

## Response to the G7 Hiroshima Communique

GAPS recognises the progress made in the G7 communique on integrating gender equality into the G7 agenda, including through dedicated sections for “gender” (para 42, 43, 44) and the adoption of the “G7 Factsheet: Promoting Gender Mainstreaming through the Nexus Approach.” GAPS welcomes the explicit commitment to further support the Women Peace and Security Agenda, including through the development of National Action Plans, support for the WPS Network of Focal Points and by promoting intersectional approaches. Similarly, we welcome the inclusion of prevention sexual violence in fragile and conflict-affected states through meaningful participation and survivor-centred approaches.

We agree on the importance of addressing development, humanitarian, peace and security issues together, as protracted crises around the world are increasing in number and severity, with women and girls being disproportionately impacted. WPS must be applied in a holistic, integrated and intersectional manner across all of government. Human rights and gender equality are among the G7 international principles to champion and the communique names the gendered inequalities in labour and care that were deepened during the COVID-19 pandemic. We welcome the inclusion of LGBTQIA+ communities and naming the dangerous rollbacks in progress on women’s and LGBTQIA+ rights. We welcome the commitment to the SDGs and encouraging increasing ODA to 0.7% of GDP, which the United Kingdom must reinstate urgently.

The communique does not commit to any funding to gender issues, while also not mentioning gender in core areas including Artificial Intelligence, in opposition to calls to address development, humanitarian, peace and security issues together. The G7 calls for consistent application “at home and abroad” including its commitment to protect refugees and ensuring the full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms of refugees and displaced persons. Yet the UK and others continue to use global forums like the G7 to push an agenda that prioritises tackling “illegal migration” and “organised criminal networks” over protection of individuals who arrive - by necessity - by irregular means. If the UK truly means its promises made on the international stage – at the G7 and through its commitments to WPS and PSVI – the Illegal Migration Bill, which effectively destroys the Refugee Convention's application and will put those most vulnerable, especially survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict, at profound risk, must be dropped. In the same way, calls in the G7 communique to protect LGBTQIA+ communities must apply at home, where GAPS joins the United Nations Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in concern about the rising risks to LGBTQIA+, and especially transgender and non-binary, people. Calls to strengthen disarmament and non-proliferation efforts ring hollow as military spending across the G7 is rapidly rising while UK engagement around the small arms treaty or weapon exports, remains absent from its Foreign Policy including its WPS commitments.

The strong focus on the triple crisis of climate change, pollution and biodiversity collapse indicates an understanding of this challenge’s gravity, including that those made vulnerable, including women and girls, will face the harshest consequences. These crises are a threat multiplier: through increased disaster risks, environmental degradation, resource scarcity and other consequences of climate inaction, conflict will become more likely with disproportionate impacts on women and girls. The communique does cite the IPCC, but not its findings on the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities historic polluters like the UK hold and the need for rights-based, gender inclusive climate action.

Without intersectional leadership of those most affected – especially women and girls – across cohesive and comprehensive climate action, peace building and development, the inequalities that started the triple crisis will be entrenched. All women have a fundamental right to meaningfully participate in the decisions that frame and impact their lives. Meaningful participation must ensure that women are fully engaged in decision-making and the UK Government should go beyond consultations, prioritise working on long-term partnerships with WROs, and set up projects that involve equal partnerships with them.