



PERMANENT DELEGATION OF NORWAY
TO THE OSCE

Norwegian Intervention on Women, Peace and Security
As delivered by Ambassador Anne-Kirsti Karlsen at the 91st Joint Meeting between the
Forum for Security Cooperation and The permanent Council
Vienna, 10 July 2024

Thank you, madame Chair,

Norway welcomes the Women, Peace, and Security agenda as a topic for this joint FSC and PC meeting. We thank the panelists for their insightful presentations.

Madame Chair,

The Women, Peace, and Security Agenda is a Norwegian foreign policy priority, and integrated in our national security sector. Women are willing, able, and entitled to full, equal, and meaningful participation in all situations where matters of security are decided.

In 2015, Norway introduced conscription for all. Last year, women comprised one third of all conscripts and 20% of all employees in the Armed Forces. While we still have a way to go with regards to gender discrimination and sexual harassment in our military, in 2022, 85% of female conscripts responded that they had a generally positive experience serving their country.

Madame Chair,

In the third year of Russia's illegal, unprovoked, and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, credible reports suggest that sexual violence has been used systematically by the Russian Federation in order to instill fear in the civilian population. These include international independent reports such as from the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Moscow Mechanism report on arbitrarily detained civilians by Russia in Ukraine's occupied territories.

We condemn these actions which represent only one of the gendered impacts war has on a population.

Madame Chair, panelists,

Let me ask two questions for our distinguished panelists.

First, how can we better engage men in the work on the Women, Peace, and Security Agenda in particular, and in gender equality in the security sector more generally?

Second, how can we prevent gender discrimination and sexual harassment which impede women's full participation in the security sector?

I look forward to your valuable responses.

Thank you, madame Chair.