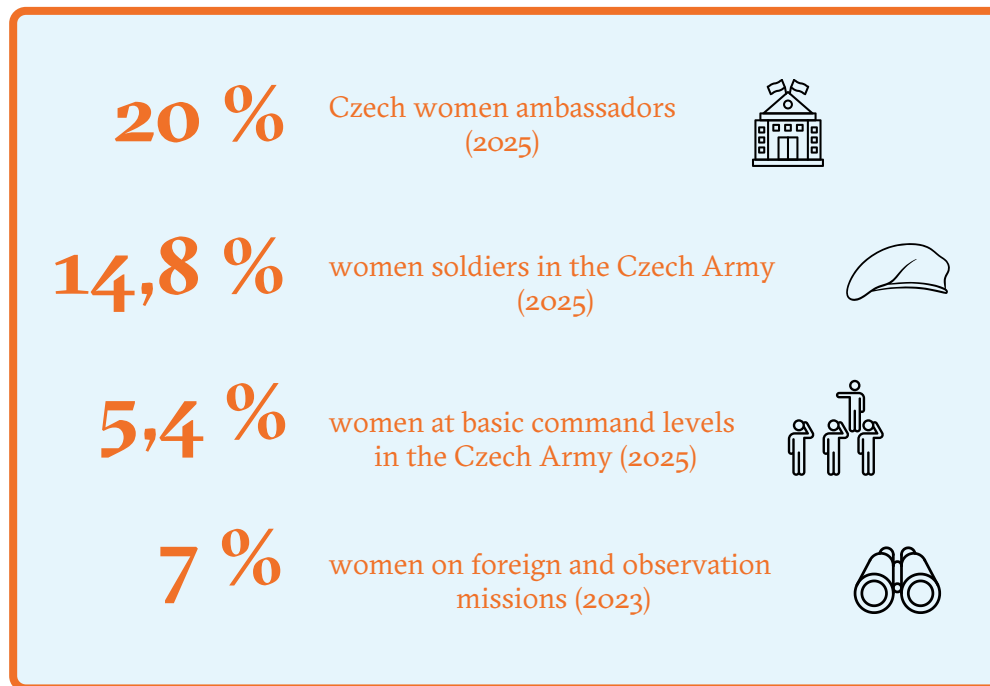


Women, Peace & Security at 25

How is the WPS agenda being implemented in Czechia? And what issues does it address?

What is the Women, Peace and Security agenda about?

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda is a **global framework** which recognizes that military conflicts affect women and girls significantly and disproportionately more than men and boys, and that the active participation of women in peace processes is essential for preventing and ending conflicts and maintaining security. The WPS agenda is based on **UN Security Council Resolution No. 1325**, adopted in 2000.



What are the benefits for Czechia of implementing the WPS?

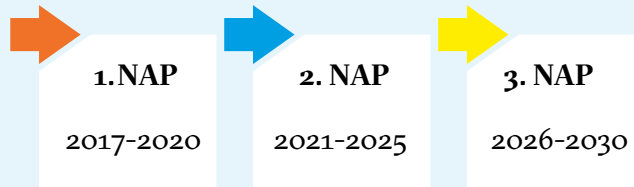
The WPS agenda provides a framework and tools that help better respond to **current security, social, and political challenges**, including migration waves or global conflicts. Implementation of the four WPS pillars contributes, at the same time, to strengthening the rule of law and the welfare state, raising awareness about socio-economic inequalities, and thus also **provides an opportunity** to implement systematic change that will support long-term stability, equality, and inclusion. In real terms, the WPS agenda is relevant for the Czech Republic, for example in supporting Ukrainian women and children who had to leave their country due to war.

Why should we care about the Women, Peace, and Security agenda?

- 1) Women and girls are disproportionately affected by conflicts. Women and girls are affected by **inequality and discrimination**, which are exacerbated in times of conflict. Rape, abductions, forced prostitution, forced sterilizations, and sexual slavery are becoming increasingly common forms of violence during conflicts. In addition, the **normalization of violence** during and after war increases the number of cases of domestic violence and child marriage.
- 2) An inclusive approach to peace processes creates a **more sustainable peace for all**. Research shows that when women are meaningfully involved in peace processes, peace agreements are more likely to be reached and upheld in the long term. However, it is not only important to increase the representation of women in peace delegations and armies, but also to **involve** women's civil society organizations, who often have the best understanding of the local context and needs of the community.
- 3) Security is not just about securing national borders. The WPS agenda recognizes that true security requires **resilience, safety, and space for growth within society**. This concept of security therefore recognizes the importance of fighting poverty, gender-based violence, and marginalization. In addition, the WPS agenda recognizes that women and girls and men and boys perceive security and the needs related to it **differently**.

What is NAP in Czechia?

The WPS agenda is put into practice through member states, specifically through the implementation of **various action plans** – both national and regional (e.g., at the EU level).



A National Action Plan puts theoretical frameworks into practice by defining specific, measurable, and time-bound objectives for individual components of state administration and other relevant actors

The WPS agenda is also anchored in the Strategy for Equality between Women and Men for 2021–2030. Implementation is coordinated by the **Czech MFA** (UN Department) in cooperation with the Ministries of Defense, Interior, Justice, and Health, the Government Office, the non-profit sector, and the academic sphere.

WPS is not an agenda for women and girls only, but for society as a whole

The WPS agenda does not only concern women and girls. It also draws attention to the need to recognize the **distinct ways** in which conflicts affect men and boys. It is also necessary to analyze traditional masculine patterns that lead to violence. The **effective involvement of men and boys** contributes to the transformation of traditional gender roles.

The need for an intersectional approach

When implementing the WPS agenda, it is important to take into account that gender inequality and discrimination take **various forms** and can **intersect** with other forms of discrimination. For example, women from minority communities, women with disabilities, and LGBTIQ+ persons experience security threats and risks in different ways that reflect their **specific life experiences** and position in society.

The third National Action Plan of the Czech Republic contains four strategic targets that align with the four pillars of the WPS agenda.

participation

= strengthening equal representation of women in state structures related to security policy

– e.g., monitoring the representation of women in foreign missions, in leadership positions of relevant ministries, in the army and armed forces

prevention & protection

= prevention of and fight against all forms of gender-based violence as a prerequisite for building resilience

e.g., protecting access to reproductive justice, including access for migrants; fighting gender-based disinformation; incorporating the gender dimension into addressing climate-related risks; protecting human rights

gender mainstreaming

= strengthening the gender perspective in the implementation of policies related to peace and security

– e.g., education and training of relevant ministry staff and members of the Armed Forces of the Czech Republic; raising awareness about the WPS agenda; supporting international structures promoting the WPS agenda

assistance & recovery

= providing and supporting adequate development and transformational cooperation and humanitarian aid that addresses the needs of women and girls

e.g., integrating the gender perspective into all phases of development and transformational projects, supporting women and girls in conflict and post-conflict contexts

references:



authors: Barbora Trčková (barbora.trckova@amo.cz)
& Štěpánka Lukešová (stepanka.lukesova@amo.cz),
Association for International Affairs

editors: Barbora Kolečková, Eva Valentová,
Irena Hůlová, Kateřina Bořová, Pavlína Janebová