

# Canada's National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2017-2022

IMPACT

More inclusive, gender equal and stable societies



Outcome (Objectives)

Women participate in peace and security efforts, women and girls are empowered, and their human rights' are upheld in fragile and conflict-affected states (FCAS)

Increased and meaningful participation of women and women's organizations and networks in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and post-conflict statebuilding

Prevention of, response to and the end of impunity for sexual and gender-based violence perpetrated in conflict and for sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and other international personnel

Promotion and protection of women's and girls' human rights, gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in FCAS

Meeting the specific needs of women and girls in humanitarian settings, including the upholding of their sexual rights and access to sexual and reproductive health services

Strengthened capacity of peace operations to advance the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, including by deploying more women and fully embedding the WPS agenda into Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) operations and police deployments



Intermediate outcome

Positive changes in behaviour, social norms, institutionalized practices and legal systems, including customary and religious laws, in relation to gender equality, sexual and gender-based violence and sexual exploitation and abuse by peacekeepers and other international personnel



Immediate outcome

National and local governments, civil society, donor states, the UN and other multilateral organizations working in and in relation to FCAS have increased capacity and motivation to take a gender-responsive and gender-transformative approach and promote and protect women's and girls' human rights, their empowerment and gender equality, and engage men and boys in these efforts

Canada leads in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and subsequent WPS resolutions



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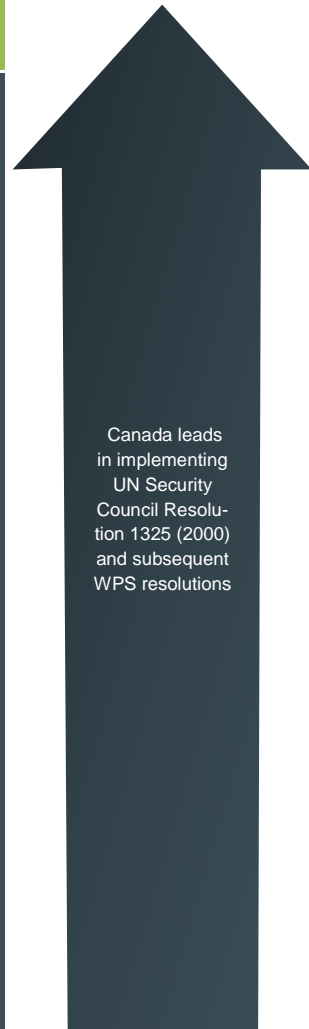
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Actions  
(What we do)

Increased capacity to deliver	Diplomacy and political leadership	Programming
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consult and cooperate with civil society organizations (CSOs) in Canada and locally on WPS and Action Plan implementation</li> <li>Conduct pre-deployment training for military, police and civilian experts on gender and WPS, including on preventing sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)</li> <li>Develop a Canadian Action Plan to address SEA by peacekeepers</li> <li>Take measures to increase the number of Canadian women (military, police and civilian experts) available for deployment to multilateral peace operations and other stabilization efforts</li> <li>Ensure that Gender-based Analysis Plus (GBA+) is undertaken and incorporated into policies, strategies, programs, projects and initiatives</li> <li>Learn from domestic policies and programs such as countering radicalization to violence and preventing gender-based violence</li> <li>Engage with women's rights CSOs and government officials responsible for gender issues in scoping and assessment missions</li> <li>Make WPS and gender expertise available to staff working within and in relation to FCAS</li> <li>Enhance training on gender, GBA+ and the specific needs of women and girls in situations of conflict for staff working within and in relation to FCAS</li> <li>Incorporate the Action Plan into departmental planning and reporting frameworks</li> <li>Table annual Action Plan progress reports in Parliament</li> <li>Conduct independent mid-term and summative Action Plan evaluations</li> <li>Make use of available research and guidelines, including by CSOs, the UN, academia and other states, to ensure the adequacy of interventions</li> <li>Monitor activities to evaluate efficiency and increase the evidence base of interventions</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advocate at all levels to advance the WPS agenda in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums</li> <li>Cooperate with national and international actors and courts to end impunity for conflict-related sexual and gender-based crimes and bring perpetrators to justice</li> <li>Demonstrate leadership by, for example, recruiting more women to the CAF and addressing workplace sexual harassment</li> <li>Collaborate with other states and through participation in bilateral and multilateral forums on policy development, including to ensure that the agenda responds to the changing nature of conflicts</li> <li>Consult with CSOs to ensure the adequacy of interventions and their participation in regional and international peace and security meetings</li> <li>Engage men and boys, alongside women and girls, as agents and beneficiaries of change in advancing the WPS agenda</li> <li>Assist national authorities, community leaders and other actors in exerting influence over parties to armed conflict with respect to addressing sexual violence</li> <li>Advocate for a more active role by national, local and community leaders in sensitizing communities on sexual violence to help prevention, avoid stigmatization of survivors and assist with social reintegration</li> <li>Nominate women for senior posts in the UN and other multilateral organizations</li> <li>Promote the WPS agenda in the international community's response to migration and refugees</li> <li>Advocate for initiatives that address unequal power relations in FCAS, including girls' access to education and women's economic empowerment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide <b>targeted</b> support for WPS projects and mechanisms and <b>mainstream</b> WPS and gender into international assistance, <b>including</b>:</li> <li>Support women's participation in conflict resolution</li> <li>Prevent, mitigate and respond to sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, including child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and cutting</li> <li>Support local women's CSOs, including human rights defenders, Indigenous people and women in all their diversity</li> <li>Increase gender expertise and representation of women in international peace operations</li> <li>Provide support for gender-responsive security sector reform</li> <li>Improve women's access to justice in FCAS and provide gender-responsive legal technical assistance and support for justice sector reform</li> <li>Assist the UN and other international organizations to carry out WPS and gender transformative programming</li> <li>Facilitate the development and implementation of national action plans to implement WPS</li> <li>Promote access to sexual and reproductive health services in conflict and humanitarian settings</li> <li>Engage men and boys in advancing the WPS agenda</li> <li>Address gender dimensions and women's participation in counterterrorism efforts and the prevention of violent extremism and radicalization to violence</li> <li>Give special consideration for women and girls in refugee protection and Canada's immigration processing, programs and services</li> <li>Take gender-responsive approaches to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, to transitional justice and reconciliation, to small arms and light weapons, to mine action, and to human trafficking</li> <li>Support women's economic empowerment and girls' education in FCAS</li> </ul>



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Strategic approach

A gender-responsive, human rights-based and whole-of-government approach to peace and security interventions and the situation of women and girls in FCAS



Context

Despite evidence that women's participation is vital to achieving and sustaining peace and that women are critical change agents, often leading peace movements and driving community recovery after conflict, they are largely excluded from peace negotiations and processes. Sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, constraints on women's ability to participate in conflict-resolution and violations of women's and girls' human rights remain urgent issues requiring action in order to achieve progress toward more inclusive, equal and stable societies.



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