Policy recommendations for the development of the First National Action Plan in Bulgaria on the implementation of UNSCR1325

19 years after the adoption of UN Security Council Resolution 1325, the first Security Council resolution to specifically address the impact of armed conflict on women, and women’s contribution to conflict resolution and sustainable peace a lot has been achieved in terms of better understanding of the relevance of a gender perspective within the overall international peace and security discourse. The recommendations being proposed here by Peace Research Institute - Plovdiv are taking into account lessons learned and emerging global issues.

Focus on:

1. National Action Plan should focus on conflict prevention and make commitments for particular policies, or develop localised initiatives to translate words into an impact on the ground.

   **Specific recommendation:** Plan and organise a seminar for the exchange of best practices with experts from Ireland on the topic of development of programmes for conflict prevention. **Develop programs that train and empower women from both Roma and ethnic Bulgarian origin to be mediators** in their respective communities when ethnic tension arises.

2. National Action Plan should focus on conflict prevention - including regulation of the arms trade and disarmament and it should identifies arms and specifically small arms and light weapons as a risk to women’s security.

   **Specific recommendation:** Integrate a gender perspective in planning and carrying out disarmament and arms control projects.
3. Since 2000 new challenges have arisen in global peace and security, such as climate change, the increasing number of refugees and violent extremism. Migrant women typically have numerous vulnerabilities that need to be addressed such as health issues, being single parents, the risk of trafficking and exploitation, limited access to the labour market due to residency status, childcare responsibility, etc.,

Specific recommendation: Include a gender perspective when developing humanitarian and development aid policies and programs. Such foreign policy programs should pro-actively call for the invitation of women to participate in discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of conflict, the maintenance of peace and security and countering violent extremism. Bulgaria could also develop a program to train women mediators who could participate in peace negotiations globally.

4. The 2015 Global Study on UNSCR 1325 (Global Study) found, there is a “consistent, striking disparity between policy commitments to gender equality and women’s empowerment, and the financial allocations to achieve them” (p. 372)

Specific recommendation: To ensure smooth implementation of the National Action Plan we call for a concrete financial allocation and it source to be included in the plan.

5. In December 2016 the UNSC adopted resolution 2250 on youth, peace and security. In June 2018 the UNSC adopted resolution 2419, reaffirming its commitment to the implementation of UNSCR 2250. It has an additional focus on the inclusive representation of youth for the prevention and resolution of conflict, including when negotiating and implementing peace agreements.

Specific recommendation: Include a reference to UNSCR 2250, when developing the NAP on UNSCR 1325.

Peace Research Institute - Plovdiv has been established in 2016. In 2017 we launched the program Academy ‘Ekaterina Karavelova’ which focuses on girls and women’s empowerment through the development of social platforms and the development and implementation of training curriculums.

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