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**United Kingdom Mission to the United Nations**

**Fax Cover Sheet**

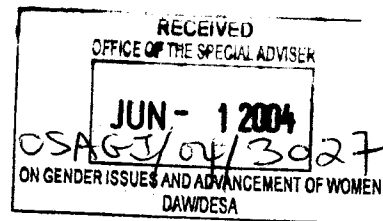
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:  
From..... : **Mrs Alex Bennett**  
Date..... : **28 May 2004**  
Pages to follow..... : **3**

Please see the following fax regarding the UK Implementation of SCR 1325 as per your request of 7 April (OSAGI/04/WPS).

Many Thanks,  
Alex Bennett



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United Kingdom Mission  
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28 May 2004

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### **UK Implementation of SCR 1325**

1. The United Kingdom attaches great importance to the landmark Security Council Resolution 1325 (SCR 1325). The United Kingdom is now focused on implementing the provisions of SCR 1325, ensuring that the necessary mechanisms are in place for monitoring its implementation and raising awareness of SCR 1325.
2. UK support has included work at the national and international levels:

#### **At the United Nations**

3. As a member of the Security Council the UK continues to push for the full implementation of SCR 1325 in all Security Council work. The UK is systematically looking for opportunities to ensure that gender concerns are properly addressed in resolutions, mission mandates and progress reports. The UK has also provided \$150,000 to the United Nation's Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to develop and implement a training manual on dealing with allegations of sexual exploitation/abuse and to integrate its use into DPKO's Best Practices Unit.
4. The UK has helped UNIFEM to put together a programme of work on women, peace building and gender justice, pledging £3million towards this work. This ambitious programme aims to: strengthen women's contribution at all levels in prevention, resolution and peace building; increase information about women, war and peace building; strengthen approaches to protection and assistance to women affected by conflict; strengthen the focus on gender justice in conflict-affected areas and strengthen UNIFEM's capacity to deliver peace and security programming. With UK support, UNIFEM has published an independent assessment of how women are affected by armed conflict and their role in peace building;

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5. The UK is also co-hosting a series of seminars in 2004 with other UN Missions in New York to generate ideas for improving the Security Council's work with regard to the participation of women in peace and security and the protection of civilians, with particular consideration to the needs of women and children.

### **Around the World**

6. The UK has been active in a number of 1325 related ways in Iraq. For example, we are ensuring that members of the various UK teams there, especially those working in or with the CPA, are fully briefed on the gender aspects of their work. We have provided £500,000 to support UNIFEM's strategy for empowering women in Iraq, which focuses on strengthening women's groups at governorate level and on encouraging the government to take proper account of women's needs. We are also organising a women's political participation training seminar for Iraqi women in Cairo, due to be held in early June, which will help Iraqi women to further develop their skills, to improve their access to decision making fora and improve their cross-regional unity. We are also holding workshops in Baghdad and Basra for women on democracy and democratic values – thus combining women's rights with long-term conflict prevention.
7. In Afghanistan we are working to encourage Afghan women to take their rightful role in the forthcoming elections. This includes ensuring that women and men are included in voter registration programmes, that they develop the capacities to participate as campaigners and officials and that women are empowered to take advantage of their quotas for representation in Parliament. We have supported the NGO WOMANKIND in several projects addressing women's participation in civil and political structures and the Afghan Judicial Commission in its work to improve access to justice for all Afghan communities, taking into account the special needs of women.
8. We have also been actively encouraging the implementation of SCR 1325 in other parts of the world. In Israel, for example, we are funding a project to empower Arab women with leadership skills and provide active role models to encourage women to become future election candidates. In the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), we are working closely with UNIFEM, MONUC (UN Mission to the DRC), the Electoral Commission and local women's organisations in developing a shared strategy and action plans to ensure women's full participation in the elections as voters, potential leaders, civic educators and election observers. We are also working to ensure women's voices are heard at key strategic fora in the ongoing peace and transition process in DRC e.g. the Great Lakes Regional Conference and providing financial assistance to programmes that support victims of rape and sexual violence in DRC. In East Timor we are funding training workshops for election candidates and helping the civil police integrate gender perspectives into their work.

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**In the UK**

9. The UK provides compulsory training to all UK military and police officers embarking on peace-keeping or similar overseas missions on gender, child protection and human rights issues. We have also been actively searching for and subsequently deploying UK female officers to missions and other conflict prevention/resolution operations, the most recent examples being the deployment of two female police officers to Sierra Leone and two senior gender experts to Iraq to work with the Coalition Provisional Authority (CPA). We are also carrying out an assessment of the implementation of SCR 1325 within the Department for International Development (DFID)'s country programmes and of the relationship between 1325, the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, the Beijing Platform for Action and the Millennium Development Goals. This on-going work includes case studies of Iraq, Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sierra Leone, and DRC and will identify opportunities for, and barriers to, the effective implementation of UN SCR 1325. The UK government is also raising awareness of SCR 1325 by discussions with bilateral partners and works closely with NGO's on 1325 issues including, for example, the Urgent Action Fund for Women's Human Rights, an NGO that supports grass-roots activities in countries where there are multinational peacekeeping operations.

Kind regards,

Ian Bailey  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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