



***Australian Federation of Graduate Women Inc.***

**PO Box 224, Enmore NSW 2042**

**www.afgw.org.au**

21 September 2010

The Hon Julia Gillard MP  
The Prime Minister  
Parliament House  
Canberra 2600

Dear Ms Gillard,

**Re: An Australian National Action Plan for Security Council Resolution 1325**

In July 2009 the Federation (writing then as the Federation of University Women) wrote to the then Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, requesting that the Government follow a recommendation resulting from extensive community consultations held under the auspices of the Office for Women: namely, that Australia should join those other UN countries who had responded to the 2004 UN call for all nation states to prepare a National Action Plan in order to ensure that the terms of Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) were being implemented.

As we said in that letter:

Resolution 1325, emanating as it did from one of the UN's most important bodies, was a document of enormous significance, not only for women but for peace-making and peace-building in general. It recognized that women are central to security issues in conflict and that the protection of women and girls in conflict situations must be secured through their participation in all aspects of conflict resolution.

Resolution 1325 has achieved a widespread rhetorical acceptance that is not matched by implementation. Women are still all too often largely invisible in negotiations for resolving conflict, and still bear a heavy burden of suffering in conflict situations, something recently recognized by Resolution 1820, which specifically condemns sexual violence in conflict as a security problem and urges an end to a culture of impunity for such crimes.

The response from the Prime Minister's Office gave us to understand that a policy decision to proceed with such a National Plan had been taken, but we are unable to find evidence of further action in the matter.

In the meantime, the following Resolution was passed at the 30th Triennial Conference of the International Federation of University Women held in Mexico in August 2010:

**1. That IFUW re-affirm Resolution 2007/N°8 calling for IFUW, through its representatives at the United Nations, to argue that increased training in sensitivity to gender issues and to women's and children's rights be given to all UN peacekeeping personnel, and that implementation of UN Security Council Resolution (SCR) 1325 be strictly enforced, particularly with regard to its directions giving women an enhanced role in peacekeeping contingents; and**



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**2. That IFUW, through its representatives at the United Nations, urge the implementation of UNSCRs 1820, 1882, 1888 and 1889.**

National Federations and Associations were required by the Plan of Action to urge their governments to develop National Action Plans and to monitor progress at national level on the implementation of UNSCR 1325, 1820, 1882, 1888 and 1889.

As one of the National Federations voting in support of this Resolution, we accordingly write to ask:

- whether it remains the policy of the ALP Government to proceed with a National Action Plan;
- whether any progress has in fact already been made on an NAP;
- whether such a Plan will include the further UNSCR Resolutions mentioned above, which have been passed to supplement and strengthen the original Resolution 1325.

If in fact progress has been made, we would be delighted to receive information, but if the development of a Plan has been overtaken by the political events of 2010 we do most strongly urge that it be re-instated as a priority of your Government,

Yours Sincerely,

(Dr) Jane Baker,  
President, Australian Federation of Graduate Women

Cc: The Hon Kate Ellis MP, Minister for the Status of Women