

# THE THIRD CZECH NATIONAL ACTION PLAN ON WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

## ADDRESSING LOCAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES

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SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In times of multiple security crises and increased threats to women's rights across the world, the need for a commitment to an active implementation of the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda is ever more pressing. The Czech Republic's upcoming third National Action Plan on WPS represents an opportunity to further advance WPS into domestic and foreign policies and practices while reflecting on the shifting geopolitical circumstances at local, regional and global levels. Although the Czech WPS Agenda is now well institutionalized, it needs first and foremost a higher political priority which would be linked to budget allocation, and more localization, as well as

a transformative and in-depth engagement in its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. Each of the four pillars of the NAP – participation, gender mainstreaming, prevention and protection, and relief and recovery – should mainstream crosscutting issues of intersectionality, localization, leadership, budget allocation and qualitative monitoring and evaluation. These are much needed steps along with the renewing of the position of a Special Commissioner for Gender, which could support the Czech regional WPS leadership and effective responses to the gendered impacts of Russia's war in Ukraine, including through the lens of long-term conflict prevention.

## INTRODUCTION: THE CZECH WPS AGENDA AMIDST LOCAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL CHALLENGES

For a quarter of a century, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda of ten UN Security Council resolutions [↗ LINK](#) has evolved globally as the principal gender equality architecture addressing women's and gender roles in peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and wartime sexualised and gender-based violence. The Agenda reconfigures the traditional understanding of peace and security to meaningfully include gendered considerations on local, national and global levels. The coming 25th anniversary of the WPS Agenda in 2025 coincides with the Czech Republic's preparation of the third National Action Plan (NAP) on implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325.

Reaffirming the international commitment to WPS is ever more pressing in the light of the gendered security dynamics which have been failing women worldwide, from Afghanistan, Palestine, and Sudan to Ukraine [↗ LINK](#); [↗ LINK](#). Gendered threats manifest through the impacts of COVID-19 and other health emergencies, the rise in the number and intensity of armed conflicts, effects of the climate emergency, and transnational threats of anti-gender mobilization, extremism, mis- and disinformation, or technology-facilitated gender-based violence. Furthermore, the growing strength of populist and illiberal political forces leads to attempts to reverse reproductive and LGBTQI+ rights. Russia's 2022 re-invasion of Ukraine is itself a war on gender and LGBTQI+ people and poses a threat to the liberal gender equality order that underpins the agreed international gender norms of the EU, NATO, the OSCE and the UN [↗ LINK](#). In the wake of Russia's aggression against Ukraine, an increase in WPS localization is crucial, as is the strengthening of the role of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the global WPS Agenda [↗ LINK](#); [↗ LINK](#).

This policy paper provides an academic analysis of the implementation of the second Czech WPS NAP and suggests areas of focus and recommendations for the third Czech WPS NAP. We demonstrate that the upcoming NAP represents a unique opportunity for all key Czech WPS actors to build on the achievements and learn from the shortcomings of the previous NAPs and present themselves as WPS champions both domestically and in the wider CEE region. For this to materialize, the third NAP will need to have a higher political priority, localization and a more critical and transformative engagement beyond just counting on women being able to effectively respond to the shifting circumstances at local, regional and global levels.

The policy paper draws on the existing academic analyses and policy research, official documents, and practitioners' experiences of the implementation of the Czech WPS NAPs. First, we provide an overall analysis of the achievements, lessons learned and key challenges of the Czech WPS agenda. We then reflect on each of the four pillars that frame the structure of the current and future NAP: participation, gender mainstreaming, prevention and protection, and relief and recovery. The recommendations are then divided into the categories of crosscutting issues and individual pillars.

## WHAT TO LEARN FROM THE SECOND WPS NAP

### BACKGROUND AND LESSONS LEARNED

The WPS agenda has been introduced in the Czech Republic with the adoption of the first NAP (2017–2020). This was an important although rather symbolic first step [↗ LINK](#) which created a WPS community that started engaging with the Agenda in more detail. The second WPS NAP (2021–2025) advanced the Agenda towards a more concrete vision, and, importantly, strengthened the institutionalization of WPS in general and of the WPS Interministerial Working Group within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) as the lead implementor. Other key implementing ministries for the Agenda include the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the Government.

The positioning of WPS and the Interministerial Working Group under the MFA brings a significant level of stability as with this positioning, the Agenda is unlikely to be rolled back with the change of the government. The disadvantage, however, is that the Agenda is mostly externalized and lacks an effective localization that could be allowed if it were located at the Office of the Government. The second NAP period has seen an important active effort to increase the efficient cooperation with domestic civil society and academia; this included, for example, the appointment of a civil society representative as the Deputy Chair of the Interministerial Working Group, the election of more civil society representatives as regular members of the Group and the establishment of the open consultative group that allows for wider input from civil society, and expanding the informal collaboration for the drafting of the third NAP. The WPS community has grown but is still modest in numbers and in terms of active and meaningful engagement. There is a number of NGOs which actively engage with the Agenda now, but they are relatively new to the process. Their engagement is a result of sustained efforts of the Working Group that mapped NGOs and invited them to WPS-focussed events and open meetings of the Working Group.

The Working Group has engaged in regular meetings twice a year. The Group also conducts annual reporting on the implementation of the NAP. During the midterm of the second NAP, the Working Group responded to the 2022 Russian invasion of Ukraine with detailed recommendations on the localization of the WPS agenda amidst the current geopolitical situation in the Czech Republic and the broader CEE region. The document advises the government institutions to mainstream WPS responses specifically in their approaches to refugees, human rights policy, humanitarian aid, and the planning of Ukraine's post-conflict reconstruction and recovery. In 2024, the recommendations have been also reflected in the updated Government Strategy on Gender Equality (2021–2030 [↗ LINK](#)), which signals a clear step towards a more coherent WPS policy in line with other gender-related strategies. These developments illustrate a shift in thinking. The NAP is now considered a 'live' document that should be able to respond to newly emerged or unexpected security situations and contexts.

Overall, the second NAP strengthened the Czech engagement with WPS. It succeeded in institutionalising the Working Group and, through its efforts, managed to effectively engage representatives of civil society. The mid-term review served as a powerful moment signalling the preparedness of the Working Group to respond to the regional security situation. The full-scale Russian invasion of Ukraine on one hand uncovered the lack of foresight of the second NAP, especially in relation to the lived experiences and needs of refugees, but also reaffirmed the importance of effective WPS policy-making on the national and regional

levels on the other. The relatively small Czech WPS community has focussed on key needs of Ukrainian refugees, and there has been an increased level of cooperation with Ukrainian partners and a lot of learning. Still, some key challenges remain.

## KEY CHALLENGES

### *Politics and Institutional Cultures*

So far, the Agenda has been rather state-centric and driven from above. In other words, the Czech civil society does not engage with WPS to the same extent as civil societies elsewhere. At the same time, it remains relatively low on the list of political priorities of the state. This is apparent in the brief existence of the position of a Special Commissioner for Gender and Quality Management at the MFA (hereinafter the Special Commissioner), which was established in 2021 only to be cancelled in 2023 and degraded back to the position of Gender Focal Point (GFP). The GFP position has historically been affected by its limited power, capacity, expertise and staff fluctuation <sup>↗ LINK</sup> and has dealt mostly with mainstreaming gender into the internal human resources agenda.

The main expertise lies with the WPS Focal Point at the Department of UN and Global Issues at the MFA, which has been a key driver and ‘owner’ of the Agenda. This Department has, together with the officials from the Gender Equality Department at the Office of the Government and key representatives of academia and civil society, worked to harmonise the implementation of WPS with other gender equality strategies and introduced new topics throughout the cycle. More coherence and engagement of other MFA stakeholders could further advance the WPS agenda. Other stakeholders show varying levels of active engagement with the Agenda, which reflects the limited capacities and high-level political leadership. It is important to note that the Agenda has been successfully shielded from the attention of the anti-gender forces in the Czech Republic. While it is key that the Agenda itself does not enter the realm of ‘culture wars’, the anxiety about a potential conservative backlash keeps stifling its transformative potential.

As such, it is key that the future efforts of the Working Group focus on garnering political support. The position of the Special Commissioner should be renewed, ideally with a focus on gender and the WPS agenda. There are several examples where a specialised political position on WPS led by a senior diplomat resulted in improved visibility and implementation of WPS at both domestic and international levels (see <sup>↗ LINK</sup>). On top of this, the Working Group should also consider promoting WPS among key MPs and Senators, and with the Office of the President.

### *Budget*

The lack of a budget remains to be a key problem for the majority of NAPs. Neither the first nor the second Czech NAP had a designated budget. The key implementing stakeholders use their existing budgets to cover their WPS-related activities. None of the focal points have WPS as their sole responsibility; instead, WPS has often been added to an already full portfolio. As such, the Agenda is highly dependent on the willingness of the key civil servants to find the time to engage with and prioritise it.

### *Implementation*

The NAP has undergone annual reporting against the set targets. While this is a good practice, the overall implementation process suffers from a lack of analytical depth and

critical self-reflection. This is apparent in the NAP's annual reports, which mostly reflect the core ongoing activities of the various stakeholders and contain some quantitative data. This relates to a number of factors: the lack of an NAP budget, stretched stakeholders, the lack of NAP localization and policy coherence and some resistance, as well as a lack of understanding of WPS and its transformative potential.

#### *Localization, Intersectionality and Newly Emerging Issues*

One of the key limitations of the second NAP was the narrow focus and the lack of localization, which was clearly visible in the need to undergo a mid-term review in reaction to the effects of the 2022 Russian full-scale invasion of Ukraine. Due to complex political dynamics, the NAP lacked a focus on migration and refugees, issues affecting the local population such as technology related anti-feminist radicalization [↗ LINK](#), and more advanced themes such as men's masculinities [↗ LINK](#) or intersectionality [↗ LINK](#). The third NAP presents the opportunity to learn from both the local and regional experience and existing literature on WPS, and include further themes such as: LGBTQIA+ issues and queering the WPS agenda (see here [↗ LINK](#)); Youth, Peace and Security (see here [↗ LINK](#)); reproductive rights and justice (see here [↗ LINK](#)); and global climate change (see here [↗ LINK](#)). Russia's invasion of Ukraine also revealed the possibility of connecting WPS with military support in the situation of self-defence against gendered violence committed by a repressive regime and a focus on gender aspects and women's role in contemporary territorial defence and deterrence [↗ LINK](#).

## WHERE NEXT FOR THE THIRD CZECH NAP?

### PARTICIPATION

The participation pillar broadly focuses on strengthening 'women's participation and leadership in all areas of peace and security'. Under this strategic goal, the majority of the specific goals focus on data collection and monitoring of women's representation in domestic institutions like the police, the army, or relevant Ministries. While the descriptions of these specific goals are written well and have the potential to encourage an in-depth assessment and reflection, the indicators are merely numbers of studies and percentages of women/civil society representatives within relevant institutions.

Much of the early stages of the implementation were impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This relates primarily to women's participation in foreign missions. The existing implementation reports show a different level of detail in terms of reporting and critical analysis in this period. There appear to be some available data that offer at least a partial picture of the key issues around women's participation in security services. For example, the Army has conducted a detailed analysis of motivations for choosing an army career. However, out of 1315 respondents, only 70 were women. The implementation report shows some gender disparities in the answers discussed, but offers inconclusive answers as to why this might be the case.<sup>1</sup> Such answers could be made more concrete if there was a possibility for a follow up qualitative research (for example, in the form of an anonymous online

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[1] Implementation Report 2022, p. 5.

questionnaire, or interviews/focus groups conducted by researchers who are not affiliated to the Army). Other stakeholders often offer very generic reporting on the implementation, for example, simply stating the numbers of women and men in management positions or key foreign mission selection criteria. While the second NAP appears to have met several of its participation indicators, we argue that the third NAP should be more ambitious in its understanding of participation.

Firstly, the third NAP should strive to overcome the ‘add women and stir mentality’ and instead focus on a meaningful gendered analysis of participation in peace and security from multiple perspectives. While we believe that there must be an improvement in representation (not only in terms of gender, but also in terms of ethnicity, race, sexuality, age, disability, etc.), the key problem with this approach is that simply adding women into existing patriarchal structures does not automatically result in an improvement of the power relations and dynamics of these institutions, policies or projects. The stakeholders of the third NAP should be encouraged to engage in a more critical intersectional approach to analysing available data that does not only ask how many women there are but provides further qualitative data on the presence and role of these women or the absence of others. There should be clear guidance from the lead Ministry (MFA) and a setting of the expectations of the depth and breadth of the reporting.

Secondly, while the agenda has ‘women’ in its title, the second NAP largely reflects the widespread and often-times unchallenged logic that gender equality is about women and is women’s work only. So far, the Czech engagement with the participation pillar of the WPS has been defined by a focus on certain women – primarily women employed in state institutions or civil society that directly engage with the Agenda. While logical, this approach tends to ignore what gendered (in)security means for other segments of the population, primarily disadvantaged groups such as minorities, migrants or refugees.<sup>2</sup> It is therefore key that the third NAP efficiently adopt an intersectional lens and consider the issues of participation of racial and ethnic minorities, LGBTQI+ people, and young people, and an effective engagement of men in the Agenda across all the pillars.

Finally, the participation pillar has been focussed exclusively on the domestic structures and institutions. While the implementation reports clearly show that the key stakeholders should continue to work towards greater gender parity and improve the effective participation of women in security structures, it is also important to look outwards. The next NAP should focus on the effective participation of local partners in both the region and the priority countries, and learning from them.

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

The gender mainstreaming section of the second NAP included some modest yet important goals. These focussed on education and training, international cooperation, and spreading awareness of the WPS Agenda. Most of the indicators have been successfully met or are in the process of being completed. While this shows relative progress, the third NAP provides an opportunity to rethink what gender mainstreaming means in the local and regional

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[2] Other NAPs have noted the domestic gendered insecurities that concern particular groups of people. For example, the current Canadian NAP <sup>9</sup> [LINK](#) acknowledges the violence and insecurity that ‘indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit, and gender-diverse people face’.

context. This is to say that the concept of gender mainstreaming is often critiqued as unclear due to the lack of understanding of the term ‘gender’ and its negative connotations, the target-focussed approach to mainstreaming, which is closely linked to the previously discussed ‘add women and stir’ thinking, and institutional cultures [↗ LINK](#).

The analysis of the second Czech NAP shows how in this case, similarly to the participation pillar, the issue of quantitative indicator measurement leads to, at the very best, only a partial picture of how gender has been mainstreamed in the relevant areas of activity. The goal of providing education opportunities for the key staff at the relevant Ministries and non-governmental stakeholders is measured according to the number of trainings provided or people trained. Understandably, the implementation reports note the kinds of trainings and events that are available and conducted. What is missing, however, is an understanding of what impact the available training and events have on the participants – be it their understanding of WPS or how they implement some of the knowledge or skills gained. The remaining goals and indicators focus on knowledge sharing and international partnerships. These are key, yet the annual reporting on them remains rather descriptive, often simply stating what events were held or attended.

The third Czech NAP should consider approaching gender mainstreaming in a more holistic way. While the limited funds are likely to remain a key issue, it is critical that all stakeholders who lead educational activities conduct a qualitative analysis of their effectiveness and impact. It is further key that the Czech Republic take a more proactive role in international fora such as the WPS Focal Point Network. We recommend that the government consider signing the Compact on Women, Peace and Security and Humanitarian Action [↗ LINK](#). It is further key that in light of the current geopolitical situation, the Czech Republic focus on exchanging knowledge and experience with the countries in Europe’s East and work closely with the partners in the region, especially Ukraine.

Civil society and academia were one of the key drivers of organising WPS-related events. While they should continue to do so, it is again key that there are available funds for continuing these activities. There should also be a greater engagement of civil society in the creating and evaluation of the WPS education. Importantly, WPS should be mainstreamed into both domestic and foreign policy through the broader topic of gendered security, and also into the variety of existing grant schemes that the key stakeholders control. Finally, the Working Group may consider organising opportunities for young people to engage with the Agenda, be it in the form of internships, summer schools, etc.

## PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

In the global WPS agenda, the prevention pillar has recently overtaken the dominant protection pillar, which has been problematized since it was perceived as victimizing WPS efforts at the expense of a transformative focus [↗ LINK](#). In the Czech WPS agenda, these two pillars have been merged into one but most of the measures relate to prevention through WPS training and WPS support at multilateral fora. These are largely previously existing measures that have already been implemented to various degrees. The third NAP provides an opportunity to embrace a more comprehensive long-term prevention that can result in transformative structural changes, including a much needed localization, which has been mostly absent in the indicators of the second NAP.

Firstly, the third NAP should further advance the recommendations on WPS localization in approaches to refugees in the aftermath of Russia's 2022 re-invasion of Ukraine by developing specific indicators. Currently, 71 percent of the Ukrainian refugees with a temporary protection status in the Czech Republic are women and children [↗ LINK](#). Incoming refugees continue to face precarious living and working conditions, with 57 percent of them being under the line of poverty [↗ LINK](#). The government response, namely its updating of legislation on Ukrainian refugees, however, has been criticized by NGOs for being discriminatory [↗ LINK](#). This situation requires intersectional gender-sensitive responses to refugees by key institutional actors such as the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice, along with the Commissioner for Human Rights. Among the refugees, specific attention should be also paid to survivors of war-related sexual and gender-based violence, which has drastically increased in Ukraine [↗ LINK](#). Further capacity building for local Czech NGOs in this area is essential, as is training for government officials responsible for drafting legislation and policies. Along with this localization, there is a need for a long-term sustainable support for local NGOs in Ukraine and for fostering international partnerships to respond to war-related gender-based violence [↗ LINK](#).

In the area of prevention, there are many emerging interconnected threats of a transnational character that concern gendered cyber security and technology-facilitated gender-based violence, gendered mis- and disinformation, anti-gender mobilization and extremism. The WPS community in CEE has expressed a shared concern about Russia's anti-gender politics as a transnational threat and an important emerging issue of the WPS agenda during a conference in Prague in 2024 [↗ LINK](#). Russia has long used anti-gender influence operations as its foreign policy strategy aimed at polarizing society in Ukraine, the EU and beyond, while at the same time using them in its domestic policy to legitimize a repressive regime and the war of aggression against Ukraine [↗ LINK](#). Countering this threat requires a political prioritization of WPS and gender policies, and a fostering of a long-term societal resilience that would build on comprehensive emancipatory security approaches and address the underlying causes of conflict, violence and polarizations. Focusing on the socioeconomic empowerment of women and marginalized groups to enable their meaningful participation in peace and security is crucial. This also concerns working with men and masculinities or youth, including working with the mental health of children affected by war.

## ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY

The relief and recovery pillar has received the least attention in the WPS agenda globally. This is so despite its highly transformative potential to address both short-term relief and long-term recovery goals focused on sustainable peace through the support for women's participation and socioeconomic rights [↗ LINK](#). For the third Czech WPS NAP to assume this direction and leave a meaningful impact, it has to overcome the long-lasting institutional barriers that have hindered progress in this area, as well as finding a balance between external Official Development Assistance (ODA) activities and the localization of WPS measures towards refugees.

In the second NAP, the measures under the relief and recovery pillar titled Assistance and Recovery concern mainstreaming gender in humanitarian aid, development cooperation and transformation cooperation activities. In the past decade, the MFA has adopted policies and methodological tools in this area. However, it remains unclear what the level, the depth of implementation and the impact of these measures are [↗ LINK](#). The main challenge for the



third NAP is to advance the requirement standards from existing practice to at least an intersectional gender analysis for each programming and project, strengthen the expertise in this area among officials, practitioners, and evaluators, and involve some of the key stakeholders in the Interministerial Working Group. Some relevant knowledge is already there among the NGOs which apply for grants to Western donors, which have much higher standards for gender analysis [↗ LINK](#).

Along with mainstreaming gender, it is important to support projects specifically focused on women's rights and vulnerable groups such as LGBTQ people, and address the prevailing inequalities and the disproportional gendered impacts of conflicts, including Russia's anti-gender foreign policy operations. Any progress in this area, however, requires a political prioritization of ODA. Currently, the Czech Republic is far below the OECD DAC average in bilateral allocable aid to gender equality and women's empowerment as either a principal or significant objective, and is at the bottom of the EU countries in terms of the volume of ODA [↗ LINK](#).

Ukraine can serve as an example of a case where a focus on women's rights and gendered impacts of the war can be significantly strengthened through bilateral and multilateral initiatives aimed at gender-responsive relief and recovery that build on the local civil society knowledge and agency [↗ LINK](#); [↗ LINK](#); [↗ LINK](#). Many activities have already been funded by the usual WPS actors like Canada, Sweden or the UK. These involve implementation of the WPS agenda or responses to and reparations for wartime sexual violence [↗ LINK](#); [↗ LINK](#). The Czech Republic has been among the first countries to provide the much needed political, military and economic support to Ukraine. Equally important, however, is supporting human capital and the rebuilding of social infrastructure and women's livelihoods to tackle the war's gendered impacts, including Ukraine's catastrophic demographic decline [↗ LINK](#). In doing so, the Czech Republic can further utilize its geographical and cultural closeness to Ukraine and the fact that it has taken in the most Ukrainian refugees per capita after 2022 [↗ LINK](#).

## CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This policy paper provided an analysis of the second Czech NAP. We see the plan as a considerable improvement over the initial Czech engagement with the WPS Agenda. Looking ahead, we argue that the third NAP must learn from the WPS lessons and geopolitical landscape as well as reflecting more critically on its approach to WPS. There are a number of cross-cutting as well as pillar-specific recommendations that the future NAP should engage with.

### CROSSCUTTING ISSUES

- **Intersectional approach:** adopt an intersectional approach, including in gender analysis, to ensure a broader thinking about WPS in its entirety. This approach should include the whole range of stakeholders, and ensuring the inclusive engagement of all potentially interested actors in the entire NAP cycle.

- **Domestication/localization:** along with the intersectional approach, each pillar of the NAP should reflect both regional and domestic gendered security issues, as these are directly or indirectly linked.
- **Budget and political support:** WPS urgently needs its own financing, including that for its mid-term review and external evaluation. This is linked to political support across the entire political party spectrum.
- **WPS leadership:** Renew the position of the Special Commissioner for Gender with an emphasis specifically on WPS to support a more coordinated, all-of-government approach and a stronger WPS mandate in bilateral and multilateral diplomacy.
- **Regional leadership:** take the lead on the regional implementation of WPS by focusing on redefining WPS around regional cooperation in the face of the current Russian aggression and legacies of Russian imperialism. Prioritize issues such as reproductive justice, anti-gender radicalization, global climate change, women's socioeconomic security or women's role in defence.
- **Monitoring and evaluation:** improve the quality of the monitoring and evaluation. The evaluation against individual goals and indicators should go beyond description and quantitative reporting. Further, civil society should be able to compile a shadow report or an extensive WPS audit.

## PARTICIPATION

- Move beyond the 'add women and stir' mentality and adopt an intersectional approach to participation.
- Collect qualitative data and analyse it against participation indicators.
- Focus on critical reflection and the change of key institutions and cultures.
- Ensure that the NAP is co-created with regional partners and potential 'beneficiaries' of the WPS-related activities in Europe's East and also in the Global South.
- Incorporate WPS into everyday diplomacy such as diplomatic visits. This should include regular meetings with local women's organizations and marginalized groups.

## GENDER MAINSTREAMING

- Continue improving the existing WPS training but collect both quantitative and qualitative data.
- Work with civil society and academia to raise awareness of the agenda.
- Create WPS internships (at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Defence, the Ministry of Justice, and the Office of the Government).

- Garner political support and engage a wider range of governmental stakeholders (e.g. the Office of the President, the Ministry of Environment, etc.) as well as NGOs and academia.
- Consider ways of involving more ministries and government bodies – e.g. the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport for working with youth, the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs for working with migrants and refugees, and the office of the coordinator of strategic communication at the Government Office working on disinformation.
- Strengthen the role of Central Europe in the WPS Agenda in multilateral security organizations, including NATO, the EU, and the OSCE, by mainstreaming the WPS Agenda to the government bodies working in these areas and by connecting WPS communities.
- Mainstream WPS in the relevant related policy-making – this is most pressing in the areas of countering violent extremism, human rights promotion, gendered mis- and dis-information, global climate change and refugee and asylum policies.
- Sign the WPS HA Compact.
- Consider hosting and co-leading a WPS Focal Points Network meeting in the future.
- Map the mainstreaming of gender and WPS in existing grant schemes and devise a strategy of possible funding for WPS research, projects and other activities.

#### PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

- Focus on long-term prevention of gendered violence and conflict in domestic and foreign policies by addressing deeper intersectional structural inequalities and building societal resilience. An example of this is countering of the transnational anti-gender mobilization, including Russia's foreign influence operations in and beyond the region.
- Foster long-term international partnerships with Ukraine to address war-related gendered impacts by supporting cooperation of NGOs, academia and the Czech and Ukrainian Government Human Rights Commissioners.
- Make intersectional gender-sensitive responses to refugees and provide them with legal and psychological support, access to reproductive rights and sustainable livelihoods.
- Initiate and support international efforts aimed at investigation of and accountability for the war crimes and crimes against humanity committed by the Russian Federation in Ukraine, including war-related sexual and gender-based violence. Support the inclusion of these crimes into reparations for war-time violence.

- Use various government channels and bilateral and multilateral diplomacy to support women's meaningful participation in defining and shaping peace terms and security guarantees in Ukraine.
- Mainstream WPS into policies and initiatives reacting to the war's impacts such as prevention of and responses to gender-based violence, policies related to veterans and refugees, protection of children born from war-related sexual violence, or military training of Ukrainian troops.

#### ASSISTANCE AND RECOVERY

- Increase the minimum standards for gender as a cross-cutting issue in programmes and projects of development cooperation, humanitarian aid and transition promotion to produce a compulsory quantitative and qualitative intersectional gender analysis and prepare relevant guidelines for officials, practitioners and evaluators.
- Allocate a budget for projects aimed specifically at women's empowerment and socioeconomic rights, women's reproductive and health rights, and prevention of gender-based and sexualized violence.
- Take a holistic approach to Ukraine's recovery by supporting human capital and rebuilding of social infrastructure and women's livelihoods to tackle the war's impacts, including Ukraine's demographic decline [↗ LINK](#) ; [↗ LINK](#).
- Join the Alliance for Gender-Responsive and Inclusive Recovery in Ukraine [↗ LINK](#) and actively support women's role in the country's recovery.

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