



Polish

National

Action

Plan

**on Women,
Peace
and Security
2018-2021**



wierodęła

POLAND
THE CENTENARY
OF REGAINING
INDEPENDENCE



Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



MINISTRY OF NATIONAL DEFENCE
OF THE REPUBLIC OF POLAND



Ministry
of the Interior
and Administration

THE GOVERNMENT PLENIPOTENTIARY
FOR EQUAL TREATMENT

© Ministry of Foreign Affairs Poland

Pictures on the front cover (from the top):

1. Border Guard officer. Photo: Border Guard
2. Nadia Murad, 2018 Nobel Peace Prize winner together with Denis Mukwege “for their efforts to end the use of sexual violence as a weapon of war and armed conflict.” In 2017, Nadia Murad and Farida Abbas were honoured with the Polish MFA’s Pro Dignitate Humana award for an outstanding contribution to human rights protection. Photo: UN Photo/ Manuel Elias
3. 8th rotation of the Polish Military Contingent in the NATO-led ISAF operation in Afghanistan. Photo: A. Roik/CC DORSZ

Picture on the back cover:

4. Members of a mission in Macedonia. Photo: Border Guard

Centenary of Poland’s regained independence.

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Warsaw 2018

Polish National Action Plan **on Women, Peace and Security 2018-2021**

Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Ministry of National Defence
Ministry of the Interior and Administration
Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment

Warsaw, 22 October 2018

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1. Introduction

The experiences of conflicts in the 1990s, in particular ethnic cleansing in Rwanda, Yugoslavia, or later in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, on the one hand showed that women and children are most vulnerable to violence during armed conflicts, while sexual violence used as a weapon of war often contributes to conflict escalation and hinders later reconciliation. On the other hand, it is essential that women participate in the provision of assistance to women, children, and men who were victims of conflicts. Empirical and theoretical research on armed conflicts clearly shows that the involvement of women in the peace processes increases the chances of their success and favours the establishment of a lasting peace¹. Despite this, the number of women participating in peacekeeping operations and in peace negotiations is still low. Between 1990 and 2017, only 8 percent of peace negotiators were women². In the United Nations peacekeeping operations, only 4 percent of soldiers and 10 percent of deployed police officers were women³.

The main objectives of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda is to increase the participation of women in peace processes, peace missions and peace operations, to strengthen their role in decision-making processes related to peace, and to focus on ensuring protection and support of women and children during armed conflicts and in a post-conflict environment. The agenda's foundation is Security Council Resolution 1325, which was adopted in 2000. Since then, the UN Security Council adopted further seven resolutions on this subject: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015).

The Women, Peace and Security agenda covers issues on the borderline of the following areas: maintenance of international peace and security, protection of human rights, development cooperation and equal treatment-related policies. Its implementation is based on four pillars: prevention, participation, protection, and relief and recovery. The burden of implementation of Resolution 1325 and later resolutions rests primarily on the states. Nonetheless, international

Abbreviations

| | |
|----------|--|
| MFA | Ministry of Foreign Affairs |
| MOD | Ministry of National Defence |
| MOI | Ministry of the Interior and Administration |
| WPS | Women, Peace and Security |
| UN | United Nations |
| EU | European Union |
| NATO | North Atlantic Treaty Organization |
| OSCE | Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe |
| CSDP | Common Security and Defence Policy |
| ICC | International Criminal Court |
| FRONTEX | European Border and Coast Guard Agency |
| CEDA | Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| SDG – UN | UN Sustainable Development Goals |
| NGOs | Non-Governmental Organisations |
| IDPs | Internally Displaced Persons |





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Voluntary Legion of Women (OLK) was created in Lviv in 1918 by women who wanted to fight for Poland's independence.

Photo: Archive of the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw

organizations, NGOs and research institutes or think-tanks are also involved in the implementation of the agenda.

Poland has supported the creation and development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda from the very beginning. As an active participant of the UN, OSCE, NATO and EU missions, the state allocating 2% of its GDP to defence, and currently a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council, Poland has all the instruments to actively promote the implementation of the agenda.

The painful legacy of two world wars, during which tens of thousands of Polish women and women of other



Elżbieta Zawacka (in the middle) among the commanders of her company's platoon, Garczyn 1939.

Photo: Archive of the Foundation of General Elżbieta Zawacka in Torun

nationalities experienced all kinds of violence and acts of brutal terror makes Poland particularly well placed to promote actions aimed at improving life of the most vulnerable groups affected by violence.

There is no doubt that without active involvement of thousands of Polish women who, despite a threat of repressions, opposed denationalization and took an active part in the unprecedented resistance movement against the occupants during World War II, the Polish State would not celebrate this year (2018) the centenary of its independence. Polish women also played an important role in the protection of the Polish economic and cultural heritage. Without their entrepreneurial and committed attitude, it would be impossible to quickly rebuild the country after the destruction inflicted on it by the two world wars.

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Women's Auxiliary Service (PSK „Pestki”) was a military formation set up in late 1941 on the initiative of General Władysław Anders. The photo features „Pestki” in Iraq in 1943.

Photo: Archive of the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw



Considering the above conditions, the Polish experiences can be extremely useful in current efforts aimed at strengthening the role of women in peace processes. Poland joined the group of co-sponsors of the following UN Security Council Resolutions: 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015)⁴. For many years, Poland has been actively involved in the work of international and regional organizations regarding the agenda, including the UN,

NATO, the EU and the OSCE. Poland also submits reports on the implementation of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions related to this subject. The National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda will make it possible (a) to systematize efforts made by Polish institutions to implement it, (b) to set priorities in this area, and (c) to examine the progress made by Polish institutions in the implementation of the agenda.

The National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2018-2021 was drawn up jointly by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defence, the Ministry of the Interior and Administration and the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment. It was also submitted for public consultations, which involved non-governmental organizations promoting the role of women in the security sector. Its purpose is to define areas and specific actions for the implementation of the agenda, as well as to increase coordination between Polish institutions that are most involved in its implementation.



Photo: T. Gackowski



2. Women, Peace and Security agenda

One of the documents that underpins the Women, Peace and Security agenda was the Platform for Action, established in 1995 during the Fourth World Conference on Women, which was held in Beijing under the auspices of the United Nations⁵. The document emphasized the need for an integral approach to peace and security, as well as equal access and full participation of women in the structures of power. It pointed out the need “to involve women in all efforts for the prevention and resolution of conflicts as an essential element for maintenance and promotion of peace and security.” The Beijing conference emphasized that “if women are to play an equal role to men in securing and maintaining peace, they must be empowered politically and economically and represented adequately at all levels of decision-making.”⁶

The United Nations Security Council adopted eight resolutions that directly address Women, Peace and Security. The first was Resolution 1325, mentioned earlier, which was adopted on 31 October 2000. It sets out the obligations of states in four dimensions: conflict prevention, participation of women in decision-making processes concerning maintenance of peace; protection of women before, during and after the armed conflict; and their access to post-conflict relief and recovery programs.

Four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda⁷:



Prevention: includes prevention of conflicts and all forms of violence against women and girls during and after the conflict. This pillar refers to gender mainstreaming in the early warning system and aims to include women and their needs in conflict prevention and disarmament initiatives. It also includes measures to prevent conflict-related sexual violence by combating impunity and improving prosecution of perpetrators. The pillar also takes into account a number of other activities, including combating discriminatory attitudes and behaviors, and draws attention to the fact that men of different ages may be not only perpetrators of sexual violence, but also its victims.



Participation: the aim of this pillar is to promote gender equality, including equal participation of women and men in decision-making processes regarding peace and security at the national, local and international levels. Its implementation is reflected in the increase of the number of women acting as negotiators, mediators, peacekeepers and humanitarian personnel.



Protection: protection of persons, including women and children, who are most vulnerable to violence during conflicts and humanitarian crises, including sexual violence. It focuses particularly on the needs of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs).



Relief and Recovery: its aim is to draw attention to the needs of women and children in post-conflict environments and to support women providing assistance during conflict and in post-conflict environments.



Photo: A. Roik/CC DORSZ

Subsequent Security Council Resolutions concerning women, peace and security relate to:

- conflict-related sexual violence [S/RES/1820 (2008)] and efforts aiming to combat it [S/RES/1888 (2009)],
- needs to increase efforts to implement the provisions of Resolution 1325 and to monitor its implementation [S/RES/1889 (2009)],
- combating impunity of perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence [S/RES/1960 (2010)],
- details on the implementation of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security [S/RES/2106 (2013)],
- extension of provisions of previous resolutions in the field of women's role in peace processes and the need for cooperation between the UN, the Security Council, regional organizations and Member States for the implementation of the agenda [S/RES/2122 (2013)],
- implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda [S/RES/2242 (2015)].

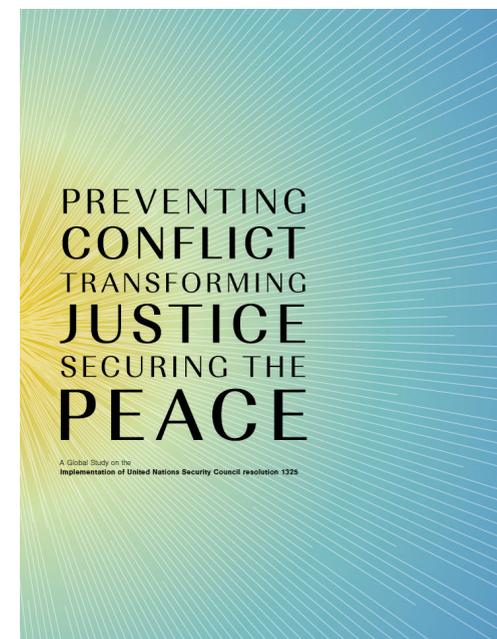
The implementation of Resolution 1325 is closely linked to the provisions of the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women, which was adopted by the UN General Assembly on 18 December 1979 and its Additional Protocol of 1999 (Journal of Laws of 1982, item 71). The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women also cites the Resolution in its General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations.

The application of the Women, Peace and Security agenda is directly related to the development cooperation policies, including the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which were adopted by General Assembly Resolution 70/1 on 25 September 2015. The implementation of the agenda overlaps in particular with activities related to the implementation of Goal 5 on gender equality, as well as Goal 16 – peace, justice and strong institutions.

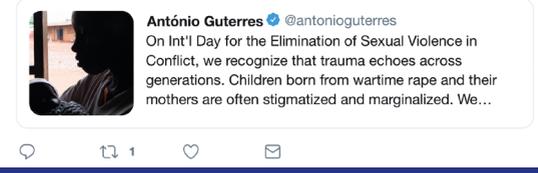


Resolution 1325 makes also references to the Geneva Conventions of 1949 (Journal of Laws of 1956, item 171), and their Additional Protocols of 1977 (Journal of Laws of 1992, item 175), whose provisions often pertain to the situation of women. The Geneva Conventions I, II and III indicate that "women shall be treated with all consideration due to their sex," whereas Article 27 of the Geneva Convention Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War (IV Geneva Convention) reads that "women shall be especially protected against any attack on their honour, in particular against rape, enforced prostitution, or any form of indecent assault."

Other documents listed in Resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions are the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951, and its 1967 Protocol (Journal of Laws of 1991, item 515), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child of 1989 with Optional Protocols (Journal of Laws of 1991, item 526), the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court of 1998 (Journal of Laws of 2003, item 708, as amended) and the Arms Trade Treaty of 2013 (Journal of Laws of 2015, item 40).



Poland in the UN @PLinUN · Jun 19
Fight against #SVC remains one of #Poland's priorities at #UNSC. On Int'l Day of Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict, Poland reiterates its commitment to work towards ending these crimes, ensuring accountability of perpetrators & providing assistance to all victims.



15 years after Resolution 1325 was adopted by the UN Security Council, a document was drafted under the auspices of the UN Secretary General on "Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Securing the Peace, A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325." It is a comprehensive set of good practices, guidelines and recommendations regarding the implementation of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security. Recommendations of the Global Study were used in the work on this document.

3. Where are we starting from? Implementation of the UN resolutions on Women, Peace and Security in Poland on the eve of the adoption of the National Action Plan

Prior to the adoption of the National Action Plan, Poland implemented the provisions of the Women, Peace and Security agenda to a large extent within the framework of policies on equal treatment, development and humanitarian aid, bilateral cooperation and within international organizations⁸. Below you will find some selected examples and information.

Poland ratified the UN Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 18 July 1980. In 2015, Poland ratified the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (CAHVIO), which was opened for signature on 11 May 2011 in Istanbul, and which applies also during an armed conflict, in accordance with its Article 2.

The Government's policy on equal treatment, including counteracting discrimination, is within the competence of the Government Plenipotentiary for Equal Treatment⁹ and the Ombudsman¹⁰. Each ministry appoints Coordinators for Equal Treatment. In 1999, the Ministry of National Defence also established a Women's Council¹¹.

Among the recent achievements of uniformed services in the implementation of the equal treatment policy, it is necessary to mention the Police's document, which is systematizing its work in regard to the protection of human rights "Main directions of the educational and informational activities for protecting

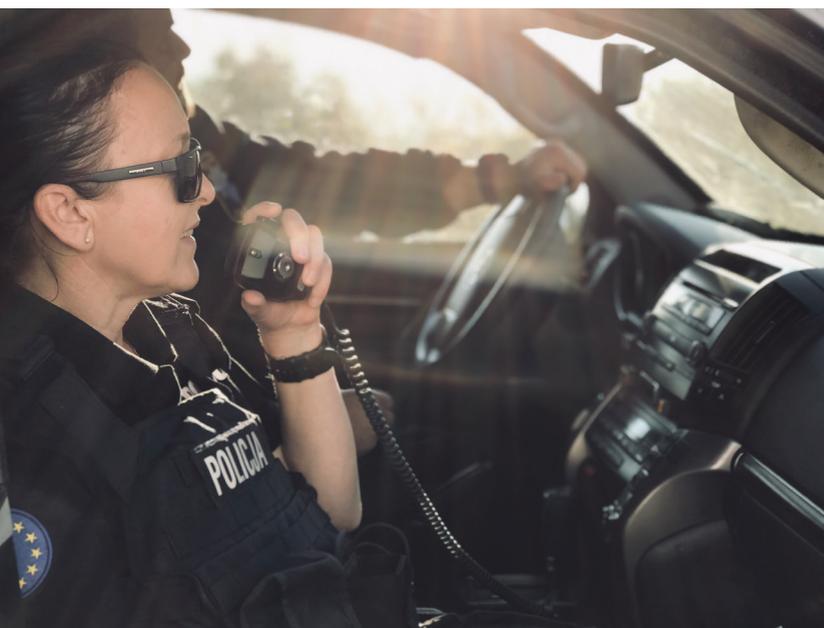
human rights and freedoms and equal opportunities strategy in the Police in 2016-2018" On the basis of the decision of the Minister of National Defence of 7 March 2018, regarding the functioning of the Women's Council in the Ministry of National Defence, the Council's position was strengthened by subordinating its chairman directly to the Minister. This is to enable a faster and direct response to all situations requiring urgent intervention involving the service of female soldiers. On the basis of this decision, supernumerary plenipotentiaries for the military service of women in military units at the level of independent battalions (and equivalent units) and above were also appointed.

In 2017, almost 6,000 women served in the Polish Armed Forces, which constituted 5.7 percent of the total number of soldiers (0.4 percentage points more compared to 2016)¹². In 2017, the percentage of women in the Police was at the level of 16 percent and increased by 0.4 percentage points compared to the previous year, while the percentage of women in the Border Guard was at 25.6 percent and increased by 0.6 percentage points. In 2017, 62 women soldiers participated in EU and NATO missions and operations¹³, and several female Police and Border Guard officers joined EU missions. Two female officers of the Border Guard participated in FRONTEX operations. In 2017, 25 percent of heads of diplomatic missions were women. In 2015, their percentage was 24 percent.

Many women took part in the OSCE election observation missions (including in the Balkans, and in Ukraine)¹⁴ and in the work of Polish humanitarian organizations in areas affected by armed conflicts. It is also worth noting that

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**A policewoman
in the EU mission
EULEX in Kosovo.**
*Photo: General Police
Headquarters*



**Medal award
ceremony in Iriba,
the UN mission
MINURCAT in RCA
and Chad.**
Photo: R. Suchy



Photo: Private First Class W. Król/ CO MOD

more and more women in Poland choose international security for their scientific or analytical specialization¹⁵.

In the past year, the Women, Peace and Security agenda was the subject of a number of debates and initiatives, which were organized by public institutions and non-governmental organizations. From March to June this year (2018), the Polish Army Museum hosted an exhibition entitled "We, Women – Soldiers". The exhibition featured women in the Armed Forces. The display included a uniform of a January Uprising female veteran, nurses of the Polish Legions and the current military uniforms for women, as well as documents, medals, orders, and paintings. The exhibition was prepared by the Polish Army Museum in Warsaw.

Development and humanitarian aid

"The major goal of Polish development cooperation is supporting sustainable socio-economic development of developing countries and their societies, undertaking measures aimed at reducing poverty, improving the health of the population, raising the educational level and professional qualifications of the population, supporting democratization processes and state reforms, building modern state institutions, promotion of human rights and support of civil society."¹⁶ Therefore, a significant part of thematic priorities of Polish development cooperation are consistent with Goal 16 of the UN SDGs – peace, justice and strong institutions¹⁷. It is instrumental to providing women with access to judicial authorities and building of inclusive state institutions.

In 2016 and 2017, a number of humanitarian and development projects were carried out as part of the Polish development cooperation to further the Women, Peace and Security agenda.

In 2016 and 2017, humanitarian projects funded by Polish Aid were implemented in Lebanon to provide Syrian refugees with access to basic health care. Another project implemented in 2016 in Lebanon offered professional training for refugees, including women.

Three projects implemented in 2016 -2017 in Iraqi Kurdistan to address the needs of the refugees and IDPs, including women and children:

- Provision of basic medical care, dental care and improvement of hygienic conditions of the local population and IDPs in the province of Diyala;
- Provision of basic medical care, improvement of hygienic conditions and medical education of the refugees, IDPs and local population in the province of Diyala;
- Provision of primary and gynaecological health care in Erbil and Dohuk Provinces.

Currently a project entitled "Emergency assistance and subsidiary social assistance for the most vulnerable persons in Erbil and Dohuk province" is run in Iraqi Kurdistan. One of its goals is to provide legal counselling and support to the victims of sexual violence. The time framework of the project is 2018-2019.



Polish Aid project "Provision of basic medical care, dental care and improvement of hygienic conditions of the local population and IDPs in the province of Diyala", which is run in Iraq.

Photo: Adam Golec/ Polish Medical Mission

In 2017, Poland contributed with donations for UNICEF in Ukraine and Syria. In addition, Poland worked together with the German Society for International Cooperation (GIZ) to renovate/expand a number of schools for refugee children in Syria, in the framework of the programme Support for Education.

In Palestine, Poland provided support for women's economic recovery and empowerment by financing several projects in Ramallah, Hebron and Jerusalem. These actions included providing access to vocational training for women, supporting newly-established businesses run by women (including facilitating access to new markets and assisting in achieving recognizable certificates such as "Fairtrade"), as well as promoting women's business cooperatives.

In 2017 Poland supported UN Women's actions in Cote d'Ivoire aimed at raising awareness on gender equality and women's rights.



A workshop on constitution for women leaders in the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, held as part of a UN Women project funded by Poland.

Photo: Assoua Roland/ Africa Global International



Photo: Embassy of Canada in Poland

Bilateral cooperation

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is one of the areas of cooperation between the Police from Poland and Moldova¹⁸. As part of this cooperation, in November 2017 a study visit of the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Moldova to the Polish Police took place. In March 2018, representatives of the Moldovan Policewomen Association paid another visit to Poland. During both study visits, the Polish Ministry of Foreign Affairs official made a presentation on "The role of women in peacekeeping operations."

Multilateral cooperation

Poland actively participates in the UN Informal Experts Group on WPS, the EU Informal Task Force on WPS, as well as in the NATO WPS Task Force. Poland is a member of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network.



Photo: Xander Heini/ Photothek.net

POLAND'S PARTICIPATION IN THE UN, EU, OSCE AND NATO MISSIONS AND OPERATIONS (OCTOBER 2018)

| | |
|--|------------------|
| ● Military Contingents | > 956 (30 women) |
| ● Police Contingents/ Special Police Units | > 84 (21 women) |
| ● Experts | > 84 (21 women) |

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EUROPE

Kosovo

- KFOR
- EULEX Kosovo
- UNMIK
- OSCE Mission in Kosovo

Moldova

- EUBAM Moldova/Ukraine

Bosnia and Herzegovina

- EUFOR Althea

Georgia

- EUMM Georgia

Ukraine

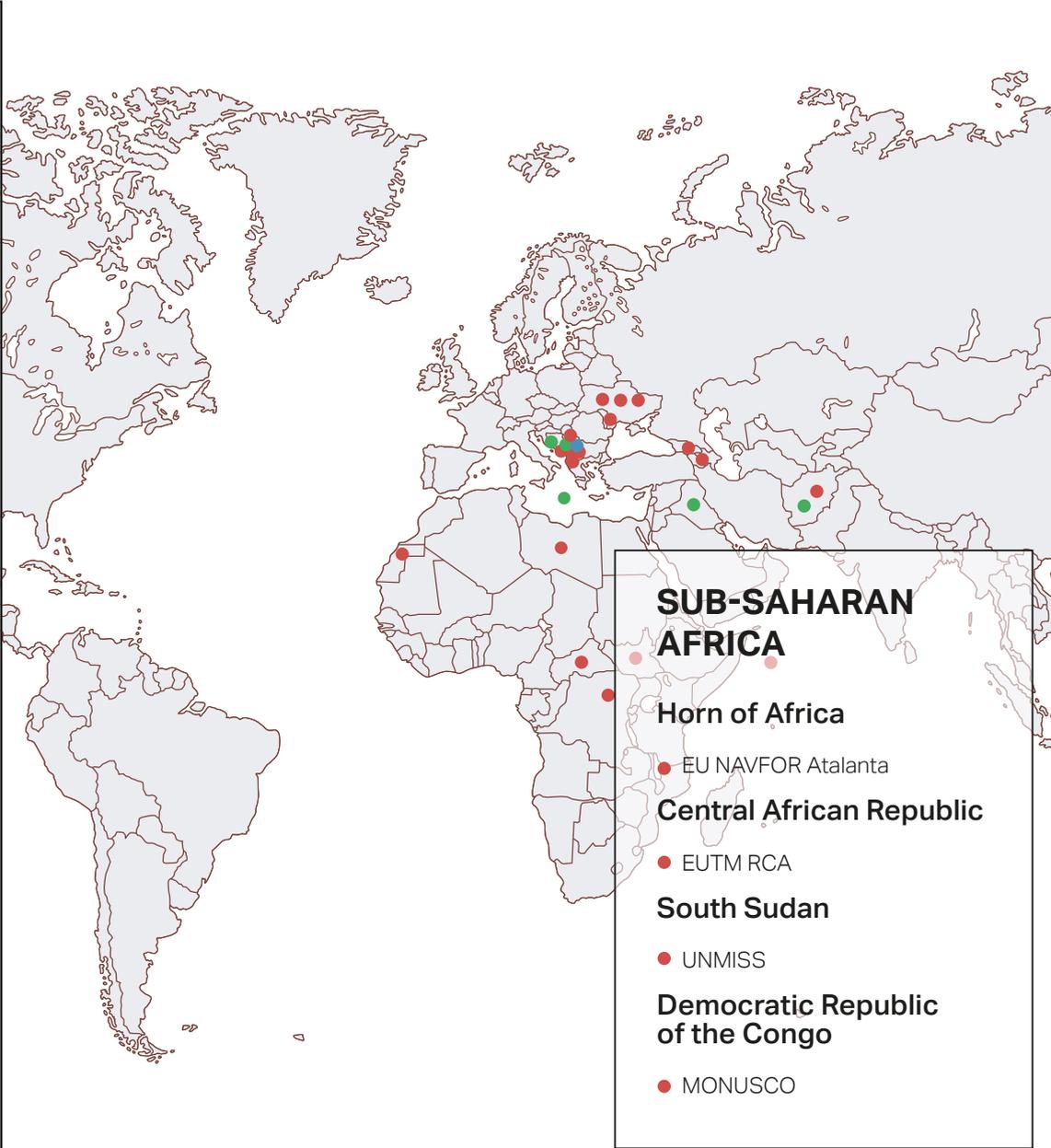
- EUAM Ukraine
- OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine
- OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk

Republic of Macedonia

- OSCE Mission to Skopje

Serbia

- OSCE Mission to Serbia
- Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office on the conflict dealt with by the OSCE Minsk Conference (Nagorno-Karabakh)



ASIA AND PACIFIC

Afghanistan

- NATO RSM
- UNAMA

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Horn of Africa

- EU NAVFOR Atalanta

Central African Republic

- EUTM RCA

South Sudan

- UNMISS

Democratic Republic of the Congo

- MONUSCO

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Mediterranean Sea

- EU NAVFOR MED – Sofia

Iraq

- The Global Coalition

Libya

- EUBAM Libya

Western Sahara

- MINURSO

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4. National Action Plan

Poland developed the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda to implement the provisions of Resolution 1325 and subsequent relevant resolutions. The Plan sets four main outcomes for the years 2018-2021:

- I. Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peacekeeping;
- II. Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the Polish humanitarian and development aid;
- III. Protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence;
- IV. Promotion and development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Poland and in the framework of international cooperation.

Below you will find specific measures reflecting the agenda's pillars. We have analysed the strengths and weaknesses of our current actions and we have reviewed the potential of Polish public institutions and non-governmental organizations. The conclusions enabled us to identify the main areas of implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. The goal was to carry out the activities within a specific timeframe, which would be realistic and measurable. While drafting the outcomes and activities, practical aspects related to the need of monitoring their progress were also taken into account.

Activities set out in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the UN Women, Peace and Security agenda 2018-2021 will be funded from the budgets of individual ministries without the need to increase them, and from the budgets of their subordinate units, academic centers, think-tanks and non-governmental organizations which implement it.

I. Participation of women in conflict prevention and peacekeeping



Activities related to women's participation in conflict prevention and peacekeeping are part of the implementation of the pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda regarding prevention, participation and protection.



In accordance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter, resolution of disputes with the use of peaceful means is fundamental to the maintenance of international peace and security¹⁹. Effective actions to prevent the outbreak of conflict usually mean rescuing from death and violence, and ensuring that civilians, including women



and children, do not have to escape. Hence their importance to the Women, Peace and Security agenda. Conflicts and their consequences are differently experienced by men and women, therefore the perspectives of both genders should be taken into account in all activities aimed at conflict prevention, crisis management or peacekeeping.

The Government of the Republic of Poland will pursue these objectives by increasing the number of women in the UN and EU CSDP, NATO and OSCE missions and operations, in service outside the state (at military attaché offices, liaison offices and diplomatic missions) and by applying legal regulations on equal treatment within Polish institutions. In this context, it is equally important to seek to increase the share of women – international security experts in advisory bodies for state authorities. These measures will be complemented by activities aimed at supporting international efforts to increase women's capacity to participate in conflict prevention and resolution, and by actions aimed at supporting the efforts of foreign missions and operations to promote and implement Women, Peace and Security agenda, in particular in the field of Security Sector Reform (SSR) and peace processes.

Poland aims to:

- Strengthen the position of women in uniformed services by increasing the presence of women in command and control structures, including in leadership positions;



Captain Katarzyna Mazurek - the first woman who became commander of a Polish Navy ship (in 2016).

Photo: M. Purman

- Increase the number of women heads of diplomatic missions and, in uniformed services – the number of women serving abroad;
- Increase the participation of women in terms of numbers and positions/ functions in operations and missions abroad;
- Support the participation of women in mediations;
- Implement the WPS agenda as a support element of the SSR by missions and operations abroad;
- Implement the WPS agenda as a support element of peace processes by missions and operations abroad.

II. Women, Peace and Security agenda in Polish humanitarian and development aid

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The Polish development cooperation, is addressed to four members of the Eastern Partnership: Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine, and – from the region of Africa, Asia and the Middle East – to Ethiopia, Kenya, Myanmar, Palestine, Senegal and Tanzania. Some of the projects financed from the funds of Polish Aid address women.



Poland provides humanitarian aid to refugees from the Middle East region, in particular to Syrian refugees. The assistance is provided through donations to international organizations and the International Red Cross and through projects implemented by Polish NGOs.



Polish Aid project "Provision of basic medical care, improvement of hygienic conditions and medical education of refugees, IDPs and local population in the province of Diyala", which is run in Iraq.

Photo: Archive of the Polish Medical Mission

Supporting the Women, Peace and Security agenda through development and humanitarian aid reflects the implementation of its pillars of participation, protection, relief and recovery.

Poland aims to:

- Implement the UN Sustainable Development Goals in relation to the WPS agenda;
- Protect and support the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV);
- Prevent such violence.

III. Protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence

Conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence used as a weapon of war has been an increasingly worrying phenomenon for many years. The situation of victims of conflicts – IDPs and people living in numerous refugee camps who are exposed to sexual and gender-based violence, is also alarming. These violations lead to a permanent stigmatization of the victims.

The Government of the Republic of Poland is committed to taking steps to protect and support victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. These include: soliciting international forums, including the UN Security Council to increase the efficiency of prosecution for conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. This includes Poland's efforts in the Security Council to support activities aimed at including conflict-related sexual violence as a condition for applying restrictions imposed by sanction regimes to their perpetrators, as well as countering the stigmatization of its victims.

Specialized training of mission employees to raise their awareness of women's rights and of ways to provide them with protection and support in conflict environments significantly influences the operational effectiveness of the missions²⁰. Therefore, Polish institutions will include topics related to the protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence

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in training programmes for persons preparing to join missions and operations abroad and for people willing to participate in such missions.

Within international organizations, Poland is also committed to increasing the effectiveness of measures taken to prevent and combat the impunity of peacekeepers who committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA).

Actions to protect and support victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence are part of all four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security agenda: prevention, participation, protection, relief and recovery.

The Polish Government aims to:

- Address the issue of impunity of perpetrators of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence;
- Prevent and combat the impunity of peacekeepers and other employees of the missions and operations abroad who committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA);
- Train people who are preparing to take part in peacekeeping missions or operations or who are interested in joining them on the protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as part of pre-deployment training;

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Polish Aid project „Emergency assistance and subsidiary social assistance for the most vulnerable persons in Erbil and Dohuk province”, which is run in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Photo: Polish Humanitarian Action

- Support victims of conflict-related sexual violence who apply for international protection in Poland.

IV. Promotion and development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda in Poland and through international cooperation

For many years, Poland has been actively involved in the work of international organizations, including the UN, NATO, the EU and OSCE to implement and develop the Women, Peace and Security agenda. After Polish institutions have implemented the National Action Plan, Poland will play an even more active role in international organizations and will increase its visibility in this area.

The Women, Peace and Security agenda is constantly evolving. The results of scientific research that provide data on its progress and identify new needs are invaluable for this process. Therefore, one of the goals of the National Action Plan is to support scientific research on the agenda. It is important that the scientific community, non-governmental organizations, think-tanks and the media are involved in activities aimed at promoting the agenda. Their participation will foster the exchange of experiences on the implementation of Resolution 1325 with other countries.

The Government of the Republic of Poland aims to:

- Include information on the Women, Peace and Security agenda in reports on compliance with international conventions on human rights and equal treatment;
- Actively promote and forward the Women, Peace and Security agenda within international organizations;
- Involve Polish researchers and scientists, students, non-governmental organizations, think-tanks and media in activities aimed at implementing the National Action Plan;
- Incorporate the subject of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on the Women, Peace and Security agenda to the training curriculum for persons preparing to join missions and operations abroad and for persons interested in such posts;
- Foster cooperation in the field of exchange of experiences relating to the implementation of Resolution 1325.

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5. Monitoring and evaluation



Fire training in Ethiopia coincided with natural disasters striking Africa, which are caused by climate change due to the so-called El Niño effect.

Photo: Archive of the Polish Center for International Aid

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Polish Centre for International Aid's team train Kenyan firefighters. More and more women join fire service. They are full of zeal to serve their communities. *Photo: Archive of the Polish Center for International Aid*

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To ensure an effective implementation of the National Action Plan, the activities carried out within its framework will be evaluated and monitored.

The implementation of the National Action Plan will be **monitored** in a continuous way to make sure that the process meets the Plan's objectives and that the activities are in line with its goals.

The main objectives of the **evaluation** of the National Action Plan are:

- providing information on the results of the implementation of the National Action Plan;
- assessing effectiveness of the implementation of the National Action Plan;
- increasing the effectiveness of implementation of Resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on this subject by Polish institutions and non-governmental organizations;
- supporting the decision-making process in the context of setting outcomes and actions of the next National Action Plan.

Evaluation will be carried out in two modes:

- Annual

Evaluation of annual progress in the implementation of the National Action Plan will be carried out on the basis of reports submitted by the end of February each year by the ministries involved in the implementation of the Action Plan on the actions, which are in their competence. The reports will contain information on the fulfilment of indicators and a summary of lessons learned from the implementation of the Action Plan in the year preceding the submitted report.

- Mid-term

The mid-term evaluation of the National Action Plan 2018-2021 will be carried out after three years of its launching – in the first quarter of 2021. Its main objective will be to support the decision-making process in the context of determining outcomes and activities of future Action Plans. Mid-term evaluation will be carried out by independent external entities.

Institutions implementing the National Action Plan are responsible for its implementation, regular monitoring and annual evaluation. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs is tasked with coordinating the evaluation of the Action Plan and developing the Action Plan's next edition.

6. Outcomes, actions and indicators of the National Action Plan 2018-2021

1. Meaningful participation of women in conflict prevention and peacekeeping

| No. | Area | Action | Responsible institution | Indicator |
|-----|---|---|--|--|
| 1 | Participation of women in missions and operations abroad | Activities to increase the number of women in missions and operations of the UN, CSDP (EU), NATO and OSCE | MFA, MOD, MOI | Number of women seconded to foreign missions and operations along with a list indicating their positions / functions |
| 2 | Women in uniformed services and in the foreign service | Activities to strengthen the position of women in uniformed services and in the foreign service Outreach activities to promote opportunities related to the development of professional career and combining it with family life | MFA, MOD, MOI MOD, MOI | Index of ranks and positions held by women in uniformed services, including posts abroad, and in the foreign service Number and scope of activities |
| 3 | Legal framework and practices aiming at implementation of equal treatment policies (antidiscrimination) | Implementation of the CEDAW by Polish institutions | Chancellery of Prime Minister, MFA, MOD, MOI | Progress made by Polish institutions in the implementation of the CEDAW |
| 4 | Participation of women in mediations | Support for international efforts aimed at increasing mediation and conflict prevention and resolution capacities of women | MFA | Financial contribution to international organizations with the purpose of supporting the participation of women in mediations |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--|-----|---------------------------------|
| 5 | Implementation of the WPS agenda in activities related to security sector reform (SSR) by missions and operations abroad | Support for implementation and promotion of the WPS agenda by the UN, CSDP (EU), NATO and OSCE missions and operations | MFA | Number and scope of initiatives |
| 6 | Implementation of the WPS agenda in activities related to supporting peace processes by missions and operations abroad | Support for implementation and promotion of the WPS agenda by the UN, CSDP (EU), NATO and OSCE missions and operations | MFA | Number and scope of initiatives |

2. Implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda through the Polish humanitarian and development aid

| Nr. | Obszar działania | Działanie | Instytucja wdrażająca | Wskaźnik |
|-----|---|--|-----------------------|---|
| 7 | Implementation of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in relation to the WPS agenda | Implementation of the SDGs in Polish development assistance, in particular SDG no 5 - gender equality and SDG no 16 - peace, justice and strong institutions. | MFA | Financing the implementation of the SDGs within Polish development assistance and humanitarian aid |
| 8 | Protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence. Prevention of such violence | Support for the victims and prevention of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in the framework of Polish humanitarian aid and development assistance | MFA | Financing projects, which are implemented by the NGOs within Polish humanitarian aid and development assistance |

3. Protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence

| Area | Action | Responsible institution | Indicator |
|---|---|-------------------------|---|
| 9 Addressing the issue of impunity of perpetrators of conflict-related sexual violence | Efforts undertaken at international fora aiming at raising the effectiveness and increasing the responsibility of perpetrators for acts of conflict-related sexual violence | MFA | Number and scope of initiatives |
| 10 Preventing and combating impunity of peacekeepers and other employees of foreign missions and operations who committed acts of sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA) | Efforts undertaken at international fora aiming at the prevention and fight against impunity of peacekeepers and other employees of foreign missions and operations who committed acts of SEA | MFA | Number and scope of initiatives |
| 11 Training on protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence as part of pre-deployment training for people going on missions and operations abroad and for those who are interested in participating in such missions | Inclusion of topics related to the protection and support of the victims of conflict-related sexual and gender-based violence in pre-deployment training for missions and operations abroad, also for senior management and commanding staff, and in trainings for people who are interested in participating in such missions and operations | MOD, MOI, MFA | Number of trainees with an indication of their gender |
| 12 Support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence, who apply for international protection in Poland | Provision of support for victims of conflict-related sexual violence who apply for international protection in Poland | MOI | Scale and scope of activities |

4. Promotion and development of the WPS agenda in Poland and through international cooperation

| Area | Action | Responsible institution | Indicator |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|---|
| 13 WPS agenda in reporting on the implementation of international conventions on human rights and equality | Inclusion of the WPS agenda in the human rights Universal Periodic Review Inclusion of the WPS agenda in Polish periodic reports on the implementation of the CEDAW, including Recommendation no. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations | MFA MFA | References to the WPS agenda- related matters References to the WPS agenda- related matters |
| 14 WPS agenda in Poland's activities in international organisations | Poland's activity within the UN, EU, NATO and OSCE in regard to the WPS agenda, including sharing and exchange of information on its implementation Active membership in the UN Group of Friends of WPS and Informal Experts Group on WPS Active membership in the Informal EU Task Force on WPS | MFA, MOD, MOI MFA MFA | Number and scope of activities. Financial contributions for implementation of the WPS agenda by international organizations Number and scope of activities Number and scope of activities |

| Area | Action | | Responsible institution | Indicator |
|------|--|--|--|---|
| | Area | Action | | |
| | | Active membership in the NATO WPS Task Force | MOD | Number and scope of activities |
| | | Active membership of the Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network | MFA | Number and scope of activities |
| 15 | Science and higher education | Activities to engage Polish researchers, scientists and students in activities related to the WPS agenda | MSHE, MFA, MOD | Number and scope of activities |
| 16 | Cooperation with NGOs, think-tanks and media | Engaging NGOs, think-tanks and media in the implementation of the WPS NAP 2018-2021 | MFA, MOD, MOI | Number and scope of activities |
| 17 | WPS training | Inclusion of the WPS agenda into outreach and educational activities addressed to people who are preparing to join foreign missions or operations, including senior management and commanding staff, and for those who are interested in participating in such missions and operations | MFA, MOD, MOI | Number of trainees with an indication of their gender |
| | | Inclusion of the WPS agenda in pre-departure trainings for diplomats and military attachés | MFA, MOD | Number of trainees with an indication of their gender |
| 18 | Exchange of experiences | Inclusion of the WPS agenda in bilateral cooperation with a view to exchanging information related to its implementation | MFA, MOD, MOI, Chancellery of Prime Minister | Number and scope of activities |

Related links

Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Polish Aid: <https://www.polskapomoc.gov.pl/PolishAid,160.html>

Ministry of National Defence: Women's Military Service <http://www.wojsko-polskie.pl/pl/pages/wojskowa-sluzba-kobiet-w/>

UN (1995): Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995. <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>

UN Peacekeeping: Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008), 1888 (2009), 1889 (2009), 1960 (2010), 2106 (2013), 2122 (2013) and 2242 (2015): <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/promoting-women-peace-and-security>

UN (2015): Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Securing the Peace, A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 [https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20\(1\).pdf](https://www.peacewomen.org/sites/default/files/UNW-GLOBAL-STUDY-1325-2015%20(1).pdf)

UNIC/ United Nations Information Centre in Warsaw (2015): Sustainable Development Goals <http://www.un.org.pl/>

Council of the European Union (Brussels, 22 September 2016): Revised indicators for the Comprehensive approach to the EU implementation of the UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 and 1820 on women, peace and security <http://data.consilium.europa.eu/doc/document/ST-12525-2016-INIT/en/pdf>

NATO: Women, Peace and Security https://www.nato.int/cps/en/natohq/topics_91091.htm

OSCE: Women, Peace and Security <https://www.osce.org/secretariat/107451>

UN Women, Facts and figures: Peace and security <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>

- 1 According to the outcomes of the scientific research when women are included in peace processes there is a 20percent increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 2 years, and a 35%increase in the probability of an agreement lasting at least 15 years. UN Women: Facts and figures: Peace and security <http://www.unwomen.org/en/what-we-do/peace-and-security/facts-and-figures>, after: Laurel Stone, Study of 156 peace agreements, controlling for other variables, Quantitative Analysis of Women's participation in Peace Processes in Reimagining Peacemaking: Women's Roles in Peace Processes, Annex II, 2015.
- 2 Council on Foreign Relations, Women's Participation in Peace Processes, July 2018, available at: <https://www.cfr.org/interactive/womens-participation-in-peace-processes>
- 3 UN Police, Data available at: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/policing>
- 4 Resolution 1325 was not open for co-sponsorship.
- 5 UN (1995): Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995 <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/beijing/pdf/Beijing%20full%20report%20E.pdf>
- 6 Para. 134 of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, The Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, September 1995.
- 7 SIDA, Women, Peace and Security Brief, March 2015 available at: <https://www.sida.se/contentassets/3a820dbd152f4fca98bacde8a8101e15/women-peace-and-security.pdf> after: UN Strategic Results Framework on Women, Peace and Security, 2011-2020, http://www.un.org/womenwatch/ianwge/taskforces/wps/Strategic_Framework_2011-2020.pdf
- 8 In the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Index 2017/2018 of the Georgetown Institute for Women, Peace and Security, Poland scores at position 28, <https://giwps.georgetown.edu/the-index/chapters/>
- 9 More information is available on the website of the Chancellery of the Prime Minister: <https://www.spoleczenstwoobywatelskie.gov.pl/kompetencje-pelnomocnika-rzadu-do-spraw-rownego-traktowania>
- 10 For more information visit the Ombudsman's website: <https://www.rpo.gov.pl/pl/rowne-traktowanie>
- 11 More about women in uniformed services in: Ewelina Waśko-Owsiejczuk (ed.), Women in the Polish uniformed services. Role, tasks and challenges, Aspra & University in Białystok, Warsaw 2018.
- 12 1,284 female soldiers serve in the Territorial Defence Force (TDF) – 11 percent of all TDF soldiers. The average age of an TDF female soldier is 29. There are 215 female professional soldiers in the TDF, 8,3 percent of all TDF professional soldiers. Their average age is 26.
- 13 For more information on the participation of female soldiers in operations in Afghanistan and Iraq see B. Drapikowska, Participation of female soldiers in the missions abroad in Iraq and Afghanistan, Academy of Art of War, 1 (2) 2017, at: <https://repozytorium.uwb.edu.pl/jspui/handle/11320/5771>
- 14 In 2016, 46,8 percent of short-term election observers selected by the Solidarity Fund were women, and in 2017 their percentage was 42,8%. In 2016 and 2017, among OSCE long-term election observers 6 were women and 4 men.
- 15 More information on this topic is available on the website of the project on Women in political science by Agata Włodkowska-Bagan, PhD, <http://kobietywpolitologii.pl/o-projekcie/>
- 16 Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Multiannual Development Cooperation Programme 2016-2020 adopted by the Council of Ministers on 6 October 2015, p. 8.
- 17 Thematic priorities of Polish development assistance: good governance, democracy and human rights, human capital, entrepreneurship and the private sector, sustainable agriculture and rural development, and environmental protection.
- 18 Another event related to the women, peace and security agenda was a conference on the situation of women in Afghanistan, which took place in September 2012 and was organized under the auspices of the United Kingdom Embassy, the US embassy, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Polish Institute of International Affairs. See at: <https://www.pism.pl/events/conferences/Seminar-Afghanistan-Then-and-now-a-womans-perspective#>
- 19 United Nations Charter, Chapter I – Goals and Principles, <http://www.un.org/en/charter-united-nations/>
- 20 Gender & Security Sector Reform Toolkit, 2008, <https://www.dcaf.ch/gender-security-sector-reform-toolkit>



A Border Guard officer on border patrol.
Photo: The Polish Border Guard



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