What's Happening in Other Countries?

Selected Donor Country Civil Society Networks on Women, Peace and Security

"While the architecture has an institutional home at the UN Security Council, the agenda lives in civil society, because it is nurtured and kept alive by the various civil society entities—both individual and collective—that are committed to the realisation of the hard-fought commitments that are represented in WPS principles and practices across the world."[1]

This brief presents rapid research by Dr Anu Mundkur, a member of the WPS Coalition Steering Group Member. Preparation included desk-based research and limited contact with existing civil society networks to elicit relevant information.

Formats

Civil society engagement on women, peace and security in donor countries tends to be mainly through networks. It is rare to find a formally registered network. Gender Action on Peace and Security (GAPS UK) and Operation 1325 (Sweden) are exceptions, as these are formally registered networks. Neither Denmark nor Iceland have a network on women, peace and security.

Governance

Networks tend to be hosted by an organisation that serves as a secretariat or coordinator. It is often the case that a member makes a contribution to the network through volunteering labour towards the governance and management of the network. It is rare to find a funded secretary, secretariat, or co-ordinator; again, GAPS (UK) is an exception. Decisions tend to be made by Steering Groups/ Committees or Advisory Boards, which are again staffed by member volunteer.

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[1] Anuradha Mundkur and Laura J. Shepherd, 'Civil Society Participation in Women, Peace and Security Governance: Insights from Australia.' *Security Challenges* (2018) 14(2): 83-103, 85.

There is a significant amount of variation in the level of formalisation of these Steering Groups/ Committees or Advisory Boards (i.e. the existence of published or recorded terms of reference, formal membership criteria, conflict of interest statement, and so on varies a lot between networks).

Resourced Staff

Dedicated staffing for networks is rare. GAPS UK and Operation 1325 (Sweden) are exceptions. GAPS UK members pay a membership fees that is allocated to support two dedicated staff, while Operation 1325 (Sweden) is a registered network receiving some support from government. Staff and labour costs are usually serviced by the organisation that takes on the secretariat or co-ordinator functions.

Resourcing Activities

Most networks rely heavily on the volunteer labour of members. The networks receive varying levels of funding from government through grants for specific activities (e.g. running consultations). GAPS UK members pay a fee on a sliding scale to support staffing and activities in addition to grants. Operation 1325, as a registered entity, has a fee-for-service model which is used to underwrite the role they play as network co-ordinators.

Activities

The various networks undertake a range of activities related to the women, peace and security agenda. Examples include:

- monitoring and reporting on NAP commitments;
- roundtables/consultations;
- technical expertise/advice to government implementing agencies;
- policy brief/policy papers/submission
- advocacy with members of parliament

The table overleaf summarises the information gathered under each of these headings for the following countries: Canada, Finland, Germany, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, USA, UK.

	Format	Governance	Resourced staff	Resourced activities	Priority activities
WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY NETWORK, CANADA	• Loose Network of over 70 Canadian non-governmental organizations and individuals • Membership is open to Canadian non-governmental organizations as well as individuals (not working for government) • Sees having individual members as a strength - most of the work is done by individuals rather than representatives of organisations – no plans to move to just organisational members.	• A Steering Committee of six makes decisions - Steering Committee and members meet via skype and conduct business via email. A Coordinator manages the regular working of the network and supports Steering Committee • To date members are requested to volunteers for Steering Committee and Coordinator roles – no selection process • Members sign on to advocacy products, such as letters, new releases and events, as they are able	None	None. One organisational members holds the little bit of money received through donations and is used to pays bills on network's behalf.	• Monitors the implementation of Canada's national plan – produced 3 reports (collections of reflections by members, rather than a comprehensive overall report). These have all been done by volunteer labour • Member of and co-chairs (with government) the Action Plan Advisory Group • No resourcing for participating on the Action Plan Advisory Group - currently this group meets twice a year • Have raised with Global Affairs Canada (DFAT equivalent) the importance of financing for the network
1325 NETWORK, FINLAND	Open network of non-governmental organizations and independent researches as well as experts that work for the promotion of	Coordinated and administered by Finland National Committee for UN Women.	None	Government support has varied a lot over the years	• Monitors implementation of the Finnish national action plan through participating in the national follow-up group led by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

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	human rights and equality.				• Disseminates information about research reports and articles. • Organises training for members of certain non-governmental organizations. • Organises seminars • Participates in public discussion on crisis management, • Sends representatives to international seminars and communicates with the respective networks in other countries.
THE GERMAN WOMEN SECURITY COUNCIL (WSC) *There also appears to be another network, Bundis 1325, but all information is in German.*	Network of peace researchers, peace activists, members of political institutions and development organisations	• A coordination group with a maximum of 10 women • Exchange of information by an internal e-mail network	None.	Unclear	• Shadow reporting and other publications. • Media, letter writing campaigns and lobbying. • Participation in national consultations. • Organises national conferences. • Establishment of a pool of experts in gender sensitive foreign and security policies.

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FORUM NORWAY 1325	• Network of 30 member organisations and includes all of the major Norwegian humanitarian NGOs as well as political advocacy groups and women's organisations; 15 organisations are most active • Open only to civil society organisations/NGOs	• No governance structure - disagreements between organizations these are settled through discussions or a vote. • Steering Committees set up as required to deliver on activities • Organisational member FOKUS acts as the coordinator and focal point between the government and Norwegian civil society. • Members meet twice a year to coordinate advocacy points before formal meetings with the MFA on Norway's work on WPS.	None	• None – depends on members initiative; all costs for time used and cost for printing materials, renting venues etc. is covered by the member organizations that have available funds • Good deal of the funds used by the Forum indirectly comes from the government. Most of FOKUS cost used on the forum is taken from a government grant given to spread information on development issues to the Norwegian public.	• Participates in 4 official meetings a year between the government and civil society at the MFA where the NAP is discussed - no funding for these meetings. • Informal meetings with the focal points in the different miniseries involved with the NAP. • Because of lack of funding the Forum does not write shadow reports on NAP progress. • Develops publications that highlight the work done by civil society organizations that is not covered in the annual government progress reports. • Instead of writing shadow reports, much advocacy work is done by the Forum to get the government to develop clear targets and indicators to measure progress. • Written submission to the yearly progress reports on the NAP published by the

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					government. The government has opened up for the Forum to be a part of the annual progress report writing a chapter on work done by civil society. But with no funding for this work, this is something the Forum does not have the capacity to do at the moment and not all members are in agreement on whether civil society should have a chapter in the government's progress report. • The closest thing to a shadow report is the FORUMs participation in Norwegian UPR and CEDAW shadow reports where we give specific inputs on the NAP. • Establishing a list of experts from civil society in Norway who have both in-depth knowledge in the area of women, peace and security and a wide network of international contacts.

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OPERATION 1325, SWEDEN	Registered network of 5 organisations – also works in close cooperation with a sixth organisation (The Swedish Women's Lobby)	• Board is made up by representatives from the five member organizations – meets monthly; Elections happen annually after nominations to the board electoral committee • Annual general assembly to set collective agenda • Daily decisions taken by director or project managers.	Staff is recruited according to program activities and available funds.	• Receives government funding • Funds are applied for from the state, global funders and national institutions. • Undertakes funded consultancies (to a limited extent)	• Monitor Sweden's implementation of the NAP - shadow report around every three years; applies for funds from government to write shadow report • Capacity-building projects with partner organizations in the Balkans, East Africa, Middle East and North Africa • Creates platforms for debates and dialogue to influence decision-makers, civil society, and the general public • Informal meetings • Participates in the formal consultations organized by MFA concerning • Public hearings.
WORKING GROUP ON 1325, SWITZERLAND	• CSO Platform/Network of Swiss civil society organisations • A dialogue platform and a think tank	Coordinated by KOFF which is jointly supported by the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA) and 48 Swiss non-governmental organisations (NGOs) which are members of the network.	None	Unclear	• Advocacy aimed at members of parliament well as the federal administration. • Undertook 10 tears review on national plan – resourced by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation – key recommendation included financially enabling an

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					alternative reporting of the civil society organisations, meaning a separate report on the Swiss NAP by civil society instead of including the position of the civil society into the official report.
THE UNITED STATES CIVIL SOCIETY WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (U.S. CSWG)	Non-partisan network of civil society organizations of about 40 organisations with expertise on the impacts of women in war and their participation in peacebuilding	• U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) provides secretariat support (unclear if they are funded for this role) • An Executive Committee makes the majority of decisions for the working group	None	Currently the working group has a grant from Channel Foundation managed by USIP as the secretariat	• "Go-to" group of civil society experts on women, peace and security; • Engages with government stakeholders through consultations; roundtable discussions; meetings to inform and advise senior officials and members of the security think tank community. • Publishes thematic and regional policy briefs and policy papers.
GENDER ACTION FOR PEACE AND SECURITY (GAPS), UNITED KINGDOM	• Membership-based network of 17 NGOs and experts in the field of development, human rights, humanitarian and peacebuilding.	• Hosted by an organisation member (Women for Women International) • Advisory board and management committee oversee the work of staff	The work of GAPS is coordinated by resourced dedicated staff with support from members – membership fees	• Membership fees • Project specific grants from government • Hosts fundraising events	• Monitors UK's national plan - Six month check in, shadow reports • Informal advice on national plan development and implementation

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	• Members pay fees on a sliding scale		pays for staffing and activities		• Formal submissions on national plans • Policy briefs and campaign documents • Secretariat for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Women, Peace and Security (APPG-WPS) is a forum for the discussion and analysis of issues relating to Women, Peace and Security. It brings together parliamentarians, policy makers and civil society. • Hosts the UK Government's annual report to Parliament on Women, Peace and Security.