

GAPS RECOMMENDATIONS

Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict Summit

Since launching the Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative (PSVI) in May 2012, the UK has demonstrated significant leadership in highlighting sexual and gender-based violence in conflict and gathering support from the international community. The PSVI Summit in June 2014 provides a key opportunity to build on this momentum and situate preventing sexual violence in the broader Women, Peace and Security framework. Ahead of the PSVI Summit, GAPS¹ members have developed four overarching recommendations with specific actions and outcomes to ensure that the Summit results in tangible benefits for those living in conflict-affected countries, particularly survivors of sexual violence in conflict.

Recommendation 1

Situate tackling sexual violence within the broader Women, Peace and Security framework; ensuring a coherent and coordinated approach and recognising the importance of a holistic approach to achieving all four Women, Peace and Security pillars.

- HMG should consistently situate sexual violence in conflict within the broader Women, Peace and Security framework, including in policy and funding commitments made at the PSVI Summit. The launch of the new UK National Action Plan (NAP) at the Summit provides an opportunity to demonstrate high-level support for a holistic approach to Women, Peace and Security which integrates DFID's Theory of Change on Violence Against Women and Girls. This could be implemented by cross-departmental Ministerial attendance at the NAP launch and the allocation of clear funding streams to ensure effective implementation of all four pillars of the NAP. This will further embed PSVI in the broader political, socioeconomic context.
- To encourage and support governments to take a holistic approach to Women, Peace and Security, HMG should commit to supporting the development and implementation of NAPs in, at least, the focus countries of the NAP and the PSVI priority countries. This support should include a funding package, commitments to the implementation of NAPs and consultation with women's rights organisations and wider civil society.
- The PSVI Summit communiqué should explicitly link and make commitments on each of the four Women, Peace and Security pillars (participation, prevention, protection, and relief and recovery). This should include commitments to:
 - Increasing the number of women in decision-making roles in government and UN agencies' peace-keeping and security and justice mechanisms.
 - Recognise the importance of preventing violence and holistic support for survivors of violence.
 - A commitment to a survivor-centred approach to justice.
 - Explicitly linking to commitments made under the Call to Action on Violence against Women in Emergencies.
- Any national-level initiatives, funding and/or other commitments developed as part of the PSVI Summit should fully incorporate all four Women, Peace and Security pillars and commit governments to ensuring national legislation and policies comply with international frameworks on women's rights, in particular CEDAW and UNSCRs on WPS. These Plans should also be grounded in national processes, policies and frameworks with relevant timelines to ensure commitments result in tangible actions.
- Recognising gaps in existing evidence, the PSVI Summit outcomes should commit to fund research to inform future responses to conflict and crises; particularly focusing on preventing violence against women in the acute stage of conflict; and on the scale, and needs, of female and male survivors of sexual violence; as well as those of sexual and gender minorities.

Recommendation 2

Ensure that relevant civil society organisations, including women's rights organisations, can fully and meaningfully participate in the design, delivery and monitoring of the PSVI Summit and its outcomes.

- Youth, women's rights organisations and broader civil society in conflict-affected countries should be meaningfully consulted and their recommendations inform the outcomes of the Summit.
- At the PSVI Summit, donor governments should make specific and tangible commitments to implementing commitments made under UNSCRs 2106 and 2122 as well as the G8 Declaration on PSVI to increase support (including financial, capacity-building, and security support) to organisations who work to prevent and respond to SGBV.

¹ Gender Action for Peace and Security (GAPS) is a network of development, human rights, humanitarian and peacebuilding NGOs and practitioners. GAPS promotes, facilitates and monitors the meaningful inclusion of gender in all aspects of UK policy and practice on peace and security.

- Any national initiatives should build security and protection mechanisms into programmes. In addition, EU countries at the Summit should commit to implementing Human Rights Defenders Guidelines, including in Afghanistan, and implementation should include country-specific HRD plans that are gender sensitive.
- The PSVI Summit communiqué should reaffirm the critical role of women's rights organisations and civil society in achieving Women, Peace and Security goals and commit governments to consulting and working in partnership with women's rights organisations and civil society in the design and delivery of Women, Peace and Security policies and programmes. This should include commitments by all countries to include this in their existing or future NAPs, outlining a clear role for CSOs in the development and monitoring NAP implementation both locally and globally.
- The outcomes of the PSVI Summit should include an accountability and monitoring framework, with a clear role for women's rights organisations and civil society.

Recommendation 3

Address the root causes of gender-based violence, including sexual violence, and ensure conflict prevention fully addresses and integrates gender and women's rights and promotes gender equality.

- The outcomes of the PSVI Summit should include robust nationally relevant commitments which should incorporate measureable actions designed to address the root causes of SGBV and VAWG. In line with DFID's Guidance notes on VAWG, governments should commit to take a holistic approach to tackling violence across multiple levels (individual, relationships, community and society) and across sectors (economic life, education, health, justice, security and welfare). National commitments should be developed in collaboration between governments and women's rights organisations to ensure they are linked to survivor needs, civil society priorities and relevant national processes.
- Donor government commitments should include increasing their funding of programmes that tackle the root causes of violence against women and girls; specifically those programmes that work with communities that seek to understand and challenge harmful social norms.
- The PSVI Summit communiqué should commit governments to integrating gender analyses into all conflict analysis tools in order to make conflict prevention activities more gender sensitive, and ensure that data is gender-disaggregated to allow for better analysis and monitoring and evaluation.
- As part of the Summit preparations, HMG should support key focus countries, such as DRC, to map VAWG prevention and protection policies and programmes to identify opportunities for donors to support addressing gaps by making tangible and country-specific commitments at the Summit.
- The Summit outcomes should ensure a survivor-centred approach to justice. This would require, inter alia: respect for survivors' decisions to participate, or not participate in justice processes; informed consent; providing comprehensive services regardless of survivors' decisions to pursue prosecution; and safe access to informal justice mechanisms.
- Safe and on-going access to medical programmes and longer-term health, psychosocial and livelihoods programmes are essential for all GBV survivors to sustain participation in justice process. As such, PSVI's objectives and outcomes should recognise service delivery is a life-saving need for survivors and is intrinsically linked to tackling impunity and preventing further GBV.

Recommendation 4

Actively engage militaries, including the UK Ministry of Defence, to more effectively implement the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security, UNGA Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict and G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict

- Facilitate dialogue between militaries and experts about the skills, training, standards and accountability measures needed to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflict.
- UK Ministry of Defence to develop an Implementation Plan to implement the UK National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, G8 Declaration on Preventing Sexual Violence in Conflict and UN Declaration of Commitment to End Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as NATO Bi-Strategic Command Directive 40-1 and related NATO doctrine. This Defence Implementation Plan should include: new doctrine; implementation of relevant training for all personnel; development of specialist gender capabilities; measurable targets; female leadership and gender-related service culture; and processes to ensure internal and external accountability for achieving these targets. External accountability mechanisms should include regular consultation with external bodies and civil society, including, for example the APG on Women, Peace and Security and GAPS.
- Ensure that training and other assistance provided to national military, judicial and security sector personnel (including police, correctional services, immigration and border control) in conflict-affected countries covers: SGBV and Women, Peace and Security; measures to provide the full and equal participation of women; accountability mechanisms to prevent and respond to SGBV; and includes systems to monitor trainee awareness and application of the training.