



EUROPEAN UNION

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EU Statement on the 19th anniversary of UNSCR 1325 – Women, Peace and Security

19 years ago, the United Nations Security Council passed Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security. Since then, the OSCE participating States have reaffirmed their commitment through a number of decisions, declarations and actions.

Despite best intentions and efforts, including from so many of you here today, this commitment has yet not been fulfilled.

For example, the international community has not yet been able to end the plague of sexual and gender-based violence in conflict-affected and post conflict countries. We place great value on the OSCE-led survey – Safety and Wellbeing of Women – and its research findings. The OSCE participating States now need to take concrete and strategic action based on this data.

Beyond the overt issue of violence, the number of women in formal peace negotiations and mediation and in the OSCE field operations remains low. Last week the SMM informed the pS that they had observed a decrease in the number of women in the mission on a middle management level. The SMM called on all pS to nominate women to the mission and repeated the message from the SMM Chief Monitor that meaningful female representation remains a highly prioritised matter. In this context, we recall our unwavering support for the proposed OSCE-wide Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security, which seeks to support the implementation of relevant UN Security Council Resolutions.

Next year marks the 20th anniversary of the resolution. This will be the appropriate occasion to review what we have done and decide, together, how to monitor and implement our commitments. The OSCE must go from “why” to “how” and turn rhetoric into action and 2020 is the year to make this happen. For the OSCE to become successful in this matter we must amplify our ambitions. Efforts to implement the resolution to date have been important, but they need to be pursued with a sharper focus on getting results, and delivering for women and girls in fragile and conflict-affected States.

The EU will continue to be a determined global leader in the resolution of this issue. We are committed to work together with all of you to strengthen our collective efforts towards full implementation of the WPS agenda. We look forward to fruitful dialogue and exchanges to improve our efforts and to take concrete steps towards a more equal, diverse and inclusive security sector. This is the time to take a stand and make a difference for the future – It is up to us, what side of history we want to be on.

The Candidate Countries REPUBLIC of NORTH MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO*, SERBIA* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA countries ICELAND, LIECHTENSTEIN and NORWAY, members of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.