
**Estonia's Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325
on Women, Peace and Security
in Estonia 2010–2014**

Implementation Report for the Period of 1 January – 31 December 2014

Introduction

1. In October 2000, UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 (hereinafter UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security, which paid particular attention to the fact that wars and conflicts have a disproportionately harmful impact on women and children.
2. In order to promote this issue in Estonia, the Government of the Republic of Estonia noted the document “Estonia’s Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security in Estonia 2010–2014” at the cabinet meeting in October 2010. The Action Plan stipulated national and international activities for different areas and the authority responsible for each area.
3. The report reflects Estonia's actions from 1 January until 31 December 2014; due to the length of some of the projects, activities in 2013 and 2015 have also been described.

Summary

4. Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Social affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB), Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association, MTÜ Mondo, Estonian Women’s Studies and Resource Centre and Women’s Voluntary Defence Organization (WVDO) took active part in fulfilling and analysing Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325. When implementing the activities of UNSCR 1325, other institutions were also involved directly or indirectly.
5. The 2014 report on the implementation of UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan indicates that Estonia considers actions aimed at meeting the goals of UNSCR 1325 urgent and important, as well as wants to continue in a similar manner the close national and international cooperation that has been successful.
6. On an international level, Estonia introduced UNSCR 1325 National Action Plan and its implementation at the UN, NATO, EU and OSCE and various bodies of these organizations. By concentrating on the empowerment of women via education, defence and promotion of human rights, including the freedom of expression, the Internet and media, and combating impunity, Estonia participated actively in forming and implementing UNSCR 1325 policy of these organizations.
 - Estonia also participated actively in the work of the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW).
 - The issues reflected in UNSCR 1325 are central to the activities of Estonia at the UN Human Rights Council; Estonia is a member of the Council in the period 2013–2015. UNSCR 1325 topics are among Estonia’s human rights priorities.
 - Estonia stresses the importance of focusing on UNSCR 1325 aspects and the implementation of relevant measures within the context of the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (hereinafter ICC). As women are the largest group among the victims of sexual

violence, fighting impunity must go hand in hand with a larger participation of women in peace and security processes. Estonia supports the principle that the implementation of UNSCR 1325 and its follow-up resolutions should be under constant attention of the UN.

- In 2014, Estonia continued to emphasise the importance of developing an Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 in OSCE. Due to a lack of consensus within the organization, the adoption of a separate Action Plan has failed; however, the issues of UNSCR 1325 have been included in the *2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality* since 2004.
 - Estonia supported making permanent the position of the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, which was established in 2012; this decision was approved by the Prime Minister of Estonia along with other national and government leaders at a NATO summit that took place in Wales in September. Ambassador Mariët Schuurman took the position of the first permanent Special Representative in October 2014; Estonia has developed a close and meaningful cooperation with her.
 - In 2014, Estonia continued active development and humanitarian aid cooperation with collaborating states of priority. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs funded UNSCR 1325 related projects with 419,049 euros in 2014. Government bodies and NGOs carried out projects for stopping violence against women and social and educational empowerment of women and children in the course of bilateral, as well as multi-lateral cooperation in Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia, Yemen, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Palestine, Tajikistan and Belarus.
7. In 2014, the cooperation of governmental agencies and non-governmental organisations in UNSCR 1325 at international and national level and in the name of achieving the objectives set out in Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 is on-going. Estonia continues to introduce the contents, conclusions and lessons of Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 in Estonia as well as internationally, but UNSCR 1325 related cooperation with Estonia's priority partner countries is also pursued.

I. Political and diplomatic activities in international organizations

8. Estonia's political and diplomatic activities in international organizations have been active and successful. Estonia has informed the EU, OSCE, UN and NATO of its activities and has forwarded overviews of its activities to be included in the reports of the aforementioned organizations. Estonia has also submitted its positions to the bodies of these organizations, such as the UN Human Rights Council and the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women). Estonia has introduced its UNSCR 1325 related activity in Estonia's development and humanitarian aid cooperation partner countries through these international organisations.

A. At the level of international organizations

9. Estonia has observed the principles of UNSCR 1325 when participating in the work of the UN Human Rights Council. Additionally, Estonia has approached the subject of women's rights and gender equality in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the human rights reports of other states. Thereby, Estonia has added aspects of UNSCR 1325 to the report that is submitted to the UN body, thus facilitating the international supervision of pertinent activities.
10. As a member of UN Women and the Commission on the Status of Women, Estonia supported the goal of strengthening women's role in the society and improving cooperation between international organizations in order to meet this objective more efficiently. In these forums, Estonia has continued to introduce its positions on strengthening the role of women, including in

important issues for Estonia, such as human rights and freedoms, gender equality, education, information technology and communication, empowerment of women and combating sexual violence against women. The members of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Riigikogu (Parliament) met with the experts of UN Women on UNSCR 1325 issues in New York at the end of the year and exchanged information and experiences.

11. In the work performed by the Permanent Representation of Estonia to UN, UNSCR 1325 issues received a lot of attention during 2014. This topic was addressed in many speeches, including during open debates of the UN Security Council on Women, Peace and Security, as well as related issues. Urmas Paet, Minister of Foreign Affairs, gave a speech on behalf of Estonia and Latvia during an open debate of the Security Council on 28 October. Urmas Paet was the only minister who participated in the debate and the level of our participation demonstrated even more clearly that this is a subject that is of utmost importance for our country; in addition, his speech received positive feedback from several quarters. The main topics of the debate were the large number of female refugees and risks related to refugee status. Estonian speech is available on the website of Permanent Representation at <http://www.un.estemb.org/est/koned/aid-1065>.
12. In 2015, UNSCR 1325 celebrates its 15th anniversary. In order to celebrate that and to evaluate what has been accomplished, UN Women conducts a worldwide study on the implementation of UNSCR 1325. Radhika Coomaraswamy, the former UN Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, leads the study. Estonia has participated in all of the meetings of the Friends of 1325 (the group is led by Canada) and supported the worldwide study with 10,000 euros at the end of 2014. In addition, Estonia helps finance the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, as well as the team of experts on the subject.
13. At NATO, we continued our active involvement in the pursuit, which started already in 2013; the goal was to implement the principles of UNSCR 1325 and other UN resolutions in the institutions of NATO and operations led by NATO. We participated in official formats and unofficial working groups that aimed towards reaching the goals for 2014, or converging the documents on the implementation of resolutions into a single NATO resolutions policy. We backed the new NATO policy, which was approved by the ministers of external affairs on 1 April, as well as contributed actively towards developing an Action Plan for the implementation of this policy. The Action Plan was approved by the ministers of external affairs in June.

An important principle for us has been the involvement of active supporters of partner states, operations and missions led by NATO and crisis management when developing the common policy; we also helped NATO organize consultations with the representatives of NGOs from allied and partnering states during developing the plan for implementation.

Estonia supported making the position of the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security that was established in 2012, permanent; the Prime Minister of Estonia along with other national and government leaders approved this decision at a NATO summit that took place in Wales in September. Ambassador Mariët Schuurman took the position of the first permanent Special Representative in October; Estonia has developed a close and meaningful cooperation with her. At the end of 2014, the Special Representative participated in the annual conference on human rights "Dignity in the context of human rights", which is organized by the Estonian Institute of Human Rights, and held consultations with the Ministry of Defence and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

II. Bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, and humanitarian assistance to improve the conditions of women in post-conflict situations

14. During the reporting period, 12 development cooperation projects were launched on the international and national level; these were aimed completely or partially at tackling the situation of women and children or gender equality. In 2014, the projects were funded with 419,049 euros. Some of the projects will last several years. In addition to these 12 projects, it must be taken into account that an increase in women's awareness, self-help skills and other knowledge is the side effect of the majority of development cooperation projects. Information on development cooperation is available in the database of Estonian development cooperation at https://rakendusd.vm.ee/akta/andmed_otsing.php.

A. At the level of international organizations

15. Estonia supported the operations of international organizations that were involved in the activities of UNSCR 1325 with a total of 375,000 euros in 2014:

- UN Development Programme – 55,000 euros;
- UN Population Fund – 60,000 euros;
- UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women – 80,000 euros;
- UN Girls' Education Initiative (UNGEI) – 30,000 euros;
- UN Children's Fund – 150,000 euros.

A more detailed overview of voluntary donations to international development cooperation and humanitarian aid organizations is available at <http://vm.ee/en/taxonomy/term/55>.

16. Within the framework of development cooperation, the following sums, altogether 145,000 euros, were allocated to international organisations in 2014:

- through the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict – 20,000 euros;
- in order to support the activities of the UN Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict in 2014 – 50,000 euros;
- in order to implement the UN Women's project Virtual Campus (a project for training gender equality experts) – 30,000 euros;
- for conducting the UN Women's Global Study on UNSCR 1325 – 15,000 euros;
- for the ICC Trust Fund for Victims – 30,000 euros

17. Estonia has stressed that when developing the EU development cooperation opinions, adherence to the principles of UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820¹ should be highlighted in relation to post-conflict countries. We also contribute to the implementation of *the EU Action Plan on Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Development 2010–2015*. Estonia has supported activities related to UNSCR 1325 at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UN Children's Fund and UN Development Programme Council.

18. In 2014, Estonia allocated a total of 2,844,400 euros for humanitarian aid. Alleviating the situation of women and children accounts for around 95% of this sum, while in all humanitarian aid projects the gender aspect has been taken into account, if possible, which shows the relevance of these projects in improving the situation of women. For example, we supported the alleviation

¹ UN Resolution 1820 (2008) specifies the damage of sexual violence in armed conflict and requires parties in conflict and other involved participants to fight it.

of the situation of Syrian refugees through the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the UN Children's Fund, as well as projects in Afghanistan, the Central-African Republic, South Sudan, the territory of the Palestinian Authority, Ukraine and Chad. We have also supported the activities of the regional and country offices of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the UN Central Emergency Response Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, UN Children's Fund, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the World Health Organization. A detailed overview is available at <http://vm.ee/en/taxonomy/term/55>.

B. At national level

19. In 2014, 12 bilateral development cooperation projects were funded from the financial means for development cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which were directed entirely or partly at the situation of women and children or gender equality (some projects last several years). The target states and projects were as follows:

- Afghanistan: follow-up project of MTÜ Mondo for promoting the education of girls and the subsistence of women and special needs persons in rural Afghanistan; in the course of the project, 100 women in Char Bagh region of Afghanistan receive a thorough six-month IT training according to the needs of local entrepreneurs. As a result, the employment rate and subsistence of women in Char Bagh region has improved. In the course of the project, the quality of education that girls receive is improved by training teachers of 20 rural schools and buying IT equipment for them. In addition, the project helps the studies at Fatima Zahra School in Jalalabad continue; at this school, children of special needs parents and orphans are taught. In the same area, a cannery is going to open; special needs individuals or their family members have received training, so they can find employment at the factory. In the course of the project, the effect of past health care projects on communities was evaluated. MTÜ Mondo was the organizer of the project; its total cost was 67,408 euros, whereof 26,963 euros were paid in 2014.

Today, 30 women have found permanent positions due to the training. Other women are still learning and offering services to the members of their communities during their studies. The participating schools have 4,276 students altogether.

An independent expert analysed the results of the health care training that MTÜ Mondo organized in Northern Afghanistan. The local community gave a positive evaluation to the results of the training. The main achievements that received a mention were: the women who received the training have provided first aid to the inhabitants of their villages in case of burns, wounds and bleeding; they have also measured blood pressure and advised people to go to a hospital if need be (e.g., in case of excessively high blood pressure or severe case of dysentery). Thirty women, who were observed during the study, have opened counselling desks in seven villages: Char Toot, Sare Wolang, Taqche Khana, Koshkak, Tahti Joy, Qaraq Sali, Jame Pogha. On an average, every woman counsels about 30 people per month. The highest number of problems that needed counselling were related to burns (241 cases per month), pregnancy or gynaecological issues (187 cases per month) and dysentery (161 cases per month). As only half of the participants of the courses were interviewed, the actual numbers are even bigger.

- Afghanistan: the project of MTÜ Mondo continues its educational activities with the partners of MTÜ Mondo in Afghanistan. We support improving the availability of health care services at the centres of Balkh and Samangan provinces (primarily regarding women's health and obstetrics) and raising the quality of education of girls in rural areas. The total cost of the project was 83,176 euros, whereof 7,209 euros were allocated in 2014.
- Afghanistan: improving the quality of vocational training of women in health care and IT in the provinces of Herat, Balkh, Nangarhar and Faryab in Afghanistan. The project continues the educational development cooperation of Mondo in Afghanistan with the Midwifery Chair of Tallinn Health Care College; because of the project, the health care and employment rate of women improves in Afghanistan. MTÜ Mondo was the organizer of the project; its total cost was 265,151 euros, of which 132,575 euros were allocated in 2014.

Altogether, 565 women are studying midwifery in five schools; access to better obstetrics benefits about 50,000 women in Northern and Eastern Afghanistan.

The second part of the project centres on IT education. A hundred women from Faryab region participate in a thorough IT training lasting six months; after that, they can assume positions in local businesses and schools and start earning an income. We also improve the quality of computer education that is provided to girls by training teachers from 30 schools in rural areas and purchasing IT equipment for 33 schools.

- Georgia: Project for developing NGOs and promoting gender equality in the region of Samtskhe-Javakhet with a purpose of supporting the development of democracy in Georgia by a greater involvement of women from minority groups in decision-making. The direct goal of the project is supporting an increase of civil activity among women who live in Samtskhe-Javakhet region, primarily among Armenian women, as well as females from other minority groups, and empowering them in order to participate in the Georgian society, the formation of its policies and decision-making. The immediate target group of the project are the representatives of women's unions that are active in the Samtskhe-Javakhet region. Because of the project, the area has a cooperation network of women who are active in the society, they have a clearly defined common platform and the members of the target group have skills and knowledge for implementing the platform. MTÜ Kodanikukoolitus organized the project; its total cost was 52,398 euros, of which 20,960 euros were paid in 2014.
- Georgia: establishing a counselling centre for women's and children's rights in the region of Samtskhe-Javakhet. The general goal is to support the development of democracy in Georgia by guaranteeing the rights of women and children. The immediate objective of the project is establishing the capacity of NGOs, active in the respective field in the region of Samtskhe-Javakhet, to guarantee the counselling capacity for women's and children's rights, as well as creating a counselling centre. MTÜ Kodanikukoolitus organized the project; its total cost was 53,920 euros, of which 26,960 euros were allocated in 2014.
- Moldova: an Estonian-Moldavian cooperation project for helping sexually and physically abused children; in the course of the project, specialists helping Moldavian children will receive the necessary training. The cost of the project was 26,970 euros, of which 11,042 euros were allocated in 2014. MTÜ Tartu Laste Tugikeskus organized the project.
- Belarus: the 2013–2014 Belarussian-Estonian cooperation project for helping abused children, during which specialists helping Belarussian children shall receive training. MTÜ

Tartu Laste Tugikeskus organized the project; its total cost was 25,567 euros, of which 10,226 euros were allocated in 2014.

- Kyrgyzstan: increasing the competence and capacity of counselling services on reproductive health and general health education of youth. MTÜ Eesti Seksuaaltervise Liit organized the project; its total cost was 150,472 euros, of which 75,236 euros were allocated in 2014.
- Armenia: the goal of the project “To Help Children – United Knowledge and the Best Practice to Protect Armenian Children” is to prevent and detect the abuse of children, intervene and reduce it in Armenia. Primarily, this concerns human trafficking (sexual abuse, forced begging and human trafficking in the wider sense). Estonian specialists train Armenian teachers and psychologists, who, in turn, share their knowledge with other Armenian teachers, parents and children. For the first time in Armenia, a questionnaire on child abuse is conducted at schools, and focus group interviews take place with teachers and other key individuals on child abuse and human trafficking; additionally, discussion groups and role-plays with youths take place. The number of cyber offences for sexual exploitation of Armenian children for economic purposes has grown significantly. The project also raises awareness about online child abuse. The course and the results of the project are introduced via the Armenian media. Estonian Women’s Studies and Resource Centre organized the project; its total cost was 86,299 euros, of which 34,521 euros were allocated in 2014.
- Yemen: cooperation project between MTÜ Mondo and Youth Leadership Development Foundation (YLDF), an NGO from Yemen, for educating girls from illiterate Yemen families and reducing the rate of early marriages; in the course of the project, girls between the ages of 12–21 from illiterate families receive education in the Yemen regions of Bani Al-Hareth and Maen. The education programme helps girls fight problems in the community, such as low awareness of women's rights, early marriages and school dropouts due to marriage. The total cost of the project was 60,752 euros, of which 24,301 euros were allocated in 2014.
- Tajikistan: development of the sectors of organic products and eco-tourism in Western Pamir – supporting community-based small enterprises of women in Tajikistan. The project was prepared in cooperation with our Polish partner organization Development Policy Foundation and NGO Guly Giyoh from Tajikistan. The project helps the autonomous province of Gorno-Badakhstan develop small enterprises, as well as the production and marketing of organic products and medicinal herbs (primarily among women). MTÜ Peipsi Koostöö keskus organized the project; its total cost was 36,997 euros, of which 33,297 euros were paid in 2014.
- Palestine: strengthening cooperation with the third sector organizations from Palestine, in order to empower the youth and the women in the region of Al Bireh' and Tubas and promote development cooperation and world education in Estonia. The follow-up project helps strengthen the continuing cooperation and aims at a more stable partnership in order to continue with larger projects in the same regions. During the project, four volunteers are sent from Estonia to Palestine: two teach at the Ramallah/Al Bireh' Orient and Dance theatre and at the Jalazone refugee camp centre, half a year in both; two shall work in an organization called Brothers Club in the Tubas region (teaching English and increasing environmental awareness). NGO Ethical Links organized the project; its total cost was 17,510 euros, of which 15,759 euros were allocated in 2014.

III. Increasing the number of experts on gender issues and the provision of training for them, as well as increasing general awareness of women, peace and security in institutions dealing with peace and security

20. Increasing the number of and training experts on gender is not a separate activity; instead, it intertwines closely with the main activities of administrative agencies. Increasing awareness of issues of women, peace and security is a clear and comprehensive priority in Estonia. For example, these issues are included in the activities of the Police and Border Guard Board (PBGB), the Ministry of Defence, as well as agencies in its administrative field. The activities and responsibilities of these agencies are clearly defined, and as a result, quite specific, primarily in aspects that concern international civilian and military missions and operations.

A. At the level of international organizations

21. The Action Plan of the Coordination Bureau of the PBGB includes an introduction of UNSCR 1325 principles to the officials of the PBGB, who are sent on international civilian missions, serve in international organizations or are on a long-term assignment abroad. The pre-mission training that is organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs also includes a section on gender-specific education. The content of the training depends on the nature of the mission and on the local situation.

22. The international responsibilities of the Ministry of Defence have been quite modest in regard to the principles of UNSCR 1325 in the context of international operations; therefore, this issue has been discussed only briefly at the meetings. On the other hand, the importance of gender issues is growing in the operations of the EU and NATO, including at the managerial level, and this increasing awareness must be supported. Estonian experts participate in respective discussions.

B. At national level

23. The Ministry of Justice has adopted a 2010–2014 development plan for reducing violence; in this framework, several NGOs organized specialist trainings on domestic violence and human trafficking that tackled gender aspects among all else.

24. When introducing the goals of UNSCR 1325 and its Estonian Action Plan, as well as increasing general awareness and support in Estonia and abroad, Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association has been particularly active. In 2014, the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association organized the project “Women and Security” in cooperation with the Ministry of Defence, the NATO headquarters and Friedrich Ebert Foundation that included three roundtables. The events centred on women's role in Estonia and the world, and were intertwined with discussions of defence and foreign policies. The roundtables also discussed sub-topics of education, defence policy and national defence. This continued the format of roundtables, established in 2012; each event witnessed an increase in the number of participants, speakers and others who are interested in the topics. In addition, summer school “Equal Treatment” for history and civic education teachers received a subsidy; it combined the issues of gender equality with security and took place from 20 to 22 August 2014. Information about the activities of the Estonian Atlantic Treaty Association in this area is available at <http://www.eata.ee/en/>.

- The goal of the project “Women and Security” was to provide the participants with an opportunity to discuss women's role in Estonia and abroad in as diverse group as possible. At the three roundtables, the purpose was to allow listeners to discuss women's role in education,

defence policy, as well as foreign policy. The roundtables were meant to contribute towards implementing Estonia's Action Plan for UNSCR 1325 by gathering experts who are interested in and aware of gender aspects and increasing their number through creating discussion platforms. In addition, the goal was to discuss the role of women from the aspect of security, concentrating *inter alia* on the effect of education and possibilities for promoting gender equality. The goal for participants was to invite experts and lecturers on external and security policies, as well as active individuals from the Defence Forces and the Estonian Defence League.

- Three roundtables were held during the project, all on a common subject “Women and Security”. A total of 113 people participated in the roundtables; this superseded the original goal of 90 people. The participants included representatives of ministerial institutions and NGOs, journalists, representatives of embassies and students. The participants of the roundtables could join mailing lists, if they so wished.
 - During the round tables, it was recognized that women's potential in education and national defence is not used to the fullest; however, the opportunities to do so are increasing. At that, the importance of women has lately significantly increased. It was recognized that, often, women are kept from the area of national defence by misconceptions about gender roles that are deeply embedded in the society and are difficult to uproot. It was also recognized that one of the goals is to find possibilities for women of various age groups to choose more suitable and available outlets for civilian citizens of how and to what extent to contribute towards national defence. Taking into account the development and experience, it is possible to start with simpler tasks and move on to harder ones, as well as active duty, if so desired. Looking into the future, paying more attention to the issues of contribution and opportunities of women is essential, and the goal should be an equal number of females and males involved in national defence. In the future, the goal should be helping women on a national and organizational level, while preserving the principle of voluntariness.
 - The set goals were achieved and the number of participants of the round tables was higher than expected. Remarkably, conferences, which directly discussed national defence and women, generated more interest. Based on the participant list, it is possible to conclude that these topics are more interesting to women, and additional information campaigns are necessary in order to reach male target group.
25. The Global Education Centre of MTÜ Mondo offers trainings, materials, exhibitions, workshops and documentaries on global issues to schools, youth centres and unions. Several trainings and materials centre on women's lives, education and rights in developing countries. In 2014, 24 teachers participated in thorough global education trainings, and 35 teachers and 12 youth participated in the global education summer school.

The importance of educating women and girls has also been emphasized at the HeaTeoTöö day, when Estonian pupils raise money through volunteer work for girl's upper secondary education in Ghana and Kenya. In the spring of 2014, 72 pupils from four schools participated in the project. Over 600 euros were raised for the Tarkusefond foundation of MTÜ Mondo. Schools have provided exclusively positive feedback, as have companies.

26. NGO Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre has consistently taught the domestic audience about gender equality issues by cooperating with other active NGOs.

27. In 2014, no significant changes in the implementation of UNSCR 1325 took place in the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence. The opportunity, created in 2013, for women to enlist in military service on equal grounds with men has been used actively. According to the Military Service Act, women can assume national defence obligations and serve in active duty in the Defence Forces, as well as participate in reserve trainings as reservists or enter the conscript service. Pursuant to law, any female Estonian citizen, who is 18–27 years old (included) and has completed at least the basic education, can enter conscript service. The law stipulates an exception for females, according to which, women who have entered conscript service can withdraw from it within 90 days. Young men, who have voluntarily entered conscript service, do not have such rights because they bear the national defence obligation. Females do not have an automatic national defence obligation pursuant to law. The purpose of the stipulation is to provide women with an opportunity to assess, whether their decision was correct while in conscript service. In 2014, 34 women entered conscript service voluntarily; by the end of the year, 20 women remained in conscript service. Similar service conditions guarantee that all servicemen start from the same level, they have equal opportunities for demonstrating their strengths and abilities, as well as have a successful military career later. In conscript service, everyone is equal regardless of descent, nationality, gender, place of residence or schools that were graduated. Conscript service is a basis for selecting military leaders. In the course of the military training during conscript service, specific gender equality training is not provided; rather, the emphasis is on cooperation.
28. At the end of 2014, 11.5% (330) of active service members (2,866) in the Defence Forces were women, occupying the positions of privates, as well as specialists; women have served in the Defence Force on all levels of leadership since it was re-established.
29. The issues of UNSCR 1325 are not discussed separately during the general training of officers and non-commissioned officers. When teaching certain subjects, the pertinent training is provided, such as legal and cultural training and pre-mission training on cultural context in the conflict region, which discuss the subjects of human rights and gender equality, humanitarian law, violence against women and human trafficking.
30. Baltic Defence College introduces the goals of UNSCR 1325, as well as activities of Estonia and international actors on several courses. As an international educational establishment, the college offers core modules and sub-modules on various topics in English, such as human rights, international humanitarian law, violence against women and human trafficking.
31. UNSCR 1325 topics are briefly discussed at the Estonian National Defence Course, organized by the Ministry of Defence. The national working group of UNSCR 1325 has established an excellent cooperation between the Ministry of Defence, the institutions in its area of administration and the Estonian Women's Studies and Resource Centre.
32. Based on their speciality and military training, the women in active service can participate in foreign missions on an equal basis with men. On an average, each mission has three to five females per rotation (mostly fulfilling supporting functions, such as public relations, medical services and staff officers). In 2014, four female active service members participated in missions: two medics, one supply NCO and one information operations officer. Participants of foreign missions observe the codices of behaviour for international missions; supervising this obligation has been guaranteed on the level of mission leadership. When a violation of rules has been established, the necessary investigation is conducted.

33. In 2014, Ambassador Marriët Schuurman, the NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for Women, Peace and Security, visited the Ministry of Defence and met with the Undersecretary for Defence Planning. During the meeting, women's role in the Estonian Defence Force was explained to the Special Representative, and further activities of NATO regarding UNSCR 1325 were discussed.
34. In 2014, the representatives of the Ministry of Defence participated in a meeting on violence against women at the British Embassy. In 2015, cooperation with the British Embassy is going to continue in order to prevent violence against women and regarding issues related to UNSCR 1325.
35. Women's Voluntary Defence Organization (WVDO), a national volunteer organization for women, promotes national defence and supports women's social activities and the development of their social skills. In order to increase personal, family and national security, the WVDO trains its volunteer members, senior Home Daughters, as well as persons who do not belong in the organization on the basics of first aid. Additionally, an everyday safety course takes place; as a result, the members of the WVDO and the entire population have better skills for establishing a safe environment and preventing high-risk situations. By educating the citizens and upholding patriotic traditions, the WVDO contributes to achieving the national defence goals of the Defence League, as well as a wider development of the society. On 31 December 2014, the WVDO had 2,171 female members (160 more, compared to the previous year) and the Home Daughters had 3,437 girls. Altogether, the members of the WVDO and Home Daughters make up about 24% of the membership of the Defence League. The number of Home Daughters is even greater than that of Young Eagles, demonstrating the great popularity of national defence among girls.
- In 2014, the WVDO, Women's Network of Estonian Police and the Estonian Academy of Security Sciences organized a fourth annual joint event "From Woman to Woman" (8 March 2014). The purpose of the family event was to introduce possibilities for increasing personal and family safety to women, as well as teach new knowledge and skills. Another aim was to promote citizen initiative and raise awareness of the possibilities and tasks of women in power structures. Proceeds from the event were donated to the Estonian Association of Disabled Women, thus helping to increase awareness of the society of the problems of disabled women, which, in turn, helps understand and prevent gender inequality and multiple discrimination.
 - The WVDO districts organized trainings on everyday safety, improving the skills of the members of the Defence League, the WVDO and the youth organizations of the Defence League, as well as general population for establishing a safe environment and preventing high-risk situations. The majority of WVDO districts also conducted trainings on assistance in crisis situations and self-defence.
 - On the local level, volunteers of the WVDO organized fund-raising lotteries; the proceeds were used to support local women's shelters, family-type orphanages and the Carolin Illenzeer Fund.
 - In 2014, the WVDO continued developing its training system and improved its public relations operations in order to involve as many Estonian women as possible in voluntary national defence.
 - The WVDO made a remarkable contribution to the success of the Estonian Association of Wounded Warriors charity campaign "Anname au!" that took place for the first time. The campaign called everyone to wear the Hepatica pins before and during the Veteran's Day, in order to support the veterans of the Estonian Defence Force and the Defence League, as well as their families. The districts of the WVDO helped raise almost 25,000 euros, which was almost a half of the necessary funds. The sale of Hepatica pins raised support for purchasing

a post-amputation mobility aid for the East-Tallinn Hospital Clinic for Medical Rehabilitation.

36. The Ministry of Social Affairs promoted gender equality and tackled violence against women and human trafficking on a daily basis.

- The Ministry of Social Affairs applied for project support from Norway in order to combat the issues of violence against women, domestic violence and human trafficking, which was granted in 2012; project activities (information campaigns, development of services, prevention, trainings, etc.) began in 2013. Projects continued in 2014 and will last until the end of 2015; the official end of the project is in 2016. During the same period, a programme on gender equality and balance between work and family life, which is co-funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism, is implemented. During the programme, several projects are implemented with a purpose of integrating gender equality issues in higher education, including training of teachers, thus guaranteeing a more professional discussion of these subjects in general education schools and the society at large.
- In 2014, the Ministry of Social Affairs organized a Fight Against Sexual Violence Week with the Nordic Council of Ministers. The participants of the conference that took place included law enforcement personnel, prosecutors, representatives of victims, judges, probation supervisors, staff of the crisis management for rape victims, medical staff, councillors, etc. Specialists from the UK, Finland, Iceland and Estonia shared their experiences. The topic of the conference was identifying victims of sexual violence and fighting the problem. The conference could be followed on the web page of Postimees. Before the conference, police officers and prosecutors could participate in a two-day training, which proved to be a great success. The police officers have already inquired, whether it is possible to organize similar trainings in the future. 118 experts participated in the conference; 50 participated in the training.
- In the framework of the PROGRESS programme of the European Commission, a project called “Bringing up a violence free generation” started in 2014, targeting youth in the 14–25 age group. This is a project that prevents violence against women and sexual violence. A big media campaign “Open your eyes” took place in the course of the project (March 2015, II wave of the campaign). In addition to the media campaign, larger newspapers publish regular articles on violence, and boys and girls are educated about violence against women, as well as sexual violence.
- In 2014, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of Social Affairs, the PBGB and the Estonian National Social Insurance Board organized online courses for specialists who are exposed to domestic violence daily. Altogether, 280 specialists were trained in Ida-Viru County, Pärnu, Tartu and Tallinn. In 2015, similar courses are going to continue.
- The Ministry of Social Affairs organised six information days in Harju County in cooperation with the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church; during the event, child protection staff, teachers and social workers were trained to notice cases of domestic violence and react to those.
- In 2014, public servants received a two-day training in the course of the ESF programme “Promotion of Gender Equality 2011–2013”; its goal was to provide knowledge and practical skills for using structural means, taking into account gender aspects. It had 12 participants. In the autumn, 63 structural funds administration employees participated in a seminar organized by the Ministry of Finance that introduced briefly the topics of gender equality and gender integration.
- In 2014, help was provided to four victims of human trafficking, officially established as such (three cases of sexual exploitation and one case of work slavery). In addition, MTÜ Eluliin advised 280 women involved in prostitution; part of those women were suspected of being

trafficked. Moreover, MTÜ Living for Tomorrow helped in 43 cases of work-related abuse and one case of possible fictitious marriage. Both NGOs were funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs, and partly, by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism. In 2014, the Ministry of Social Affairs financed women's shelters and support centres; also, two new shelters received funding from the Council of Gambling Tax. Counselling services were also funded through the programme of reducing gender-based violence and human trafficking, which is co-funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

- In 2014, the Ministry of Social Affairs supported the work of the Family Counselling Centre of the Estonian Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Family Centre concentrates on underprivileged families; 80% of the cases are related to domestic violence.
- In 2014, four trainings on forced labour took place in 2014 (in Tallinn, Pärnu, Jõhvi, Tartu). Trainings were organized by the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs in cooperation with the Criminal Policy Department of the Ministry of Justice and NGO Living for Tomorrow. The participants included the staff of the Labour Inspectorate and the PBGB, as well as other professionals who cooperate in cases of forced labour. The training was financed from the European Social Fund programme “Reduction of work-related health risks and improvement of the quality of work relationships 2010–2014”.
- In 2014, the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs organized a seminar “From a victim of human trafficking to an injured party” (Inimkaubanduse ohvriks kannatanuks). The purpose of the seminar was to improve the ability of institutions to identify victims of human trafficking and to process such cases. The participants included the representatives of the Labour Inspectorate, the Police and Border Guard Board, prosecuting authorities, replacement homes and NGOs, as well as ministerial officials whose responsibilities include tackling forced labour or sexual exploitation (a total of 55 specialists). Representatives of the PBGB, the Labour Inspectorate, the Estonian National Social Insurance Board, prosecuting authorities and NGO Living for Tomorrow, as well as the Ministry of Justice helped the Gender Equality Department of the Ministry of Social Affairs develop this concept.
- Informative events for various target groups took place.
 - MTÜ Eluliin organized three trainings for lawyers in the course of the project financed by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism and the Republic of Estonia (in Tartu, Jõhvi and Tallinn). The topics revolved around legal advice for the victims of human trafficking and compensating non-patrimonial or moral damage to the victims.
 - MTÜ LFT organized lectures, funded by the Ministry of Social Affairs, for the prevention of human trafficking (30 in total) and other informative events, partly with the support of the project² that is funded by the Norwegian Financial Mechanism.

IV. Expansion of women’s opportunities to participate in international military and civil operations and increasing the representation of women in international positions related to the maintenance of peace and security

37. Increasing the participation possibilities of women in international military and civilian missions and operations is closely intertwined with the activities of authorities. This, in its turn, is defined by clearly delineated areas of responsibility and is therefore quite specific.

² Description of the NGO LFT project: <http://www.lft.ee/inimkaubitsemine/projektid-2-1/norra-finantsmehhanism-2009-2014>.

A. On the level of international organizations

38. Ambassador Tiina Intelmann was the President of the Assembly of States Parties of the ICC until the end of 2014. In December 2011, she was elected to this position as a special and plenipotentiary Ambassador-at-Large for ICC. Tiina Intelmann was the first woman to fill this position.
39. Within the area of responsibility of the Ministry of Defence, Estonia's positions in the context of UNSCR 1325 and international military operations has been presented during various discussions of international organizations.

B. At national level

40. Gender equality in domestic competitions is guaranteed in a wider sense than simply filling positions related to peace and security. Provided there is a suitable female candidate, her candidacy is in no way obstructed. A similar gender-balanced approach applies to filling international positions; therefore, creating a separate database of female candidates has not been deemed necessary.
41. All employees of the PBGB can apply for international missions that are staffed by the PBGB, regardless of gender. Therefore, no specific analysis of measures that would allow increasing women's participation in international missions has been prepared so far. In 2014, four female employees participated in a foreign mission: an expert on gender equality and human rights, EUPOL-Afghanistan (the EU police mission in Afghanistan); an operative from the International Police Cooperation Unit, EULEX-Kosovo (the EU rule of law mission in Kosovo); a support mission in Afghanistan (Resolute Support Mission – RS-A); an OSCE special monitoring mission observer in Ukraine.

The Women's Network of Estonian Police initiated and Estonian Women's Associations Roundtable funded a discussion group of the Women's Network of Estonian Police on the topic "Women's participation in international missions: expectations and reality" that took place on 27 January 2014. The target group included female employees of the PBGB who are interested in participating in international missions. The goal was to increase the awareness of female colleagues about applying for missions and participating in missions by the example of those who have done so. Employees of the PBGB (men, as well as women) who had participated in missions were invited to share their experiences. On 12 and 13 December 2014, the first national civilian mission training took place; three officials from the PBGB participated, two of whom were female.

42. It is possible to state about the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence that women can be included in the majority of operations and positions. The choice of a position and post are influenced by the cultural peculiarities of the target state of the operations, tasks of the unit, and whether Estonia has women with the necessary training for the unit that Estonia staffs.
43. Procedure for accepting women into conscript service and the training that they receive is not different from that of men. Similarly to young men, women, who want to enter the conscript service, must pass a medical examination and comply with the health requirements for a conscript. When in conscript service, women have the same rights and obligations as men. Women who complete the conscript service have a national defence obligation similarly to men

who complete the conscript service; they cannot withdraw from that. Once a person is entered into the national defence obligation register, a person, who assumed the national defence obligation voluntarily, has the same rights and obligations as someone who was called up to the conscript service and entered active service on an obligatory basis.

44. Pursuant to valid legislative acts, women can enter the Defence Force via the Defence League; the latter's basic military course is recognized by the Defence Force as sufficient training for females in order to apply for the Basic Officer Training Course at the Estonian National Defence College, providing higher education.
45. Participation in international military and civilian operations and missions that are staffed by domestic competitions is voluntary, and candidates (both men and women) are treated equally in compliance with gender equality laws. It is possible to state about the area of administration of the Ministry of Defence that women can be included in the majority of operations and positions. Currently, measures to increase female participation in international missions have not been analysed separately, nor is it considered necessary to prepare a database of female candidates. There have been no information and recruitment campaigns aimed exclusively at women; however, due to implementing the new Military Service Act, the Ministry of Defence and the Defence Force shared relevant information via media channels.
46. Women can apply for the positions of rescue workers and other rescue service jobs (including missions) without limitations; everyone is informed about free positions on an equal basis via the Intranet and public channels. Women have applied for the positions of rescue workers; however, physical trials are the same to them in compliance with the requirements of a position of a rescue worker, and making exceptions due to the gender of the applicant is not possible because everyone needs to act equally during rescue missions. Women participate in rescue work as volunteers; they are also represented in Estonian rescue team and missions (in rescue teams, women work in medical positions and as dog handlers) and trainings.