



# ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Implementing Norway's National Action Plan 2015-2018

**WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY**

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## 1. Introduction

This report concludes the reporting on the implementation of our national Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2015–2018. Once again, we are pleased to note that the results are good and largely in line with the goals we have set ourselves. Women’s participation and rights are demonstrably high on the agenda in our peace and security work. We note a steady increase in peacebuilding activity at country level, and more targeted efforts for women’s rights in our humanitarian work.

The fact that we have monitored a set of indicators over time has enabled us to identify areas that demand further attention or analysis. In particular, we will look more closely at gender parity in our own teams and gender mainstreaming in our broader programmes.

There is a consistent commitment to gender parity in the implementing ministries, and our teams are generally well balanced. More women peacekeepers are being deployed by the military. The figures remain high for the police. However, given the limited number of people deployed, factors such as whether individuals are deployed in December or January might affect the annual statistics. As for our mediation efforts, having equal numbers of women and men engaged is not enough. It appears that more must be done to ensure that each mediation team is gender-balanced.

We monitor bilateral humanitarian funds and development funds for countries affected by conflict. Last year’s report indicated a decrease in the proportion of these funds that qualified for the use of a gender marker. This finding led to in-depth analyses of the figures and increased focus on and training in use of the gender marker to ensure that it is used actively and correctly. The political message – that women’s rights and participation are to be at the heart of our efforts – was reinforced. This year’s report indicates a substantial improvement in the use of the gender marker, which could indicate that we are on the right track. However, the trends need to be monitored over time for quality assurance purposes, and more work must be done to ensure that the gender marker is actively and correctly used – and to ascertain that all of our peace and security work includes and benefits women as well as men.

A new national Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security was launched in January this year. It is more ambitious than the previous one, also as regards reporting. The baseline data for the new phase provide a broader and more nuanced picture of our efforts. Some of what we have found is also referred to in this report. We are looking forward to doing more, and better, for women and girls in conflict and crises, and are aware that it is a matter of building and sustaining peace for all.



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**Frank Bakke-Jensen, Minister of Defence**



**Jøran Kallmyr, Minister of Justice and Immigration**



**Dag Inge Ulstein, Minister of International Development**



**Trine Skei Grande, Minister of Culture and Equality**

## 2. Reporting on indicators

Indicators for the extensive, multi-sectoral follow-up of the National Action Plan were set at a low level in the results hierarchy. This was done in order to be realistic and enable consistent follow-up, while ensuring comparable data from one year to the next. While our women, peace and security programmes are subject to the same results reporting requirements as other programmes funded by Norway, we make no attempt here to describe and synthesise the results of individual programmes. More information about the various programmes and initiatives – and their impact – can be obtained on request from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Our efforts to promote the Women, Peace and Security agenda draw on a broad range of diplomatic, political and financial tools. We work at the local, national, regional and global levels in a range of arenas, with various partners, and across regions. Not all of this work is visible in the results measured by the indicators. However, our hope is that this report will give a sense of where we are heading and what we are striving to achieve.

The aim of this report is to indicate, for example in numbers and percentages, how much of Norway's funding is reported as having contributed to the agreed goals, and to what extent women are involved in peace processes where Norway is involved. The rest of this chapter provides a summary of the 2018 reporting on the National Action Plan indicators, which are set out in Annex 1.

Chapter 3 presents some reflections on how far we have progressed and what remains to be done, and we look back at our ambitions for this phase and how we have fared from 2015 to 2018. We comment on each of the priority areas set out in the National Action Plan, and on the cross-cutting efforts to prevent and address conflict-related sexual violence. The chapter on peacebuilding focuses primarily on results from the partnerships supported through a dedicated grant for civil society women, peace and security efforts.

**2a Peace processes and negotiations** -*The Government's aim is to ensure that women are involved in peace processes and peace negotiations where Norway is engaged. The rights, needs and priorities of both women and men are to be included in peace agreements.*

*Implementing the Women, Peace and Security agenda is a defined priority in peace processes, negotiations and dialogue initiatives where Norway is involved. This chapter shows that our mediation teams have consistently followed up the agenda, in line with the National Action Plan.*

We encouraged and supported the inclusion of women in all formal peace processes in which we were involved in 2018 (in line with the target of 100%). The baseline data for the new national action plan mean that we know more about what this entails: Norway worked actively to promote women's participation in the parties' delegations and amongst mediators in 75% of the processes where we were involved in a formal role. Norway supported civil society and women's groups politically, diplomatically and financially in all processes where we were involved, and provided technical support in half of the processes. Civil society organisations supported by Norway promoted women's rights, needs and priorities in all active processes.

In peace processes where Norway was involved, one peace agreement was concluded in 2018, in South Sudan. The agreement included provisions on women's rights, in line with our goal:

*In 2015, only one woman signed the agreement on the resolution of the conflict (ARCSS) in the Republic of South Sudan. After active support for key women's institutions and advocacy by the Troika envoys (the UK, US and Norway) to Sudan and South-Sudan and the special representative of IGAD, five women were invited to the high-level revitalisation process that led to a revitalised agreement in 2018 (R-ARCSS). The number grew as the negotiations proceeded. They represented political parties and civil society. Seven women signed the agreement on 12 September 2018. Through their engagement and lobbying, the women secured agreement for 35% affirmative action in relation to women's representation on executive bodies, as well as in the transitional security arrangements and other mechanisms that will be put in place for implementation of the R-ARCSS. Parties to the agreement shall give due consideration to gender in the selection of nominees. The chapter on a permanent ceasefire and transitional security arrangements states that all parties shall refrain from acts of sexual and gender-based violence of all kinds, including sexual exploitation and harassment. They shall respect humanitarian law and safeguard the needs of women and girls. As regards humanitarian assistance and reconstruction, priority is given to public services delivered to women and children. The establishment of a separate women's enterprise development fund for the provision of subsidised credit for women-based development and capacity building among women entrepreneurs is included in the agreement.*

The proportion of women in Norwegian delegations was 40% in 2017, which is in line with the target of at least 40% men and women. That this figure is lower than in earlier years is due to the fact that one of the teams has become unbalanced (17% women) following a few changes of personnel in the different sections contributing to that team. The other teams in processes where Norway has a formal role have 40%, 50% and 67% women. Given the relatively small number of people actively involved in peace processes, it is to be expected that the percentage will vary slightly from one year to the next. Norway will continue to strive for balanced gender representation in our mediation teams, however. In 2018, both special envoys to peace processes where Norway has a role as facilitator were women.

The regional networks of women mediators are concrete examples of efforts to increase both the number of women and gender expertise in mediation processes. Norwegian members have been deployed to share their experiences from peace processes, including, but not exclusively focused on, gender integration and women's involvement. In November 2018, a member of the Norwegian network was asked to assist the women delegates from Libya at the Palermo meeting. In December 2018, a member attended a meeting in Nairobi on the implementation of the South Sudanese peace