

## **National Statement - Ireland**

### **FSC No.1139 Security Dialogue: The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security: *Impact of Armed Conflict on Women and Girls.***

**10 June 2026**

Chair,

Ireland aligns with the statement delivered by the European Union, and I would like to add the following remarks in my national capacity.

I want to thank you, Chair, for organising today's important discussion on the negative impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

The data is unambiguous. Armed conflict is becoming deadlier for women.

We see this in our own region, not least with the devastating impact of Russia's brutal war in Ukraine.

But we have also seen the enormous resilience and courage of Ukrainian women and girls in the face of this aggression.

Indeed, there can hardly be a clearer example of why women's inclusion, whether in military or civilian roles, is so important than what we have seen in Ukraine.

However, too often, rather than learning from such examples, we are witnessing a dangerous rollback in gender equality, alongside reduced funding for gender-responsive work. This underscores the urgency of our collective commitments.

Chair,

Today's security dialogue asks us to reflect on the impact of armed conflict on women and girls.

But what does this mean in practice?

Women's experience of conflict is shaped by their exposure to specific harms and their roles in conflict situations. Women face distinct vulnerabilities, including higher rates of conflict related sexual violence and disproportionate impacts from displacement.

Women also experience the ripple effects of conflict differently, whether that is disruption to maternity services or facing increased domestic violence.

We know that children, particularly girls, are affected through loss of education, safe spaces, and continuity of care, with long-term consequences for development.

Our approach to conflict resolution must therefore be guided by these realities. Defence, peacekeeping, and crisis response informed by the lived experiences and knowledge of women in conflict-affected contexts, are stronger.

Our own experience of peacebuilding on the island of Ireland has demonstrated that diplomacy, inclusive dialogue, political settlement, and early action, should remain at the heart of the global peace and security architecture.

This requires a whole-of-society approach, where security and human rights are mutually reinforcing, and where gender equality remains a central concern in all peace and security efforts.

It also requires us to recognise that women are not a homogeneous group, and acknowledge the diversity of women's experiences, including those who live with disabilities and those who are part of the LGBTI+ community. Women's participation in peace and security must reflect this diversity. Facilitating this participation requires sustained investment in women's civil society groups and the protection of women Human Rights Defenders.

Chair,

As today's speakers have underlined, women and girls face distinct challenges during armed conflict. Our response, as participating States and as an organisation must reflect this not only through words but through concrete actions.

We know from experience that inclusive peace leads to a more sustainable peace. We all need to work together to maintain momentum in the implementation of the WPS Agenda, to which we have all committed.

Thank you.