

The UK Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative

Presentation to OSCE Forum for Security Cooperation,
plenary session: *Women, Peace and Security, and the
Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict*

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Presentation Overview

- What is it and how it came about?***
- Broader context – conflict and security***
- What have we committed to?***
- Focus on Peace and Security commitments***
- How are we delivering overall?***
- Deploying UK Expertise***
- Where next?***

Preventing Sexual Violence Initiative

Goal:

Quashing Impunity for Crimes of Sexual Violence in Conflict

Objectives:

- Increasing the number of prosecutions
- Supporting national capacity
- Improving international coherence

A historic G8 Declaration 11th April

“we need such commitments to end the treatment of rape and sexual violence as a secondary issue and to put women and women’s rights front and centre in conflict resolution”

William Hague, 11th April 2013

PSVI: What have we committed to?

A normative and practical framework

- > Reaffirming existing legal commitments – *grave breaches, universal jurisdiction*

Specific deliverables in:

- > An international Protocol
- > Humanitarian and emergency response
- > **Peace and Security**
- > Improving international cooperation and coherence

Peace and Security Commitments (1)?

- > Peace negotiations and ceasefires supported by G8 should include the participation of women and explicit recognition to prevent, address and reduce crimes of sexual violence in armed conflict.
- > Need to exclude crimes of sexual violence in armed conflict from amnesty provisions.
- > Promote women's involvement in all peace negotiations, peacebuilding, prevention, and accountability.
- > National security sector and justice reform programmes are gender and child-sensitive; designed to address and reduce gender-based violence, including sexual violence; full participation of women.

Peace and Security Commitments (2)?

- > Consistent with and support wider efforts to promote better implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 - National Action Plans.
- > Ministers agreed that Governments should review the doctrine and training provided to their national military and police.
- > Support UN and other multilateral efforts to ensure such training is provided to international peacekeeping forces.
- > Deployment of Women and Child Protection Advisers within appropriate UN and other peacekeeping operations and missions on central budgets.

PSVI: How are we delivering our commitments?

Twin Track Approach

1. Continued Political Campaign – more than the G8

- > June UNSCR, Sept UNGA, proposed Champions network

2. Practical Action

- > Working with UK Government partners
- > Strategic and political work at country levels
- > Working with the UN SRSG's office
- > Deployment of UK expertise

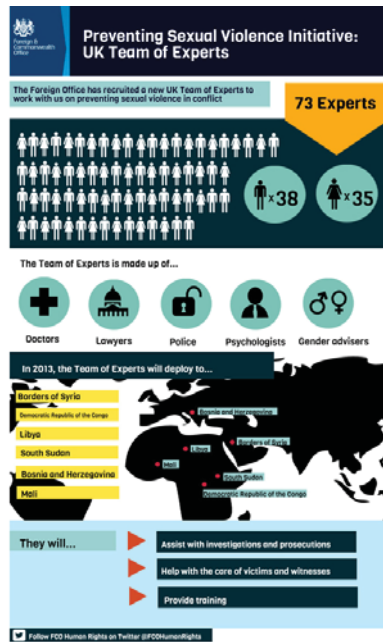
Deploying UK Expertise

PSVI UK Team of Experts

- > *'The Government will establish a new UK team of experts devoted to combating and preventing sexual violence in conflict...It will draw on the skills of doctors, lawyers, police, psychologists, forensic specialists and experts in the care and protection of victims and witnesses. It will significantly strengthen the specialist capabilities that the United Kingdom is able to bring to bear on these issues.'*

Foreign Secretary, Written Ministerial Statement on 12 June 2012

- > **Expertise to develop national capacity to investigate allegations of sexual violence and gather evidence**



How to Determine Where to Deploy Experts



Assessment:

- > Extent & Impact of Sexual Violence
- > National & International Response to Date
- > Added Value of UK
- > UK National Interest

And:

- > UN Consultation
- > In support of commitments made in the G8 Declaration

Deployments so Far...



Syria border

- > To improve investigations and documentation of sexual violence for a future national or international justice process

Libya

- > Ensuring sexual violence is reflected in security and justice sector reform; supporting national legislative reform and the legal and institutional framework within which survivors can act

Deployments so Far Cont.

Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH)

- > Developing capacity of judges and prosecutors to tackle the impunity that exists for wartime sexual violence crimes, in partnership with OSCE.

Mali

- > Integrating SGBV responses in all peace and security efforts.

Where Next?

- > ***Syria Region***
- > ***Bosnia-Herzegovina***
- > ***DRC***
- > We are also in discussions with the Government of ***Somalia*** about helping their efforts to tackle sexual violence, including as follow up to the 7 May Somalia conference.

PSVI: Going Forward

We will:

- > Continue to focus on extending the political campaign and building a greater constituency of political leadership to address sexual violence.
- > Continue to use UK expertise, and to focus on addressing sexual violence in conflict and post conflict countries.
- > Continue to support the work of the SRSG on Sexual Violence and her team.
- > Continue to work across UK Government Depts to support delivery of G8 and International Commitments, particularly UNSCR 1325.

Thank You

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