GBV



4: Humanitarian response:

Women’s and girls’ needs are more effectively met by humanitarian actors and interventions through needs-based responses that promote meaningful participation and leadership



5: Security and justice:

Security and justice actors are increasingly accountable to women and girls, and responsive to their rights and needs



6: Preventing and countering violent extremism:

Ensure the participation and leadership of women in developing strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism



7: UK capabilities:

HMG continues to strengthen its capability, processes and leadership to deliver against WPS commitments

Section Four: Focus Countries



This section of the report outlines how the UK government is delivering the WPS agenda in our nine focus countries. The focus countries were selected because they were priority countries for the FCDO, MOD and the National Security Council and, through local consultations in-country, we determined there was an appetite for change.

AFGHANISTAN

Afghanistan NAP Phase 2 2019-2022

The UK continues to provide technical assistance for the implementation of this phase. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as lead for Afghanistan's NAP, confirmed in July 2020 that the NAP would be mainstreamed into the national budget at 40 million Afghan afghanis (approximately £380,000).

The Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019) ranks Afghanistan as the second worst place in the world to be a woman. The Afghan constitution and NAP set out the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan's commitment to gender equality. However, continued conflict with the Taliban and other terrorist and militant groups, as well as lack of institutional capacity, significantly hinders consistent implementation across the country.

The UK's Gender Strategy for Afghanistan prioritises women's rights, inclusion and participation across diplomatic, development, and defence engagement.

SO1: Decision-making

Peace negotiations between the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the Taliban began on 12 September 2020. There are currently four women on the Afghan Republic's 21-person negotiating team; there are none on the Taliban side. There is concern that if the Taliban return to power there would be a reversal of progress on women's rights. In this context, the UK continues to press for the views of women to be represented in peace talks. Our work with Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid (CORDAID) aims to strengthen the capacity of civil society organisations, including the Afghan Women's Network, to engage with the peace process. This includes providing ongoing mentoring to a diverse cadre of 30 female peacebuilders, as well as increasing the opportunities for women to engage on peace across 15 provinces. Four out of 25 cabinet nominees in 2020 were women, although only two have received parliamentary confirmation as of 14 January 2021. The President remains committed to having four female cabinet members.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) programme to improve access to Gender-based Violence (GBV) response services in Afghanistan has started its second phase. Between the start of phase II (May 2019) and September 2020, the programme has provided response services to 25,344 GBV survivors and there is close coordination with the Ministry of Public Health and other relevant stakeholders for integration of the GBV services.¹ The programme has developed and established Family Protection Centres (FPCs), a one-stop facility situated in public hospitals and clinics. The FPCs provide medical, legal, psychosocial support and referrals to other services for GBV survivors; build the capacity of health workers, sensitise communities at provincial and district level; and build evidence for integration of GBV response services within the public health response and government funding. Currently FPCs are operational in 22 out of 34 provinces. The UK has provided £3.7 million to the UNFPA programme for retaining the services of FPCs within six provinces established in the previous phase of the programme, and to roll out FPC services in an additional six provinces during the second phase. UK funding represents 30% of the total donor funding for the FPCs. Existing services have remained uninterrupted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SO5: Security and Justice

Integrating women effectively and safely into the Afghan security forces remains challenging. As co-chair of the Gender Sensitive Security Sector Reform Sub-Working Group (with Germany), the UK seeks to promote women's influence and leadership in the security sector.

Women and girls continue to face high rates of domestic abuse and violence. The UNFPA report up to 87% of Afghan women experience at least one form of physical, sexual or psychological violence, and 62% experience multiple forms.² Only 2.5% of the Afghan police force are women, reducing the opportunity for women and girls to report crimes committed against them.

The UK is the lead mentor at the Afghanistan National Army Officers Academy, from which more than 300 female officers have graduated since 2014. In addition, the Defence Section at the British Embassy Kabul runs a programme of Professional Military Education for Afghan Officers as part of HMG's Assisting Security in Afghanistan Programme, with the aim of developing a cadre of capable, professional military leaders in the Afghan security sector.

The Afghan National Army Trust Fund (ANATF) and the Law and Order Trust Fund (LOTFA) deliver gender-sensitive projects to ensure adequate training and infrastructure facilities exist to facilitate women's involvement in the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF), and to mainstream gender-sensitive approaches to reform efforts.

Box 2. What Works to Prevent Violence Programme

2020 marked the end of the UK's ground-breaking £25 million *What Works to Prevent Violence* research and innovation programme. This was the first multi-country study to conduct rigorous evaluations of violence prevention interventions across Africa and Asia. *What Works* has reaffirmed the scale and severity of violence against women and girls (VAWG), which further escalates in situations of conflict and crisis. Up to 73% of women and girls in our South Sudan study, for example, experienced violence at the hands of their partner in their lifetime, while in conflict-affected communities of the DRC, nearly 70% of women had experienced violence in the last 12 months alone.

Despite the scale of the problem, *What Works* pioneered approaches around the world that have shown reductions in violence of around 50%, proving that VAWG is preventable. A rigorous evaluation of the *What Works* schools-based community and education programme in Afghanistan, which aimed to reduce aggressive behaviour among Afghan boys and girls, reduce corporal punishment at school and at home, motivate men to respect and value women and promote women's community engagement, demonstrated a reduction in violence of more than 50% for girls, and by more than a third for boys, across a two year time period. We are building on the success of *What Works* with the first global programme to systematically scale up proven approaches to prevent VAWG across development and humanitarian settings – *What Works to Prevent Violence: Impact at Scale*.

DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

DRC NAP 2018-2022

DRC has resumed implementation of its NAP (2018 – 2022), after limited activity following the 2018 elections and subsequent government formation. President Tshisekedi's government has committed to advancing WPS and is working with the UK to see where our existing programmes can support. The 2018 NAP builds on the 2010 NAP, in tandem with the country's National Gender Policy.

There are high levels of gender inequality in DRC. The rates of GBV are among the highest in the world and DRC ranks 161 out of 167 countries in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019). Inequality is exacerbated by the limited capacity of government to tackle deeply entrenched human rights issues and a decades-old conflict in the densely populated east of the country and most recently in central Congo. The COVID-19 pandemic has further slowed DRC's progress against its WPS commitments in 2020.

The UK government has supported the DRC government to make progress on the WPS agenda. To mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the British Embassy in Kinshasa supported a DRC government event to bring together the Minister for Gender, Families and Children, civil society and development partners to reflect on the government's progress on its WPS NAP.

SO1: Decision Making

In October 2020, as part of events marking the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the British Embassy in Kinshasa helped fund an event with local peacebuilders and women leaders, coordinated by UN Women. We leveraged this event to encourage international partners to sign up to the UK-funded Protection Framework for women peacebuilders developed by ICAN, and to endorse the UK supported Declaration of Humanity, denouncing the stigmatisation of survivors of sexual violence.

SO2: Peacekeeping

In October 2020, the UK deployed Major Helen Bryan, who followed Major Charmaine Geldenhuis and Major Samantha Toop, as Force Gender and Child Protection Adviser in United Nations Organisation Stabilisation Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO). Major Bryan and her predecessors advised the Force Commander and mission leadership on how to incorporate a gender perspective within military planning and activity, and provided support and training to peacekeepers and engagement teams across MONUSCO.

The MONUSCO mission conducted work in direct support of WPS. For example, it has supported women community leaders in Fizi, Mwenga and Uvira territories through provision of training in conflict management and women's inclusion in local peace processes. In Ituri Province, the Mission conducted hotspot mapping of areas where women and girls are more at risk of sexual violence and other human rights violations. The mapping was shared with local protection committees.

"Women are 50% of society. If 50% are adversely affected by conflict or situations beyond their control, then a lasting peace will never occur. Also, gender isn't just about women: it's men, women, boys and girls, and how each are differently affected by a situation. You need that other voice at the table. A gender perspective needs to be embedded in planning, briefing commanders, communications." – Major Helen Bryan, Force Gender and Child Protection Adviser, MONUSCO

The MONUSCO mission conducted work in direct support of WPS. For example, it has supported women community leaders in Fizi, Mwenga and Uvira territories through provision of training in conflict management and women's inclusion in local peace processes. In Ituri Province, the Mission conducted a hotspot mapping of areas where women and girls are more at risk of sexual violence and other human rights violations. The mapping was shared with local protection committees.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

Rates of sexual and GBV remain high across the provinces of DRC, but even more so in areas affected by conflict. High rates of poverty and climate change exacerbate the impact of violence.

The DRC government updated its GBV strategy in June 2020. The strategy aims to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls; promote prevention and care for survivors; and strengthen government accountability. The strategy has introduced a new definition of GBV covering all aspects, including domestic violence, and notes the specificity of the fight against GBV in humanitarian situations. The UK will closely monitor how the strategy is financed and implemented.

In November 2020, as part of the UK's COVID-19 response in DRC, our health programme conducted a campaign to raise awareness of GBV and the support available, working with Health Zones, local administrative units, supported in Kinshasa. Fifteen health centres were provided with a free-phone number to report incidents of sexual violence. 266 men and 185 women were trained as part of the campaign to ensure communities and victims are aware of the hotline and can access the health centres when needed.

In December 2020, the UK Ambassador to DRC hosted senior government officials, ambassadors and development partners to showcase a UK sponsored documentary 'Binti' on GBV. We enabled young filmmakers in DRC to run the campaign "fighting stigma through film". The campaign, supported by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Special Envoy, Angelina Jolie, highlighted the importance of art and culture in changing attitudes towards sexual violence survivors.



Figures 4 and 5: A commemorative event for the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 hosted by DRC's Minister of Gender, Family and Children. Juliette John, FCDO Development Director, Democratic Republic of Congo, delivers a speech.

SO5: Security and Justice

In 2020, the UK supported the fight against impunity in the DRC by providing £770,000 to the UN Joint Human Rights Office (JHRO) Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) Project. Evidence from the database has been used by the DRC authorities to take administrative or judicial measures against defence and security officials.

The UK provided free legal advice, mobile courts and support to UNJHRO investigations, for the victims of human rights violations and sexual violence. With UK support, this programme secured the conviction of over 30 members of the defence and security forces (FARDC and PNC) and of 2 members of armed groups for serious crimes. Over 300 victims of serious crimes, including women, participated in the investigations; certain alleged perpetrators of crimes were formally identified; and, through the establishment of effective protection measures, victims and direct witnesses were able to participate safely in the trials.

We continued to provide free legal assistance through our implementing partner TRIAL International who supported 153 victims (of which 42 were minors) to bring allegations of conflict-related sexual crimes to local courts. Thanks to UK support, ex-warlord Sheka and his co-defendants were sentenced to life in November 2020 for serious human rights violations, including mass rape and sexual slavery. We also continued to work with the Mukwege Foundation for reparations and restorative justice for survivors of conflict-related sexual violence.

IRAQ

Iraq NAP 2014-2018 (not current)

Iraq commenced drafting its second NAP in 2018 following the expiration of its first NAP (2014-2018). But conservative norms, the fight against Da'esh, the 2019/20 protests, COVID-19 and the dire economic situation stalled implementation of Iraq's first NAP and delayed the publication of the second NAP. We continue to advocate for the finalisation of a comprehensive and effectively budgeted second NAP and full implementation.

Iraq ranks 162 out of 167 in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019). British Embassy Baghdad has a gender strategy. WPS is included within the country business plan and 2020-2025 NSC strategy.

Widespread protests that started in Baghdad and the south of Iraq in October 2019 led to the resignation of Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi in December 2019. Iraqi women and girls played an integral part in the demonstrations, taking to the streets to call for gender equality as well as an end to corruption and elite politics. By March the protests had mostly dissipated due to repression by elements of the Iraqi security forces and militias, as well as the enforcement of COVID-19 measures by the government. The cost was high, over 550 people were killed and over 20,000 injured between October 2019 and March 2020. The Kadhim government came into office in May. These tumultuous events have impacted the economic and political stability of Iraq, which has adversely affected women and vulnerable groups, and consequently progress on WPS.

Refugee and internally displaced women and girls remain the most vulnerable, alongside widows, children born of rape, and so-called Da'esh affiliated families. The picture in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq (KRI) is more positive. Currently only the KRI has a law to criminalise domestic violence, however, issues remain over implementation of the law.

SO1: Decision Making

There are only two female ministers in the Iraqi cabinet. The picture in the KRI is slightly better. The Kurdistan Regional Parliament Speaker and a Deputy Speaker are female, as are three ministers in the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG). Through human rights funding, British Embassy Baghdad funded democracy and political awareness training workshops for over one hundred female protesters who reported that they had benefitted from the training. The CSSF is supporting social cohesion projects in the newly liberated areas designed to create safe, inclusive spaces for women to participate in Local Peace Committees.

The meaningful inclusion of women in decision-making fora (local and national) remains a significant challenge and highlights the need for longer-term programming and greater support of women-led peace-building initiatives.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

COVID-19 has exacerbated the socio-economic inequality and gender disparities that have long existed in Iraq. The alarming surge in cases of GBV is one consequence of the pandemic, with the Head of the Iraqi community police Brigadier-General Ghalib Atiyah reporting a 30-50% increase compared to 2019. Shelters in the KRI were forced to close during early stages of the curfew, limiting women's ability to seek refuge.

The UK has strongly supported President Salih's endorsement of draft bills to criminalise domestic violence, and to rehabilitate Yazidi and other survivors of Da'esh-perpetrated sexual violence. In response to the reported rise in GBV during COVID-19 lockdowns, the CSSF has been supporting radio-based and community outreach initiatives to raise awareness about domestic violence and the support services available. With funding from CSSF Gender and Human Rights portfolio in 2020/21, Iraq is one of eight focus countries to be included in GAPS's research on the short and long-term gendered impacts of COVID-19. Working with local partners to undertake extensive consultations with civil society on how the pandemic is affecting conflict dynamics. The Iraq country report outlines recommendations on policy and programming to mitigate the gender and conflict impacts of the pandemic.

SO4: Humanitarian

The UK is the largest donor to the UN's Iraq Humanitarian Fund. Since 2014, the fund has assisted 7.5 million women and 8.7 million girls. This includes ensuring access to GBV services for survivors and those at risk. The UK also supported women's medical needs, protection services for children, and is funding the UN to better understand and respond to protracted displacement, including for the 13% of female-headed internally displaced households. The UK has provided £28.1 million to the UN Development Programme's Funding Facility for Stabilisation (FFS) since 2016. FFS projects have provided over 6,200 grants to female-headed households and over 5,000 cash for work opportunities for women.

SO5: Security and Justice

Following the military defeat of Da'esh, checkpoints and a heightened security presence by Iraq's multiple security forces remain a feature of daily life across the country. Due to checkpoints being predominantly guarded by male personnel, there are risks of gender-specific harassment and intimidation, which further limit women's autonomy of movement. This affects many women and girls, especially those from minority communities in areas dominated by mostly Shia Popular Mobilisation Forces (PMFs).

COVID-19 limited the UK military training programme in 2020 and no Iraqi officers were able to attend the Human Security Advisors Course as a result. Bids for places will be made for 2021. Additionally, over 50 female Peshmerga candidates have applied for two training places at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst commencing in 2021. This is a result of the initiative of the Defence team in Erbil and their work on Security Sector Reform. The UK is committed to supporting the work of the Iraqi Association of Women Judges (which recently attained membership of the International Association of Women Judges), including by facilitating dialogue and training opportunities with the UK Judicial College.

SO6: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Da'esh remains a threat, as does the risk of radicalisation of displaced communities, some of which are perceived as linked to or supportive of Da'esh. This stigma affects women and girls who are perceived to belong to "Daesh-affiliated families". In 2019, we funded UNODC research into the role of women in counter terrorism in Iraq, to provide analysis and recommendations related to the gender-sensitivity of policies, procedures and practices across the Iraqi security sector. When completed, we will use the research to help design future interventions.

LIBYA

Libya does not have a NAP

The UK continues to be at the forefront of calls urging for women's participation in decision-making processes. Given the political context, our efforts focus on lobbying the government to integrate gender perspectives and ensure women's meaningful inclusion in the peace process, as well as supporting women across the country through our programmes.

In a traditionally patriarchal society, dominated by warring militias and armed groups, the UK continues to seek realistic opportunities to support women building peace and security, including through participation in political processes at both the local and national level.

The ongoing conflict, insecurity and fragmented political landscape continue to put women in Libya at risk, as well as limiting their economic, political and social opportunities. Libya is ranked 158 of 167 in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019). The outbreak of COVID-19 has further exacerbated the challenges already faced by women. A rapid survey carried out by UN Women Libya³ highlighted the negative impact of COVID-19-related restrictions on women's economic empowerment and access to livelihoods, and noted an increased fear of domestic disturbance and violence within households.

This year the UK launched a new project with the Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) to support civil society organisations (CSOs) to better understand and respond to the needs of women and girls in light of COVID-19. This supports our Gender Strategy for Libya, which is derived from UNSCR 1325 and the UK's NAP on WPS.

To celebrate and promote the twentieth anniversary of UNSCR 1325, we ran a month-long social media campaign profiling the achievements of Libyan women and their vital contribution to stability in Libya in fields such as politics, peacebuilding, media and the private sector.



Figure 6: Minister Cleverly joins HRH The Countess of Wessex on a virtual visit to Libya focusing on WPS

SO1: Decision Making

Women who wish to enter politics, or speak out on political issues, face social stigma, threats of intimidation and violence and even death. The assassination of Hanan Al-Barassi in November, an outspoken critic of the Libyan National Army (LNA) in the East, comes a year after the disappearance of parliamentarian Siham Sergiwa who was abducted from her home in Benghazi and has not been heard from since. The UK condemned the killing of Al-Barassi during comments to the UN Security Council Briefing on Libya in November 2020 as well as posting on social media. Minister Cleverly urged the Libyan government to conduct an impartial investigation to identify the violators. The UK has also reiterated readiness to use sanctions against human rights violators.

Through our diplomatic efforts, the UK continues to encourage the Libyan government and UN Support Mission in Libya to support the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all activities and decision-making relating to democratic transition, conflict resolution and peacebuilding. In November 2020, Libyan delegates met in Tunis and agreed that women would take up at least 30% of the senior positions in a future unity government. On her virtual visit to Libya on 28 October, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex, joined by Minister Cleverly, further raising the profile of women's contributions to the peace process.

Through the CSSF, we supported the capacity building of women's peacebuilding and mediation skills, targeting members of local peace committees, 'Social Peace Partnerships', which were established in 29 communities across Libya. Through our "Ante Raeda/You are a pioneer" project with The Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR), we supported eight Libyan CSOs to form a coalition and launch a joint advocacy campaign, with the aim of changing negative stereotypes of women.

Economic opportunities for women are limited in Libya. As entrepreneurs, women have limited access to bank or government loans, mentorship, or information about business regulations. Through the CSSF business incubation/acceleration project, which started in 2018, the UK supported 45 female entrepreneurs to access training, tools and resources to develop their businesses. Three of the women received honorary membership of the Libyan Businessmen Council, and others have received investment offers.

Through the Chevening Scholarship programme, we are supporting young Libyan women to study in the UK in order to advance their education, careers and future leadership potential. We have deliberately targeted our communications to promote the participation of women in the Chevening Scholarship programme. As a result, in 2020, of the 19 available scholarships 11 were awarded to female scholars.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

The UK has been outspoken in condemning SGBV. In June 2020, we co-sponsored the Human Rights Council resolution establishing a Fact-Finding Mission to investigate violations and abuses in Libya, including possible gendered dimensions. In November 2020, the UK delivered a statement on Libya at the 36th Session of Universal Periodic Review, making recommendations to the Libyan government to improve their human rights record and tackle SGBV.

Through our programmes, we are providing protection for vulnerable women and girls. This includes psychosocial support and counselling for survivors of SGBV, victims of trafficking and persons with specific needs, including unaccompanied children.

SO4: Humanitarian

We have supported the rehabilitation of maternity clinics in partnership with USAID/OTI, the Sabha Municipal Council and local health authorities. This project equipped two maternity rooms in clinics in the north and south of Sebha to increase access to health services for women in conflict areas. Direct beneficiaries include 300 staff and approximately 1,500 local people from the Gurda and al-Jadid neighbourhoods (approximately 25% of Sabha's population).

Our humanitarian mine action implementing partners, Free Fields Foundation (3F) and The HALO Trust, have recruited women to their teams this year to conduct mine risk education and community liaison, in order to reach more women and girls.

Migrants and refugees continue to be among the most vulnerable populations in Libya, facing discrimination, exploitation and abuse. The UK's support to the UNHCR Community Day Centre (CDC) for refugees and asylum seekers in Tripoli provides protection and care to women, men, girls and boys from this under-served community.

Our humanitarian programme built the capacity of Primary Health Care staff, the participation of female health professionals from government departments, academia, professional unions and the private sector. We trained a total number of 801 health professionals, of which 62.5% were female.

MYANMAR

Myanmar does not have a NAP

The UK is a member of the WPS Technical Working Group (TWG), which is part of the government of Myanmar's National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women (NSPAW). This report covers the period January 2020 to December 2020. Following the coup in Myanmar on 1 February 2021, we are monitoring the situation closely, including the impacts on the WPS agenda in Myanmar, and working to ensure that UK aid supports a more inclusive and accountable Myanmar.

Myanmar's ranking in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019) remains at 150/167. The status of women in Myanmar is evolving despite a backdrop of stark exclusion from public life. Women struggle to secure decision-making positions, even at low levels of governance structures. Structural impediments block their participation in certain sectors or occupations. Overt and pervasive GBV further undermines women's sustained involvement in public life. Gendered norms and biases, reinforced by media reporting, inform public perceptions regarding women in politics and in decision-making more broadly.

Since last year, the UK has integrated WPS more fully in its programme portfolio. The UK addresses multiple Strategic Outcomes of the UK NAP through support to the Paung Sie Facility (PSF) to drive social cohesion and peace at a grassroots level. In the last year, PSF has increased the number of programmes that are gender transformative and now support 17 gender principled projects. Through the Livelihoods and Food Security Fund (LIFT), the UK works with CARE to enhance opportunities and protection from SGBV for women migrant workers. Through LIFT's support to Eden, the UK supports survivors of trafficking, forced labour and commercial sexual exploitation by providing assistance, and shelter, and facilitating access to new livelihood opportunities. LIFT also provides support to the nationwide Gender Equality Network, which seeks to implement a broad range of WPS-related activities under the National Strategic Plan for the Advancement of Women.

As part of the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the UK facilitated the first group consultative meeting with nine women peacebuilders and rights activists to meet with the FCDO Myanmar Development Director.

SO1: Decision Making

The proportion of women in Myanmar's parliament is gradually increasing. There were 890 female candidates in total in the 2020 election, compared to 799 in 2015. However, the participation of women in the Fourth Union Peace Conference dropped to 17% this year, bucking the trend of increasing female participation in previous years. COVID-19 restrictions meant that attendance at the peace conference had to be reduced and women's attendance was disproportionately affected.

In October 2020 the UK designed the Resilience, Recovery and Renewal (RRR) Fund (£200,000) through Women's Voice and Leadership (WVL) to support women's rights organisations (including LGBT+ groups) and connect them to feminist movements that can deliver change for Myanmar women and girls, particularly through the challenges of COVID-19 on civil society.

The UK also supports women's participation in Myanmar's formal peace process through our contribution of over £2 million to the Joint Peace Fund (JPF). The JPF's support has supported increased participation of women in the peace architecture on behalf of political parties and in various peace Working Groups. For example, the number of women at the decision-making level in dialogue-related meetings and consultations has increased from 44 (2019) to 49 (2020). JPF has also supported different women's rights organisations including Alliance for Gender Inclusion in the Peace Process (AGIPP) and Women's League of Burma (WLB) to generate research, guidelines and position papers to advocate for gender-sensitive principles in reforms and advance a call for WPS in the Union Peace Conference. The UK will act as Chair for the JPF next year, and we will use this important opportunity to further integrate and deliver on the WPS agenda.

SO3: Gender-based Violence



Figure 7:
Thandaunggyi
Women Group leads
training on GBV
in Kayin

The UN Fact-Finding Mission reported that Tatmadaw soldiers and ethnic armed organisations (EAOs), have used sexual violence as a tactic of war. While there is significant global focus on conflict-related sexual violence in Myanmar, domestic violence remains the most common form of SGBV reported, with women citing inequality, the lack of livelihoods and enduring poverty as major drivers. SGBV is a widely accepted cultural norm by both men and women, with women's acceptance highest in Sagaing (68%) and Mandalay (70%). Reports of SGBV have increased during this period, in line with COVID-19 stay at home orders.

Reflecting the heightened awareness and risk of SGBV during the COVID-19 pandemic, the UK is building on previously Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative-funded research in Myanmar which identified the need for improved helplines. The UK is coordinating with UNFPA and providing £140,000 to launch new, conflict sensitive and Myanmar-

specific minimum standards to manage GBV helplines and support survivors in Myanmar. In September, the UK used the Human Rights Council 45 Interactive Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on Myanmar to elevate concerns related to SGBV.

SO4: Humanitarian

The UK's humanitarian programme continues to address the needs of women and girls and has supported 114,000 women and girls with protection and SGBV specific services in IDP camps in Rakhine, Kachin, Northern Shan and Chin states, including through the provision of training on SGBV prevention, mental health and psychosocial support and case referral. Much of these activities include a specific focus on children, who experience particular vulnerabilities. Our support to the Access to Health Fund also supports the delivery of sexual and reproductive health services to women and girls in need nationwide, including in conflict-affected areas.

SO5: Security and Justice

Women are under-represented across Myanmar's security and justice institutions. In 2018, around 7% of the Myanmar Police Force personnel were women – far short of the force's target of 25% and among the 53 judges in state or regional high courts, 34% are women. At the community level, women play informal roles in justice and mediation, however, compared to men, they face additional barriers to accessing justice, including cultural perceptions around women's travel, financial resources, social norms, and low confidence to speak out.

Through Saferworld and Women's League of Burma, the UK is building the evidence base for more gender sensitive programming in conflict areas by carrying out a gender-focused study on community centred security and justice and COVID-19 response and recovery processes in border communities.

NIGERIA

Nigeria NAP 2017-2020

The UK provided funding and technical support to help Nigeria develop its second NAP (2017 – 2020), WPS Networks and the National Technical Working Group responsible for overseeing NAP implementation.

Women and girls continue to be disadvantaged across Nigerian society, despite a constitution that enshrines the principle of non-discrimination by gender and WPS Action Plans at National and State levels. Nigeria is ranked 145 out of 167 in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019). The government's response to civil society's call for a State of Emergency on Gender-based Violence saw increased action and opportunities to leverage political will around the WPS agenda. However weak government structures, insufficient coordination and a fragmented women's movement continue to weaken Nigeria's performance on WPS.

In 2020, the UK focussed on amplifying women's voices in political and peace processes. Implementation of WPS objectives were mainstreamed into new UK government Integrated Business Plans on 'Governance and Stability' and the Lake Chad Basin, launched in September 2020.

We are currently working to operationalise the G7 WPS Partnership Initiative under which the UK is paired with Nigeria. Established at the 2017 G7 Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Partnership provides targeted support to conflict-affected partner countries working to build peace and security. We will work through partnerships with the Federal Ministry for Women Affairs, UN Women and women-led civil society groups towards improving national coordination on WPS issues, including drafting the new NAP. This will help build new partnerships to deliver as we focus on amplifying women's voices in political and peace processes, and the implementation of legislative frameworks to prevent VAWG.

SO1: Decision Making

While women's political representation in Nigeria is very low – women hold only 3.4% of seats in the National Assembly, the lowest in Africa – women are increasingly demanding a seat at the peace table. The UK has supported women leaders in peace and security structures in Nigeria over many years. Building on this history, in 2020 the UK hosted a high-level Wilton Park conference on the role of religion and religious leaders in farmer-herder conflicts in Nigeria. The conference particularly sought to amplify women's voices and perspectives within this conflict. Women leaders from the Kaduna State Peace Commission, Plateau State Peace Agency, UK-founded Peace and Security Network in Borno State and across religious and civil society participated actively, demonstrating and reinforcing women's vital role and contributions to this discussion.

Through a new partnership with UN Women, and building on the Wilton Park conference, the UK is now supporting a mapping of existing women's mediation and dialogue capacities that could be deployed in formal peace processes, including in a response to farmer-herder conflicts across Nigeria. This support will also scope how women's participation can be deepened through evidence and lessons sharing from experiences in Kaduna and Plateau States.

Throughout 2020, the British High Commissioner to Nigeria led several WPS initiatives. This included the launch of a cross-government working group to provide strategic direction, oversight and impetus around WPS. The UK in Nigeria also hosted a panel discussion to commemorate the International Day for Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, which resulted in increased awareness among Nigerian stakeholders of the PSVI agenda and UK contribution in Nigeria, and a consultation with 25 women peacebuilders to mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325. A key focus is to increase women's political participation, as we build up to the Nigeria 2023 elections, which remains low despite many capable candidates.

In September 2020, a £875,000 CSSF funded six-month pilot WPS programme began implementation. Through support to women's rights organisations and strategic partnerships with international and government stakeholders, it will set the foundations of future programming to strengthen influence of diverse women in peace, security and COVID-19-related decision-making and develop and implement evidence-based approaches to VAWG prevention and response.

SO3: Gender-based Violence



Figure 8: a leader in Sulmari, Nigeria

Despite challenges, civil society mobilisation through recent movements such as #MeToo, #ArewaMeToo and #StateofEmergencyonGBV has pushed boundaries on GBV over the past year and secured commitment from the Nigeria Governors Forum to set up Sexual Assault Referral Centres in each state. In addition, the call for a State of Emergency on GBV during the height of COVID-19, spear-headed by women-led civil society, was endorsed by all 36 Governors across the Federation and boosted political interest in tackling sexual violence. However overall, Nigeria's performance on gender equality remains weak.

Through the award-winning Voices for Change programme, the UK has supported delivery of pioneering interventions on shifting social norms that justify violence against women and girls, and establishment of the first ever Sexual Assault Referral Centre in Nigeria; a model which has since been adopted in multiple states. More recently (2019 – March 2021), we have provided funding (£900,000) which has delivered conflict-sensitive re-integration support to 5497 women and children who have experienced sexual violence in north-east Nigeria. In partnership with International Alert, we aim to reintegrate 50 women and girls who have returned from Boko Haram captivity and were previously rejected, into their families by March 2021.

SO4: Humanitarian

Through the CSSF's Public Safety and Security Programme (£550,000 for 2019-21) in North-East Nigeria (Borno State), we supported the establishment of Women's Safety Forums. These forums provide a safe space for women to engage in security issues. Similarly, the CSSF's £6.7 million North East Conflict Management and Stabilisation Programme (NECMS) improves peace and resilience among communities in Borno State-North East, Nigeria. Here, women's councils facilitated community meetings that improved women's confidence to speak openly about their concerns and enabled them to initiate small projects based on their own priorities, solutions and financial contributions.

SO5: Security and Justice

Important legislation such as the proposed Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill and Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP) could reduce discrimination and violence against women. While religious-based opposition in northern Nigeria have historically blocked the Act's implementation, this is changing. The second northern state to domesticate the law, Bauchi, will receive UK support through our WPS programme to implement, and facilitate lesson-sharing to guide other northern states considering domestication.

Through FCDO's £16 million protection programme (ProSPINE+) in the conflict-affected North-East, we supported domestication of the 2015 Criminal Justice Act in Yobe State in January 2020. This legislation allows women to stand as surety and ends gender discrimination in the bail process.

Through the CSSF Security and Justice Reform Programme we also supported the rollout of gender desks within the Nigerian Police and provided technical support to develop with Nigeria a gender-responsive 2020 Police Act. This resulted in increased public support for women's participation in safety and security processes and better legislative protections and rights for women, both as police officers and victims of crime.

In the wake of #EndSARS, the UK in Nigeria will be prioritising pushing for reform within the security and justice sector that responds to women's needs and priorities. This includes potential support for the implementation of gender provisions within the recently passed Police Reform Act 2020, and supporting women-led civil society actors to hold the government to account on police reform and conduct.

SO6: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

Women platforms under the CSSF £6.7 million North East Conflict Management and Stabilisation Programme (NECMS), such as the Women in Dialogue and Women Councils, have played a crucial role in promoting dialogue and social cohesion. This includes putting out alternative narrative messaging to violent extremism in their communities and initiating reconciliation dialogues. This is helping to reduce the appeal of extremist narratives, as evidenced by beneficiary feedback to radio messaging amplified by the women's groups, which shows 99% of listeners affirmed the program has made them less willing to accept extremists' interpretation of the Quran. Additionally, there are documented testimonies how these activities have led to reconciliation among estranged friends and community members.

Box 3: Women Mediators across the Commonwealth and the Global Alliance

The UK continues to fund the [Women Mediators across the Commonwealth](#) network (WMC), providing £1 million in 2020/21. The network seeks to bring together diverse mediators across the Commonwealth and enable the full participation of women mediators across all spaces of peacebuilding.

This year, the network established a member-led Steering Committee (SC) to lead the network's strategic direction, whilst secretariat functions continued to be provided by Conciliation Resources. In November, SC members spoke at a high-level event in support of women mediators chaired by Lord Ahmad, Minister of State for the Commonwealth and the UN, which saw support from Commonwealth High Commissioners, Commonwealth Secretariat and Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex. As a follow up, the network is looking for further ways in which to establish opportunities for network members to engage in conflict resolution with those who attended.

As part of the Global Alliance of Regional Women Mediator networks, WMC led discussions on the protection of women mediators and co-facilitated discussions on women's leadership. WMC shared recommendations with policy makers, academics, key partners and other mediators at the Global Alliance's high-level opening and closing ceremonies. Additionally, WMC have published the findings of a research report on the barriers facing women mediators, highlighting the challenges facing women mediators, and recommendations for how policy makers, multilateral institutions and civil society can help remove these.

The network also supported members' peer to peer learning throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, including on trauma informed mediation. The network provided £112,000 for members to continue vital community peacebuilding work, supporting 11 grants, and directly supported a WMC member to engage in national level processes in South Sudan.

SOMALIA

Somalia does not have a NAP

The UK stands willing to assist with the production of a NAP.

Women in Somalia suffer from a range of sources of disadvantage and discrimination. The secondary impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic appear to have disproportionately affected women and girls. Somalia currently ranks 154 in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019). UK advocacy and programming this year has focused on improving protection, changing social norms and enhancing women's political participation.

In Somalia, the CSSF has commissioned a mapping, analysis and scoping study to support the scaling up and co-ordination of HMG's work on gender equality in Somalia.

SO1: Decision Making

Somalia is due to hold national elections in early 2021. The Federal Government of Somalia (FGS) has assured UK officials of their commitment to ensuring that 30% of the MPs in the forthcoming parliament will be women, but it remains unclear how this will be achieved. 24% of current MPs are women, but the record in recent elections in the Federal Member States (FMS) has been disappointing. For example, in Puntland's 2019 elections, only one woman was elected and in Hirshabelle's elections in November 2020, only six women were elected. Somaliland's parliament regrettably removed from its Electoral Law provisions that would have guaranteed a quota of seats for women and minorities, but the three political parties each agreed to field at least 18 women and members of minority clans as candidates.

The UK continues to support efforts to encourage women to stand as candidates and civic educators, and to exercise their right to vote. Working through the UN's Joint Programme on Women's Political Participation, we have provided support to the relevant FGS and FMS Ministries to promote the National Women's Charter and to ensure the National Development Programme delivers on its priorities for women. A CSSF funded project in Somaliland trained 200 women candidates on campaigning, leadership skills, fundraising and resource mobilisation. The project also helped to establish a coalition of civil society organisations to advocate for women and other vulnerable people in political decision-making. In Somalia, the UK-supported 'CHANGES' consortium enabled over 600 women to engage in dialogue about women's participation in public decision-making in 2020, with community conversations often focused around the need for women's parliamentary representation and protecting previously agreed quotas.

SO2: Peacekeeping

The UK enabled more women to engage in peacekeeping by training the Africa Union Mission in Somalia's (AMISOM) Female Engagement Teams.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

The UK provided approximately £1.2 million to UNICEF to support community-based organisations address the protection needs of women and girls. So far, this year the reporting of GBV has increased, which may be evidence that women are more aware of resources available for them, such as legal, social, psycho-social or health support. Through our implementing partners, we continued to provide prevention, mitigation and response services for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence by supporting and training legal, clinical and psychological service providers as well as police forces.

Through the CSSF, we have supported community atmospherics panels (CAPs) to identify concerns of local women about GBV. A key outcome has been the establishment of a local telephone 'hotline' for reporting incidences of GBV. This provides a more accessible and safer route for women to report cases to the appropriate authorities, with follow-up from the project team.

Incidences of abuse and exploitation from Somali Security Forces are significantly less than during earlier recovery operations. With funding from the CSSF Gender and Human Rights portfolio in 2020/21, Somalia is one of eight focus countries to be included in Gender Action for Peace and Security's research on the short and long-term gendered impacts of COVID-19. Working with local partners to undertake extensive consultations with civil society on how the pandemic is affecting conflict dynamics, the Somalia country report outlines recommendations on policy and programming to mitigate the gender and conflict impacts of the pandemic.

S04: Humanitarian

The UK has supported efforts to understand better from Somali women how COVID-19 has impacted on their lives and needs since April 2020. The findings have enabled humanitarian actors to adjust their programming, particularly around water, sanitation and hygiene services.

S05: Security and Justice

The UK continued to support the Somali Ministry of Defence and the Somalia National Army (SNA) in delivering human rights training, including on sexual violence as part of pre-deployment and in-mission training for members of the Somali security forces. Over the last two years, training was delivered to over 300 members of the Somali security forces and civilian staff of the Ministry of Defence.

S06: Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism

The CSSF is funding research by Albany Associates and Kasmodev to develop in-depth understanding of women's access to informal and formal justice mechanisms. They will build on this to make recommendations on how to increase women's roles within recovery and stabilisation, in areas recently recovered from al-Shabaab.

Box 4: Gender-based Violence: the shadow pandemic

The UK is using significant investment and influence within the international system to leverage a strong and co-ordinated response globally and at the country level to address the "shadow pandemic" of GBV, which has intensified in the wake of COVID-19. We are delighted to have been selected to co-lead the new Generation Equality Global Action Coalition on Gender-based Violence, which aims to galvanise action to achieve gender equality and meet the Sustainable Development Goals. The UK will take an evidence-based approach and use this platform to drive more concerted, scaled up global action to tackle the root causes of violence. We also continue to play a leading role in the Call to Action on Protection from Gender-based Violence in Emergencies, co-Chairing the States and Donors working group and coordinating efforts to drive system change to better protect women and girls in humanitarian contexts.

We know that success will depend on support to women's rights organisations and movements on the frontline of driving change. We recently provided an additional £1m funding to the United Nations Trust Fund to End Violence against Women, on top of our existing £21 million contribution. The UN Trust Fund's new COVID-19 Crisis Response Window will fund projects specifically designed to support long-term interventions for women and girl survivors, specific to the context of the current pandemic, placing survivors at the heart of the COVID-19 response. We also committed £20 million to UNICEF and £10 million to UNFPA, which includes funding to scale up reporting, protection and support services for women and girls affected by violence, and £20 million to UNHCR's work with refugees and internally displaced people, which also included support for adapting and scaling-up essential services for GBV and child protection.

SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan NAP 2015-2020

Following an extension of the pre-transitional period, the Revitalized Government of National Unity (RTGoNU) was formed in February 2020. The delay in appointing Governors and legislators has had an impact on the ability to deliver all aspects of policy including the NAP. The UK remains keen to support the South Sudan government to review the progress towards implementation of the current NAP with a view to extending or launching a new NAP in 2021.

Despite bold commitments to women's participation in the revitalised peace deal, the parties have made little progress towards meeting these targets. At all levels of society, women continue to face discrimination and barriers to inclusion. Although there has been a significant reduction in conflict at the national level, sustained communal conflict continues to disproportionately affect women and children, with high levels of conflict-related sexual violence and gender-based violence persisting throughout the country.⁴

South Sudan is one of the lowest ranked countries in the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019), at 163 out of 167. The participation of women in peace and security structures remains marginal and CSOs report that government support for local women's organisations and groups within South Sudan is low.⁵ Numerous reports by the UN panel of experts,⁶ including the most recent from November 2020⁷ on South Sudan showed violence against women and girls remains an endemic problem across the country.

The UK has been ambitious in efforts to raise the profile of the WPS agenda in South Sudan. WPS is a crosscutting objective in the Interim UK Strategy for South Sudan. This includes pushing for the commitment of a minimum of 35% women in the Executive as well as driving efforts to tackle sexual and gender-based violence.

SO1: Decision Making

The government's commitment to achieve a target of a minimum of 35% participation of women in the Executive within the Revitalised Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (RARCSS) has not been met. Although South Sudan now has its first female Vice-President with female representation in other senior roles, including the Deputy Ministerial and Governor posts, they still fall short of 35% with women's representation at senior level at 20%, 26% and 10% for VP, Ministerial and Governor appointed roles.

In March 2020, Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex visited South Sudan. She met peacebuilders and women political leaders, including the first female Vice President of South Sudan, H.E. Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior, to discuss the importance of including more women in the implementation of the South Sudan peace process, wider politics and decision-making. The visit, concluding on International Women's Day, promoted the rights of women and girls, through education, inclusivity at leadership level and through tackling SGBV. This was the first visit to South Sudan by a member of the Royal Family, garnering significant media coverage, and shining a spotlight on the issue and marking the ramping up of activity to promote WPS and complement political lobbying.

In partnership with Christian Aid and the South Sudan Council of Churches (SSCC), the UK is working with civil society and faith groups to promote the leadership role women can play in peace building, reconciliation and healing processes. This work builds on the extensive collaboration we have had with faith groups in South Sudan recognising the role of women and churches in brokering peace and reconciliation at local and national levels through our work with Christian Aid.

To mark the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325, the British Ambassador to South Sudan issued a statement in support of women peacebuilders in South Sudan, promoting the UK-funded ICAN protection framework and urging the government of South Sudan to implement the recommendations. The Embassy supported an event, organised by Eve Organisation and broadcast online to allow maximum participation, where participants pledged their commitment to the WPS agenda. The UK, with Norway, also co-hosted a breakfast with Agnes Kwaje Lasuba, South Sudanese Minister for Gender, Social Welfare and Religious Affairs, women peacebuilders and civil society organisations.



Figure 9: HRH The Countess of Wessex visits South Sudan.



Figure 10: HRH The Countess of Wessex meeting the first female Vice President of South Sudan, H.E. Rebecca Nyandeng de Mabior.

SO2: Peacekeeping

The UK continues to contribute to the UN Peacekeeping mission in South Sudan; over 300 of our peacekeepers ended their mission as planned in March 2020, eight Staff Officers remain. The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) is an essential partner on WPS and we are working to further develop a gender-sensitive approach to their work in general. Gender Sections across UNMISS peacekeeping and political missions have been established to support WPS. In particular, the UK is working with UNMISS to provide support to empower SGBV survivors to prevent and mitigate risks of sexual violence and working with communities to eliminate stigma associated to sexual violence.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

Despite a significant reduction in conflict at the national level, communal-led conflict has seen a sharp increase in 2020 and women and children continue to be disproportionately affected.⁸ Levels of SGBV in South Sudan remain among the highest in the world. In the first half of 2020, the UN Human Rights Division documented⁹ over 90 incidents of sexual violence including rape and sexual slavery of women and girls by armed state and non-state actors. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report that there has been very little accountability for what is a chronic, endemic problem of sexual violence against women and girls with limited/no accountability for such actions. Survivors of conflict-related sexual violence struggle to access adequate medical and mental health care.¹⁰

The UK is a leading aid donor in the provision of health services, supporting 6.1 million patient consultations last year, including GBV services for thousands of women, and training staff at nearly 400 health facilities to identify and manage sexual and gender-based violence. We are also working to address the drivers of gender inequality and expand opportunities for women and girls; the UK is the largest donor to the Girls' Education South Sudan programme supporting the education of more than 400,000 girls through our £70 million programme from 2019-2024. The UK works with Humanity and Inclusion (£3.9 million in 2018-2021) to address the Mental Health and Psychosocial Support (MHPSS) needs of local communities, including GBV survivors. In 2019 over 20,000 benefited from awareness raising sessions to tackle stigma around MHPSS or received tailored MHPSS, including GBV survivors. In 2020 HI reached nearly 30,000 with these interventions.

Through a five year, £22 million programme we also work with the International Medical Corps (IMC) who deliver GBV prevention, response services and support, as well as activities that focus on increasing capacity-building efforts. This includes the provision of case management, psychosocial support, women and girl friendly spaces, information dissemination, engaging men through accountable practices and income generating activities. In 2019 we reached over 370,000 people with information on GBV, rights and services available and trained nearly 800 people on GBV prevention and response. In spite of COVID-19, IMC is on track to meet its targets in 2020/21.

International Medical Corps to deliver GBV prevention and response activities, as well as livelihoods activities for women. The programme is part of the Humanitarian Assistance and Resilience in South Sudan business case to which DFID contributes £16.8 million funding over 4 years. During 2019, DFID provided a £2.1 million uplift bringing their budget to £16.8 million.

SO5: Security and Justice

The UK funds a gender adviser in the Ceasefire and Transitional Security Arrangements Monitoring and Verification Mechanism (CTSAMVM) who continues to ensure that reports, which are an important tool in driving progress, reflect the importance of disclosing and condemning all known instances of GBV. In November 2020 CTSAMVM produced reporting specifically focused on GBV underlining that ending GBV is an essential part of full implementation of the R-ARCSS.

SYRIA

Syria does not have a NAP

The regime has not previously engaged and is not expected to engage in future. UK support for WPS is reflected in the UK NAP and the UK government Shared Approach to Gender in Syria.

With Syria now in its tenth year of conflict, Syrian women are amongst the most marginalised and disenfranchised globally. Syria ranks 165th of 167 countries on the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019) and 150th of 153 countries on the 2020 Global Gender Gap index. The COVID-19 pandemic has further blighted the lives of women in Syria in 2020, combined with a protracted economic crisis, leading to increased levels of GBV and family violence. Early marriage is estimated to affect one in five households across Syria. Sexual violence remains a systematic tool of war.

Despite the challenges of 2020, the UK is working with local and international partners to ensure our programmes continue to deliver much-needed assistance to Syrian women and girls, including through remote and online activity. We do this by putting women and girls at the core of our programmatic and diplomatic response; ensuring increased women's participation in decision-making; and preventing and responding to SGBV.

As we look towards 2021, we aim to continue supporting Syrian women's voices through our public diplomacy and advocacy, and to support their empowerment. We will conduct a specific gender-focused analysis of the Syria conflict, to help identify targeted opportunities for the UK to support Syria's women and girls. We will also support further research into the stigma of sexual violence.

SO1: Decision Making

Women are largely excluded from political decision-making in Syria, and political empowerment is a secondary concern for a large swathe of Syrian women, who struggle to access basic services and rights. Women's membership of the Constitutional Committee stands at 27%. The Women's Advisory Board (WAB) of the Committee has broadened its membership in 2020, to 22 members, aiming to include new and under-represented constituencies. Through the UK's partnership with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, we support local Syrian women-led organisations to work with women to enhance their participation and inclusion in decision-making at the local level.

In June, during his regional virtual visit, Minister Cleverly chaired a roundtable on WPS with our partners to understand how the conflict in Syria has altered the traditional gender roles. The participants appreciated the leadership role the UK is taking on WPS and asked the UK (and other donors) to support grassroots movements to ensure sustainable change, particularly on empowering Syrian women. In October, the UK's Syria Office hosted a roundtable with prominent Syrian women activists chaired by Baroness Hodgson of Abinger CBE, Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on WPS. The roundtable focused on the future of women's empowerment in Syria, and especially on girls' access to education. We also launched a social media campaign, in partnership with Syrian women-led CSOs funded through the CSSF, using the words of female Syrian activists, journalists and others to provide a voice to other Syrian women

SO3: Gender-based Violence

The UK has continued its focus on preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence. During 2020, the UK contributed to programmes run by international and Syrian partners, which: referred survivors of SGBV to specialised support services; ensured that nine support services met the standards required to provide rehabilitative treatment to survivors of sexual violence; worked to understand and address stigma with regard to sexual violence in Syrian communities; and built the capacity of women-led organisations to advocate on issues including the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative and GBV. We have supported the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom with approximately £1 million to provide continuous support to Syrian women-led organisations working on issues related to GBV.

SO4: Humanitarian

Since 2019, the UK allocated £22 million in humanitarian funding to UNFPA to strengthen the prevention of and response to sexual and gender-based violence in Syria, contributing to: 1,500,951 people reached with sexual and reproductive health services, such as antenatal and postnatal care, family planning, infection treatment, vaccinations and post-rape treatment; 657,909 people reached with GBV awareness and outreach activities, covering topics such as early marriage, women's rights, family planning; 23,976 GBV survivors reached with specialised services; and 778,022 women and girls' visits (daily sign-ins) to established safe spaces. Over the last three years, UK bilateral programming has also supported education services for more than 300,000 Syrian girls. The UK has supported women to become teachers, and work towards better representation of women in the education profession.

SO5: Security and Justice

As part of our wider WPS and accountability efforts, in 2020 the UK supported doctors to produce 24 court-standard medical reports to help bring perpetrators of sexual violence to justice. Some of these have been used to file a criminal complaint focused on sexual violence in Syrian detention centres.

SO6: Preventing and Countering Extremism

Women are key to preventing and countering violent extremism. Syrian women have been victims of enslavement and abuse by Da'esh, but some are also known to be perpetrators of violent extremism, participating in Daesh violence. Women in camps are exposed to violence and extremism on a daily basis. Women's participation in CVE programmes, however, addresses the rise of radicalisation, and helps prepare for reintegration back to their original communities.

Box 5: Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative

COVID-19 has exacerbated the horrors faced by those affected by conflict-related sexual violence. Crucial medical and psychological services are under threat, as governments divert resources towards the COVID response. Restrictions on movement limit physical routes for survivors to report crimes or move to safety. Now, more than ever, the Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative (PSVI) remains a priority for the FCDO as it works to champion the cause of survivors worldwide.

Lord Ahmad, the Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, leads this work. In 2020, PSVI focussed on three objectives: strengthening justice for survivors of sexual violence and holding perpetrators to account; supporting all survivors and children born of conflict-related sexual violence, including tackling stigma and promoting access to holistic care; and preventing sexual violence in conflict by addressing its root causes.

We progressed two innovative and ambitious deliverables in 2020. On 19 June, Lord Ahmad, in partnership with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations (IICI) and Nadia's Initiative, launched the draft Murad Code for global consultations and further development. The Code is a global code of conduct to ensure that work with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence to investigate, document, and record their experiences is safer, more ethical, and more effective. The Code has been named after Nobel Peace Prize laureate Nadia Murad, a Yazidi human rights activist. The IICI is running a consultation process with survivors, investigation authorities, civil society, and championing governments, and the draft code can be accessed at www.MuradCode.com. The aim is to publish the final Murad Code for implementation in mid-2021, alongside additional publications, including a 'Survivors' Charter', to help documenters understand and apply the Code's principles.

In November 2020, alongside faith and belief leaders, Lord Ahmad also launched the Declaration of Humanity during the Annual Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) Ministerial Conference in Poland. The Declaration, the first of its kind, calls for the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and denounces the stigma too often faced by survivors. It unites multiple faiths and beliefs in a common effort to challenge damaging societal norms and calls for support for survivors of sexual violence internationally. The Declaration has received significant endorsement from high-profile faith and belief leaders, community leaders, and faith-based organisations in a range of countries, including Sri Lanka, Sierra Leone, the Vatican, Kosovo, and Iraq, and we anticipate further support. Leaders have committed to spreading the Declaration's message with the aim of reaching local communities.

The UK remains dedicated to putting survivors of conflict-related sexual violence at the heart of our work. We continue to collaborate closely with our PSVI Survivor Champions, Nadine Tunasi and Kolbassia Haoussou, who advocate for, support and champion survivors, including children born of rape. In July, Lord Ahmad spoke at the UN Security Council Open Debate on conflict-related sexual violence and announced the UK's £1.3 million contribution to the Global Survivors Fund, launched by Nadia Murad and her fellow Nobel Laureate Dr Mukwege. The Fund is an innovative, survivor-centred mechanism which aims to provide wider forms of redress across the world for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. That includes, for example, direct financial contributions, help with access to education, or small business loans.

In October 2020, Lord Ahmad undertook a 'virtual visit' to Colombia, which included a roundtable discussion with survivors of conflict-related sexual violence and discussed how to make progress on these issues with the Deputy Interior Minister and Deputy Attorney General.

The FCDO welcomed the Independent Commission for Aid Impact (ICAI) report on the PSVI, released on 9 January 2020. The UK government published its formal written response on 20 February and Lord Ahmad subsequently answered questions on the report at an International Development Committee meeting on 19 November 2020. External scrutiny is important to ensure the PSVI effectively achieves our overarching objectives.

In light of the ongoing COVID-19 outbreak, the UK government is reassessing dates for the PSVI International Conference. We remain committed to pursuing those agreements and deliverables intended for the conference by other means. For example, we are developing the Model Framework for the Well-being of Children Born of Sexual Violence, a tool to enable states to comply with obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to support and protect children born of sexual violence in conflict. The Model Framework will set the 'gold standard' of care and support.

SPOTLIGHT: YEMEN

Although Yemen is not a focus country, due to the current humanitarian crisis and ongoing conflict and peace efforts, the UK identified Yemen as a priority country for 2020 for women's meaningful participation in peace processes.

Yemen NAP 2020-2022

November 2020, Yemen developed a NAP. Some members of the Yemeni Women's Pact for Peace and Security, who were supported by CSSF, were consulted in the process. The UK continues to encourage the government to implement the NAP and promotes WPS outcomes through its diplomatic engagement, programmes and operational activities. In September 2020 the UK government approved its Yemen Country Gender Strategy.

Yemen remains the worst place in the world to be a woman, placed at the bottom of the Georgetown Institute for WPS Index (2019), and listed as the only country that has experienced 'major deterioration' in lieu of progress. Entrenched and patriarchal gender roles mean that women and girls are particularly affected by negative gender stereotypes, restricted access to services, a discriminatory legal system, economic vulnerability and higher prevalence of GBV.

As Yemen is approaching its seventh year of war, women's equality and rights continue to regress. The worsening humanitarian situation, further exacerbated this year by the COVID-19 pandemic, has further increased the vulnerability of women and girls in Yemen. Incidents of GBV continue to rise and the rate of early and forced marriage has tripled since the start of the conflict. With severe humanitarian funding shortages, women and girls are disproportionately impacted.

In September 2020, FCDO approved a three-year cross-HMG Gender Strategy for Yemen, demonstrating increased commitment to addressing gender equality in Yemen and setting out priority areas for taking action. The Strategy focuses on three key outcomes to ensure women and girls enjoy equal and full access to their rights: that their safety is protected; that their voices shape decision making; and that they can exercise their influence at local, national and regional levels.

The subsequent 20th WPS Anniversary of 1325 in October was a key opportunity to raise the profile of WPS activities in Yemen, hear from Yemeni women about their priorities, and launch the new Yemen Gender Strategy refreshing the UK's renewed political commitment to women's equality in Yemen in the political, development and humanitarian spheres.

SO1: Decision Making

There are currently no women in parliament in Yemen. There are also very few women in public decision-making roles, despite this being one of the objectives of the 2013-14 National Dialogue Conference. While women peacebuilders are active in Yemen, they are often side-lined in peace processes.

A key recipient of UK support over the past four years was the Yemeni Women's Pact for Peace and Security (through UN Women), which continues to include 60 women with links to 532 individuals and organisations across 13 governorates, and aims to increase female leadership and inclusion in the official peace processes. In 2020 the PACT joined coalitions like the 'Group of Nine' a cluster of Yemeni women groups (including the Pact), initiatives and activists, and is representing and engaging with a larger number of women at grassroots level. Thanks to the combination of CSSF funding and our diplomatic engagement, some members of the Pact are now part of an official technical advisory group to the UN Special Envoy for Yemen, which continues to advise him on the peace process.

In response to the UN Secretary General's appeal for a global ceasefire, the UK supported a nationwide ceasefire advocacy campaign between March - June 2020 (through UN Women), led by the "Group of Nine". Although the campaign has not achieved a ceasefire, it has increased women actors' visibility as it reached over 1.3 million people worldwide and strengthened the interaction and linkages between Yemeni multi-track actors.

In April 2020, the UK also completed its funding to a WPS project supporting the work of grassroots women leaders and CSOs in communities across Yemen, this project started in October 2018 – April 2020 for a total value of around £845,000.

The UK continues to support the work of UN Special Envoy Martin Griffiths, who is engaging women in the peace process. Through the CSSF, we funded a Senior Gender Advisor (SGA) position and a Senior Inclusion Advisor (SIA) position within his office (until March and May 2020 respectively). Both advisors aim to include women in the multi-track peace-making processes, and to develop inclusive provisions for any drafted peace agreements. The SGA and SIA have significantly increased the Special Envoy's reach and capacity to consult marginalised groups, in particular women and youth. They are contributing to establishing channels for a more diverse range of voices to feed into the peace process, which is critical to ensuring any future deal is gender-sensitive, inclusive and durable.

SO3: Gender-based Violence

A 2019 report by International Red Cross reported that since the start of the conflict instances of GBV have increased by 60%, whilst the rate of early forced marriage has tripled. It is estimated 70% of GBV survivors in Yemen do not seek help for fear of stigma or reprisal. These inequalities are now further exacerbated by COVID-19. The UK has supported UNICEF and UNFPA's Global Programme to End Child Marriage until the end of 2020, reaching in Yemen 5,000 adolescent girls, with life skills training and services for psychosocial support. The UK continues to use diplomatic levers to encourage the UN and other donors to prioritise protection of women and girls from violence and support INGOs to mainstream GBV prevention in their humanitarian and development responses.

SO4: Humanitarian

Gender inequality impacts how women and girls in Yemen access basic services and humanitarian assistance in Yemen. This can be seen through the disproportionate impact that severe humanitarian funding shortages have on women and girls. With the UN 2020 Appeal only 49% funded as of December, UNFPA have been forced to close 82% of essential sexual and reproductive health services since May 2020. This led to a 42% drop in access to these services. Fear and stigma also have had an impact on accessing these services, but funding shortages remain the primary issue. Vulnerable groups, such as internally displaced people (IDPs) face the brunt of insufficient funding. OCHA estimates 75% of IDPs in Yemen are women and girls with around 20% of households headed by girls under 18. Migrant and displaced women and girls tend to suffer most from lack of privacy and are at greater risk of protection and health threats, particularly in areas where they are responsible for fetching water and fuel.

Section Five: Indicators

| Strategic Outcome 1: Decision- making | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|
| An increase in women's meaningful and representative participation and leadership in decision-making processes, including conflict prevention and peace building at community and national levels. | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Indicator and source</i> | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria |
| 1.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments ¹¹ | 27% (2020) | 12.8% (2020) | 16% (2020) | 26.4% (2020) | 11.1% (2020) | 3.6% (2020) | 24.4% (2020) | 28.5% (2020) | 11.2% (2020) |
| 1.2 Proportion of women in ministerial level positions (%) ¹² | 9.7% (2019) | 17.4 (2019) | No Data Available (NDA) | 4.5% (2019) | 3.8 (2019) | 10.3 (2019) | 18.5 (2019) | 15.6 (2019) | 13.3 (2019) |
| 1.3 Representation of women among mediators, negotiators and signatories in formal peace negotiations ¹³ | 10% Negotiators in September 2020 peace talks | Not Applicable (NA) no peace negotiations since 2008 | NDA for September and October 2020 peace talks | NA no peace negotiations since 2010 | 22% for the 2020 peace efforts | NDA | NA no peace negotiations since 2008 | NA No peace negotiations since 2018 | 28% for current peace talks initiated in October 2019 |
| <i>Notes on the data</i> | Where it says NDA this information could not be obtained. | | | | | | | | |

| Strategic Outcome 2: Peacekeeping | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------------------|---------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------------|------------------|------------------|
| A gender perspective is consistently applied in the setting and implementation of international standards and mandates for peace operations | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria |
| 2.1 Does the UN Security Council peacekeeping mandate include women, peace & security language? ¹⁴ | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) ¹⁵ | NA ¹⁶ | NA ¹⁷ | Yes (2020) ¹⁸ | Yes (2020) | NA ¹⁹ |
| 2.2 Number of reported cases of sexual exploitation and abuse allegedly perpetrated by uniformed or civilian peacekeepers ²⁰ | 1 (2020) | 14 (2020) | 0 (2020) | 0 (2020) | NA | NA | 0 (2020) | 6 (2020) | NA |
| 2.3 Number of UN peacekeeping troops who are female (in focus country missions) ²¹ | 0% (2020) | 606/12742 (2020) | 18/233 (2020) | 15/238 (2020) | NA | NA | 52/631 (2020) | 808/14687 (2020) | NA |
| <i>Notes on the data</i> | Afghanistan, Libya, Iraq and Somalia have Special Political Missions rather than Peacekeeping Missions. | | | | | | | | |

| Strategic Outcome 3: Gender-based Violence | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| An increase in the number and scale of interventions that integrate effective measures to prevent and respond to GBV, particularly violence against women and girls which is the most prevalent form of GBV | | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria | |
| 3.1 Intimate partner violence (experienced by women in the past year, %) ²² | 46.1 (2019) | 36.8 (2019) | NDA | 45.3 (2019) | 11 (2019) | 11 (2019) | NDA | 47 (2019) | NDA | |
| 3.2 The percentage of women who agree that a husband/partner is justified in beating his wife/partner under certain circumstances. ²³ | 80.2 (2019) | 74.8 (2019) | 25.1 (2019) | 54.8 (2019) | 51.2 (2019) | 34.7 (2019) | 75.7 (2019) | NDA (2019) | NDA (2019) | |
| 3.3 Community safety (perceptions among women ages 15+, %) ²⁴ | 12.2 (2019) | 37 (2019) | 42.5 (2019) | 60.3 (2019) | 68.6 (2019) | 47.8 (2019) | 85.9 (2019) | 42.6 (2019) | 16.9 (2019) | |
| 3.4 Prevalence of gender violence in lifetime, % women ²⁵ | 60.8 (2019) | 50.7 (2019) | NDA (2019) | 21.2 (2019) | 33 (2019) | 16.2 (2019) | NDA (2019) | NDA (2019) | NDA (2019) | |
| 3.5 Number of grantee projects in country that were newly awarded grant funding in 2019 by the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women ²⁶ | 1 (2019) | 1 (2019) | 0 (2019) | 1 (2019) | 0 (2019) | 2 (2019) | 1 (2019) | 1 (2019) | 0 (2019) | |
| 3.6 Is this a focus country of the UK Aid funded "What Works" programme to prevent violence against women and girls? ²⁷ | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | |
| Notes on the data | Where it says NDA this information could not be obtained. | | | | | | | | | |

| Strategic Outcome 4: Humanitarian Response | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------------|-----------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| Women's and girls' needs are more effectively met by humanitarian actors and interventions through needs-based responses that increase women's leadership and meaningful participation | | | | | | | | | |
| Indicator | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria |
| 4.1 Percentage of UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) refugee and Internally Displaced People (IDP) operations that provide 'satisfactory' support to survivors of sexual and gender-based violence ²⁸ | NA | 100%: 3 out of 3 (2020) | NDA | NDA | NDA | NDA | 100%: 3 out of 3 (2020) | 100%: 1 out of 1 (2020) | NDA |
| 4.2 Has the country budgeted for emergency preparedness and response and disaster risk reduction plans which integrate sexual and reproductive health ²⁹ | No (2019) | NDA (2020) | No (2019) | Yes (2019) | No (2019) | No (2019) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2019) |
| 4.3 Number of health service providers and managers trained on the minimum initial service package with support from the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) ³⁰ | 27 (2019) | 1509 (2019) | 30 (2019) | 8044 (2019) | 2543 (2019) | 120 (2019) | 180 (2019) | NDA (2019) | 1525 (2019) |
| 4.4 Percentage of UNHCR refugee and IDP operations with at least 35% women's participation in leadership and management structures ³¹ | NDA | 100%: 3 out of 3 (2020) | NDA | NDA | NDA | NDA | 100%: 3 out of 3 (2020) | 100%: 2 out of 2 (2020) | NDA |
| 4.5 Has the country applied the UNFPA minimum standards for the prevention and response to gender-based violence in emergencies ³² | NDA | Yes (2019) | NDA | NDA | NDA | Yes (2019) | Yes (2019) | Yes (2019) | Yes (2019) |
| <i>Notes on the data</i> | Where it says NDA this information could not be obtained. | | | | | | | | |

| Strategic Outcome 5: Security and Justice | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|------------|-------------|-------------|--|
| Security and Justice actors are increasingly accountable to women and girls, and responsive to their rights and needs | | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Indicator and source</i> | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria | |
| 5.1 Measure of discrimination against women in social institutions ³³ | 52.8 (2019) | 39.5 (2019) | NDA (2019) | 53.7 (2019) | 42.4 (2019) | 46.0 (2019) | NDA (2019) | NDA (2019) | NDA (2019) | |
| 5.2 Right to equal justice 0-1 (worst) ³⁴ | NDA | 0.25 (2020) | NDA | 0.75 (2020) | 0.75 (2020) | 0.25 (2020) | NDA | NDA | 0.75 (2020) | |
| 5.3 Legal discrimination (aggregate score) ³⁵ | 40 (2019) | 27 (2019) | NDA (2019) | 41 (2019) | 35 (2019) | 25 (2019) | 25 (2019) | 34 (2019) | 48 (2019) | |
| 5.4 Can a woman obtain a judgement of divorce in the same way as a man? ³⁶ | No (2020) | Yes (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | Yes (2020) | Yes (2020) | No (2020) | Yes (2020) | No (2020) | |
| 5.5 Law prohibits or invalidates child or early marriage ³⁷ | Yes (2017) | No (2017) | No (2017) | No (2017) | No (2017) | Yes (2017) | NDA | No (2017) | No (2017) | |
| 5.6 Legislation exists on domestic violence ³⁸ | 0.8 (2019) | 0.8 (2019) | 0.8 (2018) | 0.8 (2019) | 0.8 (2019) | 0.8 (2019) | 0.5 (2019) | NDA (2019) | 0.8 (2019) | |
| 5.7 Legislation explicitly criminalizes marital rape ³⁹ | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | No (2020) | |
| <i>Notes on the data</i> | Where it says NDA this information could not be obtained. | | | | | | | | | |

| Strategic Outcome 6: Violent Extremism | | | | | | | | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|
| Ensure the participation and leadership of women in developing strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Indicator and source</i> | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria |
| 6.1 Does the country's WPS NAP reference female participation and leadership in Countering Violent Extremism (CVE)? ⁴⁰ | No (No NAP since 2015) | No (No NAP since 2018) | NA (No NAP) | No (No NAP since 2014) | NA (No NAP) | Yes (2017 NAP) | NA (No NAP) | No (No NAP since 2015) | NA (No NAP) |
| 6.2 Does the country's WPS NAP commit to gender sensitive research and data collection relating to Countering Violent Extremism? ⁴¹ | No | No | NA (No NAP) | No | NA (No NAP) | No | NA (No NAP) | No | NA (No NAP) |
| 6.3 Does the country's counter-terrorism/ countering violent extremism strategy reference women or gender as having a role in counter-terrorism/ violent extremism? ⁴² | NA | NA | No | No | NA | Yes (2016 and 2020) | Yes (2016) | NA | NA |

| Strategic Outcome 7: UK Capabilities | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|--|--|---|--|--|---|--|
| The UK Government continues to strengthen its capability, processes and leadership to deliver against WPS commitments | | | | | | | | | |
| <i>Indicator and source</i> | Afghanistan | DRC | Libya | Iraq | Myanmar | Nigeria | Somalia | South Sudan | Syria |
| 7.1 Mainstreaming of gender in National Security Council country strategies ⁴³ | Yes | NA | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | NA ⁴⁴ | No |
| 7.2 Integration of WPS into cross departmental operational plans and programmes at the country level ⁴⁵ | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes | Yes |
| 7.3 Mainstreaming of gender where appropriate and applicable in military doctrine and training materials, and appoint military gender advisers ⁴⁶ | The UK trains women officers at the Afghan National Army Officer Academy (ANAOA); UK trained the human rights and gender Afghan military lead | MOD deploys a Military Gender and Child Protection Adviser every nine months to work with UN HQ in Goma. No host nation women personnel have attended UK training courses in 2019 | There is no UK military presence in Libya | All UK troops deployed to Iraq receive training in preventing and responding to incidents of conflict-related sexual violence. Human security is woven through all military planning | There is no UK military presence in Myanmar. UK sanctions prevent Myanmarese attendance on UK programmes for the military | The British Military Advisory Training Team has 1 Human Security Adviser based in Nigeria. A Gender Policy has been developed by Armed Forces Nigeria (AFN) and structures changed for established GENADs in DHQ and the single Services | The UK provides training on how to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence to Ugandan and Kenyan troops serving in the African Union Mission In Somalia (AMISOM) | Each UK rotation with the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) deploys at least one officer trained by the Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations. MOD trained UK personnel due to deploy to South Sudan in 2019/20 as Human Security Advisers ⁴⁷ | There is no military presence in Syria |
| 7.4 Integration of gender analysis into conflict analysis and research ⁴⁸ | No Joint Assessment of Conflict and Stability (JACS) in 2018-20 | No JACS in 2018-20 however conflict analysis of Ebola affected areas completed with gender analysis integrated | JACS completed in 2020 with gender analysis integrated | JACS completed in 2019 with gender analysis integrated | JACS completed with gender analysis integrated in 2019 | JACS completed with gender analysis integrated in 2018 | JACS completed with gender analysis integrated in 2019 | JACS completed with gender analysis integrated in 2018 | JACS completed with gender analysis integrated in 2020 |
| 7.5 Training and capacity building of UK Government staff to implement the WPS commitments ⁴⁹ | In 2020 the SU led: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> One Gender, Conflict and Stability Training course for cross-UK Government staff in London A nine-part virtual Gender, Conflict and Politics Learning Series The SU also facilitated a second pilot of a FCDO Introduction to Gender Equality Training course in London, and an in-country pilot in Nepal. Following the pilot a training pack and facilitators guide was developed which can be used by staff to organise training for their teams. In 2019 the MOD led a one week Human Security Course in Uruguay for military personnel from Brazil, Argentina, Uruguay, Chile, Paraguay, Peru and Colombia. | | | | | | | | |

Section Six: WPS across the global UK network

In addition to the nine NAP focus countries, the UK uses its overseas network to promote and support WPS aims and objectives. This section outlines some of the work our Posts have conducted over the last year.

In **Rwanda**, the UK has funded “Project Soteria” which aims to stop perpetrators of sexual exploitation and abuse and sexual harassment (SEAH) from working in the aid sector. Women and girls are disproportionately affected by SEAH in the aid sector, and the perpetrators of SEAH are predominantly (although not exclusively) male. Through Project Soteria, the UK is funding the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to provide support to national specialised agencies to strengthen their criminal records systems and information sharing capabilities and provide training and capacity building support, including to law enforcement in Rwanda.

In **Sudan**, we supported a more inclusive Juba peace process through the Westminster Foundation for Democracy’s training in negotiation for 32 women leaders from selected armed groups and civil society from Khartoum. The training focussed on the negotiation tracks of Security, Governance and Humanitarian Assistance and allowed the participants to acquire strong skills in negotiation and to reflect on their own priorities and contexts. The participants signed a joint declaration with key recommendations around one common vision for all women in Sudan that was incorporated in the negotiation process. As a result of the training, seventeen women members of armed groups were selected by armed groups leaders to join track I peace negotiations and many joined the national women’s network, Women of Sudanese Civic and Political Groups (MANSAM).

This year saw the first UK-**Indonesia** WPS coordination meeting, to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of UNSC Resolution 1325. This meeting was attended by senior Indonesian politicians, female police officers, military, representatives from Indonesia’s International Peacekeeping Training Centre, Indonesia’s women peacekeepers, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and civil society. The meeting launched a programme of work that included building a partnership to support the development of Indonesia’s second NAP, through the UK’s International Programme Fund.

In January 2020, the British High Commission in Colombo commissioned a Gender Scoping report looking at the intersection between gender and conflict within **Sri Lanka**, which provided both policy and programme recommendations. Based on this, the British High Commission intends to provide support to tackle the online harms faced by women, sexual and gender minorities, and vulnerable groups online and to draft a mission-wide ‘gender strategy’. Through CSSF funding, we support The HALO Trust and Mines Advisory Group to conduct mine clearance (and associated land release activities), to enable protracted refugees and Internally Displaced Persons to resettle in Northern Sri Lanka. Additionally, through CSSF funding, we worked with the Sri Lanka Police to improve capacity to respond effectively to SGBV, which have been exacerbated during the COVID-19 lockdowns.

In **Vietnam** we supported the Vietnamese government to host an International Conference on Women Peace and Security in December. The conference provided the first global platform in 2020, outside of the UN, for governments, international organisations, civil society, academics and experts to discuss how the pandemic has challenged the progress of the WPS agenda. Baroness Goldie DL, Minister of State at the MoD highlighted the importance of partnerships with civil society and the significant role regional and global mediator networks have. The conference resulted in the ‘Hanoi Commitment to Action’, co-sponsored by over 50 countries. The document will be presented to the President of UNGA and the UN Secretary General in February 2021. UK engagement through bilateral and multilateral discussions now sees Vietnam considering developing its first NAP.

Since 2018, the UK has been committed to supporting both the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces of **Bosnia and Herzegovina** (AFBiH) in their efforts to implement UNSCR 1325 WPS. UK support has included assistance in organising the first WPS Chiefs of Defence Network conference in Europe, and delivering specific commitments such as funding and advisory input to a comprehensive AFBiH Gender Audit. The UK is funding a Gender Expert Team and providing technical assistance via MoD in BiH, CSSF Gender Adviser and the British Army’s 77th Brigade to AFBiH to work on implementation of more than 50 specific recommendations from the AFBiH Gender Audit.

In **Moldova**, through CSSF, the UK supported the International Organisation for Migration to address GBV in Transnistria, a breakaway territory in Moldova. Working with local partners, the project funded the first shelter for victims of GBV, providing an opportunity to overcome barriers to cooperation, and works to help raise awareness and develop the solutions for greater local ownership in tackling GBV. In the first year of the project, the de facto authorities committed to criminalise GBV, strengthening existing legislation. In addition, new training and procedures for local actors have enabled the first-ever referral to the shelter. This represents a significant step forward to enabling collective efforts to empower women in society and to remove this pertinent barrier to participation.

In the **Netherlands**, HMA Joanna Roper, former Special Envoy for Gender Equality, hosted an online panel event in November on WPS and the impacts of COVID-19, to mark the anniversary of UNSCR 1325. There were a range of speakers represented from NGOs, academia and the military, who spoke about the detrimental effects of the pandemic on women in fragile and conflict-affected states. Joanna highlighted the UK’s leading role and work on WPS, as well as the UK-Netherlands cooperation highlighted in the joint-funding of a project run by one of our key stakeholders, Gender Action for Peace and Security.

The MOD deployed a Defence Adviser to the **Republic of North Macedonia** to support the development of a NAP (2020-2025). UK support was key in stakeholder engagement, securing senior level buy in, development of milestones and drafting of a Strategic Framework, which was published in October 2020. This is the second NAP the country has had since its independence. The Minister of

Defence emphasised that UK support was crucial to the success of this project and thanked the UK government for its support at the NAP launch event in October 2020.

This year, **Spain** presented, jointly with other countries, a resolution at the Human Rights Council to protect and promote the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations to mark the 20th anniversary of the 1325 Resolution. It was unanimously approved and backed by 66 co-sponsors. Spain has also led a COVID and Women resolution at UNGA, approved by consensus in November. This resolution, among other issues, refers to Resolution 1325 and the WPS agenda and its importance in response to the pandemic.

The UK co-hosted an event with UN Women and the **Canadian** Embassy as part of their '16 days of activism' events, focusing on domestic abuse among young women. The keynote speech was given by the Domestic Abuse Commissioner for England and Wales. In November, at an event hosted by Lord Ahmad celebrating the role of women mediators across the Commonwealth, the Canadian High Commissioner to the UK announced support for the UK funded Protection Framework for women peacebuilders.

The UK has supported **Argentina** on their second NAP that will include lessons learned and best practices – a focus will be on how to monitor implementation.

CSSF funding, and UK contributions to the UN Trust Fund, in **Colombia** support the implementation of a gender-based approach to the Havana Peace Agreement to secure the economic, social and cultural rights of women and promote the participation of women in representation. It grants women access to decision-making and conflict resolution spaces, puts in place prevention and protection measures to address specific risks faced by women and provides access to truth, justice and reparations.

In **Ecuador**, the UK funded part of the women's support line in providing psychological assistance for Casa María Amor, a civil society organisation and safe house located in Cuenca that supports victims of GBV and their children. The British Embassy also supported the University of Liverpool in a project which aims to reduce sexual harassment in university campuses (through the Athena SWAN methodology). The project worked through focus groups and peer learning, and was implemented in collaboration with the Network of Scientific Women of Ecuador – REMCI. This project reached three cities across Ecuador.

The UK continue to use our presidency of the International Community Group on Gender (MESAGEN) to prioritise women's empowerment in **Peru**, including through training for sub-national political leaders and anti-harassment campaigns. We have continued our support for the NAP on Business and Human Rights.

Section Seven: Multilateral Organisations

African Union (AU)

There has been regular engagement with the AU throughout 2020. In early 2020, the UK proposed a framework for UK-AU cooperation to the AU with a renewed focus on responding to COVID-19 and its secondary effects. Despite the renewed focus, our cooperation framework continued to feature a strong WPS element, though some of our plans will now slip into 2021. As the AU approaches Commission elections in February 2021, we are advocating for WPS to remain on the agenda.

Gender continues to feature strongly in our pre-deployment training of African peacekeepers through the British Peace Support Team BPST(A) in Nairobi. Much activity has been suspended during the COVID-19 period. However the Team have delivered e learning where possible, including moving the African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISOM) Female Engagement Team course online.

Box 6: British Peace Support Team (Africa) (BPST(A))

In 2020, BPST(A) developed its first gender policy. The policy articulates BPST(A) commitments to advance gender equality efforts and sustain gender advocacy efforts, while providing a framework for mainstreaming gender and the WPS agenda into all of its activities.

BPST(A) supported the Kofi Annan Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) to design and develop a first of its kind African Women Leaders Mentorship curriculum. The mentorship course will provide an opportunity for African middle level female leaders to develop mentoring skills to support the development of leadership capacities of other female colleagues, leading to meaningful participation and representation within the security sector.

BPST(A) also delivered a number of initiatives to improve the military response to GBV. It supported KAIPTC to develop a Gender-based Violence in Africa: Prevention and Response course curriculum. It supported KAIPTC to develop a "Gender Based Violence in Africa: Prevention and Response" course curriculum. The pilot course was delivered to 25 participants in Nigeria. In addition, it supported the Institute of Security Studies (ISS) Africa to deliver a 'dealing with SGBV' course virtually to 55 participants.

BPST(A) delivered specialised training with gender elements on human security to 225 Kenya Defence Force personnel who attended Counter Improvised Explosive Devices (CIED) training

European Union (EU)

Since the UK's departure from the EU on 31 January 2020, the UK is no longer represented in EU working groups or decision-making bodies. Nevertheless, we continue to work with the EU on priority areas where it is in our shared interest to do so. While a member of the EU, the UK was a key leader on WPS and we look forward to continuing to work together on this important issue.

The 20th Anniversary of UNSCR 1325 was a focal point of the WPS agenda in Brussels this year. As part of the events to mark the 20th anniversary of the UNSCR 1325, the UK Mission to the EU co-hosted a roundtable discussion entitled 'Gender, Climate and Conflict: Women, Peace and Security in a vulnerable world' alongside partner organisations GAPS, the London School of Economics (LSE) centre for WPS and the Women's International Peace Centre. The event also showcased FCDO-funded UK research expertise and built momentum towards COP26 among Brussels stakeholders by exploring the gendered impacts of climate change. Follow-up policy discussions have already taken place with UNDP and the European External Actions Service (EEAS) on related UK priority campaigns.

North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

In December 2019, leaders endorsed NATO's first policy on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Work in 2020 led to agreement of an action plan in October 2020. The UK led this process, with our secondee to NATO drafting the action plan and working across NATO divisions to ensure buy-in. The plan is comprehensive, with clear actions to ensure NATO's zero tolerance approach is embedded into NATO codes of conduct; that vetting and training procedures are put in place; that the policy is integrated into NATO's operational planning and communications work; and that complaint mechanisms are developed in line with best practice.

In October 2020, agreement that NATO would develop its first policy on conflict-related sexual violence was also reached. The UK was instrumental in achieving this. UK-funded staff organised a high-level online event in June, with participation of the UN Special Representative Pramila Patten and NATO Secretary General Stoltenberg. This raised awareness of the issue amongst the NATO audience and helped make the case for a policy. The target date for agreeing the conflict-related sexual violence policy is June 2021.

NATO marked the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 through a range of high-level discussions and events. This included a discussion on NATO's progress on WPS over the last 20 years at a North Atlantic Council meeting in October. Ambassadors recognised the significant progress that had been made: integrating gender perspectives into NATO's planning processes and operations (NATO's Mission in Iraq being the first fully to integrate gender from the outset); a network of gender focus points across the NATO enterprise;



Figure 11: Former Special Envoy for Gender Equality, Joanna Roper, meets Clare Hutchinson, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for WPS

capacity building with partners (e.g. Jordan Armed Forces); and a growing representation of women in NATO's staff, now making up 30% of senior management and 12% in Allied national forces (double what it was 20 years ago).

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

The UK Ambassador took over as Chair of the OSCE's Security Committee at the start of 2020. The UK Chair actively prioritised the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into security-related discussions. We have ensured gender-balanced panels, and moderated discussions that highlighted the differential impact that security threats can have on women, as well as the importance and benefits of the meaningful participation of women in efforts to counter transnational security threats. As Chair of an OSCE gender network, the UK Ambassador has continued to promote gender equality in jobs at all levels in the OSCE. Their approach aims to ensure a zero-tolerance policy and approach to sexual harassment and sexual exploitation and abuse; to promote the importance of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention, mediation, and resolution; and to prevent conflict-related sexual violence in OSCE conflict zones. The UK provided International Programme Funds to support the OSCE in strengthening their organisation-wide efforts to prevent sexual exploitation and abuse (PSEA). This included a comprehensive review of PSEA policies and mechanisms in the OSCE, identifying good practices in other international organisations, and the

creation of a PSEA Taskforce. We are providing follow-up funding in 2020/21 to implement recommendations from this project and to help ensure the OSCE has robust policies and mechanisms in place. In response to the surge in domestic violence during the pandemic, the UK initiated a joint statement on domestic and sexual violence risks under COVID-19 in the OSCE region. Forty-three of 57 OSCE participating States joined this statement, which was delivered at the OSCE's Permanent Council on 30th April. The UK actively supported the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 at the OSCE. A joint statement of 52 of 57 OSCE participating States at the Tirana Ministerial Council demonstrated the strong support for full implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the OSCE area.

United Nations (UN)

The UK is the penholder on the first UN Security Council resolution - UNSCR 1325 - on WPS. Throughout 2020, we sought to advance and uphold the WPS framework in New York.

In October, the UK marked the 20th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 by co-hosting over 10 events covering a broad range of topics from civil society engagement to women's leadership in peacekeeping operations. Several events included ministerial attendance. The month culminated in Minister Cleverly's speech at the Open Debate on 29 October, in which the UK publicly endorsed the UK-funded Protection Framework for women peacebuilders, developed by ICAN. The UK Mission to the UN stepped up efforts to open lines of communication between civil society and the

Security Council (SC), given that virtual meeting formats did not allow civil society briefers to attend Council meetings in the usual way.

The UK engaged in negotiations of the first UN SC resolution on women in peacekeeping. We advocated for strengthened WPS language, including on the participation of women in peacekeeping positions at all levels. We continued our work to mainstream WPS within UNSC resolutions, including UN peacekeeping mission mandate renewals. October saw sustained engagement in negotiations on a Russian WPS resolution ahead of the Open Debate on 29 October. Russian language threatened to roll back critical progress on WPS, particularly on women's human rights and the protection of civil society. The UK led efforts to organise a cross-regional coalition of likeminded Member States, resulting in a near-unprecedented 10 abstentions on the weak resolution.

The UK remains a top donor to the UN on WPS. We are supporting Urgent Action Fund to launch an emergency assistance fund for women human rights defenders who face reprisals after briefing the Council or its subsidiary bodies. The UK is the first and only Member State to take action on this Council issue. This fund will allow us to offer critical support to civil society briefers who provide highly important inputs to the Council on WPS. We have also funded the Centre for Reproductive Rights to support the UK Mission in New York to continue its leadership role on

Sexual Reproductive and Health Rights in an increasingly challenging multilateral environment, by providing legal and technical support as well as profiling case studies from the ground.

Box 7: Peacekeeping Mandates

The UK, as a permanent member of the UNSC, has an important role to play in mandating UN peacekeeping missions, including their WPS-specific activity in the UNSC. In 2020, over 75% of UN Peacekeeping mission mandates included WPS language. This language was either updated or strengthened in the following mandates: MINURSO (Western Sahara), MINUSCA (CAR), MINUSMA (Mali), MONUSCO (DRC), UNDOF (Golan Heights), UNFICYP (Cyprus), UNIFIL (Lebanon), UNISFA (Abeyi – Sudan), UNMISS (South Sudan).

Figure 12: Peacekeepers in South Sudan



Section Eight: UK capabilities

Improving UK capabilities is a key strategic outcome in the UK NAP. In 2020, the [process evaluation of our NAP](#) was completed.⁵⁰ The purpose of the evaluation was threefold: to provide accountability to Parliament, to generate learning to inform adaptation and improvement of the approach; and to make practical, feasible and actionable recommendations to strengthen implementation and future iterations of the NAP. In 2020, the cross-Whitehall WPS Working Group developed an approach to take forward the recommendations of the evaluation. Priorities include:

- Supporting posts to identify WPS objectives as part of any business planning process, and providing ongoing support in how to translate the NAP and Strategic Outcomes 'into practice' in their contexts;
- Working with posts and teams to plan, budget for and undertake gender analysis;
- Facilitating learning and exchange between NAP Focus Countries through the refreshed Gender, Inclusion and Crises Network;
- Conducting a scoping study on good practice, challenges and opportunities in M&E of NAPs to ensure the development of future M&E for the UK NAP is based on this evidence base.

Despite the redeployment of most staff working on WPS in London and overseas to the UK government's COVID-19 response between March and June 2020, we were able to make progress against the recommendations.

Mainstreaming WPS in 2020

This year has seen an ongoing emphasis on mainstreaming WPS across the UK government. The cross-Whitehall WPS Working Group UK developed a suite of tools, learning and development opportunities and support for colleagues working internationally on programme and policy priorities, helping to apply a gender perspective throughout their work.

The Vice Chief of Defence Staff has approved an internal change programme for defence, which will provide a long-term strategy for embedding WPS as part of a Human Security approach. This change programme will also include a revision of related training, internal structures, resourcing and policy, including Joint Service Publication (JSP) 1325.

Investing in expertise was a key priority. The UK government's learning and training offer has been a key aspect of our mainstreaming agenda. The SU continued to run its 'Gender, Conflict and Stability Course', hosting one session before having to postpone its schedule due to COVID-19. The SU pivoted to deliver an online nine-part 'Gender, Conflict and Politics Learning Series', providing staff with the opportunity to discuss and learn from peers and external speakers.

Bespoke learning sessions continued to be delivered to CSSF teams to better operationalise guidance and policy; for instance, training sessions on gender and conflict analysis and sensitivity were delivered to the CSSF Counter Terrorism Programme Fund.

In MENA, a network of gender leads has been created which meets regularly. The NAP focal countries also meet regularly to share expertise; the most recent example being a workshop where Yemen shared their experience of providing gender support to the Special Envoy's Office with the Libya team. A Deployable Civilian Expert (DCE) was also deployed to the Iraq team to build capability, support scoping and programme development. In Africa, Gender Equality 101 sessions were held remotely with CSSF teams, virtual gender-sensitivity training was delivered to 20 participants from CSSF teams in East Africa, and a Gender Sensitivity Toolkit was launched to support independent learning. Both MENA and Africa regions have also established regular gender equality newsletters, which provide technical updates and signpost online training for CSSF and FCDO colleagues. Eastern Europe and Central Asia have a strong and active network of programme and policy Gender Focal Points (GFPs) and set up Senior Gender Champions across the region in 2020 to provide high-level representation and support. In 2020, Gender 101s were delivered remotely by and for colleagues across the network on policy and programming.

Box 8: Mainstreaming WPS: Yemen

Last year a Gender Working Group was established to scale up the UK's work to address gender equality in Yemen. In September, a three-year cross-HMG Gender Strategy was approved, underlining our ambitious commitment to improve the lives of women in Yemen and setting out priority areas for taking action. The Strategy focuses on ensuring women and girls enjoy equal and full access to their rights, that their safety is protected and that their voices shape decision-making at local, regional and national levels.

Research, learning and guidance is the third key area of our capabilities focus. [Guidance notes](#) on how to apply NAP Strategic Outcomes to policy and programming are in development. In 2020 we completed guidance on Strategic Outcome 2 (Peacekeeping), Strategic Outcome 3 (Gender-based violence) and Strategic Outcome 4 (Humanitarian Response). The guidance on gender-responsive humanitarian response was launched by the FCDO Gender, Inclusion and Crises Network, GAPS, GADN and ODI as part of a session on the leadership of women humanitarians in the COVID-19 response. The two remaining guidance notes will be published in 2021.

In 2020 the SU produced guidance on Applying a Gender Perspective to the Joint Analysis of Conflict and Stability (JACS), HMG's conflict analysis methodology. The SU also produced guidance on emerging WPS themes; Gender and Serious and Organised Crime, and a How To Guide on Gender and Strategic Communications in Conflict Contexts.⁵¹ This includes a note on gender and countering disinformation, recognising the harmful impact disinformation can have on women in public roles.

Operationalising WPS continues to be a priority.

Box 9: UK Women Military Personnel in UN Peacekeeping – to Enhance Peacekeeping Operational Effectiveness

The UK remains committed to the UN Secretary-General's Gender Parity Strategy (2018-2028) which aims to increase the participation of uniformed women in peacekeeping, set against measurable targets. We are proud that in 2020 we have been close to and, at points, exceeded those targets. But we recognise the challenge ahead of us as target levels increase.

As of December 2020, women made up 9% of our contingent peacekeeping troops, compared with the UN's target of 6.5%. These numbers enable us to fulfil the commitment made by the former Defence Secretary, Penny Mordaunt, in 2019 to ensure mixed patrols in the UK's Cyprus deployment, with 22 women deployed within the unit. For military staff officers (MSOs) deployed to UN mission HQ positions, the UN target is 17%. UK female MSOs have fluctuated throughout the year, and Covid-19 has affected our numbers, but at points we have exceeded that target, achieving a year high of 19%.

We are committed to equal opportunities for women to participate in peacekeeping and will continue to work hard to maintain our position as target levels increase. To sustain our progress, all parts of the UK's Armed Forces are now open to women; equal access to information about opportunities is provided to encourage deployment; and equal opportunities to develop relevant skills and experience are offered.

Section Nine: Domestic application of the UK National Action Plan

The UK NAP, although outwardly focussed, works to complement domestic strategies implemented in the UK. The FCDO has taken steps to strengthen collaboration with domestic departments, in particular the Home Office and Northern Ireland Office.

Violence Against Women and Girls

Tackling violence against women and girls is a top priority for the UK government and we are determined to step up our response to prevent these abhorrent crimes and improve outcomes for victims and survivors. Our vision is for a society in which people can live without fear of abuse or violence. To achieve this vision, we will continue to build on the foundation laid by our 2010 and 2016 violence against women and girls strategies acknowledging the disproportionate impact of these types of crimes and the limiting effect it can have on people reaching their full potential.

We will be publishing a new Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy in spring 2021 which will help to better target perpetrators and support victims of these crimes, and increase our ability to tackle emerging forms of VAWG. To inform the new strategy, we launched a Call for Evidence on 10 December 2020. The Call for Evidence invites responses from the public - including those who have been directly affected, their friends, family and colleagues - organisations that provide support to victims and survivors, frontline professionals, and academics.

There have been two iterations of the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy since 2010. In that time, the UK government has introduced measures to tackle a range of crimes including (but not limited to) stalking, rape, so-called 'honour'-based abuse, female genital mutilation (FGM) as well as the risks and harms associated with prostitution and sex work. Although much has been achieved over the last

decade, there remains more to be done. The risks of violence against women and girls that existed 10 years ago are still present, but the pace of societal and technological change means that new and evolving forms of crimes against women and girls are continuously emerging. Since the previous Strategy was written, violence against women and girls has evolved and encompasses many more behaviours and crime types. We also know that our understanding of the prevalence and causes of these newer forms of violence against women and girls is limited. A new Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy is required to ensure that these crimes are tackled effectively.

Championing women peacebuilders in Northern Ireland.

Following the instrumental role women played in achieving the Good Friday/Belfast Agreement, women across society in Northern Ireland continue to be agents for change, sustaining peace in their communities and helping to build the capacity of other women peacebuilders overseas.

Women in Northern Ireland are a crucial part of the work the UK supports around peacebuilding, community cohesion, and preventing and countering violent extremism in the UK. One example of this activity is the Women Involved in Community Transformation (WICT) Programme. Since 2017, the WICT programme has been led by the devolved Department for Communities in Northern Ireland under the Tackling Paramilitarism, Criminality and Organised Crime Programme, which is jointly funded by UKG and the Northern Ireland Executive. The WICT programme is delivered by a consortium of women's and peacebuilding organisations.

The current phase of the programme will involve 312 new women and 190 existing WICT participants. The programme aims to build skills, knowledge and confidence of women in the community to build capacity to support community transformation. Involving the women in positive community activity and facilitating the development of relationships to support women's engagement with political structures allows civic leadership to grow at the community level. The increased participation and engagement of women allows their voices to be heard and supports their engagement benefitting them and their community. The impact of COVID-19 has led to the introduction of a blended learning approach, where possible, and has provided an opportunity for some of the participants to use the skills and knowledge gained by volunteering within their communities.

We also welcome the appointment in December 2020 of Helga Schmid (Germany), the first female Secretary General of the OSCE, as well as the fact that two out of the four most senior positions in the OSCE are now occupied by women. This is the first time in the OSCE's history that gender balance has been achieved in its most senior management.

Senior appointments

Women should have equal access to the economic and career opportunities given to their male colleagues; multilateral organisations such as the UN must set a positive example for the behaviour we want to see in Member States. The UK therefore continues to support delivery of the strategy launched by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in 2017 aimed at achieving gender parity in the UN by 2030.

In 2020, the UK government was once again the largest donor to the UN's flagship gender parity projects: the 'Global Call' and the Senior Women's Talent Pipeline (SWTP). The 'Global Call' establishes a pool of candidates for the senior positions of Special Representative of the Secretary-General (SRSG) and Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General (DSRSG) in UN peacekeeping operations. The SWTP seeks to increase the share of civilian women in UN Peace Operations. The UK continues to encourage well-qualified female candidates to apply for key roles in the UN and to support their job applications.

We welcome the ambitious objective set by the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, to reach gender parity within the agency by 2024, as well as his launch of the 'Marie Curie-Sklodowska Fund Programme'. The programme is designed to encourage more women to consider careers in the nuclear sector by offering scholarships to 100 female graduates to study a masters in a relevant subject, followed by an internship at the IAEA. The UK government is committed to supporting this initiative.

British women currently occupy two senior positions in the UN's peacekeeping missions: Joanne Adamson, DSRSG in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA); and Alice Walpole, DSRSG for Political Affairs and Electoral Assistance in the [UN Assistance Mission for Iraq \(UNAMI\)](#). The impact of COVID-19 disrupted appointments across the multilateral system in 2020, with many being postponed. However, Dr Mina Golshan, Deputy Chief Inspector at the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation, was appointed Vice President of the Seventh Review Meeting of the Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management in September 2020.

Endnotes

- 1 This information was obtained directly from the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office.
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- 15 This information was obtained directly from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.
- 16 There are no missions in Myanmar.
- 17 There are no missions in Nigeria.
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- 19 There are no missions in Syria.
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- 21 UN Peacekeeping, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/gender>. This indicator has been amended from 'Percentage' to Number for a more accurate depiction.
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- 23 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/violence-against-women.htm>. No data available for 2020.
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- 32 UN Population Fund, https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/19-200_Minimum_Standards_Report_ENGLISH-Nov.FINAL_.pdf. No data available for 2020.
- 33 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/social-institutions-and-gender.htm#indicator-chart>. The Social Institutions and Gender Index covers the following dimensions of discriminatory social institutions: Discriminatory family code, restricted physical integrity, restricted resources and assets, restricted civil liberty. The index presents scores ranging from 0 to 1, with 0 meaning there is no discrimination against women and 1 meaning indicating there is a very high level of discrimination against women. Please note this indicator was amended from 'Percentage of women who say they have confidence in the judicial system and courts in their country' as this data was no longer available.
- 34 The World Economic Forum, http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_GGGR_2020.pdf. The possible scores are: 0, 0.25, 0.5, 0.75 and 1. Equal justice incorporates: rights to sue; weight given to evidence; holding public and political office in the judiciary; and whether customary, religious and traditional laws and practices discriminate against women in matters of justice.
- 35 Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/>. The score is an aggregate score of laws and regulations that limit women's ability to participate in society or the economy or that differentiate between men and women, as measured by Women, Business, and the Law (World Bank 2019a). Themes include: accessing institutions, using property, going to court, providing incentives to work, building credit, and getting a job. Greater weight is given to six laws: requirement that married women obey their husband, mandate for paternity leave, equal remuneration for work of equal value, non-discrimination based on gender in hiring, and prohibitions of dismissal of pregnant workers and of child or early marriage. The lower the score the better; the worst potential score is 84.
- 36 World Bank, https://wbl.worldbank.org/en/data/exploretopics/wbl_gm. This indicator was amended from 'Woman's testimony carries the same evidentiary weight in court as a man's' as this data was no longer available.
- 37 Our World in Data, <https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/does-law-prohibit-or-invalidate-child-or-early-marriage?tab=table>. No data available for 2020/2019/2018.

- 38 Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/violence-against-women.htm>. Laws on domestic violence, laws on rape and laws on sexual harassment are presented as values ranging from 0-1, with 0 meaning there are no legislation in place to address the issue and 1 meaning that there are no legislation in place.
- 39 World Bank, <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgdAtlas/archive/2017/SDG-05-gender-equality.html>
- 40 Women, Peace & Security National Action Plans, <https://www.wpsnaps.org/>
- 41 Women, Peace & Security National Action Plans, <https://www.wpsnaps.org/>
- 42 This information was obtained directly from the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office.
- 43 This information was obtained directly from the Ministry of Defence.
- 44 There is no National Security Council strategy for South Sudan.
- 45 This information was obtained directly from the Ministry of Defence.
- 46 This information was obtained directly from the Ministry of Defence.
- 47 No South Sudanese military are allowed to attend UK training courses.
- 48 SU 2019. The unit of analysis is stand-alone pieces of conflict analysis using the HMG Joint Assessment of Conflict and Stability (JACS) methodology (these are not necessarily carried out annually).
- 49 SU 2020.
- 50 FCDO, Evaluation of the Women Peace and Security National Action Plan 2018-2020, <https://devtracker.fcdo.gov.uk/projects/GB-GOV-1-300868>
Gov UK, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-guide-on-gender-and-strategic-communication-in-conflict-and-stabilisation-contexts-january-2020>
- 51 Gov UK, <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-guide-on-gender-and-strategic-communication-in-conflict-and-stabilisation-contexts-january-2020>



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