
NEW OPPORTUNITIES

The renewed Action Plan represents an opportunity for government departments and partners to challenge their own ways of thinking and acting when it comes to gender equality, and to better incorporate the goal of equality into programs designed to support peaceful and prosperous societies.

In its first year, the new approach has already increased ownership and accountability on departmental and programmatic levels. These are critical ingredients in accelerating the government's efforts to mainstream Action Plan objectives. The hiring of additional gender advisors and the establishment of gender focal points within DND, CAF, and peace and security divisions at Global Affairs Canada, are examples of efforts to improve gender mainstreaming. Although still in the early stages, these measures have already resulted in better integration of gender equality and GBA+ considerations into government analyses, policies and programming.

The launch of the Action Plan has created new opportunities for increased WPS engagement from Canada's political leadership, including the Prime Minister and ministers. Canadian diplomats are working to identify new opportunities to support WPS efforts by continually reaching out to new women's rights organizations and outstanding women peacebuilders, especially at the grassroots level. This outreach has created opportunities to form new networks and connections with WPS champions around the world. Canada has actively sought to ensure that women's voices are heard in peace and security forums. Examples include the creation of the Gender Equality Advisory Council to advise the G7 presidency on concrete actions to advance gender equality, Canada's invitation to women peace activists to participate in an event on enhancing the voices of women peacemakers during the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on North Korea in January 2018, and the invitation to civil society to help prepare and actively participate in the Women Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Montréal.