

The Role of Parliaments in Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda in NATO Member Countries

A Survey by the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (2015)



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NATO Parliamentary Assembly

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Author: Audrey Reeves (University of Bristol)

Editors: Anna Kadar and Callum Watson (DCAF)

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NATO Parliamentary Assembly

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Since its creation, the NATO PA has provided a unique specialised forum for members of parliament from across the Atlantic Alliance to discuss and influence decisions on Alliance security. Through its work and activities, the Assembly facilitates parliamentary awareness and understanding of the key issues affecting the security of the Euro-Atlantic area, and supports national parliamentary oversight over defence and security. Crucially, it helps to strengthen the transatlantic relationship and the values which underpin the Alliance.

The Assembly is institutionally separate from NATO, but serves as an essential link between NATO and the parliaments of the NATO nations. It provides greater transparency of NATO policies, and fosters better understanding of the Alliance's objectives and missions among legislators and citizens of the Alliance.

Since the end of the Cold War, the Assembly has assumed a new role by integrating into its work parliamentarians from countries seeking a closer association with NATO. Through this form of parliamentary diplomacy, the Assembly contributes to mutual understanding and to the strengthening of parliamentary democracy throughout the Euro-Atlantic region and beyond, thereby complementing and reinforcing NATO's own programme of partnership and co-operation.

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Content

Executive summary.....	5
Introduction: parliaments and the women, peace, and security agenda	6
Background: NATO and the women, peace and security agenda.....	6
UNSCR 1325 and successor resolutions: an evolving framework.....	6
NATO commitments to women, peace and security.....	7
Methodology: An analysis of parliamentarians’ survey responses.....	9
Results: The growing contribution of parliaments to the women, peace and security agenda	10
Gender-balanced parliamentary leadership.....	10
1. Involvement of both women and men in parliamentary functions relevant to women, peace and security.....	10
Legislative initiatives forwarding the women, peace and security agenda.....	10
2. Adoption of national legislation specific to women, peace and security	11
3. Integration of relevant provisions in national legislation on gender equality, defence forces, international cooperation, and immigration.....	12
Parliamentary debates, questions, and reports on women, peace and security.....	14
4. Use of hearings, debates and questions to influence policy on women, peace and security.....	14
5. Use of hearings, debates and meetings to monitor implementation.....	15
6. Use of questions to monitor implementation	17
7. Commissioning of studies and reports related to implementation.....	17
Civil society engagement through coalitions and public events.....	18
8. Building of sustainable coalitions with government officials and civil society leaders	18
9. Attendance at, or organisation of, national and international forums	18
Conclusions and recommendations	20
Annex 1: Survey Questionnaire.....	22

List of tables

Table 1. Actions taken by parliamentarians to forward the women, peace and security agenda since 2013.....	5
Table 2. Year of adoption of a first NAP on women, peace and security in NATO member countries (in blue) and other countries.....	8
Table 3. Status of NATO member countries with regard to the adoption of a NAP on the implementation of Resolution 1325 (as of July 2015)	8
Table 4. NATO member countries' participation to the survey in relation to the adoption of a NAP.....	9
Table 5. Role of parliaments in adopting and/or developing NAPs	15
Table 6. Involvement of parliaments in monitoring the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda.....	16
Table 7. Summary table: the role of parliaments in forwarding the women, peace and security agenda in twenty-one NATO member countries with NAP (in white) and without NAP (in blue)	21

Executive summary

United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 (2000) encourages Member States to involve women and integrate a gender perspective in multilateral security initiatives such as peace settlements, peace missions and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes. NATO has taken on these objectives by developing a policy and operational framework to implement UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security at different levels of the Alliance's structures activities and activities.

This report provides an analysis of twenty-one national legislatures' reports to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly on their contribution towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security. The main finding of this report is that, since 2013, parliaments have been increasingly active in the implementation and monitoring of the women, peace and security agenda. Seventeen delegations (81% of respondents) report that parliamentarians have taken steps to promote the women, peace and security agenda. The report also documents evidence of increasingly diverse parliamentary activity in the field of women, peace and security, including gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; legislative initiatives; influence and oversight through debates, questions and reports; and civil society engagement. Parliamentary action remains concentrated in countries that have adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) on women, peace and security. All responding member countries with a NAP report instances of parliamentary activity forwarding the women, peace and security agenda, as opposed to only one third of responding countries without a NAP. Table 1 below summarises the prevalence of nine parliamentary actions forwarding the women, peace and security agenda across NATO member countries with and without a NAP.

Table 1. Actions taken by parliamentarians to forward the women, peace and security agenda since 2013

Actions	Number of countries who report taking action		
	With NAP	Without NAP	Total
1. Involvement of both women and men in parliamentary functions relevant to women, peace and security	1	1	2
2. Adoption of national legislation specific to women, peace and security	3	0	3
3. Integration of relevant provisions in national legislation	5	1	6
4. Use of hearings, debates and questions to influence policy on women, peace and security	1	0	1
5. Use of hearings, debates and meetings to monitor implementation	15	1	16
6. Use of questions to monitor implementation	5	0	5
7. Commissioning of studies and reports related to implementation	1	0	1
8. Building of sustainable coalitions with government officials and civil society leaders	1	0	1
9. Attendance at, or organisation of, national and international forums	4	1	5
Total number of countries taking action	15	2	17
Total as a percentage of respondents in the same category	100%	33%	81%

Introduction: parliaments and the women, peace, and security agenda

On 31 October 2000, the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) adopted Resolution 1325 (hereafter UNSCR 1325), its first resolution on women, peace and security. UNSCR 1325 encourages states to integrate women and a gender perspective in multilateral security initiatives such as peace settlements, peace missions and disarmament, demobilisation and reintegration programmes. It is widely considered as a ground-breaking step towards the recognition of women's roles in conflict prevention and peace-building as well as the integration of women's voices in debates and initiatives dealing with international security and post-conflict reconstruction.

This report provides an up-to-date analysis of twenty-one national legislatures' reports to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly (hereafter NATO PA) on their contribution towards the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security. The analysis builds on a previous report, published in 2013¹, and is based on a survey conducted in 2015. The findings will be presented at the NATO PA Annual Session in October 2015 in Stavanger, Norway.

The report proceeds as follows: first, it summarises the key legal and policy elements of the women, peace and security agenda, with an emphasis on its implementation in the NATO context. Second, it documents nine strategies deployed by parliaments of NATO member countries that contribute to the promotion, implementation, and monitoring of the women, peace and security agenda in four areas: gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; legislative initiatives; influence and oversight through debates, questions and reports; and civil society engagement. Third, it concludes with recommendations for parliamentarians.

Background: NATO and the women, peace and security agenda

UNSCR 1325 and successor resolutions: an evolving framework

Since its adoption, UNSCR 1325 has given rise to an expanding legal and policy framework known as the women, peace and security agenda. This agenda promotes the *prevention* of forms of violence affecting primarily, but not only, women and girls (including sexual violence, human trafficking, and domestic violence) in conflict-affected contexts; the *protection* of women and girls in such contexts; and the *participation* of women in conflict prevention, management and resolution as well as in peacekeeping activities.

Since 2008, the UNSC adopted six subsequent resolutions reaffirming and specifying the commitment to women, peace and security. Four focus on sexual violence in the context of armed conflict: UNSCRs 1820 (2008); 1888 (2009); 1960 (2010) and 2106 (2013). They call on Member States to recognise sexual violence as a serious violation of human rights and international law, prevent its occurrence and mediate its impacts. UNSCRs 1889 (2009) and 2122 (2013) urge states to recognise women's roles as important agents in post-conflict recovery efforts and actively integrate them in peace-building, peacekeeping and aid management. Finally, the latter resolution recognises the need for systematic reporting, in reaction to

¹ Audrey Reeves, "Involvement of Parliaments in Advancing the 'Women, Peace and Security' Agenda in NATO Member Countries", DCAF, 2013. Available at: <http://www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Involvement-of-Parliaments-in-Advancing-the-Women-Peace-and-Security-Agenda-in-NATO-Member-Countries>

criticisms that governments were not living up to their commitments.² This call for increased monitoring is particularly relevant to parliaments, which play an important role in monitoring governments' actions and implementation gaps. This report documents evidence of parliaments taking positive steps towards fulfilling this role.

In recent years, the agenda has also expanded from an initial focus on women and girls only to a more explicit focus on the impact of conflict on gender relations, which also involve men and boys. UNSCR 2106, adopted in 2013, recognises that sexual violence in conflict also affects “men and boys and those secondarily traumatized as forced witnesses of sexual violence against family members”.³ Similarly, it emphasises the positive role that men and boys can and must play in promoting gender equality during post-reconstruction efforts, if such efforts are to build a peace that benefits both men and women equally.

NATO commitments to women, peace and security

Since 2007, NATO has been developing a policy and operational framework to implement the UNSCRs on women, peace and security at different levels of the Alliance's structure. The 2010 NATO Summit, which endorsed the NATO Action Plan on Mainstreaming UNSCR 1325 into NATO-led Operations and Missions, marked the start of an intensification of the creation and consolidation of policies, structures and initiatives on UNSCR 1325.⁴

In 2012, the NATO Secretary General appointed the first Special Representative on Women, Peace and Security, Ms Mari Skåre. The Chicago (2012) and Wales (2014) Summits also took up the issue, re-affirming a commitment to the full implementation of UNSCR 1325. The 2014 Summit coincided with the launch of NATO's new Policy and Action Plan on women, peace and security and the establishment of the Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security as a permanent position at NATO headquarters, currently occupied by Ambassador Mariët Schuurman.

Since 2007, the NATO PA has sought to complement NATO and Allied governments' work on UNSCR 1325, looking specifically at the contribution of parliaments to the women, peace and security agenda. In 2011, the NATO PA Committee on the Civil Dimension of Security conducted the first NATO-wide survey of parliaments on their contribution to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, updated and renewed in 2013 and 2015. This report presents an analysis of the latter.

The UNSC encourages UN Member States “to develop clear strategies and action plans with goals and timetables, on the integration of gender perspectives in humanitarian operations, rehabilitation and reconstruction programs”.⁵ As of July 2015, fifty countries around the world have adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (see Table

² Hannah Wright, “Reinvigorating UNSCR 1325: building a more committed approach to gender, peace and security”, Saferworld, 31 October 2013, available at <http://www.saferworld.org.uk/news-and-views/comment/114-reinvigorating-unscr-1325--building-a-more-committed-approach-to-gender-peace-and-security>.

³ UNSCR 2106, 24 June 2013.

⁴ See DCAF's Factsheet on NATO Documents and Initiatives on Gender and Security, 2014 (still correct as of June 2015), available at <http://www.dcaf.ch/Publications/Factsheet-on-NATO-Documents-and-Initiatives-on-Gender-and-Security>.

⁵ UNSC, 31 October 2002, S/PRST/2002/32.

2). Amongst all twenty-eight NATO member countries, seventeen (or 61%) currently have a NAP (see Table 3). This testifies to the prominence of NAPs as strategic tools for implementing UNSCR 1325, especially amongst NATO member nations, something this report pays close attention to.

Table 2. Year of adoption of a first NAP on women, peace and security in NATO member countries (in blue) and other countries⁶

2005	Denmark									
2006	UK	Norway	Sweden							
2007	Netherlands	Spain	Switzerland	Austria						
2008	Iceland	Finland	Uganda	Côte d'Iv.						
2009	Belgium	Portugal	Liberia	Guinea	Chile					
2010	Canada	Estonia	France	Italy	Slovenia	BiH	DRC	Philippines	Rwanda	S.Leone
2011	USA	Croatia	Lithuania	Senegal	Burundi	Serbia	Nepal	Guinea B.	Georgia	Ireland
2012	Germany	Ghana	Australia	Mali						
2013	FYR of Macedonia ⁷	Nigeria	Kyrgyzstan							
2014	Indonesia	Gambia	Afghanistan	S. Korea	Kosovo ⁸	Iraq				

Table 3. Status of NATO member countries with regard to the adoption of a NAP on the implementation of Resolution 1325 (as of July 2015)

States with a NAP and date of the adoption of the first NAP (latest NAP in parentheses)		States without a NAP	
Belgium	2009 (2013)	Norway	2006 (2015)
Canada	2010	Portugal	2009 (2014)
Croatia	2011	Slovenia	2010
Denmark	2005 (2014)	Spain	2007
Estonia	2010	United Kingdom	2006 (2014)
France	2010	USA	2011
Germany	2012		
Iceland	2008 (2013)		
Italy	2010 (2014)		
Lithuania	2011		
Netherlands	2007 (2011)		
		Albania	
		Bulgaria ⁹	
		Czech Republic ¹⁰	
		Greece	
		Hungary	
		Latvia	
		Luxembourg	
		Romania	
		Poland	
		Slovakia	
		Turkey	

⁶ Inspiration: Global Gender Program, Elliott School, George Washington University to PeaceWomen (www.peacewomen.org/naps, retrieved 13 September 2013); updated with 2015 data from PeaceWomen and the Inclusive Security National Action Plan Resource Center.

⁷ Turkey recognises the Republic of Macedonia with its constitutional name.

⁸ The Kosovo Assembly declared the territory's independence on 17 February 2008. While 36 member states of the DCAF Foundation recognized the independence of Kosovo as of the date of publication of this report, 25 member states did not do so, and continue to refer to Kosovo in the framework of the UN Security Council Resolution 1244.

⁹ In 2012, Bulgaria adopted an action plan for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 limited to the Ministry of the Defence.

¹⁰ The Ministry of Defence "shall elaborate [an] Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security by the end of 2015".

Methodology: An analysis of parliamentarians' survey responses

The analysis draws on NATO member countries' responses to a survey conducted by the NATO PA between April and July 2015. It builds on the 2013 report to offer an expanded and updated overview of national legislatures' involvement in the promotion of the UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions. The NATO PA designed the questionnaire (in Annex 1) in collaboration with DCAF and the author of this report. Of the twenty-eight member countries of the Alliance, twenty-one (75%) answered the survey, including four member countries (Estonia, Iceland, Lithuania, and Bulgaria) not featured in the previous report. Countries with a NAP answered the survey in greater proportion (88% of countries with a NAP responded) than countries without a NAP (55% of them responded). Responses contained on average more detail in 2015, which may reflect an increase in activity and interest around the women, peace and security agenda. In order to remain brief and current, the report focuses on examples from 2013 onward while situating them within broader trends.

Any information on member countries' legislation and policies that is not explicitly referenced is drawn from 2015 survey responses.¹¹ Where appropriate, the analysis incorporates data from 2013 survey responses as well as publicly available background information, notably member countries' legislation and government policies mentioned in survey responses. An in-depth analysis of legislative measures to implement UNSCR 1325 in relation to the broader legislative framework of each member country is beyond the scope of this paper.

Table 4. NATO member countries' participation to the survey in relation to the adoption of a NAP

Member countries	Answered the survey			Did not answer the survey
With NAP	Belgium	Germany	Norway	France United States
	Canada	Iceland	Portugal	
	Croatia	Italy	Slovenia	
	Denmark	Lithuania	Spain	
	Estonia	Netherlands	United Kingdom	
Without NAP	Bulgaria	Latvia		Albania Greece Luxembourg Poland Romania
	Czech Republic	Slovakia		
	Hungary	Turkey		
Total	21 countries: 75%			7 countries: 25%

¹¹ Full responses will be made available on the NATO PA website: www.nato-pa.int.

Results: The growing contribution of parliaments to the women, peace and security agenda

Across member countries of the Alliance, seventeen delegations (81% of respondents) report that parliamentarians have taken steps to promote the women, peace and security agenda. This section discusses nine strategies through which parliamentarians forward the women, peace and security agenda across NATO member countries. They apply to four areas: gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; legislative initiatives; influence and oversight through debates, questions and reports; and civil society engagement.

Gender-balanced parliamentary leadership

1. Involvement of both women and men in parliamentary functions relevant to women, peace and security

Sharing high-level responsibilities and leadership positions relevant to women, peace and security equally between women and men creates an institutional setting that reflects the values and objectives of UNSCRs on women, peace and security. Parliamentarians who elect women to chair and sit on committees relevant to peace and security contribute to the implementation of UNSCR 2122. The latter “recognizes the continuing need to increase women’s participation ... in all discussions pertinent to the prevention and resolution of armed conflict, the maintenance of peace and security, and post-conflict peacebuilding”.¹² In some parliaments, women occupy important leadership roles that enhance their influence in discussions relevant to peace and security. For instance, in the National Assembly of Bulgaria, women occupy the functions of President of the National Assembly and Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee. Conversely, in some parliaments, men act as advocates of the gender, peace and equality agenda. The UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security for instance counts three men.¹³ The involvement of women and men in parliamentary committees and working groups that conduct work relevant to the women, peace and security agenda facilitates its implementation and symbolically promotes its values.

Legislative initiatives forwarding the women, peace and security agenda

This second sub-section considers parliaments’ contribution as legislative bodies. Since 2013, three legislatures promoted the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its successor resolutions through legislative initiatives specific to this topic. Over the same period, six parliaments formalised and consolidated their governments’ commitment to the women, peace and security agenda by inserting provisions into broader legislation on gender equality, immigration, defence forces and/or international cooperation. Debate over proposed legislation can also contribute to monitoring. Both approaches usefully complement each other, as shown in the Italian context (see examples below). In all but one case, the adoption of legislation or provisions within a broader legislative initiative happened during or following the adoption of a NAP. This suggests that the increased visibility of the women, peace and security agenda that accompanies the development of a NAP facilitates the adoption of relevant legislation.

¹² UNSCR 2122, 18 October 2013.

¹³ UK Parliament, Register of All-Party Groups – Women, Peace and Security, 30 March 2015, available at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmllparty/register/women-peace-and-security.htm>.

2. Adoption of national legislation specific to women, peace and security

Since 2013, the parliaments of three member countries with a NAP (Belgium, Croatia and Italy) drafted legislative projects specifically promoting the women, peace and security agenda. The legislation covers two areas: the integration of women in defence forces and measures mediating the impact of sexual violence in conflict. In Belgium, parliamentarians tabled a proposed resolution in the Chamber of Representatives in 2013. The latter asks the Ministry of Defence to review its human resources policy to integrate more women in the Belgian Armed Forces in line with objectives established in the Belgian NAP.¹⁴ It recommends that the government considers measures used by other national armed forces, as documented by the NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives.¹⁵ In 2014, the Chamber of Representatives hosted a debate including parliamentarians, government officials, a NATO gender advisor and civil society representatives, who gave their reactions to the proposed resolution. Such parliamentary initiatives encourage exchange of information between NATO, government officials, parliamentarians, and civil society actors and norm diffusion across members of the Alliance.

In Croatia and Italy, parliaments tabled legislative projects focusing on the needs of survivors of conflict-related sexual violence. In 2015, the Croatian *Sabor* adopted the Homeland War Act, which contains special provisions for female victims of sexual violence during the wars of 1991-95. The law stipulates that victims “will receive a one-off payment of 100,000 kuna (\$14,504) and a monthly allowance of 2,500 kuna [\$363]. They will also be entitled to free counselling, legal and medical aid”.¹⁶ The adoption of this law meets the need to provide “comprehensive health services, including sexual and reproductive health, psychosocial, legal, and livelihood support and other multi-sectoral services for survivors of sexual violence” as stated in UNSCR 2106 (2013). It makes Croatia a European leader in legislating on the provision of assistance to female victims of sexual violence during wartime, but holds no similar provisions for male survivors. A recent study suggests that male survivors would “almost certainly not register themselves ... because, in most cases, they are already beneficiaries of other rights on the basis of their participation in the Homeland War”.¹⁷ Such legislation can nonetheless usefully provide for both male and female survivors, as in the case of a resolution adopted in 2013 by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Chamber of Deputies of the Italian Parliament. This resolution commits the Italian Government to a series of actions tackling sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict

¹⁴ Chambre des représentants de Belgique, 28 March 2013, “Proposition de résolution relative à la politique du genre à la Défense”, DOC 53 2735/001, available online at <http://www.lachambre.be/FLWB/PDF/53/2736/53K2736001.pdf>.

¹⁵ NATO Committee on Gender Perspectives (formerly Committee on Women in the NATO Forces), “Best Practices to Improve the Gender Balance”, 2008, available at http://www.nato.int/issues/women_nato/2008-11-gender_balance.pdf.

¹⁶ Zoran Radosavljevic, “Croatia passes law to compensate war rape victims”, Reuters, 29 May 2015, available at <http://uk.reuters.com/article/2015/05/29/uk-croatia-rape-idUKKBN0OE1M820150529>.

¹⁷ Ozren Žunec Dragan Bagić, Branka Galic et al, *Assessment of the number of sexual violence victims during the Homeland War on the territory of the Republic of Croatia and optimal forms of compensation and support to victims*, United Nations Development Programme – Croatia Office, December 2013, available online at <http://www.hr.undp.org/content/dam/croatia/docs/Research%20and%20publications/socialinclusion/UN-DP-HR-SEXUAL%20-VIOLENCE%20-IN%20-CONFLICT-RESEARCH-ENG-2014.pdf>.

areas.¹⁸ It emphasises “the specific needs of boys and girls who have been victims of sexual violence”, thus recognising that male survivors also need support.

3. Integration of relevant provisions in national legislation on gender equality, defence forces, international cooperation, and immigration

In many contexts, the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda happens according to relevant national legislation pertaining to gender equality, the military, international cooperation and immigration. For instance, national legislation on gender equality provides the framework for implementing UNSCR 1325 at the domestic level in at least seven member countries, notably as concerns the integration of women in the armed forces.¹⁹ Legislatures further facilitate the implementation of UNSCRs relevant to women, peace and security by integrating specific provisions in broader legislative initiatives. For instance, the *Sabor* integrated specific provisions on UNSCR 1325 into Croatia’s 2011 National Policy on Gender Equality Act.

Since 2013, six member countries have taken action in this way. First, recent legislation relating to defence forces explicitly provides for the integration of women in the military, which can contribute to an improved gender balance in peace missions, and gender-sensitive troop behaviour. In Norway, the Parliament voted in 2013 to adopt a policy of gender-neutral conscription, which is unprecedented among NATO member nations.²⁰ Whilst the decision is controversial amongst women’s organisations,²¹ Norwegian officials contend that it will help raise the proportion of women in the Armed Forces from 10 to 20%. If successful, the measure could increase the likelihood that Norwegian women will take part in peace missions. In Spain, recent legislation on military careers and the armed forces “include[s] articles about troop behaviour while deployed in international missions, equal opportunities between men and

¹⁸ Atto Camera, Risoluzione in Commissione 7/00061, 8 July 2013, available at <http://aic.camera.it/aic/scheda.html?core=aic&numero=7/00061&ramo=CAMERA&leg=17&testo=7%201325>.

¹⁹ In Bulgaria: Article 6 of the Constitution, which states that all citizens are equal before the law regardless of sex and Anti-Discrimination Law of 16 September 2003; in Canada: the Employment Equality Act; in Estonia: the Gender Equality Act of 2004; in Iceland: Law 10/2008 on the Equal Position and Rights of Women and Men, particularly Paragraph 11; in Hungary: Law CXXV of 2003 on Promoting Equal Treatment and Opportunities, which states that every state and government institution with more than 50 employees must have a strategy to address gender issues; in Slovenia: the Equal Opportunities for Women and Men Act and the Resolution on the National Programme for Equal Opportunities for Women and Men 2005-2013; in Spain: the Organic Law 3/2007 of 22 March on the effective equality of women and men.

²⁰ Government of Norway, “Norway adopts conscription for both men and women”, 14 June 2013, available at <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/norway-adopts-conscription-for-both-men-/id730661/>.

²¹ Some women’s organisations, such as the International Alliance of Women and the Norwegian Section of Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, protested against female conscription. They argue that it stems from “a misunderstanding of the concept of gender equality” and that women’s contribution to peacebuilding should not happen through a forced militarisation. (See: International Alliance for Women, “No to female conscription”, 24 May 2015, <http://womenalliance.org/no-to-female-conscription>.) According to Norwegian officials, it is unlikely that women will be drafted against their will: since the end of the Cold War, the number of volunteers exceeds the number of recruits.

women in the Armed Forces and penalties in case of non compliance”.²² Such legislation goes against the historical tendency to exempt military institutions from workplace equal opportunities legislation and reflects legislative change favouring more inclusiveness of women and gender-sensitive concerns in other NATO countries like Slovenia (2004)²³ and Estonia (2012).²⁴ It is noteworthy that three countries with a NAP recently adopted legislation facilitating the integration of women in defence forces. The adoption of NAPs, which often promote a discourse that problematises the underrepresentation of women in defence forces, may therefore contribute to a national setting favourable to such legislation.

Second, in three member countries, national legislation on international development and cooperation contains commitments to gender equality and UNSCR 1325. In 2014, the UK and Italian parliaments both adopted legislation on international development with provisions for upholding gender equality.²⁵ The Italian legislation notably provides for implementing “special interventions in crisis areas ... according to the NAP [on women, peace and security]”.²⁶ Moreover, the Italian Senate’s Defence Committee adopted a resolution committing the Italian Government to strengthening NATO’s implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions.²⁷ In Iceland, the NAP functions in sync with the Strategy for International Development Cooperation, renewed every two years and submitted to Parliament for adoption.²⁸ The Strategy 2013-2016 incorporates gender as a crosscutting theme and calls for initiatives promoting the implementation of UNSCRs on women, peace and security. It also recommends the integration of gender perspectives in the projects and policies of all international organisations of which Iceland is a member, including NATO.

The above examples, all of which come from countries with a NAP, show parliaments either embracing UNSCR 1325 as a whole or promoting one of its most ground-breaking recommendations, the integration of women in security forces. In Turkey, which does not have a NAP, new legislation relevant to the women, peace and security agenda has focused more on the gender-based needs of women as young mothers. In reaction to the recent inflow of refugees fleeing the war in Syria, the Turkish Parliament adopted the 2013 Law on Foreigners and International Protection. This law addresses the special needs of women refugees who are either pregnant or with young children. Such provisions fit with the “protection” pillar of UNSC resolutions on women, peace and security, which call for the recognition of women’s particular

²² Law 39/2007 of 19 November on military careers; Organic Law 9/2011 of 27 July on rights and obligations of the members of the Armed Forces; pending Organic Law of the Military Penal Code, to be approved in July 2015.

²³ Slovenia Defence Act, 2004.

²⁴ The Military Service Act (2012) enables Estonian women “to voluntarily undertake military service” (compulsory for men) and pursue a career as an officer on equal terms with men. See Estonian Defence Forces, “Compulsory military service”, 11 March 2014, available at <http://www.mil.ee/en/defence-forces/compulsory-military-service>.

²⁵ UK International Development Gender Equality Act of 2014 and Italy’s Law no 125/2014.

²⁶ Law Decree 109/2014 (law 141/2014).

²⁷ Senato della Repubblica, Legislatura 17a, 4a Commissione permanente, Resoconto sommario n.85, 31 July 2014, available at <http://www.senato.it/japp/bgt/showdoc/frame.jsp?tipodoc=SommComm&leg=17&id=798376#>.

²⁸ As stipulated in the 2008 Act on International Development Cooperation no 121/2008, which entered into force on 1 October 2008. Iceland Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Icelandic Development Cooperation, 2015, available at <http://www.mfa.is/foreign-policy/development-cooperation/icelandic-development-cooperation/>.

needs in conflict and post-conflict contexts, including in relation to reproductive health. The protection of pregnant and nursing women is nonetheless also part of humanitarian law that pre-dates UNSCR 1325. If Turkey adopts a NAP, it will be worth watching to see whether this leads to the adoption of legislation reflecting newer but equally important aspects of the women, peace and security agenda, such as measures tackling sexual violence in refugee camps and the participation of conflict-affected women in decision-making structures.

Parliamentary debates, questions, and reports on women, peace and security

This third sub-section considers parliaments as arenas for debate, discussion and reporting. Debates, hearings, committee meetings, question sessions and reports provide opportunities to influence policy debates on women, peace and security and exercise oversight.

4. Use of hearings, debates and questions to influence policy on women, peace and security

In most member countries with a NAP, the plan constitutes executive policy. Only in France and Portugal²⁹ have parliaments adopted a NAP as legislation. However, in three other member countries, parliamentarians have used parliamentary hearings, plenary debates, committee meetings and questions to the government to shape the design and evolution of NAPs. In Spain members of parliament questioned the government over its NAP prior to its adoption while in Germany, parliamentarians discussed the first NAP at plenary sittings and committee meetings.³⁰ In 2011, members of the Belgian Senate used a session on the evaluation of the first NAP (2009) to make recommendations about the design of Belgium's second NAP (2013).³¹ Whilst advocacy takes place through many avenues, such parliamentary interventions are influential due to their authority and visibility. More recently, the UK All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security provided advice on the development of the third UK NAP, adopted in 2014. No other similar examples have been reported since 2013, possibly because the rhythm of adoption of new NAPs has slowed down in NATO member countries. We may nonetheless see more developments soon in contexts where NAPs are currently under development (e.g. Czech Republic).

²⁹ Surveyed in 2013.

³⁰ See e.g. the 178th sitting of the German Bundestag on 10 May 2012 (Minutes of Plenary Proceedings 17/178). Seven parliamentary committees were involved: the Committees on Foreign Affairs (which takes the lead tackling the matter); Legal Affairs and Consumer Protection; Defence; Family Affairs and Senior Citizens; Human Rights and Humanitarian Aid; Education, Research and Technology Assessment; and Economic Cooperation and Development.

³¹ Sénat de Belgique. Session de 2010-2011. 14 Juin 2011. Document législatif no 4-765/1. Available at <http://www.senate.be/www/?MIval=/publications/viewPub.html&COLL=S&LEG=5&NR=765&VOLGNR=1&LANG=fr>

Table 5. Role of parliaments in adopting and/or developing NAPs

Parliament adopts NAP as legislation	Parliament feeds into NAP development ³²	Parliament not involved in either adoption or development of NAP	
France ³³ Portugal ³⁴	Belgium Germany Spain United Kingdom	Canada Croatia Denmark Estonia Iceland Italy	Lithuania Netherlands Norway Portugal ³⁵ Slovenia

5. Use of hearings, debates and meetings to monitor implementation

In seventeen³⁶ member countries, parliaments monitor the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda through debates and hearings. Debates and hearings fulfil three monitoring functions. First, they provide opportunities to question government officials. For instance, in 2014, Canada’s Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights heard from Ms Jill Sinclair, Assistant Deputy Minister (Policy) at the Department of National Defence, on providing gender-sensitive training, integrating women in the military and the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda within NATO.³⁷ Second, they give parliamentarians an opportunity to learn from civil society experts and leaders. The same committee recently heard from UN Women, as well as Canadian and international NGOs (e.g. Institute for Inclusive Security) who presented recommendations to the Government of Canada.³⁸ Third, hearings provide opportunities to give public recognition to advocates of the women, peace and security agenda. During a recent hearing of a senatorial Committee on National Defence, a Canadian parliamentarian, Mr John Williamson, congratulated Rear-Admiral J.J. Bennett on her appointment as Champion for Women in Defence.³⁹

Monitoring happens on either a periodic or ad hoc basis (see Table 6 for a summary). In both cases, some meetings specifically address the implementation of women, peace and security and others mainstream these concerns in broader discussions. Periodic monitoring takes place after government agencies submit a report on women, peace and security or in the context of larger discussions, e.g. periodic plenary debates and committee meetings on military

³² For the purpose of this study, this does not cover cases where the parliament was kept informed but did not play an active role, as was the case in Italy for instance.

³³ Surveyed in 2013.

³⁴ Surveyed in 2013.

³⁵ Surveyed in 2015.

³⁶ This section combines data collected in 2013 and 2015; whenever data was contradictory the 2015 response prevailed.

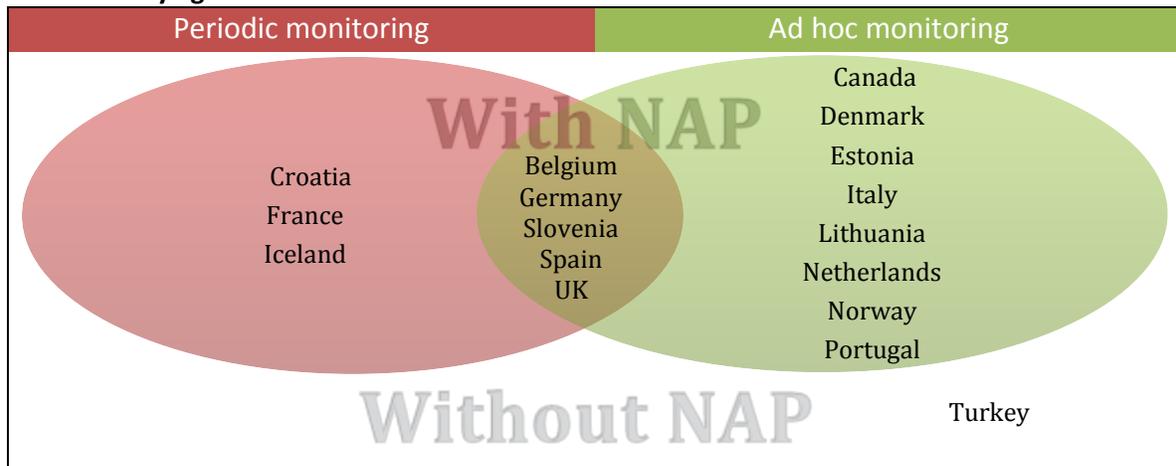
³⁷ For additional details, see Proceedings of the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights, Issue 4 – Evidence, 24 March 2014, available at http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/ridr/04ev-51265-e.htm?Language=E&Parl=41&Ses=2&comm_id=77.

³⁸ Senate Committee Meeting on the Examination of Canada’s international and national human rights obligations, 11 June 2015, webcast and transcript available at http://www.parl.gc.ca/SenCommitteeBusiness/Notice.aspx?parl=41&ses=2&comm_id=1077&Language=E&meeting_id=414073.

³⁹ House of Commons of Canada, Standing Committee on National Defence, Number 52, 2nd session, 41st Parliament, 23 March 2015, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=7886747&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2>.

preparedness and combat readiness (Croatia). If frequent enough, ad hoc monitoring can supplement or replace periodic monitoring. In Canada, the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights met three times between 2013 and 2015 to discuss the implementation of the Canadian NAP. In the UK, the APPG-WPS holds ad hoc meetings with ministers and officials⁴⁰ and organises “thematic and country-specific meetings”. Ad hoc monitoring is used to respond to emerging priorities, as in the case of a recently established one-year committee in the House of Lords that discusses the prevention of sexual violence in conflict and the UK’s contribution to tackling this crime.⁴¹ Also reacting to an emerging priority, in Turkey, the Committee on Equal Opportunities for Men and Women of the Grand National Assembly held a meeting in 2014 on the situation of female refugees from Syria. The Disaster and Emergency Management Authority gave a briefing and described projects targeting women. Like periodic monitoring, ad hoc monitoring also regularly takes place in the context of broader oversight procedures. Examples include parliamentary question sessions, debates, and committee meetings dedicated to foreign affairs (Estonia⁴², Iceland, Italy, Norway), development assistance budgets (Norway), defence (Canada⁴³, Italy), and human rights (Iceland, Italy⁴⁴).

Table 6. Involvement of parliaments in monitoring the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda



Oversight and debate is the most active field of parliamentary involvement in the women, peace and security agenda and thus deserves special analytical attention. As these examples show, meetings and debates monitoring the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda happen more often in countries with a NAP. This suggests a strong connection between

⁴⁰ In 2015, meetings notably took place with the Under Secretary of State at the Ministry of Defence, Julian Brazier, and the Foreign Office Minister, Tobias Elwood.

⁴¹ It will report to the House by 23 March 2016. UK Parliament, “Sexual Violence in Conflict Committee appointed by House of Lords”, 11 June 2015, available at <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/sexual-violence-in-conflict/news-parliament-2015/committee-appointed/>.

⁴² Most lately on 12 February 2015.

⁴³ House of Commons of Canada. Standing Committee on National Defence. Number 52, 2nd session, 41st Parliament, 23 March 2015, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=7886747&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2>.

⁴⁴ On 8 April 2014, the Human Rights Subcommittee of the Chamber of Deputies’ Foreign and European Community Affairs Committee conducted the most recent hearing of this kind.

the adoption of a NAP and the institutionalisation of parliamentary monitoring of the women, peace and security agenda, be it on a periodic and/or ad hoc basis. It is plausible that the adoption of a NAP raises parliamentarians' awareness of the women, peace and security agenda and prompts them to make use of existing structures to hold periodic reviews or establish new ones. Delegations' reports indicate that periodic monitoring does not happen in countries without NAPs. Bulgaria identifies a periodic review where monitoring the implementation of the UNSCRs on women, peace and security could be undertaken (the annual report of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination, discussed by the Parliamentary Committee on Religious Denominations and Human Rights and adopted by the National Assembly). Similarly, in Hungary, the Subcommittee for Female Dignity established in 2015 under the Cultural Committee could fulfil this function. However, there is no evidence yet that these structures have addressed issues pertaining to Resolution 1325. Parliamentarians of countries with a NAP also take more proactive steps to question officials and seek information. In the only monitoring example provided by a country without a NAP, Turkey, it is not clear whether parliamentarians have gone beyond receiving information by, for instance, questioning officials on their capacity to prevent violence against female refugees and/or facilitate their participation in peacebuilding efforts. In contrast, countries with a NAP provide examples of parliamentarians taking a proactive approach to monitoring, such as organising dedicated periodic meetings or questioning government officials, as shown in the next point.

6. Use of questions to monitor implementation

Since 2013, parliamentarians of four countries with a NAP (Canada, Germany, Iceland and the UK) monitored the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda by questioning the government in spoken and/or written form. Questions came from individual members of parliament (UK) and parliamentary groups of political parties (Germany⁴⁵). Questions enable civil society organisations, government officials, and the general public to keep track of efforts made towards implementing the women, peace and security agenda. For instance, in the UK House of Lords in 2015, Baroness Hodgson of Abinger asked what the proportion of women in the UK delegation at the 2014 NATO Summit was. One week later, the Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Baroness Anelay of St Johns, responded that the UK delegation "comprised a total of 40 people, of which 10 were women". This exchange sheds light on the extent to which the UK fulfils the commitment to integrating women into high-level discussions on peace and security. In asking questions, parliamentarians signal to governments that they should be prepared to report on their implementation of UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions. In this process, regular reporting on women, peace and security becomes normalised, which in turn increases transparency and facilitates implementation.

7. Commissioning of studies and reports related to implementation

Another monitoring strategy consists of conducting studies and drafting reports. Since 2013, the Canadian parliamentary committees on Human Rights and Foreign Affairs and International Development have monitored Canada's implementation of UNSCR 1325 in three reports: Canada's implementation of UNSCRs on women, peace and security (2013; 2014)⁴⁶ and on

⁴⁵ Alliance 90/The Greens tabled their interpellations in BT Printed Paper 18/2680 of 24 September 2014. The government answered in BT Printed Paper 18/2922 of 14 October 2014 and BT Printed Paper 18/2993 of 28 October 2014.

⁴⁶ Fifth Report, "Women, Peace and Security: Canada Moves Forward to Increase Women's Engagement", 23 March 2010, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/403/huma/rep/rep05nov10-e.htm>; Eleventh Report, Section 2, "The Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution

Canadian actions to mediate the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war in the DRC (2014).⁴⁷ Such reports contribute to monitoring the implementation of UNSCR 1325 by informing the public at home and abroad of the state of governments' efforts in this field. They also encourage better implementation by making recommendations. One report expressed concern at how the "numbers of female Canadian Armed Forces, police and civilian personnel deployed to peace operations were lower than expected"; and "encourage[d] Canadian government institutions such as the Canadian Armed Forces to consider introducing goals for the deployment of women in peace operations, as well as putting programs and plans in place to be able to reach those goals".⁴⁸ Such recommendations ensure that governments' commitments to UNSCR 1325 and subsequent resolutions remain at the forefront of the political agenda.

Civil society engagement through coalitions and public events

This fourth sub-section considers parliamentary efforts in engaging civil society leaders active in the field of women, peace and security. Coalitions and public events bringing together parliamentarians and civil society actors send strong messages to government officials and the general public about the importance of this agenda.

8. Building of sustainable coalitions with government officials and civil society leaders

In the UK, parliamentarians created a special working group dedicated to the promotion of the women, peace and security agenda: the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security (APPG-WPS). It was established in 2006, the year when the first UK NAP was adopted. This informal cross-party group⁴⁹ brings together civil society representatives, policymakers and parliamentarians. It provides a space for discussing and analysing issues relating to women, peace and security; raising awareness across Westminster (the parliament) and Whitehall (the central government); strengthening the government's commitment to the women, peace and security agenda; and advising on the updating of the NAP. The group achieves these objectives "through building strong and vibrant networks" amongst group members and partners, "sharing information and best practice" and organising events in Parliament and beyond. Activities target government departments responsible for implementing the UK NAP: the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for International Development. A dedicated working group like the APPG-WPS increases transparency and strengthens collaborative links between parliamentarians and civil society advocates of the women, peace and security agenda.

9. Attendance at, or organisation of, national and international forums

Local, national and international forums and conferences provide opportunities for parliamentarians to deepen their knowledge of the women, peace and security agenda, raise

1325 (and its successor resolutions)', 25 June 2013, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/411/ridr/rep/rep13jun13-e.htm>; Seventh Report, 19 June 2014, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/ridr/rep/rep07jun14-e.htm>.
⁴⁷ "A Weapon of War: Rape and Sexual Violence Against Women in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Canada's Role in Taking Action and Ending Impunity", May 2014, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/HousePublications/Publication.aspx?DocId=6564505&Language=E&Mode=1&Parl=41&Ses=2>.

⁴⁸ Seventh Report, 19 June 2014, available at <http://www.parl.gc.ca/Content/SEN/Committee/412/ridr/rep/rep07jun14-e.htm>

⁴⁹ UK Parliament, "All-Party Parliamentary Groups", 2015, available at <http://www.parliament.uk/about/mps-and-lords/members/apg/>.

awareness in civil society, and engage key civil society leaders. National-level events enable parliamentarians to discuss concerns relevant to women, peace and security with their constituents. In the Netherlands, the Gender Multi Party Initiative (GMPI) organises several knowledge sessions each year designed to help Dutch parliamentarians better integrate gender into foreign policy. A session held in October 2014 focused specifically on the Dutch contribution to the implementation of NATO's Action Plan on women, peace and security.⁵⁰ In 2015, Estonian parliamentarians participated in events organised by the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association and the Estonian Women Students Society on women in security initiatives and defence forces. In the UK, the APPG-WPS participated in thematic events at national Conservative Party Conferences.

In addition, international conferences and forums enable parliamentarians to engage civil society actors and other parliamentarians from around the world, notably from conflict-affected countries, and take stock of initiatives at the international level, including international monitoring mechanisms. In 2015, members of the Lithuanian parliament, the *Seimas*, attended the Regional Conference and Consultations on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 in the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Region in Vilnius, Lithuania. The conference enabled parliamentarians to assess Lithuania's commitment and contribution to forwarding the women peace and security agenda at the national and international level. Moreover, between 2011 and 2013, German parliamentarians took part in the fourteen-day annual sessions of the UN Commission on the Status of Women, which monitors global developments with regard to gender equality, including in relation to peace and security challenges.⁵¹

In the UK, parliamentarians' participation in international events goes beyond attendance to include the organisation of events and advocacy for gender-balance. The APPG-WPS hosted meetings and panels at the Global Summit to End Sexual Violence in Conflict (London 2014) and the 2014 London Conference on Afghanistan. It also supported Mr William Hague, the then leader of the House of Commons and Prime Minister's Special Representative on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict, in organising a side event at the 2014 NATO Summit in Wales. All three events provided platforms for women activists from conflict-affected societies to speak directly to policymakers. Finally, the APPG-WPS advocated a greater representation of women at the 2014 NATO Summit through correspondence with UK delegates to the NATO PA and the Foreign Office.

Overall, parliamentary initiatives that use civil society engagement as a way to forward the women, peace and security agenda are far more prevalent in countries with a NAP. The UNSCRs repeatedly recommend the inclusion of civil society organisations and actors in implementation and monitoring. Parliaments of countries with a NAP appear more likely to take this advice on board.

⁵⁰ Personal correspondence. DCAF accepted an invitation to address the parliament at this session and was represented by Ms Anja Ebnöther, Assistant Director and Head of Operations III.

⁵¹ Fourth Report of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany on the Implementation of UNSCR 1325 on Women, Peace and Security for the Period August 2010 to December 2013, April 2014, presented to the German Bundestag on 9 May 2014, p.7, available at http://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/cae/servlet/contentblob/683562/publicationFile/195384/140521_Bericht-Umsetzung-1325_April2014.pdf.

Conclusions and recommendations

Overall, parliamentary activity promoting the women, peace and security agenda has expanded and diversified in NATO member countries since 2013. Seventeen delegations (81% of respondents) have reported instances of such activity since 2013. These include gender-balanced parliamentary leadership; legislative initiatives; influence and oversight through debates, questions and reports; and civil society engagement.

The intensification of parliamentary activity promoting the women, peace and security agenda has mirrored its rising prominence in NATO structures, policies and activities over the last two years. The two phenomena are mutually reinforcing, as parliamentarians see NATO both as a resource and as a sphere of implementation. On the one hand, parliamentarians use NATO publications and experts as monitoring resources. On the other hand, they adopt legislation relevant to NATO and UNSCR 1325; organise side events on women, peace and security and lobby for the inclusion of women at NATO Summits. This trend suggests an increasingly fluid exchange of norms, objectives, knowledge and practices between parliaments and NATO in the field of women, peace and security.

Parliamentary activity nonetheless remains concentrated in countries with a NAP with all responding member countries with a NAP reporting parliamentary activity related to women, peace and security as opposed to only one third of responding countries without one (see Table 7 for a summary). NAPs therefore appear to be conducive to the adoption of parliamentary initiatives supporting the women, peace and security agenda. In two countries without a NAP (Bulgaria and Hungary) relevant parliamentary structures have been identified but more research is needed to determine whether monitoring on women, peace and security currently takes place. The two countries without a NAP that report parliamentary activity forwarding the women, peace and security agenda (Turkey and Bulgaria) cite examples relating to the domestic sphere. This reinforces a finding of the 2013 report that countries without a NAP tend to see the field of implementation of the women, peace and security agenda exclusively at the national level. In contrast, member countries with a NAP pursue implementation more holistically: they target home institutions with the objective of fighting gender inequality globally.

As parliaments continue to expand their leadership in the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, they should consider three ongoing challenges. First, while parliaments' support of policies promoting the integration of women in defence forces is important, they should ensure that these policies also seek to prevent gender-based violence and inequalities in conflict-affected areas, while upholding the human rights of conflict-affected women and girls. Second, parliaments could go further in considering the impact of armed conflict on gender as a social system that involves both women and men. The international community increasingly draws attention to gendered dynamics of oppression affecting some men and boys, but member countries reported only one parliamentary initiative addressing these (see p.11). Hopefully, future parliamentary initiatives will more readily consider men and boys as both gendered victims and perpetrators of armed conflict and necessary allies in the fight against gender inequality. Third, the report highlights the growing challenge of meeting the needs of Syrian refugees fleeing the conflict into Turkey. UNSCRs on women, peace and security have limited provisions pertaining to refugee situations. Parliaments, governments, and civil society could work together to develop strategies to monitor and alleviate the gendered impacts of the refugee crisis and ensure the integration of female refugees in decision-making processes.

Table 7. Summary table: the role of parliaments in forwarding the women, peace and security agenda in twenty-one NATO member countries with NAP (in white) and without NAP (in blue)

	<i>Gender-balanced parliamentary leadership</i>	<i>Legislation specific to women, peace and security</i>	<i>Provisions in broader national legislation</i>	<i>Hearings, debates and meetings influencing policy</i>	<i>Monitoring through hearing, debates and meetings</i>	<i>Monitoring through questions</i>	<i>Monitoring through studies and reports</i>	<i>Coalitions with civil society</i>	<i>National and international events</i>
Respondents	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Belgium		X			X				
Bulgaria	X								X
Canada					X	X	X		
Croatia		X			X				
Czech Rep.									
Denmark					X				
Estonia					X				X
Germany					X	X			X
Hungary									
Iceland			X		X	X			
Italy		X	X		X				
Latvia									
Lithuania					X				X
Netherlands					X				
Norway			X		X				
Portugal					X	X			
Slovakia									
Slovenia					X				
Spain			X		X				
Turkey			X		X				
UK	X		X	X	X	X		X	X
Total (NAP)	1	3	5	1	15	5	1	1	4
Total (no NAP)	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
Total (all)	2	3	6	1	16	5	1	1	5

Annex 1

Survey questionnaire:

The role of parliaments in advancing the women, peace and security agenda in NATO member countries

In co-operation with the office of Mariëtt Schuurman, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security

Background: The **Women, Peace and Security agenda** encompasses a wide range of policy initiatives and legal instruments promoting the integration of women and gender perspectives within peace and security initiatives and institutions. These include UNSCR 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on women, peace and security, as well as NATO Bi.SC Directive 4O-1, which "provides a strategy for including equally the concerns of both genders and experiences as an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes' in all matters pertaining to the pursuit of peace and security.

*Please do not use **more than three pages** in total for all your responses.*

*We will not accept responses after **19 June 2015***

COUNTRY			
PARLIAMENTARY BODY/INSTITUTION			
DATE			
			Please use space below for any information
1.	Has your country adopted a National Action Plan (NAP) on women, peace and security?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
1.a	If not, are steps being taken to draft and adopt a NAP?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
1.b	If a NAP has been adopted or is soon to be adopted/updated, was the parliament involved in...		
	...drafting or developing the NAP?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	...adopting the NAP?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
	...updating the NAP (if applicable)?	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
2.	<p>Has your parliament adopted other legislation designed to facilitate the implementation of the gender, peace and security agenda? If so, please specify what legislation, and the contribution it makes to the gender, peace and security agenda. Relevant legislation may address, amongst other gender concerns:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increasing general awareness of the relationship between gender equality, peace, and security e.g. through training programmes, workshops, or seminars in NATO countries and beyond, notably in security sector institutions; Ensuring that both men and women are represented in defence institutions, military deployments abroad, and activities connected to peace missions, development projects, humanitarian and diplomacy in conflict and post-conflict zones; 	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraging collaboration between security sector institutions and governmental agencies and civil society organisations concerned with gender issues; • Tackling sexual violence, which predominantly victimises women and girls, within security institutions and/or in conflict and post-conflict contexts. 		
3.	Does your parliament exercise its oversight power to monitor the advancement of the gender, peace and security agenda by relevant national authorities...		
3.a	...on an ad-hoc basis? If possible, please provide at least one example, such as a relevant discussion, hearing, parliamentary question, etc.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3.b	...through a dedicated periodical review? If so, please specify since when and how often the parliament conducts the relevant oversight procedures and through what parliamentary structures, committees or accountability mechanisms.	<input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
3.c	What policies and activities has the parliament monitored most closely? In particular, has the parliament analysed your country's experience with the deployment of female military staff in missions in conflict areas, and if so – what were the main conclusions of this analysis?		
4.	Please use this space to provide any additional information/lessons learned/best practices you would like to share with other parliaments in the Euro-Atlantic area. Is there any other initiative undertaken by your parliament (or government in co-operation with the parliament) in the field of gender, peace and security that you consider particularly successful?		